

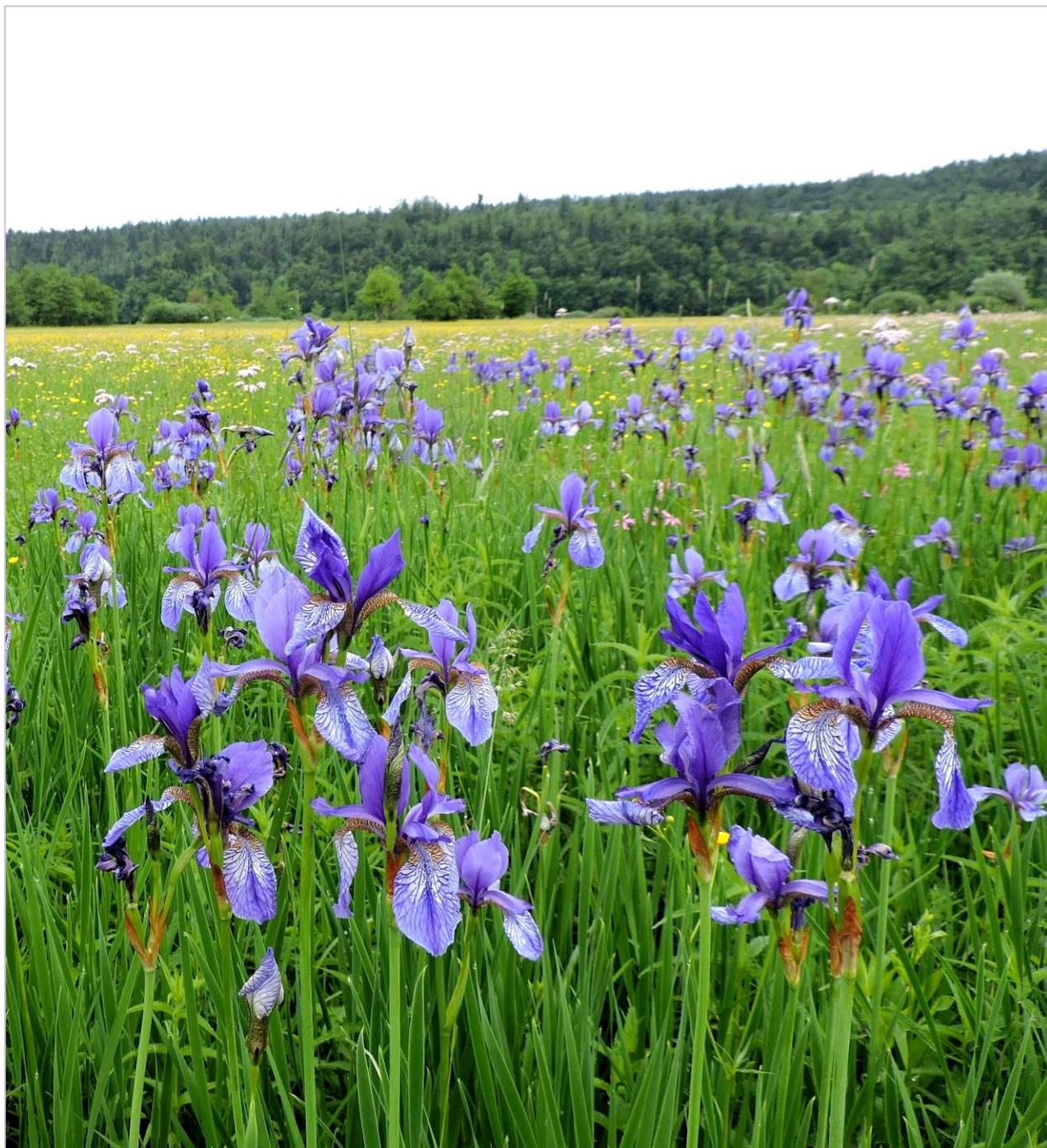
# *Honeyguide*

**WILDLIFE HOLIDAYS**

36 Thunder Lane, Thorpe St Andrew, Norwich NR7 0PX

Telephone: 01603 300552

[www.honeyguide.co.uk](http://www.honeyguide.co.uk) E-mail: [chris@honeyguide.co.uk](mailto:chris@honeyguide.co.uk)



**Southern Slovenia  
18 – 25 May 2017**

### **Holiday participants**

Malcolm and Jane Key  
Rodney and Linda Tillotson  
John Titchmarsh

### **Leader**

Paul Tout

We stayed at the Logar Tourist Farm <http://turisticnekmetije.si/en/logar>  
in the village of Žerovnica near Cerknica in the Notrajska Region in southern Slovenia.

Report and photos by Paul Tout.

Cover: Siberian Iris (*Iris sibirica*) at Planisko Polje.

Below: Paul presents Borut Mozetič with the €250 Honeyguide donation.



This holiday, as for every Honeyguide holiday, also puts something into conservation in our host country by way of a contribution to the wildlife that we enjoyed. The conservation contribution from this holiday, €250 (£220), went to DOPPS, BirdLife Slovenia. There is a thank-you letter from DOPPS at the report's end.

Since 1994 the contributions given to DOPPS amount to £2,848. The total sum of conservation contributions made through Honeyguide from all holidays since 1991 up to August 2017 is £102,143.

## DAILY DIARY

### Day 1, Thursday 18 May – From the airport to the hotel

Flight FR168 to Trieste arrived on time and having collected the baggage we were on our way towards our hotel in Slovenia. As we were unlikely to see **Alpine swift** during the week, we stopped off on the *Costiera*, the road to Trieste where a large colony breeds. Stopping at the tunnel we had the birds flying above and below us down to three metres and in and out of their nest-holes.

Carrying on down the motorway we crossed into Slovenia and across the limestone Karst. As we passed through the town of Martinjak we saw the **white storks** on their nest. This is one of the longest occupied nests in Slovenia (more than 20 years) and during the winter of 2016/17 the owners of the building became worried about the size of the nest (it has an elder tree growing out of it!) so a cherry-picker and crane were used to lower it to the ground. A chainsaw was used to reduce its size before placing it in a steel-framed basket and remounted on the roof. Slovenes love their white storks.

We soon arrived at the hotel and met the owner, Ivanka, who would be looking after us during the week. After dinner there was time for a quick trip down to the meadows around the lake at dusk when we heard **corncrake** and **common quail**.

### Day 2, Friday 19 May – Around Cerknjško Jezero

We began our first full day orientating ourselves around our base in Žerovnica, beginning with the gardens behind our accommodation and the track down to the meadows at the lake. A very noisy pair of **wrynecks** were in residence in the orchard behind the farmhouse as well as a male **red-backed shrike** and a pair of **black redstarts** feeding young. Down at the meadows a beautiful male **whinchat** in song was extremely cooperative, giving superb views.

At our first stop it became clear that the water levels in the lake were extremely low. Yellowhammers sang from the tallows but the barred warblers usually present were strangely silent. Perhaps the most interesting find was a very large longhorn beetle which subsequent enquiries revealed was a **weaver beetle** (*Lamia textor*). Local entomologists said that the species was very common in Slovenia and north-east Italy until about 50 years ago but has since become very scarce and difficult to see and that the area around Cerknjško Jezero is now one of the best areas to see them.



Weaver beetle (*Lamia textor*) and ruddy darter (*Sympetrum sanguineum*).

