

Slovenia - Bears, Birds & Caves

Naturetrek Tour Report

5 -10 May 2019



Firecrest



Krizna cave



Lesser Horseshoe Bat



Planina

Report and images by Luca Boscain



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Introduction

The first Naturetrek trip in the area, which focused on bears and caves, can be considered a success, despite the weather conditions that were not the best and the rather delayed season about orchids and insects. We had in fact 100 of species of birds and 14 species of mammals reported during the six days: more than the most optimistic expectations! Clearly the stars of the week were Brown Bears, but the Wild Cat as well was an incredible surprise and every member of the group enjoyed the visits to the geological wonders of Southern Slovenia. We chose to not go to the most popular and well-known caves, which are rather touristy and artificially lit, favouring instead the better-preserved and natural ones, more suited to a group of naturalists.

Finally, I would like to thank the Mlakar family who hosted us in their small hotel and the members of the group who made the time spent together particularly pleasant.

Day 1

Sunday 5th May

Ljubljana airport - Markovec.

Our trip started at 4.38pm, when we landed to the tiny airport of Ljubljana, Jože Pučnik, after a short delay. When we had collected our luggage, we met Luca, our guide for the week, at the arrivals gate. With the comfortable minibus already collected, we didn't waste time in starting to drive south-west. The weather wasn't the best, with heavy rain and temperatures much cooler than the usual May average.

By 6.30pm we were in Markovec, a small village just 10 kilometres from the border with Croatia, where we discovered our lovely little hotel: a small guesthouse managed by the Mlakar family with very sloping roofs and a wide lounge, where a refreshing cup of tea was waiting for us, large rooms and an attractive veranda overlooking the river Veliki Obrh.

Miha, who manages the guesthouse, also takes care to the bear hides, and showed us through a webcam what was currently happening in front of a new settled hide: four bears gathered together, feeding greedily on the corn offered!

For dinner we familiarized with our to-be-daily bowl of green salad and with the Slovenian cuisine that offers usually a main course of meat with mashed potatoes, pasta or dumplings, followed by a pudding or an ice cream.

By night many of us noticed some weird sounds coming from outside: the calls from the nest of the young Grey Herons that were in a heronry located in the Spruce (*Picea abies*) behind the garden of the hotel.

Day 2

Monday 6th May

Planinsko Polje and the first bear hide session.

At 7am we met for a pre-breakfast walk in the area of the hotel. On the nearby hills, a couple of hundred metres higher, some snow had fallen, whitening the foliage of the trees! Despite this, in the bright-green meadows were obvious the signs of spring, with carpets of Dandelion (*Taraxacum officinale* agg.), Bugle (*Ajuga reptans*) and Red Dead-nettle (*Lamium purpureum*). We walked along a quiet road to the east, exploring groups of scattered houses

and orchards in bloom. Small signs of ongoing migration were the sightings of a male of Pied Flycatcher and of a couple of Wood Warblers. In the distance we heard birds which were going to torment us during the week: Golden Oriole, Grey-headed Woodpecker and Wryneck, all regularly heard almost every morning but always from the depth of the far woodlands, without offering a single sighting! We arrived to the bridge on the river Veliki Obrh where we looked in vain for the Dipper, but we consoled ourselves with the affection of a gorgeous big pussy cat, with the bright yellow of the Marsh Marigolds (*Caltha palustris*) along the river banks and with the observation of a trio of Common Buzzards. On the way back, we looked at the nest of Grey Herons through the telescope, before breakfast at 8am. The table was prepared with a large variety of dishes, with yogurt, cereals, homemade jam, cheese, salami, fruit and, for those who wanted it, scrambled eggs.

At 9am we left, driving north for about an hour, passing under the motorway from Ljubljana, and reaching the Planinsko Polje, the karstic plain of the village of Planina. Here the river that has its springs near Markovec, where it is named Veliki Obrh, after going through the Cerknica lake and Rakov Skocjan gorges, reappears as the river Unica; all the rivers of the area, in fact, are connected and appear and disappear from one side to the other of mountains that surround each "polje", passing through sinkholes and cave systems. The Unica river flows underground again from the edge of the Planinsko Polje to re-emerge finally as the river Ljubljanica, crossing the capital Ljubljana and ending in the river Sava, a tributary of the Danube.

