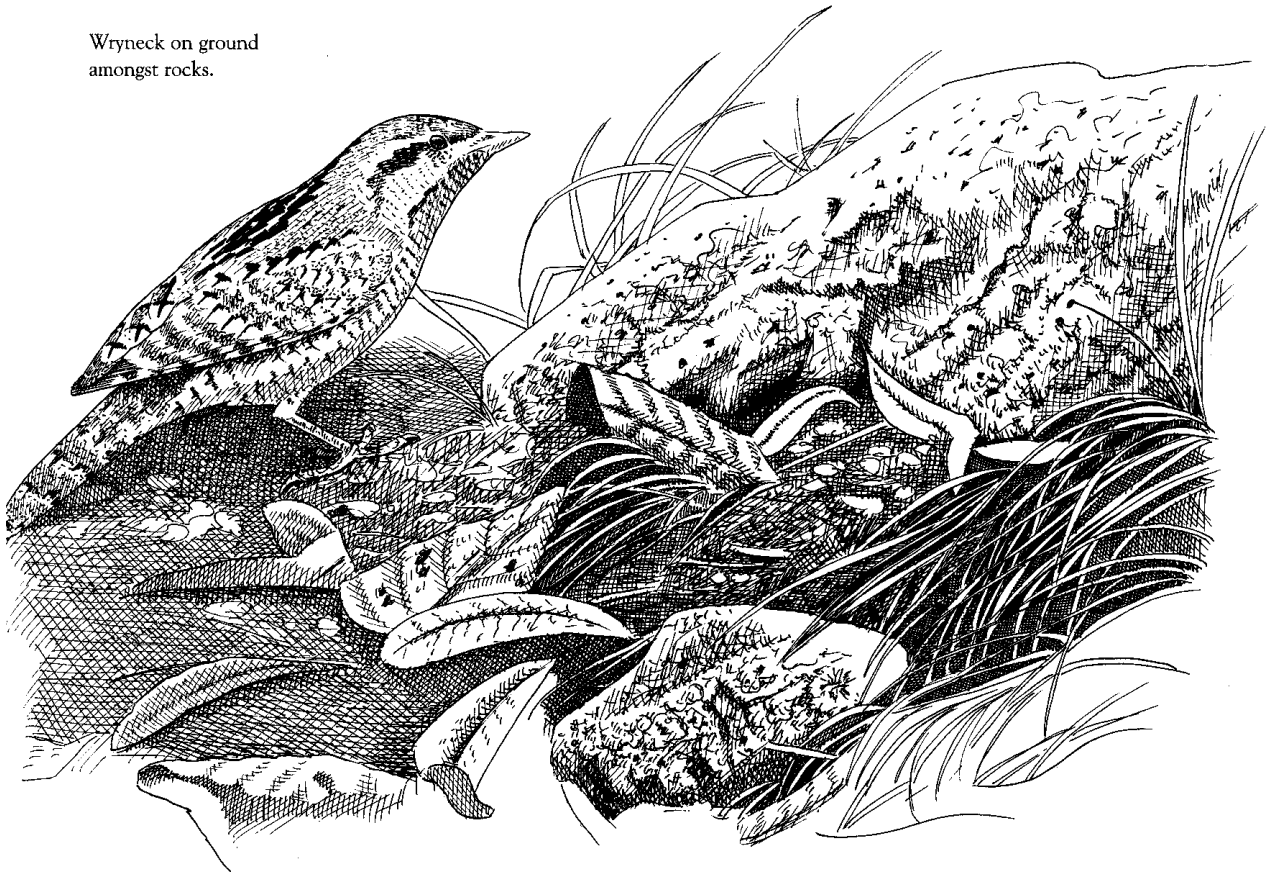


Honeyguide

WILDLIFE HOLIDAYS

36 Thunder Lane, Thorpe St Andrew, Norwich NR7 0PX
Telephone: 01603 300552 evenings & weekends
www.honeyguide.co.uk E-mail: honeyguide@tesco.net

Wryneck on ground
amongst rocks.



