



Honeyguide

WILDLIFE HOLIDAYS

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**From the Alps to the Adriatic in autumn
Italy/Slovenia
16 – 23 September 2015**

Holiday participants

Wendy Dickson
Gill Page
Margaret Dixey
Keith Wallace
Len Tebbutt
Karen Klempka and Michael McCue

Leader

Paul Tout, who also wrote this report.

We stayed at the Il Caneo Hotel www.caneo.it at the mouth of the Isonzo River in Italy and one night at Jazbec <http://www.jazbec.si/en/> in Slovenia.

Photos by Paul Tout.

Cover, top row: green lizard, eastern Bath whites.
Middle: Montasio towards Carnic Alps, Adonis blues, griffon vulture.
Bottom: goldfinches bathing in Slovenia, *Centaurea dichroantha*.



A trifle chilly at 2200m, and less chilly at 200m!

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, €400 (£320), went to DOPPS, BirdLife Slovenia.

It was our second donation to DOPPS this year, as €350 (£255) was raised through our holiday in Istria in May. There is a thank-you letter from DOPPS at the report's end. Conservation contributions made through Honeyguide since 1991 are £103,528 (to the end of 2015).

DAILY DIARY

Wednesday 16 September – from the airport to the hotel

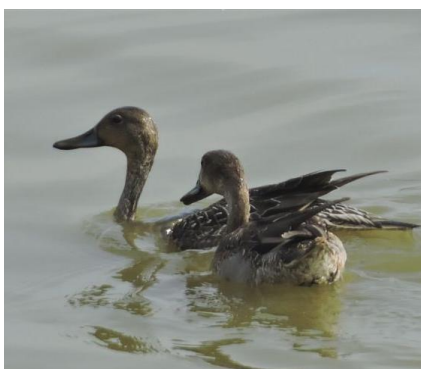
Having picked up Karen and Mike at the railway station and dropped them at the hotel, it was time to go to the airport to meet the Ryanair flight which, as chance would have it, was about an hour late and rougher than most people enjoy. That said, all the baggage arrived safely and the trip to the hotel was a very brief one with the only hoopoe of the week passing in front of the van. Once at the hotel and settled in there was plenty to see close by before dinner including pygmy cormorants and a fly-past to roost of the local curlews with the odd whimbrel mixed in.

Thursday 17 September – around the hotel, Isola della Cona and Valle Cavanata

A local day was in order and we started off around the hotel. This was always going to be a 'bird heavy' day, with little other wildlife interest at this time of the year, and so it proved. It had rained lightly before dawn, and I was optimistic that there would be a few migrants brought down, so straight after breakfast we set off on foot from the hotel and were not disappointed. The first bird we ran into, feeding from the rail along the cycle path, was a young male common redstart, quickly followed by a small group of lesser whitethroats and a couple of pied flycatchers in the scrub beside the road. These, and the spotted flycatcher and willow warbler we saw as we returned, are all common migrants here in mid-September as the forests of central and northern Europe empty of their trans-Saharan migrants before the weather turns cold.

There were birds to see over the marsh, too. In addition to the ever-present common snipe and teal there were hunting marsh harriers and an excellent view of one of the many very vocal water rails feeding on the mud at the edge of the channel. At this point it was decided to head straight to Isola della Cona for lunch. Here the birds, like the food, are on a plate and we quickly added a large number of species to the list including cattle, little and great white egrets, pintail, wigeon, gadwall, 'plastics' (wildfowl that have escaped or been released from collections) but still pretty, such as ruddy shelduck and Egyptian goose, a single avocet and a late black tern. Passerines were less in evidence but there were several 'phylloscys' including a nice, cooperative wood warbler. There were things other than birds to see too, and we were treated to splendid views of a magnificent adult male green lizard and a fair-sized grass snake.

By late afternoon it was time to head back towards the hotel, but not before a quick stop-off at Valle Cavanata, a Ramsar site quite close to the hotel. Here, unfortunately, the water levels were very high following the autumn rains and the light was unfavourable, but greenshank and spotted redshank were added to the list for the day.



Pied flycatcher, pintails and grass snake.

Friday 18 September – Rakov Škocjan and Cerknjško Jezero

Today's trip took us across the border into Slovenia to visit one of the finest turloughs in the world, Cerknjško Jezero. Turloughs are temporary lakes in limestone karst environments. Covering more than 3,000 hectares, its water levels fluctuate wildly over the course of just a few days and are usually highest in spring and autumn. There are thousands of hectares of splendid wildflower meadows, deep forests and limestone gorges. Birding can be hard work at certain times of the year but there are always plenty of butterflies and plants during the warmer months.

The first stop-off was at Rakov Škocjan, the limestone gorge that discharges the lake, but water was completely absent and there was little point in staying to look without the spectacle of the Reka River plunging into the cave system and on towards the River Sava, Drava and Danube! Levels were still low when we arrived at the shores of the lake itself and almost all the grey herons and great white egrets were in the large meadows north of the lake, probably feeding on voles and moles. A large flock of yellowhammers, perhaps 20 or so and all in interestingly dull plumages, were flushed from the spilt grain used to feed some horses and cows in a large field.

At the stop-off to pick up food for the lunches a rather 'becalmed' hummingbird hawkmoth was found and this was carefully placed on a leaf when we arrived and left to recover. It's unusual to see one not flying and everyone with a camera took advantage of the situation to take some fine pictures.



