

EUROPEAN CONSERVATION ACTION NETWORK

EuCAN

Leonardo da Vinci Funded Placement 2009

AGGTELEK NATIONAL PARK – HUNGARY

MAY 9th – 29th 2009



Richard M Collier

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EUROPEAN CONSERVATION ACTION NETWORK

EuCAN

PART1 GENERAL INFORMATION

1.1 INTRODUCTION

What is EuCAN and the objectives of the organization? This is an organization aimed at conservation and is open to people who are residents in the UK and are over the age of 18, retired, employed or out of work but not available to those still in full time education. 2009 is the 3rd year that this EuCAN programme has been organized by the Kingcombe Trust in association with the Dorset Branch of the Butterfly Conservation and the European Partners under the expert guidance of Nigel Spring. Until 2010 it will be fully financed by the Leonardo da Vinci section of the European Union's Lifelong Learning Programme. It is envisaged that the potential future programme will continue to 2013.

The European partners are:-

- La Ligue pour la Protection des Oiseaux
- Aggtelek Nemzeti Park
- Zdanice Town Council
- Pro Nature
- Mazowiecki Landscape Park
- Kampinowski National Park

The Eucan programme for 2009 consists of seven conservation trips, two to France, Hungary, Poland and 1 trip to the Czech Republic. These trips are between February and October and will involve conservation work and surveying the wildlife in particular butterflies in Hungary during May.

To apply you do not need to be already involved in conservation as it is open to those who have never been active within this field but are willing and prepared to do practical work for up to 9 days within the fortnight and 3-4 days of cultural and ecological training.

If accepted on any of these trips as part of the commitment you will be expected to attend one of three weekend preparation events held at the Kingcombe Centre. The aim of these weekends are to advise you about EuCAN and the work involved, meet fellow members and review your contracts for the undertaking. You will also be expected to attend conservation working meets on the local nature reserves that belong either to the Dorset Wildlife Trust (DWT) or the Butterfly Conservation (BC).

1.2 PREPARATION WEEKEND JANUARY 23rd -25th

People started to arrive at the Kingcombe Centre by 4pm on Friday for the official start of tea and cakes between 5pm and 6pm. The formal introductions started at about 6:30pm

and then we all sat down to a 3 course meal. By this time conversation was flowing and it became apparent that we were all from very different walks of life and at different stages in our lives.



1. KINGCOMBE CENTRE

Some of the younger members were attending college on a part time basis studying conservation and environmental issues whilst some of the older members had degrees in various topics and not always related to conservation. Some of the other older members, some retired, talked about leaving school with O and A levels and finding some type of employment immediately imperative. This way of life contrasted sharply with some of the younger generations lifestyle but as we all had one common interest and that was with the preservation of our landscape and wildlife these differences in no way caused anyone problems in fact the diversity was a highlight. Some in the group were already involved in conservation at varying levels whilst for others it was their very first time to become involved but all individuals showed great interest and enthusiasm. The evening ended after a very informative talk with digital photographs from Richard Belding who had been to Hungary the previous year.

The following morning breakfast was at 8:30am and we had a full programme of events ahead of us. Neil Croton, Dorset Wildlife Trust assistant warden for Kingcombe Meadows Reserve lead a short walk around the reserve and gave a detailed account of the work that has already been done, the work in progress and the future plans of the management. The Kingcombe Meadows covers an area of 177 ha and is open all year round. Probably the best

time to see this reserve is early spring onwards when the meadows are in full bloom with the wild flowers. This is a unique piece of land situated in Dorset (Map Ref. SY555992) that was farmed without the use of modern day technology. No pesticides, artificial fertilizers or advanced agricultural methods had been used which makes it so important for it to be managed correctly. Today the DWT farm the land but keep to the traditional ways and using animals to annually graze the meadows which will preserve these ancient grassland habitats which are so important to the wildlife.

During the seasons you can wander around and see the diversity of the flora these rich meadows provide. In total 430 flowering plants and ferns have been recorded which includes some of the uncommon species such as Lady's Mantle, Pepper-saxifrage and Devi's-Bit Scabious. The chalk outcrops on the reserve are the home of other wildflowers with Rock Rose and Small Scabious being abundant and the wet meadows have Flag Iris, Ragged Robin, Spotted Orchids and Marsh Violet.



2. KINGCOMBE MEADOWS DWT RESERVE



3. BEECH COTTAGE

The reserve is also important for birds and butterflies and again the wealth of species is due to the land not having had intensive modern agricultural method used. Some 50 species of birds can be found nesting on the reserve. Species include Buzzard, Kingfisher, Dipper, Nuthatch, Green Woodpecker, Linnet, Tree Creeper, Blackcap and many more which are finding it hard to maintain the numbers due to intensive farming and pesticides. One of the early indications of changes is with the number of butterflies that are seen today in our countryside hedges and fields. At Kingcombe out of the 60 species which are resident and regular immigrants from abroad 36 can be seen which includes some of the more vulnerable species as the Small Pearl-bordered and Marsh Fritillary.

What was left of the morning until lunch at 12:30 was filled with further presentation by Kathy Henderson detailing the other EuCAN visits to France and the Czech Republic.

The remaining time left in the afternoon was put to good use. With the exception of those on a brushcutter course we all made our way to Powerstock Common Reserve which is just a short drive away to do some practical conservation work. Most of the work involved cutting down scrub, brambles and gorse to enable the undergrowth to regenerate. Part of the work had already been started on this site so our aim was to try and finish the area and make a way through to the other clearing. The weather stayed fine, despite a terrible

forecast, which resulted in a very successful and rewarding afternoon's conservation work for all those who attended.

Powerstock Common is another of the DWT's reserves (Map Ref. SY540973) covering 115ha. The common goes back in history to 1208 when it was renamed Poorstock Royal Forest after King John had purchased the local manor and also the Deer park at Nettlecombe. The local people lost their grazing rights by the mid 1800's and an attempt was made to create a new farm by clearing the land.

Like Kingcombe it is open all year round. The main features of this reserve are the ancient woodlands which still have coppiced areas and for additional interest an old, now disused railway line (ex. Bridport Branch) and brick kiln can be seen. It is a major site for butterflies so ongoing work here is vital to maintain the correct balance and habitat to enable some of the rarer butterflies to survive. The site is important for the Marsh Fritillary which breeds on damp grasslands where its food plant is the Devil's-bit Scabious. Already the DWT have cleared areas of conifer trees which were planted back in the 1960's by the Forestry Commission to enable the land to revert back to grasslands to help protect the scarcer butterflies.



4 POWERSTOCK COMMON DWT RESERVE



5. OLD RAILWAY LINE POWERSTOCK

With still some energy left we all returned to the Kingcombe Centre to discuss contracts for the forthcoming trips and then to shower and prepare ourselves for the evening entertainment. A public barn dance had been organized in Toller Porcorum Village Hall with music provided by Teasing The Cat. A supper was included along with a bar and the obligatory raffle at such events with the profits from the evening being donated to BirdLife Hungary towards the future purchase of land in the vicinity of Aggtelek National Park.

Sunday morning came far too soon after a full day of talks and conservation work and a hectic evening of barn dancing. Breakfast was at 8:15 and people started to arrive in ones and twos to a traditional Hungarian breakfast.

Today's aim was to be a full working meet from 9:15am ending at about 3:30 to ensure that some people were able to catch their trains back home. Sunday's conservation work concentrated on the Dorset's Butterfly reserve at Lankham Bottom (Grid Ref ST612005) which is close to Cattistock and is one of four reserves managed by the society. Most of the work involved here was down to basic scrub clearance and those who had gained their brushcutters certificate the day before were put to good use. Once again the weather held

fine despite torrential rain being forecast. On occasions Dorset seems to have its own micro climate and the forecasted bad weather seems to miss it. The clearer skies were definitely welcomed by all and made the day more enjoyable. Some participants from a trip last year also came along to give a helping hand on the day and it was good to talk to them about their experiences. It was obvious that they had all enjoyed their trip and some had become good friends and now meet up on a regular basis.