Moving round the lake, we visited the north-west corner, picking up **wryneck**, **cuckoo** and **yellowhammer** once again. This is the bunting of cool, damp and cultivated areas in Slovenia with plenty of trees and hedges. Moving towards the coast and a Mediterranean climate it is replaced by chirrup bunting while the rockier areas of the Karst without cultivation is the habitat used by rock buntings. One of the interesting aspects of the holiday is to see the habitats used AND NOT USED by species we are familiar with in UK and the indications this provides of how climate change may affect them in the future. Water levels were very low and there just a few spikes of **bog orchid** coming into flower. This plant closely resembles the lax-flowered orchid which is frequent in Istria. The latter is a Mediterranean species, the former prefers a continental climate with hot summers and very cold winters. A nice **ruddy darter** was one of the few dragonflies seen during the week, with the cold weather being mainly to blame. This probably explained also why hobbies were generally few and far between during the trip.

Moving on, the low water levels meant that very few waterfowl were visible, just a few **little egrets**, **coots**, a few pairs of **mallard** and the odd **mute swan**. Arriving on the island of Otok (joined to the mainland by a small bridge) we made our way to a viewpoint overlooking the lake through woods with the **bladdernut** tree, a Balkan species in which, as the name suggests, the single hard seed develops in an inflated bladder. The tree, which closely resembles an elder, has attractive panicles of white flowers.

The vista from the viewpoint was splendid, but there were very few birds on show, which was a pity, just a large flock of non-breeding **mallard** and an immature **spoonbill**. A **red fox** stalked its way across the lakebed, the ducks keeping a wary eye on it. Just a couple of times a **bittern** boomed. This is a very scarce bird in Slovenia because of the fluctuating water levels at most of the wetland sites but probably breeds most years at Cerkljiško Jezero. The watchpoint featured some interesting plants too, including **winged broom** and **shrubby milkwort**.

Moving on, we stopped briefly in the mixed forest beside the lake. Here, on limestone, beneath **beech**, **sycamore**, **white fir** and **Norway spruce**, we encountered a wonderful ground flora including **haquetia**, **blue-eyed Mary**, more **shrubby milkwort**, **whorled solomon's-seal**, the seed-heads of **Christmas rose** and the leaves of **hepatica**. There were also several plants of **bird's-nest orchid**, a saprophytic species completely lacking chlorophyll. The ground flora of these woods seems so much richer than similar habitats (such as beech woods) in UK, perhaps because they are rocky (and thus the trees are at lower density and much more light reaches the ground) and perhaps because there are (now) many fewer deer per square kilometre in Slovenia than in UK.



Bird's-nest orchid (*Neottia nidus-avis*)  
and white stork (*Ciconia ciconia*).

It was getting close to lunchtime, and continuing on around the lake we stopped on the causeway between Gorenje and Laze where a beautifully-situated picnic table provides excellent all-round views by the river Obrh which is the main watercourse entering the lake from the south, popping out from under the Karst. The rarest bird of the week flew by almost as soon as we arrived, a pale morph **booted eagle**! What a shame the view lasted only 90 seconds as it flew eastwards. This species is a rare migrant in Slovenia and just a few pairs nest in central Europe. Slovenia lacks some of this eagle's favourite prey items including susliks and European hamsters, both present further east.

There was some consolation after lunch with views of **short-toed eagle** hunting grass snakes over the lakebed while singing **marsh** and **sedge warbler**, **whinchats** and **ashy-headed yellow wagtails** kept us entertained during lunch. A walk in the meadows beside the road after lunch produced calling (but invisible) **corncrakes** as well as many plants of **ragged robin** and **early marsh orchid** popping up here and there in the extensive sedge beds. We stopped in Gorenje for views of the very watchable white stork nest with the bird obligingly perched in the afternoon sun. This is a species which is doing well in this part of Slovenia. The last local pair did not return in 1992 and it wasn't until the late 1990s that the pair began to nest at Martinjak. There are now 3 pairs around the lake and a further three pairs in neighbouring villages. The species is continuing to spread westwards and now nests within 20km of the Italian border.

By now it was time to make our way back to Žerovnica in time for dinner.

### Day 3, Saturday 20 May – Bloke peat bog and Križna Jama

The day began rather cold and dreary with rain threatening, which was a shame as the Bloke peat bog (pronounced 'bloh-kèh' I'm afraid) is one of the most interesting sites of the week. Not far away is Babno Polje, (in)famously the coldest town in Slovenia, and Bloška Polica is not much warmer. Night temperatures often drop close to zero even in the months of May and June and this, together with the cold springs that emerge from the limestone in areas of poor drainage, inhibits the decomposition of plant material and the build-up of peat which is rare at this latitude. An early morning walk down to the lakeside meadows produced the **bittern** calling once again, plus **grey heron**, **common buzzard** and a **red-footed falcon**. We popped back later in the van with the group to see the falcon but it had vanished.

The only **turtle dove** of the week put in a brief appearance in one of the oak trees, their foliage devastated by a big **cockchafer** (*Melolontha melolontha*) year with hundreds of these big insects on every branch and buzzing around, even in the cold. While the damage done by the larvae is incessant, in meadows and vegetable patches, the adult insects swamp the local predators with a large emergence every 5-7 years.

Arriving at Bloška Polica just below the peat bog, we made our way through beautiful meadows of wild flowers including **southern marsh orchid**, **burnt-tip orchid**, **globe orchid**, **marsh lousewort** and **water avens**. **Common buzzard**, **cuckoo**, **kestrel**, **yellowhammer** and (here, the always surprisingly scarce) **wren** provided the birdlife while a surprise to everyone, once we had entered the woodland, was a large, healthy, flowering **common barberry**, often called 'berberis' in a garden context. An 'archaeophyte' (a long-established alien) in the UK, it is a widely distributed but never very common native in this part of the world. It is always nice to see 'garden' plants growing in their true wild contexts as it modifies our relationship with the plant in question when we see it again in a 'domestic' setting.



Water avens (*Geum rivale*); round-headed orchid (*Traunsteineria globosa*); common barberry (*Berberis vulgaris*).

Moving down into the boggy area the weather began to worsen, with occasional showers, some of them heavy. Four species of thrush (**blackbird**, **fieldfare**, **mistle** and **song**) could be heard singing together with **tree pipit**, **red-backed shrike** and **crossbill** (the last a fly-over), but perhaps the best bird was a very cooperative **crested tit**. This species is widespread in this part of Europe down to sea-level wherever there are pines and has spread more widely through plantations than the often more common **coal tit** which seems confined to mountain forests except in irruption years.

As we finished lunch the rain began in earnest and an executive decision was made to find somewhere where it was not raining, The Krizna Jama or Cross Cave, named after nearby Holy Cross Church in Podlož. is one of the more famous caves in Slovenia. In the cave it was not raining, although there was water in the form of a river. It is the only naturally preserved tourist cave in Slovenia, with no strong lighting or concrete pathways, so before entering we received rubber boots and a flashlight. The visit was very authentic by tourist cave standards. We were shown the skulls of cave bears, the progenitors of today's much smaller brown bears, that had died during hibernation in the cave during the last Ice Age, two **lesser horseshoe bats** sleeping on a dry wall in what was otherwise a very wet cave, and a tiny unpigmented cave millipede **Brachydesmus inferus**. The last element of the visit was a brief trip along a stretch of one of the eerie underground lakes (there are 22 of them in total), the perfectly clear, bluish water illuminated by lights beneath the boat.

Exiting the cave in late afternoon it was still raining and we were all happy to make our way back to the hotel to warm up and have dinner.

