



3rd Fledglings Meeting of the EOU

11-13 August, 2022

Debrecen, Hungary



This year (2022), after a long covid break, we were lucky to organize the first in-person conference related to the EOU since the regular conference in Cluj-Napoca, 2019. There were 33 participants at the conference, including four local organizers and four plenary speakers, coming from 14 different countries.



Picture 1: Participants front of the main building of University of Debrecen.

We started the conference with an excursion to Hortobágy National Park. We departed from Debrecen at 4:30 am and finished our birding trip at 11:00 am. We spotted 84 species during our trip. You may find our species list here: <https://ebird.org/tripreport/72361>. After the birding trip, we made a short stop in Hortobágy Inn to try traditional Hungarian cuisine for lunch.



Picture 2: Fledglings in the Hortobágy National Park for birding and in the Hortobágy Inn trying Hungarian cuisine.

We started the professional program the same day as the excursion. During the two days, we listened to 4 plenary talks, 19 oral and 4 poster presentations from early career researchers (ECRs). The youngest participant was a first-year bachelor's student who presented his high-school project as an oral presentation. For several ECRs this conference was the first opportunity to present their research at an international conference or to present their research for the first time in English. You may find the program and abstract book here: <https://konferencia.unideb.hu/en/detailed-programme-iii-eou-fledglings-meeting>



Picture 4: Fledglings during the presentations.



Picture 3: Poster & Pizza night.

One of the most important program points of the Fledglings Meetings is the round-table discussion with plenary speakers about career routes and difficulties. We had the opportunity to take questions for the plenary speakers about our doubts, their experiences outside of academia, how to handle burn-out and many more.



Picture 5: Fledglings on the round-table discussion.



Figure 6: Plenary speakers during the round-table discussion.

Our meeting would not be possible without the help of our supporters. We thank the University of Debrecen for the rooms and conference webpage, Hungarian BirdLife (MME) and ÉLVONAL Shorebird Science for supporting the travel and accommodation of plenary speakers, TerraPlaza for producing the registration package, Hortobágy National Park for the guided birding trip and the discount for the small train, and the German Ornithological Society (DO-G) for their conference stipend to support the travel of the students to the Fledglings Meeting. Last but not least, we thank Gábor Rédei for designing the conference logo, and all the volunteers for their help with the organization.



Picture 7: Six of the seven DO-G awardees in the conference venue.



Picture 8: Five of the seven DO-G awardees in Hortobágy National Park.