After we had parked, we followed a loop of about three kilometres that led through the middle of beautiful meadows, then across a bridge, arriving at the place where the waters of the Unica emerge from the mountain, in a series of springs and small waterfalls, formerly used to move the wheels of mills. After the passage of bad weather yesterday, with a still pretty variable situation, big flocks of Barn Swallows, Swifts and House Martins had gathered in the skies above the river, probably finding larger densities of aeroplankton. The riverine hedges of Alder (*Alnus glutinosa*) and old White Willows (*Salix alba*) hosted a number of passerines, including Spotted and Pied Flycatchers, Lesser Whitethroat, Blackcaps, Wood and Willow Warblers, while in the clear waters of the Unica we spotted some Grayling fish (*Thymallus thymallus*).

Not far from the springs, on a house wall, we noticed an alarming board: it showed the level reached by flood water during 2014 almost at the first floor! The flow rate of these karstic rivers can rise incredibly in a few hours, completely flooding the poljes; this is why the houses of villages are always built on the sloping edges of the polje or on the top of small hills, Planina settlement included, and not on the fertile bottom of the plain. A Grey Wagtail perched in perfect light offered a magnificent view, while slightly later, coasting the slope that runs around Planinsko Polje, we were rapt by the variety of flowers that were colouring the undergrowth: deep-blue Creeping Navelwort (*Omphalodes verna*), purple Balm-leaved Archangel (*Lamium orvala*), violet Lungwort (*Pulmonaria officinalis*) and Dusky Crane's-bill (*Geranium phaeum*) and many more, but also flowering shrubs such as Barberry (*Berberis vulgaris*), European Bladdernut (*Staphylea pinnata*) and Perfoliate Honeysuckle (*Lonicera caprifolium*).

With some effort, we managed to get a view of a couple of Short-toed Treecreepers, that were looking for food on the mossy bark of big trees, while in the riverine hedges we spotted the first male Red-backed Shrike, Yellowhammer and Serin.

For lunch we came back to the hotel, where we were delighted by a big plate of spaghetti with Bolognese sauce. In the afternoon we decided to go all together to the same bear location; there are in fact two different hides

available, with five chairs each. After we drove into the depth of the forests of Mount Racna, we walked for about 700 metres of ascent to the chosen point, in the middle of a lovely mixed wood of Beech (*Fagus sylvatica*) and Spruce.

While we were arriving to the hide, Miha, that accompanied us, showed that on a branch was perched a stunning Ural Owl! The quickest people managed to have a longer view through their binoculars, while the last of us could only see it taking off and disappearing in the depth of the foliage. Then we started what we expected to be a long wait; we wore thick clothes, because inside the wooden cabin, with an external temperature of perhaps 5°C, wasn't particularly warm. The hide, soundproofed, had for each seat a small sighting window and a hole from which the photographers could get out with their lenses to shoot the passing subjects. At the beginning the forest was quiet, then some Jays came to feed on the corn grains. Later we noticed Bank Voles running among dead leaves and logs. Finally, at about 4.30pm, from the right-hand side, a Brown Bear crossed literally in front, maybe no more than a couple of metres from the windows!

Miha had told us to not start to take photographs before the bear had begun to feed, since the animal first evaluates if the place is safe or no; we waited for what seemed endless seconds, almost without breathing. Then the bear relaxed, so we took our photos and enjoyed the show. At the beginning it ate standing, later it sat on the ground, showing its furry bottom. It was a youngster, about two years old, probably recently abandoned by its mother and so particularly happy to find an additional source of food. We admired the carnivore crunching the corn for almost 2 hours, standing up to walk a couple of steps and... coming back to sit: "lazy bear!". At 7.30pm Miha came to pick up the group, finding us cold but incredibly happy for the privilege to be such a long time together with our bear.

