

Honeyguide

WILDLIFE HOLIDAYS



From the Alps to the Adriatic
26 May - 5 June 1996

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The group

Betty Annesley	Highams Park, London
Brenda Brett	Norwich
Bridget Jemmett	Bracknell
Daphne Gilbert	Hainault
John Griffiths	Chingford
Yvonne Griffiths	

With commiserations to Alan and Margaret Lewis, who had to pull out of the holiday shortly before departure.

Leader: Paul Tout

As always, this holiday contributed to the protection of the wildlife that we enjoyed by way of a donation to the Birdwatching and bird study association of Slovenia (DOPPS). A thank you letter from the association appears at the end of the report. Over £10,000 has been given to conservation projects in Europe since *Honeyguide* started in 1991.

The holiday report was written by Paul Tout.

Cover illustration: peregrine falcon over the Rilke Path, with Duino behind, by Rob Hume.

The Mountains and Marshes of North-east Italy
26th May - 5th June 1996

Leader: Paul Tout

Day 1 - 26th May 1996

After a straightforward and uneventful journey from Venice we checked into our hotel - the Alla Pineta at Sistiana where we were welcomed by Luciana and Claudio. After a short rest we crossed the road to the Rilke Path where we were able to examine some of the Mediterranean flora of the site including *Osyris alba* and *Phyllirea latifolia*. It being a busy Sunday afternoon, birds were little in evidence, but several **Alpine Swifts** were seen and a **Rock Bunting** could be heard singing from the scrub on the undercliff.

Day 2 - 27th May 1996

Grey overcast skies greeted us as we headed east towards the lake of Cerknisko Jezero. Heading towards Rakov Skoecjan we were able to see the point at which the river Reka disappears below ground. We will meet it again as the Ljubljanica in a few days time where it re-emerges. Arriving at the lake, many were surprised to see **Fieldfares** in the area. Scrub in front of the lakeside bar produced **Whitethroat**, **Marsh Warbler** and tantalising views of what could have been a **Barred Warbler**. Further on there were several **Ashy-headed Yellow Wagtails** and distant views of a **Squacco Heron** were obtained.

After lunch we moved on to a delightful patch of woodland on Otok where evidence for the late spring was found with **Easter Rose** still in flower. Several splendid **Birds-nest Orchids** were seen as well as **Early Purple**, **Burnt-tip**, **Fragrant**, **Common Spotted** and **Common Twayblade** in the glade. While not yet in flower, several **Orange Lily** plants were identified at the usual site.

Moving on a short distance to the causeway, Paul pulled out a taperecorder to lure in a **Corncrake**. The bird responded almost immediately and came running through the undergrowth to within ten feet of us, calling furiously. Excellent views were obtained by all and sundry.

At the southern point of the lake the leader was surprised to see two **Black Kites**. These birds do not breed in Slovenia, as neither does the **Marsh Harrier** which was seen with them. Better views of the **Wagtails** were obtained and well as another new bird for the day - **Whinchat**. **Sedge Warblers** and **Reed Buntings**, both rare in southern Europe as nesters, were seen and heard. Further on round on the lake bed we saw **Curlew** and **Red-backed Shrike**. A final stop gave excellent views of an immature male **Montagu's Harrier**, and **Corn Bunting** and **Quail** were heard. At this point - around 16:45 - the rain which had been threatening came lashing down and we were forced to run for home!

Day 3 - 28th May 1996

The day began with bright sunshine and a trip to the botanical gardens of Carsiana at Sgonico, a short distance from the hotel. Here the participants were able to familiarise themselves with the plants of the Karst and hear a short account of the development of the area's vegetation and the important role humans play in maintaining the diversity of the area. The butterflies were excellent, with several **Scarce Swallowtails**, **Large Walls**, **Chequered Blues** and a **Black-veined White** as well as **Heath Fritillaries** in the bottom of dolina which is the centrepiece of the garden. Also of interest were the **Rock Doves** nesting in the vertical cave shaft.

Moving on to Basovizza we stopped briefly at the memorial and obtained excellent views of a **Cirl Bunting** and more fleeting ones of a **Hoopoe**. A **Honey Buzzard** passed over just before we moved on towards Val Rosandra. The cloud was now building up and we opted for an early lunch to take

advantage of the blue skies above us. We had finished and were walking towards Monte Stena admiring the **Small Blue** butterflies in the grassland when the first drops of rain began to fall.