From the top of the reserve you are presented with marvellous extending views over chalk grasslands which are being carefully managed for the benefit of butterflies. Careful sympathetic consideration is still applied to all other wildlife on the reserve and this is why all the work that's done is well planned and done with a strict rotation to ensure that all wildlife benefits.



6. LANKHAM BOTTOM DORSET BUTTERFLY RESERVE



7. LANKHAM BOTTOM RESERVE INFORMATION

1.3 HUNGARY

You cannot go to Hungary or any country in the world without having some basic knowledge of the country's geography, history, language or its people. The trip I am about to undertake in May with my wife Ann and a number of other people is to carry out conservation work in the Aggtelek National Park which is located in the north on the Slovak–Hungarian border. On this particular visit the main emphasis will be to carry out a survey of butterflies which will basically entail walking selected areas and counting the numbers seen and the different types of species.

I do not, therefore, intend to go in to great depth or detail about the country but just give some of the basic interesting facts.

Hungary is a landlocked country located within Central Europe and borders with 7 other countries. Many guide books will inform you that this is the most rewarding country to enter in Central Europe despite neighbouring countries having larger and more dramatic mountains, older monuments or grandeur cities. The enchanting and romantic River Danube splits the capital of Budapest. It starts its 1771 mile journey in the Black Forest and passes through 9 countries on its journey to the Black Sea. At the end of its journey we have Europe's largest and best preserved delta which is now a UNESCO World Heritage site.



FIG.1 MAP OF HUNGARY

Hungary covers an area of 93,030 sq km with a land boundary of 2155km. The bordering countries and land boundaries are:-

- Austria 336km
- Croatia 329km
- Romania 443km
- Serbia 166km
- Slovakia 676km

- Slovenia 102km
- Ukraine 103km

The country is split into 19 counties and has 169 towns and a further 2904 villages. The lowest elevation in the country is the Tisza River at 78m whilst the highest is Kékes at 1014m. Arable land amounts to 49.58% with 2.06% being permanent crops. The remaining 48.36% is attributed to other uses.



FIG.2 HUNGARIAN DIVISIONS

Hungary has a long and intricate history so I only intend to place in a chronologically order some of the more important events.

5 th Century	Hungarian tribes leave the Urals
896	Hungarian tribes settle in the Carpathian Basin under the leadership of Arpad
997-1038	King Stephen ruled the country
1000	It becomes a Christian Kingdom
1241	Mongolian warriors invade and devastate the country
1541	The Turks occupied Buda, and Hungary becomes split into 3 parts
1686	Buda is re-captured from the Turks
1848-49	Revolution starts in Pest which extends eventually over the whole country. The Habsburg Emperor was dethroned but with the help of the Russian army in the summer of 49 the revolution is oppressed by the Habsburgs
1918	Germany and the allies including the Austro-Hungarian monarchy lost the war and the monarchy disintegrated.
1944	The Nazis occupy Hungary
1945	Soviet army liberated occupied Hungary
1956	Revolution against Stalinism but the uprising is defeated by the Soviet troops

1990	Communist party gives up its autocracy and a multi party parliamentary democracy came into the country
1999	Hungary becomes a full member of NATO.

The population is somewhere between 10 /11 million people with the average male life expectancy being 69 years and females 78 years. Currently the age structure is as detailed:-

- 0 – 14 15.2% of the population
- 15 – 64 69.3% of the population
- 65 over 15.5% of the population

The majority of the population of Hungary is made up of the Magyar people (Magyar means man), a race of which little is known of their original origins. The main understanding and belief is that they originally came from Asia and eventually settled in the Carpathian Basin, now Hungary, from the 10th century onwards. To add further mystery to the origins of these people is that their language is not Indo-European like all other European languages and languages of many parts of Asia. The Hungarian language is a Uralic language or to be more specific Ugric. For the specialist linguist this has been of great interest and is probably a branch of the Finno-Ugric language that was probably spoken from the 3rd millennium BC to the first half of the 1st millennium in Western Siberia east from the Southern Ural Mountains. In today's societies of English speaking people it can be one of the hardest languages to learn.

1.4 AGGTELEK NATIONAL PARK

Situated in Northern Hungary on the Slovak-Hungarian border is Aggtelek National Park. It was created in 1985 and was the first national park in Hungary to be formed to protect the geological formations that can be found in the area. It consists of an area covering 198.9sq km of which just less than 20% is under increased protection. Since 1995 it has been part of UNESCO World Heritage giving it even greater protection and funding.

It may not be understood what a UNESCO world heritage site is or how it becomes one. A site can be a forest, mountain, lake, desert, monument, building, complex or a city. Once it has been declared a site it is put on the list and is then maintained by the International World Heritage programme administered by the UNESCO World Heritage Committee. This is composed of 21 state parties which are elected by their General Assembly for a 4 year term. In 2008 there were 878 listed sites of which 174 are natural areas.

The World Heritage site at this location includes 7 sections which are:-

- Aggtelek
- Szendro-Rudabanya Hill
- Esztramus Hill
- Dobsinska Ice Cave
- Koniar Plateau
- Plesivec Plateau
- Silica & Jasov in Slovakia

Within the national park and stretching well into Slovakia is the largest stalactite cave system in Europe. Over tens of millions of years 712 caves have been formed within the

total complex some of the larger ones being World Heritage sites. The caves which are included are:-

- Baradla & Domica Cave
- Gombasek Cave
- Silica Ice Cave
- Dobsinska Ice Cave
- Ochtinska Aragonite Cave
- Jasouska Cave

Baradla Cave is the largest and stretches some 26km of which 8km is in Slovakia. The cave system was first documented in 1549 and has been a major tourist attraction from 1920. Although evidence discovered shows that part of this cave and others were being used as far back as 500BC. The Domica Cave which is in the Slovak part of this enormous complex was first discovered in 1926 by Jan Majko. By 1932 this section which had more than 1700 metres was opened to the public for the first time.

The Gombasek Cave was discovered much later in 1951 and was made available to the public by 1955. Due to the constant temperature of 9 degrees centigrade and its high humidity it has been used as a sanatorium in helping people with breathing difficulties and associated diseases.

The most recent addition to the list of World Heritage sites is the Dobsinka Ice Cave which was included in 2000. It was originally discovered by Eugen Ruffinyi in 1870 and was made available to the public only after 1 year of its finding. It is probably more famous of all the European caves because this was the first cave to be illuminated in 1887 by electricity. Between May and September about 494 metres which represents one third of its entire length is open for public viewing.

The rarest of the caves has to be Ochtinska Aragonite Cave; this is one of 3 caves in the world that have been discovered to have the rare aragonite. Aragonite is a carbonate mineral, one of the two common, natural occurring polymorphs of calcium carbonate. The main attraction is that this aragonite shines like the stars. The discovery of the cave was made in 1954 and was made available to the public by 1972.

The Jasovska Cave which is located in Slovakia was opened back in 1846 which make it the oldest system to be made available to the public. Sections of this cave were still being discovered and explored between 1922 and 1924. Today, of its total length of 2148m, more than a third is now accessible to the public.

1.5 AGGTELEK TOWN

The town of Aggtelek lies in the county of Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén and translates in Hungarian as “Old Plot”. The main centre of the region is Miskolc which is northwest and about 50km away from the town. The first record dates back to 1295 and was then referred to as Ogogteluk. During the 13 century the Mongolian invasion of destruction left the village deserted for many years.

The village unfortunately was destroyed in 1858 by fire and then again it was badly damaged during World War II when the Eastern front passed close by.

