

Go Slow.... In Istria in Autumn

Naturetrek Tour Report

10 - 17 October 2019



Walk around San Stefano Hotel



Autumn Ladies Tresses



European Paper Wasp



Motovun-Montona

Report and images by Paul Tout and Chloe Amoo



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Day 1

Thursday 10th October

Trieste Airport - Istarske Toplice (our hotel accommodation) Sunny 10°C - 22°C

Chloe Amoo met up with the group at Stansted. Upon arrival at Trieste airport, just after 5 pm and passing through passport control we collected our luggage and on to arrivals where the tour participants were met by Paul. After a delay while car hire issues were sorted out we were on our way towards Istria, passing through the Karst and on towards Koper-Capodistria, the main port in Slovenia. Many, indeed most of the place-names in this report are in two languages, Croatian (or Slovene) and Italian. At the crossroads of Europe where the three main language groups meet (Romance, Slav and Germanic), the area is an ethnic mix with large areas of bi- (and even tri-) lingualism.

After no further delays, we arrived at our hotel for the week, Istarske Toplice and were soon at dinner at the excellent Dolina restaurant with a lovely meal featuring some of the famous local truffles.

Day 2

Friday 11th October

a.m. Around the hotel; p.m. along the river Mirna-Quieto. Sunny 10°C - 22°C, calm.

Our first morning dawned bright and dry and the decent weather meant that we could explore the area around the hotel which is excellent in wildlife terms. With clear conditions the overnight temperatures were rather low and thus the moth traps were rather disappointing, but did include a the introduced alien Box Moth (*Cydalima perspectalis*) and a nice Orange Swift (*Trioda sylvina*), a species that has been just about the commonest moth around the Northern Adriatic in recent weeks.

Our walk took us round the hotel grounds with the amazing rockfaces looking down on us. Birds recorded included a large female Goshawk (the first of daily records this week) upsetting the local Ravens, Black Woodpecker (heard) and Marsh Tit while butterflies included a large number of Clouded Yellows, a very worn Grayling, a Small Heath and several Wall Browns.

After a brief break we made our way up to the ruins of the church above the hotel. The walk looks daunting but the gradient is regular and pleasing with our progress being ticked off by the stations of the cross! We added Black Redstart and Sardinian Warbler (heard) as well as several plants that included beautiful displays of Sowbread (*Cyclamen purpurascens*) and large numbers of a door snail, probably *Medora macascarensis* and a very brief view of a Horn-nosed Viper for Paul and one lucky participant.

After a picnic lunch on tables beneath the trees beside our base we made our way to the mouth of the river Mirna-Quieto. On the lagoon at the mouth of the river were many newly-arrived Wigeon together with Little and Great Crested Grebe, Great White Egret, Little Egret, a late Common Sandpiper and a very cooperative Curlew which provided excellent views. The same could not be said about a Kingfisher seen briefly in the saltmarsh. In one of the abandoned buildings along the road we saw the regular territorial Little Owl while in the farmland we saw a Great Grey Shrike, a late Wheatear, several Stonechats and Serins as well as a large flock of the local Corn

Buntings. Perhaps the strangest bird we saw was a young Rook. This species is a breeder in the east of Croatia but in Istria is a very scarce winter visitor here.

Getting back to the hotel fairly early, we headed off across the road to search for the local territorial Eagle Owl. Our hopes were fully repaid, the bird beginning to call from cover at about 6 pm before emerging into the open and moving from one rocky perch to another, continuing to call. We had several telescopes available and everyone had excellent views in good light, the bird looking like a cat sitting on a rock in the pinkish evening light. By now small bats were beginning to emerge and it was time to put together the day's checklist.

Day 3

Saturday 12th October

a.m. Kamenjak; p.m. Pula, Monkodonja hill-fort. Sunny 7°C - 24°C calm

The weather was excellent again this morning but there was real chill in the very dry air. Again the moth traps failed to produce much in the way of new species but again we saw Orange Swift, Deep Brown Dart (*Aporophylla lutulenta*) and Dark Arches (*Apamea monoglypha*). A Nuthatch and a Peregrine Falcon were seen and heard above the hotel before departure.

This morning we headed to the very southernmost point of Istria, the Kamenjak peninsula about 75 minutes away. Here the climate is dramatically different to most of the rest of the peninsula. Surrounded by the sea on three sides, the winters are warmer and the summers are cooler than elsewhere in the vicinity. The peninsula was an important Yugoslav military base until 1992 and thus survived the rampant tourist development that has affected much of the coastline.

As we arrived it was clear that some very active visible migration was underway. As many as four Sparrowhawks were seen together over the southernmost point, but also another Goshawk, several Common Buzzards and Barn Swallows were moving through, together with White Wagtails, Meadow Pipits, large numbers of Chaffinches and a few Siskins. Sardinian Warblers were singing and displaying in the scrub in the warm sunshine, while the occasional Mediterranean Shag passed by, flying low over the sea.

Many Autumn Lady's-tresses (*Spiranthes spiralis*) were in flower in the grassland amidst the Mediterranean scrub of Phillyrea (*Phillyrea latifolia*), Spiny Ivy (*Smilax aspera*), Lentisk bush (*Pistacia lentiscus*), Turpentine Tree (*P. terebinthus*), Tree Heath (*Erica arborea*) and Myrtle (*Myrtus communis*), Hairy Rockrose (*Cistus incanus*) and Montpellier Cistus (*C. monspeliensis*). As we made our way down to the cliffs overlooking the Adriatic, Dalmatian Wall Lizards darted in and out from the vegetation and Nose Grasshoppers (*Acrida hungarica*) whirred off from bare ground. Paul pointed out some of the enormous boulders on ledges above the sea that studies had shown had been lifted and shifted by the ferocious Storm Vaia of October 2018 that had gone on to knock down millions of trees in the area of the Dolomites.