Istria
7 – 15 May 2008

Istria
7 – 15 May 2008

Holiday participants

Ian and Fiona Codd
Bob and Pam Harris
Peter and Elony Crook
Sandy and Marie Watt
Vic and Brenda Dowsett
Julie Sherwood
Susan Wells
Will Warham

Leaders

Paul Tout and Ivan Nethercoat



Report by Ivan Nethercoat

Colour pictures in this web version of the report are by Brenda Dowsett. Above: rockrose and globularia. Woodpecker illustrations are by Szabolcs Kokay from Gerard Gorman's *Woodpeckers of Europe* (Bruce Coleman Books) and reprinted here with their kind permission. Cover: wryneck. Black-headed bunting by Alan Harris; golden oriole and scarce swallowtail by Rob Hume.

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 this year of £30 per person towards DOPPS, BirdLife Slovenia, was supplemented by gift aid through the Honeyguide Wildlife Charitable Trust, leading to a total of €600. The for total conservation contributions through Honeyguide since 1991 was at £53,635 by June 2008.

Paul Tout handed over the money at a conservation conference in Slovenia (*below*), and a thank-you letter from DOPPS is at the end of the report (but not this web version).



Istria
7 – 15 May 2008

Wednesday, May 7

London Stansted to Trieste and on to Istarske Toplice

All, well, almost all, present and correct at Stansted, excess baggage paid, flight on time and we were off. Leaving the UK in glorious sunshine with the promise of a heat wave to come always feels a little odd, almost making the prospect of poor weather at our destination rather more likely! However all was well as we landed 10 minutes early in glorious sunshine.

All loaded up and we were off down the *autostrada* and into Slovenia and then through the second set of unchecked passport control to be greeted by a 'Welcome to Istria – country of good wine', a warm welcome indeed.

The hotel was only a short drive over the border but a drive that set up the rest of the week with glorious wooded river valleys and deep gorges. The hotel is a modern building set beneath a rock face in lightly wooded grounds, set to the accompaniment of the loudest woodpecker drumming any of us had heard, so loud the thought of it being black woodpecker was not ruled out but with no calling to accompany its drumming Paul opted for it being a great spotted – on steroids perhaps. After some liquid refreshment and a proper introduction from Paul, a short walk around the edge of the grounds was called for. Golden orioles and wood warbler calling from deep within the trees with alpine swift overhead was enough to make us feel we had arrived.

Our evening meal was a one mile drive to an unpretentious local restaurant which introduced us to the very good food of Croatia – kind of rustic Italian with a local twist. The pattern for the week was a first course of pasta with a variety of sauces such as roe deer and the local specialty of truffles, followed by a good selection of grilled meats for the week – all served in a pleasant atmosphere with excellent service from 'Eddie' who coped well with our needs, including one gluten-free vegetarian which was a bit of a test for his menu. Scops owls greeted us with their calls as we stepped out of the bus back at the hotel: a nice end to the day and the start of a special week.

Thursday May 8

Cerknisko Jezero

A pre-breakfast stroll in the grounds and surrounding roads was a pleasant start to day 2. It was more pleasant than those in greeted the group whose rooms faced the infamous woodpecker who were awoken from deep sleep at 04.45. Golden orioles made up the dawn chorus with serin and short-toed treecreeper for accompaniment. Across the road the more distant call of grey-headed woodpecker came from deep within the trees while on the garden fence a red-backed shrike showed briefly, a new migrant in from Africa, following closely on from the spotted flycatchers near the entrance. Wrynecks were heard by some early risers but not seen this morning.

After a good breakfast the journey to Cerknisko Jezero in Slovenia began. This amazing wetland is a real treat and today we were lucky to see it with a good amount of water.

Before the lake we took a quick stop to see the river. The road through the beech forest passes over a natural bridge where the river has carved its way through the limestone. A gentle river on one side becomes a torrent on the other and soon disappears into the mountain where it forms the underground home of blind, colourless amphibians, known as olm.