1.6 HUNGARIAN BUTTERFLIES

In the UK we have 58 species and occasionally the very rare immigrants that come in will boost the number of species for that year. Only a very few astute and observant enthusiasts may be lucky to see them and record them on camera. Over the last 100 years or more we have seen some butterflies become extinct due mainly to insecticides and over farming by adopting modern agricultural methods. An early prime example was the loss of the Large Copper due to the draining of the Fens in Lincolnshire and Cambridgeshire during the early part of the 1800's. We have also lost the Mazarine Blue and the Black-veined White to mention just another two. In recent years we have been successful in parts of the country, especially in the South West, with the re-introduction of the Large Blue which seems to be going from strength to strength each year with the correct protection and help from professionals and enthusiast volunteers to ensure the right habitat is maintained.

Hungary has probably in excess of 170 species, many abundant in numbers, and still has many of the species we have lost or are now becoming extremely scarce and vulnerable in the UK. The reason for this is down to the old methods of farming that still exist in the countryside. Changes are probably inevitable in the future but with the conservation work through EuCAN and other conservation organizations hopefully any damage can be limited, contained and controlled and species will not be lost.

Within part 3 of this report I have supplied a list of butterflies that may be seen in Hungary. This is in no way a complete or comprehensive list but aimed at being a guide. The butterflies highlighted are the ones that were identified and recorded whilst in the Aggtelek area.



8. MASS OF SILVER STUDDED BLUES (INSERTS, TOP TO BOTTOM)
CHAPMAN'S, CHEQUERED, LARGE & REVERDIN'S BLUE

PART 2 TRIP NOTES AND OBSERVATIONS

2.1 PREPARATION

A very detailed e-mail was received on the 7th April giving all the information of the travel arrangements and the itinerary for the trip along with a comprehensive check list of all the equipment, clothes and possible guide books that may be required. After years of trips, mountain guiding and trek leading for extended periods Ann and I still find it difficult to decide what to take and what to leave behind as there are so many variants, decisions, decisions.

In the end the size of the backpack made many of the decisions easier. The bulkiest bag was the camping equipment but fortunately this was to be brought back by Nigel in the trailer.

Two days later Stephanie from Bridport phoned and spoke to Ann about the trip. She had a few reservations about parking her car in Dorchester and it was agreed she would leave her car with us and travel with us from Wool as we live less than 5 minutes from the station.

Ann arranged the train tickets for the three of us to travel together. As it turned out it was cheaper for the three of us to travel on a group rate ticket than two of us on individual tickets, how ridiculous is that? Basically, one person travelled free in both directions. So our intentions were to leave Wool on the 11:45am train to Basingstoke which should have arrived at 13:34pm.

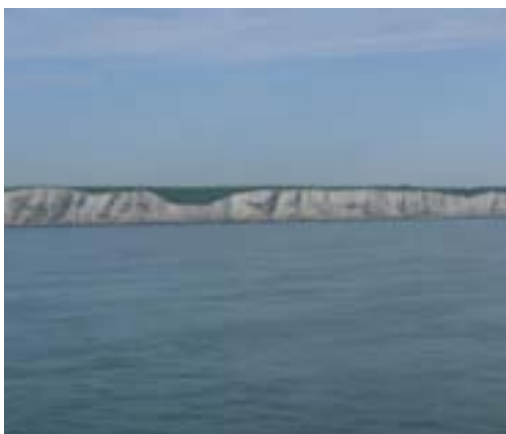
2.2 OUTWARD JOURNEY

Saturday 9th May and the day of departure and we had a fatality on the line. One train is already cancelled and others may be delayed we will not know for at least another hour what is happening to our train to Basingstoke. Stevie arrives to leave her car and we give her the news of the problem. We have already phoned Nigel to advise that we may be late arriving but we will update when we have more information on the situation. Another visit to the station and we are advised that our train will be running and we arrive at Basingstoke only 20 minutes later than schedule and we start to meet some of the other members of the team. Nigel arrives with the mini bus and trailer, at first sight the trailer does not look big enough to hold all the luggage but Nigel seems quite confident it will all fit in with some careful packing. Packing the trailer on a daily basis became an art and somehow I was allocated the task. After Basingstoke station the next collection point was the services on the motorway and the final collection point was Ashford station and the group was complete.

The first night's camp near Denton was adequate for the night. It supplied only basic facilities but we were the only people on the site so we had no problems. That evening we all ate in the Jackdaw Inn which was about 4 miles from the campsite and reservations had already been made for us. It was an excellent meal and after a few drinks we were back at the campsite drinking tea and coffee to end the first day.

The following morning was to be an early start with the ferry due to leave at 8:30am which would arrive at Calais after 90 minutes. The crossing was perfect with the English Channel being like a duck pond. The avid bird spotters in the group were on deck and the gulls,

cormorants, terns and auk's gave some magnificent aerial displays and started the list of bird species which was to steadily grow over the next few weeks.



9. LEAVING ENGLAND



10. ARRIVING AT CALAIS

The next four days would be spent driving across Europe with Nigel behind the wheel at all times. First through France then Belgium followed by Germany, Austria and finally we would arrive at our destination in Hungary. The first camp in Europe was in Germany at Dreifelder Weiher (Haus am See) and we arrived still in good weather. That was to change; by late evening it started to rain and from then on the rain clouds were to follow us all the way to our final destination. The following morning was wet and miserable and the short walk around the lake was abandoned. The next campsite was again in Germany at Passau near to the Austrian border, although it was overcast the rain managed to stay away until the tents had been packed and the trailer fully loaded for the next part of the journey.



11. DREIFELDER WEIHER CAMP SITE



12. PASSAU CAMP SITE

The weather deteriorated even further and we drove through some spectacular cloud bursts which probably would have caused flooding problems in certain areas of the UK. Between the torrential downpours we were pulled over and stopped by the police who thought we were a van load of Romanians. This was not to be the first and the following day we were stopped again with the police thinking we were runaway Romanians. On both occasions there were plenty of smiles when they learnt that we were just mad British going to count butterflies in Hungary.

Tuesday 12th May and we are in Hungary and have arrived at Ferto-Hansag National Park which is renowned for the bird life. The total area of this park is 33,087 hectares and is controlled by Austria and Hungary. The largest part (23,587 hectares) is situated within Hungary and includes the Ferto lake area which covers some 12,542 hectares.



FIG.3 FERTO-HANSAG NP



FIG.4 FERTO LAKE

Within Middle Europe this is the third largest area of standing water with a length of 35km and a width varying from 7–15 km. With an average depth of only 1 metre and the deepest part never exceeding 180cm it is not a deep lake and it is controlled by discharging water through the Fertoujlak gate since it does not have a natural outlet. The lake is estimated to be about 20 thousand years old and was called Lacus Peiso by the Romans. During its life there have been several periods when the area has become completely dry. This area plays a major role in the migration and breeding of birds with hundreds of thousands passing through or staying to breed. As a result in 1977 the Hungarian section of the lake was declared a protected landscape and by 1979 under the UNESCO program it became a Biosphere Reserve.



13 FERTO-HANSAG NATIONAL PARK

The Hungarian Racka sheep and the Grey cattle which are kept are used to graze the land which they call biotop maintenance. Apart from the winter period when they are put inside for the night these animals are left to graze all day long.



14.RACKA SHEEP



15.GREY CATTLE

We had to leave this area far too soon and it was unfortunate that we could not spend a full day in this area before moving onto our final destination. We had only been here for one evening and the following morning but the bird list had grown substantially in the number of species now seen along with the list of moths that had been identified.

Wednesday 13th May was a long day after leaving the national park and the wet weather stayed with us. The drive through Budapest was uninteresting and it was good to have it behind us and on our way to Aggtelek National Park. Due to timing and finding no place to eat on route we made a stop at a Tesco's supermarket to buy food for when we arrived at the Szalamandra Haz Hostel.

