

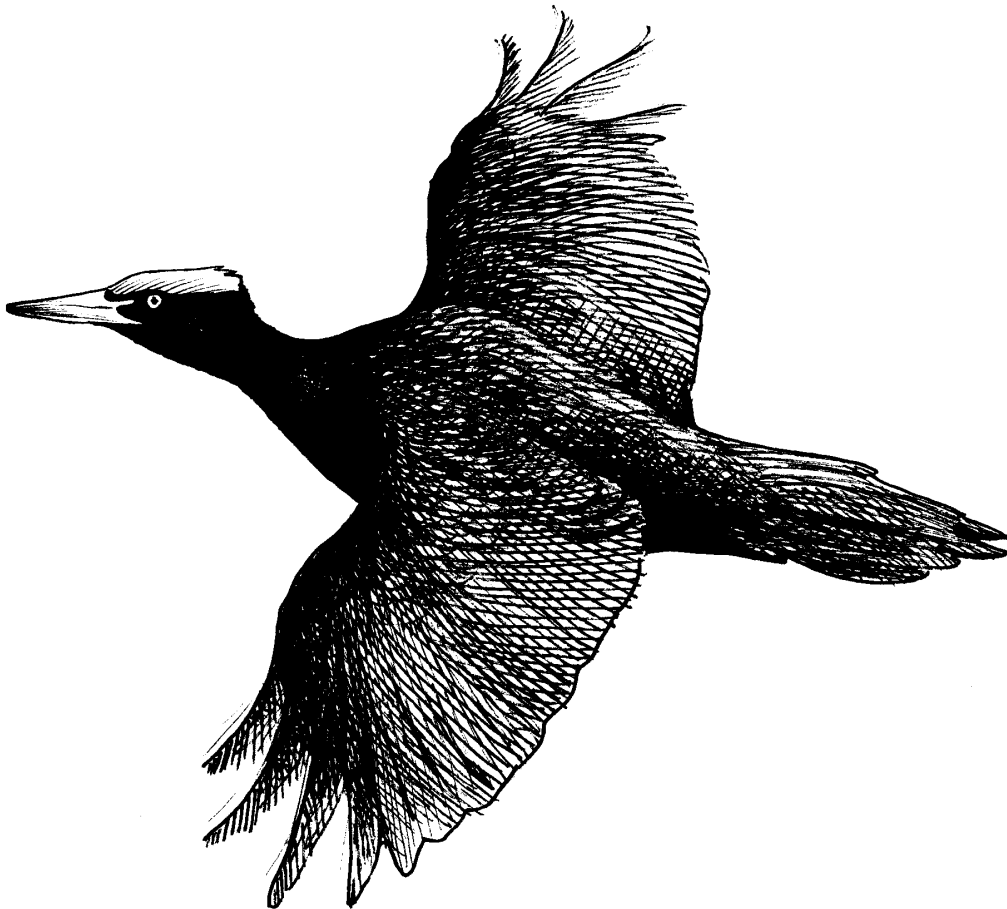
Honeyguide

WILDLIFE HOLIDAYS

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**From the Alps to the Adriatic
Eastern Italy and Slovenia
Salisbury & District Natural History Society
7 – 14 June 2005**

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Holiday participants

Rosemary and Gerald Nicholls

Jim and Brenda Wade

Margaret Pragnell

Christopher Reynolds

Ann Sanders

Audrey Lovett
Brenda Davis

Ailsa McKee
Elisabeth Richmond

Pamela James
Grace Hickman

Joan Tripp
Marigold Woolley

Leaders/drivers

Paul Tout
Chris Durdin

Report by Chris Durdin and Paul Tout

*Illustrations by Rob Hume, except black-winged stilt flock by Gary Wright
Front cover: black woodpecker*

As with all Honeyguide holidays, £25 of the price of the holiday was put towards a conservation project, in this case for the first time to ASTORE – FVG, a recently established conservation organisation for Friuli-Venezia Giulia, and part of a network of similar bodies in regions in Italy. The conservation contribution this year of £25 per person was supplemented by gift aid through the new Honeyguide Wildlife Charitable Trust, leading to a total of €702 (£480).

A cheque was handed to Paul Tout on behalf of ASTORE – FVG during the holiday. Rather than a thank you letter attached to this holiday report, he is arranging that all holiday participants will become members of ASTORE – FVG for one year, and there will be a newsletter sent some time.

The conservation contributions from all Honeyguide holidays totalled £33,330 at the end of 2004 and will be in the region of £38,000 by the end of 2005.

From the Alps to the Adriatic
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Tuesday 7 June – England to Italy

All were safely gathered at Stansted for the 11.15 Ryanair flight that left on time and, apart from a little turbulence over the Alps, took us safely and on time to Trieste. Paul Tout was there to meet us with his minibus and an almost new hire minibus with just 3,000 kilometres on the clock. Less than half an hour later we were in Paul's home village of Malchina, where we were to be split between the two *agritourismi* of the Mezzaluna (half-moon) and Al Carso (at the Karst). Mezzaluna has the twin beds, though mysteriously all made up as doubles, but they were separated later. There was an equally confused lack of welcome at the Al Carso having arrived during a siesta, we think, but again that was quickly sorted. Tea and biscuits followed at Paul's house, where we met Ann and their two daughters, Marion and Sarah.

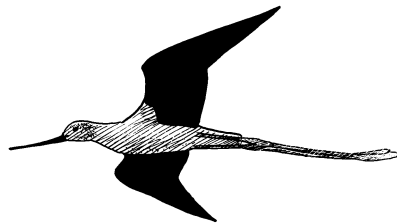
It was surprisingly cool with a wind – the *Bora* – blowing strongly from the east. But apart from a few spots it was dry, and a tour around Malchina helped us to find our way round the village, especially the two hotels and Paul's house. There were few birds but rustyback, maidenhair spleenwort and wall-rue ferns were noted on the limestone walls. Paul then returned from a trip to swap minibuses at Trieste and took us to the *dolina* or swallow-hole near his house. He explained how the limestone Karst is riddled with caves and the dolinas are the result of collapses in the cave system. Being depressions in the ground they trap cool air, and this combined with where the sun does and doesn't reach gives a range of micro-climates with relict plants and other wildlife as the result of the unusual conditions. The inflatable pods and large seeds of bladdernut, sessile oaks, dogwood and hazel and were among the natives with the invasive tree-of-heaven and false acacia invasive aliens. The cold wind meant little other than blackcaps were singing, though we had seen a great tit with food disappearing into a concrete telephone post by the house. Flowers included rampion bellflower, spiked star-of-Bethlehem and yellow woundwort

We all gathered at the Al Carso for a tasty supper of pasta/gnocchi for starters followed by (mostly) pork in breadcrumbs then ricotta pie, with a generous supply of white and red wine.