A quick stop for coffee at the Rakov Hotel proved worthwhile for birds with two goshawks overhead soon followed by a black stork. On then to the lake, passing through some fantastic towns and surrounding meadows. As the road met the lakeside a path took us to the waters edge and onto some scrubby bushes. Ashy-headed wagtail and sedge warbler popped up to say hello whilst the blackcap and barred warbler sang away but kept out

of view.

Overhead 13 or more hobbies were feeding on insects, perhaps the cockchafer that were very numerous and whose wing carapaces littered the path. Lower down and almost certainly making the most of this entomological feast was a male red-footed falcon. Moving to get a better look it was soon clear he was not alone as first one then two females were spotted and then a group of perched birds – 16 in total, giving excellent telescope views.

The slow drive around the lake began, stopping at various points where the habitat changed or the views were just good for scanning the area. Red-necked grebes looked resplendent in the bright sun while in the distance the lake shimmered with several hundred black terns taking insects from the water surface.

Moving down a farm track into the wet area a movement on top of a fruit tree alerted us to a fieldfare nesting and rearing three young and a short distance on the first of very many whinchats (more than 20 were counted, with probably many more in the distance). The rest of the area proved rather quiet for birds but the fields were bursting with botanical interest. While many were not yet in flower the summer snowflakes and early marsh orchids stood out and the potential of the site could be imagined – in the UK tiny fields of similar botanical interest are saved and hailed as special, and rightly so, but from where we stood as far as we could see was one huge meadow of hundreds of acres.

The last stop on our tour around the lake brought us to the water's edge again and distinctive bushes so favoured by warblers and mosquitoes. A nice male garganey landed close to us and afforded excellent views against a backdrop of black terns. Another barred warbler was also heard and despite our best efforts the only views were of the bird flying between bushes and remaining out of clear view.

Our final stop of the day was to pick up Sandy, the last member of the party, from just across the border in Italy. Then we set off back to the hotel, late, tired but happy and hungry.

Friday May 9

Zbevnica

A 06.30 walk to the quarry was pleasant but a little quiet with most interest being in the garden. Marsh tit and the nesting caves of alpine swift were nice to see but the real stars were down below with black woodpecker flying across the garden and a very obliging hawfinch on view for some time. The real star though was another black woodpecker feeding on the hotel lawn, seen by Vic and Paul as the rest of us were getting ready to leave.



So, onto a local site close to the Slovenian border. The route took us through wonderful limestone meadows and then up a steep gravel road to the top of the ridge where Paul gave a brief history of Istria as we surveyed the highest peaks. Green hairstreak and southern festoon butterflies were seen briefly with woodlark and tree pipit singing along the way.

Back down at the road, a stop at the meadows produced a large lady orchid (*above, left*), several green-winged orchids (*above, centre, with meadow clary*) and birthwort (*above, right*). Southern festoon, wood white and speckled wood fluttered by to the sound of whitethroat and subalpine warbler. Overhead a very high passage of bee-eaters but more easily seen was a pair of short-toed eagles. A quick stop for lunch was well chosen as no sooner had we started than two golden eagles appeared, soon followed by hobby.

Monkey orchid was seen by the roadside as we descended the hill and headed for Hum, said to be the smallest town in the world. Here we headed for the restaurant where beers were the order of the day, the drivers excepted. Then an early trip back to the hotel to make up for yesterday.

Saturday May 10

Quieto Valley & Sicciole Salinas

Two sites closer to home today. The morning was spent driving slowly along the Myrna river. Although canalised and 'improved' the valley still had plenty of interest, at least for now as there is currently a major road being built alongside the quiet track we were on. Two surprise birds were a couple of squacco herons feeding beside the river, occasionally flying along a few feet to show the 'barn owl' wings and allowing good telescope views – as did a magnificent male red-backed shrike. Bee-eaters were disturbed from nest building a little father on and later gave very good views, as did one of the specials of the area – black-headed bunting (*below*). A melodious warbler sang from the corner of an abandoned building while across the road a purple heron was trying to look cool, fishing and hiding at the same time.