Our arrival was late and for the first night in the dark we still needed to put up the tents. Those still having problems with the tents were helped by other members of the team whilst others helped in the kitchen with the preparation of the food. It had been a long day but with a good meal some alcohol and sitting around an open camp fire all was soon forgotten.

2.3 SZALAMANDRA HAZ (BASE)

Szalamandra Haz was our base for the next 14 days whilst we were in the Aggtelek National Park and the surrounding areas. On the first morning once the rooms had been cleaned they were allocated and the tents were no longer required. Our first introduction to the park was a short orientation walk within the immediate vicinity and a visit to the local ruined Szadvar castle up on the nearby hill. The walk to the castle was longer than expected because the butterflies were out flying now that the weather had changed and photo opportunity of new species cannot be missed.

The main object of this trip is to carry out butterfly survey work but also to learn about the culture, history, geology, flora and fauna of the area. It was a full itinerary that we had in front of us and it would take some stamina especially after some late nights of moth trapping and bat catching to keep going. Enthusiasm kept us all going through the early morning starts and the late nights that were to come.



16. SZALAMANDRA HAZ

The towns and villages are steeped in culture and have a long and turbulent history but today they are the ideal hideaway from the commercial and financial world. Unfortunately, in certain villages just like England, houses are being bought for holiday homes by city people and the numbers of permanent residents are declining and house prices although still extremely cheap are steadily rising.

The main places were Josvafo, Aggtelek, Tornakapolna, Martonyi, Tornaszentandras and Gomorszolos, most of these places grew due to the mining of iron ore where records detail mining as far back as 895. Prosperity of these towns was stopped on many occasions by the invading Tatars and Turks who razed the towns or imposed high taxes. The church at Tornaszentandras was first built by the South German miners who had been settled here in the 12th century by the king. The building of a church was a long standing tradition of these miners and was named St.Andreas after the patron saint of miners. During the 1970's the church which was now nearly 800 years old was renovated and the whitewash which had hidden the medieval murals for years was removed. Near to the town of Martoyi which was probably again founded by early miners is the Martonyi Monastery which is now in ruins. The monastery was built under the guidance of Istvan Szalonnai after finishing his studies in 1383. The building was destroyed by fire two centuries later by invading Turks and still lies in partial ruin today. Some restoration work has taken place but due to the lack of funding, work has now stopped although a new roof is now in place providing some protection.



17. TORNASZENTANDRAS CHURCH



18. SECTION OF CHURCH MURAL



19. MARTONYI MONASTERY

Probably the most remarkable place to visit for local history, culture and traditional country crafts along with farming techniques is Gomorszolos. This was one of the most fascinating village visits of the whole trip. It was first documented in 1251 as Poszoba and today retains its ancient historic name of Gomer. The Turkish invasion practically killed the village and it was much later that the people of the area started to repopulate the village. Today one can say that it needs repopulating again and from the long discussion it would appear to be gradually dying from the lack of funding and the old traditional farming. Even the church today is closed and only opens for visitors to see the whispering gallery along with the pulpit and communion table which exists from the original wood church. The beauty of this village though is the old traditions and the strip farming and it would be of an immense loss to see it disappear and be lost forever because of pressure from the commercial world. The whole village is like a living museum with a vast collection of old farming machinery, old implements from the woolen industry, carpenters tools and pottery which have been collected from the village and surrounding areas. It also exhibits local paintings within various buildings and these on their own are worth a visit to this village.



20. TRADITIONAL LOOM



21. WOODEN BARRELS AND TUBS



22. TRADITIONAL OUT BUILDING



23. HAY CART



24. OLD PHOTO OF CHURCH



25. OLD PHOTO OF EARTHENWARE



26. OLD PHOTO OF FARM WORKER



27. LOCAL DRESS circa 1950'S



28. VILLAGE STRIP FARMING OF TODAY



29. VILLAGE ART – PORTRAIT



30. VILLAGE ART – RURAL SCENE

During the stay two visits were made to the caves which are a must for tourists especially the Domica-Baradla cave system. You can read all about them, look at the photos in guide books but it will not prepare you for size of this cave structure. Although the Baradla system is marvellous I found the precise concrete walkways, steps, lighting and music too commercialized and really preferred the smaller Rakoczi cave system. You enter this latter cave system through the old Mine Car tunnel which was constructed for discovering iron ore so you not only are able to see the natural cave but some of the working conditions of these early miners. The actual cave system was only discovered in 1958 because of the construction of a mine tunnel and at first it was used to deposit mining debris. Some of the other caves in this area were unfortunately badly damaged by mining explosions for the extract of iron ore and again for dumping waste products.

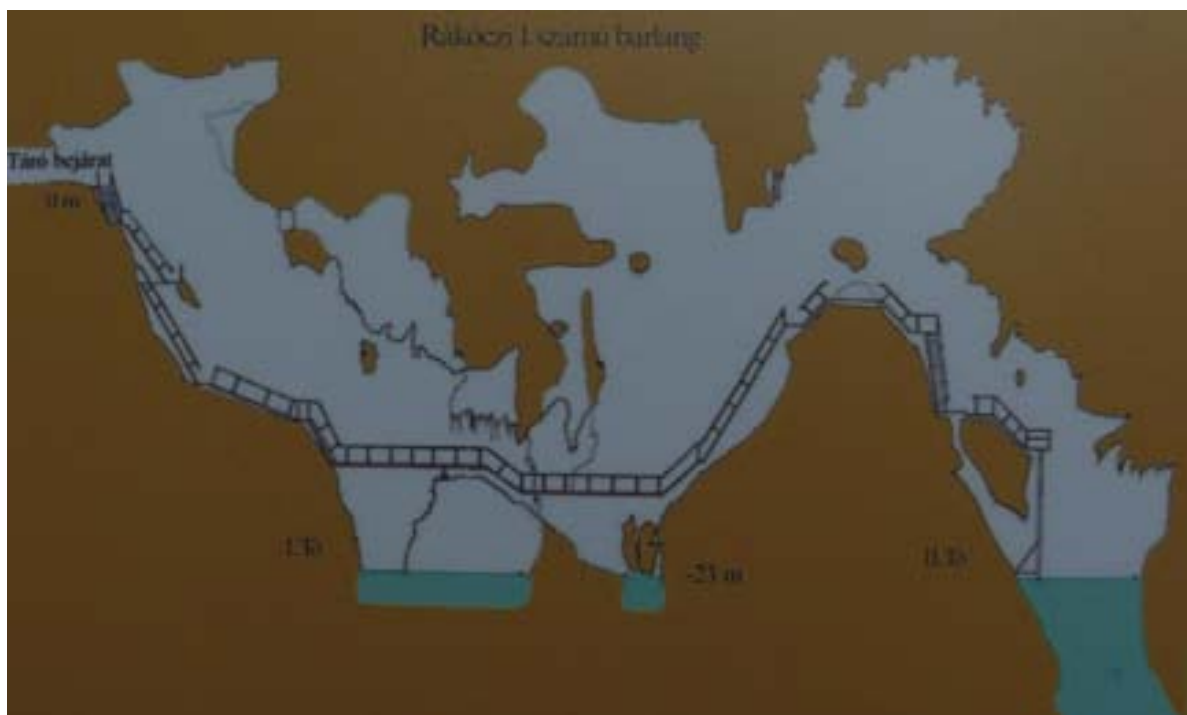


FIG.5 RAKOCZI CAVE SYSTEM



31. ARTIST IMPRESSION OF BARADLA



32. DRAGONS HEAD AT BARADLA

The main emphasis of this trip was to study and survey butterflies but exactly what we were actually going to be involved with was still unclear. After meeting Professor Varga Zoltan and Janos Toth who was preparing his PhD it became clearer. The main work was to capture, re-capture and mark the Knapweed Fritillary, (*Melitaea phoebe*) and the *Melitaea telona*. The latter is regarded to be a separate species due to the variations in the wing markings along with genetic differences. The diagram (Fig6) details the differences between the two butterflies and it was these markings that would enabled us to identify the correct species for marking and recording.