Looking behind us we could see black clouds, frequent lightning strikes and a huge vortex of air rising, like something from the mid-west of the United States in the hurricane season. Paul ordered everyone back to the van not a moment too soon and a ferocious hail storm ensued within seconds of us being safe in the van. It lasted perhaps 20 minutes but we were already heading for the blue skies visible further north!

At the lake of Doberdo the highlight was hearing a male **Scarlet Rosefinch** in song - as the group did last year at the same site. This is a very rare bird in Italy with males having been recorded in song on less than ten occasions. A few people also obtained fleeting views of **Hobby** and **Golden Oriole** and a **Black Kite** was seen well, leaving the area of the lake.

We finally stopped at Sagrado where animals are still grazed on the open Karst. Here as expected we obtained excellent views of **Red-backed Shrike** and **Corn Bunting**.

In the evening, a trip to the hills up behind the hotel produced the usual splendid performance of a **Nightjar** which flew around the group wing-clapping and calling.

Day 4 - 29th May 1996

The day began in bright sunshine as we set off for the Forest of Trnova, a large limestone massif a short distance inland from Trieste. The first stop was something of a disappointment when there was no sign of the **Golden Eagles** at their traditional eyrie. Some compensation was had from a very obliging **Chequered Skipper** which fluttered around our feet as we waited.

After coffee we moved up to the refuge (1200 metres above sea level) to investigate the open grassland. There were many **Wild Daffodils**, **Early Purple Orchid**, **Pale Orchid** and several plants of **Alpine Rock Jasmine** as well as several **Duke of Burgundy Fritillary** and **Green Hairstreak**. Birds seemed very scarce in the montane forests, perhaps because of the long hard winter and very late spring. The best bird was undoubtedly a very distant **Golden Eagle**.

The journey through the forest produced little of note except for a very fleeting glimpse of a **Ural Owl** as it flew from a roadside tree across in front of the van and down into the dolina where one of the six local pairs nest.

Moving on to the huge dolina of Smrekova Draga we were able to admire plants of **Alpine Rhododendron** and **Spectacular Primroses** as well as several plants of **Hepatica** just emerging from beneath the last snow drifts of winter. The site also illustrated the inversion of the typical vegetation types one meets going up into the mountains. The edges of the dolina are dominated by **Beech** and **Sycamore**, being replaced by **White Fir** lower down in the dolina where conditions are colder. In the very bottom and coldest part the tree community is almost pure **Mugo Pine**, a species found in the krumholtz scrub near the tree line. A clamour amongst the local **Ravens** indicated something interesting and most of the group an excellent view of three chasing and harrying a **Golden Eagle**, finally driving it down into the trees in the bottom of the dolina.

Our last stop was in the very deep and narrow dolina of Paradana where in the last century ice was made and exported, exploiting the extreme cold here, even in summer. In the bottom a huge amount of ice and snow was still present in the mouth of the cave. The entire group was teased by a male **Firecrest** in song, high up in the huge **White Firs** but wait as we might he wouldn't come into view.

Day 5 - 30th May 1996

We started the day with a visit to the quarry below the hotel where there is a large colony of **Alpine Swifts**. As we made our way along the beach we were treated to very good views of a **Sandwich Tern** in winter plumage. At the colony the two hundred or so swifts performed splendidly, screaming low over our heads. A very obliging **Melodious Warbler** gave everyone splendid views as it sang from the top of a **Pyracantha** bush, seemingly unworried by the group of curious onlookers.

We then walked along the Rilke Path and saw **Blue Rock Thrush** and **Sardinian Warbler** - although by this stage the day had begun to heat up considerably and many of the birds seemed to have gone into hiding! On the mussel beds in front of Duino castle we could just make out a dozen or so **Eiders** at one of only three sites where they are regular in the Mediterranean.

Stopping at the Cernizza, a small woodland outside Duino for lunch we all had excellent views of **Woodlark** before moving onto a large area of infilled marshes at Lisert which, this year, seemed full of **Little Terns** and **Kentish Plovers**. A bonus was had in the form of several **Little Stints** in summer plumage.

Just before moving on, Paul suggested we have a look at the mouth of the river Timavo, good for birds in winter but less productive in midsummer but which occasionally produces exceptional rarities. His optimism did not go unrewarded and we were treated to excellent views of a **Black Stork** as it rose on a thermal before drifting north.