At the end of the road a small lagoon provided food for ruff, wood sandpiper and curlew sandpiper, rounding the morning off nicely. Lunch was taken beneath an old quarry beside the bay where dingy skipper and Glanville fritillary flitted amongst the short foliage. Nearby too was a small restaurant where we finished lunch before heading off to the Sicciole / Sečovlje salt pans in the no-mans land between Croatia and Slovenia. More and much closer wood sandpipers were here, along with the customary black-winged stilts and Kentish plovers. Also present were more ruffs, little stint, avocet, grey plover, great white and little egrets and little terns. The path ends at a bay on the coast where we sat in glorious sunshine watching grebes, divers, common scoter and common terns before heading back to base, but not before passing a superb monkey orchid near the entrance.

Sunday May 11

Ucka Vela

Another 06.30 pre breakfast stroll around the hotel grounds: lots of golden orioles calling and flying but very

difficult to see perched. Speakers to hand, we attempted to call up wryneck, black and grey-headed woodpeckers but with little success despite hearing them some distance away. Hawfinches were also flying over regularly but again difficult to 'scope.

Below the peak of Monte Maggiore the habitat is high grazing meadows with stony outcrops and scattered trees. A bright and clear day gave us superb views down the peninsula, enhanced by ortolan buntings and woodlarks singing, hawfinch, tawny pipit, and overhead griffon vultures. This area is also the home of rock partridge, a rare bird and difficult to see: a pair was disturbed by the front bus and seen briefly by the second. The meadows were still to be at their best but there were terrific displays of narcissi (*right*), star-of-Bethlehem and an early peony (*far right*).

After an excellent coffee stop on the way down we set off again on the descent and spotted two Croatian birders watching the cliff face. Naturally we asked what they were watching and were pleasantly surprised to find it was a nest of golden eagles. One bird was sitting on the nest and another sat nearby occasionally flying around the nest. Great views and a great end to the day.



Monday May 12

Stridione and Grisignane

The 06.30 bunch was well rewarded this morning with excellent views of lesser spotted woodpecker (*below*) sunbathing in the chill of the morning and wryneck. The latter was lured into view by briefly playing its call, whereupon the male flew across us into a tree and promptly sat there in the sun, allowing everyone excellent prolonged telescope views of the very elusive species.



From the breakfast table another new species for the trip appeared climbing down a tree trunk in the garden: a nuthatch, heard on a few occasions but not seen until now.

Today's main location was the farmland and tracks above our hotel. On route a brief stop to look out across the valley allowed us to see the extent of broadleaf woodland left in this area. Where one may sometimes get wooded hillsides, here the trees extended right across the valley floor and up both sides and went on for several kilometres – a rare site in much of Europe, helped no doubt by the value of these woodlands for truffles.

On top of the hill the land flattens out, much like the plateaux of the Cévennes in France, the big difference here being the grazing has now largely stopped and the grassland is being taken over by scrub.

This area of limestone is a mix of small fields, amazing wildflower meadows and occasional patches of wheat or potatoes. While the crops seem well controlled, the surrounding fields and verges are awash with orchids – mainly green-winged in large purple swathes set among cow-wheat, rattle and occasional round-headed orchids.

A nearby call had everyone baffled but later all would become clear...

On to the village of Stridione where we parked and walked along the lane onto a footpath that brought us almost directly above our hotel and afforded good views over the valley. A wryneck called, desperately trying to attract a mate as around us the sun was bringing out more butterflies: a large tortoiseshell flew past while Paul's deft wrist action caught Mazarine blue, Glanville fritillary and small blue.

Lunch was taken on the outskirts of the village accompanied by the sound of turtle doves and interrupted by views of short-toed eagle and honey buzzard. Then more exploration of roadside meadows after lunch.

Earlier in the day the second bus caught site of some odd birds in a field of cut hay. As we had little time we only had brief views and in the end assumed they were some sort of red-legged partridge hybrid. On the way back they were there again and this time closer and, more importantly, were recognised by Paul as bobwhite quails, a feral population of the North American species, introduced by the Italians in the 1930s. They were also calling, the same sound heard earlier and dismissed as a cage birds as it sounded like nothing any European bird would produce. Which in a sense is true.