#### **Day 4, Sunday 21 May – Dolenje Vas and Vremščica**

The weather was considerably better today and we set off for a visit to the classic Karst, a large area of dry limestone towards Italy a few minutes along the motorway. Our first stop, just off the motorway, was at the extensive grasslands near Dolenje Vas, more specifically Griško Polje. This area, a dead-ended valley, is invisible from the road and only stands out when using satellite photographs. The meadows, cut regularly, are superb and there is little sign so far of the abandonment visible elsewhere in the Karst. Our very first stop was right beside the motorway exit where some scraps of hay-meadow survive. As often happens, for a few years the process of abandonment favours certain rare species, in this case **military orchids**, and there were dozens of plants along the roadside, their spread doubtlessly favoured by the lack of cutting and perhaps the abundant **yellow rattle** reducing the competition of the grass species.

Unlike those on the coast, the cool grasslands of the higher ground in the Karst remain green throughout the summer. The area is excellent for butterflies, and there were large numbers of **fritillaries**, including **marsh knapweed**, **heath twin-spot** (larvae) and **Nickerl's** on the wing as well as **wood white** and **grizzled skipper**. Another interesting invertebrate was a **large saw-tailed bush-cricket**. This is a very large species with females (such as this one which was still at a late nymphal stage) reaching almost two inches in length (47mm) with the ovipositor adding almost another inch in length (24mm).

Birds were rather thin on the ground but did include **common buzzard**, **corn bunting**, **woodlark** and **skylark** and **red-backed shrike**. There was no sign of the usual singing male barred warbler. The species is much commoner a little further east but seems to be in decline at the edge of its range in Slovenia. As far as the flora was concerned there were several interesting species including **burnt-tip orchid**, **white asphodel** and the beautiful sky-blue **perennial flax**. Another interesting plant was found on the few **sessile oaks** dotted around the site, the parasitic **yellow-berried mistletoe**, a deciduous species unlike the common mistletoe, the leaves of which are used to flavour a local *schnapps*. The species is spread by mistle thrushes and as this species has become more common in the Karst the mistletoe has spread with it.



Large saw-tailed bush-cricket (*Polysarcus denticauda*); Nickerl's fritillary (*Melitaea aurelia*); perennial flax (*Linum narbonense*).

A brief stop in some nearby woodland yielded few birds apart from **short-toed treecreeper** and **nuthatch**. An uncooperative but noisy woodpecker may have been a middle spotted which certainly nest in the area. It gave brief views before calling incessantly down a very steep slope and did not merit further investigation.

The day's second site, Vremščica (1027m), not far away, is one of the lower Dinaric Alps. These stretch away south-eastwards, parallel to the Adriatic coast, and were thrown up by the tectonic plate carrying Italy colliding with and passing underneath the main Eurasian plate, creating a chain of mountains stretching all the way down to Albania, where the highest peak, Maja Jezercë, stands at 2,694 metres. The mountain is the site of an experimental upland farm belonging to the University of Ljubljana, meaning that the area is one of the few places in the Karst where carefully programmed grazing takes places and a fine open grassland rich in plants and butterflies is maintained. **Common peonies** were still in flower as we made our way up the well-maintained gravel road.

Arriving at the parking-space we spent some time examining a flat and rather damp piece of ground beside the road. In addition to the **peonies** and **asphodels** there were several interesting butterflies, including a very late **southern festoon**, **grizzled skipper** and at least two **clouded Apollos**. As a larva this last species feeds on various *Corydalis* species, common in the subalpine grasslands. Moving on, there were several **skylarks** and **corn buntings** in song. The grassland turf was quite heavily grazed but there were large numbers of **fragrant orchid** spikes dotted here and there. Three small falcons in a tree a short distance away were revealed as **red-footed falcons**, the species being particularly common on migration during spring 2017.

#### Day 5, Monday 22 May – Snežnik (Mašun, Grad Snežnik)

An early morning walk produced the usual range of birds in the meadows down towards the lake, the main addition being a rather ugly and plain scarlet rosefinch in song, its 'pleased-to-meet-you' verse ringing out from some distant sallows.

The weather was pleasant and warm and therefore suitable for a visit to the area of Mount Snežnik, at 1796m far and away the highest mountain in southern Slovenia, where a vast beech, spruce and fir forest, one of Europe's wildest areas, stretches for thousands of square kilometers into Croatia and Bosnia. The road passes through open countryside and climbs up through sparse oak woodland before grading into cooler **beech** and **Norway spruce**. While the forest is heavily managed for timber, its vast scale means it plays host to a range of very rare birds and animals including grey wolves, lynx and brown bear.



Three-toed woodpecker (*Picoides tridactylus*) showing (inset) the 'missing' rear-facing toe compared to other woodpeckers.

One of today's target species was **three-toed woodpecker**, a scarce species in southern Europe. Our first stop took us along a fairly level forest track with a small range of forest birds including **coal tit**, **robin**, **bullfinch** and some fly-over **common crossbills**. Along the track there were numerous interesting plants including **Alpine honeysuckle**, a species not seen elsewhere on the trip. A woodpecker drummed from a hollow close by and when we turned a curve it arrived on a dead beech stump and continued drumming above our heads. It proved to be a female **three-toed woodpecker**, an excellent start. It stayed, repeating the drumming in full view of the group for a couple of minutes. Other interesting things seen along the route included several **orange-tip** butterflies and a **coal tit** feeding chicks in a nest that appeared to be in a hole in the ground. Close to the van a pair of **common treecreepers** had a nest in an old dead beech but remained largely out of sight. This species (the one found in the UK) occupies the high ground, usually

above 900m in this part of the world and evidently reached Britain before the breaking of the land-bridge connecting it to continental Europe at the end of the last Ice Age. The short-toed treecreeper, much commoner in this part of the world and seen on other days, occupies lower ground and 'missed the boat' when the island of Great Britain was cut off by rising sea-levels.

Moving back to the van we made our way to the mountain village of Mašun, set in the middle of the forest where we stopped for lunch. The village is the most famous in Slovenia for the abundance of brown bears in the surrounding forests. **Crossbills**, **bullfinches** and a pair of **ravens** enlivened lunch, after which we had a short walk in the vicinity. Throughout lunch and for some time after, a **nutcracker** called from **white fir** trees behind the village. Setting off to search for it, it led us a merry dance, calling from a small area with an amazing range of jay- and thrush-like calls but refusing to show.

Heading back towards our base, the first stop was to examine some droppings on the road! These did indeed prove to belong to a **brown bear**. Slovenia has one of the healthiest bear populations in Europe and the Snežnik area has one of the largest, numbering at least a couple of hundred animals. These are largely nocturnal in summer and droppings are one of the few signs of their presence. There were signs where the animal had climbed down onto the road and back up again.

Our final stop on the way back to Žerovnica was to the grounds of Grad Snežnik, a castle which dates back to 1269. This is a beautiful spot surrounded by parkland and fine trees and excellent for small birds. A pair of **linnets** and a flock of **goldfinches** rose from the road in front of the van while a **grey wagtail** frequented a dilapidated building where it was probably nesting. **Black redstarts** and **spotted flycatchers** were easy to see in the parkland but much less cooperative was a bird warbling in thick cover beside the road. Try as we might, we could not get a fix on it as it flitted from one piece of thick vegetation to another. It sounded a little like a barred warbler or a subdued blackcap and in the end, by a process of elimination, we decided on **garden warbler**, perhaps the most common autumn migrant through the northern Adriatic but a rather scarce breeder and greatly outnumbered by the abundant blackcap. The most remarkable element of the bird community around the castle was a large colony of **fieldfares** with many adults and fledged young on the short grass and chattering up in the tall parkland trees. This species is often strongly colonial and defends its nests and young with savage and repeated attacks on predators such owls, goshawks and pine martens, dive-bombing and defecating on their enemies, who generally avoid the colony and seek their prey elsewhere.