By now time was getting on and if we were to complete our programme today we would have to leave this idyllic spot. Our next stop was the Pula Arena, the sixth largest Roman arena still standing, which once held 20,000 spectators, indicating the importance and wealth of the area 1,600 years ago, with an economy based on wine and olive oil and a vast number of agricultural workers living in the vicinity at the time.

Our final stop of the day was further back in time, at the hill-fort of Monkodonja, close to the city of Rovinj-Rovigno. Construction on this immense structure, covering several hectares, began almost 4,000 years ago when people arrived in Istria from further south in the Balkans. At its peak, Monkodonja was inhabited by about 1,000 people and was occupied right through the Roman period and until the 6th century and the arrival of Slavic peoples from the east.

Local project managers have overseen the clearing away of scrub from the main section of the hill-fort and this has had a marvellous effect on the flora. We had a picnic lunch and made our way up onto the fort with a magnificent view to the Adriatic and several islands offshore. Birds were thin on the ground but we did see a Woodlark and continued passage of Chaffinches. The plants were much more interesting and included hundreds of Autumn Lady's-tresses, large patches of Common Toadflax (*Linaria vulgaris*) and a yellow odontites (*Odontites luteus*). Lots of butterflies were seen including Clouded Yellow, Pale (or Berger's) Clouded Yellow, a fresh Painted Lady, Red Admiral, Wall Brown and Large Wall Brown together with the interesting Migratory Locust.

The spot was beautiful and a lovely sunset beckoned but by now it was time to return to our hotel.

Day 4

Sunday 13th October

a.m. Zrenj-Stridone, p.m. Motovun-Montona. Hot, sunny. Max. 22°C

Our luck with the weather continued to hold. Although still chilly and misty in the mornings, the fog soon cleared and we were enjoying sunshine and warm conditions.

Today we went up onto the high plain above the hotel, with a walk through the lovely village of Zrenj-Stridone. Close to the village is a lovely old meadow filled with Autumn Lady's-tresses. It was interesting to see that some of them spiralled clockwise, others anticlockwise and a small number not at all. The last of the Autumn Crocus (*Colchium autumnale*) were still in flower and there were still many butterflies on the wing, including Clouded Yellow, Pale (or Berger's) Clouded Yellow, a fresh Small Copper, Red Admiral and Wall Brown.

Walking through the village, there was a constant movement of small birds overhead, mostly Chaffinches but also Meadow Pipit and Siskin, enlivened with a splash of Brambling, Skylark a late Barn Swallow together with migrating Sparrowhawks, a Goshawk (perhaps a local bird) and a Raven on a pylon close to the village where the newly-ploughed fields were full of birds, including Woodlark, Black Redstart, Stonechat, a late Wheatear and several Tree Sparrows. Hawfinches, Serins flew through and good views were obtained of a lovely male Cirl Bunting in song. We also re-found the huge caterpillar of Convolvulus Hawk-moth feeding on the sunny bank where it had been the previous week.

We moved on for lunch to the beautiful surroundings at the St. Mary of the Snows church between Cepic-Ceppici and Sterna and were fascinated by the large Hornet nests in the wall of the church and a large lime-tree in front of the church door! They seemed to be peacefully co-existing with a feral Honeybee nest in the wall. Hornets often prey on honeybees as they come and go from their hives.

After lunch we made our way down to the hilltop town of Motovun-Montona. On top of a 270 metre hill and the site of a fortress since pre-Roman times, it overlooks the Mirna-Quieto valley, it became an important administrative centre for the forest during the area's long period of Venetian domination when the oak forest

became vital for shipbuilding. It was heavily-fortified to protect it from Ottoman and Austrian forces who attacked Istria at various moments in history. There were strong rivalries with the neighbouring towns of Buzet – Pingvente and Oprtalj – Portole. At the turn of the 21st century much of this beautiful town was derelict, but cultural tourism has turned things around and there were hundreds of visitors on the day we were there.

Day 5

Monday 14th October

a.m. Učka Nature Park, p.m. Hum. Cloudy, 14°C at 1000m a.s.l., 20°C at 200m a.s.l

With the weather continuing to hold, today we made our way to the highest part of Istria. Our first stop was on the Poklon pass overlooking the Kvarner Bay, the city of Rijeka – Fiume and the northernmost islands of Dalmatia. Unfortunately, the day was rather misty and the visibility rather poor. Moving on, we arrived at Mala Učka, a small village at 1000 m a.s.l.

Visible migration was continuing with Goshawk passing through, together with regular movements of small flocks of Chaffinch, Brambling, Hawfinch and Siskin. The tightly-grazed meadows below the road were frequented by large flocks of Mistle Thrush and several Black Redstarts with lots of Blackbirds in the Juniper scrub. Checking through these, one observant participant spotted a male Ring Ouzel perched in a St. Lucy's Cherry (*Prunus mahaleb*) right in front of us. The bird vanished but was quickly relocated, before returning to the cherry and everyone had excellent views through the assorted telescopes. Ring Ouzels do not breed on Učka and this was evidently a passage bird. Two subspecies pass through, the nominate *Turdus t. torquatus* and the Alpine subspecies *Turdus t. alpestris* which nests fairly close by in the Julian Alps and on Velebit. The latter, however, is 'scaly'-looking, with every body feather edged in silvery-grey and the bird we were looking at was a dull blackish-brown, so evidently a nominate subspecies bird from further away.

We walked on, through the village where Black Redstarts were the commonest birds. Most of the houses are now holiday homes but a handful of shepherds still graze their animals here and a few sheep with their late lambs grazed amongst the buildings along the road. It was rather chilly (14°C) with an unpleasant damp breeze and so we decided to head off and look for somewhere warmer to enjoy lunch.