After dinner, not yet tired, we went for a walk near the hotel, scanning the fields and looking for night life. Not even a dozen metres away from us, the spotlight revealed the presence of two shining eyes. Watching more carefully, through binoculars, we noticed a black shape galloping to the edge of the woodland... and a second shadow, both with a familiar silhouette: another two Brown Bears, practically in the home garden, perhaps, who knows, attracted by the smell of polenta that we had for supper! We continued our walk to the bridge on the Veliki Obrh, hoping in an Otter, reported along this river, but we didn't see it. On the way back, we noticed two distant Roe Deer and, coming back to the guesthouse, we spotted once again the two bears, probably youngsters, in the open.

What a great day!

Day 3

Tuesday 7th May

Bloke Plateau, Krizna Caves and the second session in the bear hide.

During the pre-breakfast walk we were surprised to find frost on the grass in front of the hotel. We walked to the banks of the Veliki Obrh, where we noticed some Otter scats, then we continued in the direction of Markovec. In the distance we heard calling Wryneck, Grey-headed and Black Woodpecker, while by another bridge above the river we saw a nice male Lesser Whitethroat in song. Arriving in front of an abandoned old house, we heard Blackbirds and Fieldfares alarming from a huge Lime tree. A Tawny Owl took off from the foliage, but the loud calls of Blackbirds didn't stop, and we spotted a lovely young Tawny Owl perched on a twig, watching us, looking particularly cute through the telescope. On the way back, we noticed, at a bird feeder

of a house, a good activity of tits, including at least a couple of Marsh Tits, while not far we had six Red Crossbills in flight.

After breakfast, we drove for about a quarter of an hour to a boggy area in the Bloke Plateau: it was the valley of the river Bloščica, where, in extended wet meadows, are a concentration of some botanical specialities. The late season meant we could only find the first plants coming up here and there, with the first flowers: Early Marsh Orchid (*Dactylorhiza incarnata* subsp. *cruenta*), with some spots on the leaves, possibly Broad-leaved Marsh Orchid (*Dactylorhiza majalis*), with much more spotted leaves, Marsh Valerian (*Valeriana dioica*), Bitter Vetch (*Lathyrus linifolius*) and Water Avens (*Geum rivale*). We heard a loud Cuckoo and we saw a single Long-tailed Tit, while in the grass Caroline noticed a very tiny Viviparous (also known as Common) Lizard of the oviparous southern subspecies *carniolica* and, in a pond, we watched tadpoles of Common Frog.

It was a short stop, because at 11am we had an appointment at the entrance of Krizna caves. There we met Tanja, our guide into the cave, who gave us a pair of wellingtons and a torch to carry, hanging from the neck; the cave we were going to visit is in fact still natural, without any artificial illumination that could damage irreparably the ecosystem, accustomed to be in the deepest darkness. Tanja showed us on a map how the cave hosts 41 different lakes that follow one other; our visit was limited to the initial part of the cave, and the first lake of the series. The visit to the farther lakes is reserved for just 1000 people per year, in order to minimise the impact on the calcification that is still in place on the cave floor.

We first encountered the traces of a human settlement of 5000 years ago, then a glass case with the huge remains of a Cave Bear. The skull was sided by another one of the modern Brown Bear, showing brightly how much bigger it was, reaching the two metres in height at the withers! On the surface of a stalagmite, Tanja pointed a Common Cave-cricket, while few tens of metres further, on the cave walls, we started to see a number of Lesser Horseshoe Bats. Tanja told us that their body temperature was the same as the cave temperature, about 5°C: they were in fact in winter hibernation. Incredibly, although we walked close by some individuals, despite the light of our torches, they continued serenely their long sleep.

