

## AUSTRIA BIRDS & MUSIC

“After over two decades of Haydnitage it might be assumed that this annual tour no longer had the capacity to surprise. But on our first day this year the surprises kept coming. First, a flock of 38 Bee-eaters (usually gone by mid-September) flying around us at Oberstinkersee – and the pool itself hosting literally hundreds of waders from Curlew Sandpiper and Little Stint to Red Knot and Sanderling and including over 200 Avocets, 60 Ruffs, and 20 Spotted Redshanks. Then trees decorated with 60 Pygmy Cormorants – a Red Data Book species whose European breeding colonies are concentrated in the Balkan Peninsula, especially the Danube Delta, and which first appeared in Austria with a singleton only five years ago and now numbers 500. Ferruginous Ducks (another Danube Delta speciality and another near-threatened species), 250 Red-crested Pochards, Spoonbill, Red-backed Shrike, Kingfisher, and Crested Lark added continual variety. And finally a flock of nine Great Bustards displaying alongside our vehicle brought our birdwatching to a joyous close. But still the surprises came. In the Haydnssaal that evening a 14-metre screen formed the backdrop to the Ossiach Academy Orchestra and Dvorak’s New World symphony was accompanied by back-projected images of the New World ranging from traditional scenes of North America to the landscape of Mars, a new world for our generation. Even more innovative were the three-dimensional abstract images which accompanied Haydn’s Surprise symphony - truly the ultimate surprise on a day of surprises.

The following day, although rain stopped play up the Hohe Wand, nearby Forchtenstein castle provided a very convenient (and fascinating) dry option until the sun came out once more and the woodland around Rosalia chapel yielded Mistle Thrushes and Bullfinches galore plus a flock of tits and crests. A talk by our good friend and celebrated musicologist Richard Wigmore was the prelude to an absolutely astounding performance of Haydn’s Creation by the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment conducted by Trevor Pinnock. The same orchestra and conductor also delighted us the following evening with works by Haydn, Purcell, Boccherini, and Salomon. But for one of our group – a devoted admirer – Trevor’s most memorable act was to prepare her breakfast tea the following morning. ‘Tea will never taste the same.’ Between Trevor’s two concerts we enjoyed a fascinating day at Hohenau ringing station and were impressed by their technique and the original and unique research they are undertaking to reduce bird fatalities flying into windows. Birds in the hand included Marsh and Great Reed Warblers but birds overhead ranged from Black Stork and Red Kite to Eastern Imperial and White-tailed Eagles. Nearby another Red Kite alongside our vehicle was a highlight of the week.

Other highlights – of which there were many – included the six White Storks at Rust and the Red-necked Phalarope and Garganey there, the tree full of 34 Penduline Tits at Brienbrunn (a species often just glimpsed or heard only), the obliging Spotted Nutcracker and male Crossbill up the Hohe Wand, the woodpeckers in the Gloriette woodland, the seven White-tailed Eagles in Hungary plus Red-footed Falcon, Long-tailed Tits, and Little Gulls, the instant Alpine Choughs at the summit of Schneeberg accompanied by a raptor passage which included Booted Eagle and Honey Buzzard, the ‘at last’ Firecrest and Crested Tits, the perched Hawfinch...

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As for the concerts, each one was a classic of its kind with memorable performances by Giovanni Antonini and Il Giardino Armonico, the Basel Chamber Orchestra, Adam Fischer and the Austro-Hungarian Haydn Philharmonic, Sir Neville Marriner and the Vienna Chamber Orchestra, Michael Schneider and La Stagione Frankfurt, and The Philharmonics.

So much thrilling music, so many special birds. Together with the superb cuisine, the attractively varied scenery, the endless friendly encounters, and the frequent opportunities to relax there really was no better place to spend mid-September.” – *Bryan Bland*.