We proceeded on towards our next stop, the village of Hum and settled down for a picnic amongst an 'installation' celebrating the glagolitic alphabet close to the hamlet of Šavki. Glagolitic is the oldest known Slavic alphabet and was created by Saint Cyril, a Byzantine monk in the 9th century with his brother, Saint Methodius. They were sent by the Byzantine Emperor Michael III in 863 CE to spread Christianity among the western Slavs. The script was preserved by the clergy of Croatia and Istria (and more specifically Hum) was one of the last areas where it continued to be used.

The meadow beside the stone artwork was considerably warmer (20°C) than on the mountain and the meadow was filled with late flowers, particularly mint (*Mentha sp.*) and many butterflies and orthopterans of various species. Butterflies included many Clouded Yellows, Pale (or Berger's) Clouded Yellow, a very fresh Small Copper, Common Blue and Wall Brown together with a splendid Praying Mantis (*Mantis religiosa*), a Sickle-bearing Cricket (*Phaneroptera falcata*) – a species that has recently appeared in southern England – and a Large Conehead Bush-cricket (*Ruspolia nitidula*).

After lunch, we visited Hum. Dating back to 1102, this tiny town with just 30 permanent residents has a bell and watch tower built in 1552 as part of the town's defensive walls alongside the town's *loggia* (or council chamber) – now a wine bar! Hum's glagolithic wall writings are preserved in the church and date back to the second half of the 12th century and are one of the oldest examples of Croatian glagolithic.

Hum is also the world centre for an alcoholic drink! Called *biska*, it is a mistletoe brandy but not the familiar *Viscum album* associated with the northern European Christmas kisses but the Yellow-berried Mistletoe (*Loranthus europaeus*), a deciduous plant which grows on Sessile Oak (*Quercus petraea*). We were able to examine a plant close up in the car-park, where Paul remained, hearing a very noisy Sparrowhawk in thick cover behind the town.

On our return, two lucky participants managed to see two Wallcreepers on the rock above the hotel. Unfortunately they were not re-found on subsequent days.

Day 6

Tuesday 15th October

a.m. Karst Edge,; p.m. Mirna Valley. Cloudy, dry. Sunny &, breezy later. Max. 20°C.

The day began cloudy but fairly warm as we headed into Slovenia to visit the Karst Edge, an upland area overlooking the Osp valley. Here, dry grassland dominates, with EU-funded grazing maintaining areas that are particularly important for rare breeding birds. Along the gravel road across the grassland common local birds were noted, including Woodlark, Mistle Thrush and Stonechat but overall numbers of birds were rather low.

Reaching the point at which we were to set off for a walk we saw what was almost certainly the last Grayling butterfly of the summer but few other species were seen. Occasionally, small flocks of birds passed over. Mostly Chaffinches but with the occasional Skylark, Meadow Pipit or group of Siskins. Along the track, the bright turquoise-green dung beetles of the species *Geotrupes vernalis* were still active in the grazed grassland while both Lilac-flowered and Winter Savory were still in full flower and frequented by large numbers of honeybees. It seemed, however, that since last week these upland grasslands had passed from summer to winter, everything was dying back and preparing for a long period of inactivity.

Moving on, we arrived at the church of Hrastovlje, world famous for its medieval murals dating back to the time of Columbus and featuring both a 'Dance of Death' and inscriptions in the locally-used glagolithic script dating back to the early 15th century. Paul pointed out a bird in the main mural on the eastern wall. This has been tentatively identified as a juvenile Bald Ibis. We know from the writings of Ulisse Aldrovandi (1522 -1605) that the species occurred in Istria and Northern Italy during the late Medieval so its presence in the mural should not come as a surprise. Back in the 15th century there was very little forest in Istria and the Bald Ibis would have had vast areas of grassland in which to feed and the cliffs of the Osp valley would have provided marvellous nesting sites for this species similar to those used until recently in Turkey and Syria and still in use in Morocco today.

We had our lunch in a beautiful lay-by looking up at the cliffs of the Osp valley with its fascinating railway that runs between Koper – Capodistria in Slovenia and Rijeka – Fiume in Croatia. The railway, which moves mostly freight, climbs from sea-level to over 500 metres in just a few kilometres. During lunch, a large adult Peregrine Falcon was seen flying up and down along the cliff-face, while the meadow in front of us was full of Clouded Yellows. Further entertainment was provided by two female Great Spotted Woodpeckers squabbling for some

time over the possession of a roost hole and oblivious to the watching crowd. At the end of lunch, one of the high points of the holiday took place when a small jeep stopped and a local got out. Branko, chatting in Italian through Paul, told us he was a truffle hunter, showing us his dogs, a large chocolate labrador and a young *lagotto romagnolo*, an Italian breed used specifically in truffle hunting. He then popped to his car and returned to show us his impressive haul of both black and white truffles from the morning's hunt and the tools of the trade to carefully extract the truffles found by his dogs.

After lunch, we stopped briefly at Škocjanski zatok but the reserve was still very dry and we had little to show for our trouble other than a Moorhen!

Moving on and back into Croatia we finished the day with a quick run up a short length of the Mirna – Quieto when we added a range of birds including a very late Red-backed Shrike, Teal, Ferruginous Duck, Wigeon, Great Egret, Little Egret, Cormorant, Sparrowhawk, Goshawk, a Green Sandpiper along the river, some Mediterranean Gulls feeding on flying ants here and there, a more cooperative Kingfisher than a couple of days earlier. The Wheatear seen the previous Friday was still present and several Meadow Pipits and a large flock of Corn Buntings were seen. As usual, several Coypus were seen close to the dairy farm, scurrying into the water as we approached.

Arriving back at the hotel, a little purple flush produced good views of Lesser Spotted Woodpecker, together with brief views of Black Woodpecker and Grey-headed Woodpecker. Our evening meal was a change of venue as the *Dolina* is closed on a Tuesday evening and we went up to Oprtalj – Portole to the Konoba and were well served by Sandro and his staff. After the meal we saw several Noctule bats flying up and down in the lights below the city walls.

