



Sombre Tit in Transylvania (Dániel Balla)

Hungary, Slovakia and Transylvania GT with **SAKERTOURS** 7th – 18th May, 2023

Leader: Dániel Balla, József Katona

It was the 10th time Sakertours' Grand Tour was running covering the important birding spots of three Eastern European countries, namely Hungary, Slovakia and Romania. We were treated with nice weather during most of our trip even when visiting the higher elevation zone of the Carpathian Mountains in Slovakia or in Transylvania. Although we still had some snow on the Harghita Mountain we were generally treated with good birding conditions all over. The Hortobágy had good wetlands and some recent rains were limiting us reaching the inner parts but still we were able to collect most of the targets here as usual. At the end we finished our tour with 217 recorded species including 10 owls and 10 woodpecker species – making this year's tour a specially outstanding one.

Highlight of this year's tour included Ferruginous Ducks, Western Capercaillies, Pygmy Cormorants, Lesser Spotted and Eastern Imperial Eagles, Red-footed Falcons, Long-legged Buzzard on its nest, displaying Great Bustards, Corn Crake, Little Crake, the vagrant White-tailed Plover and Pacific Golden Plover, White-winged and Black Terns, all possible ten Owl species including Ural, Pygmy and Tengmalm's (Boreal), European Nightjar, all possible ten Woodpecker species including Wryneck, White-backed and Three-toed Woodpeckers and Saker Falcon. A long list from the Passeriformes had some great ones including Common (Rufous-tailed) Rock Thrush, Ring Ouzel, Lesser Grey Shrike, Spotted Nutcracker, Eurasian Penduline Tit, Bearded Reedling, Sombre Tit, Moustached Warbler, Savi's Warbler, River Warbler, Barred Warbler, Collared and Red-breasted Flycatchers, White-throated Dipper, Hawfinch, Rock and Ortolan Buntings with Wallcreeper being the icing on the cake.

7th May (Sunday)

Joining at the airport and driving to the nearby Kiskunság National Park initiated our tour. We had a short afternoon birding which gave us enough time to find a few more common species of the area and a real special one. Finding a good spot with a nice cover we were enjoying a displaying Great Bustard as one of the first birds spotted for the tour. The strange display of heaviest flying bird includes a state where it completely looks like a white foam ball from the distance as it turns its wings inside out showing as much of its white underparts as possible – a magical sight for everyone of us. The species has a healthy population in the area and our total count for the day reached ten individuals.

As time let us drive around in the area we found European Rollers, some Red-backed Shrikes and visited some wetland habitats where Red-crested Pochard, dozens of Mediterranean Gulls and loud, singing Great Reed Warblers were highlights for us while we spotted our first White-tailed Eagle as well.

After reaching our hotel we had a nice dinner and tried our luck with the local European Nightjars. We were lucky to track down an individual which turned out to be quite responsive and landed singing in front of us literally a few meters away.



Great Bustard in early phase of its display (Dániel Balla)

8th May (Monday)

After an early breakfast we took a short drive to a close patch of woodland where we finally saw our target, the skulking River Warbler after hearing it singing for several minutes. A short birding at the carpark also gave us Short-toed Treecreeper and the beautiful Collared Flycatcher while Hawfinch were moving in the canopy. We returned to the more open areas of the Northern Kiskunság NP where we had another look at the Great Bustards, this time we counted 15 of them. European Rollers were seen again and, on the wetlands, we collected the local ducks, including the handsome Garganey and Ferruginous Duck, while Common Cuckoos seemed to turn up anywhere a muddy section had some shorebirds including Black-tailed Godwit, Temminck's Stint and Wood Sandpiper. A magnificent European Golden Oriole was the first we saw well. Singing Savi's and Common Grasshopper Warblers were first heard from the car and then seen after some search before we departed from the area. We were heading to the Zemplén Hills and on the way, we had a real birding hotspot in the Nagykunság, which is literally the Western edge of the Hortobágy National Park's endless plains. A nice set of

rice paddies were home to a number of waterbirds but our search was aiming the vagrant White-tailed Plovers which were recently found here. Fortunately, it did not take too long and we found the birds also collecting a nice Bluethroat, a flying Gull-billed Tern and Black Terns as walking to the spot. Driving around after the twitch we found the other specialty of the area a few Collared Pratincoles and had some nice looks of Spotted Redshanks, Pied Avocets and Black-winged Stilts. We reached the Zemplén Hills just by dinner time as planned.



Eurasian Golden Oriole and Woodlark (Dániel Balla)

9th May (Tuesday)

Our prebreakfast birding being the first one in the area produced European Green Woodpecker and a Middle Spotted Woodpecker. After leaving our hotel we took a scenic road between the vineyards of the famous Tokaj Wine Region where we found singing Woodlarks, Linnets, a cooperative Barred Warbler and had good views of Short-toed Snake Eagle and Lesser Spotted Eagle before reaching the woods. Other nice ones we collected here were a few European Turtle Doves, Whinchats and some Corn Bunting. Arriving to a lush green forest we reached our first spot where a majestic Ural Owl was checking us from its nest box. Zoli, our local guide is making nest boxes for more than 20 years now and helped to boost the Ural Owl population in the past decades in the Zemplén Hills.



Female White-backed Woodpecker coming to feed its chicks in the Zemplén Hills (Dániel Balla)

We did not waste our time and moved on to another patch of forest where Collared Flycatchers and Wood Warblers were welcoming us. We sat down on a carefully chosen spot and waited for White-backed Woodpecker to turn up at its nesting hole to feed its chicks. Luckily – as we were keeping a safe distance – the female turned up quickly after our arrival and we had fantastic views of the area's hardest woodpecker.

A break in the middle of the day with a nice lunch was deserved and made us happily going back onto the field to search for something new. We chose to visit the nearby wetlands where after some patience and persistent attention we finally saw Moustached Warbler and Little Crake – two skulking specialties of the spot. As a reward we found a pair of Bearded Reedlings in the nearby canal as they were busy carrying food back to their nest several times.

Driving back to the Hills we visited an abandoned quarry, where two Eurasian Eagle-Owl chicks were found by Zoli and after some explanation seen by everyone through the telescope. A passing Hen Harrier and dozens of European Bee-eaters hunting around us were adding to the birding experience here.

Our last birding site for the day was in a nice forested valley, where we could drive further up and checked the local Tawny Owl guarding its nest box. Along the road we tracked down a calling Lesser Spotted Woodpecker and went back to our hotel collecting Little Owl on the way as the last bird for the day.

