



Austria 24th to 31st December 2011

This was a Family Crystal Ski Holiday to Bad Hofgastein flying from Manchester to Salzburg early morning of Christmas Eve. I was the only non-skiing birdwatcher and while others spent their days on the slopes I walked the Gastein valley. I never went outside the valley or very far away from the village. The Gastein Card available from the hotel where we stayed, the Impuls Tirol, enabled cheap transport to Bad Gastein and other places for 1€ as well as discounts on ski lifts and in restaurants.

The species list was never going to be high but I still managed to see several target birds.

24th December 2011 - snow showers

Drive from Salzburg Airport to Hotel at Bad Hofgastein and a walk around the village and later views from Hotel room

Grey Heron - in river on drive from airport

Crows - 65 roosted in trees opposite hotel

Chaffinch - Several around feeders in park

Greenfinch - Party of a dozen birds by river in village

Blackbird - Two seen

House Sparrow - in village centre

Black bellied Dipper - two on river in village

Hooded Crow - one seen from hotel room and another hybrid type seen in village

Buzzard - One over village been harried by crows

Blue Tit - One on feeders in park

Mallard - 50 birds on lake in park

Alpine Chough - One seen in village probably an ill bird at this elevation.

25th December 2011 - bright with snow showers

Walk along road from Hotel to Gadaunern and back along Gasteiner Hohenweg via tunnels (which were officially closed) Then up to Annenkapelle and back down road to hotel.

The tunnel cliffs looked an excellent site for Wallcreeper but I didn't see one here.

2 Red Squirrel

Crows - Common

Chaffinch - Several

Greenfinch - Common on lower slopes village

Blackbird - Several in village

Great Spotted Woodpecker - One in village

Black Woodpecker - One in forest

Green Woodpecker - One heard on lower slopes

Nuthatch - Several around feeders on lower slopes and in village



Alpine Accentor Bad Hofgastein

Wallcreeper - One flew over me at Annenkapelle from the cliffs at the Kirchbach

House Sparrow - Several in village

Blue Tit - Several on lower slopes

Great Tit - Several in forest

Willow Tit - Common in forest

Crested Tit - 2 seen in forest

Coal Tit - A flock in forest

Goldcrest - One within a tit flock

Mallard - Seen distantly on lake in park

Robin - One in gardens

Raven - two on higher slopes

Alpine Accentor - 6 around the feeders below Annencafe

Jay - one to two on upper slopes of forest

Siskin - Large flocks on lower slopes

Bullfinch - On feeders

Goldfinch - large flock with other finches

26th December 2011 - Overcast

Walk along Gasteiner Hohenweg via tunnels (which were officially closed) and into village and along canal.

Plenty of Chamois high on the mountain tops

Crows - Common

Chaffinch - Several

Greenfinch - Common on lower slopes village

Blackbird - one on lower slopes.

Green Woodpecker - One seen on lower slope woodland

Nuthatch - Several around feeders on lower slopes and in village

House Sparrow - Several in village

Blue Tit - Several on lower slopes

Great Tit - Several on lower slopes

Willow Tit - Several on lower slopes

Coal Tit - A flock in forest

Mallard - C50 on lake in park

Alpine Accentor - 1 briefly around the feeders below Annencafe

Jay - one to two on upper slopes of forest

Siskin - Large flocks on lower slopes

Bullfinch - On feeders

Goldfish - large flock with other finches

Dipper - 2 on canal

Wren - 1 by canal



Dipper – Bad Hofgastein

27th December 2011 - Mist in valley bright sunshine all day
Taxi to Annencafe and walked up into forest.

Plenty of Chamois high on the mountain tops
Hare - one seen on track

Crows - Common

Alpine Chough - flock of C50 high over summits

Raven - two over forest

Buzzard - one to two in forest

Golden Eagle - One over forest

Chaffinch - Several

Greenfinch - Common on lower slopes village

Blackbird - one on lower slopes.