Hummingbird hawkmoth.

Heading out across the lake bed we were treated to some wonderful plants including marsh gentian and southern devil's-bit scabious. There were butterflies too including clouded and Berger's clouded yellows, common blue and common swallowtails.

One of the stranger and frankly surreal moments of the holiday then followed. The sky was rather dark and leering and Margaret asked, "Was that thunder?" before I looked up and saw an enormous aircraft flying towards us at about 4,000ft from the direction of Postonja about 10 miles away, dark exhaust fumes trailing behind it. Almost above us, the roar intensifying, it banked, revealing the 4 double engines and swept-back wings of a fifty year-old B-52 bomber! A check on the internet that evening revealed that there were NATO military exercises being held a short distance away and that this plane was part of the 'show', having flown from Barksdale, Louisiana for 15 hours non-stop and we had seen it turn at the end of a 7,000km journey!

Birds were rather few and far between but the lake bed did have a good number of migrant whinchats, a marsh harrier, several buzzards and reed buntings. Best bird was probably a hobby, one of several seen during the day hunting the many darter and hawk dragonflies.

Moving on towards Žerovnica we saw the huge white storks' nest in Martinjak from which three young fledged this year. Once at the lake bed again we were able to enjoy the large numbers of autumn crocus and the vast swathes of devil's-bit scabious that make this site one of the most important in Europe for marsh fritillary. Apart from a spotted flycatcher most of the birds remained distant. As we drove on to our next stop we flushed a small group of 'yellow' wagtails. They were rather lively so it was difficult to pin them down to any particular subspecies.

A stop for coffee provided both species of redstarts around the car park.

Round at the farthest point of the lake it was clear just how low the water levels were, even with the rain of recent weeks, with the main stream, the Reka, reduced to a trickle. Birds there were however, drawn in by the water available, and a lovely large flock of goldfinches bathing right in front of us was one of the highlights of the week for some. Grey wagtail and hawfinch were seen at the same spot. Continuing on around the lake not much was added to the day's tally except for a very nice plant or two of willow gentian beside the track.

Saturday 19 September – Breginjski Stol and Idrjsko

A wedding at the Caneo hotel on Saturday evening meant we would be forced to have a night away from our main base. To make the most of it and add a venue that would not otherwise have been possible it was decided in advance to stay close to Kobarid – Caporetto, the town just over the border into Slovenia, in the Julian Pre-alps passing up through the River Torre Valley in Italy and up onto Breginjski Stol, a 1600m mountain overlooking the valley of the river Natisone – Nadiža. As we started up the mountain road it became clear that it had been damaged quite badly by the very heavy rains in the previous fortnight. As a result the journey up was more demanding than expected, but we arrived.

Lunch was 'taken early' as the cloud appeared to be lifting at last, promising a decent afternoon's walk. Around the minibus there were plants such as alpine bistort, butterflies such as the local endemic Styrian ringlet and birds such as ravens to observe. At this point yet another surreal moment ensued, the second in two days, as we were joined for lunch by a motorcade of about 60 vehicles, organisers' models, drivers and hangers-on filming and photographing for a massive advertising campaign for Jeep with Breginjski Stol chosen (together with Venice and the island of Pag) as the location for a photo-shoot. They didn't stay long and were soon on their way.

After lunch we were able to continue our walk along the ridge on an old mule-track dating back to the First World War. The cloud had lifted and there was a fair bit to see. A few flowers were still out including alpine calamint, fringed pink and a large quantity of yellow ox-eye, and there were a lot more Styrian ringlets. Birds were not lacking either with the occasional wheatear, a few water pipits, coal tits and, most oddly, at least two and perhaps more cuckoos. Given the date these were almost certainly young birds, probably feeding on the vast numbers of fox moth larvae that were all along the path.

These enormous 'woolly bear' caterpillars are covered in irritant hairs and cuckoos are one of the few species that seem able to deal with this potential food source.



Wheatear (through a wire fence), Styrian ringlet and fox moth larvae on Host's saxifrage.

The best bird seen was probably the enormous golden eagle that launched itself off the rock-face just above the track about 50 metres ahead of the group as we rounded a corner. It was a shame that it didn't stay in sight for longer or come back past us. Another eagle appeared much further away as we walked back towards the van and this was probably also one of the local pair.

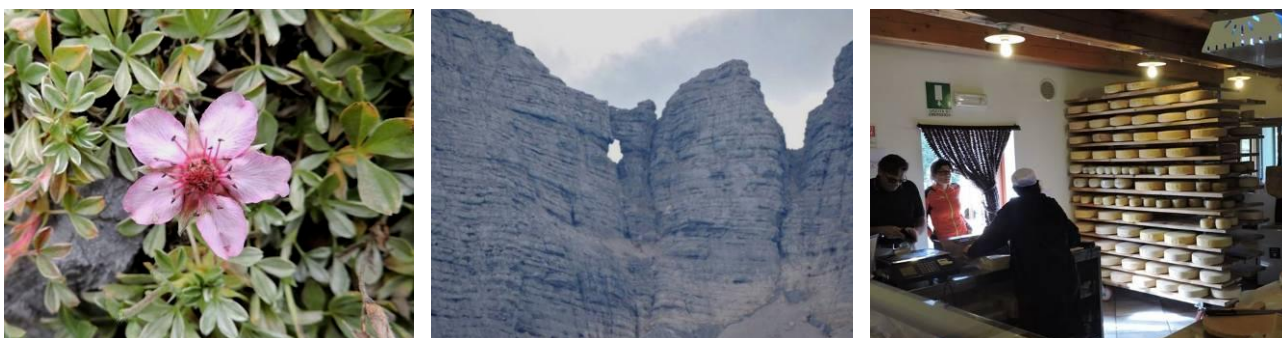
Sunday 20 September – Monte Mangart and Montasio