10th May (Wednesday)

Checking out from our hotel we headed North to Slovakia through the nice forested valleys of the Zemplén Hills. On the way we found a Grey-headed Woodpecker near the road and a few Hawfinch feeding on the roadside. After crossing the invisible border between Slovakia and Hungary we drove to a karst valley with beech forest to bird in the rest of the morning. Our main target Red-breasted Flycatcher soon revealed itself and we had a singing male perched above us soon. A short walk further in the valley gave us a Black Woodpecker – super sneaky this time, but everyone got nice views of it.



Boreal (Tengmalm's) Owl in Slovakia (Dániel Balla)

After a quick lunch on the way we aimed the higher elevation of the Lower Tatra Mountains where Zoli recently found a Boral Owl. After some challenging drive we found ourselves on the location and with excited patience we located the individual in the dark pine forest. The hardest Owl to find in the region and treated us with superb views! Some birding around, we added Eurasian Siskin, Coal Tit, Crested Tit and Willow Tit to our list before descending back.

At the edge of the nearby village a loud Eurasian Wryneck was heard and it showed himself and its mate quickly together with a Barred Warbler which was singing in the same scrub before we started heading back to our hotel closer to the border on the way spotting Black Stork and Lesser Spotted Eagle from our vehicle.

Some time left from the day, we birded the habitats around the hotel and found Common Nightingale, Yellowhammer. Common Cuckoo, European Green Woodpecker and a hunting Eurasian Hobby to end the day.



Common Firecrest, Barred Warbler and Wryneck in Slovakia (Dániel Balla)

11th May (Thursday)

In the morning we met István, our local guide for the morning and took a ride further up into the mountains. An old pine forest was the habitat we birded in the morning in the search for Eurasian Pygmy Owl and Three-toed Woodpecker. The chilly weather was not holding us back from taking an easy walk on a path going deeper into the forest where our search for the Pygmy Owl failed and after some try, we got a responding Three-toed Woodpecker, but unfortunately it did not come closer. On the other hand, we were luckily treated with a White-backed Woodpecker which was also drumming and we were able to locate it near the path. Smaller flocks of Red Crossbills, a singing Tree Pipit and the tiny Goldcrests and Firecrests were made our birding wort here before heading down.

After saying goodbye to István, we headed South to Hungary's famous Hortobágy National Park. Breaking the journey, we stopped again on the wetland site to try better views of Moustached Warbler and Little Crane

which we did a good job with. A pair of Penduline Tits were responsive and two Jack Snipes were flushed and seen flying away.

We arrived to the Bíbic Lodge on the edge of the Hortobágy National Park by late afternoon. We found a Syrian Woodpecker in the garden and had an initial exploration of the wetland from the Lodge's terrace. Red-necked Grebes, Black-necked Grebes, Ferruginous Ducks and Common Shelducks were easily and well seen from comfort as a finish of the day.

12th May (Friday)

We had a full day in the famous Hortobágy National Park to spend. In the morning we scanned the wetland from our Lodge enjoying White-winged and Whiskered Terns hunting in front of us then moved to the main fishpond system in the centre of the park. In the afternoon we searched for raptors on a special part of the puszta and birded a paved road crossing the middle of the area.



Syrian Woodpecker, European Roller and a male Red-footed Falcon in the Hortobágy (Dániel Balla)

At the wetlands we collected a bunch of ducks including Ferruginous Duck, Common Pochard, Garganey, Northern Shoveler, Gadwall, Eurasian Wigeon and so on, while the bigger waterbodies had numerous Pygmy Cormorants, and Mute Swans. A lonely Greater White-fronted Goose was a bonus with the Graylags. On the edge of the wetland's, we found Glossy Ibis and shorebirds included Common Redshanks, Little Ringed Plovers, Pied Avocets and Black-winged Stilts but the show was stolen by the leks of Ruffs amazing every one of us with

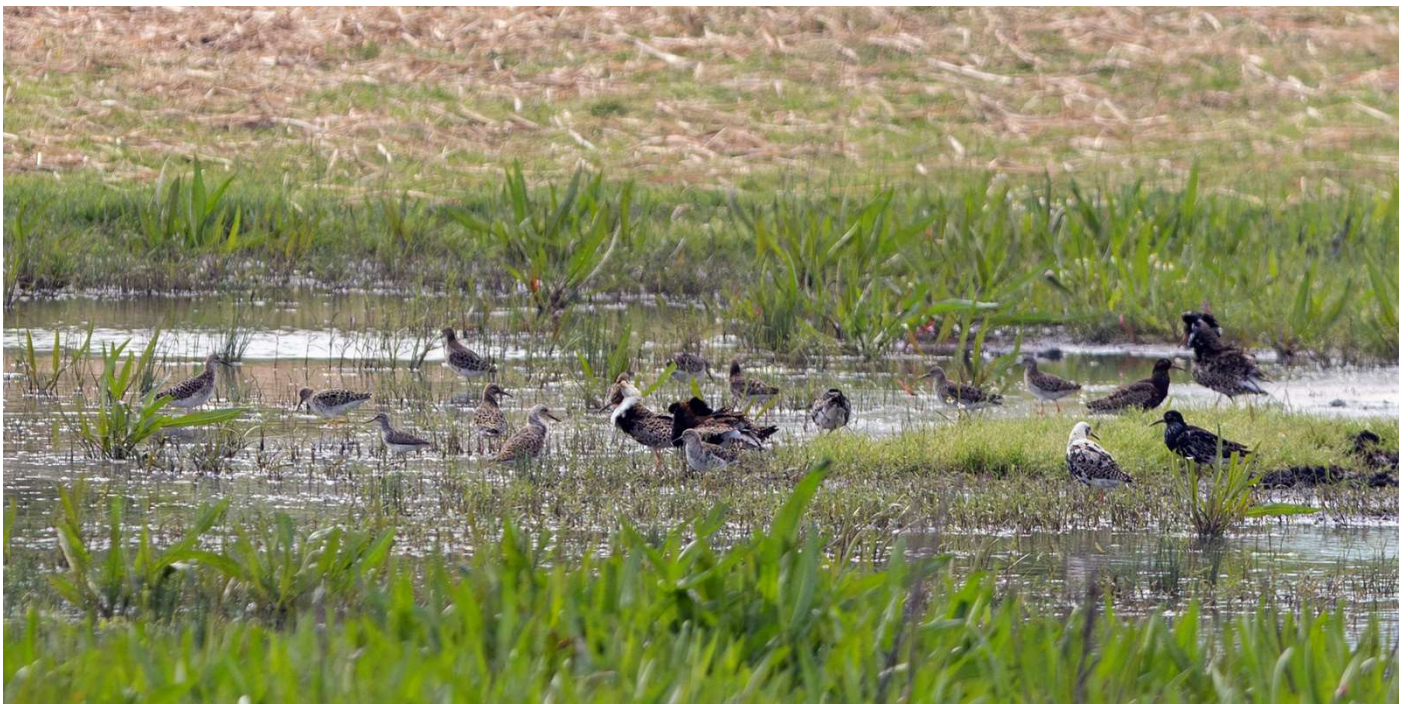
their variable plumage and restless display. The reedbeds between the fishponds held noisy Common and Great Reed Warblers, Sedge and Savi's Warblers and we found again Bearded Reedlings, Penduline Tits and Bluethroat.

