

## AUSTRIA: Birds and Music

'Once more for the music-loving birdwatcher there was no better place in the world to spend twelve days in September than at the Haydn festival. In contrast to the unprecedentedly cold and wet weather in 2007, we were greeted this year by unprecedented heat (32°C). Appropriately there was a Mediterranean bias to our first walk on the Hohe Wand where our first birds were Crag Martins and Rock Buntings. Amazingly these were accompanied by species more usually associated with these higher altitude coniferous woods and indeed our target birds for this walk: Nutcracker and Crested Tit. Higher still the Schneeberg delivered the archetypal alpine bird (Alpine Chough) and the archetypal alpine flower (Edelweiss). But down at lake level one small patch of mud provided us with an equally memorable sighting: a Spotted Crake and a Water Rail walking together with Wood and Green Sandpipers and a Bluethroat as supporting cast. Around Lake Neusiedl we also saw twenty species of wader plus Purple Heron, Spoonbill, Red-crested Pochard, Little Gull, Yellow-legged and Caspian Gulls, and Black Tern. The woodlands provided Hawfinches, Short-toed Treecreepers, and lovely white-headed Long-tailed Tits; the fields Great Grey and Red-backed Shrikes; Kingfishers seemed to be in evidence everywhere; and we were lucky to see the last Bee-eaters of the summer and the first White-fronted Goose of the winter. At Rust at least four White Storks still lingered. And at Hohenau Black Storks and Black Kite performed for us whilst Black Woodpeckers also obliged on a regular basis in the palace park, proving that black was as popular in the field as in the concert hall.

As for the concert hall, the sequence of music was as satisfying as the selection of birds: magnificent performances by Adam Fischer and the Austro-Hungarian Haydn Philharmonic of Haydn's oratorio 'Il ritorno di Tobia', his symphonies 94, 100, and 96, his violin concerto, march for the Royal Society of Musicians, and overture 'La fedelta premiata', and Schubert's overture in the Italian style and rondo for violin and string orchestra. Equally inspiring was the English Concert (conductor Harry Bicket) playing Haydn symphonies 49 and 64, and Handel arias from Alcina and Ariodante sung by Vessalina Kasarova. The Basel Chamber Orchestra performed on two evenings: Haydn's symphony 37 and Beethoven's Pastoral plus his violin concerto played by Viktoria Mullova, followed by two Haydn cello concertos played by Pieter Wispelwey and music by Rossini and Grieg. L'Orfeo Baroque Orchestra opted for Haydn's symphonies 81 and 91 and Nuria Rial sang arias Haydn composed for Luigia Polzelli. Anima Eterna (conducted by Jos van Immerseel) overwhelmed us with a Haydn Te Deum and his Cecilia mass and the Vienna Radio Symphony Orchestra played Haydn's first and last symphonies and Mozart's posthorn serenade no 9. And the evening of songs by Hahn, Copland, Rosenthal, Tanguy, Poulenc, Haydn, Bacri, Satie, and Bernstein delivered by the French soprano Patricia Petibon was – well - extraordinary. Adding considerably to our understanding and enjoyment of the music were talks by Richard Wigmore and Adam Fischer.

History interludes during the heat of the day included tours of the Hungarian Versailles (the summer palace at Fentod), Forchtenstein castle, Haydn's birthplace, and his house at Eisenstadt.

But above all was the perpetual; happy ambience and the constant interaction with so many friends which creates a 'family wedding' feel around this most joyful of festivals.' - Bryan Bland

## AUSTRIA BIRDS AND MUSIC: Bird List...2

### BIRD LIST

This is a list of all the species seen during the Austria Birds and Music tours.