Sunday dawned rather cool and blustery but with the odd patch of sunshine, and after a wonderful breakfast and having said goodbye to Roman at the hotel we were on our way to Mangart, at 2400 metres above sea-level one of the highest peaks in the Julian Alps. Like so much of the infrastructure in the area the road up was built by the Austrians during the First World War and was to service the soldiers overlooking the Val Raccolana which was in Italian hands.

Arriving at 2000 metres the weather was much the same but several degrees cooler at 9°C and with a nippy northerly breeze keeping the birdlife pretty well grounded. A few hardy ravens, alpine choughs and the odd water pipit were about the only birds on show. The flowers were much better, however, and even though we were now at the equinox and autumn had already started at this altitude there was still much to see including crusted saxifrage, fairies' thimbles (the bellflower *Campanula cochleariifolia*), alpine calamint, fringed gentian, the magnificent pink cinquefoil *Potentilla nitida* and lots of mugo pine.

At this point, given the wind and the low temperatures, it was decided to go and seek warmer climes slightly lower down on a south-facing slope in Italy, the famous Montasio, famous for its brand of cheese which cheered Wendy no end! Mangart itself is on the border and after a forty minute drive we found ourselves in a warm, sheltered car-park at 1550 metres below a splendid alpine ridge ... along with about sixty other vehicles belonging to people who'd had the same idea! We settled down for our lunch, enjoying distant views of a soaring golden eagle (and a drone, I suspect these 'toys' are going to become an increasing feature during visits to beautiful sites) before going for a walk along the track through alpine meadows to the main *malga* – where cheese is made and sold directly to the public.

In the meadows there were a few birds to see and hear including a willow tit, coal tit, song thrush and cuckoo (again!). Arriving at the *malga* most people opted for a coffee and cake and several bought some cheese ... one or two lots of it! By now time was getting on and we began to head back towards the van before making our way back towards the coast about 90 minutes away through Italy. As we reached the van I pointed out what appeared to be the only patch of snow high up just below the ridge on the opposite mountainside, Kanin. This is, in fact, an optical illusion and the 'snow' is a hole right through the ridge, called an *okno*, the Slovene for 'window'. The journey back to the hotel was uneventful but we were greeted by Len's little egrets in the same patch of ditch as we arrived. Our rooms had been thoroughly cleaned and serviced after the wedding and everything was as it should be for the evening meal.



Pink cinquefoil, the 'okno' and the *malga* with mountain cheeses

Monday 21 September – Val Rosandra and Altire di Polazzo

Closer to the coast and lower down, temperatures were considerably better and we awoke once again to warm sunshine and light mist, suggesting yet another warm and sunny day.

Val Rosandra is an unusual structure in the Karst in that the impermeable rock that underlies the limestone, called 'flysch', a type of mudstone, means that flowing water has gouged out a deep gorge over millions of years. The NE facing side has been reduced to rubble and scree by gelifraction during recent Ice Ages but the SW facing one is much warmer and has survived largely intact, with vertical cliffs.

We arrived at the little church of San Lorenzo above the gorge and had a quick peep at the hoopoe nest at eye-height in the wall that has been occupied annually for at least 20 years. As we went to inspect a yellow-berried mistletoe (*Loranthus europaeus*) at the top of a downy oak close to the car park, a small copper butterfly was playing around and settled on a patch of bare ground, giving good views. Birds were rather scarce as we started our walk up through the scrub but there were plenty of interesting plants in flower including the lilac-flowered savory (*Satureja subspicata*) side-by-side with its common relative, winter savory. Much prettier but less aromatic, *S. subspicata* is a Balkan species, and like more than a dozen other species, within Italy is found only in the province of Trieste.

We made our way through a plantation of black pines, where the birds were resolutely silent, to the edge of the gorge. There was a splendid view overlooking Trieste, the Gulf of Trieste and away towards our hotel at the mouth of the River Isonzo and on towards the Dolomites, summing up this splendidly biodiverse area. The purple flowers of *Scabiosa triandra* had plenty of butterflies, including clouded yellow and Berger's clouded yellow together, grayling, large wall and eastern Bath white *Pontia edusa*. Leaving the pines behind us we began to hear the trilling calls of a crested tit which came in nice and close, giving excellent views.

Cutting across the grassland we encountered the bright bluish-purple of a group of hyssop plants in full flower. Another very local species in this part of the world it brightens up the autumn in subalpine grasslands right down through the Balkans well into October. Heading back towards the van there were still very few birds but everyone was delighted to get close-up views of a very large female praying mantis of the green colour form (most in these habitats are olive-brown). The final point of interest before lunch was a very interesting golf-ball sized 'crown' gall growing on sessile oaks and a check with good old Google reveals that they belong to the wasp *Andricus quercustozae*.