The 13<sup>th</sup> century castle Grad Snežnik.

An evening trip along roads above the lake after dinner produced very little apart from a single **tawny owl** leaving a line of trees close to the village of Dolenje Jezero.

## Day 6, Tuesday 23 May – Grad Snežnik and Rakov Škocjan

The large number of birds we had seen yesterday at Grad Snežnik suggested the site would be worth an early morning visit before breakfast. The weather was splendidly calm and sunny but while there were plenty of birds to see, they were largely the same as those from yesterday apart from some excellent views of a pair of **hawfinches** feeding high in some oaks in the parkland. Although we had seen it the previous day, the sighting of **lung lichen** *Lobaria pulmonaria* in fine, greenish condition rather than dried out was very nice. The species, now so rare in UK, is indicative of very high air quality.

After breakfast we made our way to Rakov Škocjan, a deep canyon along which the waters of Cerknisko Jezero leave the lake and make their way through the Karst before plunging into the Weaver's Cave and away under the limestone towards Planinsko Jezero. A walk through the woods above the gorge was rather warm and unproductive in bird terms apart from a calling **grey-headed woodpecker** and brief views of **common treecreeper**. More interesting was the ground flora that included lots of the forget-me-not-like **blue-eyed Mary**, **haquetia**, the endemic yellowish vetch *Vicia oroboides*, **asarabacca**, and many specimens of **common twayblade**.

After lunch, and having taken a wrong turn along the track, we finally reached the canyon itself and descended into it along a short steep path. The canyon has a number of natural bridges, basically flowing into and out of natural limestone tunnels with a path that visitors can follow alongside the stream. The walls of the tunnels and canyon are used by wallcreepers in the winter and are decked with ferns of several species.

In the evening after dinner we welcomed Paul Veenvliet, a Dutch herpetologist and naturalist who has lived in the area for many years, who took us out to see some amphibians in local ponds close to the lake, showing us **marsh frog**, **Italian great crested newt** and the very vocal **tree frogs**, the high volume of their calls due to the males inflating their entire bodies, creating a sounding-board to transmit their voices far more powerfully than when using their vocal sacs alone. **Greenshanks** were heard calling from the lake and we had brief views of a **long-eared owl** leaving its roost at dusk.



European tree frog (*Hyla arborea*).

## Day 7, Wednesday 24 May – Planinsko Polje, Škocjanski Zatok and Butari

The day started sunny but with thunderstorms forecast. Today we planned to visit some of the satellite sites around the Notrajska region of southern Slovenia, the first being a sister *polje* north, and lower down than Cerknisko Jezero as the waters of the Karst make their way towards the river Sava and the basin of the river Danube. Planinsko Polje, in many respects, is similar to Cerknisko Jezero but the water levels are generally lower and the huge grasslands are richer and less acidic.



Amethyst meadow squill  
(*Scilla litardierei*).

We quickly arrived at Planina and made our way across the *polje* meadows along the track. Parking, we continued along the road. The beautiful damp meadows were rich in species such as **ragged robin**, **yellow rattle** and **great burnet**. The bird community at these open damp sites in central Europe is very characteristic and two of the 'usual suspects', **yellowhammer** and **red-backed shrike** were soon in evidence.

The first very interesting and very rare species in the damp meadows was **amethyst meadow squill** (*Scilla litardierei*) at its only site in Slovenia. This Balkan species reaches the northerly and westerly limit of its range here. Moving on along the track there were other plants to see including **common valerian**, **clustered bellflower** and beautiful stands of **Siberian iris**.

To a backdrop of **skylarks**, a scratchy **whitethroat** sang from a clump of nettles along the track, contrasting with the richer song of another bird perched on a willow hedge about 40m from the track. Getting the telescope on the bird it showed itself to be a male **barred warbler**! Like a giant lesser whitethroat with a pale eye but not many bars on its underside around the tail, the bird was evidently hatched in 2016 and will only get its full 'barred' plumage in 2018.

Meanwhile, black cloud had been building around us and there were ominous peals of thunder and flashes of lightning on the horizon, and we decided to return to the van before the rain arrived. At this point, and slowing our steps, a **black stork** flew past us, gliding down (perhaps because of the impending storm) and disappearing behind a line of trees. This shy, forest-nesting species is scarce in Slovenia, but like the white stork seems to be increasing and spreading westwards towards the Italian border.

The bucketing rain held off until we had reached the van, and a Plan B was required. The best of the weather seemed to lie (as it often does) towards Istria and the coast to the south-west, and with the motorway close by we decided to make our way to the relative calm of Koper-Capodistria and the DOPPS bird reserve of Škocjanski Zatok-Val Stagnon. This is outside the area covered by the holiday but only 35 minutes away towards the blue skies over Istria along the motorway and thus proved irresistible.



Italian wall lizard (*Podarcis sicula*).

We arrived and were able to enjoy lunch under cover at the visitor centre before making a circuit of the hides on the reserve where we were able to add many bird species to the list including **little and great crested grebe, cattle egret, shelduck, pochard, marsh harrier, black-winged stilt, little tern and great reed warbler. Italian wall lizards** were very tame along the path.

We were also able to meet DOPP's reserves manager, Borut Mozetič, and present him with a donation of €250 for the national Birdlife partner. Honeyguide has been supporting DOPPS through donations since the 1990s and the organization is now the main conservation NGO in the country and a dominant player in the sector in the Balkans, cooperating closely with other, smaller NGOs elsewhere in the former Yugoslavia.

Our final stop was a splendid flower meadow at Butari in Istria with many species of orchids. While the mass of **green-winged orchids** were almost over and the **lax-flowered orchids** past their best, the many **long-lipped serapias** were at their peak and other interesting species included **bee** and **three-toothed orchid** and a number of the rarely seen **adder's-tongue fern**.

The important thing was that we had stayed dry, and making our way back to base it became obvious that the downpours had continued for most of the day.

#### **Day 8, Thursday 25 May – Carsiana, River Timavo and Isola della Cona**

Our final day began cloudy and damp as we said our goodbyes to Ivanka, who had looked after us so well during the course of the week, and made our way towards Italy but still with several sites to visit. Along the motorway and just before the town of Razdrto a **black stork** soared over the nearby beech forest, perhaps making its way back to its nest having fed in the nearby wet meadows along the Nanoščica river, our visit to which had been prevented by bad weather yesterday.

Our first stop was the Botanical Gardens at Carsiana, just inside Italy but close to the border with Slovenia. This garden, set up in 1964, is a collection of the wild trees and flowers of the Karst, and ideally would have begun the week. The garden was in superb condition with the different habitats (scrub, grassland, woodland, Mediterranean scrub and so forth) set out within a sinkhole or doline. We were able to do a rapid revision of many of the plants we had observed during the week, each labeled with its scientific name, and common names in Italian, Slovene, English and German.