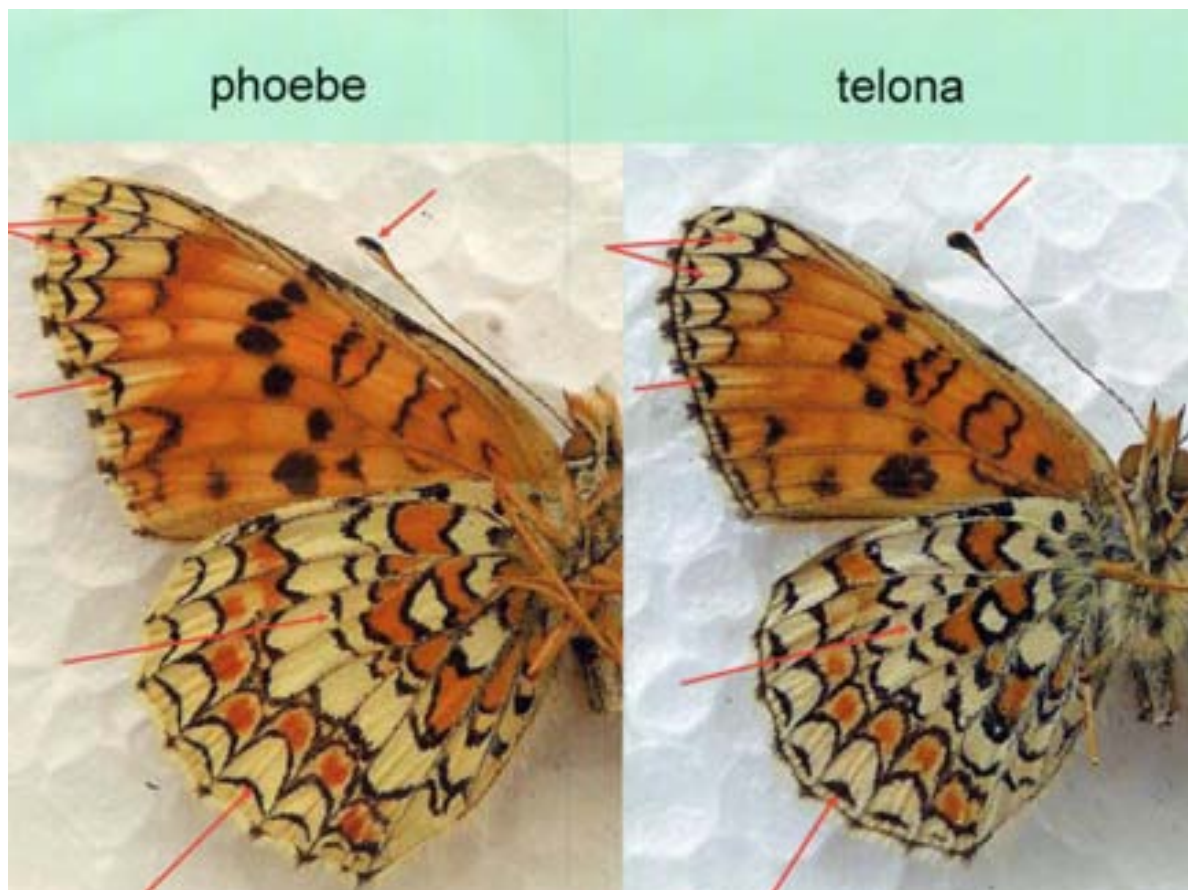


FIG.6 PHOEBE & TELONA WING MARKINGS

Four sites had been selected within the Aggtelek Karst area but at a later stage due to one of the sites being burned the survey was reduced to three sites. Burning of grasslands is a serious problem in that it destroys all the wildlife. Other serious factors that endanger these grasslands are the bushes and trees that are allowed to grow without the correct management and the spreading of alien invasive plant species.

The survey work was scheduled to be completed over an 8 day period but due to weather conditions not always being conducive on the days allocated we actually managed by splitting the team into two groups to complete the full survey in 7 days. The survey work carried out on the 15,16,18,20,21,22 and 25 May would show the movement of these butterflies and if natural barriers (trees, valleys, rivers) would have an effect. The *telona* is not a strong flier and is dependent on certain food plants. The *dianthus* is the nectar plant of the butterfly whilst the *thistle* is the food plant of the caterpillars so both have to be within

the vicinity. The weather had been extremely dry and unusual for this time of the year and this also created additional problems. The butterfly which has only one brood was not on the wing for the normal length of time. It was estimated that it would only be flying for perhaps 6/8 weeks, a possible reduction of 4 weeks, which would also reduce the numbers that were available for capture and marking.

Each of the three working sites were broken down into smaller areas and identified by a prefix (A,B,C,G,H,I,J,K,L, and N). Butterflies caught in these areas were marked by using a felt pen and given a letter and number and then recorded on the record sheet which detailed which species, if it was flying, feeding or resting. After the first day re-captures would also need to be recorded by looking for the reference number to determine if it had moved from another site or between areas on the same site.



33. PROFESSOR VARGA ZOLTAN



34. MARKED TELONA J18

It was hoped that at the end of the survey we would have had a re-capture rate of 30% but by the end of day 6 we had captured 424 butterflies and the re-captured was only 57 which accounted for 13%. The last day improved the figures slightly and the re-capture increased to 15% and the overhaul count was 453. Although the initial target had not been achieved the whole project was declared to have been a total success and provided valuable data for the future.

The areas that we were working in were amazing with an abundance of wildlife and flowers. On occasions visits were arranged to new sites to see what butterflies were on the wing and to discover new plants and insect life. To capture the whole area you would need to spend the whole spring and summer seasons but unfortunately time comes to an end.