### Bird List:

Column A = Number of tours this species has been recorded

Column B = Number of days this species was seen on the last tour

Column C = Maximum daily count for this species on the last tour

H = Heard only

(H) = Mostly heard but some seen

(I) = introduced

<b>A</b>		<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>	
16	Little Grebe	2	2	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>
13	Great Crested Grebe	4	5	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>
3	Red-necked Grebe			<i>Podiceps grisegena</i>
4	Black-necked Grebe			<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>
16	Continental Cormorant	3	10	<i>Phalacrocorax (carbo) sinensis</i>
2	Pygmy Cormorant	3	60	<i>Phalacrocorax pygmeus</i>
4	Common Bittern			<i>Botaurus stellaris</i>
1	Little Bittern			<i>Ixobrychus minutus</i>
1	Night Heron			<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>
2	Squacco Heron			<i>Ardeola ralloides</i>
10	Little Egret	5	7	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>
16	Great Egret	6	20	<i>Egretta alba</i>
16	Grey Heron	6	8	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>
14	Purple Heron	1	5	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>
14	Black Stork	1	2	<i>Ciconia nigra</i>
13	White Stork	3	6	<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>
15	Eurasian Spoonbill	3	2	<i>Platalea leucorodia</i>
16	Mute Swan	3	20	<i>Cygnus olor</i>
1	White-fronted Goose			<i>Anser albifrons</i>
16	Greylag Goose	5	'000s	<i>Anser anser</i>
1	Ruddy Shelduck			<i>Tadorna ferruginea</i>
9	Common Shelduck	2	2	<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>
2	Mandarin Duck (I)			<i>Aix galericulata</i>
5	Wigeon			<i>Anas penelope</i>
12	Gadwall			<i>Anas strepera</i>
16	Common Teal	5	60	<i>Anas crecca</i>
16	Mallard	6	100	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>
5	Pintail	1	2	<i>Anas acuta</i>

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5	Garganey	2	14	<i>Anas querquedula</i>
14	Northern Shoveler	2	10	<i>Anas clypeata</i>
11	Red-crested Pochard	2	250	<i>Netta rufina</i>
11	Common Pochard			<i>Aythya ferina</i>
9	Ferruginous Duck	2	3	<i>Aythya nyroca</i>
6	Tufted Duck			<i>Aythya fuligula</i>
6	White-tailed Eagle	2	7	<i>Haliaeetus albicilla</i>
8	Honey Buzzard	1	1	<i>Pernis apivorus</i>
2	Black Kite			<i>Milvus migrans</i>
3	Red Kite	1	2	<i>Milvus milvus</i>
16	Marsh Harrier	6	6	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>
1	Hen Harrier			<i>Circus cyaneus</i>
5	Montagu's Harrier			<i>Circus pygargus</i>
10	Northern Goshawk			<i>Accipiter gentilis</i>
15	Eurasian Sparrowhawk			<i>Accipiter nisus</i>
15	Common Buzzard	6	10	<i>Buteo buteo</i>
1	Steppe Eagle			<i>Aquila nipalensis (orientalis)</i>
1	Golden Eagle			<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>
5	(Eastern) Imperial Eagle	1	1	<i>Aquila heliaca</i>
1	Lesser Spotted Eagle			<i>Aquila pomarina</i>
2	Booted Eagle	1	2	<i>Hieraaetus pennatus</i>
3	Osprey			<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>
16	Common Kestrel	9	12	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>
6	Red-footed Falcon	1	1	<i>Falco vespertinus</i>
13	Hobby	2	2	<i>Falco subbuteo</i>
9	Saker	1	1	<i>Falco cherrug</i>
7	Peregrine			<i>Falco peregrinus</i>
2	Black Grouse			<i>Tetrao tetrix</i>
13	Grey Partridge			<i>Perdix perdix</i>
16	Pheasant (I)	4	10	<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>
11	Water Rail			<i>Rallus aquaticus</i>
5	Spotted Crake			<i>Porzana porzana</i>
4	Little Crake			<i>Porzana parva</i>
13	Common Moorhen			<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>
16	Eurasian Coot	5	100	<i>Fulica atra</i>
1	Common Crane			<i>Grus grus</i>
11	Great Bustard	2	9	<i>Otis tarda</i>
5	Black-winged Stilt			<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>
16	Pied Avocet	3	200	<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>
16	Little Ringed Plover	2	10	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>
15	Common Ringed Plover	2	12	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>
10	Kentish Plover			<i>Charadrius alexandrinus</i>
1	Golden Plover			<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>
5	Grey Plover			<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>
16	Northern Lapwing	3	12	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>
8	Red Knot	2	4	<i>Calidris canutus</i>
7	Sanderling	1	3	<i>Calidris alba</i>