The drier parts along the road we birded gave us Crested Lark and Eurasian Skylark, a Little Owl and a singing Tawny pipit was only heard. The scrubby vegetation along the road had a nice Barred Warbler, Common and Lesser Whitethroat while European Roller, Eurasian Hoopoe and Montagu's Harrier was spotted from the bus as well.

We organised the local ranger to schedule the annual check of Western Barn Owl nest when we arrived, so did we see three adult birds just before we headed for lunch.

A short rainy period in the early afternoon forced us to bird from our bus but even in these conditions we managed to find the local breeding Long-eared Owl roosting a few minutes' drive away from the Lodge.

Spending some time at the open puszta near a Rook colony was paying off as we observed about 40 Red-footed Falcons and several Common Kestrels busy visiting their nest and hunting around. On the ground we spotted European Squirrels (also called as Ground Squirrels) and were hoping that one of the local specialties will turn up trying to catch on of these cute rodents. We were lucky as both the Saker Falcon and Eastern Imperial Eagle showed up and we had great views as they were hunting around.



The many coloured Ruffs in the Hortobágy and a Wood Sandpiper (Dániel Balla)

13th May (Saturday)

Today we were heading to the Western part of Transylvania. A five-hour drive and a border were separating us from our next hotel in Torockó. Of course, we planned a few birding stops on the way, so we left in the morning after a final check on the wetland near the Bibic Lodge. Our first stop was at an open meadow roughly one hour drive from the start where we hoped to find Short-eared Owls as they hunt in daytime. There were no signs of the Owls though we were lucky to see a Saker Falcon as it was mobbing an Eastern imperial Eagle. The next stop was just a few minutes' drive away at a big wetland system, where water buffaloes were managing the area and keeping the vegetation short to support hundreds of waterbirds especially shorebirds. Dozens of Pied Avocets and Black-winged Stilts were seen around Common Ringed Plover, Spotted Redshank, Black-tailed Godwit and Eurasian Curlew all present and a flock of several hundred Dunlin moving in the shallow water. Scanning the Sandpiper flock, we spotted a few Little Stints and a Curlew Sandpiper amongst the Dunlins. In

the deeper water a Northern Pintail and a few Eurasian Teals were also spotted. In the sky White-tailed Eagles were seen and Red-footed Falcons were hunting behind us as we were observing the area from a nice platform.

We moved on and arrived to the Border between Hungary and Romania. It took some time for the bureaucratic work to be done but we were crossing easily and soon crossing the large town of Nagyvárad (Oradea) where a short stop gave us Common Swifts screaming through the air above us.

A real short stop at the huge concrete reservoirs on the way where we found Little Gulls and Tufted Duck new to our list.

We arrived in the middle of afternoon at Torockó (Rimetea) and started exploring the surrounding valley of mixed habitats of open, cultivated lands and bushy areas edged with rocky habitats and cliffs. An Eurasian golden oriole was a nice welcoming bird and at the cliffs we found Eurasian Crag Martins and singing Rock Buntings. We tried our luck at small patch of meadow and were lucky to find a responsive Corn Crake which finally showed himself for everyone. The same spot had an obliging Ortolan Bunting as well. After sorting out our rooms in the hotel and finishing a delicious dinner from the local cuisine we went out for owling and after several attempts managed to see Eurasian Scops Owl.



Corncrake, Ortolan Bunting and Eurasian Scops Owl in Rimetea Valley (Dániel Balla)

14th May (Sunday)

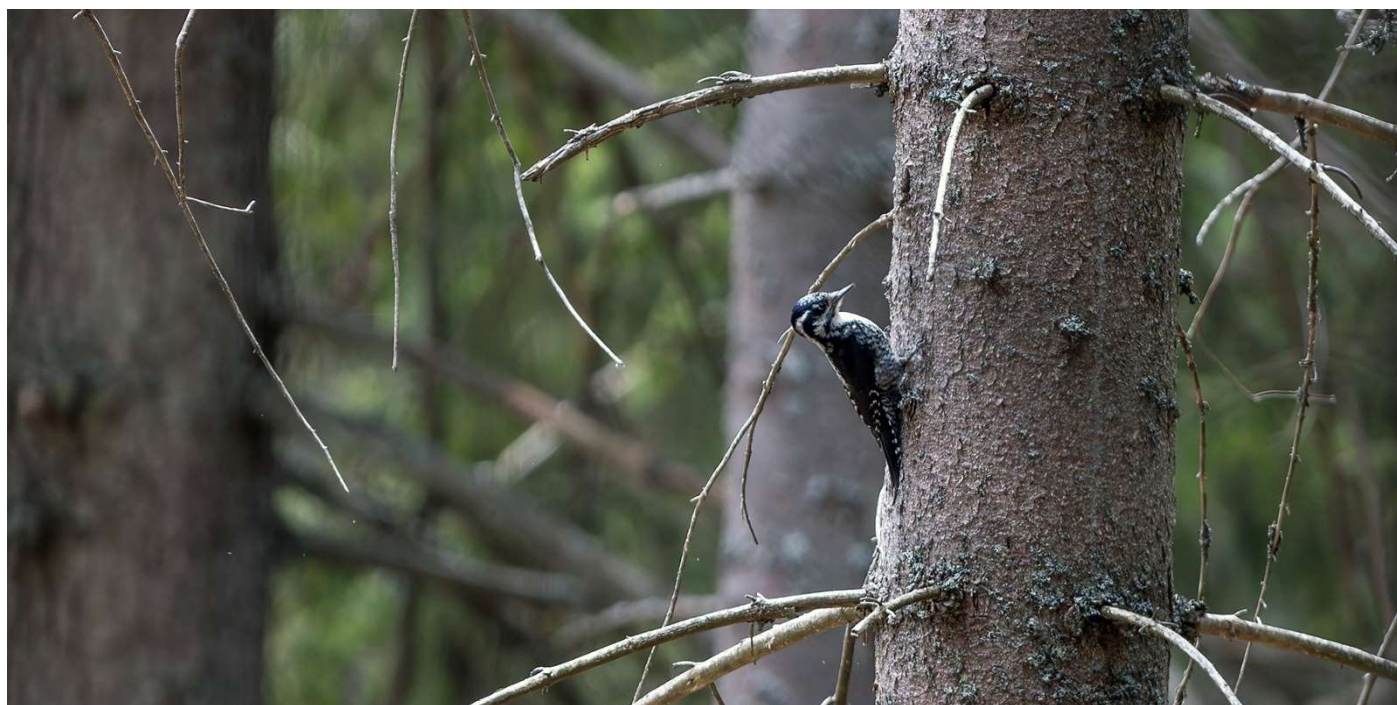
We stayed in the Rimetea Valley in the morning and climbed to the bottom of the famous Székely-kő where the mind-blowing scenery was supported with some great birds. As we scanned the vast rocky habitat in front of us we luckily spotted Common Rock Thrush during its display flight and Golden Eagles as they were soaring above the cliff. A really hard one – Sombre Tit started calling once and we enjoyed an adult bird escorting its young through the bushes. Long-tailed Tits were loudly coming by in the bushes, Common Whitethroats, Rock Buntings, Yellowhammers were all seen singing around and Alpine Swifts popped out from behind the top of the mountain sometimes. A noisy pair of Grey Partridge was flushed on another slope, where Garden Warbler Woodlarks and Tawny Pipit was also singing. We visited the local breeding Red-rumped Swallows and found singing Marsh Warblers in the dry reeds on the more open areas.