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

| A  |                       | B  | C     |                                       |
|----|-----------------------|----|-------|---------------------------------------|
| 15 | Little Grebe          | 7  | 10    | <i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>         |
| 12 | Great Crested Grebe   | 3  | 15    | <i>Podiceps cristatus</i>             |
| 3  | Red-necked Grebe      |    |       | <i>Podiceps grisegena</i>             |
| 4  | Black-necked Grebe    |    |       | <i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>           |
| 15 | Continental Cormorant | 1  | 23    | <i>Phalacrocorax (carbo) sinensis</i> |
| 1  | Pygmy Cormorant       |    |       | <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>              |
| 9  | Little Egret          | 4  | 12    | <i>Egretta garzetta</i>               |
| 15 | Great Egret           | 5  | 30    | <i>Egretta alba</i>                   |
| 15 | Grey Heron            | 8  | 25    | <i>Ardea cinerea</i>                  |
| 13 | Purple Heron          | 3  | 1     | <i>Ardea purpurea</i>                 |
| 13 | Black Stork           | 1  | 5     | <i>Ciconia nigra</i>                  |
| 12 | White Stork           | 2  | 4     | <i>Ciconia ciconia</i>                |
| 14 | Eurasian Spoonbill    | 4  | 80    | <i>Platalea leucorodia</i>            |
| 15 | Mute Swan             | 7  | 20    | <i>Cygnus olor</i>                    |
| 1  | White-fronted Goose   | 1  | 1     | <i>Anser albifrons</i>                |
| 15 | Greylag Goose         | 5  | '000s | <i>Anser anser</i>                    |
| 1  | Ruddy Shelduck        |    |       | <i>Tadorna ferruginea</i>             |
| 8  | Common Shelduck       | 1  | 22    | <i>Tadorna tadorna</i>                |
| 2  | Mandarin Duck (I)     | 2  | 1     | <i>Aix galericulata</i>               |
| 5  | Wigeon                | 1  | 8     | <i>Anas penelope</i>                  |
| 12 | Gadwall               | 1  | 20    | <i>Anas strepera</i>                  |
| 15 | Common Teal           | 4  | '00s  | <i>Anas crecca</i>                    |
| 15 | Mallard               | 11 | '00s  | <i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>             |
| 4  | Pintail               |    |       | <i>Anas acuta</i>                     |
| 4  | Garganey              |    |       | <i>Anas querquedula</i>               |
| 13 | Northern Shoveler     | 1  | 15    | <i>Anas clypeata</i>                  |
| 10 | Red-crested Pochard   | 1  | 10    | <i>Netta rufina</i>                   |
| 11 | Common Pochard        | 1  | 1     | <i>Aythya ferina</i>                  |
| 8  | Ferruginous Duck      | 1  | 2     | <i>Aythya nyroca</i>                  |
| 6  | Tufted Duck           | 1  | 1     | <i>Aythya fuligula</i>                |
| 5  | White-tailed Eagle    |    |       | <i>Haliaeetus albicilla</i>           |
| 7  | Honey Buzzard         |    |       | <i>Pernis apivorus</i>                |
| 2  | Black Kite            | 1  | 2     | <i>Milvus migrans</i>                 |
| 2  | Red Kite              |    |       | <i>Milvus milvus</i>                  |
| 15 | Marsh Harrier         | 9  | 15    | <i>Circus aeruginosus</i>             |