We kept going along an underground stream, seeing the shining patches of bacteria on the roof and the stalactites, before arriving at the lake: there was a yellow inflatable boat which we boarded one by one. Tanja demonstrated her strength pushing the boat through the lake with just one oar. At one point, we switched off the torches and we kept going with a just single light illuminating the water under the boat, continuing our navigation in silence: a very special experience! On the way back, we did another experiment, switching off again all the lights and tasting the absolute darkness of the cave; it wasn't difficult, in this black, to notice the faint light of a mobile phone that remained switched on in a pocket. At the exit, we saw how the grill, designed to impede the entry of people, contained rectangular holes to allow the flight through of bats. For lunch we enjoyed our daily bowl of salad and a trio of desserts.

In the afternoon five of us had a second session in the bear hide, this time in the mountains of Stari Kot, not far from the border with Croatia, while the other three followed Luca in the searching for Ural Owl and other forest species. The woodland had plenty of songs and calls, including Green Woodpecker, Firecrest and Coal Tits, but none of those birds wanted to show, despite our efforts. Particularly interesting were the views of many Tau Emperors (*Aglaia tau*), attractive day-flying moths that never seemed to settle anywhere. The only new species was Siskin, with three individuals on the way back. The five people in the hide didn't see any bears, but there was

quite a lot of other activity with Willow Tits, Nuthatches, Jays and Bank Voles. At about 7pm, we heard the calls of owlets from a hole, then an adult of Ural Owl took off, and youngster appeared, still covered in whitish down, that was watched for a time by everybody.

On the way back, we observed a stunning Red Fox: it was just the appetizer, because in the evening, after supper, we went on a “night safari” around the polje of Loska Dolina. It was a great excursion, because we first saved a Northern White-breasted Hedgehog from being potential road-kill, then, scanning meadows and edges of woodlands, we spotted two Roe Deer, one Badger, one Brown Hare and another Red Fox!

Back at the hotel, somebody noticed the far howls of a canid...

Day 4

Wednesday 8th May

Cerknica lake.

During the night Luca had set a moth-trap outside the hotel but, as was expected, with minimum temperatures of about 2°C, it was too cold for any insects to fly. The pre-breakfast walk took us to climb the track that from Markovec leads to Racna Gora, hoping for some woodpeckers. Unfortunately, once again we only managed to hear Grey-headed Woodpecker and Wryneck. However, we had good views of a Blackcap singing, a Coal Tit by the nest and a number of Black Redstarts. Particularly interesting was the flora along the roadside bank: among the rocks we noticed Purple Gromwell (*Buglossoides purpurocaerulea*), Prickly Greenweed (*Genista germanica*), Shrubby Milkwort (*Polygala chamaebuxus*), Hairy Broom (*Cytisus hirsutus*) and *Euphorbia illirica*.

For today, making best use of the good weather, we decided to dedicate the full day to visiting Cerknisko Jezero, the lake of Cerknica, that more than any other area in Slovenia represents an exceptional birding hotspot. It's an intermittent lake, karstic, that appears and disappears according to the abundance of water that flows from the caves and that can vanish totally inside sinkholes, especially in summer, but also extend widely in winter, becoming huge and lapping the urban centres along the mountain slopes that surround it. We started our visit from the countryside west of the village of Zerovnica: here we penetrated among the meadows reaching the edge of what it seemed to be a wide steppe area, but that in the truth can, sometimes, host the maximum extension of the lake.

One Red Fox ran in front, while scanning by the telescope we spotted a Curlew and some Tree Pipits, Whinchats and Red-backed Shrikes. Unfortunately, it was too early in the season to see any of the orchids that usually colour these meadows. Then we drove to the north, to the town of Cerknica that gives the name to the lake; here, we noticed a first White Stork in a field, and we took a rough road that went again into an area of open countryside. We reached a place where you can often see birds of prey and, after we got out of the minibus, we enjoyed the beauty of the flights and hunts of Red-footed Falcons, Montagu's Harriers, Common Buzzards and Marsh Harriers. A stunning female of Red-footed Falcon, especially, perched often on a post not far from our minibus, showing perfectly the orange-brown of its plumage. All around it was a concert of Skylarks and Yellow Wagtails of the Italian ashy-headed subspecies *cinereocapilla*. Continuing, flocks of hundreds of Swallows were flying low almost at grass level, catching insects around cows and goats. Among those we spotted single Sand Martins and Bee-eaters. The Barn Swallows went to perch in tens on a short bush, to have rest after flying against the increasing wind. The weather was in fact getting worse, with dark clouds that joined the cold breeze and covered the sun.