35. TYPICAL HILLSIDE



36. LADYBIRD
SPIDER



37. VARIEGATED IRIS

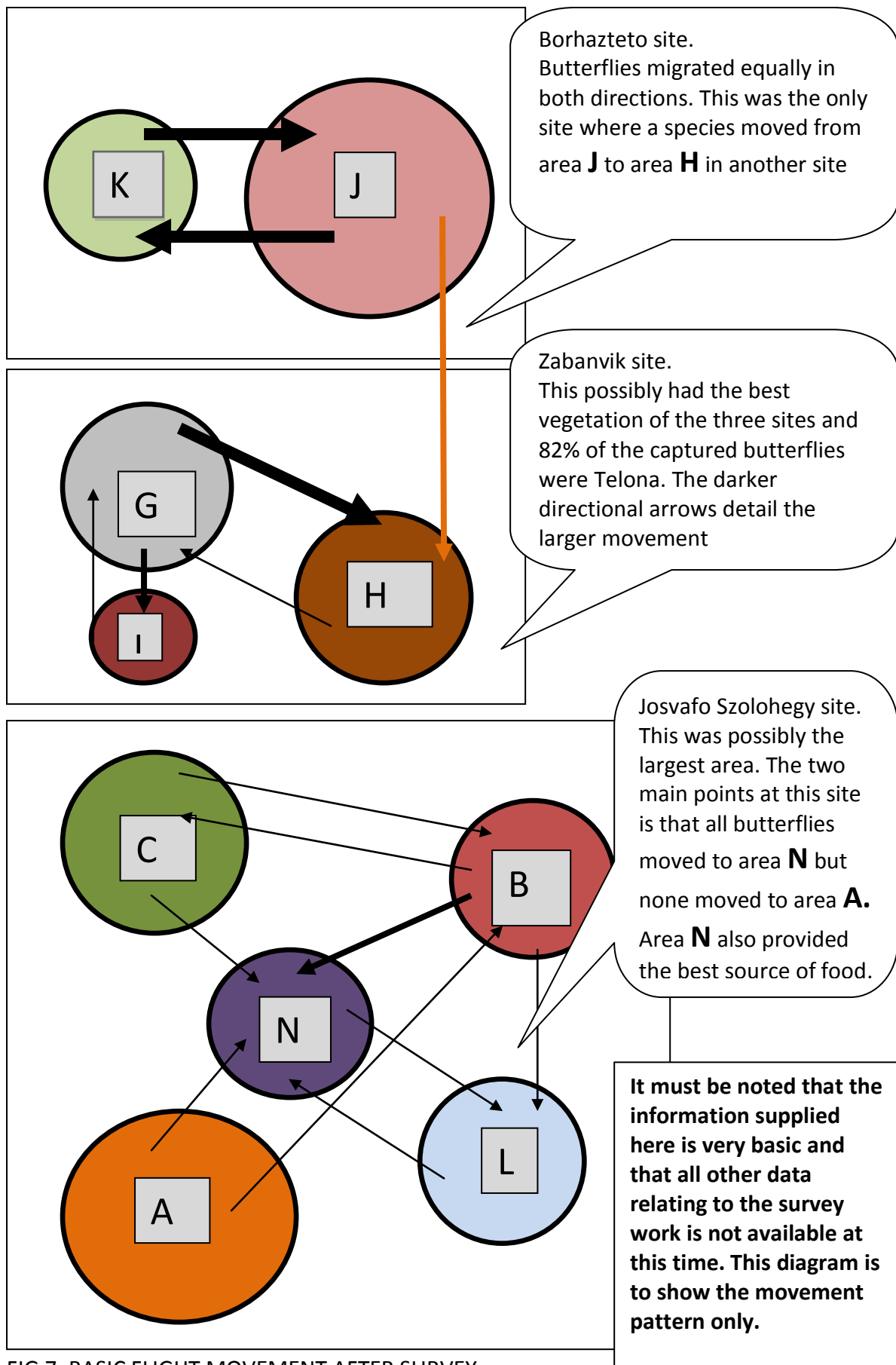


FIG 7. BASIC FLIGHT MOVEMENT AFTER SURVEY

2.4 RETURN JOURNEY HOME

Ann and I had been given the task to get everybody back to England. The train schedule was tight and it would be an adrenalin rush journey. Thanks must also go to Jonathan who was first off most of the trains like a SAS trained scout looking for the next platform. There was no contingency plan in place if any connections were not made. Two of the trains were running late by only a few minutes but every minute counted. To connect with the overnight sleeper we had 6 minutes to locate the platform after our train arrived and to make sure everyone was on board. The doors closed as the last person got on board and the train pulled out of the station.



38. FIRST TRAIN HOME

After 32 hours and 45 minutes, 8 trains and 2 London underground trains we stepped onto the platform at Wool station, Dorset, England.

We were home.

PART 3 LISTS AND STATISTICAL RECORDS

3.1 HUNGARIAN BUTTERFLY LIST

This is not a complete or concise list but is aimed at providing a basic guide to the possible sightings. The common/Latin names that have been highlighted are the ones that were sighted /recorded during the trip. The page number that appears at the right of the list refers to the 2008 edition of Collins Butterfly Guide by Tom Tolman and Richard Lewington. The highlighted page numbers are those which may be seen during May.

FAMILY	COMMON NAME	LATIN NAME	PAGE No.
PAPILIONIDAE	Swallowtail	Papilio machaon	28
PAPILIONIDAE	Scarce Swallowtail	Iphiclides podalirius	32
PAPILIONIDAE	Southern Festoon	Zerynthia polyxena	34
PAPILIONIDAE	Apollo	Parnassius apollo	36
PAPILIONIDAE	Clouded Apollo	Parnassius mnemosyne	40
PIERIDAE	Black-veined White	Aporia crataegi	42
PIERIDAE	Large White	Pieris brassicae	44
PIERIDAE	Small White	Artogeia rapae	46
PIERIDAE	Southern Small White	Artogeia mannii	46
PIERIDAE	Mountain Green Veined White	Artogeia bryoniae	48
PIERIDAE	Mountain Small White	Artogeia ergane	48
PIERIDAE	Green-veined White	Pieris napi	50
PIERIDAE	Eastern Bath White	Pontia edusa	52
PIERIDAE	Orange Tip	Antiocharis cardamines	60
PIERIDAE	Lesser Clouded Yellow	Colias chrysotheme	66
PIERIDAE	Danube Clouded Yellow	Colias myrmidone	68
PIERIDAE	Berger's Clouded Yellow	Colias alfacariensis	70
PIERIDAE	Pale Clouded Yellow	Colias hyale	70
PIERIDAE	Clouded Yellow	Colias crocea	72
PIERIDAE	Eastern Pale Clouded Yellow	Colias erate	72
PIERIDAE	Brimstone	Gonepteryx rhamni	74
PIERIDAE	Wood White	Leptidea sinapis	78
PIERIDAE	Fenton's Wood White	Leptidea morsei	80
PIERIDAE	Reals Wood White	Leptidea reali	80
LYCAENIDAE	Purple Hairstreak	Quercusia quercus	84
LYCAENIDAE	Brown Hairstreak	Thecla betulae	84
LYCAENIDAE	Blue-spot Hairstreak	Satyrium spini	86
LYCAENIDAE	Ilex Hairstreak	Satyrium ilicis	86
LYCAENIDAE	Sloe Hairstreak	Satyrium acaciae	86
LYCAENIDAE	Black Hairstreak	Satyrium pruni	88
LYCAENIDAE	White-letter Hairstreak	Satyrium w-album	88
LYCAENIDAE	Green Hairstreak	Callophrys rubi	90
LYCAENIDAE	Large Copper	Lycaena dispar	92
LYCAENIDAE	Small Copper	Lycaea phlaeas	92
LYCAENIDAE	Violet Copper	Lycaea helle	92
LYCAENIDAE	Scarce Copper	Lycaena virgaureae	94
LYCAENIDAE	Grecian Copper	Kanetisa circe	94