Day 7

Wednesday 16th October

a.m. Savudrija – Salvore, p.m. olive oil tasting (Ipšići). Mostly sunny, max. 22°C

Our final full day dawned sunny. We had been so lucky with the weather on the holiday.

Today we headed for a brisk walk along the NW coast of Istria, hoping to pick up on some of the bird migration that the headland, Savudrija – Salvore, is so well known for. The most north-westerly point of Istria (and of Croatia). The promontory sticks out into the Gulf of Trieste and is the first landfall for many birds crossing the Adriatic. As we arrived, several Robins and Song Thrushes rose from the gravel track in front of the minibus. A good omen indeed.

Walking around the headland several flocks of migrating birds were seen, again mostly Chaffinches but including Song Thrushes and Blackbirds. An enormous young female Goshawk was flushed from the Maritime Pines and headed off rapidly south before adopting a more leisurely pace and providing everyone with good views. Butterflies were present in large numbers, albeit not in great variety given the time of year, in the sheltered, south-facing glade at the foot of the pines. Purplish *Scabiosa triandra*, Winter Savory and lots of Stinking Aster (*Dittrichia viscosa*) provided the nectar for an enormous number of Clouded Yellows together with a handful Pale (or Berger's) Clouded Yellows, a Small Copper, many Common Blues, several fresh Painted Ladies and Red Admirals, Wall Browns and some of the few Speckled Woods we had seen during the week together with

interesting specimens of Egyptian Locust, Nose Grasshopper and Blue-winged Grasshopper, all three being common in this kind of waste ground around the Mediterranean.

Arriving down at the beach we were treated to an excellent view of a very tame Mediterranean Shag while Paul explained a little of the geological history of the area and pointed out an incredible set of fossils, a thick layer composed largely of rudists, an extinct group of marine heterodont bivalves of the Hippuritida that arose in the Late Jurassic and were major reef-building organisms in the Tethys Ocean that once opened here, but were wiped out at the close of the Cretaceous about half-a million years before the disappearance of the dinosaurs. The younger, smooth, whitish rocks above the solid layer of rudist shells at Savudrija – Salvore suggests the Tethys Ocean (that then lay where Egypt is today) deepened dramatically and rapidly, too quickly for these reef-building animals to respond.

A couple of hardy participants braved the water for a swim, declaring it “gorgeous” and “quite warm”; the rest of the group noting the inconsistency in these statements, sensibly stayed dry. We made our way back to the vehicles adding a few bird species along the way such as Common Buzzard and Wheatear (yet again) before moving for a picnic at the lighthouse at Savudrija itself. A stiff breeze had developed by now, but in sheltered spots it was very warm. By now time was getting on and we had an appointment at the honey shop at Livade and an olive oil tasting with Irena at the lovely Ipši fairly close to the hotel.

A final attempt to see the Eagle Owl once again at about 6 pm failed, probably because of the stiff breeze, although we did see a male Roe Deer perched up high beside one of the rocks used by the owl, as if it were channelling its inner Chamois. By now it was time to call the final checklist and make arrangements for our departure tomorrow and heading off for our final meal at the Konoba Dolina and to say goodbye to Edi and Mirijana.

Day 8

Thursday 17th October

Carsiana botanical garden. Cool & cloudy a.m, sunny in p.m., 20 °C -> 24°C.

Our final day began with breakfast at 8 a.m. and departure at 09:00. Some early birders were treated again to views of the Lesser Spotted Woodpecker and various Black Redstarts. Getting away just after 9, by 10:30 we were at the botanical gardens at Carsiana. This tiny (6,000 square metres) repository holds many of the Karst plants, more than 500 species, and Paul took us on a quick tour, pointing out the species still in flower and giving a quick run-through of a history of the local vegetation and how this interacts with geological history and the presence of humankind in the area, the great Bronze Age deforestation, the role of the hill-forts and how the 20th century and its terrible wars saw forest spread back across the open grazing land to the detriment of many of its birds, animals and plants.

Our final stop, for lunch and a brief birdwatching session was the nature reserve of Isola della Cona, a wetland reserve at the mouth of the River Isonzo and close to the airport. While Chloe prepared lunch, a quick visit to the hides added a dozen or more new species for the week including several species of geese (both feral and wild), waders including Grey and Golden Plover, Dunlin, Pygmy Cormorant, Cattle Egret, Lapwing and Little Ringed Plover as well as duck such as Shoveler and Gadwall.

By now it was time to make our way to the airport and say our goodbyes. The weather had held dry and warm for the entire week, and that, in 2019, was a first!

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The group

Species Lists

Plants (* = Endemic or limited distribution; [] = Introduced or escape)

Nomenclature contained within this list follows the taxonomic amendments, based on DNA analysis, made by the Royal Botanic gardens Kew and the Missouri Botanic Gardens, and following The Plant List, an internationally accepted list of vascular plant families, published and maintained by the two institutions.