To the south of the village of Doleje Jezero we walked along the shores of the lake, enjoying the expanses of Summer Snowflake (*Leucojum aestivum*) and Marsh Marigold, but also single individuals of Green Frog (*Pelophylax* spp.) and the rare Tall Violet (*Viola elatior*). Many passerines were around: Fieldfares, Linnets, Common Whitethroats, Yellow Wagtails, Whinchats, Yellowhammers and many more.

It was almost lunch time when we moved to a forested island in the middle of the lake, connected to the mainland by bridges, and Luca told us to have another short wander around for 20 minutes while he prepared the lunch. With a couple of minutes of sunshine, we noticed a gorgeous male of Eastern Green Lizard (*Lacerta viridis*), posing in the open, Brimstone and Common Wall Lizard (*Podarcis muralis*). On our return, the buffet was ready in the boot of the minibus with three different types of cheese, tomatoes and everything we might need to prepare our own sandwiches. We sat not far from nice bee-hives painted with bright colours, watching what was happening in the sky. The place wasn't chosen haphazard, in fact here often birds cross from one side of the lake to the other, and we saw, among hundreds of House Martins, a couple of Hobbies, a Yellow-legged Gull and a lovely Black Stork.

After lunch, we walked to the bridge from which we could admire, on both the sides, the Cerknica lake, starting to scan by telescope. Birds included Great Crested Grebes and small flocks of Great and Little Egrets; only by telescope was it possible to spot a single Squacco Heron and some very distant Ruff. We explored the western shore of the lake, driving to the tiny village of Otok where we scanned a wide bay. This is the place where you can usually see the nesting Red-necked Grebes, but none of those was visible. We found instead two Garganey, five Pochard and two Little Grebe. We were not alone, because an old lady was ploughing a piece of meadow; unfortunately, we couldn't understand what she told us when she tried to communicate.

Keeping going through the forest, we came up again on the southern edge of the lake: from here the road crossed the valley in the middle of wet meadows where Sedge Warblers were in full concert. We stopped at the bridge of Gorenje Jezero. The wind was stronger and colder, the sky covered and dark, but the landscape breathtaking, with the river flowing through the vast plain of the Cerknisko Jezero. We heard a Water Rail and watched a singing Reed Bunting, then Luca heard in the distance the unmistakable call of a Corn Crake. We approached the sourceso we could all hear the croaking call, but the bird got silent. We kept going for a while, then we heard it again and we had a brief view of the round reddish wings as it flew.

Back to the hotel, a delayed supper gave plenty of time for chatting, laughing and sharing some excellent red wine Refošk together. After dinner we went outside to confirm or deny what had been heard by somebody during the past night: Luca put the playback of Golden Jackals and... after few minutes one, maybe two individuals answered very close, just behind the hotel: amazing!

Day 5

Thursday 9th May

Snežnik and third bear hide session.

As expected from the forecast, the weather today was not good, but some of the group braved the drizzle for the pre-breakfast walk. We tried once again to get a sighting of woodpeckers, but with such a weather conditions, it was really a challenge. A Green Woodpecker was singing with no breaks from a patch of Spruce, while two Wrynecks were calling one each other in a bush area. After a long wait under the raindrops, we managed

reasonable views of at least one of the Wrynecks, while on the way back, in a meadow, we noticed the first blooming Green-winged Orchids (*Anacamptis morio*).

