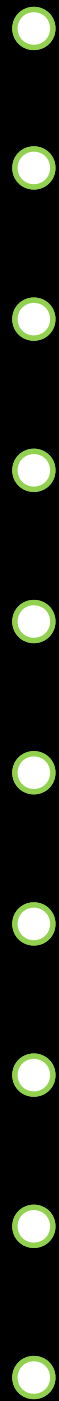


The endangered animals of the Kiskunság National Park



Hungary 2012 / Magyarország





Podarcis taurica



Upupa epops

English name: Hoopoe

Hungarian name: búbosbanka



Description:

It nests in Europe, Asia and North-Africa. It migrates to the tropical areas of Africa in winter. It lives in lightly vegetated old forests which are in the vicinity of meadows and pastures and where it can find hollows to nest. It also appears near human settlements. It is reddish-brown with black and white cross-stripes, it has a tail and rounded wings. It also has an undulating flight which reminds one of a giant butterfly. Its diet is mostly composed of insects. Its decreasing population can be found in the Fülöpháza Sand Dunes of the Kiskunság National Park.

Otis tarda

English name: Bustard
Hungarian name: tüzok



Description:

It's the blazon bird of the Hungarian Ornithological Association. It's more or less the same size as the turkey. Its habitat is the grassy barren and the larger cornfields. Calmness is important for the bustards. They eat everything but mostly different kinds of grass, different seeds and rodents, and sometimes smaller birds, as well. The bustard population in Hungary is one of the greatest: about 1400-1500 birds. It is endangered of extinction all around the world and of course in Hungary, as well - it is included in the Red List of Threatened Species in our country. Its protection claims complex cooperation. The World Conservation Union (IUCN) also listed it in the Red List of Threatened Species as a vulnerable kind.

Merops apiaster

English name: European bee eater

Hungarian name: gyurgyalag

Description:

You cannot mistake its brightly-coloured feathers for any other European bird's. It prefers open areas with scattered trees and bushes. It nests on loess walls facing to the south, in sand mines, on riverbanks. The male and the female make an about 1.5 m long widening tunnel in which the 5 to 8, spherical bright white eggs are laid. It mainly eats insects, especially dragonflies, butterflies, locusts, but it also likes wasps, bees. That is why it is called a bee-eater in English. It is highly protected in Hungary.



Falco vespertinus

English name:

Red-footed falcon

Hungarian name: kék vércse



Description:

The only bird of prey in Hungary which nests in colonies. It is a typical species of the flat, grassy areas. It mainly eats insects. Near agricultural areas its main prey is the field-vole, but it often catches lizards. It doesn't build its own nest, but occupies the nests of other birds after their nestlings had flown away. It especially likes the nesting places of the crow-colonies which can be found near large meadows. The decreasing number of these places endangers the survival of the red-footed falcon colonies. It is on the Red List of Threatened Species and protected to a greater extent in Hungary.

Microtus oeconomus

English name: Rat-headed vole

Hungarian name:

patkányfejű pocok



Description:

It's a rodent species living in Northern Europe and Siberia. Its most southern occurrence is the area of Hungary. It only appears in such special habitats which came into existence by the earthing up of the swamps. It is proven that it lives on the protected areas of the Orgovány meadows of the Kiskunság National Park, in the tussockies next to the reed and in marsh, sedgy areas. It's a relic species from the Ice Age. It can be found on the Red List of Threatened Species; it is highly protected.

Vipera ursinii rakosiensis

English name: Adder of Rákos
Hungarian name: rákosi vipera



Description:

An endemic vertebrate of Hungary, the most endangered species of the Hungarian vertebrate fauna. The whole Hungarian population is less than 500, according to the estimations. It likes the grassy habitats. The young representatives eat mainly arthropod; the older ones eat small mammals, lizards and nestlings. It is shy, and because of its hiding way of life and the low population, it bites very rarely. The effect of its weak poison is similar to a bee-sting. In the Kiskunság National Park, together with the support of the EU LIFE-Nature, there's an „Adder of Rákos protection centre” in order to rescue the species.

Misgurnus fossilis

English name:

European weatherfish

Hungarian name: réti csík

Description:

It is 150-350 mm long. 10 barbels surround its small mouth. It has small eyes and its scales hardly cover each other. It inhabits the muddy bottom of flood areas and marshes. This species is specific to its inhabitat, it belongs to the fish population of Lake Kolon in the Kiskunság National Park. It is active at night and hides in the mud during the day. It is capable of intestinal respiration thanks to its secondary respiratory organ. When there is not enough oxygen in the water, it swims to the surface, takes a breath, the air goes through its intestines, which are full of blood vessels, and leaves the weather fish through its rectum. It is a protected species in Hungary.



Acrida hungarica

English name:

Nosed grasshopper

Hungarian name: sisakos sáska

Description:

It is the only species of the mostly subtropical macrida genus which lives in Hungary. It cannot be found to the north of the Carpathian Basin. It is 25-45 cm big, it has long thin legs. It is called nosed grasshopper because of its long conical head. It lives in barren pastures, sandy or hard ground areas. Since the 1960's it has almost disappeared from certain areas where it occurred in large numbers. It is a highly protected species in Hungary.



Coracias garrulus

English name: Roller

Hungarian name: szalakóta



Description:

It is the size of a jackdaw, its back is red-brown, its feathers are azure and turquoise which is unique among Hungarian birds. It hunts for insects, snails, frogs, reptiles, sometimes rodents or nestlings. It attacks its prey from its hiding place and flies after it like a boomerang. It typically nests in open sand prairies with scattered groves, in white poplar and juniper groves of the Kiskunság, in lowland bog meadows, in extensively cultivated wooded grasslands with patches of hayfields and pastures, and in flood plains and meadows rich in old hollow poplar and willow trees. It breeds in some parts of Europe and North-Africa and migrates to South-Africa in winter. It appears in the Red List of Threatened Species.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!