LYCAENIDAE	Sooty Copper	Lycaena tityrus	94
LYCAENIDAE	Purple-shot Copper	Lycaena alciphron	96
LYCAENIDAE	Lesser Fiery Copper	Lycaena thersamon	98
LYCAENIDAE	Purple-edged Copper	Lycaena hippothoe	98
LYCAENIDAE	Langs Short Tailed Blue	Leptotes pirithous	100
LYCAENIDAE	Eastern Short-tailed Blue	Everes decoloratus	106
LYCAENIDAE	Holly Blue	Celastrina argiolus	106
LYCAENIDAE	Short-tailed Blue	Everes argiades	106
LYCAENIDAE	Little Blue	Cupido minimus	108
LYCAENIDAE	Osiris Blue	Cupido osiris	108
LYCAENIDAE	Provençal Short-tailed Blue	Everes alcetas	108
LYCAENIDAE	Green-underside Blue	Glaucopsyche alexis	110
LYCAENIDAE	Alcon Blue	Maculinea alcon	112
LYCAENIDAE	Large Blue	Maculinea arion	114
LYCAENIDAE	Iolas Blue	Iolana iolas	114
LYCAENIDAE	Chequered Blue	Scolitantides orion	116
LYCAENIDAE	Eastern Baton Blue	Pseudophilotes vicrama	118
LYCAENIDAE	Reverdin's Blue	Plebejus argyrognomon	122
LYCAENIDAE	Silver-studded Blue	Plebejus argus	124
LYCAENIDAE	Geranium Argus	Aricia eumedon	126
LYCAENIDAE	Idas Blue	Plebejus idas	126
LYCAENIDAE	Brown Argus	Aricia agestis	128
LYCAENIDAE	Mountain Argus	Aricia artaxerxes	130
LYCAENIDAE	Mazarine Blue	Cyaniris semiargus	136
LYCAENIDAE	Anomalous Blue	Agrodiaetus admetus	140
LYCAENIDAE	Chapman's Blue	Agrodiaetus thersites	140
LYCAENIDAE	Amanda's Blue	Agrodiaetus amanad	140
LYCAENIDAE	Turquoise Blue	Plebicula dorylas	146
LYCAENIDAE	Meleager's Blue	Meleageria daphnis	148
LYCAENIDAE	Chalk Hill Blue	Lysandra coridon	150
LYCAENIDAE	Adonis Blue	Polyommatus bellargus	154
LYCAENIDAE	Common Blue	Polyommatus icarus	156
LYCAENIDAE	False Eros Blue	Polyommatus eroides	156
RIODINIDAE	Duke of Burgundy Fritillary	Hamearis lucina	158
LIBYTHEIDAE	Nettle-tree Butterfly	Libythea celtis	158
NYMPHALIDAE	Purple Emperor	Apatura iris	164
NYMPHALIDAE	Freyers Purple Emperor	Apatura metis	164
NYMPHALIDAE	Lesser Purple Emperor	Apatura ilia	166
NYMPHALIDAE	Poplar Admiral	Limenitis populi	168
NYMPHALIDAE	Southern White Admiral	Limenitis reducta	168
NYMPHALIDAE	Common Glider	Neptis sappho	170
NYMPHALIDAE	Hungarian Glider	Neptis rivularis	170
NYMPHALIDAE	White Admiral	Limenitis camilla	170
NYMPHALIDAE	Peacock Butterfly	Inachis io	172
NYMPHALIDAE	Small Tortoiseshell	Aglais urticae	172
NYMPHALIDAE	Camberwell Beauty	Nymphalis antiopa	172
NYMPHALIDAE	Yellow-legged Tortoiseshell	Nymphalis xanthomelas	174
NYMPHALIDAE	Large Tortoiseshell	Nymphalis polychloros	174
NYMPHALIDAE	Map Butterfly	Araschnia levana	176
NYMPHALIDAE	Red Admiral	Vanessa atalanta	176

NYMPHALIDAE	Painted Lady	Vanessa cardui	178
NYMPHALIDAE	Comma Butterfly	Polygonia c-album	180
NYMPHALIDAE	Cardinal Fritillary	Argynnis pandora	182
NYMPHALIDAE	Pallas's Fritillary	Argynnis laodice	182
NYMPHALIDAE	Silver-washed Fritillary	Argynnis paphia	184
NYMPHALIDAE	Dark Green Fritillary	Argynnis aglaja	186
NYMPHALIDAE	Queen of Spain Fritillary	Issoria iathonia	186
NYMPHALIDAE	High Brown Fritillary	Argynnis adippe	188
NYMPHALIDAE	Niobe Fritillary	Argynnis niobe	188
NYMPHALIDAE	Twin Spot Fritillary	Brenthis hecate	190
NYMPHALIDAE	Lesser Marbled Fritillary	Brenthis ino	190
NYMPHALIDAE	Marbled Fritillary	Brenthis daphne	190
NYMPHALIDAE	Pearl-bordered Fritillary	Clossiana euphrosyne	196
NYMPHALIDAE	Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary	Clossiana selene	196
NYMPHALIDAE	Weaver's Fritillary	Boloria dia	198
NYMPHALIDAE	Glanville Fritillary	Melitaea cinxia	200
NYMPHALIDAE	Knapweed Fritillary	Melitaea phoebe	202
NYMPHALIDAE	Hungarian Fritillary	Melataea telona	No page No.
NYMPHALIDAE	False Heath Fritillary	Melitaea diamina	204
NYMPHALIDAE	Lesser Spotted Fritillary	Melitaea trivia	206
NYMPHALIDAE	Spotted Fritillary	Melitaea didyma	206
NYMPHALIDAE	Heath Fritillary	Mellicta athalia	208
NYMPHALIDAE	Assmann's Fritillary	Mellicta britomartis	212
NYMPHALIDAE	Nickerl's Fritillary	Mellicta aurelia	212
NYMPHALIDAE	Scarce Fritillary	Hypodryas maturna	212
NYMPHALIDAE	Marsh Fritillary	Eurodryas aurinia	216
SATYRIDAE	Marbled White	Melanargia galathea	218
SATYRIDAE	Woodland Grayling	Hipparchia fagi	226
SATYRIDAE	Grayling	Hipparchia semele	230
SATYRIDAE	Tree Grayling	Neohipparchia statilinus	238
SATYRIDAE	The Hermit	Chazara briseis	242
SATYRIDAE	Great Banded Grayling	Kanetisa circe	258
SATYRIDAE	Dryad	Minois dryas	258
SATYRIDAE	Scotch Argus	Erebia aethiops	272
SATYRIDAE	Woodland Ringlet	Erebia medusa	276
SATYRIDAE	Meadow Brown	Maniola jurtina	300
SATYRIDAE	Dusky Meadow Brown	Hyponephele lycaon	302
SATYRIDAE	Ringlet	Aphantophus hyperanthus	304
SATYRIDAE	Oriental Meadow Brown	Hyponephele lupinus	304
SATYRIDAE	Large Heath	Coenonympha tullia	308
SATYRIDAE	Small Heath	Coenonympha pamphilus	310
SATYRIDAE	Pearly Heath	Coenonympha arcania	314
SATYRIDAE	Chestnut Heath	Coenonympha glycerion	316
SATYRIDAE	Speckled Wood	Pararge aegeria	318
SATYRIDAE	False Ringlet	Coenonympha eroides	318
SATYRIDAE	Wall Brown	Lasiommata megera	320
SATYRIDAE	Northern Wall brown	Lasiommata petropolitana	320
SATYRIDAE	Large Wall Brown	Lasiommata maera	322
SATYRIDAE	Woodland Brown	Lopinga achine	322
HESPERIIDAE	Grizzled Skipper	Pyrgus malvae	326

HESPERIIDAE	Large Grizzled Skipper	Pyrgus alveus	326
HESPERIIDAE	Oberthurs Grizzled Skipper	Pyrgus armoricanus	328
HESPERIIDAE	Olive Skipper	Pyrgus serratulae	328
HESPERIIDAE	Safflower Skipper	Pyrgus carthami	332
HESPERIIDAE	Orbed Red-underwing Skipper	Spialia orbifer	334
HESPERIIDAE	Red Underwing Skipper	Spialia sertorius	334
HESPERIIDAE	Mallow Skipper	Charcharodrus alceae	338
HESPERIIDAE	Marbled Skipper	Carcharodus lavatherae	338
HESPERIIDAE	Tufted Marbled Skipper	Carcharodus flocciferus	340
HESPERIIDAE	Chequered Skipper	Carterocephalus palaemon	342
HESPERIIDAE	Dingy Skipper	Erynnis tages	342
HESPERIIDAE	Lulworth Skipper	Thymelicus actaeon	344
HESPERIIDAE	Large Chequered Skipper	Heteropterus morpheus	344
HESPERIIDAE	Essex Skipper	Thymelicus lin	346
HESPERIIDAE	Large Skipper	Ochlodes venatus	346
HESPERIIDAE	Small Skipper	Thymelicus sylvestris	346

3.2 HUNGARIAN BIRD LIST

This is not a total list of all the birds that were seen on the trip but those actually seen in Hungary.