Our final stop was at the nature reserve of Isola della Cona, which added many birds to our list. From the main hide, among other things, we saw three **Spoonbills**, a pair of **Great White Egrets**, two **Little Bitterns** and several **Great Reed Warblers** as well as the resident **Marsh Harriers**.

Day 6 - 31st May 1996

Today we visited the **Griffon Vulture** reintroduction centre at Cornino in the Pre-alps. We stopped off on the way at an **Eagle Owl** nest above the road. No adults were seen but a single youngster was clearly visible on the rock face above us. At the centre both wild and reintroduced **Griffons** were seen over the feeding site as well as **Black Kite**, **Buzzard** and very many **Ravens**. The whole group got a close but fleeting glimpse of a **Hoopoe** but only two lucky participants saw the **Wryneck** carrying food to its young in a nestbox. Prize bird of the day was a **Black Stork** over the hill behind the centre.... perhaps the same individual as yesterday.

For lunch we moved on to the upper reaches of the Torre Valley below the impressive peaks of Mount Musi. Birds were rather scarce and there were no signs of the usual **Corncrakes**. However, many interesting plants including **White Helleborine**, **Globeflower** and **Upright Solomon's Seal** were seen. The area was memorable for the large numbers of butterflies including many **Duke of Burgundy Fritillary**, **Chequered Skipper**, **Green Hairstreak** and a few **Clouded Apollo** and **Bright-eyed Ringlet**. Perhaps the butterfly of the day was a splendid **Camberwell Beauty** which returned repeatedly to bask on a wooden sign and was seen down to less than a metre by all!

Day 7 - 1st June 1996

This morning we visited the site from which we were forced to flee on Day 2 because of a hailstorm... and it was well worth it. From the small chapel we moved up towards Monte Stena, the best remaining open grassland in the Italian Karst. Early on we saw **Rock Bunting** and **Tree Sparrow** plus reasonable views of **Red-backed Shrike**. The scrub everywhere was filled with the song of **Whitethroats**. Emerging from a small pinewood one of the participants disturbed a 5 foot long snake from the path. We followed it and it began to climb up through the clematis growing on a small ash tree. Everyone was able to observe the

animal from close range. Checks in identification guides that evening suggested it was an **Aesculapian Snake**.

On the open grassland there were large numbers of flowers of big soft thistle *Jurinea mollis* and the **Steppe Grass** *Stipa ericaulis* and a splendid example of **Carnic Lily**. Few birds were seen until we had our backs to the sun but we then had splendid views of **Tawny Pipit** and **Woodlark** although the **Ortolans** were decidedly less cooperative as usual! A **Bee Orchid** almost without pigment was found on the return leg but the big quandry will remain the I.D of the large greyish bird with with a very powerful warbling song flushed from a small bush not far from the van, almost certainly an **Orphean Warbler**, very rare in this area

On our way back to the hotel we stopped off at a quarry to search for **Eagle Owls**. The path up produced **Violet Helleborine** and the group flushed a **Nightjar** off the rock piles below the quarry. At the site again there were no sign of the adult owls but much better views of a large chick were obtained than earlier in the week. The final sighting of note was the first **High Brown Fritillary** of the year not far from the van. Everyone needed a rest and the day ended aback at the hotel at 15:30

Day 8 - 2nd June 1996

We set off up the motorway towards Ljubljana into the catchement area of the Danube in order to visit the huge peat bog south of the city called Ljubljansko Barje. The weather was very hot and humid and this undoubtedly affected what we saw. Birds were scarce and the site seems to be getting dry in many areas, perhaps as a result of the intensification of agriculture.

At the first site near the motorway we had brief views of **River Warbler** although they seemed very few and far between. Apart from innumerable Marsh Warblers we also had views of **Red-backed Shrike**, **Honey Buzzard**, **Hobby**, **Golden Oriole** and **Hawfinch**.

At the second site near the village of Ig we were hoping for **Scarlet Rosefinch**. Setting up the tables for lunch we were treated to views of a young **Peregrine** "playing" with a pair of **Lapwings** while at the same time being mobbed by a **Hobby**! Three **Turtle Doves** and five **Stock Doves** were seen as well as many of the bog's two commonest species, **Whinchat** and **Tree Pipit**. Plenty of **Quail** could be heard but all were frustratingly elusive. In compensation both **Nightingale** and the dragonfly *Ischnura elegans* were seen along the stream Perhaps the star of the show was a splendid male **Large Copper** butterfly of the very red eastern race *rutilus*.

