

Birdwatching in Austria

The Alps and Lake Neusiedl



Zicklacke one of the alkaline lakes near our base



Alpine Accentor regularly observed on Schneeberg



SCHNEEBERG

Schneeberg reaches 2075m in height and marks the north-easternmost limits of the Alps, just one hour south of Vienna. A rack-and-pinion railway goes to 1800m. The Alpine zone hosts typical mountain birds and offers great views.

HOHE WAND

A rocky limestone plateau known as Hohe Wand rises from the adjacent plains and is covered with spruce and pine trees. Many trails are quite easy.

LAKE NEUSIEDL

A large brackish lake surrounded by broad belt of reed beds, it is a remnant of an old sea. The mosaic of steppe grassland, fields and shallow lakes is amongst Europe's most important bird areas. The whole area is flat and walking will be very easy. Periodically drying salt pans and reeds are home to large populations of water birds. Great Bustards are often easily found in the Waasen area.

Left: Pygmy Cormorant | Right: White-spotted Bluethroat



Lake Neusiedl, a popular birding destination, combined with the high Alps south of Vienna can produce surprisingly diverse fauna, especially birds. You can watch Snowfinch and Alpine Accentor one day and spent the other day at natron lakes with many Red-crested Pochards, Avocets and Black-winged Stilts around.

Austria has been offering good birdwatching for many years. Neusiedl is a famous place and attracts thousands of birds every spring. You can overlook large fields with ease in a flat and open landscape and spot distant birds with a fair chance to recognise a rarity. The high Alps rise south of Vienna to over 6000 feet. Alpine meadows host a typical alpine squadron that includes Golden Eagle, Alpine Accentor, Water Pipit, Bonelli's Warbler, Snowfinch and sometimes also Alpine Chough. Such well preserved habitats and such a great span of elevation promise a more than satisfactory birding experience.

Barred Warbler sculker of bushy areas



Bearded Tit bird life is very rich in extensive reed beds round the main lake





Canals this one feeds three alkaline lakes in Hungary



Alpine Choughs
highly gregarious acrobats



FACT FILE

Austria

8 days | 2 hotels

dates: mid May to early June

ground price: see the web site or ask
single supplement: €125 / £100

guide: Ádám Bodor

airport: Vienna, Austria

group size: 4-14

number of species: around 160

ITINERARY IN BRIEF

D1 Arrival at Vienna, Austria

D2 The Alps, Hohe Wand

D3 The Alps, Schneeberg

D4 Transfer to lake Neusiedl

D5 Lake Neusiedl (Austrian side)

D6 Lake Neusiedl (Hungarian side)

D7 Marchegg and Lake Neusiedl

D8 Departure from Vienna

Left: Nutcracker | Right: Icterine Warbler



Black-winged Stilt
population has rapidly increased



lake Neusiedl the largest brackish pool of Europe



Red-crested Pochard

very numerous, very handsome



Hohe Wand



HIGHLIGHTS

- Alpine Chough
- Peregrine
- White-tailed and Imperial Eagle
- Alpine Accentor and Water Pipit
- Nutcracker and Ring Ouzel
- Firecrest and Crested Tit
- Bonelli's Warbler
- Pygmy Cormorant
- Ferruginous Duck and Red-crested Pochard
- Egrets and herons
- Black Stork
- Great Bustard
- Black, Syrian and Middle Spotted Woodpecker
- Moustached, River, Marsh and Barred Warbler
- Bluethroat, Bearded and Penduline Tit
- The Alps and very easy walking at Neusiedl

Left: Moustached Warbler | Right: White Stork at our hotel

GUIDES AND HOTELS

Ádám Bodor

Adam lives in Hungary. He is a young and very enthusiastic naturalist with a special interest in birds. He is currently based in Kiskunsag NP and leads tours to several neighbouring countries.

Martin Hrouzek

Is 40 and has guided many birdwatching tours since the mid nineties including some ten tours to Lake Neusiedl. Besides good local knowledge, he is proud of the Hotel Post that has provided excellent service over the years.

Hotel in Hohe Wand or nearby

A family-run hotel in Hohe Wand with fantastic views from the terrace and birdwatching areas within a short walk. It has just a few rooms so we may stay at another place with a larger group.

Hotel Post in Illmitz

Family-run, centrally located with extremely friendly service and home made cuisine. Set in the middle of Illmitz village, one of the regional wine centres.



Schneeberg

northernmost projection of the high Alps



Syrian Woodpecker

always breeds close to our hotel

Purple Heron

herons and egrets breed in large numbers



Images were kindly provided by:
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Zdeněk Hanč, Czech Rep.
Peter Gai, Germany
Robert Carr, UK
Martin Hrouzek, Czech Rep.
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Published by:
Ecotours & Kondor EcoLodge Ltd.
6080 Szabadszallas, Balazspuszta 90., Hungary
www.ecotours.hu
ecotours@t-online.hu
+36-30-6459318 or +36-20-8014742 (Apr - Oct)
+52 1 998 126 3073 (Nov - Apr)
skype: gabornewmex



Please don't hesitate to ask
for a detailed itinerary or
visit our web site



Chamois
not uncommon in the high mountains