A single reptile was added to the week's list, a **magnificent (=Dalmatian) algyroides**, a Balkan lizard species that reaches the northern limit of its distribution around the top of the Adriatic. Birds included **golden oriole** and **hawfinch**, but neither were cooperative and remained in the tree-tops, calling. We moved on, stopping at the mouths of the river Timavo. This extraordinary river was described by Pliny and the first geographer, Strabo, more than 2,000 years ago and emerges from underground at the foot of the Karst before flowing a short distance into the Adriatic. It begins 40 kilometres away in Slovenia where the River Reka plunges into the Škocjan caves and disappears under the limestone, reappearing in only two or three of the deepest caves. It supports a very important population of the unpigmented salamander, the olm, as well as many endemic cave system species.

A visit to the church of San Giovanni in Tuba, with its Roman palaeo-Christian remains was even interesting for the botanists with a fine display of **southern maidenhair fern** *Adiantum capillus-veneris* in the church itself.

Our final stop, not far away, was the nature reserve at Isola della Cona, close to the airport. This is a superb reserve, covering 2,200 hectares but we would be limited by time to the area of hides around the 'ripristino', an area of former agricultural fields that were flooded in 1995.

Arriving at the reserve the road takes visitors alongside a drainage ditch containing a rare plant, the **fen ragwort**, which was extinct for more than a century in the UK before miraculously reappearing following drainage work. As we were passing the plants, Paul spotted something very special on one of them, a **large copper** butterfly. The species is definitively extinct in the UK, those insects which were reintroduced at Woodwalton Fen having died out in recent years. The large copper here, belonging to the *rutilus* subspecies, is smaller and less magnificent than others but nevertheless survives quite well in sub-optimal habitats in northern Italy and central Europe.

Having quickly taken lunch there was just time for a quick walk around the hides. The flourishing colony of **bee-eaters** provided fantastic views right in front of the slats of the hide, gliding around, catching insects and excavating their nest holes.



Heath spotted orchid (*Dactylorhiza maculata*); ♂ large copper (*Lycaena dispar* ssp. *rutilus*) on fen ragwort (*Jacobea paludosa*); white asphodel (*Asphodelus albus*).

Lots of bird species were added to the list including **wigeon**, **teal**, **garganey**, a **Montagu's harrier** (a rare bird on the reserve), **avocet**, **lapwing**, **pygmy cormorant** and **white-winged black tern**.

By now it was almost 3 p.m. and time to make our way to the airport just 15 minutes away. Thanks to the timing of the flight in late afternoon we had successfully added a fairly full and very interesting final day to the overall itinerary and an excellent week during which we had successfully dodged the worst of the weather and seen a wonderful range of birds, animals and plants.

#### HOLIDAY HIGHLIGHTS

- Malcolm The forests and the sensitive management of the landscape.
- Jane The wildflower meadows.
- Rodney The frogs.
- Linda The crested tit.
- John The wildflower meadows.
- Paul The wildflower meadows at Planinsko Polje which were new to me at this time of year.

WILDLIFE LISTS

Day 1	18/5/17	Airport to Žerovnica
Day 2	19/5/17	Around the lake
Day 3	20/5/17	Bloke Peat Bog & Krizna Jama
Day 4	21/5/17	Dolenje Vas & Vremščica
Day 5	22/5/17	Snežnik (Mašun / Grad Snežnik
Day 6	23/5/17	Grad Snežnik / Rakov Škocjan
Day 7	24/5/17	Planinsko Polje, Škocjanski Zatok & Butari
Day 8	25/5/17	Carsiana, the River Timavo & Isola della Cona

BIRDS – 126 SPECIES								
	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	Day 6	Day 7	Day 8
Little grebe							✓	✓
Great crested grebe						✓	✓	
Cormorant							✓	
Pygmy Cormorant								✓
Bittern		H	H					
Night heron								
Cattle egret							✓	✓
Little egret		✓					✓	✓
Great white egret						✓	✓	✓
Grey heron			✓		✓		✓	✓
White stork	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Black stork							✓	✓
Spoonbill		✓					✓	
Mute swan		✓					✓	✓
Greylag goose								✓
Shelduck							✓	✓
Wigeon								✓
Garganey								✓
Mallard		✓			✓	✓	✓	✓
Pochard							✓	
Short-toed eagle		✓		✓				
Booted Eagle		✓						
Marsh harrier							✓	
Montagu's harrier								✓
Common buzzard		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Lesser kestrel				✓				
Common kestrel			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Red-footed falcon			✓	✓	✓	✓		
Hobby				✓	✓	✓	✓	
Peregrine				✓				
Quail	H							
Pheasant								✓
Corncrake	H	H		H			H	
Water rail				H				
Moorhen								✓
Coot							✓	✓
Black-winged stilt							✓	✓
Avocet								✓
Lapwing								✓
Greenshank						H		
Black-headed gull								✓
Yellow-legged gull				✓			✓	✓
Common tern							✓	
Little tern							✓	
White-winged black tern							✓	✓
Rock dove/feral pigeon					✓	✓	✓	✓
Woodpigeon				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Collared dove				✓			✓	✓
Turtle dove			✓					
Cuckoo		✓	✓	H	✓	H	H	H
Tawny owl					✓			
Long-eared owl						✓		
Swift				✓			✓	✓
Alpine swift	✓							
Bee-eater								✓
Hoopoe				✓				✓

Wryneck	H		H	✓	H	H	✓	
Green woodpecker					✓	H		
Grey-headed woodpecker						H	✓	
Three-toed woodpecker					✓			
Great spotted woodpecker			✓	H		✓	✓	
Woodlark				✓				
Skylark				✓	✓	✓	✓	
Swallow		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
House martin		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Tree pipit			✓		✓	✓	✓	
Ashy-headed Yellow wagtail							✓	✓
Grey wagtail					✓	✓		
White wagtail			✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
Wren		H	✓		✓	✓		
Robin		H		H	✓	✓	✓	
Nightingale								H
Black redstart			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Redstart			H				✓	
Whinchat		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	
Blackbird		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Fieldfare		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Song thrush		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Mistle thrush			✓				✓	
Cetti's warbler							H	H
Sedge warbler			✓		✓			
Marsh warbler		H				H		
Reed warbler						H		
Great reed warbler						✓	✓	
Melodious warbler							H	
Barred warbler			H		H		✓	
Lesser whitethroat				H				
Whitethroat							H	
Garden Warbler					✓			
Blackcap		✓	✓	H	H	✓	H	H
Chiffchaff			H	H	✓	✓		
Goldcrest					H			
Firecrest						✓		
Spotted flycatcher				H	✓	✓		
Long-tailed tit					✓	✓		
Marsh tit								✓
Willow tit						✓		
Crested tit			✓					
Coal tit			H		✓	✓		
Blue tit			✓	✓	✓	✓		
Great tit		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	
Nuthatch		H		H	✓	✓	H	
Treecreeper					H	✓		
Short-toed treecreeper			✓	H		H		
Golden oriole			✓	H	H	H	✓	
Red-backed shrike		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Jay		✓	✓	✓	✓			
Magpie		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Nutcracker					H			
Jackdaw		✓					✓	
Hooded crow		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Raven					✓	✓		
Starling		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
House sparrow		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Chaffinch			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Serin			✓	✓	✓			
Common rosefinch					✓			
Greenfinch			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Goldfinch		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Linnet			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Crossbill			✓		H	H		
Bullfinch				✓	✓			
Hawfinch				✓	✓	✓		
Yellowhammer		✓	✓			✓	✓	
Corn bunting				✓			✓	