Wednesday 8 June - around Malchina and Cona

Another slight glitch: today's bread was late arriving for breakfast, but the baker was quickly advised that sooner would be better in future, as indeed it was... But it was good breakfast and as it was fine, warm morning with the wind now gone, a local stroll walk into the Karst was the plan. As the day warmed the butterflies got going, and with Paul and Chris armed with nets we were soon seeing silver-studded blue, Queen-of-Spain fritillary and ilex hairstreak among more than 20 species. Many of these were in an uncut hay field margin. A large bird of prey overhead, then three, turned out to be honey buzzards – often seen here on migration but for the first time in Paul's many years here showing signs of being resident. There was a brief view of golden oriole and a woodlark was singing. Three hoopoes fed in a field of harvested hay – and these threesomes turned out to be quite a regular pattern.

A family of five woodlarks and a patch of the attractive *Orlaya grandiflora* umbellifer, with its large outer petals, were much appreciated. All morning, there were many field crickets of varying shaped, sizes and colours, but on the final leg they numbered in 100s. An ascalaphid *Libelluloides macaronius* was caught, as the sun went in and cooled. Chequered blue was the final new butterfly for the morning before we were back in Paul's garden for lunch: homemade rolls, *focaccia* and chocolate brownies. Much to Paul's embarrassment and delight, lunchtime then produced two new birds species for the garden list, turtle dove and a lesser spotted woodpecker.

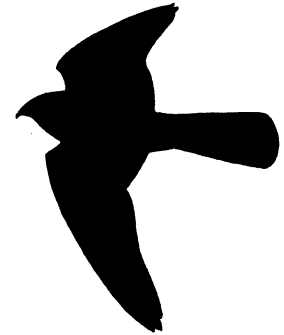


A cloudier afternoon and a local drive to Isolla della Cona, a remarkable new wetland created by the regional government during the last 15 years. From the visitor centre / first hide, there was the expected scatter of little egrets and black-winged stilts, plus garganey, teal, a white-fronted goose (a wounded bird), great white egret and a family party of tree sparrows. From the second hide there were three spoonbills, one of which has two rings from the Danube in Croatia. A little bittern flew through all too briefly but the eight great white egrets and a breeding plumage night

heron gave splendid views. Rosemary was the only one to see the noisy great reed warbler singing throughout the time we were in the hide.

Grass snakes were spotted by alert group members in a pond as we walked back, a green lizard dashed off the path, but two mating hummingbird hawkmoths sat on the path and were easy to see, for this usually zappy, fast-flying insect. Seeing speckled wood butterfly wasn't a great surprise, except that we'd seen the northern form (as found in the UK) in Malchina but the brighter southern form just a few miles away here.

After supper, Jupiter and four moons were shining bright; a nightjar (*right*) flew across in response to Paul's sound kit; and a scops owl responded in seconds, flew into the tree behind us and called for several minutes.



Highlights of the day were night heron, grass snake, golden oriole, Queen-of-Spain fritillary, spoonbills and honey buzzards

Thursday 9 June 2005 - Cerknisko Jezero

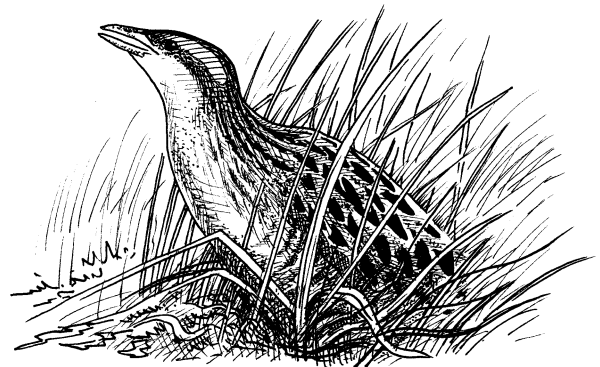
Bright sunshine greeted the participants and augured well for a warm day, tricking Chris into shorts and Paul into going out without a jumper... luckily the participants were not so easily fooled and brought better clothes. The local resident birds were active with singing hoopoe, woodlark and nightingale within earshot of the hotel although for the second day in a row a hawfinch revealed itself only to Paul.

The motorway took us quickly to Unec then Cerknica, some 75 minutes. The first stop was at the edge of the Karstic lake of Cerknisko Jezero with *Euphoria palustris*, ashy-headed wagtail, marsh warbler, tree pipit, whitethroat, wryneck and yellowhammer. Gerald was on the look out for his first black-veined white butterfly, a species long extinct in the UK, and his first (of many on the holiday) was sitting still in the cold air on a flower in the first of many wonderful flower filled meadows.

Cold and breezy with the *Bora* from the north-east, the sky rapidly clouded over after we arrived and we were treated to just the occasional sunny spell for the rest of the day. Out of the wind, however, it was reasonably warm as we did the full circuit of Cerknisko Jezero, with various stops along the way.

The gravel road to Otok took us past nice views of the Karstic lake with great crested grebe and dabchick noted along the way. At Otok we stopped for our excellent picnic, prepared by Ann. A common redstart was noted, hobbies were hunting overhead and various nice plants included knotted cranesbill, asarabacca and orange lily.

Moving on, a Slovenian village held black redstart feeding young with a fieldfare on a meadow and our first spotted flycatcher. Move on to a causeway across a spur of the lake there were red-backed shrike, whinchat, tree pipit, corncrake (heard and pictured, right) and, growing prostrate by the road edge, clustered broom *Chaemocytisus supinus*.



Another causeway and there were hobbies, marsh warbler, sedge warbler, reed warbler, ashy-headed wagtail, whinchat and reed bunting. Then a brief stop on eastern bank of lake for saw-wort also revealed red-backed shrike and quail.

A longer stop on the bed of the lake, from the village of Zerovnica, produced early marsh and loose-flowered orchid, summer snowflake, clustered bellflower and huge numbers of gladiolus. In the middle distance some 30 hobbies were feeding, perhaps on the large numbers of mayfly hatching from a stream flowing into the lake. Two marsh harriers plus more whinchats were found. For many of the participants the highlight of the day was the vast flowery meadows full of scabious, dropwort, gladiolus and yellow rattle covering hundreds if not thousand of hectares.

Final stop, having left the lake, was just outside the town of Cerknica at a new nest of white storks, where the pair were present and a changeover was observed. Just before the new guard was seen to settle down on the nest and the parent was rearranging the lining a small head was seen to pop up for a few seconds. The species is expanding westwards towards the Italian frontier. The return journey to Trieste was uneventful apart from a short queue at the border.

Highlights of the day were the meadows of flowers, black-veined white, hobbies and the black redstart feeding young.