We immediately drove north along the motorway to our next stop, the Altura di Polazzo, an area of more than a square kilometre of *landa carsica*, the traditional grazing lands of the Karst that dominated this environment for more than 3,500 years but that have now become so rare because of the abandonment of agriculture and scrubbing over. We were met by Davide, one of the Samsa family who have owned this piece of land since the end of the First World War. After a very nice lunch on civilised tables and benches beneath an awning we were able to take a walk around the holding. While most of the flowers are less visible in these habitats, having been grazed down, the birds at least are on show, and almost immediately we were treated to excellent views of a woodlark as well as a pair of mating Adonis blues. As we neared the main flock of sheep it became clear that there had been a small fall of migrants overnight and the closely-cropped turf was alive with wheatears, at least 15 birds, together with redstart, whinchat and a spotted flycatcher on the fences surrounding the paddock, all giving excellent views.

The area, Monte Sei Busi, was the scene of some of the fiercest battles between the Italians and Austrians in World War One. I had asked where to find the pieces of shrapnel from the battle and Davide had said "on the mole-hills". As we headed back towards the van, Karen was the lucky one and was rewarded with a real piece of 'shrapnel', a spherical lead ball about a centimetre in diameter, white with oxide, from a shell that had exploded over the battlefield a century before.

From here it was just a short journey back to the hotel and a well-earned rest.



Hyssop, gall of the wasp *Andricus quercustozae* and praying mantis.

Tuesday 22 September – Cornino, Magredi and around the hotel.



Griffon vultures.

Our last full day merited a 'big' trip so we headed north towards the Alps again, with a slightly earlier start than usual, not so much because of the distance involved but because our 'prey', the griffon vultures at Cornino, often get up quite early if the weather is fine, as indeed it proved to be. After a journey of about 50 minutes we arrived at the visitor centre car park where the griffons had evidently begun their daily flight with ten or so low above our heads. Having arrived at the viewpoint we were treated to about 50 vultures in the air and 50 or more feeding on carcasses at the feeding site.

The story of the vulture project is an interesting one and bears re-telling. Twenty-five years ago the closest nesting colonies were in the Kvarner Archipelago off the Dalmatian coast but each summer large numbers of immature birds

used to move up to the High Tauern Alps, following a migration that has probably lasted since the end of the last Ice Age and certainly since humans developed their Alpine transhumance activities with domestic stock associated with cheese-making and dairy activity. Occasionally these birds would be seen in Friuli on migration and in the late 1980s it was decided to develop this feeding site and release birds with a view to calling in passing wild birds and developing a local breeding colony. The project has been a resounding success with birds present all year, up to 200 in September and 10 to 20 pairs breeding in the pre-Alps, the first (and warmest) line of mountains along the Alps' southern edge.

Also present were the usual large numbers of ravens (a rare bird here 25 years ago) as well as a sparrowhawk, a hobby, a short-toed eagle and a buzzard.

Time was pressing and I was optimistic that we would see some good birds in an area to the east of Cornino, called the 'magredi', a vast alluvial fan that has 'poured' out of the mountains since the last Ice Age and the melting of the vast glaciers of the Carnic Alps.

We arrived for lunch at the huge grasslands stretching out at Dandolo, north of Pordenone. These had recently been cut ... but not recently enough it would seem! By now it was very warm and the bird life, bar a couple of kestrels and a pair of great white egrets, was virtually non-existent. All very disappointing, and apart from the large numbers of butterfly species the best observation was probably a mating pair of eastern Bath white butterflies that were very cooperative and allowed everyone excellent views.

Moving on into the magredi we visited some flower meadows that did contain some plants that were re-flowering following the long hot dry summer and the first autumn rains, including the very rare endemic creamy white knapweed *Centaurea dicroantha*. The tartar's cabbage *Crambe tataria*, a steppe relative of the sea kale that grows on UK shores and here at its most western outpost had already set seed, but we were able to admire the rosettes that will go on to become next year's plants and, more importantly, the dead 'tumbleweeds' that scatter their seeds as they roll across the grasslands. We continued to add butterfly species to the very respectable week's list including pearly heath, spotted fritillary and a very brief view of what, by exclusion and habitat, must have been a red-underwing skipper.



Tartar's cabbage.

At this point, and at Wendy's admirable suggestion, we decided to cut our losses and head back towards the hotel and get some birding in before dinner, and by 5pm we were out birding on the sea wall next to the hotel. As usual there was plenty to see including distant grey plovers, curlew and black-necked grebes, Sandwich terns, snipe and three species of 'cormorant': pygmy and great cormorants and Mediterranean shag, at one moment all sitting on the same large tree-trunk emerging from the shallow water covering the mudflats! A pair of passing ruddy shelducks (an increasingly common feral species in northern Italy, even if endangered in their home range in central Asia) were an unusual sight, and even the two common shelducks seen have only become 'common' around the Adriatic within the last five years.

As we walked back to the hotel the rarest bird of the holiday, a single broad-billed sandpiper feeding on a patch of mud in the middle of the saltmarsh with the snipe, was certainly a good record, although better views would have been appreciated.