As the bridges were being replaced we had to make a long detour to the finest wet meadows where we found several exquisite plants of **Loose-flowered Orchid** and **Clustered Bellflower** and heard **Corncrake**, **Corn Bunting** and **Quail**

Day 9 - 3rd June 1996

Today we went up the motorway to the Carnic Alps on the border with Austria to visit a well-known site for naturalists - Cason di Lanza. Just before the village of Paularo we stopped at a road-bridge to observe a small colony of **Crag Martins** which performed well.

Moving on up the steep road to Cason di Lanza we soon arrived at the pass where the group was free to explore the flower meadows, filled with **Clusius's Gentian**, **Globeflowers**, **Mountain Pansies** and the occasional **Alpine Snowbell** and the white **Alpine Pasqueflower**. The pond was filled with **Alpine Newts** and several **Broad-bodied Chaser** dragonflies were sunning themselves on the rocks around the pool.

On the bird front we saw our first **Siskins**, **Redpolls**, **Crossbills**, **Dunocks**, **Ring Ouzels**, **Water Pipits**, **Black Woodpecker** and **Nutcracker** of the trip as well as many **Tree Pipits** performing their aerial

display flights. A walk up into the mountains, although very pleasant added little to our day's list except for **Coal Tit**, **Kestrel** and **Raven**.

Dropping down towards Paularo the group were able to examine a range of woodland and rockface plants including various saxifrages and **Alpine Clematis**. Closer to the village were some splendid hay meadows full of **Yellow Rattle** and **Wild Sweet William**. The final stop was in the village where, as usual behind the petrol station we were able to add good views of **Dipper** on the river Chiarso' to the trip list.

Day 10 - 4th June 1996

The day began well with stifling heat and a broken gear-change on the van! A replacement minibus was found within half-an-hour and we set off towards the confluence of the rivers Torre and Natisone. We stopped near Medea to observe the region's largest **Bee-eater** colony while we had a cup of tea! Mission accomplished we arrived at the confluence to find temperatures of 30 degrees plus and high humidity. Little of substance was seen except **Marbled White** butterflies and a few **Sand Martins** and given the heat we decided to set off for the new site in search of shade.

Next stop was at the peat bog in Gonars where we had fine views of **Montagu's Harrier** plus many plants including a **Seraphia Orchid**, **Marsh Helleborine**, **Upright Clematis** and a marsh orchid *Dactylorhiza incarnata*. Two interesting butterflies were added to the trip's tally: **Lesser Marbled Fritillary** and **Lesser Purple Emperor**

After an ice-cream stop in Aquileia we visited the old dune at Bosco San Marco and were treated to excellent views of **Little Owl** and rather briefer glimpses of **Crested Lark**. The final stop was overlooking the mudflats at the mouth of the river Isonzo where **Cormorants** and a rather out-of-place **Black Swan** amongst the 30+ **Mute Swans** were seen. Feeling somewhat boiled we reluctantly headed back to the hotel.

Day 11 - 5th June 1996

An early start to get to the airport by 0900 and the 149th species for the trip - a **Purple Heron** flying over the motorway not far from the River Tagliamento. Luck and the weather held and the participants were in good time for their flight. The trip was organised by Honeyguide Holidays, cost £1050 inclusive of flight, trips and all meals and raised £200 for the Birdwatching and Bird Study Association of Slovenia through a levy of £25 per participant. The average distance travelled per day was 150 kilometres / 100 miles.

Checklist of the birds seen and heard during the trip:

Number	Species	Day											
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
1	Great Crested Grebe		y										
2	Cormorant											y	
3	Little Bittern					y							
4	Squacco Heron		y										
5	Little Egret		y			y					y		
6	Great White Egret					y							
7	Grey Heron		y			y							
8	Purple Heron												y
9	Black Stork					y	y						
10	Spoonbill					y							

