

Eastern and Central Slovakia September / October 2022 by Gordon Shaw

Beata and I, together with Josie Sena Storey and Chris Storey, visited Eastern Slovakia between 24th September and 3rd October 2022, based in the village of Kokšov-Bakša. This wasn't a dedicated birding trip, but we did do a lot of birding.

For background information and details of sites, please review my trip report for a visit to this area in May 2022.

https://www.cloudbirders.com/be/download?filename=SHAW_Slovakia_05_2022.pdf

Itinerary

Day 1 24th September. Travelled to Slovakia from London Luton and arrived late evening.

Day 2 25th September. Travelled to the Tatras and went up the chair lift to Lomnický štít. Night in Tatranská Lomnica.

Day 3 26th September. Walk up to Popradské pleso. Night in Tatranská Lomnica

Day 4 27th September. Travelled to Červený Kláštor and finally got a rafting trip down the Dunajec River and then returned to the village.

Day 5 28th September. Visit to the city of Kosice, and a walk around the village.

Day 6 29th September. Walk around the village and along the river bank.

Day 7 30th September. Full day travelling and birding at Senne Fishponds reserve.

Day 8 1st October. Visit to the Slanske Hills at Skaros, with a very brief excursion into Hungary.

Day 9 2nd October. Supported Josie and Beata at the Kosice Peace Marathon.

Day 10 3rd October Walk around the village before the trip home, delayed, arrived 0430 on Tuesday AM!

Systematic List.

1. Mute Swan. Common at Senne.
2. Greylag goose. Large numbers at Senne.
3. Mallard. Common at Senne
4. Gadwall. Noted at Senne.
5. Pochard. A few at Senne.
6. Ferruginous duck. At least 4 at Senne.
7. Tufted duck. Common at Senne.
8. Little Grebe. A few at Senne.
9. Great Crested Grebe. Senne.
10. Great Cormorant. Seen at Senne, around the village and along the river, though not in numbers.
11. Little Egret. 1 noted at Senne.
12. Great Egret. 3 at Senne.
13. Grey Heron. At all wetland sites, and around Kokšov Bakša.
14. White tailed Eagle. 1 bird showed very well at Senne.
15. Eastern Imperial Eagle. 1 near the village seen daily, accompanied by what appeared to be juvenile on one other day.
16. Lesser spotted eagle. Several South of the Tatras from the car, and 1 migrating South over the Dunajec.
17. Hen Harrier. A ringtail noted at Senne.
18. Buzzard. Fairly common around the country, quite widespread.
19. Honey buzzard. 1 along the River Dunajec, obviously migrated South and coming out of Poland.

20. Eurasian Sparrowhawk. Seen daily in all areas.
21. Common Kestrel. Common and noted daily.
22. Hobby. 1 well seen at Senne.
23. Eurasian Coot. Senne.
24. Dunlin. At least 4 at Senne.
25. Spotted Redshank. 2 at Senne.
26. Greenshank. Hear calling at Senne, not seen.
27. Wood sandpiper. Up to 4 at Senne.
28. Black headed gull. Common at Senne but did not count.
29. Caspian Gull. Senne, also along the River Dunajec.
30. Little gull. 1 at Senne.
31. Stock dove. Noted.
32. Woodpigeon. Noted, migrant flock over the village.
33. Eurasian Collared Dove. Very common, seen daily in villages.
34. Black woodpecker. 1 distant drumming and calling near pension in Tatras
35. Green Woodpecker. 1 heard a few times near the village.
36. Great spotted woodpecker. Heard in the Tatras, and seen around the village
37. Syrian woodpecker. Brief views and calls in several locations, and one well seen in the village near the cemetery, in company with a GS woodpecker.
38. Crested Lark. Noted around the bottom of our garden, even perching on houses.
39. Sand Martin. A few at Senne.
40. Barn Swallow. Common, moving South in large numbers.
41. House Martin. A few at Senne.
42. Water pipit. Several seen at lakes in the Tatras.
43. White wagtail. Several noted in various locations.
44. Grey Wagtail. Seen on the rafting trip.
45. European Robin. Noted in the Tatras
46. Common Redstart. 1 noted near the hotel in the Tatras
47. Spotted flycatcher. Several migrants noted around the Tatras and around the village.
48. Dipper. Several on the rafting trip.
49. Black Redstart. Very common around the village, and high up in the Tatras.
50. Mistle Thrush. A few noted in the Tatras.
51. Fieldfare. A few in all locations.
52. Common Blackbird. Fairly common.
53. Blackcap. A juvenile male was noted colliding and succumbing near the pension in the Tatras.
54. Willow Warbler. A few calling migrants.
55. Common Chiffchaff. Noted in several places, still singing in the mountains.
56. Goldcrest. Heard a couple of times in the Tatras.
57. Great Tit. Common in all areas.
58. Coal tit. Noted anywhere where there were conifers.
59. Blue tit. Noted in the Tatras and around Kokšov Bakša.
60. Marsh tit. 1 individual of the race *P. p. palustris*, which resembles the willow tit, seen at Skaros.
61. Crested tit. A small group seen in the Tatras on the walk up to Popradské pleso.
62. Long tailed tit. A small flock of the white-headed race *Aegithalos caudatus caudatus* near the village.
63. Treecreeper. Well seen in the Tatras
64. Red backed Shrike. 1 juvenile male near the village on 28th, none subsequently.
65. Great Grey shrike 1 seen from the car south of Tatras, and 1 on multiple occasions around the village.

66. Magpie. Fairly common.
67. Jay. A few noted in widespread locations.
68. Nutcracker. Very common on the walk up to Popradské pleso.
69. Jackdaw. Noted in numbers around the village.
70. Rook. Noted in several places, seems to be common on the edge of Kosice.
71. Hooded Crow. A few seen in scattered locations, mainly around Kokšov Bakša.
72. Northern Raven. A few seen in various places.
73. Starling. Small flocks around the village
74. House Sparrow. Some small flocks noted in the village
75. Tree Sparrow. As house sparrow.
76. Linnet. Noted around Kokšov Bakša.
77. Goldfinch. Noted around the village.
78. European Greenfinch. Hear in the village.
79. Siskin. Small flock in the Tatras
80. Hawfinch. Several seen briefly at Skaros, plus 1 in the Tatras.
81. Yellowhammer. 1 near village.
82. Corn bunting. 1 seen from the car near Presov.

Mammals

Red squirrel. One seen in the Tatras

Roe deer. Noted

Red Deer. 2 females and a bellowing male around the resort in the Tatras

Red Fox. A very tame individual in the Tatras

Bat sp. A large species, probably Noctule, seen over the village.

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