Wednesday 23 September – Mula di Muggia, Isola della Cona and the airport

With the flight back not until late afternoon we had the best part of the day for birding. The weather was beginning to change for the worse with wind and rain threatening, but looked like it might hold out until departure time as we headed back to Isola della Cona and the easy pickings bird-wise. Not many new species were added to the week's total as most had been seen on day one. The black tern was still present along with the 'usual suspects' such as cattle, little and great white egrets, marsh harrier and various ducks and geese. The avocet, however, seemed to have gone. In late morning I had to take Karen and Mike to the railway station and shop for the lunches but by two o'clock or so we were ready to take a look at the Mula di Muggia, a wader roost close to Grado. The rising breeze unfortunately meant that a plague of the 21st century, kite-surfers, had taken to the air / water, scaring most of the birds away so there was little to see apart from black-headed gulls, some disconsolate grey plovers and a handful of dunlins. The regional government is failing to deal with this menace that is threatening several Important Bird Areas and Special Protection Zones around the northern Adriatic, probably because they think that the sport brings much needed money to the coast in the off-season, but in reality the vast majority of the kite-surfers come and go in camper vans and bring their food and drink with them from Austria, Slovakia and Czech Republic. The few Italians present are usually coming from home for the day.

By now it was time to go to the airport and the weather was taking a real turn for the worse. As we arrived at Ronchi the skies opened and as we said our goodbyes the rain bucketed down. A real case of "Après moi le deluge!"

WILDLIFE LISTS

BIRDS								
	Italy	Italy	Slovenia	Slovenia	Italy / Slovenia	Italy	Italy	Italy
PRINCIPAL LOCALITIES	Caneo (around hotel)	Caneo Isola della Cona Valle Cavanata	Cerkiško Jezero Rakov Škocjan	Monte Stol	Monte Mangart Montasio	Val Rosandra Alture di Polazzo	Lago di Comino Magredi	Isola della Cona Mula di Muggia
	Day 1 16/9	Day 2 17/9	Day 3 18/9	Day 4 19/9	Day 5 20/9	Day 6 21/9	Day 7 22/9	Day 8 23/9
Little grebe		x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Great crested grebe		x					x	x
Black-necked grebe							x	
Great cormorant		x				x	x	x
Mediterranean shag	x	x				x	x	x
Pygmy cormorant	x				x	x	x	x
Cattle egret		x						x
Little egret		x		x	x	x	x	x
Great white egret		x	x	x		x	x	x
Grey heron		x	x	x		x	x	x
Mute swan		x				x	x	x
Bar-headed goose								x
Greylag goose		x						x
Egyptian goose		x						x
Ruddy shelduck		x					x	x
Shelduck							x	
Wigeon		x					x	x
Teal		x	x	x		x	x	x
Gadwall		x					x	x
Mallard		x	x	x		x	x	x
Shoveler		x		x			x	x
Pintail		x						x
Griffon vulture							x	
Short-toed eagle							x	

Marsh harrier		x	x	x		x		x
Sparrowhawk							x	
Common buzzard	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Common kestrel								
Hobby	x	x	x				x	
Peregrine falcon	x							
Pheasant		x				x		x
Water rail	H	x	H	x	H	H	H	H
Moorhen		x	x				x	x
Coot		x	x				x	x
Avocet		x						
Grey plover							x	x
Lapwing		x			x			x
Broad-billed sandpiper							x	
Dunlin								x
Whimbrel	H	H	H		H		H	
Curlew	H	x	x	x	H	x	H	H
Snipe	x	x	x	x	H	x	x	x
Redshank					x			
Spotted redshank		x						
Greenshank		x					x	
Wood sandpiper	H	x	x	x		x	x	x
Green sandpiper								x
Common Sandpiper		x						
Black-headed gull	x	x	x	x		x	x	x
Yellow-legged gull	x	x	x	x		x	x	x
Sandwich tern							x	
Black tern		x						x
Rock dove / feral pigeon	x	x	x			x	x	x
Woodpigeon	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Collared dove	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Cuckoo				x	x			
Hoopoe	x							
Green woodpecker							x	
Grey-headed woodpecker					H			
Great spotted woodpecker		x	x	H		x	x	
Woodlark						x		
Skylark							H	
Swallow			x				x	
House martin			x			x		
Tree pipit				x		x		
Water pipit					x			
Yellow wagtail		x						
Grey wagtail		x	x					x
White wagtail	x	x	x	H	x	x	x	x
Robin				x		x		x
Black redstart			x	H	H			
Common Redstart		x	x	x			x	
Whinchat		x	x	x		x	x	
Stonechat			x			x		
Northern wheatear						x	x	
Blackbird		x	x	x	H	x		x
Song thrush			x		x			
Mistle thrush			x					
Cetti's warbler	H	H	H	x	H	x	x	H
Fan-tailed warbler	H	x				x	x	
Reed warbler		H	x		H			

Great reed warbler								
Lesser whitethroat		x				x	x	
Blackcap		H					H	H
Garden Warbler		x						
Willow warbler		x						
Chiffchaff				H				
Wood warbler		x						
Pied / collared flycatcher		x	x					
Spotted flycatcher		x	x			x		
Long-tailed tit		x			x	x		
Marsh tit					x			
Willow tit				x				
Coal tit					H			
Blue tit		x	H	x		x		
Great tit		H	H		x	x		
Short-toed treecreeper						H	H	
Red-backed shrike						H	x	
Jay		x	x			x	x	x
Magpie		x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Alpine chough					x			
Jackdaw		x	x				x	
Hooded crow		x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Raven			x	x	x	x	x	
Starling		x	x	x	x	x	x	x
House / Italian sparrow		x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Tree sparrow					x			
Chaffinch			x	x	x	x		
Serin					x			
Greenfinch			x					
Goldfinch		x	x				H	
Siskin						x		
Hawfinch			x					
Yellowhammer			x					
Reed bunting			x					