Friday 10 June – the pre-Alps

Clear skies and no wind were a great relief this morning but temperatures were exceptionally low for the time of year at 9°C. A singing tawny owl, unusual in this area, woke a couple of the participants. Many were able to see a very large hare feeding on the hotel lawn and singing hoopoe, woodlark and turtle dove livened up the time up to departure.



Setting off up the motorway the pre-Alps rapidly came into view. A hobby flew round as we arrived at the griffon vulture project at Cornino. It's a well-established reintroduction scheme, originally with captive birds from zoos and injuries around Europe, and now with a good group of free-flying and partially migratory birds. They were immediately in view, including six birds in a stack in the rising warm air. The feeding platform also attracts ravens and a today black kite. The centre had some wildlife in cages too, injured birds, including a raven in a pet carrier in the loo. Griffons in a cage at the project had produced a chick and the local TV station turned up to take pictures and do an interview. We think that pictures of our group were on the local TV station. It's a warm, south facing slope – the micro-climate is one reason it was selected as suitable for griffons – and this encouraged butterflies to fly. Paul caught twin-spot and high brown fritillaries and a large tortoiseshell settled on Rosemary. Back at the car park, a wryneck was calling, Paul attracted it closer with his sound kit and it briefly it sat in the open on a dead tree.

A closed *agriturismo* with excellent picnic tables was ideal for lunch on the edge of a wood of black and Scots pines. Dusky cranesbill and wood white kept us company. Walking from there, the butterflies were showing well: the distinctive woodland brown, a relatively rare or local species, was soon in Paul's net. A clearing took us to wonderful views over meadows with *Clematis recta* and fragrant orchid. Paul and Chris retrieved the minibuses as the group wondered along a flower-filled lane, where another black and white butterfly was Hungarian glider. The route took us round Monte San Simeone with various micro-climates on each face. The final stop, a clearing that's the route through of an oil pipeline, led to our first swallowtail and – to remind Paul of his roots – an Essex skipper.

A warm afternoon meant the idea of ice cream was well-received and we stopped in Venzone. It's a pretty little town, rebuilt at great expense after an earthquake, and the street furniture is removable so it can be used as a film set. The owner of the bar remembered Paul from his last stop here with a Honeyguide group in 1998!

Highlights of the day were sharing the loo with a raven, black kite, griffons, woodland brown, Hungarian glider, stopping for an ice cream, swallowtail, watching Paul catch butterflies and the mountain views.

Saturday 11 June – Lake Doberdo and around the Karst

Around Malchina, the morning started with a hare, hoopoe, turtle dove and the usual woodlark singing.

Lake of Doberdo is a Karstic lake, this time in Italy and local to Malchina. Like much of the Karst the hillsides have become undergrazed and so overgrown, until the area burnt about six years ago. The clearance was generally beneficial but the vegetation is now recovering. The vegetation on the south-facing slope is thermophilic – heat loving – with isolated downy oak *Quercus pubescens* and many Mediterranean species such as terebinth tree, sarsaparilla *Smilax*, *Osyris alba*, Christ's-thorn *Paliurus spina-christa* and huge amounts of smoke bush. Flowers included wall germander, the pink *Dianthus sylvestris*, tunic flower and the pea *Dorycnium germanica*.

We took a gentle stroll down the road, from where birds included melodious warbler, corn bunting, a tatty short-toed eagle, stonechat, red-backed shrike and hoopoe. A rock bunting sat on a bush and gave astonishingly good views. We then turned off the road and down a few rough-hewn steps and onto a path that leads to a boardwalk over the lake itself – though pretty dry this time of the year. There were no birds of note hear but the best was yet to come as we walked back through the wood. A loud call alerted us to a black woodpecker and we waited to see if it would respond to Paul playing its call. Standing still and quiet, our patience was rewarded: a rather brownish-looking young male black woodpecker, without a red head, all too briefly landed on the tree right in front of us before quickly disappearing .

Heading towards the road, we turned our attention to butterflies, with Glanville Fritillary, great banded grayling, woodland grayling all new species. Chris and Paul left the group in the shade to retrieve the minibuses and we returned to Malchina for a late lunch in Paul's garden.

We stayed local for the afternoon with a visit to Cava Romana – Roman Quarry – a marble quarry. This is a breeding site for alpine swift and for crag martins, the latter busy mobbing a kestrel on the ground and their first breeding record for the province of Trieste. The song of black redstart echoed around the quarry and it took some finding until it came onto the crane. We then dropped down to the town of Sistiana for postcards, ice cream and stamps.

After supper at Al Carso as usual, there was a failed attempt to see nightjar in Paul's garden for nightjar. Several of us heard and glimpsed scops owl in the main square before walking back to the hotels as the rain started.

Highlights of the day were melodious warbler, alpine swifts, rock bunting, red-backed shrike, black woodpecker drumming, butterflies and seeing a marble quarry.

Sunday 12 June – Julian Alps at Montasio

With fierce rain forecast for Monday, we took the two hour trip into the high Alps with the hope of acceptable weather. The cloud was low but scarcely raining but it was distinctly chilly – woolly hats and fleeces were very welcome. This didn't seem to be a problem for the high mountain birds: a red-backed shrike was perched on a bush and a flock of some 50 Alpine choughs moved to and fro. A ring ouzel of the alpine subspecies *alpestris* – with scaly pale edges to feathers and a large wing panel – was feeding young. The scrub here supports a surprisingly English selection of birds: lesser whitethroat was chattering, a mistle thrush was seen, a dunnock was singing.

There were masses of flowers despite being a late year: alpine milkwort, horseshoe vetch, thyme, patches of monk's rhubarb, alpine ladies-mantle, spring gentian (not out due to the cool), alpine bistort and globe flower. The only butterfly was an orange-tip and that didn't fly.

After lunch, we strolled downhill through the silver fir and Norway spruce forest. Rings were counted on a cut stump: the tree dated from 1960. Here there were treecreeper (not short-toed), crested tit that responding to Paul's sound kit lure, plus both firecrest and goldcrest. Flowers included three-leaved valerian, alpine clematis, bilberry, wood cranesbill and spoon-leaved saxifrage.

It was getting rainier so a hot chocolate in a café in Sella Nevea was very well received. A red squirrel was seen from the window of the café.

Highlights of the day were ring ouzel, red-backed shrike, crested tit, scenery, alpine choughs, alpine flowers, treecreeper and, for Paul, getting the minibus there!

Monday 13 June – Val Rosandra

We parked by a chapel where on a previous visit Paul had noticed a hoopoe visiting a hole in the wall. With the aid of a torch, we could see three youngsters with their punk-style head feathers.