Great spotted Woodpecker - two to three in forest

Pygmy Owl - One to two birds heard in forest

Nuthatch - Several in forest

House Sparrow - Several in village

Great Tit - Several in forest

Willow Tit - Several in forest

Coal Tit - Several in forest

Alpine Accentor - 4 on grass bank below Annencafe

Jay - one to two on upper slopes of forest

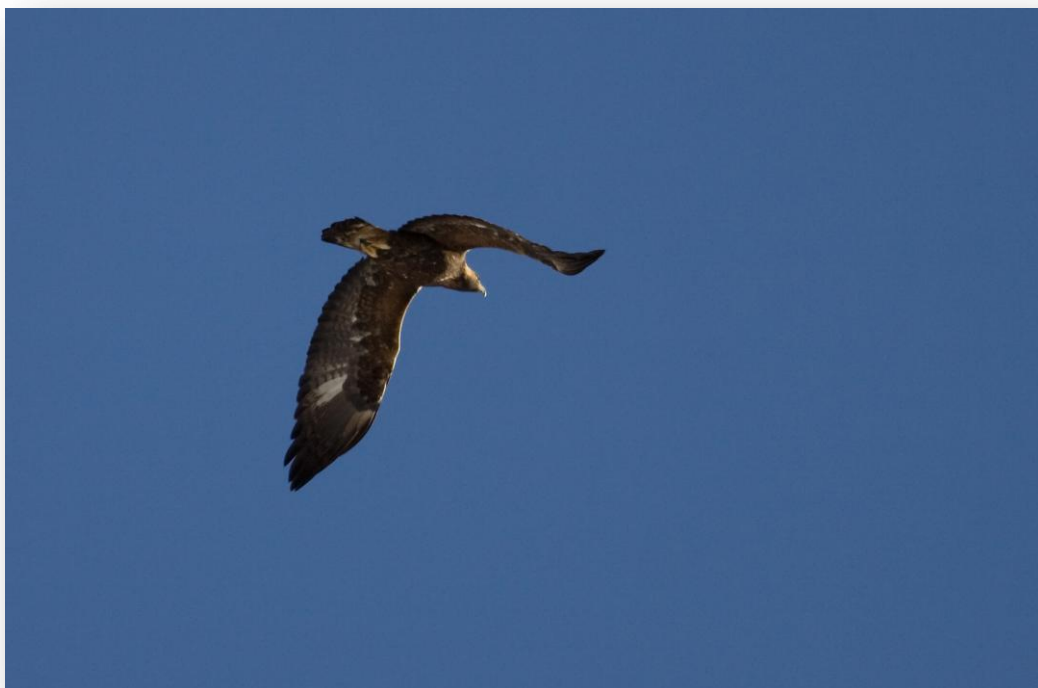
Siskin - Large flocks over forest

Bullfinch - in forest

Wren - 1 in forest

Crossbill - Several in forest

Nutcracker - one to two birds heard in forest but not seen.



Golden Eagle – Bad Hofgastein

28th December 2011 - Mist in valley bright sunshine all day
Taxi to Annencafe and walked up into forest.

Two Chamois high on the mountain tops

Crows - Common

Raven - two over forest

Buzzard - one to two heard in forest

Goshawk - One sat in tree

Chaffinch - Several

Greenfinch - Common on lower slopes village

Great spotted Woodpecker - two to three heard in forest

Green Woodpecker - One to two heard in forest

Nuthatch - Several in forest and on lower slopes

Great Tit - Several in forest

Willow Tit - Several in forest

Coal Tit - Several in forest

Alpine Accentor - 7 on grass bank below Annencafe

Jay - one to two heard on upper slopes of forest

Siskin - Several in forest

Crossbill - Small flock of 8 in forest



Snowfinch - Stubnerkogel

29th December 2011 - Overcast with snow
Bus to Bad Gastein, cairlift to Stubnerkogel
Bus back to Bad Hofgastein and a walk in the park

Little Grebe - 1 in park
Crows - Common
Mallard - C60 in park
Raven - Up to 10 around Ski Restaurant
Alpine Chough - Up to 20 around Ski Restaurant
Sparrowhawk - Female in park
Dipper - 3 on canal
Chaffinch - Several
Greenfinch - Common on lower slopes of villages
Nuthatch - One in Bad Gastein
Bullfinch - Several in Bad Gastein
Great Tit - Several
Alpine Accentor - 1 at ski Restaurant
Snowfinch - Up to 3 around Ski Restaurant

30th December 2011 - Overcast with snow showers heavy at times
Bus to Bad Gastein, chairlift to Stubnerkogel was closed due to high winds
Bus back to Bad Hofgastein and a trip to half way on the funicular with a walk later along the river to Bad Gastein

The Waterfall within Bad Gastein looked good for Wallcreeper but none present while I was there.

Little Grebe - 1 in park
Crows - Common
Mallard - C60 in park
Dipper - C10 on the river
Golden Eagle - one along valley wall above tunnel walk
Chaffinch - Several
Greenfinch - Common on lower slopes of villages
Bullfinch - small flock in village
Great Tit - Several
Blue Tit - Several
Coal Tit - Several
Yellow Bunting - C30 by river

Carl Chapman
Norfolk UK
carl@wildlifetoursandeducation.co.uk



Alpine Accentor - Stubnerkogel