Scientific name	Common name	Location
PTERIDOPHYTES		
Calamophytes		
Equisetaceae		
<i>Equisetum telmateia</i>	Great Horsetail	Istarske Toplice
Leptosporangiate Ferns		
Aspleniaceae		
<i>Asplenium ceterach</i>	Rustyback Fern	Istarske Toplice
<i>Asplenium scolopendrium</i>	Hart's-tongue	Carsiana
<i>Asplenium trichomanes</i> subsp. <i>quadri-valens</i>	Maidenhair Spleenwort	Učka
Polypodiaceae		
<i>Polypodium cambricum</i>	Southern Polypody	Istarske Toplice
GYMNOSPERMS		
Cupressaceae		
<i>Juniperus communis</i>	Juniper	Zrenj-Stridone
<i>Juniperus oxycedrus</i>	Prickly Juniper	Učka
Pinaceae		
<i>Pinus nigra</i>	Black Pine	Učka
<i>Pinus pinaster</i>	Maritime Pine	Savudrija-Salvore
ANGIOSPERMS		
Eu-dicots		
Adoxaceae		
<i>Sambucus ebulus</i>	Danewort or Dwarf Elder	Istarske Toplice
<i>Sambucus nigra</i>	Elder	Roadsides
<i>Viburnum opulus</i>	Guelder Rose	Isola della Cona
Amaranthaceae		
<i>Chenopodium album</i>	Fat Hen	Istarske Toplice
Anacardiaceae		
<i>Cotinus coggygria</i>	Smoke Bush	Zrenj-Stridone
<i>Pistacia lentiscus</i>	Mastic Tree	Kamenjak Peninsula
<i>Pistacia terebinthus</i>	Turpentine Tree	Istarske Toplice
Apiaceae		
<i>Daucus carota</i>	Wild Carrot	Monkodonja
<i>Eryngium amythestinum</i>	-	Učka
<i>Eryngium campestre</i>	Field Eryngo	Kamenjak Peninsula
<i>Foeniculum vulgare</i>	Fennel	Kamenjak Peninsula
<i>Heracleum sphondylium</i>	Hogweed	Istarske Toplice
FERNS & ALLIES		
Horsetails		
Horsetail Family		
True Ferns		
Spleenwort family		
Polypody Family		
CONIFERS		
Juniper Family		
Pine Family		
FLOWERING PLANTS		
True Dicotyledons		
Moschatel Family		
Goosefoot Family		
Sumach Family		
Carrot Family		

Scientific name	Common name	Location
<i>Pastinaca sativa</i>	Wild Parsnip	Istarske Toplice
<i>Pimpinella saxifraga</i>	Burnet Saxifrage	Istarske Toplice
<i>Seseli tortuosum</i>	-	Kamenjak Peninsula
Apocynaceae	Periwinkle Family	
<i>Vincetoxicum hirundinaria</i>	Swallow-wort	Monkodonja
Araliaceae	Ivy Family	
<i>Hedera helix</i>	Ivy	Istarske Toplice
Betulaceae	Birch Family	
<i>Carpinus orientalis</i>	Oriental Hornbeam	Monkodonja
<i>Corylus avellana</i>	Hazel	Istarske Toplice
<i>Ostrya carpinifolia</i>	Hop-hornbeam	Učka
Boraginaceae	Forget-me-not Family	
<i>Echium vulgare</i>	Viper's-bugloss	Istarske Toplice
<i>Onosma echioides</i> (<i>O. javorkae</i>)	a Golden Drops	Karst Edge
Brassicaceae	Cabbage Family	
<i>Capsella bursa-pastoris</i>	Shepherd's Purse	Zrenj-Stridone
<i>Diplotaxis tenuifolia</i>	Perennial Rocket	Istarske Toplice
<i>Iberis linifolia</i>	-	Istarske Toplice
<i>Sisymbrium officinale</i>	Hedge Mustard	Istarske Toplice
Campanulaceae	Bellflower Family	
<i>Campanula pyramidalis</i>	-	Istarske Toplice
Caprifoliaceae	Honeysuckle Family	
<i>Scabiosa columbaria</i>	Small Scabious	Istarske Toplice
Caryophyllaceae	Pink Family	
<i>Moehringia tommasinii</i>	a Sandwort	Istarske Toplice (leaves)
<i>Petrorhagia saxifraga</i>	Tunic Flower	Istarske Toplice
<i>Silene latifolia</i>	White Campion	Istarske Toplice
<i>Silene vulgaris</i>	Bladder Campion	Istarske Toplice
Celastraceae	Spindle Family	
<i>Euonymus europaeus</i>	Spindle	Istarske Toplice
Cistaceae	Rock-rose Family	
<i>Cistus creticus</i> (<i>incanus</i>)	Pink Cistus	Kamenjak Peninsula (leaves)
<i>Cistus monspeliensis</i>	Narrow-leaved Cistus	Kamenjak Peninsula (leaves)
<i>Helianthemum nummularium</i>	Rock-rose	Monkodonja
Compositae (Asteraceae)	Daisy Family	
<i>Achillea millefolium</i>	Yarrow	Istarske Toplice
<i>Artemisia absinthium</i>	Wormwood	Učka
<i>Cichorium intybus</i>	Chicory	Savudrija-Salvore
<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>	Spear Thistle	Zrenj-Stridone
<i>Dittrichia viscosa</i>	Woody Fleabane	Savudrija-Salvore
[<i>Helianthus tuberosus</i>]	Jerusalem Artichoke	Very common escape
<i>Helichrysum stoechas</i>	Curry Plant	Monkodonja