After leaving this scenic area we headed towards East. A visit in an old beech and oak forest after lunch we found Middle and Great Spotted Woodpeckers, Eurasian nuthatch and Marsh Tit, while a calling European Honey Buzzard was seen crossing the area above the canopy.

Our last birding stop before arriving to the Harghita Bear Lodge was at a river side, where our search for Thrush Nightingale failed but we did find a Great Grey Shrike, Common Kingfisher, Garden Warbler and a *feldegg* race Western Yellow Wagtail.

15th May (Monday)

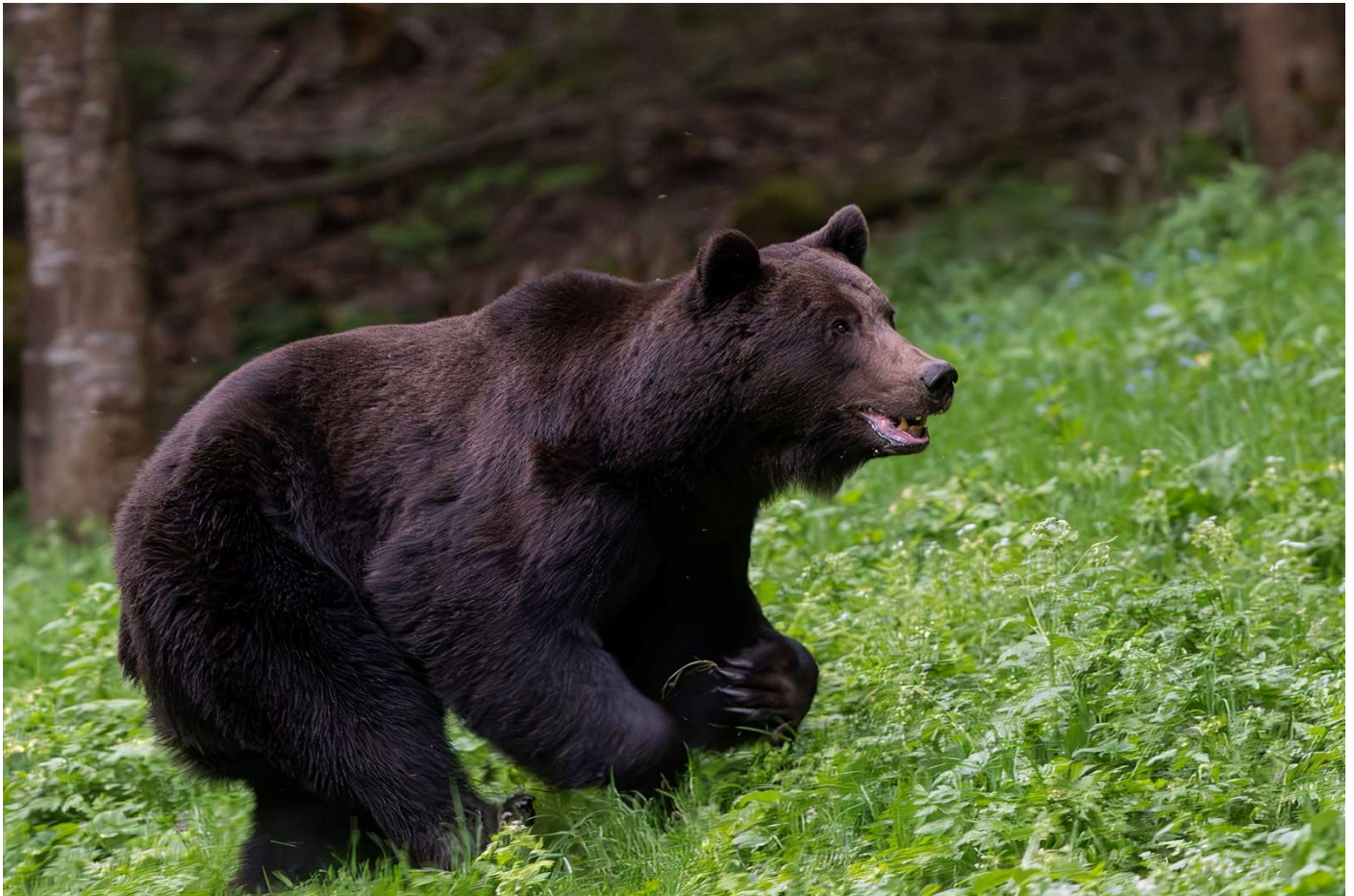
We were heading up early in the morning to the higher elevations of the Harghita Mountain. Our early start was rewarded with females Western Capercaillies seen in the first lights, we were lucky to find a total three individuals. After a great start we trekked into the pine forest of the high elevations' where snow was still covering most of the path ahead of us. Fortunately, unlike last year it was not as deep that it could prevent us from walking further. Along the trail we found some great looking birds such as Eurasian Bullfinch, Crested Tit, Willow Tit, singing Dunnocks, a Black Woodpecker showed itself nicely and we luckily found a Spotted Nutcracker which perched on a treetop a few meters to us. On the more open areas we easily found Ring Ouzels – here the scaly-breasted *alpestris* race – and Mistle Thrush. Hundreds of Red Crossbills were present this year and Eurasian Siskins were also numerous – not every year are they straight forward to find. On the way driving down we heard a Three-toed Woodpecker call from the bus and our fast reaction made us enjoying the bird as it was feeding and softly drumming on some occasion in the roadside forest – a real hard one we bagged.