The afternoon drive took us to the old town of Grisignane, a walled Venetian town now populated by artisans and welcome bars where coffee and beer was taken as a reward for the hot sun that had been with us all day.



Tuesday May 13

Floricici & Zlepcara

The star bird before breakfast was a superb peregrine showing extremely well for the quarry crew. Meanwhile, inside the hotel, the rest of us were having breakfast alongside the windows overlooking the gardens. The usual blackbirds and greenfinches were outside the window when a new visitor bird joined them – a wryneck! Amid a flurry of rolls and bacon everyone got to see this great little bird as it hopped around a few feet away. It was then joined by another and proceeded to mate; both then fed together until disturbed by a cat.

So, on to Floricici. After a slight detour due to a blocked road we arrived at the edge of the farmland we had spied from the hills of Ucka. Here, though, the intensive farming gave way to a more extensive mixed system of vines and hay meadows beside a small river that ran to a waterfall and plunged to a pool many feet below us.

Across the mounds of bauxite was a bank with numerous bee-eater holes and a few birds circling the site and seen very well by all. Further down the river a magnificent military orchid stood guard as we traversed the stream onto fresh cut hay meadows where bobwhite quails called but remained elusive.

Our circular walk took us right below the bee-eater nest site but here the birds were out of view. However a short distance further on a small patch of grass had the distinctive stalks of orchids protruding from the grasses. On closer inspection they were tongue orchids just coming into flower and many more still to come, along with bee orchid and many spikes of pyramidal orchid a few days from flowering. After many pixels had been exposed we moved on for lunch. The sun was very hot so we retreated to the river and the cool shade of the bridge and trees.



After lunch we took a stroll down the lane to the village of Zlepcara. The verges were a blaze of colour with spectacular giant clovers and a lizard orchid a few days away from flowering but already towering over its companions.

As our normal restaurant was closed this evening, Paul found an excellent alternative near Motovun. As the town is a prominent landmark and an interesting mix of cobbled streets, courtyards and walls we spent some time here before dinner. The evening views are spectacular and a photographer's paradise – shame we forgot our cameras!

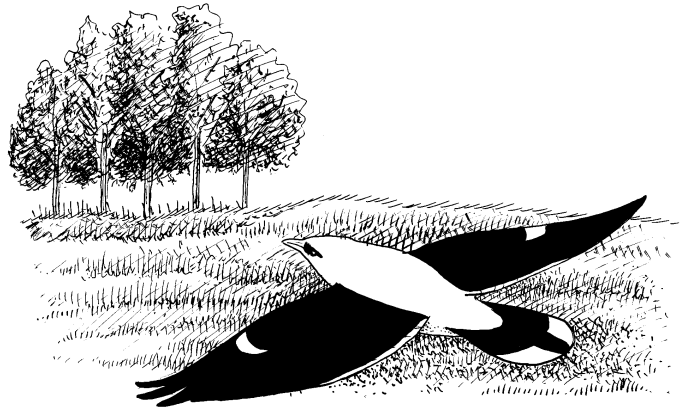
Wednesday May 14

Ucka Vela summit

So, our last full day, and the weather was still excellent. Pre-breakfast walks had now diverged into both very early and rather late to take account of the interests of the group (and leaders!). Hawfinch was the star of the early gang with birds seen very well feeding on nettle-tree buds. The late shift had less time before breakfast and so saw less but still enjoyed a stroll in bright sunshine with the sounds of orioles all around, but only fleeting views.

After yesterday's appearance of the wrynecks, more eyes were on the gardens during breakfast and again we were rewarded, this time by a splendid male golden oriole flying (*below right*) across the gardens and landing in full view in a small tree where it began hunting caterpillars. Finally we had the views we had hoped for all week and breakfast finished on a high.