After breakfast, we went bravely to the Mount Snežnik, the highest peak of the area, with 1796 metres. We crossed kilometres of forests through heavy rain, until we reached the locality called Leskova Dolina, on the foothill of the Snežnik. Here, wearing as much waterproof stuff we had, we went outside trying desperately to find some rare woodpeckers, but the rain was too strong, and we didn't see anything better than Chaffinch and Wren. So we descended to the park of the Snežnik Castle, where we did a ring loop around the residence. In the lake of the castle, we noticed some Common Chub and a Grey Wagtail, while on the other side of the lake were a dark brown individual of Red Squirrel and a Bank Vole. The big tree trunks of the park usually host interesting woodland species, in fact we saw Marsh Tit, Nuthatch and Short-toed Treecreeper, but we only heard Great Spotted Woodpecker and Serin.

Tired of rain, we came back to the hotel to have an earlier lunch and to spend a longer time in the bear hide. The unceasing rain made the trail to reach the hide of Racna Gora particularly muddy and, at our arrival, nothing was moving. We only heard, in the distance, the baritone call of a Ural Owl. After a while the rain eased, and birds started to appear: two very tame Jays, a Common Treecreeper, a Wood Pigeon and two Robins. We had to wait until 6.40pm to have something larger around, but it was worth it: a Wild Cat ran quickly in front of the right-hand hide, going incredibly to stop in front of the hide on the left! Unfortunately, nobody in that hide had a camera with enough zoom to record the scene: the only two reflex cameras of the group were in the hide on the right. The lucky ones that were in the left hide, however, could notice for a couple of minutes the stripe along the back, the marmalade-coloured face and the cylindrical ringed tail of the cat. It might have spent more time there, maybe hunting some Bank Voles, but suddenly a Brown Bear arrived from the right, scaring away the pussy cat.

The bear was once again an immature that had been most likely left by its mother recently to live its life in loneliness. We enjoyed some nice scenes when the bear stood up on its hind-feet to listen some noises coming from the right. In many we hoped to see a much bigger bear coming, but it didn't happen. At 8pm, when we left the hide, everybody had a wide smile on their face because of the Wild Cat, maybe the first ever seen from that hide: what luck!

Day 6

Friday 10th May

From Markovec to the airport passing through Cerknica lake and Rakov Skocjan.

This morning, before breakfast, we completed the loop between the two bridges on the river Veliki Obrh, seeing again the Tawny Owl youngster.

After breakfast we loaded our luggage into the minibus and drove once again to the Cerknica lake. Not far from the small village of Dane, we spotted four gorgeous Bee-eaters on the overhead wires, while in the woodlands before Otok two Ural Owl flew in front of the vehicle in full daylight! We stopped few minutes to scan the bay of Otok: to the Pochards, today were added three Tufted Ducks and two Mute Swans, while a Black Stork crossed over. From the bridge of Dolenje Jezero, we first noticed a distant immature White-tailed Eagle flying to the west, then by telescope a large number of very far Red-footed Falcons hunting insects in flight above the surface of the lake.

We had another couple of panoramic stops to take some magnificent pictures of the Cerknisko Jezero, then we penetrated into the heart of the forest to visit the Rakov Skocjan Regional Park. Here the river, swallowed up by the sinkholes at the Cerknica lake, reappears to the surface with the name of Rak in a complex of deep gorges, caves and natural bridges, before disappearing again into the mountain, reappearing as the Unica in Planinsko Polje.

Most of the group descended the steep trail that led to the depth of the cave where the river Rak flows. Here we walked along the riverside in the dark for some tens of metres and then we reappeared in the sunshine on the bottom of a deep gorge. A picturesque little bridge allowed us to cross on the other side of the creek. The rocky walls and the screes were covered by a variety of interesting plants, including Hart's-tongue Fern (*Asplenium scolopendrium*), Sand Rock-cress (*Arabidopsis arenosa*), Alternate-leaved Golden Saxifrage (*Chrysosplenium alternifolium*) and the primitive Liverwort (*Marchantia* sp.). We followed the course of the river inside a second tunnel before appearing under a spectacular natural bridge from which we could see the bright green Beech trees of the surface forest: a memorable view in the superb light of a glorious sunny day!