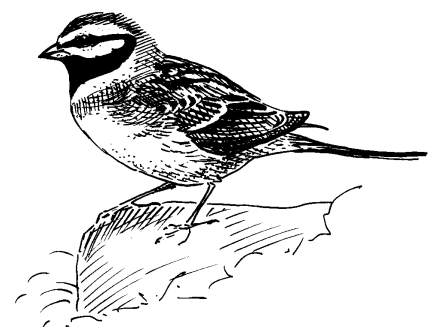
Val Rosandra is one of the few areas of Karst with a reasonable amount of open grassland remaining. From our first clearing in the scrub there was a short-toed eagle hovering, so stationary that it was easy to put telescopes on it. Other birds included hawfinch flying over, crested tit, and a tawny pipit heard. The many wonderful plants included alpine daphne, amelanchier (snowy mespilus) and the thistle-like Jurinea. It was incredibly rich for butterflies: among those examined were Oberthur's grizzled skipper, Niobe and false heath fritillary, scarce swallowtail and Bath white. A black woodpecker revealed itself to Paul and Chris R. We had admired the views down to Trieste but the gathering clouds encouraged a short-cut back. It wasn't quite short enough: the heavens opened and we had our only soaking of the trip.

Happily, the showers though fierce were local, and not far along the road we stopped for lunch in the Karst at Basovizza. There were excellent views of a perched woodlark, yellowhammer plus another niobe fritillary.

We crossed into Slovenia at Lipica, driving through the fenced paddock of the horses of the same name. An impromptu detour took us into the pretty village of Pliskovica. Paul had wondered about the hostel here as a base for holidays and made a spur of the moment enquiry. For Honeyguide holidays, the dormitory-style rooms of Slovenia's first youth hostel, opened two years ago, wasn't suitable, but that's by the by. It's a converted Karst house and we were all, as a group, invited in for a tour by the charming Tanya and Vanya. In the meantime, Chris B and Ann took a smallish group onto what became a successful search for a wryneck.

The two minibuses having re-found each other on the way out of Pliskovica, we drove through the woodland – scrubbed up Karst, sadly – until we re-entered Italy at a tiny border crossing at San Pelagio.

Highlights of the day were hoopoe nest, wryneck, hospitality of the two young ladies at the youth hostel, scarce swallowtail, woodlark, meadows and scenery, view over Trieste, curl bunting (*right*), butterflies, meadows and scenery and being able to put a telescope on a short-toed eagle.



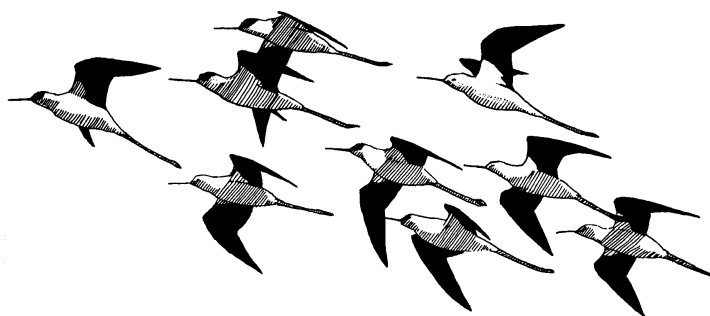
Tuesday 14 June – Trieste and home

Unusually this morning there were four of the local hoopoes in the group, not three!

With an early afternoon flight there was time both to pack at a civilised pace and take a trip to Trieste. Chris kept an eye on the laden minibuses in the city centre car park while Paul took a walking tour of the old town, taking in the Roman theatre, piazza Ponterosso and the site of the Berlitz school where a penniless James Joyce taught English for many years before the First World War, and Piazza Unità d'Italia.

A stop-off at the natural tunnel cut in the limestone on the coast to pick up lunches from Ann produced a some new birds for the holiday, namely shags and Sardinian warbler, plus good views of rock bunting, alpine swift and nightingale. The unusual shrub *Phillyrea latifolia* was growing here. On the drive to Trieste there was an all-too-brief view of a large raptor being mobbed by corvids, but a definite identification remains a mystery. Then it was a smooth check-in flight back to Stansted.

Highlights of the week were the meadows, butterflies and alpine flowers, views in the pre-Alps, ring ouzels, seeing Slovenia, good food and for Paul having such a nice group.



Birds

Little grebe	Cona and Cerknisko Jezero
Great crested grebe	Cerknisko Jezero
Shag	the Mediterranean race <i>desmarestii</i> , about 30 from the cliffs between Trieste and the airport
Little bittern	1 at Cona
Night heron	1 adult seen exceptionally well at Cona
Little egret	lots at Cona
Great white egret	8 at Cona
Grey heron	at Cona and 2 in the pre-Alps
Purple heron	2 at Cona
White stork	a new nest outside the town of Cerknica
Spoonbill	3 at Cona
Mute swan	Cona, introduced
White-fronted goose	1 at Cona likely to be an injured bird remaining from the winter
Greylag goose	Cona, introduced
Wigeon	2 males and 1 female at Cona
Teal	a pair at Cona
Garganey	2 at Cona
Mallard	seen on four days
Honey buzzard	3 seen well at Malchina on the first morning were one of the highlights of the first day. Singles at Cerknisko Jezero and in the pre-Alps
Black kite	1 at the griffon vulture re-introduction project at Cornino in the pre-Alps; 1 from the motorway on route to the Julian Alps
Egyptian vulture	1 at the griffon vulture re-introduction project at Cornino
Griffon vulture	about 20 at Cornino, not including those in cages
Short-toed eagle	in the Karst on two days, 1 at Lake Doberdo and 1 at Val Rosandra
Marsh harrier	1 at Cona
Common buzzard	seen on five days
Kestrel	seen on three days
Hobby	several overhead at the lunchtime stop at Cerknisko Jezero, then later a loose flock of about 30; 1 at Cornino in the pre-Alps
Quail	heard at Cerknisko Jezero