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|    |                          |    |    |                                       |
|----|--------------------------|----|----|---------------------------------------|
| 1  | Hen Harrier              |    |    | <i>Circus cyaneus</i>                 |
| 5  | Montagu's Harrier        |    |    | <i>Circus pygargus</i>                |
| 10 | Northern Goshawk         | 2  | 1  | <i>Accipiter gentilis</i>             |
| 15 | Eurasian Sparrowhawk     | 5  | 3  | <i>Accipiter nisus</i>                |
| 14 | Common Buzzard           | 12 | 12 | <i>Buteo buteo</i>                    |
| 1  | Steppe Eagle             |    |    | <i>Aquila nipalensis (orientalis)</i> |
| 1  | Golden Eagle             |    |    | <i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>              |
| 4  | (Eastern) Imperial Eagle |    |    | <i>Aquila heliaca</i>                 |
| 1  | Lesser Spotted Eagle     |    |    | <i>Aquila pomarina</i>                |
| 1  | Booted Eagle             |    |    | <i>Hieraaetus pennatus</i>            |
| 3  | Osprey                   |    |    | <i>Pandion haliaetus</i>              |
| 15 | Common Kestrel           | 12 | 10 | <i>Falco tinnunculus</i>              |
| 5  | Red-footed Falcon        |    |    | <i>Falco vespertinus</i>              |
| 12 | Hobby                    | 1  | 1  | <i>Falco subbuteo</i>                 |
| 8  | Saker                    |    |    | <i>Falco cherrug</i>                  |
| 7  | Peregrine                |    |    | <i>Falco peregrinus</i>               |
| 2  | Black Grouse             |    |    | <i>Tetrao tetrix</i>                  |
| 13 | Grey Partridge           | 1  | 1  | <i>Perdix perdix</i>                  |
| 15 | Pheasant (I)             | 11 | 14 | <i>Phasianus colchicus</i>            |
| 11 | Water Rail               | 2  | 1  | <i>Rallus aquaticus</i>               |
| 5  | Spotted Crane            | 2  | 1  | <i>Porzana porzana</i>                |
| 4  | Little Crane             |    |    | <i>Porzana parva</i>                  |
| 13 | Common Moorhen           | 4  | 8  | <i>Gallinula chloropus</i>            |
| 15 | Eurasian Coot            | 7  | 50 | <i>Fulica atra</i>                    |
| 1  | Comon Crane              |    |    | <i>Grus grus</i>                      |
| 10 | Great Bustard            |    |    | <i>Otis tarda</i>                     |
| 5  | Black-winged Stilt       | 1  | 4  | <i>Himantopus himantopus</i>          |
| 15 | Pied Avocet              | 3  | 45 | <i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>         |
| 15 | Little Ringed Plover     | 2  | 1  | <i>Charadrius dubius</i>              |
| 14 | Common Ringed Plover     | 2  | 12 | <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>           |
| 10 | Kentish Plover           | 1  | 3  | <i>Charadrius alexandrinus</i>        |
| 1  | Golden Plover            |    |    | <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>            |
| 5  | Grey Plover              |    |    | <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>           |
| 15 | Northern Lapwing         | 6  | 40 | <i>Vanellus vanellus</i>              |
| 7  | Red Knot                 | 1  | 1  | <i>Calidris canutus</i>               |
| 6  | Sanderling               |    |    | <i>Calidris alba</i>                  |
| 14 | Little Stint             | 2  | 7  | <i>Calidris minuta</i>                |
| 8  | Temminck's Stint         |    |    | <i>Calidris temminckii</i>            |
| 13 | Curlew Sandpiper         | 3  | 30 | <i>Calidris ferruginea</i>            |
| 15 | Dunlin                   | 3  | 20 | <i>Calidris alpina</i>                |
| 14 | Ruff                     | 3  | 30 | <i>Philomachus pugnax</i>             |
| 15 | Common Snipe             | 6  | 60 | <i>Gallinago gallinago</i>            |
| 9  | Black-tailed Godwit      | 2  | 1  | <i>Limosa limosa</i>                  |
| 1  | Bar-tailed Godwit        |    |    | <i>Limosa lapponica</i>               |
| 14 | Eurasian Curlew          | 3  | 20 | <i>Numenius arquata</i>               |
| 1  | Whimbrel                 |    |    | <i>Numenius phaeopus</i>              |
| 14 | Spotted Redshank         | 3  | 70 | <i>Tringa erythropus</i>              |
| 9  | Redshank                 |    |    | <i>Tringa totanus</i>                 |
| 2  | Marsh Sandpiper          |    |    | <i>Tringa stagnatilis</i>             |