Our main destination today was Ucka, but this time we headed for the summit and a fantastic viewpoint. The steep road took us through beech woods with the vibrant green fresh leaves that make spring so spectacular. A small flock of honey buzzards appeared above us as we got out of the buses – migrating birds heading north. A short walk to the viewpoint afforded fabulous views down the coast or down the main Istrian peninsular. Here more honey and common buzzards were seen and Will's sharp eyes also picked out a distant goshawk – we were at 1400 metres and the bird was high above us.



After soaking in the views it was time to make the descent but not before stopping to explore some of the beech woodland. *Corydalis* and wood anemone were the key species in flower with golden-drop lower down.

A quick stop at the golden eagle nest site on the way to lunch, but no eagles. We did attract the attention of Ucka park staff however, who were keen to know how we found out about the nest and seemed concerned that we may have had nefarious intentions. When we explained who we were all was well, but it was good to see them taking such good care of the birds. Kestrel and goshawk appeared before we left

As this was our last day lunch was taken in a small restaurant nearby – plates of *prosciutto* and local cheese with salad, olives, peppers and wine, simple but very satisfying, especially when followed by chocolate pancakes as the 'dolce' seekers did. Back to the hotel for 3 pm to allow time for packing and for Bob to get his massage – we await the full story over dinner!

Thursday May 15

Istarske Toplice to Trieste, via Isola della Cona

A quick 07.00 stroll outside found a great reed warbler that had appeared overnight and found a thick bush beside the swimming pool where it was half-heartedly practicing its song. The golden oriole appeared briefly for the breakfast window spotters but there was little time to watch and we were away by 08.27 and en route to Italy. The early breakfast and departure was to allow time to visit Isola della Cona, one of the best birdwatching sites in Italy and conveniently close to the airport.

Following a detour through Trieste we soon found ourselves driving alongside canals and reed-lined pools before arriving at the reserve. This site is well equipped for the casual visitor with some excellent coffee and two superb hides overlooking pools and reeds and areas of water kept clear by Camargue type horses.

Another 13 species were added to our bird list with highlights being spoonbill, little bittern, collared pratincole and the ever-delightful little gull. A coypu and family were also feeding just in front of the windows. The hides also allowed us to have good views of some species we had seen either at a distance or only fleetingly such as black tern and great reed warbler. Parties of polite and wonderfully enthusiastic children were also there for some environmental education and pleased to be shown great reed warbler and roe deer by Honeyguide – the decision makers of the future perhaps.

Onward then to the airport, a short 20 minute drive away where we said goodbye to our 'thirsty' bus and farewell to Paul and his stories of the area. 143 species of birds and 28 species of butterfly were seen or heard during eight days of exceptional weather and great company. Thank you to all for a great week!

Birds

Black-throated diver	one out to sea at Sicciole salt pans
Little grebe	one nesting at Isola della Cona
Great-crested grebe	several birds at Cerknisko
Red-necked grebe	two at Cerknisko
Shag	several at sea from Sicciole salt pans
Little bittern	one disturbed from small pond at Isola della Cona
Squacco heron	two feeding in Myrna river in Quietto valley
Little egret	Cerknisko Jezero and Isola della Cona
Great white egret	one at Sicciole Salinas
Grey heron	Myrna river, salt pans and Isola della Cona
Purple heron	one in the Myrna river
White stork	village near Cerknisko and Quietto valley
Black stork	over the Rakov cafe at Cerknisko
Spoonbill	three birds at Isola della Cona
Mute swan	many at Isola della Cona
Greylag goose	many at Isola della Cona
Shelduck	Sicciole salt pans
Wigeon	Isola della Cona
Teal	Isola della Cona
Gargany	one at Cerknisko Jezero
Gadwall	Isola della Cona
Mallard	seen in most stretches of water throughout the week
Shoveler	Isola della Cona
Pochard	Isola della Cona
Common scoter	one at sea at Sicciole salt pans
Honey buzzard	one at Stridone and c8 birds migrating over Ucka on the 14 th
Griffon vulture	several seen over Ucka on the 11 th
Short-toed eagle	seen at Zbevnica and Stridone
Marsh harrier	Cerknisko and Sicciole
Montagu's harrier	one male apparently rising from woodland near Stridone
Sparrowhawk	one at Stridone
Goshawk	a pair during coffee at Cerknisko, one very high from summit of Ucka and another sighting eagle viewpoint below Ucka
Common buzzard	most abundant raptor, seen each day
Osprey	Cerknisko Jezero
Golden eagle	a pair below Zbevnica and another pair at the nest below Ucka
Common kestrel	Cerknisko, Ucka Vela
Red-footed falcon	17+ birds of both sexes at Cerknisko Jezero probably feeding on chafers
Hobby	13+ at Cerknisko Jezero
Peregrine	seen on cliffs above hotel
Rock partridge	a pair seen in meadows below Ucka Vela and heard from summit
Bobwhite quail	4 birds seen in fresh cut meadows near Stridone and single at Floricici
Pheasant	Quietto valley, Stridone and Floricici
Moorhen	Sicciole Salinas and Isola della Cona
Coot	Cerknisko Jezero
Black-winged stilt	Sicciole Salinas, at the end of Quietto valley and Isola della Cona
Avocet	one at Sicciole Salinas
Collared pratincole	one flying into the pools at Isola della Cona
Ringed plover	3 at Isola della Cona
Kentish plover	Sicciole Salinas
Grey plover	one at Sicciole Salinas
Lapwing	one at Isola della Cona
Little stint	3 at Sicciole Salinas