Pheasant	heard almost daily at Malchina but only seen on one day
Corncrake	heard at Cerknisko Jezero
Moorhen	Cona
Coot	Cona
Black-winged stilt	lots at Cona
Lapwing	Cona and the pre-Alps
Black-headed gull	1 only at Cona
Yellow-legged gull	almost daily
Feral pigeon	almost daily
Woodpigeon	just 1 in the pre-Alps
Collared dove	seen daily
Turtle dove	heard most days at Malchina by the Al Carso hotel, seen on two days
Cuckoo	heard daily but not seen all week
Scops owl	heard on five nights at Malchina and seen twice
Tawny owl	heard once at Malchina
Nightjar	seen by the Al Carso on the second evening and heard on day 4 also at Malchina
Swift	seen daily
Alpine swift	about 10 in the marble quarry at Cava Romana, also seen going to a nest in the cliffs between Trieste and the airport
Hoopoe	heard daily from the Al Carso hotel, and seen several times in groups of 3; a nest in a wall in a chapel at Val Rosandra
Wryneck	heard at Cerknisko Jezero; seen in the trees by the car park at Cornino; found and seen well by several in the group in the Slovenian Karst at Pliskovica
Green woodpecker	seen in the Karst at Malchina on the first full day and heard once more only
Black woodpecker	seen at Lake Doberdo and Val Rosandra
Lesser spotted woodpecker	a garden tick for Paul at lunchtime on the first full day
Woodlark	heard every day over the Al Carso hotel and seen on two of the Karst days
Skylark	2, singing at Montasio in the Julian Alps
Crag martin	2 in the marble quarry at Cava Romana
Swallow	seen daily
House martin	seen daily
Tawny pipit	Paul heard one at Val Rosandra
Tree pipit	Cerknisko Jezero and in the Julian Alps
Water pipit	at Montasio in the Julian Alps
Yellow wagtail	ashy-headed wagtails <i>Mf cinerocapilla</i> , the Italian and Balkan race, at Cerknisko Jezero
Grey wagtail	1 seen in the pre-Alps
White wagtail	seen daily
Dunnoek	singing at Montasio in the Julian Alps
Robin	heard in the pre-Alps; singing at Montasio in the Julian Alps
Nightingale	heard every day at Malchina and elsewhere, but not seen until the final day from the viewpoint on the cliffs between Trieste and the airport
Black redstart	seen almost daily
Redstart	1 at Cerknisko Jezero
Whinchat	Cerknisko Jezero and Montasio in the Julian Alps
Stonechat	Cerknisko Jezero and Lake Doberdo
Northern wheatear	Montasio in the Julian Alps
Blue rock thrush	heard at Cava Romana
Ring ouzel	3 at Montasio in the Julian Alps, the alpine subspecies <i>alpestris</i>
Blackbird	seen daily
Fieldfare	Cerknisko Jezero
Song thrush	pre-Alps and Julian Alps
Mistle thrush	recorded at Cerknisko Jezero, Julian Alps and Val Rosandra
Cetti's warbler	heard at Cona and on route to the Julian Alps
Sedge warbler	Cerknisko Jezero
Marsh warbler	Cerknisko Jezero
Reed warbler	heard at Cerknisko Jezero
Great reed warbler	heard loudly outside a hide at Cona but only one person managed to see it
Melodious warbler	seen well at Doberdo
Sardinian warbler	not recorded until the final day from the viewpoint on the cliffs between Trieste and the airport
(Barred warbler	known to occur at Val Rosandra and Paul saw a fleeting glimpse of what probably this eastern species)

Lesser whitethroat	singing at Montasio in the Julian Alps
Whitethroat	seen at Cerknisko Jezero, heard at Val Rosandra
Blackcap	heard daily
Chiffchaff	heard in the pre-Alps
Goldcrest	heard in the Julian Alps
Firecrest	seen in the Julian Alps
Spotted flycatcher	Cerknisko Jezero and Doberdo
Long-tailed tit	recorded on four days
Marsh tit	heard at Lake Doberdo
Crested tit	Julian Alps and Val Rosandra
Coal tit	Julian Alps
Blue tit	recorded on five days
Great tit	seen daily
Nuthatch	heard at Malchina but only twice
Treecreeper	Julian Alps
Short-toed treecreeper	seen or heard on four days at Cerknisko Jezero, the pre-Alps and in the Karst
Golden oriole	seen twice and seen or heard on four days in the Karst
Red-backed shrike	seen at Cerknisko Jezero, Doberdo and Val Rosandra
Jay	seen daily
Magpie	seen daily
Alpine chough	a flock of 50 at Montasio in the Julian Alps
Jackdaw	1 only in the pre-Alps
Hooded crow	seen daily
Raven	seen or heard daily; about 20 at the griffon vulture re-introduction project at Cornino
Starling	seen daily
House/Italian sparrow	seen daily; all appeared to be house sparrows. The transition zone to Italian sparrow starts around Cona
Tree sparrow	present in Malchina and seen or heard on four days
Chaffinch	seen or heard daily at Malchina
Serin	seen or heard almost daily
Greenfinch	seen almost daily around the village of Malchina
Goldfinch	recorded on three days
Linnet	Cerknisko Jezero and the Julian Alps
Hawfinch	heard three times in the Karst but this always elusive species gave only fleeting views at Val Rosandra
Rock bunting	recorded on four days; excellent views at Doberdo
Yellowhammer	recorded on three days
Cirl bunting	Doberdo and Val Rosandra only
Reed bunting	Cona and Cerknisko Jezero
Corn bunting	seen well at Doberdo but not otherwise recorded

Total: 121

LISTS

In the lists below, the localities are identified by the following codes:

M – Malchina
 K – generally in the Karst
 LD - Lake Doberdo
 VR - Val Rosandra

IC - Isola della Cona
 P - Pre-Alps
 JA - Julian Alps
 CJ - Cerknisko Jezero

PLANTS

Of all the major lists, these are the least comprehensive, excluding ‘weedy’ species, grasses, and things not in flower. English names are given only where one is used in the books.

FERNS

With thanks to Gerald Nicholls for the ferns list. Ferns with no given location were generally present at most of the sites visited.

<i>Asplenium adnigrum</i>	black spleenwort	P
<i>A. ruta-muraria</i>	wall-rue	
<i>A. scolopendrium</i>	hartstongue	
<i>A. trichomanes</i>	maidenhair spleenwort	
<i>A. viride</i>	green spleenwort	P

<i>Athyrium filix-femina</i>	lady fern	JA
<i>Ceterach officinarum</i>	rusty-back fern	
<i>Dryopteris dilatata</i>	broad buckler	JA
<i>D. filix-mas</i>	male fern	CJ P JA
<i>Gymnocarpium dryopteris</i>	oak fern	P JA
<i>Phegopteris connectilis</i>	beech fern	JA
<i>Polypodium vulgare</i>	polypody	
<i>Polystichum aculeatum</i>	hard shield-fern	CJ P
<i>P. lonchitis</i>	holly fern	JA
<i>Pteridium aquilinum</i>	bracken	VR P

A variety of wall-rue (diploid ssp?) was collected on the pre-Alps walk.