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|    |                           |    |     |                                       |
|----|---------------------------|----|-----|---------------------------------------|
| 11 | Common Greenshank         | 3  | 4   | <i>Tringa nebularia</i>               |
| 7  | Green Sandpiper           | 3  | 2   | <i>Tringa ochropus</i>                |
| 14 | Wood Sandpiper            | 4  | 4   | <i>Tringa glareola</i>                |
| 10 | Common Sandpiper          | 4  | 9   | <i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>             |
| 6  | Turnstone                 |    |     | <i>Arenaria interpres</i>             |
| 3  | Red-necked Phalarope      | 1  | 1   | <i>Phalaropus lobatus</i>             |
| 7  | Little Gull               | 1  | 2   | <i>Larus minutus</i>                  |
| 15 | Black-headed Gull         | 8  | 100 | <i>Larus ridibundus</i>               |
| 4  | Common Gull               | 2  | 8   | <i>Larus canus</i>                    |
| 15 | Yellow-legged Gull        | 10 | 100 | <i>Larus (cachinnans) michahellis</i> |
| 1  | Caspian Gull              | 1  | 1   | <i>Larus (cachinnans) cachinnans</i>  |
| 2  | Baltic Gull               | 1  | 10  | <i>Larus fuscus fuscus</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                | 1  | 4   | <i>Chlidonias niger</i>               |
| 3  | Whiskered Tern            |    |     | <i>Chlidonias hybrida</i>             |
| 15 | Feral Pigeon (I)          | 12 | 50  | <i>Columba livia</i>                  |
| 13 | Stock Dove                | 3  | 1   | <i>Columba oenas</i>                  |
| 15 | Common Woodpigeon         | 12 | 50  | <i>Columba palumbus</i>               |
| 15 | Collared Dove             | 12 | 50  | <i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>          |
| 14 | Turtle Dove               | 3  | 20  | <i>Streptopelia turtur</i>            |
| 3  | Cuckoo                    |    |     | <i>Cuclus canorus</i>                 |
| 1  | Tawny Owl                 |    |     | <i>Strix aluco</i>                    |
| 5  | Common Swift              | 1  | 1   | <i>Apus apus</i>                      |
| 11 | Common Kingfisher         | 5  | 4   | <i>Alcedo atthis</i>                  |
| 5  | Bee-eater                 | 1  | 50  | <i>Merops apiaster</i>                |
| 1  | Hoopoe                    |    |     | <i>Upupa epops</i>                    |
| 15 | Grey-headed Woodpecker    | 1  | 1   | <i>Picus canus</i>                    |
| 15 | Green Woodpecker          | 4  | 2   | <i>Picus viridis</i>                  |
| 15 | Black Woodpecker          | 4  | 2   | <i>Dryocopus martius</i>              |
| 15 | Great Spotted Woodpecker  | 4  | 2   | <i>Dendrocopos major</i>              |
| 15 | Syrian Woodpecker         | 4  | 1   | <i>Dendrocopos syriacus</i>           |
| 15 | Middle Spotted Woodpecker | 2  | 1   | <i>Dendrocopos medius</i>             |
| 12 | Lesser Spotted Woodpecker |    |     | <i>Dendrocopos minor</i>              |
| 4  | Crested Lark              |    |     | <i>Galerida cristata</i>              |
| 13 | Common Skylark            | 1  | 8   | <i>Alauda arvensis</i>                |
| 15 | Sand Martin               | 4  | 20  | <i>Riparia riparia</i>                |
| 1  | Crag Martin               | 4  | 20  | <i>Ptyonoprogne rupestris</i>         |
| 15 | Barn Swallow              | 11 | 100 | <i>Hirundo rustica</i>                |
| 15 | House Martin              | 12 | 100 | <i>Delichon urbica</i>                |
| 3  | Tree Pipit                | 1  | 1   | <i>Anthus trivialis</i>               |
| 5  | Meadow Pipit              | 1  | 1   | <i>Anthus pratensis</i>               |
| 10 | Water Pipit               |    |     | <i>Anthus spinoletta</i>              |
| 14 | Yellow Wagtail            | 1  | 1   | <i>Motacilla flava</i>                |
| 9  | Grey Wagtail              | 2  | 2   | <i>Motacilla cinerea</i>              |
| 15 | White Wagtail             | 9  | 5   | <i>Motacilla alba</i>                 |
| 7  | Wren                      | 2  | 1   | H <i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>      |
| 10 | Dunnock                   | 1  | 5   | <i>Prunella modularis</i>             |