AMPHIBIANS	REPTILES	MAMMALS	
smooth newt	Dalmatian algyroides	mole (hills)	coypu
Italian great crested newt	Horvath's rock lizard	whiskered/Brandt's bat	lesser horseshoe bat
common tree frog	Italian wall lizard	mouse/voile sp.	red fox
marsh frog		beech marten (farm roof)	wild boar (diggings)
pool frog		roe deer	

BUTTERFLIES			
swallowtail	Glanville fritillary	small white	green hairstreak
scarce swallowtail	spotted fritillary (larvae)	green-veined white	common blue
clouded Apollo	Nickerl's fritillary	orange tip	silver-studded blue
southern festoon	heath fritillary	wood white	Adonis blue
red admiral	knapweed fritillary	black-veined white	green-undersided blue
painted lady	nettle-tree	clouded yellow	small blue
comma	meadow brown	Berger's clouded yellow	baton blue
peacock	woodland brown	brimstone	holly blue
	woodland ringlet	Duke-of-Burgundy	sooty copper
	small heath		grizzled skipper

MOTHS			
<i>Yponomeuta cagnagella</i>	burnet companion	hummingbird hawk-moth	clouded buff
common forester	burnished brass	Tau emperor	argent and sable
speckled yellow	lackey moth (larva)	Mother Shipton	

OTHER INVERTEBRATES			
Coleoptera	Mecoptera	Orthoptera	
<i>Cetonia aurata</i> rose chafer	<i>Panorpa communis</i> scorpion fly	<i>Gryllus campestris</i> field cricket	
<i>Coccinella septempunctata</i>	<b>Neuroptera</b>		<i>Polysarcus denticauda</i>
7-spotted ladybird	<i>Euroleon nostras</i> ant-lion		large saw-tailed bush cricket
<i>Lamia textor</i> weaver beetle	<i>Libelloides macaronius</i> ascalaphid		<b>MOLLUSCS</b>
<b>Hymenoptera</b>		<b>Odonata</b>	
<i>Formica rufa</i> wood ant	<i>Sympetrum sanguineum</i> ruddy darter		<i>Cepaea nemoralis</i> banded snail
<i>Vespa crabro</i> hornet			<i>Helix aspersa</i> garden snail
<i>Xylocopa violacea</i> carpenter bee			<i>Helix pomatia</i> Roman snail
			<b>DIPLOPODS</b>
			<i>Brachydesmus inferus</i> cave millipede

### PLANTS (not exhaustive)

MOSSES	
<i>Polytrichum commune</i>	
FERNS & ALLIES	
<i>Adiantum capillus-veneris</i>	southern maidenhair fern
<i>Asplenium trichomanes</i>	maidenhair spleenwort
<i>Ceterach officinarum</i>	rusty-back fern
<i>Dryopteris filix-mas</i>	male fern
<i>Gymnocarpium dryopteris</i>	oak fern
<i>Ophioglossum vulgatum</i>	adderstongue fern
<i>Phyllitis scolopendrium</i>	hart's-tongue fern
<i>Polypodium vulgare</i>	polypody
<i>Polystichum lonchitis</i>	holly fern
<i>Pteridium aquilinum</i>	bracken
CONIFERS	
<i>Abies alba</i>	silver fir
<i>Juniperus communis</i>	juniper
<i>Pinus nigra</i>	black pine
<i>P. sylvestris</i>	Scots pine
DICOTYLEDONS	
Aceraceae	
<i>Acer campestre</i>	field maple
<i>A. monspessulanum</i>	Montpelier maple
<i>A. monspessulanum</i> <i>x campestre</i>	
<i>A. platanoides</i>	Norway maple
<i>A. pseudoplatanus</i>	sycamore
Anacardiaceae	
<i>Cotinus coggygria</i>	smoke bush
Apiaceae	
<i>Aegopodium podagraria</i>	ground elder
<i>Anthriscus sylvestris</i>	cow parsley
<i>Hacquetia epipactis</i>	
<i>Heracleum sphondylium</i>	hogweed

Apiaceae (cont'd)	
<i>Laserpitium siler</i>	
<i>Myrrhis odorata</i>	sweet cicely
<i>Orlaya grandiflora</i>	
<i>Sanicula europaea</i>	sanicle
Apocynaceae	
<i>Vinca minor</i>	lesser periwinkle
Araliaceae	
<i>Hedera helix</i>	ivy
Aristolochiaceae	
<i>Asarum europaeum</i>	asarabacca
<i>Aristolochia clematidis</i>	birthwort
<i>A. rotunda</i>	round-leaved birthwort
Asclepiadaceae	
<i>Vincetoxicum</i>	
<i>hirundinaria</i>	swallow-wort
Asphodelaceae	
<i>Asphodelus albus</i>	white asphodelus
Asteraceae	
<i>Achillea millefolium</i>	yarrow
<i>Aposeris foetida</i>	
<i>Artemisia alba</i>	
<i>A. campestre</i>	field wormwood
<i>Bellis perennis</i>	daisy
<i>Bupththalmum</i>	
<i>salicifolium</i>	yellow ox-eye
<i>Carduus nutans</i>	musk thistle
<i>Carlina corymbosa</i>	
<i>Centaurea triumfetti</i>	perennial cornflower
<i>Cichorium intybus</i>	chicory
<i>Cirsium erysithales</i>	yellow melancholy thistle
<i>C. oleraceum</i>	cabbage thistle
<i>C. pannonicum</i>	

<b>Asteraceae (cont'd)</b>	
<i>Jacobea paludosa</i>	fen ragwort
<i>Leucanthemum vulgare</i>	ox-eye daisy
<i>Mycelis muralis</i>	wall lettuce
<i>Petasites paradoxus</i>	Alpine butterbur
<i>Serratula tinctoria</i>	saw-wort
<b>Boraginaceae</b>	
<i>Echium vulgare</i>	viper's-bugloss
<i>Omphalodes verna</i>	blue-eyed-Mary
<i>Pulmonaria officinalis</i>	lungwort
<i>Symphytum tuberosum</i>	tuberous comfrey
<b>Brassicaceae</b>	
<i>Arabis turrata</i>	tower-cress
<i>Biscutella laevigata</i>	
<i>Cardamine amara</i>	large bittercress
<i>C. bulbifera</i>	coralroot bittercress
<i>C. enneaphyllos</i>	
<i>C. pentaphylla</i>	
<i>C. pratensis</i>	lady's smock
<i>C. trifolia</i>	
<i>Diplotaxis tenuifolius</i>	perennial wall-rocket
<i>Lunaria rediviva</i>	perennial honesty
<b>Campanulaceae</b>	
<i>Campanula glomerata</i>	clustered bellflower
<i>C. patula</i>	spreading bellflower
<i>C. persicifolia</i>	peach-leaved bellflower
<i>C. rapunculoides</i>	creeping bellflower
<i>C. rotundifolius</i>	harebell
<i>C. trachelium</i>	nettle-leaved bellflower
<i>Phyteuma orbiculare</i>	round-headed rampion
<i>P. scheuchzeri</i>	Oxford rampion
<i>P. spicatum</i>	spiked rampion
<b>Caprifoliaceae</b>	
<i>Lonicera alpigena</i>	Alpine honeysuckle
<i>L. caprifolia</i>	
<i>L. xylosteum</i>	fly honeysuckle
<i>Sambucus ebulus</i>	dwarf elder
<i>S. nigra</i>	elder
<i>S. racemosa</i>	red-berried elder
<i>Viburnum lantana</i>	wayfaring tree
<i>V. opulus</i>	guelder rose
<b>Caryophyllaceae</b>	
<i>Cerastium arvense</i>	field mouse-ear
<i>Dianthus carthusianorum</i>	Carthusian pink
<i>D. sylvestris</i>	
ssp. <i>tergestinus</i>	wood pink
<i>D. monspessulanus</i>	fringed pink
<i>Lychnis flos-cuculi</i>	ragged-Robin
<i>Silene alba</i>	white campion
<i>S. dioica</i>	red campion
<i>S. nutans</i>	Nottingham catchfly
<i>S. vulgaris</i>	bladder campion
<b>Celastraceae</b>	
<i>Euonymus europaeus</i>	spindle
<i>E. verrucosus</i>	warty spindle
<b>Cistaceae</b>	
<i>Helianthemum nummularium</i>	rock-rose
<b>Convolvulaceae</b>	
<i>Convolvulus cantabricus</i>	pink convolvulus
<b>Cornaceae</b>	
<i>Cornus mas</i>	cornelian cherry
<i>C. sanguinea</i>	dogwood
<b>Corylaceae</b>	
<i>Carpinus betulus</i>	hornbeam
<i>C. orientalis</i>	eastern hornbeam
<i>Corylus avellana</i>	hazel
<i>Ostrya carpinifolia</i>	hop-hornbeam
<b>Crassulaceae</b>	
<i>Sedum acre</i>	wall-pepper
<i>S. maximum</i>	large stonecrop
<i>S. telephium</i>	orpine