CONIFERS

<i>Abies alba</i>	silver fir	JA
<i>Juniperus communis</i>	juniper	VR
<i>P. nigra</i>	black pine	P
<i>P. sylvestris</i>	Scots pine	P

DICOTYLEDONS

Aceraceae

<i>Acer campestre</i>	field maple	M
<i>A. monspessulanum</i>	Montpelier maple	M
<i>A. monspessulanum x campestre</i>		M
<i>A. pseudoplatanus</i>	sycamore	CJ

Anacardiaceae

<i>Cotinus coggygria</i>	smoke bush	K
<i>Pistachia terebinthus</i>	turpentine tree	LD

Apiaceae

<i>Aegopodium podagraria</i>	ground elder	P
<i>Anthriscus sylvestris</i>	cow parsley	
<i>Chaerophyllum temulentum</i>	rough chervil	LD
<i>Crithmum maritimum</i>	rock samphire	VR
<i>Orlaya grandiflora</i>		M LD

Araliaceae

<i>Hedera helix</i>	ivy	M
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Aristolochiaceae

<i>Asarum europaeum</i>	asarabacca	CJ
<i>Aristolochia clematitis</i>	birthwort	LD

Asclepiadaceae

<i>Vincetoxicum hirsutum</i>	swallow-wort	M LD CJ
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Asteraceae

<i>Achillea millefolium</i>	yarrow	CJ
<i>Bellis perennis</i>	daisy	
<i>Buphthalmum salicifolium</i>	yellow ox-eye	M VR
<i>Centaurea cyanus</i>	cornflower	
<i>C. nigrescens</i>	doubtful knapweed	P
<i>C. triumfetti</i>	a perennial cornflower	VR
<i>Cichorium intybus</i>	chicory	M
<i>Cirsium erythrales</i>	yellow melancholy thistle	P
<i>Eupatorium cannabinum</i>	hemp-agrimony	marble quarry
<i>Hieracium pilosella</i>	mouse-eared hawkweed	CJ
<i>Homogyne alpina</i>	purple (or alpine) colt's-foot	JA
<i>Jurinea mollis</i>		VR
<i>Lactuca perennis</i>	blue lettuce	LD
<i>Leucanthemum vulgare</i>	ox-eye daisy	CJ VR
<i>Mycelis muralis</i>	wall lettuce	M
<i>Serratula tinctoria</i>	saw-wort	CJ
<i>Tragopogon sp</i>		VR

Boraginaceae

<i>Echium vulgare</i>	viper's-bugloss	M
<i>Myosotis alpestris</i>	alpine forget-me-not	JA
<i>Onosma javorkae</i>		LD VR

<i>Pulmonaria officinalis</i>	lungwort	CJ
<i>P. rubra</i>	red lungwort	VR
<i>Symphytum officinale</i>	comfrey	CJ
Brassicaceae		
<i>Arabis turrata</i>	tower-cress	LD
<i>Biscutella laevigata</i>		
<i>Cakile maritima</i>	sea rocket	M IC
<i>Cardamine impatiens</i>	narrow-leaved bittercress	LD
Campanulaceae		
<i>Campanula glomerata</i>	clustered bellflower	CJ
<i>C. rapunculus</i>	rampion bellflower	M
<i>C. rotundifolius</i>	harebell	JA
<i>Legousia speculum-veneris</i>	large Venus's-looking-glass	LD
Caprifoliaceae		
<i>Lonicera etrusca</i>		
<i>L. japonicum</i>		
<i>L. caprifolia?</i>		
<i>Sambucus ebulus</i>	dwarf elder	
<i>S. nigra</i>	elder	CJ
<i>S. racemosa</i>	red-berried (= alpine) elder	JA
<i>Viburnum lantana</i>	wayfaring tree	CJ
<i>V. opulus</i>	guelder rose	CJ
Caryophyllaceae		
<i>Cerastium arvense</i>	field mouse-ear	JA
<i>D. carthusianorum</i>	Carthusian pink	M
<i>D. monspessulanus</i>	fringed pink	JA
<i>D. sylvestris</i> ssp. <i>tergestinus</i>	wood pink	VR LD
<i>Lychnis flos-cuculi</i>	ragged-Robin	CJ JA
<i>L. viscaria</i>	sticky catchfly	CA LD
<i>Petrorhagia saxifraga</i>	tunic flower	M
<i>Silene alba</i>	white campion	CJ
<i>S. dioica</i>	red campion	JA
<i>S. italica</i>	Italian catchfly	M
<i>S. vulgaris</i>	bladder campion	M CJ
Celastraceae		
<i>Euonymus europaeus</i>	spindle	M LD
Cistaceae		
<i>Helianthemum nummularium</i>	rock-rose	M CJ LD
Convolvulaceae		
<i>Convolvulus cantabricus</i>	pink convolvulus	M VR
<i>Cuscuta europea</i>	greater dodder	P
Cornaceae		
<i>Cornus mas</i>	cornelian cherry	M
<i>C. sanguinea</i>	dogwood	M CJ
Corylaceae		
<i>Carpinus betulus</i>	hornbeam	CJ
<i>Corylus avellana</i>	hazel	M
<i>Ostrya carpinifolia</i>	hop-hornbeam	
Crassulaceae		
<i>Sedum acre</i>	wall-pepper	
Dipsacaceae		
<i>Dipsacus fullonum</i>	teasel	IC
<i>Knautia arvensis</i>	field scabious	CJ
<i>K. dipsacifolia</i>	wood scabious	
Ericaceae		
<i>Vaccinium myrtillus</i>	bilberry	JA

Euphorbiaceae

<i>Euphorbia cyparissias</i>	cypress spurge	M	
<i>E. fragifera</i>		VR	
<i>E. helioscopia</i>	sun spurge	M	
<i>E. palustris</i>	marsh spurge	CJ	
<i>Mercurialis perennis</i>	dog's mercury	CJ	

Fabaceae

<i>Amorpha fruticosa</i>	false indigo	IC	
<i>Anthyllis vulneraria</i>	kidney-vetch	M CJ, red flowers in VR	
<i>Cercis siliquastrum</i>	Judas tree	planted	
<i>Chamaecytisus supinus</i>		CJ	
<i>Coronilla emerus</i>	shrubby scorpion-vetch	marble quarry, VR	
<i>C. varia</i>	crown vetch	M K	
<i>Dorycnium germanicum</i>		VR	
<i>Genista tinctoria</i>	dyer's greenweed		
<i>Hippocrepis comosa</i>	horseshoe vetch	JA	
<i>Lathyrus tuberosus</i>	tuberous pea	M	
<i>Lotus corniculatus</i>	bird's-foot-trefoil	M	
<i>L. tenuis</i>	narrow-leaved bird's-foot-trefoil	IC	
<i>L. uliginosus</i>	marsh bird's-foot-trefoil	IC	
<i>Medicago sativa</i> ssp. <i>sativa</i>	lucerne		
<i>Melilotus officinalis</i>	ribbed melilot	M	
<i>Onobrychis viciifolia</i>	sainfoin	K P	
<i>Spartium junceum</i>	Spanish broom	S B	
<i>Trifolium rubens</i>		M	
<i>Vicia cracca</i>	tufted vetch	M IC	
<i>V. sepium</i>	bush vetch	CJ	

Fagaceae

<i>Fagus sylvatica</i>	beech	CJ	
<i>Quercus ilex</i>	holm oak	P	
<i>Q. pubescens</i>	white oak		
<i>Q. petraea</i>	sessile oak	M	