## AUSTRIA BIRDS AND MUSIC: Bird List...5

|    |                         |    |    |                                   |
|----|-------------------------|----|----|-----------------------------------|
| 1  | Alpine Accentor         |    |    | <i>Prunella collaris</i>          |
| 15 | European Robin          | 3  | 1  | <i>Erithacus rubecula</i>         |
| 1  | Nightingale             |    |    | <i>Luscinia megarhynchos</i>      |
| 3  | Bluethroat              | 1  | 1  | <i>Luscinia svecica</i>           |
| 15 | Black Redstart          | 10 | 10 | <i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>       |
| 7  | Common Redstart         |    |    | <i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>    |
| 14 | Whinchat                | 4  | 3  | <i>Saxicola rubetra</i>           |
| 12 | Stonechat               | 1  | 3  | <i>Saxicola torquata</i>          |
| 9  | Northern Wheatear       | 3  | 1  | <i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>          |
| 1  | Ring Ouzel              |    |    | <i>Turdus torquatus</i>           |
| 15 | Common Blackbird        | 9  | 8  | <i>Turdus merula</i>              |
| 13 | Song Thrush             |    |    | <i>Turdus philomelos</i>          |
| 11 | Mistle Thrush           | 1  | 14 | <i>Turdus viscivorus</i>          |
| 9  | Moustached Warbler      |    |    | <i>Acrocephalus melanopogon</i>   |
| 10 | Sedge Warbler           |    |    | <i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i> |
| 1  | Savis' Warbler          |    |    | <i>Locustella luscinioides</i>    |
| 2  | Marsh Warbler           |    |    | <i>Acrocephalus palustris</i>     |
| 13 | Reed Warbler            | 3  | 1  | <i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>    |
| 8  | Great Reed Warbler      | 1  | 1  | <i>Acrocephalus arundinaceus</i>  |
| 1  | Icterine Warbler        |    |    | <i>Hippolais icterina</i>         |
| 1  | Barred Warbler          |    |    | <i>Sylvia nusoria</i>             |
| 10 | Lesser Whitethroat      |    |    | <i>Sylvia curruca</i>             |
| 7  | Whitethroat             | 2  | 2  | <i>Sylvia communis</i>            |
| 4  | Garden Warbler          | 2  | 1  | <i>Sylvia borin</i>               |
| 15 | Blackcap                | 2  | 1  | <i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>         |
| 7  | Wood Warbler            | 1  | 1  | <i>Phylloscopus sibilatrix</i>    |
| 14 | Chiffchaff              | 1  | 2  | <i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>     |
| 11 | Willow Warbler          | 3  | 1  | <i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>     |
| 13 | Goldcrest               | 1  | 6  | <i>Regulus regulus</i>            |
| 11 | Firecrest               |    |    | <i>Regulus ignicapillus</i>       |
| 15 | Spotted Flycatcher      | 5  | 2  | <i>Muscicapa striata</i>          |
| 1  | Red-breasted Flycatcher |    |    | <i>Ficedula parva</i>             |
| 12 | Collared Flycatcher     | 1  | 1  | <i>Ficedula albicollis</i>        |
| 12 | Pied Flycatcher         | 4  | 4  | <i>Ficedula hypoleuca</i>         |
| 10 | Bearded Tit             | 1  | 1  | <i>Panurus biarmicus</i>          |
| 11 | Long-tailed Tit         | 1  | 2  | <i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>        |
| 14 | Marsh Tit               | 2  | 2  | <i>Parus palustris</i>            |
| 11 | Willow Tit              |    |    | <i>Parus montanus</i>             |
| 15 | Crested Tit             | 2  | 3  | <i>Parus cristatus</i>            |
| 15 | Coal Tit                | 2  | 7  | <i>Parus ater</i>                 |
| 15 | Blue Tit                | 11 | 4  | <i>Parus caeruleus</i>            |
| 15 | Great Tit               | 9  | 4  | <i>Parus major</i>                |
| 15 | Eurasian Nuthatch       | 6  | 7  | <i>Sitta europaea</i>             |
| 13 | Eurasian Treecreeper    |    |    | <i>Certhia familiaris</i>         |
| 14 | Short-toed Treecreeper  | 1  | 4  | <i>Certhia brachydactyla</i>      |
| 10 | Penduline Tit           |    |    | <i>Remiz pendulinus</i>           |
| 3  | Golden Oriole           |    |    | <i>Oriolus oriolus</i>            |
| 14 | Red-backed Shrike       | 6  | 12 | <i>Lanius collurio</i>            |
| 3  | Great Grey Shrike       | 1  | 1  | <i>Lanius excubitor</i>           |