<b>Cucurbitaceae</b>	
<i>Bryonia dioica</i>	white bryony
<b>Dipsacaceae</b>	
<i>Knautia arvensis</i>	field scabious
<i>K. drymeia</i>	
<i>K. illyrica</i>	
<i>Scabiosa gramuntia</i>	
<b>Ericaceae</b>	
<i>Calluna vulgaris</i>	common heather
<b>Euphorbiaceae</b>	
<i>Euphorbia amygdaloides</i>	wood spurge
<i>E. carniolica</i>	Carniolan spurge
<i>E. cyparissias</i>	cypress spurge
<i>E. fragifera</i>	
<i>E. helioscopia</i>	sun spurge
<i>E. wulfenii</i>	large Mediterranean spurge
<i>Mercurialis ovata</i>	
<i>M. perennis</i>	dog's mercury
<b>Fabaceae</b>	
<i>Amorpha fruticosa</i>	false indigo
<i>Anthyllis montana</i>	
ssp. <i>Jacquinii</i>	mountain kidney-vetch
<i>A. vulneraria</i>	kidney-vetch
<i>Cercis siliquastrum</i>	Judas tree
<i>Chamaespartium sagittale</i>	winged broom
<i>Coronilla emerus</i>	shrubby scorpion-vetch
<i>Dorycnium germanicum</i>	
<i>Genista sericea</i>	
<i>G. tinctoria</i>	dyer's greenweed
<i>Hippocrepis comosa</i>	horseshoe vetch
<i>Laburnum anagyroides</i>	laburnum
<i>Lathyrus niger</i>	black pea
<i>L. pratensis</i>	meadow vetchling
<i>L. venetus</i>	
<i>L. verna</i>	spring pea
<i>Lotus corniculatus</i>	bird's-foot-trefoil
<i>L. uliginosus</i>	marsh bird's-foot-trefoil
<i>Ononis spinosa</i>	spiny rest-harrow
<i>Trifolium alpestre</i>	mountain zigzag clover
<i>T. campestre</i>	hop-trefoil
<i>Vicia cracca</i>	tufted vetch
<i>V. oroboides</i>	yellowish vetch
<b>Fagaceae</b>	
<i>Fagus sylvatica</i>	beech
<i>Quercus cerris</i>	turkey oak
<i>Q. ilex</i>	holm oak
<i>Q. petraea</i>	sessile oak
<i>Q. pubescens</i>	downy oak
<i>Q. robur</i>	pedunculate oak
<b>Gentianaceae</b>	
<i>Gentiana asclepiadea</i>	willow gentian
<i>G. lutea</i>	great yellow gentian
<b>Geraniaceae</b>	
<i>Geranium phaeum</i>	dusky cranesbill
<i>G. purpureum</i>	little-Robin
<i>G. robertianum</i>	herb-Robert
<i>G. sanguineum</i>	bloody cranesbill
<i>G. sylvaticum</i>	wood cranesbill
<b>Grossulariaceae</b>	
<i>Hypericum perforatum</i>	perforate St. John's-wort
<b>Hippuridaceae</b>	
<i>Hippuris vulgaris</i>	mare's-tail
<b>Lamiaceae</b>	
<i>Acinos alpinus</i>	alpine basil-thyme
<i>A. arvensis</i>	basil-thyme
<i>Ajuga genevensis</i>	
<i>A. reptans</i>	bugle
<i>Glechoma hederacea</i>	ground-ivy
<i>Lamiaeum galaeobdolon</i>	yellow archangel
<i>Lamium album</i>	white dead-nettle
<i>L. orvala</i>	

<b>Lamiaceae (cont'd)</b>	
<i>Melittis melissophyllum</i>	bastard-balm
<i>Mentha aquatica</i>	water mint
<i>Origanum vulgare</i>	marjoram
<i>Prunella laciniata</i>	cut-leaved self-heal
<i>P. vulgaris</i>	self-heal
<i>P. grandiflora</i>	large-flowered self-heal
<i>Salvia glutinosa</i>	sticky sage
<i>S. pratensis</i>	meadow clary
<i>Satureja variegata</i>	
<i>Stachys alopecuroides</i>	
<i>S. officinalis</i>	betony
<i>Teucrium chamaedrys</i>	wall germander
<i>T. montanum</i>	mountain germander
<i>Thymus longicaulis</i>	wild thyme
<b>Linaceae</b>	
<i>Linum bienne</i>	pale flax
<i>L. narbonense</i>	perennial flax
<b>Loranthaceae</b>	
<i>Loranthus europaeus</i>	yellow-berried mistletoe
<b>Nymphaeaceae</b>	
<i>Nymphaea alba</i>	white water-lily
<b>Oleaceae</b>	
<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>	ash
<i>F. ornus</i>	mannan ash
<b>Oxalidaceae</b>	
<i>Oxalis acetosella</i>	wood sorrel
<b>Paeoniaceae</b>	
<i>Paeonia officinalis</i>	common peony
<b>Papaveraceae</b>	
<i>Chelidonium majus</i>	greater celandine
<b>Plantaginaceae</b>	
<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>	ribwort plantain
<i>P. media</i>	hoary plantain
<b>Polygalaceae</b>	
<i>Polygala chamaebuxus</i>	shrubby milkwort
<i>P. comosa</i>	tufted milkwort
<i>P. nicaeensis</i>	
<b>Primulaceae</b>	
<i>Cyclamen purpurascens</i>	sowbread
<i>Primula veris</i>	cowslip
<i>P. vulgaris</i>	primrose
<b>Ranunculaceae</b>	
<i>Aconitum vulparia</i>	wolf's-bane
<i>Actaea spicata</i>	baneberry
<i>Anemone nemorosa</i>	wood anemone
<i>A. trifolia</i>	
<i>Aquilegia vulgaris</i>	columbine
<i>Caltha palustris</i>	marsh marigold
<i>Clematis alpina</i>	alpine clematis
<i>C. recta</i>	
<i>C. vitalba</i>	traveller's joy
<i>C. viticella</i>	
<i>Helleborus multifidus</i>	
<i>H. niger</i>	Christmas rose
<i>Hepatica nobilis</i>	hepatica
<i>Isopyrum thalictroides</i>	rue-leaved isopyrum
<i>Pulsatilla montana</i>	mountain pasqueflower
<i>Ranunculus aconitifolius</i>	
<i>R. acris</i>	meadow buttercup
<i>R. flammula</i>	lesser spearwort
<i>R. platanifolius</i>	
<i>Thalictrum aquilegifolium</i>	greater meadow-rue
<i>Trollius europaeus</i>	globe-flower
<b>Rhamnaceae</b>	
<i>Frangula alnus</i>	alder buckthorn
<i>Rhamnus alpina</i>	Alpine buckthorn
<i>R. catharticus</i>	common buckthorn
<i>R. saxatilis</i>	rock buckthorn
<b>Rosaceae</b>	
<i>Aruncus dioicus</i>	goatsbeard spiraea
<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	hawthorn
<i>Dryas octopetala</i>	mountain avens