Gentianaceae

<i>Gentiana verna</i>	spring gentian	JA	
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Geraniaceae

<i>Geranium columbinum</i>	long-stalked cranesbill	M CJ VR	
<i>G. dissectum</i>	cut-leaved cranesbill	CJ	
<i>G. macrorrhizum</i>	rock cranesbill	P	
<i>G. lucidum</i>	shining cranesbill	M	
<i>G. columbinum</i>	long-stalked cranesbill	M CJ VR	
<i>G. macrorrhizum</i>	rock cranesbill	P	
<i>G. nodosum</i>	knotted cranesbill	CJ	
<i>G. phaeum</i>	dusky cranesbill	P	
<i>G. purpureum</i>	little-Robin	M	
<i>G. robertianum</i>	herb-Robert	M	
<i>G. sanguineum</i>	bloody cranesbill	CJ	
<i>G. sylvaticum</i>	wood cranesbill	JA	

Globulariaceae

<i>Globularia cordifolia</i>		JA LD	
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Grossulariaceae

<i>Hypericum perforatum</i>	perforate St. John's-wort	M	
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Lamiaceae

<i>Acinos alpinus</i>	alpine calamint (= alpine basil-thyme)	JA	
<i>A. arvensis</i>	basil-thyme	K	
<i>Ajuga reptans</i>	bugle		
<i>Lamiastrum galaeobdolon</i>	yellow archangel	CJ	
<i>Lamium album</i>	white dead-nettle	JA	
<i>L. maculatum</i>	spotted dead-nettle	CJ	
<i>Melittis melissophyllum</i>	bastard-balm	M CJ	
<i>Mentha aquatica</i>	water mint	IC	
<i>M. longifolia</i>	horse mint	P	
<i>Prunella vulgaris</i>	self-heal	CJ	

<i>Salvia pratensis</i>	meadow clary	M CJ JA
<i>Satureja montana</i>	savory	M
<i>Stachys officinalis</i>	betony	CJ
<i>S. recta</i>	yellow woundwort	M VR
<i>Teucrium chamaedrys</i>	wall germander	LD
<i>Thymus longicaulis</i>	wild thyme	CJ
Linaceae		
<i>Linum catharticum</i>	purging (= fairy) flax	M CJ VR
<i>L. bienne</i>	pale flax	LD
<i>L. tenuifolium</i>		VR?
Malvaceae		
<i>Althaea officinalis</i>	marsh mallow	LD
Moraceae		
<i>Ficus carica</i>	fig	M
Nymphaeaceae		
<i>Nymphaea alba</i>	white water-lily	IC (planted)
<i>N. lutea</i>	white water-lily	CJ
Oleaceae		
<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>	ash	
<i>F. ornus</i>	manna ash	M
<i>Ligustrum vulgare</i>	wild privet	M CJ
<i>Phillyrea latifolia</i>		coastal cliffs
Orobanchaceae		
<i>Orobanche reticulata</i>	thistle broomrape	VR
Oxalidaceae		
<i>Oxalis acetosella</i>	wood sorrel	JA
Papaveraceae		
<i>Chelidonium majus</i>	greater celandine	M
<i>Papaver rhoeas</i>	common poppy	CJ M
Plantaginaceae		
<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>	ribwort plantain	
<i>P. media</i>	hoary plantain	K
Polygalaceae		
<i>Polygala alpestris</i>	alpine milkwort	JA
<i>P. nicaeensis</i>		M LD CJ
Polygonaceae		
<i>Polygonum viviparum</i>	alpine bistort	JA
<i>Rumex alpinus</i>	monk's rhubarb	JA
Primulaceae		
<i>Primula veris</i>	cowslip	JA
<i>P. vulgaris</i>	primrose	P
Ranunculaceae		
<i>Anemone nemorosa</i>	wood anemone	JA
<i>Aquilegia atrata</i>	dark columbine	CJ ?
<i>A. vulgaris</i>	columbine	P
<i>Caltha palustris</i>	marsh marigold	CJ
<i>Clematis alpina</i>	alpine clematis	
<i>C. flammula</i>	maiden's bower	M
<i>C. recta</i>		IC CJ VR
<i>C. vitalba</i>	traveller's joy	LD
<i>Helleborus multifidus</i>		CJ P
<i>H. niger</i>	Christmas rose	CJ
<i>Hepatica nobilis</i>	hepatica	P
<i>Ranunculus aconitifolius</i>		JA
<i>R. acris</i>	meadow buttercup	CJ
<i>R. flammula</i>	lesser spearwort	IC

<i>Thalictrum aquilegifolium</i>	greater meadow-rue	CJ
<i>Trollius europaeus</i>	globe-flower	JA
Resedaceae		
<i>Reseda lutea</i>	mignonette	M
Rhamnaceae		
<i>Frangula alnus</i>	alder buckthorn	CJ
<i>Paliurus spina-christi</i>	Christ's-thorn	M VR
<i>Rhamnus saxatilis</i>	rock buckthorn	VR
Rosaceae		
<i>Alchemilla alpina</i>	alpine lady's mantle	JA
<i>Amelanchier ovalis</i>	snowy mespilus	VR
<i>Aruncus dioicus</i>	goatsbeard spiraea	CA CJ
<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	hawthorn	CJ
<i>Filipendula ulmaria</i>	meadowsweet	CJ
<i>F. vulgaris</i>	dropwort	CJ
<i>Fragaria moschata</i>		CJ LD
<i>F. vesca</i>	wild strawberry	P
<i>Geum urbanum</i>	wood avens	M
<i>Potentilla anserina</i>	silverweed	CJ
<i>P. erecta</i>	tormentil	CJ
<i>P. recta</i>	sulphur cinquefoil	M?
<i>P. reptans</i>	creeping cinquefoil	
<i>Prunus mahaleb</i>	St. Lucie's cherry	M VR
<i>Rosa arvensis</i>	field rose	M
<i>R. canina</i>	dog rose	CJ
<i>R. pendulina</i>	alpine rose	P JA
<i>R. pimpinellifolia</i>	burnet rose	marble quarry
<i>Rubus fruticosus</i>	bramble	
<i>Sanguisorba major</i>	great burnet	CJ
<i>S. minor</i>	salad burnet	M VR
<i>Sorbus aucuparia</i>	rowan	JA
<i>S. torminalis</i>	wild service-tree	M
Rubiaceae		
<i>Galium cruciata</i>	crosswort	JA
<i>G. verum</i>	lady's bedstraw	IC
Rutaceae		
<i>Dictamnus albus</i>	burning-bush	M VR
<i>Ruta graveolens</i>	rue	LD
Santalaceae		
<i>Osyris alba</i>		LD
<i>Thesium bavaricum</i>	Bavarian bastard-toadflax	P
<i>T. humifusum</i>	bastard-toadflax	VR
Salicaceae		
<i>Salix daphnoides</i>	violet willow	P
<i>S. alba</i>	white willow	IC
Saxifragaceae		
<i>Saxifraga cuneifolia</i>	spoonleaved saxifrage	JA
Scrophulariaceae		
<i>Rhinanthus sp</i>	yellow-rattle	M CJ
<i>Scrophularia canina</i>	alpine (=French) figwort	VR JA
<i>S. nodosa</i>	common figwort	CJ
<i>Verbascum nigrum</i>	dark mullein	LD
<i>V. thapsus</i>	great mullein	
<i>Veronica chamaedrys</i>	germander speedwell	CJ
Simaroubaceae		
<i>Ailanthus altissima</i>	tree-of-Heaven	M K
Solanaceae		
<i>Solanum dulcamara</i>	woody nightshade	M