Scientific name	Common name	Location
<i>Leucanthemum vulgare</i>	Ox-eye daisy	Istarske Toplice
<i>Picris hieracioides</i>	Hawkweed Ox-tongue	Monkodonja
<i>Senecio inaequidens</i>		Istarske Toplice
Convolvulaceae	Bindweed Family	
<i>Convolvulus arvensis</i>	Field Bindweed	Zrenj-Stridone
Cornaceae	Dogwood Family	
<i>Cornus mas</i>	Cornelian Cherry	Istarske Toplice
<i>Cornus sanguinea</i>	Dogwood	Istarske Toplice
Crassulaceae	Stonecrop Family	
<i>Sedum hispanicum</i>	-	Učka
Ericaceae	Heather Family	
<i>Erica arborea</i>	Tree heath	Kamenjak Peninsula (leaves)
Euphorbiaceae	Spurge Family	
<i>Euphorbia cyparissias</i>	Cypress Spurge	Monkodonja
<i>Euphorbia helioscopia</i>	Sun Spurge	Zrenj-Stridone
<i>Euphorbia myrsinites</i>	Broad-leaved Glaucous Spurge	Kamenjak Peninsula
Fagaceae	Beech Family	
<i>Quercus ilex</i>	Holm Oak	Istarske Toplice
<i>Quercus petraea</i>	Sessile Oak	Hum
<i>Quercus pubescens</i>	Downy Oak	Monkodonja
<i>Quercus robur</i>	Pendunculate Oak	Istarske Toplice
Geraniaceae	Crane's-bill Family	
<i>Erodium cicutarium</i>	Common Stork's-bill	Zrenj-Stridone
Lamiaceae	Deadnettle Family	
<i>Galeopsis bifida</i>	Bifid Hemp-nettle	Učka
<i>Prunella laciniata</i>	Cut-leaved Selfheal	Hum
<i>Prunella vulgare</i>	Selfheal	Monkodonja
<i>Salvia verticillata</i>	Whorled Clary	Zrenj-Stridone
<i>Satureja montana</i>	Winter Savory	Učka
<i>Satureja subspicata</i>	Lilac-flowered Savory	Karst Edge
<i>Stachys recta</i>	Yellow Woundwort	Monkodonja
<i>Thymus longicaulis</i>	a Thyme	Karst Edge
Leguminosae (Fabaceae)	Pea Family	
<i>Anthyllis vulneraria</i> agg.	Kidney-vetch	Karst Edge
<i>Lotus corniculatus</i>	Bird's-foot-trefoil	Zrenj-Stridone
<i>Medicago sativa</i> subsp. <i>sativa</i>	Lucerne	Istarske Toplice
[<i>Robinia pseudoacacia</i>]	False Acacia	Istarske Toplice
<i>Trifolium repens</i>	White Clover	Istarske Toplice
<i>Vicia cracca</i>	Tufted Vetch	Istarske Toplice
Loranthaceae	Mistletoe Family	
<i>Loranthus europaeus</i>	a Mistletoe	Hum

Scientific name	Common name	Location
Malvaceae <i>Althaea cannabina</i>	Mallow Family -	Istarske Toplice
Moraceae [<i>Broussonetia papyrifera</i>] [<i>Ficus carica</i>]	Mulberry Family Paper Mulberry Fig	Istarske Toplice Naturalised
Myrtaceae <i>Myrtus communis</i>	Myrtle Family Common Myrtle	Kamenjak Peninsula (leaves)
Oleaceae <i>Fraxinus angustifolia</i> <i>Fraxinus ornus</i> <i>Fraxinus ornus</i> <i>Ligustrum vulgare</i> <i>Phillyrea latifolia</i>	Olive Family Narrow-leaved Ash Ash Flowering Ash Wild Privet Broad-leaved Phillyrea	Istarske Toplice Učka Istarske Toplice Istarske Toplice Istarske Toplice
Orobanchaceae <i>Odontites luteus</i> <i>Odontites vernus</i> <i>Orobanche hederæ</i>	Broomrape Family Yellow Odontites Red Bartsia Ivy Broomrape	Monkodonja Savudrija-Salvore Istarske Toplice (dead stems)
Plantaginaceae <i>Cymbalaria muralis</i> <i>Globularia cordifolia</i> <i>Linaria vulgaris</i> <i>Plantago lanceolata</i> <i>Plantago media</i>	Plantain Family Ivy-leaved Toadflax Matted Globularia Common Toadflax Ribwort Plantain Hoary Plantain	Hum Učka (leaves) Monkodonja Zrenj-Stridone Istarske Toplice
Polygalaceae <i>Polygala nicaeensis</i>	Milkwort Family Nicean Milkwort	Monkodonja
Primulaceae <i>Cyclamen purpurescens</i>	Primrose Family A Sowbread	Istarske Toplice
Ranunculaceae <i>Clematis flammula</i> <i>Clematis vitalba</i> <i>Helleborus multifidus</i> <i>Helleborus niger</i>	Buttercup Family - Traveller's Joy - Christmas Rose	Monkodonja Istarske Toplice Učka (leaves) Učka (leaves)
Resedaceae <i>Reseda lutea</i>	Mignonette Family Mignonette	Istarske Toplice
Rhamnaceae <i>Paliurus spina-christi</i>	Buckthorn Family Christ's-thorn	Istarske Toplice
Rosaceae <i>Crataegus monogyna</i> <i>Poterium sanguisorba</i> <i>Prunus mahaleb</i> <i>Prunus spinosa</i> <i>Rosa canina</i> agg.	Rose Family Hawthorn Salad Burnet St. Lucie's Cherry Blackthorn Dog Rose	Kamenjak Peninsula Istarske Toplice Učka Karst Edge Učka

Scientific name	Common name	Location
<i>Rubus fruticosus</i> agg. <i>Sorbus aria</i>	Bramble Whitebeam	Istarske Toplice Učka
Rubiaceae <i>Galium verum</i> <i>Rubia peregriana</i>	Bedstraw Family Lady's Bedstraw Wild Madder	Istarske Toplice Monkodonja
Rutaceae <i>Ruta officinalis</i>	Rue Family Rue	Karst Edge
Salicaceae <i>Salix purpurea</i>	Willow Family Purple Willow	Istarske Toplice
Santalaceae <i>Osyris alba</i>	Sandalwood Family -	Istarske Toplice
Sapindaceae <i>Acer campestre</i> <i>Acer monspessulanum</i> <i>Acer opalus</i> <i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>	Maple Family Field Maple Montpelier Maple Italian Maple Sycamore	Istarske Toplice Istarske Toplice Učka Učka
Simaroubaceae <i>Ailanthus altissima</i>	Tree of Heaven family Tree of Heaven	Roadsides
Solanaceae <i>Solanum nigrum</i>	Nightshade Family Black Nightshade	Hum
Tamaricaceae <i>Tamarix gallica</i>	Tamarisk Family Tamarisk	Mirna River Valley
Urticaceae <i>Parietaria judaica</i> <i>Urtica dioica</i>	Nettle Family Pelitory-of-the-Wall Common Nettle	Istarske Toplice Istarske Toplice
Verbanaceae <i>Verbena officinale</i>	Vervain Family Vervain	Istarske Toplice
Vitaceae <i>Vitis sylvestris</i>	Vine Family Wild Vine	Roadsides
Monocots	Monocotyledons	
Amaryllidaceae <i>Allium montanum</i>	Daffodil Family Mountain Onion	Karst Edge
Araceae <i>Arum italicum</i> subsp. <i>italicum</i>	Arum Family Italian Lords and Ladies	Istarske Toplice (leaves)
Asparagaceae <i>Asparagus acutifolius</i> <i>Prospero autumnale</i>	Asparagus Family Spiny Asparagus Autumn Squill	Monkodonja Monkodonja