<b>Rosaceae (cont'd)</b>	
<i>Filipendula ulmaria</i>	meadowsweet
<i>F. vulgaris</i>	dropwort
<i>Fragaria moschata</i>	
<i>F. vesca</i>	wild strawberry
<i>Geum rivale</i>	water avens
<i>G. urbanum</i>	wood avens
<i>Potentilla alba</i>	white cinquefoil
<i>P. anserina</i>	silverweed
<i>P. erecta</i>	tormentil
<i>P. reptans</i>	creeping cinquefoil
<i>Prunus mahaleb</i>	St. Lucie's cherry
<i>Prunus padus</i>	bird cherry
<i>Rosa arvensis</i>	field rose
<i>R. canina</i>	dog rose
<i>R. pimpinellifolia</i>	burnet rose
<i>Rubus fruticosus</i>	bramble
<i>Sanguisorba major</i>	great burnet
<i>S. minor</i>	salad burnet
<i>Sorbus aria</i>	whitebeam
<i>S. aucuparia</i>	rowan
<i>Spiraea chamaedryfolia</i>	
<b>Rubiaceae</b>	
<i>Galium cruciata</i>	crosswort
<i>G. lucidum</i>	shining bedstraw
<i>G. palustre</i>	marsh bedstraw
<i>G. verum</i>	lady's bedstraw
<i>Rubia peregriana</i>	wild madder
<b>Rutaceae</b>	
<i>Dictamnus albus</i>	burning-bush
<b>Salicaceae</b>	
<i>Populus alba</i>	white poplar
<i>P. nigra</i>	black poplar
<i>Salix arbuscula</i>	mountain willow
<i>S. alba</i>	white willow
<i>S. daphnoides</i>	violet willow
<i>S. fragilis</i>	crack willow
<i>S. rosmarinifolia</i>	rosemary-leaved willow
<b>Saxifragaceae</b>	
<i>Chrysosplenium oppositifolium</i>	opposite-leaved golden-saxifrage
<i>Saxifraga cochlearis</i>	
<i>S. cuneifolia</i>	spoon-leaved saxifrage
<i>S. rotundifolia</i>	round-leaved saxifrage
<b>Scrophulariaceae</b>	
<i>Antirrhinum majus</i>	snapdragon
<i>Digitalis grandiflora</i>	large yellow foxglove
<i>Melampyrum carstiense</i>	
<i>Rhinanthus angustifolius</i>	greater yellow-rattle
<i>R. minor</i>	yellow-rattle
<i>Verbascum nigrum</i>	dark mullein
<i>Veronica longifolia</i>	long-leaved speedwell
<b>Simaroubaceae</b>	
<i>Ailanthus altissima</i>	tree-of-Heaven
<b>Solanaceae</b>	
<i>Solanum dulcamara</i>	woody nightshade
<b>Staphyleaceae</b>	
<i>Staphylea pinnata</i>	bladder-nut
<b>Thymelaeaceae</b>	
<i>Daphne laureola</i>	spurge-laurel
<i>D. mezereum</i>	mezeoreon
<b>Tiliaceae</b>	
<i>Tilia cordata</i>	small-leaved lime
<b>Ulmaceae</b>	
<i>Celtis australis</i>	nettle-tree
<i>Ulmus glabra</i>	wych elm
<b>Valerianaceae</b>	
<i>Valeriana dioica</i>	marsh valerian
<i>V. officinalis</i>	common valerian
<i>V. tripteris</i>	3-leaved valerian
<b>Violaceae</b>	
<i>Viola elatior</i>	shrubby violet
<i>V. reichenbachiana</i>	early dog violet

**MONOCOTYLEDONS****Alismataceae***Alisma plantago-aquatica* water-plantain**Amaryllidaceae***Leucojum aestivum* summer snowflake*Narcissus poeticus*var. *radiiflorus***Dioscoreaceae***Tamus communis* black bryony**Iridaceae***Gladiolus palustris**Iris graminea**I. pseudacorus* yellow flag*I. sibirica***Liliaceae***Allium schoenoprasum* chives*A. ursinum* ramsons*Asparagus acutifolius**A. tenuifolius**Convallaria majalis* lily-of-the-valley*Lilium bulbiferum* orange lily*L. martagon* martagon lily*Maianthemum bifolia* may lily*Ornithogalum comosum* star-of-Bethlehem*O. pyrenaicum* Bath asparagus

(=spiked star-of-Bethlehem)

*Paris quadrifolia* herb-Paris  
scented Solomon's-seal*Polygonatum odoratum*  
*P. verticillatum* whorled Solomon's-seal*Ruscus aculeatus* butcher's-broom*Veratrum nigrum* black false helleborine**Orchidaceae***Cephalanthera longifolia* sword-leaved helleborine*C. damasonium* white helleborine*Coeloglossum viride* frog orchid*Dactylorhiza fuchsia* common spotted orchid*D. incarnata* early marsh-orchid*D. maculata* heath spotted-orchid*Gymnadenia conopsea* fragrant orchid*Listera ovata* twayblade*Neottia nidus-avis* bird's-nest orchid*N. tridentata* three-toothed orchid*Ophrys apifera* bee orchid*Orchis laxiflora* loose-flowered orchid*O. mascula* early purple orchid*O. militaris* military orchid*O. morio* green-winged orchid*O. purpurea* lady orchid*O. ustulata* burnt-tip orchid*Platanthera chlorantha* greater butterfly-orchid*Serapias vomeracea* tongue orchid*Traunsteineria globosa* round-headed orchid**Poaceae***Briza media* quaking grass*Stipa eriocalis*ssp. *Austriaca* feather grass



Mr. Chris Durdin  
HoneyguideWildlife Holidays  
36 Thunder Lane  
Thorpe St Andrew  
Norwich NR7 0PX



Društvo za opazovanje in  
proučevanje ptic Slovenije  
Tržaška cesta 2  
SI - 1000 Ljubljana  
Slovenija  
T +386 1 426 58 75  
F +386 1 425 11 81  
dopps@dopps.si  
www.ptice.si

ID za DDV: SI68956029  
TRR: SI56 0201 8001 8257 011

Ljubljana, 30th of June, 2017

Dear Mr. Durdin (and all Honeyguide participants on the tour),

thank you very much for the donation of €250 received from the recent Honeyguide tour in Slovenia. I am glad we could help with the visit of our Škocjanski zatok Nature Reserve.

We intend to use the donation to support the conservation work in the Škocjanski zatok Nature Reserve.

Looking forward to your return to Slovenia in the future.

Yours sincerely,

Nataša Šalaja, Head of Škocjanski zatok Nature Reserve