Three-toed Woodpecker – the hardest of its kind in the region (Dániel Balla)

Back at the Bear Lodge in the middle of the day we walked to the nearby restaurant for a comfortable lunch and spotted White-throated Dipper in the river on the way. Fieldfares, Marsh Tit and a Peregrine Falcon were all seen around the Lodge before departing for our afternoon programme.

Visiting a close bear hide was our programme for the afternoon. We were hoping to see the largest of the local mammals the Carpathian Brown Bear, the top predator from the comfort of a hide. We were more than lucky to see not just one but several individuals in a few hours including a huge male, which was obviously interested in one of the females around. We even witnessed as the male was chasing one of the older cubs away from the female, it is no joke when a giant is trying to catch you. We returned to the Harghita Bear Lodge for a delicious dinner to end our day.



Charging male Carpathian Brown Bear (Dániel Balla)

16th May (Tuesday)

We drove 1,5 hour to reach the Békás Gorge in the morning. Our primary target here was to spot one of the local breeding Wallcreepers. It took us almost 3 hours and a glimps first, but finally we had one of the stunning adults sitting in front of us on the cliff showing its carmine wings and black throat. While waiting for the star to appear we saw Eurasian Crag Martins, a family of White-throated Dippers and Peregrine Falcons from the bottom of the gorge. When first spotting the Peregrine Falcon we clearly saw that the prey it is carrying has carmine coloured wings, which made us worrying about the possibilities we are facing...

On the way back we stopped for a lunch and headed to a lush green meadow covered basin on the way, where after a short search we located a singing Common Rosefinch. Fieldfare and singing Garden Warbler were seen here again. In the later afternoon we drove further south east and did some roadside birding in a valley with pasture land. Our best bird here was a Lesser Grey Shrike before we checked the local fishponds. At the

wetlands and on the fishponds we found Ferruginous Ducks, Great Crested Grebes, Whiskered and Black terns, some Bearded Reedlings but the best here was a Lesser Spotted Eagle near the entrance path, which let us close views.



Common Rosefinch in Transylvania (Dániel Balla)

17th May (Wednesday)

In the morning we decided to discover an area rarely visited by birding groups. We could drive quite high up on the gravel road as the snow was melted here and reached a pristine part of pine forest where we started birding. Random whistling Eurasian Pygmy Owl and once it just started answering. S great surprise and it only took us a few minutes to call down the bird which was initially out of our reach high up on the mountain. Fortunately, it chose an open pine tree to perch and started singing giving us the opportunity for a great observation. Crested Tits, Willow Tits and Firecrests were mobbing the Owl which we left behind after enjoying it for half an hour.

We drove back to the Bear Lodge for a rapid breakfast and started heading back to Hungary. On halfway we met József who replaced Dani as guide and continued onwards to cross the border again. After crossing the border we stopped to check the same buffalo grazed wetland and were lucky to find a Pacific Golden Plover – another vagrant species in Hungary added to our list. We stayed long enough here to try the Owl spot on the way later on, where finally we managed to spot Short-eared Owl – completing the potential Owl list of the region before arriving back to the Bíbic Lodge.

18th May (Thursday)

Our last day we birded the wetland near the lodge before departing from the Hortobágy. It took us 2,5 hours drive to reach the Northern Kiskunság National Park, the area which we birded on the first days of the tour. We tried our luck again and was fortunate to finally spot one of the local Eurasian Stone-curlews (a.k.a.

Thick-knee). Some further search around the wetlands and thanks to József we added Little Bittern to the list of birds seen, after only hearing one in the Hortobágy.

We drove back to the airport and finished our great birding tour in Eastern Europe.



Eurasian Pygmy Owl, our last highlight species in Transylvania (Dániel Balla)

BIRDS – list of bird species recorded on the 2022 tour

C = Commonly seen, more than 10 individuals

'Numbers' = Actual number seen on the tour

H = Heard only

LO = Leader only

NL = Non-leader

1	Greylag Goose	<i>Anser anser</i>	C
2	Greater White-fronted Goose*	<i>Anser albifrons</i>	1
3	Mute Swan	<i>Cygnus olor</i>	C
4	Common Shelduck	<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>	C
5	Garganey	<i>Spatula querquedula</i>	C
6	Northern Shoveler	<i>Spatula clypeata</i>	C
7	Gadwall	<i>Mareca strepera</i>	C
8	Eurasian Wigeon	<i>Mareca penelope</i>	1
9	Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	C
10	Northern Pintail*	<i>Anas acuta</i>	1
11	Eurasian Teal*	<i>Anas crecca</i>	8
12	Red-crested Pochard*	<i>Netta rufina</i>	2
13	Common Pochard	<i>Aythya ferina</i>	C
14	Ferruginous Duck	<i>Aythya nyroca</i>	C
15	Tufted Duck*	<i>Aythya fuligula</i>	1



Western Capercaillie – a brilliant female we observed well (Dániel Balla)

16	Western Capercaillie*	<i>Tetrao urogallus</i>	3
17	Grey Partridge*	<i>Perdix perdix</i>	3
18	Common Quail*	<i>Coturnix coturnix</i>	H
19	Common Pheasant	<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>	C
20	Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>	4
21	Red-necked Grebe	<i>Podiceps grisegena</i>	2

22	Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>	C
23	Black-necked Grebe	<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>	C
24	Black Stork	<i>Ciconia nigra</i>	5
25	White Stork	<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>	C
26	Glossy Ibis*	<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>	1
27	Eurasian Spoonbill	<i>Platalea leucorodia</i>	C
28	Eurasian Bittern	<i>Botaurus stellaris</i>	1
29	Little Bittern	<i>Ixobrychus minutus</i>	1
30	Black-crowned Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>	7
31	Squacco Heron	<i>Ardeola ralioides</i>	2
32	Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	C
33	Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>	C
34	Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>	C
35	Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	C
36	Pygmy Cormorant	<i>Microcarbo pygmeus</i>	C
37	Great Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>	1
38	European Honey Buzzard	<i>Pernis apivorus</i>	1
39	Short-toed Snake Eagle	<i>Circaetus gallicus</i>	4
40	Lesser Spotted Eagle	<i>Clanga pomarina</i>	5
41	Eastern Imperial Eagle	<i>Aquila heliaca</i>	3
42	Golden Eagle	<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>	3
43	Eurasian Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>	1
44	Western Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>	C
45	Montagu's Harrier	<i>Circus pygargus</i>	2
46	White-tailed Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus albicilla</i>	8
47	Long-legged Buzzard	<i>Buteo rufinus</i>	1
48	Common Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>	C
49	Great Bustard	<i>Otis tarda</i>	15
50	Water Rail	<i>Rallus aquaticus</i>	H
51	Corn Crane*	<i>Crex crex</i>	1
52	Little Crane	<i>Porzana parva</i>	3
53	Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	1
54	Eurasian Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>	C
55	Common Crane	<i>Grus grus</i>	16
56	Eurasian Stone-curlew*	<i>Burhinus oedicephalus</i>	1
57	Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>	C
58	Pied Avocet	<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>	C
59	Northern Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	C
60	White-tailed Plover	<i>Vanellus leucurus</i>	1
61	Pacific Golden Plover	<i>Pluvialis fulva</i>	1
62	Common Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>	1
63	Little Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>	6
64	Eurasian Curlew	<i>Numenius arquata</i>	9
65	Black-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa limosa</i>	C
66	Ruff	<i>Calidris pugnax</i>	C
67	Curlew Sandpiper	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>	1
68	Temminck's Stint	<i>Calidris temminckii</i>	6
69	Dunlin	<i>Calidris alpina</i>	C

