

Vienna, 17th – 21st July 2025

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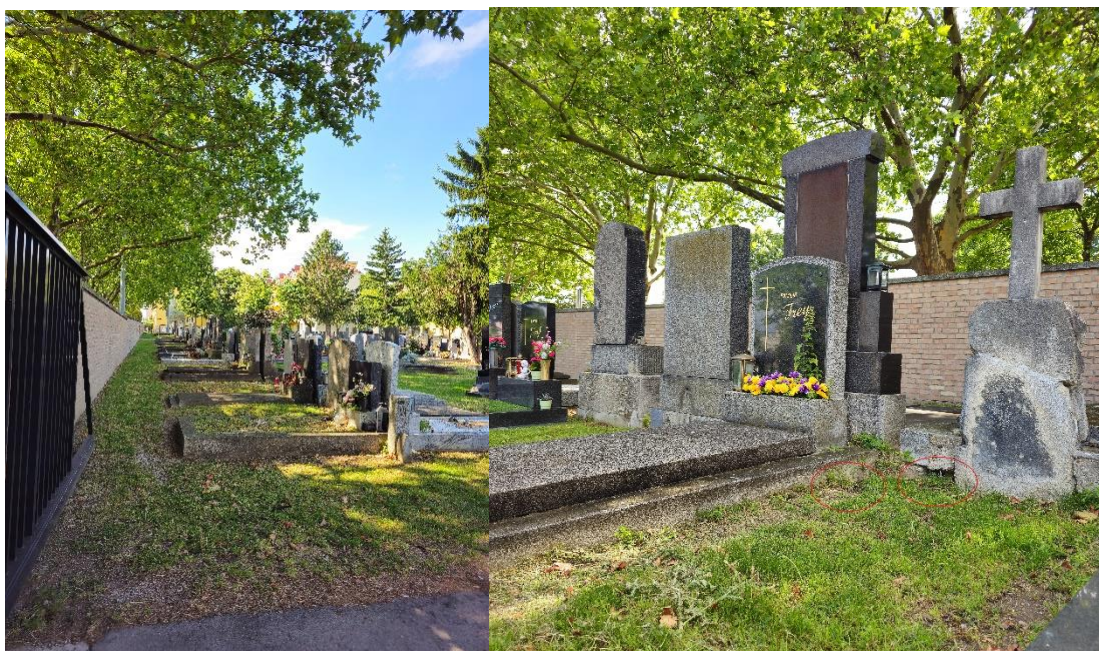


In mid July 2025 I followed in the footsteps of many mammalwatchers by combining a city break in Vienna with paying my respects to the cemetery-dwelling hamsters. Thanks are due to all the users of the site who have posted on European Hamsters, but especially James Blake the [update](#) just a couple of weeks before my visit, and Valentin Moser for his [very detailed report](#). There is also an invaluable resource from Universität Wien on [hamster hotspots](#) in the city, and further good info [here](#) and [here](#). I only had one other target, European Souslik, which I searched for close to the city (based on previous reports), rather than dedicating a trip out to Badeteich Gerasdorf on a hot weekend which could have been spent drinking wine instead. I actually ended up with one other new mammal, Savi's Pipistrelle, by wandering a couple of city parks by night with an Echometer Touch bat detector. It was likely too early in the year for Particoloured Party, and I didn't visit the Donau area of the city.

I stayed close to Wiener Konzerthaus, in part because of how easy it was to get to Meidling Cemetery; it was a short train journey to Meidling Station from Rennweg, or a slightly longer tram ride from Karlsplatz. It was also walking distance to all the other attractions in town, not least the Stadtpark which was a good location for batting on the way home from evening activities.

Species recorded:

European Hamster – At least four in Meidling Cemetery, and absolutely excellent. Quite obviously the first activity of the trip, but not immediately successful. I'd heard contradicting reports that all sorts of times of day were the best/suboptimal; I figured a quiet morning, brightening up after overnight rain, would be good based on general wildlife experiences. I then spent nearly ninety minutes wandering in circuits seeing no hamsters. I think really there are a lot of variables and essentially: sometimes the animals are out and things are easy, sometimes they aren't and it takes longer. Then as the cemetery got busier with people and I was about to give up to try later, the sun and the hamsters both came out to play. Two particularly unafraid ones were very active and obliging just [inside the gate](#) to the western section, often coming closer than a metre if I sat still. The locations are pictured below.



Looking south inside the gate of the western part of Meidling Cemetery (L), active hamster burrows circled on the right side of the first row (R)

Back in the eastern part of the cemetery, a very large and battle-worn hamster gave more brilliant views not far [from the gate](#), another was scampering about [here](#), and a small bouquet of flowers were seen disappearing down a burrow (though the culprit was already out of view).

A compilation of clips taken using the phone is on my 'gram.

European Souslik – The second target, although a late-arriving flight meant I couldn't look for them on day one. I followed previous reports by trying in the agricultural areas between Oberlaa and the Central Cemetery, while travelling back to the airport. Three or four were seen among the [small vineyards](#) at c07.30 This area can be reached on foot from the end of the U1 underground line at Oberlaa, or presumably from Wien Zentralfriedhof station (I got an Uber back to here).

Red Squirrel – Common, and often quite tame; many individuals are dark brownish-red or blackish here. Plenty at Meidling cemetery and in the mature woodland at Schönbrunn Palace (on the way up to the Gloriette), and also in Park Prater and in the forest edge along the road [above Grinzing](#) towards Wiener Wald.

Brown Hare – One near Oberlaa

Western Roe Deer – Singles in the vineyard at Bio Wienbau Obermann at Grinzing, another at the souslik spot.

Daubenton's Bat (probable) – likely this species glimpsed and picked up by the detector at the same locations as the Soprano Pipistrelle.

Soprano Pipistrelle – picked up by the Echometer near the pond [Springbrunnen/Konstantinteich](#) in Park Prater. Other Common/Soprano Pips were detected here and in Stadtpark.

Nathusius's Pipistrelle (probable) – Spectrograms of a calls picked up by the bat detector along the Wiental Kanal in Stadtpark closely resemble this species, but there's a small chance it could have been a Kuhl's Pip.

Kuhl's Pipistrelle – Seemingly very common wherever I pointed the Echometer, including among small trees on city centre streets. A relatively slow and fluttery flyer, seen well a couple of times in the Konzerthaus while it was still quite light.

Savi's Pipistrelle – Picked up by the bat detector in Park Prater, a couple seen hunting along [this path](#) together, in a less erratic flight than most pipistrelles.