Then we retraced our steps, we climbed the sinkhole and we descended the track that leads to the restaurant-hotel of Rakov Skocjan. The flora was particularly rich, tingeing the undergrowth with multiple colours. We noticed for example the vetch *Vicia oroboides*, the spurge *Euphorbia carniolica* and Alpine Honeysuckle, covered in many micro moths of the species *Micropterix schaefferi*. By the restaurant, finally, we had a brilliant view of a territorial pair of Firecrests, before having our last Slovenian lunch with the usual bowl of mixed salad with tomatoes and beans, a chicken cutlet and the traditional "palacinka", crepes filled with nutella.

From here, it was less than an hour to the Jože Pučnik airport where we said goodbye to Luca and we caught our flight to Gatwick.

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Species Lists

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

	Common name	Scientific name	May					
			5	6	7	8	9	10
1	Greylag Goose	<i>Anser anser</i>				2		
2	Mute Swan	<i>Cygnus olor</i>						4
3	Garganey	<i>Spatula querquedula</i>				2		
4	Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>		3	4	15		10
5	Common Pochard	<i>Aythya ferina</i>				4		5
6	Tufted Duck	<i>Aythya fuligula</i>						3
7	Common Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>		✓		✓		2
8	Common Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>		3H	3H	2H	3	3H
9	Feral Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i> var. <i>domestica</i>	1	1				
10	Common Wood Pigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>		3	H	4	1	
11	Water Rail	<i>Rallus aquaticus</i>				H		
12	Corn Crake	<i>Crex crex</i>				1		
13	Eurasian Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>				20		15
14	Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>				2		7
15	Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>				15		8
16	Eurasian Curlew	<i>Numenius arquata</i>				1		
17	Ruff	<i>Calidris pugnax</i>				15		
18	Yellow-legged Gull	<i>Larus michahellis</i>				1		
19	Black Stork	<i>Ciconia nigra</i>				1		2
20	White Stork	<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>				3		
21	Squacco Heron	<i>Ardeola ralloides</i>				1		
22	Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	H	3	3	5	2	3
23	Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>	1			15		8
24	Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>				5		10
25	Eurasian Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>				1		
26	Western Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>				2		1
27	Montagu's Harrier	<i>Circus pygargus</i>				5		
28	White-tailed Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus albicilla</i>						1
29	Common Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>		5	6	7	1	2
30	Tawny Owl	<i>Strix aluco</i>		H	2			1
31	Ural Owl	<i>Strix uralensis</i>		1	2		H	2
32	European Bee-eater	<i>Merops apiaster</i>				2		4
33	Eurasian Wryneck	<i>Jynx torquilla</i>		H	H	2H	2	
34	Great Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>		2H	2		3H	3
35	Black Woodpecker	<i>Dryocopus martius</i>			H			
36	European Green Woodpecker	<i>Picus viridis</i>		1	3	H	H	H
37	Grey-headed Woodpecker	<i>Picus canus</i>		H	H	H	H	H
38	Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	1	2	1	4	1	
39	Red-footed Falcon	<i>Falco vespertinus</i>				20		25
40	Eurasian Hobby	<i>Falco subbuteo</i>				2		
41	Red-backed Shrike	<i>Lanius collurio</i>		1		3		
42	Eurasian Golden Oriole	<i>Oriolus oriolus</i>		H		H		H
43	Eurasian Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>	2	2	5	4	3	2
44	Eurasian Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>	2	1	2	5	1	5
45	Hooded Crow	<i>Corvus cornix</i>	2	5	10	10	2	10
46	Northern Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>		1	2			1
47	Coal Tit	<i>Pariparus ater</i>		5	5	2	4H	H