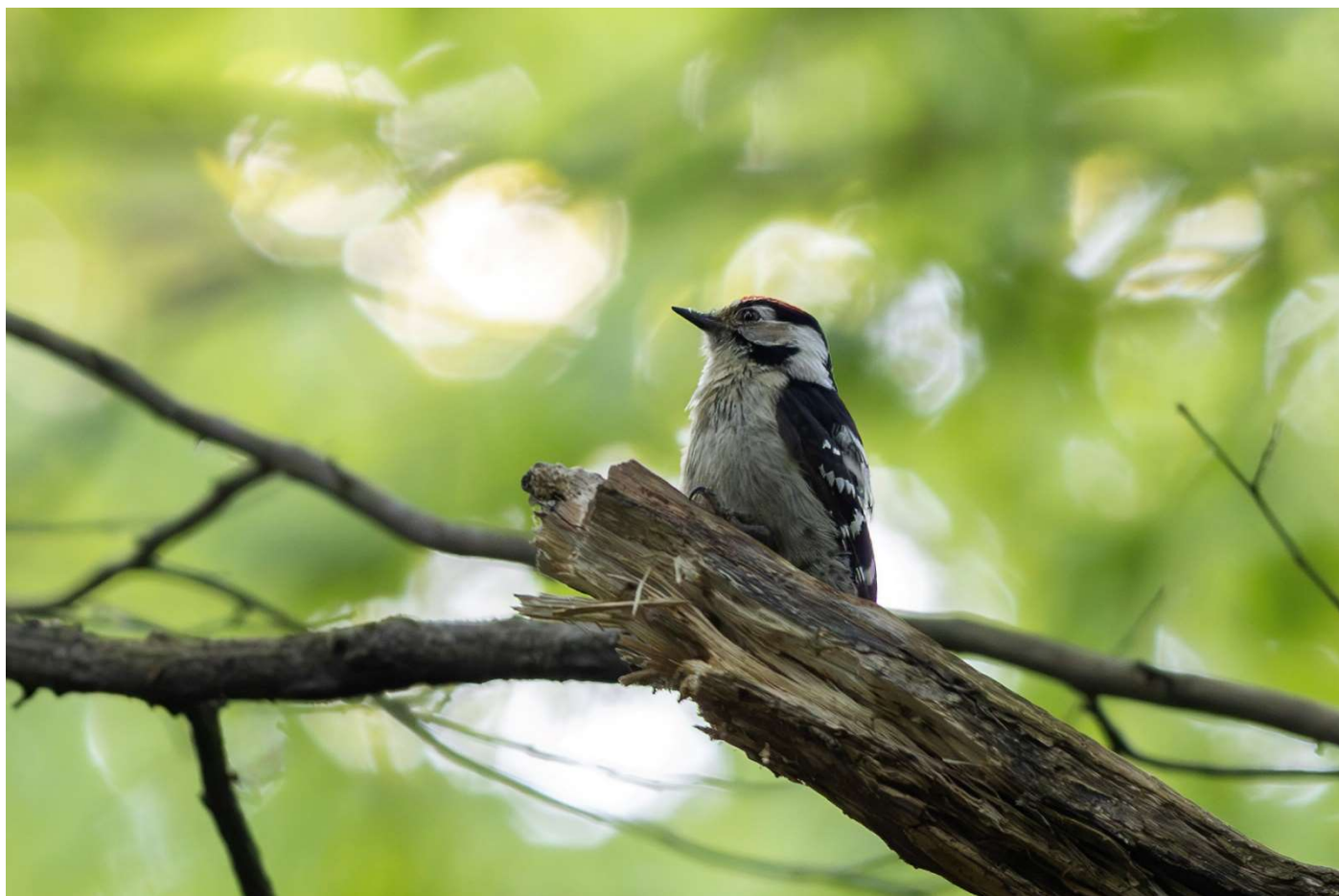
70	Little Stint	<i>Calidris minuta</i>	5
71	Jack Snipe*	<i>Lymnocyrtus minimus</i>	2
72	Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>	8
73	Common Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>	C
74	Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>	C
75	Spotted Redshank	<i>Tringa erythropus</i>	22
76	Collared Pratincole	<i>Glareola pratincola</i>	2
77	Black-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>	C
78	Little Gull	<i>Hydrocoloeus minutus</i>	10
79	Mediterranean Gull	<i>Ichthyiaetus melanocephalus</i>	C
80	Caspian Gull	<i>Larus cachinnans</i>	C
81	Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>	C
82	Gull-billed Tern	<i>Gelochelidon nilotica</i>	1
83	Whiskered Tern	<i>Chlidonias hybrida</i>	C
84	White-winged Tern	<i>Chlidonias leucopterus</i>	C
85	Black Tern	<i>Chlidonias niger</i>	C
86	Feral Pigeon	<i>Columba livia f. domestica</i>	C
87	Stock Dove	<i>Columba oenas</i>	8
88	Common Wood Pigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	C
89	European Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>	C
90	Eurasian Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	C



We saw this cooperative Tawny Owl in the Zemplén Hills (Dániel Balla)