MAMMALS

European Mole (dead)	European Brown Hare	Coypu	Roe Deer
Pipistrelle Bat sp.	Red Squirrel (dead)	Brown Rat (dead)	Wild Boar (activity)

REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS

Green Lizard	Italian / Common Wall Lizard	Grass Snake	Edible Frog (Italy)	Marsh Frog (Slovenia)
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MISCELLANEOUS INVERTEBRATES

Praying Mantis <i>Mantis religiosa</i>	Cricket <i>Gryllus</i> sp.	Darter <i>Sympetrum</i> sp.	Migrant Hawker <i>Aeshna mixta</i>
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MOTH AND BUTTERFLIES

Hummingbird Hawkmoth	Grayling	Small Heath	Common Blue
Swallowtail	Great Banded Grayling	Pearly Heath	Silver-studded Blue
Red Admiral	False Grayling	Small White	Adonis Blue
Southern White Admiral	Speckled Wood	Eastern Bath White	Baton Blue
Painted Lady	Meadow Brown	Clouded Yellow	Holly Blue
Silver-washed Fritillary	Styrian Ringlet	Berger's Clouded Yellow	Small Copper
Spotted Fritillary	Wall Brown	Brimstone	Red-underwinged Skipper
	Large Wall Brown	Brown Argus	

PLANTS

MOSESSES

Polytrichum commune

FERNS & ALLIES

<i>Asplenium ruta-muraria</i>	wall-rue
<i>A. trichomanes</i>	maidenhair spleenwort
<i>A. viride</i>	green spleenwort
<i>Athyrium filix-femina</i>	lady fern
<i>Dryopteris filix-mas</i>	male fern
<i>Equisetum arvense</i>	field horsetail
<i>Gymnocarpium robertianum</i>	limestone fern
<i>Phegopteris connectilis</i>	beech fern
<i>Polypodium vulgare</i>	polypody
<i>Polystichum aculeatum</i>	hard shield-fern
<i>P. lonchitis</i>	holly fern
<i>Pteridium aquilinum</i>	bracken

CONIFERS

<i>Abies alba</i>	silver fir
<i>Juniperus communis</i>	juniper
<i>Pinus mugo</i>	mugo pine
<i>P. nigra</i>	black pine
<i>P. sylvestris</i>	Scots pine
<i>Taxus baccata</i>	yew

DICOTYLEDONS

Aceraceae

<i>Acer campestre</i>	field maple
<i>A. monspessulanum</i>	Montpellier maple
<i>A. monspessulanum x campestre</i>	hybrid maple
<i>A. obtusatum</i>	Italian maple
<i>A. platanoides</i>	Norway maple
<i>A. pseudoplatanus</i>	sycamore

Anacardiaceae

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

Apiaceae

<i>Angelica sylvestris</i>	wild angelica
<i>Eryngium amethystinum</i>	amethyst eryngo
<i>Laserpitium siler</i>	
<i>Myrrhis odorata</i>	sweet cicely
<i>Peucedanum oreoselinum</i>	

Araliaceae

<i>Hedera helix</i>	ivy
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Aristolochiaceae

<i>Asarum europaeum</i>	asarabacca
<i>Aristolochia clematidis</i>	birthwort

Asclepiadaceae

<i>Vincetoxicum hirundinaria</i>	swallow-wort
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Asteraceae

<i>A. millefolium</i>	yarrow
<i>Adenostyles alliariae</i>	
<i>Antennaria dioica</i>	mountain everlasting
<i>A. alba</i>	white wormwood
<i>Bellis perennis</i>	daisy
<i>Bupthalmum salicifolium</i>	yellow ox-eye
<i>Centaurea dichroantha</i>	
<i>Cichorium intybus</i>	wild chicory
<i>Cirsium erysithales</i>	yellow melancholy thistle
<i>C. oleraceum</i>	cabbage thistle

Asteraceae (cont'd)

<i>C. pannonicum</i>	Pannonian thistle
<i>Erigeron annuus</i>	
<i>Eupatorium cannabinum</i>	hemp-agrimony
<i>Helianthus tuberosus</i>	Jerusalem artichoke
<i>Inula hirta</i>	
<i>I. salicina</i>	
<i>Jurinea mollis</i>	
<i>Leucanthemum vulgare</i>	ox-eye daisy
<i>Mycelis muralis</i>	wall lettuce
<i>Prenanthes purpurea</i>	purple lettuce
<i>Solidago virgaurea</i>	European goldenrod
<i>Xanthium spinosum</i>	spiny cocklebur
Boraginaceae	
<i>Echium vulgare</i>	viper's-bugloss
<i>Myosotis alpestris</i>	
<i>Symphytum tuberosum</i>	tuberous comfrey
Brassicaceae	
<i>Cakile maritima</i>	sea rocket
<i>Crambe tartaria</i>	tartar's cabbage
Campanulaceae	
<i>Campanula cochleariifolia</i>	fairies' thimbles
<i>C. glomerata</i>	clustered bellflower
<i>C. persicifolia</i>	peach-leaved bellflower
<i>C. pyramidalis</i>	pyramidal orchid
<i>C. trachelium</i>	nettle-leaved bellflower
<i>Legousia speculum-veneris</i>	large Venus's-looking-glass
Caprifoliaceae	
<i>Lonicera alpigena</i>	
<i>L. etrusca</i>	
<i>L. periclymenum</i>	honeysuckle
<i>L. xylosteum</i>	fly honeysuckle
<i>Sambucus ebulus</i>	dwarf elder
<i>S. nigra</i>	common elder
<i>S. racemosa</i>	red-berried or alpine elder
<i>Viburnum lantana</i>	wayfaring tree
<i>V. opulus</i>	guelder rose
Caryophyllaceae	
<i>Dianthus monspessulanus</i>	fringed pink
<i>Drypis spinosa</i>	
ssp. <i>jacquiniana</i>	
<i>Gypsophila repens</i>	
<i>Lychnis flos-cuculi</i>	ragged-Robin
<i>Petrorhagia saxifraga</i>	tunic flower
<i>Silene alba</i>	white campion
<i>S. dioica</i>	red campion
<i>S. vulgaris</i>	bladder campion
Celastraceae	
<i>Euonymus europaeus</i>	spindle
Cistaceae	
<i>Helianthemum nummularium</i>	rock-rose
Convolvulaceae	
<i>Convolvulus cantabricus</i>	pink convolvulus
Cornaceae	
<i>Cornus mas</i>	cornelian cherry
<i>C. sanguinea</i>	dogwood