No.	Species	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
59	Nightjar			y				y				
60	Alpine Swift	y	y		y	y	y	y				
61	Common Swift		y	y	y	y	y	y	y	y	y	
62	Kingfisher					y						
63	Bee-eater										y	
64	Hoopoe			y			y					
65	Wryneck						y					
66	Black Woodpecker									y		
67	Green Woodpecker	h		y				h	h	h	y	
68	Grey-headed Woodpecker			h								
69	Great Spotted Woodpecker		y	y					y		y	
70	Crested Lark					y	y				y	
71	Skylark		y	y				y	y			
72	Woodlark			y		y		y	y			
73	Sand Martin										y	
74	Crag Martin									y		
75	Swallow		y	y	y	y	y	y	y	y	y	
76	House Martin		y	y	y	y	y	y	y	y	y	
77	Tawny Pipit							y				
78	Tree Pipit				y		y		y	y		
79	Water Pipit									y		
80	Grey Wagtail		y		y					y		
81	Ashy-headed Yellow Wagtail		y									
82	White Wagtail		y	y	y	y	y	y	y	y	y	
83	Dipper									y		
84	Wren		h									
85	Dunnock									y		
86	Robin		h		y		h			h		
87	Black Redstart				y			h		y	y	
88	Whinchat		y						y			
89	Stonechat						y					
90	Blue Rock Thrush					y		y	y	y	y	
91	Ring Ouzel									y		
92	Blackbird		y	y	y	y	y	y	y	y	y	
93	Fieldfare		y									
94	Song Thrush				y					y		
95	Mistle Thrush			y	y					y		
96	Cetti's Warbler					h					h	
97	Fan-tailed Warbler					y					h	
98	Grasshopper Warbler											
99	River Warbler								y			
100	Sedge Warbler		y									
101	Marsh Warbler		y			y			y			
102	Reed Warbler					y						
103	Great Reed Warbler					y						
104	Melodious Warbler			y		y	h				h	
105	Orphean Warbler							y				
106	Sardinian Warbler					y	y					

No.	Species	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
107	Lesser Whitethroat							h		h		
108	Whitethroat		y	y				y	y		y	
109	Blackcap		y	h	y	h	y	h	y	y	h	
110	Bonelli's Warbler						h					
111	Chiffchaff		h	h	h		h	h	h	h	h	
112	Firecrest				h							
113	Spotted Flycatcher						y					
114	Marsh Tit						h					
115	Crested Tit									h		
116	Coal Tit				h			y		y		
117	Blue Tit						y	y				
118	Great Tit	y	y	y	y	y	y	y	y	y	y	
119	Nuthatch		y									
120	Short-toed Treecreeper											
121	Long-tailed Tit							y	y		h	
122	Golden Oriole		h	y		h	y	h	y		h	
123	Red-backed Shrike		y	y	y	y	y	y	y	y	y	
124	Jay		y	y	y	y	y	y	y	y	y	
125	Magpie		y	y		y	y		y	y	y	
126	Nutcracker									y		
127	Jackdaw		y			y						
128	Hooded / Carrion Crow		y			y	y		y	y	y	
129	Raven			y	y		y			y		
130	Starling		y	y	y	y	y	y	y	y	y	
131	Tree Sparrow							y				
132	House / Italian Sparrow		y	y	y	y	y		y		y	
133	Chaffinch		y	y	y	y	y	y	y	y		
134	Serin		y	y			y	y	y		y	
135	Greenfinch		y	y			h	y	y	y		
136	Goldfinch		y			y	y		y		y	
137	Linnet		y									
138	Siskin									y		
139	Bullfinch				y							
140	Redpoll									y		
141	Crossbill									y		
142	Scarlet Rosefinch			h								
143	Hawfinch				y			y	y			
144	Rock Bunting							y				
145	Cirl Bunting			y				h				
146	Yellowhammer		y	h				h	y			
147	Ortolan							y				
148	Reed Bunting		y									
149	Corn Bunting		h	y				y	h			