Scientific name	Common name	Location
Colchicaceae <i>Colchicum autumnale</i>	Meadow Saffron Family Autumn Crocus	Zrenj-Stridone
Orchidaceae <i>Spiranthes autumnalis</i>	Orchid Family Autumn Ladies Tresses	Monkodonja
Poaceae <i>Arundo donax</i> <i>Molinia caerulea</i> <i>Setaria viridis</i>	Grass Family Giant Reed Purple Moor Grass Green Bristle-grass	Mirna River Valley Zrenj-Stridone Istarske Toplice
Smilacaceae <i>Smilax aspera</i>	Smilax Family Smilax	Kamenjak Peninsula

Birds (✓=recorded but not counted; H = heard only)

	Common name	Scientific name	October								
			10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	
1	Common Pheasant	<i>Phasianus colchius</i>								✓	✓
2	Barnacle Goose (feral)	<i>Branta leucopsis</i>									✓
3	Bar-headed Goose (feral)	<i>Anser indicus</i>									✓
4	Greylag Goose	<i>Anser anser</i>									✓
5	Mute Swan	<i>Cygnus olor</i>		✓	✓				✓		✓
6	Egyptian Goose (feral)	<i>Alopochen aegyptiaca</i>									✓
7	Common Shelduck	<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>									✓
8	Ruddy Shelduck (feral)	<i>Tadorna ferruginea</i>									✓
9	Northern Shoveler	<i>Spatula clypeata</i>									✓
10	Gadwall	<i>Mareca strepera</i>									✓
11	Eurasian Wigeon	<i>Mareca penelope</i>		✓					✓		✓
12	Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>		✓	✓				✓		✓
13	Eurasian Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>							✓		✓
14	Ferruginous Duck	<i>Aythya nyroca</i>							✓		✓
15	Rock Dove [Feral]	<i>Columba livia Feral</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
16	Common Wood Pigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>		✓	✓	✓			✓		✓
17	Eurasian Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>		✓		✓			✓	✓	✓
18	Water Rail	<i>Rallus aquaticus</i>									H
19	Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>							✓		✓
20	Eurasian Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>									✓
21	Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>		✓							✓
22	Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>		✓				✓			
23	Northern Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>									✓
24	European Golden Plover	<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>									✓
25	Grey Plover	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>									✓
26	Little Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>									✓
27	Eurasian Curlew	<i>Numenius arquata</i>		✓							✓
28	Ruff	<i>Philomachus pugnax</i>									✓
29	Dunlin	<i>Calidris alpina</i>									✓
30	Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>		✓							
31	Green Sandpiper	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>							✓		
32	Black-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>		✓						✓	✓
33	Mediterranean Gull	<i>Ichthyaetus melanocephalus</i>		H					✓		
34	Yellow-legged Gull	<i>Larus michahellis</i>		✓	✓				✓	✓	✓

	Common name	Scientific name	October							
			10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
35	Pygmy Cormorant	<i>Microcarbo pygmaeus</i>								✓
36	European (Mediterranean) Shag	<i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis desmarestii</i>			✓				✓	
37	Great Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>		✓				✓		✓
38	Western Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>								✓
39	Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
40	Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>		✓	✓			✓	✓	✓
41	Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>		✓				✓		✓
42	Eurasian Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>		✓	✓	✓	H	✓	✓	
43	Northern Goshawk	<i>Accipiter gentilis</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
44	Common Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
45	Eurasian Eagle-Owl	<i>Bubo bubo</i>		✓	H		H		H	
46	Little Owl	<i>Athene noctua</i>		✓						
47	Common Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>		✓				✓		✓
48	Lesser Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dryobates minor</i>						✓		
49	Great Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>				✓	✓			✓
50	Black Woodpecker	<i>Dryocopus martius</i>		H				✓		
51	Grey-headed Woodpecker	<i>Picus canus</i>					✓	✓		
52	Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>			✓			✓	✓	
53	Red-backed Shrike	<i>Lanius collurio</i>						✓		
54	Great Grey Shrike	<i>Lanius excubitor</i>		✓						
55	Eurasian Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
56	Eurasian Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
57	Western Jackdaw	<i>Coloeus monedula</i>					✓			✓
58	Rook	<i>Corvus frugilegus</i>		✓						
59	Hooded Crow	<i>Corvus cornix</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
60	Northern Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>		✓		✓	H			
61	Marsh Tit	<i>Poecile palustris</i>		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	
62	Eurasian Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
63	Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
64	Woodlark	<i>Lullula arborea</i>			✓	✓			✓	
65	Eurasian Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>				✓		✓	✓	
66	Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>			✓	✓				
67	Cetti's Warbler	<i>Cettia cetti</i>					H			H
68	Long-tailed Tit	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>		✓				✓		
69	Common Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
70	Eurasian Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>			H					
71	Sardinian Warbler	<i>Sylvia melanocephala</i>		H	✓				H	
72	Firecrest	<i>Regulus ignicapillus</i>							✓	
73	Eurasian Nuthatch	<i>Sitta europaea</i>		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	
74	Wallcreeper	<i>Tichodroma muraria</i>					✓			
75	Common Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
76	Common Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
77	Ring Ouzel	<i>Turdus torquatus</i>					✓			
78	Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>						✓	✓	
79	Mistle Thrush	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>					✓	✓	✓	
80	European Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
81	Black Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
82	Blue Rock Thrush	<i>Monticola solitarius</i>						✓		
83	European Stonechat	<i>Saxicola rubicola</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓		
84	Northern Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>		✓		✓		✓	✓	
85	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