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15	Little Stint	2	20	<i>Calidris minuta</i>
8	Temminck's Stint			<i>Calidris temminckii</i>
14	Curllew Sandpiper	2	15	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>
16	Dunlin	2	30	<i>Calidris alpina</i>
15	Ruff	2	60	<i>Philomachus pugnax</i>
16	Common Snipe	4	20	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>
9	Black-tailed Godwit			<i>Limosa limosa</i>
1	Bar-tailed Godwit			<i>Limosa lapponica</i>
15	Eurasian Curlew	2	6	<i>Numenius arquata</i>
1	Whimbrel			<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>
15	Spotted Redshank	2	30	<i>Tringa erythropus</i>
10	Redshank	1	1	<i>Tringa totanus</i>
2	Marsh Sandpiper			<i>Tringa stagnatilis</i>
12	Common Greenshank	3	4	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>
8	Green Sandpiper	2	4	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>
15	Wood Sandpiper	2	15	<i>Tringa glareola</i>
11	Common Sandpiper	4	3	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>
6	Turnstone			<i>Arenaria interpres</i>
4	Red-necked Phalarope	3	1	<i>Phalaropus lobatus</i>
8	Little Gull	1	2	<i>Larus minutus</i>
16	Black-headed Gull	5	50	<i>Larus ridibundus</i>
5	Common Gull	1	2	<i>Larus canus</i>
16	Yellow-legged Gull	5	80	<i>Larus (cachinnans) michahellis</i>
2	Caspian Gull	1	1	<i>Larus (cachinnans) cachinnans</i>
3	Baltic Gull	1	3	<i>Larus fuscus fuscus</i>
1	Caspian Tern	1	1	<i>Sterna caspia</i>
3	Common Tern			<i>Sterna hirundo</i>
1	Little Tern			<i>Sterna albifrons</i>
4	White-winged Black Tern			<i>Chlidonias leucopterus</i>
5	Black Tern			<i>Chlidonias niger</i>
3	Whiskered Tern			<i>Chlidonias hybrida</i>
16	Feral Pigeon (I)	12	40	<i>Columba livia</i>
13	Stock Dove			<i>Columba oenas</i>
16	Common Woodpigeon	8	10	<i>Columba palumbus</i>
16	Collared Dove	12	50	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>
14	Turtle Dove			<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>
3	Cuckoo			<i>Cuculus canorus</i>
1	Tawny Owl			<i>Strix aluco</i>
5	Common Swift			<i>Apus apus</i>
12	Common Kingfisher	3	1	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>
6	Bee-eater	1	38	<i>Merops apiaster</i>
1	Hoopoe			<i>Upupa epops</i>
16	Grey-headed Woodpecker	1	1	<i>Picus canus</i>
16	Green Woodpecker	2	1	<i>Picus viridis</i>
15	Black Woodpecker			<i>Dryocopus martius</i>
16	Great Spotted Woodpecker	6	1	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>
16	Syrian Woodpecker	1	2	<i>Dendrocopos syriacus</i>

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16	Middle Spotted Woodpecker	1	1	<i>Dendrocopos medius</i>
13	Lesser Spotted Woodpecker	3	1 (H)	<i>Dendrocopos minor</i>
5	Crested Lark	1	2	<i>Galerida cristata</i>
14	Common Skylark	1	1	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>
16	Sand Martin	1	2	<i>Riparia riparia</i>
1	Crag Martin			<i>Ptyonoprogne rupestris</i>
16	Barn Swallow	5	30	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>
16	House Martin	5	10	<i>Delichon urbica</i>
3	Tree Pipit			<i>Anthus trivialis</i>
5	Meadow Pipit			<i>Anthus pratensis</i>
11	Water Pipit	1	1	<i>Anthus spinoletta</i>
14	Yellow Wagtail			<i>Motacilla flava</i>
9	Grey Wagtail			<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>
16	White Wagtail	5	30	<i>Motacilla alba</i>
7	Wren			<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>
11	Dunnock	1	4	<i>Prunella modularis</i>
1	Alpine Accentor			<i>Prunella collaris</i>
16	European Robin	3	4	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>
1	Nightingale			<i>Luscinia megarhynchos</i>
3	Bluethroat			<i>Luscinia svecica</i>
16	Black Redstart	5	10	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>
8	Common Redstart	3	1	<i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>
14	Whinchat			<i>Saxicola rubetra</i>
12	Stonechat			<i>Saxicola torquata</i>
10	Northern Wheatear	1	1	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>
1	Ring Ouzel			<i>Turdus torquatus</i>
16	Common Blackbird	5	4	<i>Turdus merula</i>
14	Song Thrush	2	4	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>
12	Mistle Thrush	2	14	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>
9	Moustached Warbler			<i>Acrocephalus melanopogon</i>
11	Sedge Warbler	1	2	<i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i>
1	Savis' Warbler			<i>Locustella luscinioides</i>
3	Marsh Warbler	1	1	<i>Acrocephalus palustris</i>
14	Reed Warbler	1	2	<i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>
9	Great Reed Warbler	1	2	<i>Acrocephalus arundinaceus</i>
1	Icterine Warbler			<i>Hippolais icterina</i>
1	Barred Warbler			<i>Sylvia nusoria</i>
11	Lesser Whitethroat	2	1	<i>Sylvia curruca</i>
7	Whitethroat			<i>Sylvia communis</i>
5	Garden Warbler	1	1	<i>Sylvia borin</i>
16	Blackcap	2	2	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>
7	Wood Warbler			<i>Phylloscopus sibilatrix</i>
15	Chiffchaff	4	4	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>
12	Willow Warbler	4	1	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>
14	Goldcrest	1	1	<i>Regulus regulus</i>
12	Firecrest	1	1	<i>Regulus ignicapillus</i>
16	Spotted Flycatcher	2	2	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>