y = seen h = heard

Butterfly species seen during the trip:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1. Grizzled Skipper | <i>Pyrgus malvae</i> |
| 2. Dingy Skipper | <i>Erynnis tages</i> |
| 3. Chequered Skipper | <i>Carterocephalus palaemon</i> |
| 4. Small Skipper | <i>Thymelicus flavus</i> |
| 5. Large Skipper | <i>Ochlodes venatus</i> |
| 6. Swallowtail | <i>Papilio machaon</i> |
| 7. Scarce Swallowtail | <i>Iphichides podalirius</i> |
| 8. Clouded Apollo | <i>Parnassius mnemosyne</i> |
| 9. Large White | <i>Pieris brassicae</i> |
| 10. Small White | <i>Artogeia rapae</i> |
| 11. Green-veined White | <i>Artogeia napi</i> |
| 12. Black-veined White | <i>Aporia crataegi</i> |
| 13. Orange Tip | <i>Anthocharis cardamines</i> |
| 14. Clouded Yellow | <i>Colias crocea</i> |
| 15. Berger's Clouded Yellow | <i>Colias australis</i> |
| 16. Brimstone | <i>Gonepteryx rhamni</i> |
| 17. Lesser Purple Emperor | <i>Apatura ilia</i> |
| 18. Southern White Admiral | <i>Limenitis reducta</i> |
| 19. Camberwell Beauty | <i>Nymphalis antiopa</i> |
| 20. Small Tortoiseshell | <i>Aglais urticae</i> |
| 21. Map Butterfly | <i>Araschnia levana</i> |
| 22. Painted Lady | <i>Cynthia cardui</i> |
| 23. Red Admiral | <i>Vanessa atalanta</i> |
| 24. Peacock | <i>Inachis io</i> |
| 25. High Brown Fritillary | <i>Fabriciana adippe</i> |
| 26. Lesser Marbled Fritillary | <i>Brenthis ino</i> |
| 27. Glanville Fritillary | <i>Melitaea cinxia</i> |
| 28. Spotted Fritillary | <i>Melitaea didyma</i> |
| 29. False Heath Fritillary | <i>Melitaea diamina</i> |
| 30. Heath Fritillary | <i>Mellicta athalia</i> |
| 31. Marbled White | <i>Melanargia galathea</i> |
| 32. Bright-eyed Ringlet | <i>Erebia oeme</i> |
| 33. Meadow Brown | <i>Maniola jurtina</i> |
| 34. Small Heath | <i>Coenympha pamphilus</i> |
| 35. Pearly Heath | <i>Coenympha arcania</i> |
| 36. Speckled Wood | <i>Pararge aegeria</i> |
| 37. Large Wall Brown | <i>Lasiommata maera</i> |
| 38. Wall Brown | <i>Lasiommata megera</i> |
| 39. Duke of Burgundy Fritillary | <i>Haemaris lucina</i> |
| 40. Green Hairstreak | <i>Callophrys rubi</i> |
| 41. Large Copper | <i>Lycaena dispar ssp. rutilus</i> |
| 42. Small Blue | <i>Cupido minimus</i> |
| 43. Chequered Blue | <i>Scolitantides orion</i> |
| 44. Idas Blue | <i>Lycaeides idas</i> |
| 45. Brown Argus | <i>Aricia agestis</i> |
| 46. Adonis Blue | <i>Lysandra bellargus</i> |
| 47. Common Blue | <i>Polyommatus icarus</i> |



Scarce swallowtail



Društvo za opazovanje in proučevanje ptic Slovenije
Bird watching and bird study association of Slovenia

Langusova 10, SL - 1000 Ljubljana tel. (+386) 061 13 39 51⁶, Mobilitel 0609 62 52 10, .r.: Nova LB d.d. 50100-620-133-27620-998850

Chris Durdin
36 Thunder Lane,
Thorpe st. Andrew
NORWICH, NORFOLK, Great Britain

Postojna, 5.9.1996

Dear Mr. Durdin,

Thank You very much for Your financial support to our association. As I was informed by Paul Tout, You and your bird watchers from RSPB, visited the Cerknica lake last June. After conversation with Paul, he sent the 200 GBP to account of Bird watching and bird study association of Slovenia (DOPPS), slovenian BirdLife partner since European Conference in Finland these year.

DOPPS executive board agreed that your financial support will be spend for finishing the bird watching tower (hide) on the edge of Cerknica lake. It was built by support of our Ministry for environment. With your money we will improve some details and finish it, according estimations in these autumn.

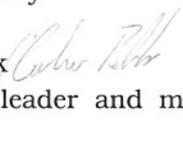
In this area we established a new local group (Notranjska sekcija) last November. I send you my booklet ore guide "Were to watch and how to watch birds in Cerknica lake". As you can see, we intend to make network of bird watching places in the area to develop bird watching activities. With green colour in the booklet mape is marked already build tower.

If there is possible, send us your emblem ore some stick, to put it in the wall of our (and your) bird watching tower, slovenian the first.

You are very welcome next year. Come to see ours interesting birds and our tower too. As you probably know in the lake there are more than 70 calling corncrake males each year so we must educate the locall people to care on lake. Each June we organised "Crex night" - night count of corncrakes in the lake. We are all agreed to put these bird in emblem of our Notranjska local group.

Thank You once again very much
with hope to meet you next year,

Yours Sincerely

Slavko Polak 
local group leader and member of DOPPS executive board