## AUSTRIA BIRDS AND MUSIC: Bird List...6

|    |                     |    |       |  |
|----|---------------------|----|-------|--|
| 15 | Common Starling     | 12 | '000s | <i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>                      |
| 15 | Eurasian Jay        | 6  | 3     | <i>Garrulus glandarius</i>                   |
| 15 | Common Magpie       | 10 | 8     | <i>Pica pica</i>                             |
| 15 | Spotted Nutcracker  | 3  | 3     | <i>Nucifraga caryocatactes caryocatactes</i> |
| 10 | Alpine Chough       | 1  | 1     | <i>Pyrrhocorax graculus</i>                  |
| 15 | Western Jackdaw     | 9  | 40    | <i>Corvus monedula</i>                       |
| 15 | Rook                | 6  | 50    | <i>Corvus frugilegus</i>                     |
| 5  | Carrion Crow        | 1  | 1     | <i>Corvus corone</i>                         |
| 15 | Hooded Crow         | 12 | 40    | <i>Corvus cornix</i>                         |
| 14 | Common Raven        | 3  | 50    | <i>Corvus corax</i>                          |
| 15 | House Sparrow       | 11 | 50    | <i>Passer domesticus</i>                     |
| 15 | Tree Sparrow        | 2  | 60    | <i>Passer montanus</i>                       |
| 15 | Common Chaffinch    | 4  | 20    | <i>Fringilla coelebs</i>                     |
| 8  | European Serin      |    |       | <i>Serinus serinus</i>                       |
| 14 | European Greenfinch | 2  | 1     | <i>Carduelis chloris</i>                     |
| 15 | European Goldfinch  | 3  | 8     | <i>Carduelis carduelis</i>                   |
| 4  | Siskin              |    |       | <i>Carduelis spinus</i>                      |
| 12 | Linnet              | 2  | 50    | <i>Carduelis cannabina</i>                   |
| 4  | Lesser Redpoll      |    |       | <i>Carduelis cabaret</i>                     |
| 10 | Common Crossbill    | 1  | 1     | <i>Loxia curvirostra</i>                     |
| 11 | Eurasian Bullfinch  |    |       | <i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>                     |
| 15 | Hawfinch            | 4  | 30    | <i>Coccothraustes coccothraustes</i>         |
| 15 | Yellowhammer        | 2  | 12    | <i>Emberiza citrinella</i>                   |
| 3  | Rock Bunting        | 1  | 2     | <i>Emberiza cia</i>                          |
| 1  | Ortolan Bunting     |    |       | <i>Emberiza hortulana</i>                    |
| 9  | Reed Bunting        |    |       | <i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>                  |
| 2  | Corn Bunting        |    |       | <i>Militaria calandra</i>                    |