91	Common Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>	C
92	Western Barn Owl*	<i>Tyto alba</i>	2

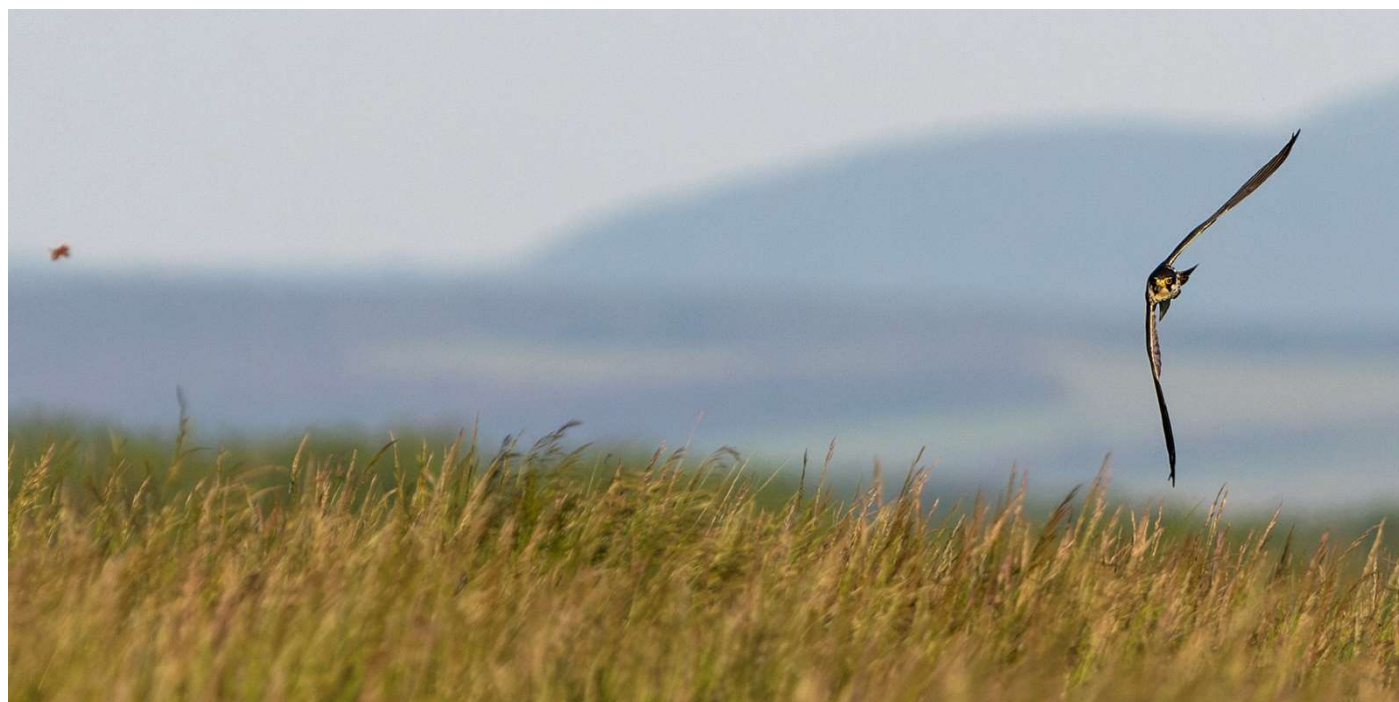
93	Eurasian Scops Owl	<i>Otus scops</i>	3
94	Eurasian Eagle-Owl	<i>Bubo bubo</i>	1
95	Tawny Owl	<i>Strix aluco</i>	1
96	Ural Owl	<i>Strix uralensis</i>	1
97	Eurasian Pygmy Owl*	<i>Glaucidium passerinum</i>	1
98	Little Owl	<i>Athene noctua</i>	2
99	Boreal Owl**	<i>Aegolius funereus</i>	1
100	Long-eared Owl	<i>Asio otus</i>	2
101	Short-eared Owl**	<i>Asio flammeus</i>	1
102	European Nightjar*	<i>Caprimulgus europaeus</i>	1
103	Alpine Swift	<i>Tachymarptis melba</i>	10
104	Common Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>	10
105	European Roller	<i>Coracias garrulus</i>	C
106	Common Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>	2
107	European Bee-eater	<i>Merops apiaster</i>	C
108	Eurasian Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>	C
109	Eurasian Wryneck	<i>Jynx torquilla</i>	3
110	Eurasian Three-toed Woodpecker*	<i>Picoides tridactylus</i>	1
111	Middle Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocoptes medius</i>	5



Lesser Spotted Woodpecker seen well in the Zemplén Hills (Dániel Balla)

112	Lesser Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dryobates minor</i>	1
113	Syrian Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos syriacus</i>	5
114	Great Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>	C
115	White-backed Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos leucotos</i>	2

116	Black Woodpecker	<i>Dryocopus martius</i>	2
117	European Green Woodpecker	<i>Picus viridis</i>	3
118	Grey-headed Woodpecker	<i>Picus canus</i>	1
119	Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	C
120	Red-footed Falcon	<i>Falco vespertinus</i>	C



We enjoyed this hunting Eurasian Hobby in Slovakia (Dániel Balla)

