# BIRD PHOTOGRAPHY FROM HIDES & some drive outs Kiskunsag, HUNGARY



A 7-day Hungarian bird photography tour that offers a special, unique place as a base to photograph the most colourful birds of Europe living at the Westernmost edge of the steppe habitat, the famous "Hungarian Puszta". Traditional thatched-roofed houses with en-suite rooms, home-made food, wine cellar, tranquil forest and garden with attractive species and professional bird photography hides make Kondor EcoLodge a perfect base for a great Hungarian bird photography holiday.

We are located just one hour drive from Budapest, still in the middle of the Kiskunsag National Park which protects a huge variety of habitats from orchid rich grasslands through alkaline lakes, riverine forests, oxbow lakes, channels and all these bordered by the 2 largest rivers, River Danube and River Tisza.

We run this Hungarian bird photography tour with a concept of alternating days spent locally in fixed and mobile hides with other days when we venture out to different corners of the area to find and photograph other species. The maximum driving distance from one location to another is just about an hour.

We use several different areas and habitats with different hides. Our basic programme offer is 7 days with one arrival and orientation day, spending at each different areas and hides a minimum 1 full day and on departure day an optional extra half-day photography if time permits. Each hide offers comfortable space for 2 photographers. Photographers will spend time at each hide in a rotating system.

A friendly, relaxing atmosphere and professional guiding is guaranteed by a birderphotographer guide-couple who lives and guides half year here in Hungary and other Eastern European destinations, another half year in Costa Rica and other Latin American birding & wildlife hotspots! Surely once you visit this place you definitely want to return soon!

### Day1

After arrival to Budapest Airport either we do a quick 1-1,5-hour-long transfer to Kondor EcoLodge or checking out habitats and photographing birds as we go in the Kiskunsag National Park, arriving in the evening to the accommodation. On arrival checking the garden hides.

## Day2-6

Spending full days in a rotating system at one of the professional hides from the below list:



## A. Fixed hides at Kondor EcoLodge, Kiskunsag National Park, HUNGARY

1. Drinking, Feeding & Bathing Station Hides in the garden – 4 hides, each with feeding stations at different ponds, water level is below your eye-level

*Common species:* Hawfinch, Eurasian Sparrowhawk, European Goldfinch, European Greenfinch, Common Chaffinch, Eurasian Tree Sparrow, Lesser Spotted Woodpecker, Great Spotted Woodpecker, Eurasian Green Woodpecker, Eurasian Nuthatch, Spotted Flycatcher, Eurasian Collared Dove, European Turtle Dove, Wood Pigeon, Great Tit, Eurasian Blue Tit, Eurasian Blackbird, Song Thrush, Tree Pipit, Eurasian Blackcap, European Robin, Chiffchaff, Mallard, White Wagtail

*Not everyday:* Black Woodpecker, Northern Goshawk, Mistle Thrush, Coal Tit, Common Redstart

- 2. Canopy Hide for Eurasian Golden Oriole, Common Cuckoo and some other songbirds– this works best end of June, beginning of July when berries are ripe
- 3. **European Hoopoe Hide** each year we have 1-3 pairs of Hoopoes breeding in the garden. We use fixed and mobile hides usually from midMay till midJuly.



### B. Mobile Hides within 10-30 minutes drive from Kondor EcoLodge

We use mobile hides mainly for the following species but others possible as well: **European Roller** – we put out more than 400 nestboxes and have the highest density of population in Europe around us **European Bee-eater** – within a mile we have a good breeding colony **Little Owl** – several pairs breeding nearby Red-backed & Lesser Grey Shrike – many pairs breeding nearby

#### **Red-footed Falcon colony**

The following furthermore species can be seen either in the garden of our Kondor EcoLodge or within a walking distance from it during Spring and Summer:



*Garden – everyday:* European Hoopoe, Black Redstart, Eurasian Golden Oriole, Eurasian Wren, Short-toed Treecreeper

*Garden -not everyday:* Common Cuckoo, Common Nightingale, Tawny Owl, Long-tailed Tit (Northern form as well)

*Walking distance from our Kondor EcoLodge:* White Stork, Marsh Harrier, Montague's Harrier, Common Buzzard, Honey Buzzard, Short-toed

Eagle (not everysay), Saker Falcon (not everyday), Imperial Eagle (not everyday), Booted Eagle (end of June, beginning of July), Eurasian Kestrel, Common Quail, Little Owl, Scops Owl, European Nightjar, European Roller, European Bee-eater, Middle Spotted Woodpecker (occasional), Wryneck, Syrian Woodpecker, Skylark, Crested Lark, Wood Lark, Barn Swallow, House Martin, Sand Martin, Tawny Pipit, Yellow Wagtail, Whinchat, European Stonechat, Northern Wheatear, Red-backed Shrike, Lesser Grey Shrike, Corn Bunting, Icterine Warbler, Willow Warbler, Lesser Whitethroat, Goldcrest, Eurasian Linnet, Yellowhammer, Siskin

#### C. Full day Bird Photo Safaris for other species – Bird Photography As We Go



- 1. Upper Kiskunság Circle chance for Great Bustard, Saker Falcon, Imperial Eagle, large Bee-eater colony, Collared Pratincole, Red-crested Pochard, Ferruginous Duck, Spoonbill, Pygmy Cormorant, Purple Heron, White-tailed Eagle, Bearded Tit, Bluethroat, Red-footed Falcon and more
- 2. Oxbow lakes & old floodplain forests – chance for Lesser, Middle, Great Spotted, Greyheaded & Black Woodpecker, Pygmy Cormorant, Squacco Heron, Purple Heron, Night Heron, Kingfisher, Penduline Tit, Savi's Warbler, Wryneck, Syrian Woodpecker and many more



#### Day7

After breakfast final morning Photography session at Kondor EcoLodge and/or vicinity. Midday transfer back to Budapest Airport.

Please note that during Winter we also offer full days in special Raptor Feeding Station & Hides for Imperial Eagle, White-tailed Eagle, Rough-legged Buzzard, Hen Harrier