	Common name	Scientific name	October								
			10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	
86	Italian Sparrow	<i>Passer italiae</i>	✓								✓
87	Eurasian Tree Sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>				✓			✓		
88	White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
89	Meadow Pipit	<i>Anthus pratensis</i>				✓			✓		
90	Common Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
91	Brambling	<i>Fringilla montifringilla</i>				✓	✓				
92	Hawfinch	<i>Coccothraustes coccothraustes</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓		
93	European Greenfinch	<i>Chloris chloris</i>			✓	✓	✓				✓
94	European Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
95	European Serin	<i>Serinus serinus</i>		✓	✓					✓	
96	Eurasian Siskin	<i>Spinus spinus</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
97	Corn Bunting	<i>Emberiza calandra</i>		✓		✓			✓	✓	
98	Cirl Bunting	<i>Emberiza cirlus</i>				✓	H			✓	

Mammals (S = Signs Of)

1	Red Fox	<i>Vulpes vulpes</i>	✓								
2	Wild Boar	<i>Sus scrofa</i>			S						
3	European Roe Deer	<i>Capreolus capreolus</i>			✓				✓		
4	Coypu	<i>Myocastor coypus</i>		✓						✓	

Reptiles & Amphibians

1	Italian Great Crested Newt	<i>Triturus cristatus</i>									✓
2	Marsh Frog	<i>Pelophylax ridibunda</i>									✓
3	Common Toad	<i>Bufo bufo</i>							✓		
4	Eastern Green Lizard	<i>Lacerta viridis</i>		✓							
5	Common Wall Lizard	<i>Podarcis muralis</i>									✓
6	Dalmatian Wall Lizard	<i>Podarcis melisellensis</i>			✓						
7	Dalmatian Algyroides	<i>Algyroides nigropunctatus</i>									✓

Butterflies

1	Large White	<i>Pieris brassicae</i>									✓
2	Small White	<i>Pieris rapae</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
3	Clouded Yellow	<i>Colias crocea</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
4	Pale Clouded Yellow	<i>Colias hyale</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓		
5	Small Copper	<i>Lycaena phlaeas</i>		✓		✓	✓			✓	
6	Geranium Bronze	<i>Cacyreus marshalli</i>		✓							
7	Common Blue	<i>Polyommatus icarus</i>		✓		✓	✓			✓	
8	Red Admiral	<i>Vanessa atalanta</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
9	Painted Lady	<i>Vanessa cardui</i>		✓	✓	✓					
10	Grayling	<i>Hipparchia semele</i>		✓	✓				✓		
11	Speckled Wood	<i>Pararge aegeria tircis</i>		✓						✓	
12	Small Heath	<i>Coenonympha pamphilus</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
13	Meadow Brown	<i>Maniola jurtina</i>									
14	Wall Brown	<i>Lasiommata megera</i>		✓	✓		✓			✓	
15	Large Wall Brown	<i>Lasiommata maera</i>			✓						

Moths (C = Caterpillar)

1	Box-tree Moth	<i>Cydalima perspectalis</i>		✓		✓					
2	Orange Swift	<i>Triodia sylvina</i>		✓	✓						

	Common name	Scientific name	October							
			10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
3	Hummingbird Hawk-moth	<i>Macroglossum stellatarum</i>		✓	✓					
4	Convolvulus Hawk-moth	<i>Agrius convolvuli</i>				C				
5	Deep Brown Dart	<i>Aporophyla lutulenta</i>			✓					
6	Dark Arches	<i>Apamea monoglypha</i>			✓					

Other Invertebrates (O = Ootheca; Ne = Nest)

1	Migrant Hawker	<i>Aeshna mixta</i>								
2	Common Darter	<i>Sympetrum striolatum</i>								
3	Sickle-bearing Cricket	<i>Phaneroptera falcata</i>								✓
4	Large Conehead	<i>Ruspolia nitidula</i>								✓
5	Egyptian Grasshopper	<i>Anacridium aegyptium</i>		✓						
6	Migratory Locust	<i>Locusta migratoria</i>			✓					✓
7	Red-winged Grasshopper	<i>Oedipoda germanica</i>								✓
8	Blue-winged Grasshopper	<i>Oedipoda caerulea</i>								✓
9	Cone-headed (Nosed) Grasshopper	<i>Acrida ungarica</i>				✓				✓
10	Praying Mantis	<i>Mantis religiosa</i>					✓			O
11	Gendarme Bug	<i>Lygaeus equestris</i>				✓				✓
12	Fire Bug	<i>Pyrrhocoris apterus</i>			✓					
13	Hornet	<i>Vespa crabro</i>					Ne			
14	Carpenter Bee	<i>Xylocopa violacea</i>			✓					
15	Honey Bee	<i>Apis mellifera</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
16	Dor Beetle	<i>Geotrupes vernalis</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓		
17	Istrian Worm	<i>Octodrilus Istriacus</i>		S						S
18	European Paper Wasp	<i>Polistes dominula</i>		✓						

Others

Brown Crab Spider, *Xysticus sp.*
Banded Snail, *Cepaea nemoralis*

Roman Snail, *Helix pomatia*
Door Snail, cf *Medora macascarensis*



Hum