Corylaceae	
<i>Carpinus betulus</i>	hornbeam
<i>C. orientalis</i>	eastern hornbeam
<i>Corylus avellana</i>	hazel
<i>Ostrya carpinifolia</i>	hop-hornbeam
Crassulaceae	
<i>Sedum acre</i>	wall-pepper
<i>S. tectorum</i>	houseleek
Cucurbitaceae	
<i>Bryonia dioica</i>	white bryony
Dipsacaceae	
<i>Dipsacus fullonum</i>	teasel
<i>Lomelosia graminifolia</i>	
<i>Knautia arvensis</i>	field scabious
<i>K. drymeia</i>	
<i>K. illyrica</i>	
<i>Scabiosa gramuntia</i>	
<i>Succisa pratensis</i>	devil's-bit scabious
<i>Succisella inflexa</i>	small devil's-bit
Ericaceae	
<i>Calluna vulgaris</i>	heather
<i>Erica carnea</i>	Carnic heath
<i>Rhododendron ferrugineum</i>	alpenrose
<i>R. hirsutum</i>	hairy alpenrose
Euphorbiaceae	
<i>Euphorbia amygdaloides</i>	wood spurge
<i>E. cyparissias</i>	cypress spurge
<i>E. fragifera</i>	strawberry spurge
<i>Mercurialis perennis</i>	dog's mercury
Fabaceae	
<i>Amorpha fruticosa</i>	false indigo
<i>Coronilla varia</i>	crown-vetch
<i>Genista tinctoria</i>	dyer's greenweed
<i>Lotus alpinus</i>	alpine bird's-foot-trefoil
<i>L. corniculatus</i>	bird's-foot-trefoil
<i>Medicago sativa</i> ssp. <i>sativa</i>	lucerne
<i>Ononis spinosa</i>	spiny rest-harrow
<i>Spartium junceum</i>	Spanish broom
<i>Trifolium pratense</i>	red clover
Fagaceae	
<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>	white oak
<i>Q. robur</i>	pedunculate oak
Gentianaceae	
<i>Gentiana asclepiadea</i>	willow gentian
<i>G. ciliata</i>	fringed gentian
<i>G. pneumonanthe</i>	marsh gentian
<i>G. terglouensis</i>	Triglav gentian
Geraniaceae	
<i>Geranium macrorrhizum</i>	big-root crane's-bill
<i>Geranium phaeum</i>	dusky crane's-bill
<i>G. purpureum</i>	little-Robin
<i>G. robertianum</i>	herb-Robert
<i>G. sanguineum</i>	bloody crane's-bill
<i>G. sylvaticum</i>	wood crane's-bill

Globulariaceae	
<i>Globularia cordifolia</i>	
<i>G. punctata</i>	
Grossulariaceae	
<i>Hypericum perforatum</i>	perforate St. John's-wort
Lamiaceae	
<i>Acinos alpinus</i>	alpine calamint
<i>A. arvensis</i>	basil-thyme
<i>Lycopus europaeus</i>	gipsywort
<i>Origanum vulgare</i>	marjoram
<i>Prunella grandiflora</i>	large-flowered self-heal
<i>Prunella laciniata</i>	cut-leaved self-heal
<i>P. vulgaris</i>	self-heal
<i>Salvia glutinosa</i>	Jupiter's distaff
<i>S. nemorosa</i>	wild sage
<i>S. pratensis</i>	meadow clary
<i>Satureja montana</i>	winter savory
<i>S. subspicata</i>	lilac-flowered savory
<i>Stachys alopecuroides</i>	
<i>S. officinalis</i>	betony
<i>S. recta</i>	yellow woundwort
<i>Thymus longicaulis</i>	wild thyme
Linaceae	
<i>Linum bienne</i>	pale flax
<i>L. catharticum</i>	purging flax
Loranthaceae	
<i>Loranthus europaeus</i>	
Malvaceae	
<i>Althaea officinalis</i>	marsh mallow
<i>Malva sylvestris</i>	common mallow
Menyanthaceae	
<i>Nymphoides peltata</i>	fringed water-lily
Moraceae	
<i>Ficus carica</i>	fig
Nymphaeaceae	
<i>Nymphaea alba</i>	white water-lily
<i>N. lutea</i>	yellow water-lily
Oleaceae	
<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>	ash
<i>F. ornus</i>	manna ash
<i>Ligustrum vulgare</i>	wild privet
Oxalidaceae	
<i>Oxalis acetosella</i>	wood sorrel
Paeoniaceae	
<i>Paeonia officinalis</i>	peony
Plantaginaceae	
<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>	ribwort plantain
<i>P. media</i>	hoary plantain
Polygonaceae	
<i>Persicaria bistorta</i>	meadow bistort
Ranunculaceae	
<i>Aconitum paniculatus</i>	paniculate monkshood
<i>A. vulparia</i>	A. vulparia
<i>Actaea spicata</i>	baneberry
<i>Caltha palustris</i>	marsh marigold
<i>Clematis alpina</i>	alpine clematis
<i>C. recta</i>	erect clematis
<i>C. vitalba</i>	traveller's joy