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1	Red-breasted Flycatcher				<i>Ficedula parva</i>
13	Collared Flycatcher	2	1		<i>Ficedula albicollis</i>
12	Pied Flycatcher				<i>Ficedula hypoleuca</i>
11	Bearded Tit	1	1	H	<i>Panurus biarmicus</i>
12	Long-tailed Tit	1	12		<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>
15	Marsh Tit	2	6		<i>Parus palustris</i>
12	Willow Tit	1	1		<i>Parus montanus</i>
16	Crested Tit	1	2		<i>Parus cristatus</i>
16	Coal Tit	2	3		<i>Parus ater</i>
16	Blue Tit	7	6		<i>Parus caeruleus</i>
16	Great Tit	7	4		<i>Parus major</i>
16	Eurasian Nuthatch	5	4		<i>Sitta europaea</i>
13	Eurasian Treecreeper				<i>Certhia familiaris</i>
15	Short-toed Treecreeper	2	1		<i>Certhia brachydactyla</i>
11	Penduline Tit	1	34		<i>Remiz pendulinus</i>
3	Golden Oriole				<i>Oriolus oriolus</i>
15	Red-backed Shrike	3	1		<i>Lanius collurio</i>
3	Great Grey Shrike				<i>Lanius excubitor</i>
16	Common Starling	6	'000s		<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>
16	Eurasian Jay	1	2		<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>
16	Common Magpie	4	1		<i>Pica pica</i>
16	Spotted Nutcracker	1	1		<i>Nucifraga caryocatactes caryocatactes</i>
11	Alpine Chough	1	2		<i>Pyrrhocorax graculus</i>
16	Western Jackdaw	5	50		<i>Corvus monedula</i>
16	Rook	4	50		<i>Corvus frugilegus</i>
5	Carrion Crow				<i>Corvus corone</i>
16	Hooded Crow	9	10		<i>Corvus cornix</i>
15	Common Raven	2	4		<i>Corvus corax</i>
16	House Sparrow	9	50		<i>Passer domesticus</i>
16	Tree Sparrow	2	30		<i>Passer montanus</i>
16	Common Chaffinch	5	20		<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>
8	European Serin				<i>Serinus serinus</i>
15	European Greenfinch	2	9		<i>Carduelis chloris</i>
16	European Goldfinch	3	10		<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>
4	Siskin				<i>Carduelis spinus</i>
12	Linnet				<i>Carduelis cannabina</i>
4	Lesser Redpoll				<i>Carduelis cabaret</i>
11	Common Crossbill	1	1		<i>Loxia curvirostra</i>
12	Eurasian Bullfinch	1	10		<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>
16	Hawfinch	2	30		<i>Coccothraustes coccothraustes</i>
15	Yellowhammer				<i>Emberiza citrinella</i>
3	Rock Bunting				<i>Emberiza cia</i>
1	Ortolan Bunting				<i>Emberiza hortulana</i>
10	Reed Bunting	1	2		<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>
3	Corn Bunting	1	2		<i>Militaria calandra</i>