Barn Swallow	Eurasian Curlew	Little Grebe
Barred Warbler	Eurasian Golden Oriole	Long-tailed Tit
Bearded Reedling	Eurasian Green Woodpecker	Mallard
Black Kite	Eurasian Hobby	Marsh Tit
Black Redstart	Eurasian Hoopoe	Marsh Warbler
Black Tern	Eurasian Jay	Meadow Pipit
Black Woodpecker	Eurasian Nuthatch	Mealy Redpoll
Blackcap	Eurasian Penduline Tit	Mistle Thrush
Black-headed Gull	Eurasian Skylark	Northern Chiffchaff
Black-legged Kittiwake	Eurasian Sparrowhawk	Northern Fulmar
Black-tailed Godwit	Eurasian Spoonbill	Northern Gannet

Black-winged Stilt	Eurasian Tree Sparrow	Northern Lapwing
Blue Tit	Eurasian Wryneck	Northern Shoveler
Carrion Crow	European Bee-eater	Northern Wheatear
Cetti's Warbler	European Goldfinch	Peregrine Falcon
Coal Tit	European Greenfinch	Pied Avocet
Collared Flycatcher	European Honey Buzzard	Pied Wagtail
Common Blackbird	European Reed Warbler	Red-backed Shrike
Common Buzzard	European Robin	Red-crested Pochard
Common Chaffinch	European Serin	River Warbler
Common Cuckoo	European Stonechat	Rock Bunting
Common Grasshopper Warbler	European Turtle Dove	Rook
Common Greenshank	Fieldfare	Ruff
Common House Martin	Gadwall	Sandwich Tern
Common Kestrel	Garden Warbler	Sedge Warbler
Common Kingfisher	Garganey	Song Thrush
Common Linnet	Goldcrest	Spotted Flycatcher
Common Magpie	Great Black-backed Gull	Spotted Redshank
Common Moorhen	Great Cormorant	Stock Dove
Common Nightingale	Great Crested Grebe	Syrian Woodpecker
Common Pheasant	Great Egret	Tawny Owl
Common Pochard	Great Reed Warbler	Tree Pipit
Common Quail	Great Spotted Woodpecker	Tufted Duck
Common Raven	Great Tit	Ural Owl
Common Redshank	Greater Canada Goose	Western Jackdaw
Common Redstart	Green Sandpiper	Western Marsh Harrier
Common Reed Bunting	Grey Heron	White Stork
Common Ringed Plover	Grey Partridge	White Wagtail
Common Sandpiper	Grey Wagtail	White-backed Woodpecker
Common Shelduck	Grey-headed Woodpecker	Willow Warbler
Common Starling	Greylag Goose	Winter Wren
Common Swift	Hawfinch	Wood Lark
Common Tern	Herring Gull	Wood Sandpiper
Common Whitethroat	Hooded Crow	Wood Warbler
Common Wood Pigeon	House Sparrow	Yellow Wagtail
Corn Bunting	Icterine Warbler	Yellowhammer
Corn Crake	Lesser Black-backed Gull	Zitting Cisticola
Crested Lark	Lesser Grey Shrike	
Dunlin	Lesser Spotted Eagle	
Duncock	Lesser Spotted Woodpecker	
Eurasian Collared Dove	Lesser Whitethroat	
Eurasian Coot	Little Egret	

PART 4 BUTTERFLY & MOTH PHOTOGRAPHIC RECORD

This is a collection of the butterflies and moths seen during the trip. Where possible I have tried to show the upper and underneath side and also those mating.



1 Adonis Blue



2 Adonis Blue



3 Adonis Blue (Mating)



4 Ascotis selenaria



5 Bag Moth



6 Bag Moth



7 Bag Moth Pupa



8 Black Hairstreak



9 Black Veined Moth



10 Black Veined Moth



11 Black Veined White



12 Buff Ermine



13 Burnet Companion



14 Burnet Zygaena brisae



15 Camberwell Beauty



16 Chapman's Blue



22 Clouded Border



28 Duke Of Burgundy



17 Chapman's Blue



23 Clouded Buff



29 Duke Of Burgundy



18 Chequered Blue



24 Common Blue



30 Forester



19 Chequered Blue



25 Common Glider



31 Fox Moth



20 Chequered Skipper



26 Common Glider



32 Glanville Fritillary



21 Chestnut Heath



27 Common Heath



33 Grass Moth



34 Green Hairstreak



40 Hungarian Glider



46 Large Wall Brown



35 Green Oak Tortrix



41 Lace Border



47 Latticed Heath



36 Green Veined White



42 Large Blue



48 Lesser Marbled Fritillary



37 Grizzled Skipper



43 Large Copper



49 Lesser Spotted Fritillary



38 Heath Fritillary



44 Large Copper



50 Lewes Wave



39 High Brown



45 Large Skipper



51 Lime Hawk Moth



52 Map



58 Orange Moth



64 Giant Peacock Moth



53 Map



59 Orange Tip



65 Pearly Heath



54 Mazarine Blue



60 Orange Tip (Female)



66 Poplar Admiral



55 Melitaea telonea



61 Painted Lady



67 Poplar Hawk Moth



56 Melitaea telonea (Mating)



62 Pale Clouded Yellow



68 Provencal Short Tailed Blue



57 Mocha



63 Pale Tussock



69 Purple Shot Copper



70 Queen Of Spain



76 Scarce Hook Tip



82 Small Pearl Bordered Fritillary.



71 Red Underwing Skipper



77 Scarce Swallowtail



83 Sooty Copper



72 Reverdin's Blue



78 Silver Studded Blue



84 Sooty Copper (Female)



73 Rhodostrophia vibicaria



79 Sloe Hairstreak



85 Speckled Wood



74 Rhodostrophia vibicaria



80 Small Heath



86 Speckled Yellow Moth



75 Safflower Skipper



81 Small Heath (Mating)



87 Spotted Fritillary



88 Swallow Prominent



94 Woodland Ringlet



100. Type of Tussock ?



89 Swallowtail



95. Not Named



101. Caterpillar not named



90 Wall



96. Not Named



102. Caterpillar not named



91 Weavers Fritillary



97. Not Named



103. Caterpillar not named



92 Wood White



98. High Brown chrysalis



104. Caterpillar not named



93 Wood White & Robber Fly



99. Mottled Umber



105. Caterpillar not named

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

From the very start to the end of this trip was a marvellous experience and that was thanks to all who took part and made it so enjoyable.



39. GROUP PICTURE

David Norfolk-Jenny Lopez*-Jess Chappel-Jonathan Bradley-Karen Aylward-Linda Meadows Rachel Conway-Richard Muirhead-Sam Roberts-Stephanie Rogers-Tim Baker-Tim Thomas Wendy Astill-and my wife Ann

* Jenny left the group a few days after arriving at Szalamandra Haz

Also thanks must go to our hosts whilst we were at Aggtelek National Park for their expert knowledge in the flora, fauna, geology and the local cuisine.



40. JUDIT



41. ESZTER (COOK)



42. ISTVAN



43. SZOLT



44. SANDOR



45. JANOS



46. ATTILA



47. ROLAND



48. KATALIA (MAYOR)

The final special thanks without any doubt must go the organizers who without them none of this would ever happen. Nigel has relentless energy and full of enthusiasm at all times and Kathy seems to never tire and her knowledge of the local flora is invaluable. Thanks.



49. NIGEL SPRING



50. KATHY HENDERSON

Apologies to anyone I should have thanked and omitted to do so.

The European Conservation Action Network was established in 2007 by The Kingcombe Trust, a charity based at The Kingcombe Centre in west Dorset, dedicated to conservation and environmental education (Reg. Charity no. 1054758), in association with the Dorset Branch of Butterfly Conservation. The project is funded through the Leonardo da Vinci section of the European Union Lifelong Learning Programme and has partners in France, Hungary, the Czech Republic and Poland. Further information can be obtained from www.kingcombecentre.org.uk or from Nigel Spring (tel: 0044.1963.23559; email: nigelspring@yahoo.co.uk).