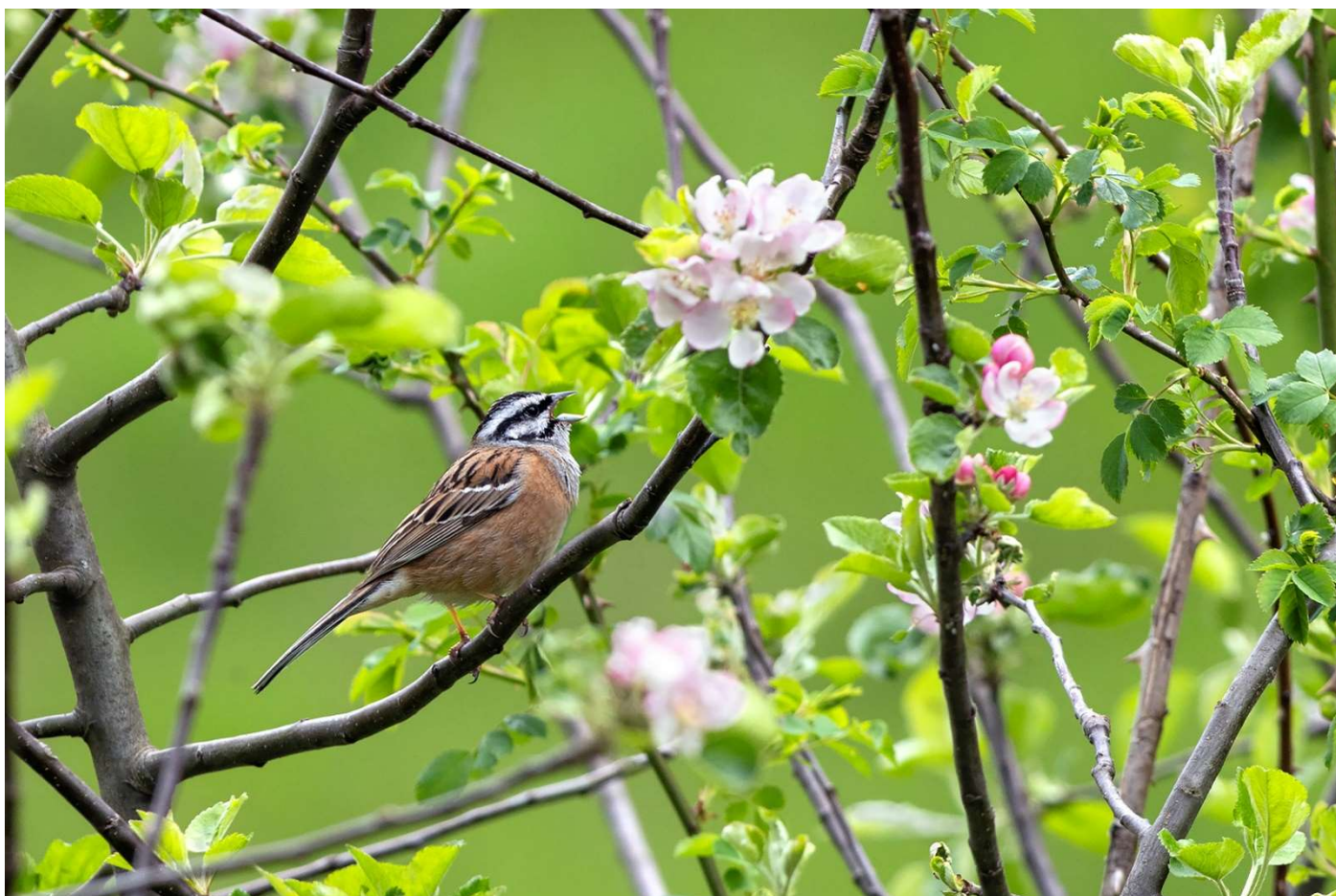
121	Eurasian Hobby	<i>Falco subbuteo</i>	2
122	Saker Falcon	<i>Falco cherrug</i>	2
123	Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	3
124	Red-backed Shrike	<i>Lanius collurio</i>	C
125	Lesser Grey Shrike	<i>Lanius minor</i>	1
126	Great Grey Shrike	<i>Lanius excubitor</i>	1
127	Eurasian Golden Oriole	<i>Oriolus oriolus</i>	C
128	Eurasian Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>	C
129	Eurasian Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>	C
130	Spotted Nutcracker	<i>Nucifraga caryocatactes</i>	2
131	Western Jackdaw	<i>Coloeus monedula</i>	C
132	Rook	<i>Corvus frugilegus</i>	C
133	Hooded Crow	<i>Corvus cornix</i>	C
134	Northern Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>	C
135	Coal Tit	<i>Parus ater</i>	C
136	European Crested Tit	<i>Lophophanes cristatus</i>	C
137	Sombre Tit*	<i>Poecile lugubris</i>	2
138	Marsh Tit	<i>Poecile palustris</i>	C
139	Willow Tit	<i>Poecile montanus</i>	6
140	Eurasian Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>	C
141	Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>	C
142	Eurasian Penduline Tit	<i>Remiz pendulinus</i>	4
143	Bearded Reedling	<i>Panurus biarmicus</i>	10
144	Woodlark	<i>Lullula arborea</i>	4

145	Eurasian Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>	C
146	Crested Lark	<i>Galerida cristata</i>	6
147	Sand Martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>	C
148	Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	C
149	Eurasian Crag Martin	<i>Ptyonoprogne rupestris</i>	9
150	Common House Martin	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>	C
151	Red-rumped Swallow	<i>Cecropis daurica</i>	6
152	Long-tailed Tit	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>	1
153	Wood Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus sibilatrix</i>	1
154	Willow Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>	H
155	Common Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>	C
156	Great Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus arundinaceus</i>	C
157	Moustached Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus melanopogon</i>	2
158	Sedge Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i>	C
159	Eurasian Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>	C
160	Marsh Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus palustris</i>	5
161	Common Grasshopper Warbler	<i>Locustella naevia</i>	1
162	River Warbler	<i>Locustella fluviatilis</i>	1
163	Savi's Warbler	<i>Locustella luscinioides</i>	2
164	Eurasian Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>	C
165	Garden Warbler	<i>Sylvia borin</i>	6
166	Barred Warbler	<i>Sylvia nisoria</i>	4
167	Lesser Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia curruca</i>	2
168	Common Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia communis</i>	C
169	Common Firecrest	<i>Regulus ignicapilla</i>	C
170	Goldcrest	<i>Regulus regulus</i>	C
171	Eurasian Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	C
172	Eurasian Nuthatch	<i>Sitta europaea</i>	C
173	Wallcreeper	<i>Tichodroma muraria</i>	2
174	Eurasian Treecreeper	<i>Certhia familiaris</i>	3
175	Short-toed Treecreeper*	<i>Certhia brachydactyla</i>	1
176	Common Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	C
177	Ring Ouzel	<i>Turdus torquatus</i>	5
178	Common Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	C
179	Fieldfare	<i>Turdus pilaris</i>	C
180	Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>	C
181	Mistle Thrush	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>	C
182	European Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>	C
183	Bluethroat	<i>Luscinia svecica</i>	2
184	Common Nightingale	<i>Luscinia megarhynchos</i>	C
185	Collared Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula albicollis</i>	7
186	Red-breasted Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula parva</i>	4
187	Black Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>	C
188	Common Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>	1
189	Common Rock Thrush	<i>Monticola saxatilis</i>	1
190	Whinchat	<i>Saxicola rubetra</i>	C
191	European Stonechat	<i>Saxicola rubicola</i>	C
192	Northern Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>	4

193	White-throated Dipper	<i>Cinclus cinclus</i>	6
194	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	C
195	Eurasian Tree Sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>	C
196	Dunnock	<i>Prunella modularis</i>	2
197	Western Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava</i>	C
198	Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>	C
199	White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>	C
200	Tawny Pipit	<i>Anthus campestris</i>	H
201	Tree Pipit	<i>Anthus trivialis</i>	5
202	Red-throated Pipit	<i>Anthus cervinus</i>	LO
203	Common Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	C
204	Hawfinch	<i>Coccothraustes coccothraustes</i>	5
205	Eurasian Bullfinch	<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>	4
206	Common Rosefinch*	<i>Carpodacus erythrinus</i>	2
207	European Greenfinch	<i>Chloris chloris</i>	C
208	Common Linnet	<i>Linaria cannabina</i>	C
209	Red Crossbill	<i>Loxia curvirostra</i>	C
210	European Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	C
211	European Serin	<i>Serinus serinus</i>	1
212	Eurasian Siskin	<i>Spinus spinus</i>	C
213	Corn Bunting	<i>Emberiza calandra</i>	C
214	Yellowhammer	<i>Emberiza citrinella</i>	C
215	Rock Bunting	<i>Emberiza cia</i>	4
216	Ortolan Bunting	<i>Emberiza hortulana</i>	5
217	Common Reed Bunting	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>	C



One of the beauties in the Hortobágy were the breeding plumage White-winged Terns (Dániel Balla)



A lovely Rock Bunting we enjoyed in Transylvania (Dániel Balla)



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