Curlew sandpiper	one at lagoon at end of Quietto valley
Ruff	2 at end of Quietto valley and three at Sicciole Salinas
Curlew	1 at Isola della Cona
Greenshank	1 at Sicciole Salinas and 1 at Isola della Cona
Spotted redshank	1 at end of Quietto valley
Wood sandpiper	several at Sicciole Salinas, 1 at end of Quietto Valley and 3 at Isola della Cona
Common sandpiper	Myrna river, one in hotel garden on water treatment ponds
Black-headed gull	one at Cerknisko Jezero, several at Sicciole Salinas
Yellow-legged gull	Frequent at the coast
Little gull	3 at Isola della Cona
Common tern	Sicciole Salinas
Little tern	3+ at Sicciole Salinas
Black tern	100s at Cerknisko Jezero, 10+ at Isola della Cona
Rock dove	Ucka Vela
Collared dove	frequently seen inland around farmland
Turtle dove	Stridone, Floricici and Isola della Cona
Cuckoo	heard most days, seen occasionally
Scops owl	heard every evening around hotel, often several birds
Swift	seen most days
Alpine swift	breeding in caves above hotel, seen each day
Bee-eater	high flock heard at Zbevnicca, two birds excavating nest hole in Myrna river bank and two birds at Floricici nest site
Hoopoe	seen occasionally at roadside at Zbevnicca and Stridone
Wryneck	heard each morning and seen mating in hotel grounds.
Grey-headed woodpecker	heard in woodland by hotel
Black woodpecker	seen on lawn of hotel and heard occasionally. Two birds seen at Zbevnicca



Great spotted woodpecker	heard very loud most days at hotel and seen regularly
Lesser spotted woodpecker	one seen sunning itself in front of hotel cliff face 12/05
Woodlark	Zbevnicca and Ucka valley meadows
Skylark	seen regularly
Swallow	common, seen most days
House martin	common and nesting on hotel grounds
Tawny pipit	Ucka valley meadows
Tree pipit	Zbevnicca, Ucka Vela
Ashy-headed wagtail	Cernesko Jezero, river Myrna
Grey wagtail	beside river at Floricici
White wagtail	seen each day by hotel
Wren	seen or heard occasionally by hotel
Nightingale	heard each day at most venues and by hotel. Seen perched in dead tree singing at Floricici
Black redstart	seen most days around hotel cliff face
Whinchat	many birds around Cerknisko and others seen most days
Stonechat	Quietto Valley, Ucka Vela
Northern wheatear	one bird at Cerknisko Jezero
Blue rock thrush	seen on hotel cliff face each day