Staphylaeaceae		
<i>Staphylea pinnata</i>	bladder-nut	M CJ
Tamaricaceae		
<i>Tamarix gallica</i>	tamarisk	M
Thymelaeaceae		
<i>Daphne alpina</i>		VR
Tiliaceae		
<i>Tilia cordata</i>	small-leaved lime	M
Ulmaceae		
<i>Celtis australis</i>	nettle-tree	M planted
<i>Ulmus glabra</i>	wych elm	K
Urticaceae		
<i>Parietaria officinalis</i>	pellitory-of-the-wall	M
Valerianaceae		
<i>Valeriana officinalis</i>	valerian	M
<i>V. tripteris</i>	3-leaved valerian	JA
Violaceae		
<i>Viola arvensis</i>	field pansy	CJ
<i>V. biflora</i>	yellow wood violet	CA
MONOCOTYLEDONS		
Amaryllidaceae		
<i>Leucojum aestivum</i>	summer snowflake	LD CJ
Cyperaceae		
<i>Carex elata</i>	tufted sedge	IC
<i>Eleocharis palustris</i>	spike-rush	CJ
<i>Eriophorum sp</i>	cotton-grass	CJ
Dioscoreaceae		
<i>Tamus communis</i>	black bryony	LD
Iridaceae		
<i>Gladiolus communis</i>		CJ
<i>Iris pallida</i> ssp. <i>illyrica</i>		VR
<i>I. pseudacorus</i>	yellow flag	JC
Juncaceae		
<i>Luzula campestris</i>	field woodrush	
<i>L. sylvatica</i>	great woodrush	P
Liliaceae		
<i>Colchicum autumnale</i>	meadow saffron	CJ (leaves)
<i>Convallaria majalis</i>	lily-of-the-valley	CJ
<i>Fritillaria tenella</i>		VR
<i>Lilium bulbiferum</i>	orange lily	M CJ
<i>Muscari comosum</i>	tassel hyacinth	MD VR
<i>Ornithogalum sp., umbellatum?</i>	star-of-Bethlehem	M
<i>O. pyrenaicum</i>	Bath asparagus (=spiked star-of-Bethlehem)	M
<i>Paris quadrifolia</i>	herb-Paris	VR JA
<i>Polygonatum odoratum</i>	scented Solomon's-seal	CJ
<i>P. verticillatum</i>	whorled Solomon's-seal	VR
<i>Ruscus aculeatus</i>	butcher's-broom	VR
<i>Veratrum album</i>	white false helleborine	JA
Orchidaceae		
<i>Anacamptis pyramidalis</i>	pyramidal orchid	M LD
<i>Dactylorhiza incarnata</i>	early marsh-orchid	CJ
<i>Gymnadenia conopsea</i>	fragrant orchid	P
<i>Listera ovata</i>	twayblade	P
<i>Ophrys apifera</i>	bee orchid	M
<i>Orchis laxiflora</i>	loose-flowered orchid	CJ

<i>Platanthera chlorantha</i>	greater butterfly-orchid	VR
Poaceae		
<i>Briza media</i>	quaking grass	M
<i>Dactylis glomerata</i>	cock's-foot	LD
<i>Phragmites australis</i>	common reed	IC CJ
<i>Stipa eriocalis</i> ssp. <i>austriaca</i>	feather grass	VR CJ

Smilacaceae		
<i>Smilax aspera</i>		LD

Typhaceae		
<i>Typha latifolia</i>	greater reedmace	IC



Butterflies

swallowtail	P	meadow brown	VR M P LD
scarce swallowtail	VR	woodland brown	P
eastern festoon		bright-eyed ringlet	CJ
		large wall	M LD VR P
red admiral	IC LD	small heath	M VR CJ LD P
southern white admiral	LD M	pearly heath	M VR P LD
white admiral	P	marbled white	M VR LD
Hungarian glider	P	large white	M P LD
large tortoiseshell	M P VR	small white	M VR LD P
comma	LD	green-veined white	P
peacock	LD	Bath white	VR
		orange tip	JA
high brown fritillary	VR P	wood white	P
silver-washed fritillary	P	black-veined white	VJ M VR P LD
Glanville fritillary	LD VR	brimstone	P
twin-spot fritillary	VR M P		
marbled fritillary	P	ilex hairstreak	VR
heath fritillary	VR M P	green hairstreak	LD
false heath fritillary	VR	common blue	M CJ VR
spotted fritillary	P VR	silver-studded blue	VR
Queen-of-Spain fritillary	M	Adonis blue	LD VR P
Niobe fritillary	VR	chequered blue	M
		small blue	LD
nettle-tree	M LD	large skipper	LD
		small skipper	VR G B
grayling	M	Essex skipper	M P VR
great banded grayling	LD	grizzled skipper	G LB
woodland grayling	LD	Oberthur's grizzled skipper	M VR
speckled wood	M LD (northern form) IC (southern form)		

Total: 52

Other notable invertebrates

<i>Syntomis phegea</i>	syntomid moth	M VR
<i>Schistostege decussata</i>	a day flying moth	VR
<i>Ephemera danica</i>	mayfly	CJ
<i>Cetonia aurata</i>	rose chafer	M
<i>Libelloides macaronius</i>	an ascalaphid	M
<i>Graphosoma italicum</i>	hogweed bonking bug	VR LB
	'Carabinieri' beetle	M
<i>Formica rufa</i>	wood ant	JA
<i>Polistes</i> sp.	paper wasp (nests)	JA
<i>Vespa crabro</i>	hornet	M
<i>Xylocopa violacea</i>	carpenter bee	M
<i>Misumena vatia</i>	a crab spider	M

MAMMALS

western hedgehog	M
brown hare	M
red squirrel	JA
alpine marmot	JA
wild boar (rootings)	
roe deer	VR

AMPHIBIANS & REPTILES

common toad	M
edible frog	IC

REPTILES

green lizard	
wall lizard <i>sp.</i>	
slow-worm (dead)	M
grass snake	IC