Ranunculaceae (cont'd)	
<i>C. viticella</i>	
<i>Helleborus niger</i>	Christmas rose
<i>Thalictrum aquilegifolium</i>	greater meadow-rue
<i>T. minor</i>	lesser meadow-rue
Resedaceae	
<i>Reseda lutea</i>	mignonette
Rhamnaceae	
<i>Frangula alnus</i>	alder buckthorn
<i>F. rupestris</i>	
<i>Paliurus spina-christi</i>	Christ's-thorn
<i>Rhamnus catharticus</i>	purging buckthorn
Rosaceae	
<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	hawthorn
<i>Dryas octopetala</i>	mountain avens
<i>Filipendula ulmaria</i>	meadowsweet
<i>F. vulgaris</i>	dropwort
<i>Fragaria vesca</i>	
<i>Geum montanum</i>	
<i>G. rivale</i>	water avens
<i>G. urbanum</i>	wood avens
<i>Potentilla erecta</i>	tormentil
<i>Prunus mahaleb</i>	St. Lucie's cherry
<i>Rosa arvensis</i>	field rose
<i>Rosa canina</i>	dog rose
<i>Sanguisorba major</i>	great burnet
<i>Sorbus aria</i>	whitebeam
<i>S. aucuparia</i>	rowan
Rubiaceae	
<i>Asperula cynanchica</i>	squinancywort
<i>Galium lucidum</i>	shining bedstraw
<i>G. palustre</i>	marsh bedstraw
Rutaceae	
<i>Dictamnus albus</i>	burning-bush
<i>Ruta divaricata</i>	rue
Salicaceae	
<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
Saxifragaceae	
<i>Saxifraga crustata</i>	crusted saxifrage
<i>S. hostii</i>	
<i>S. rotundifolius</i>	round-leaved saxifrage

Scrophulariaceae	
<i>Antirrhinum majus</i>	snapdragon
<i>Euphrasia sp.</i>	eyebright sp.
<i>Odontites vernus</i>	red bartsia
<i>Paederota lutea</i>	yellow paederota
<i>Verbascum nigrum</i>	dark mullein
<i>Veronica aphylla</i>	large speedwell
<i>V. barrelieri</i>	Barrelier's speedwell
Simaroubaceae	
<i>Ailanthus altissima</i>	tree-of-heaven
Solanaceae	
<i>Atropa belladonna</i>	deadly nightshade
<i>Solanum dulcamara</i>	woody nightshade
Staphylaeaceae	
<i>Staphylaea pinnata</i>	bladder-nut
Tamaricaceae	
<i>Tamarix gallica</i>	tamarisk
Tiliaceae	
<i>Tilia cordata</i>	small-leaved lime
Ulmaceae	
<i>Celtis australis</i>	nettle-tree
<i>Ulmus glabra</i>	wych elm
Urticaceae	
<i>Parietaria officinalis</i>	pellitory-of-the-wall
MONOCOTYLEDONS	
Alismataceae	
<i>Alisma plantago-aquatica</i>	water-plantain
Cyperaceae	
<i>Carex acuta</i>	slender tufted sedge
<i>C. flava</i>	yellow sedge
<i>Eleocharis palustris</i>	spike-rush
Dioscoreaceae	
<i>Tamus communis</i>	black bryony
Liliaceae	
<i>Allium ochroleucum</i>	
<i>A. senescens</i>	chives
<i>A. sphaerocephalon</i>	round-headed leek
<i>Asparagus acutifolius</i>	
<i>A. tenuifolius</i>	
<i>Colchicum autumnale</i>	meadow saffron
<i>Polygonatum verticillatum</i>	whorled Solomon's-seal
<i>Ruscus aculeatus</i>	butcher's-broom
<i>Tofieldia calyculata</i>	
<i>Veratrum nigrum</i>	black false helleborine
Poaceae	
<i>Phragmites australis</i>	common reed
<i>Poa alpina</i>	alpine meadow-grass



Mr. Chris Durdin,
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Ljubljana, 23rd September 2015

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

thank you very much for the two donations (€350 in May and €400 this month) from the recent Honeyguide tours in Slovenia. I am glad we could help with the visit of our reserve in Škocjanski zatok and as Paul told us, some great birds were seen also this time.

We intend to use the donation to buy some necessary scientific literature which we need for our conservation work.

Looking forward to your return to Slovenia in the years to come,

Yours sincerely,



dr. Damijan Denac, director of DOPPS