Rock thrush	one male seen briefly on route to Zbevnica
Blackbird	seen and heard each day
Fieldfare	one pair nesting in an apple tree at Cerknisko Jezero
Song thrush	seen around hotel most days
Mistle thrush	seen most days around hotel
Cettis warbler	Sicciole Salinas
Sedge warbler	Cerknisko Jezero
Marsh warbler	heard at Isola della Cona
Subalpine warbler	Zbevnica and lunch stop at end of Quieto Valley
Sardinian warbler	Florici
Barred warbler	heard and seen very briefly at Cerknisko Jezero
Lesser whitethroat	Ucka Vela
Whitethroat	seen or heard most days
Blackcap	very common, seen or heard at most locations
Bonelli's warbler	heard at Isola della Cona (first record)
Chiffchaff	heard most days
Willow warbler	heard at Isola della Cona
Wood warbler	one heard at hotel
Spotted flycatcher	seen frequently at hotel also at Isola della Cona
Long-tailed tit	Ucka Vela and Stridone
Marsh tit	hotel gardens
Coal tit	Cerknisko Jezero
Blue tit	seen each day by hotel
Great tit	seen each day by hotel
Nuthatch	hotel gardens
Treecreeper	heard in high beech woods at Ucka Vela
Short-toed treecreeper	in woods by hotel
Golden oriole	very common by hotel
Red-backed shrike	seen daily by hotel and most sites
Jay	common, seen each day at many sites
Magpie	occasionally seen – Cerknisko Jezero, Ucka Vela
Hooded crow	seen frequently
Raven	nesting on cliffs above hotel
Starling	odd birds seen each day
House sparrow	seen each day
Tree sparrow	Ucka Vela
Chaffinch	commonly seen each day
Serin	common at hotel
Greenfinch	common at hotel
Goldfinch	common at hotel
Linnet	Ucka Vela meadows
Hawfinch	seen frequently but briefly at hotel
Yellowhammer	Cerknisko Jezero
Cirl bunting	heard each day, seen occasionally
Rock bunting	on cliffs at hotel, Ucka Vela meadows
Ortolan bunting	Ucka Vela meadows
Corn bunting	seen or heard most days
Black-headed bunting	Quiet Valley

Butterflies

Swallowtail
 Scarce swallowtail
 Southern festoon
 Large tortoiseshell
 Small tortoiseshell
 Glanville fritillary
 Heath fritillary
 Marsh fritillary
 Speckled wood
 Wall
 Large wall
 Small heath
 Small white
 Orange tip



Wood white
 Black-veined white
 Clouded yellow
 Pale clouded yellow
 Brimstone
 Green hairstreak
 Common blue
 Adonis blue
 Mazarine blue
 Small blue
 Silver studded blue
 Dingy skipper
 Grizzled skipper
 Small copper

Moths

Small elephant hawkmoth
 Cream-spotted tiger
 Six spot burnet

Amphibian, reptiles, mammals and miscellaneous invertebrates

Marsh frog	Roe deer (and regularly on plates in restaurants)
	Coypu
Green lizard	Red squirrel
Italian wall lizard	Vole sp
Viviparous lizard	
European whip snake (dead on road)	Rose chafer
Tessalated snake	Cockchafer
	Violet carpenter bee
Western hedgehog (dead on road)	Bee fly
Brown hare	Hornet
Red fox (very small cub on road near hotel)	

Participants & their highlight of the week:

Ian & Fiona Codd	Seeing the nightingale singing; the cliffs above the hotel
Bob & Pam Harris	Montagu's harrier; salt pans
Peter & Elonwy Crook	Wrynecks at breakfast (and the dancing!); hoopoe
Vic & Brenda Dowsett	Ucka meadows for both
Sandy & Marie Watt	The golden orioles; the peregrine before breakfast
Julie Sherwood	Salt pans
Sue Wells	Cerknisko Jezero and the red-footed falcons
Will Warham	Salt pans and Isola della Cona
Paul	The bobwhite quails (an unexpected 'lifer')
Ivan	Cerknisko: the red-foots and 'hunting' the barred warbler – I'll see it well one day!