	Common name	Scientific name	May					
			5	6	7	8	9	10
48	Marsh Tit	<i>Poecile palustris</i>		H	3		1	H
49	Willow Tit	<i>Poecile montanus</i>			1			
50	Eurasian Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>		3	1	2		2H
51	Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>		10	H	5	5	2
52	Eurasian Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>				10		
53	Sand Martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>		1		10		
54	Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>		✓	1	500	10	✓
55	Common House Martin	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>		✓	✓	200	1	50
56	Long-tailed Tit	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>			1	1		
57	Willow Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>		2H				
58	Common Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>		2H	5	5		3H
59	Wood Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus sibilatrix</i>		3				
60	Great Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus arundinaceus</i>				5H		
61	Sedge Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i>				20		H
62	Eurasian Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>		10	5	10	5	5H
63	Lesser Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia curruca</i>		1	1	H		H
64	Common Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia communis</i>				3		
65	Common Firecrest	<i>Regulus ignicapilla</i>		2H	3H			5
66	Goldcrest	<i>Regulus regulus</i>			H	H	H	H
67	Eurasian Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>		H	2H		2	H
68	Eurasian Nuthatch	<i>Sitta europaea</i>			1		2	1
69	Eurasian Treecreeper	<i>Certhia familiaris</i>					2	H
70	Short-toed Treecreeper	<i>Certhia brachydactyla</i>		3			2	
71	Common Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	7	5	5	20	5	10
72	Common Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	5	10	20	20	10	10
73	Fieldfare	<i>Turdus pilaris</i>		5	5	10		5
74	Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>		2	3	3	5	
75	Mistle Thrush	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>			1			1
76	Spotted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>		3				
77	European Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>		5	3	H	5	5
78	European Pied Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula hypoleuca</i>		2				
79	Black Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>		2	5	15	3	5
80	Common Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>		1?				
81	Whinchat	<i>Saxicola rubetra</i>				20		
82	European Stonechat	<i>Saxicola rubicola</i>		1				
83	White-throated Dipper	<i>Cinclus cinclus</i>		H				
84	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>		10	1	5	2	5
85	Eurasian Tree Sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>		3				
86	Western Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava cinereocapilla</i>				10		
87	Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>		3	3	H	1	%
88	White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>		2	3	5	2	5
89	Tree Pipit	<i>Anthus trivialis</i>				3		
90	Common Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	2	10	10	10	10	10
91	Hawfinch	<i>Coccothraustes coccothraustes</i>		3		2		H
92	Eurasian Bullfinch	<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>				1		2H
93	European Greenfinch	<i>Chloris chloris</i>		10	10	10	H	5
94	Common Linnet	<i>Linaria cannabina</i>				5		
95	Red Crossbill	<i>Loxia curvirostra</i>		6	15	H	H	
96	European Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>		10	10	20	5	10
97	European Serin	<i>Serinus serinus</i>		3	H	2	H	2H
98	Eurasian Siskin	<i>Spinus spinus</i>			3			2

	Common name	Scientific name	May					
			5	6	7	8	9	10
99	Yellowhammer	<i>Emberiza citrinella</i>		3		5		
100	Common Reed Bunting	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>				1		

Mammals

1	N. White-breasted Hedgehog	<i>Erinaceus roumanicus</i>			1			
2	Lesser Horseshoe Bat	<i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i>			20			
3	Brown Bear	<i>Ursus arctos</i>		3			1	
4	Red Fox	<i>Vulpes vulpes</i>			2	2		
5	Golden Jackal	<i>Canis aureus</i>			H	2H		
6	Eurasian Badger	<i>Meles meles</i>			1			
7	Otter	<i>Lutra lutra</i>			scats			
8	Wild Cat	<i>Felis silvestris</i>					1	
9	European Roe Deer	<i>Capreolus capreolus</i>		4	4	2	2	
10	Red Squirrel	<i>Sciurus vulgaris</i>			2		1	
11	Bank Vole	<i>Clethrionomys glareolus</i>		3	1		2	1D
12	Field Vole	<i>Microtus cf. agrestis</i>				1		
13	Brown Hare	<i>Lepus europaeus</i>			1			
14	Mole	<i>Talpa europaea</i>		1D	S	1D		

Amphibians & Reptiles

1	Common Toad	<i>Bufo bufo</i>				H		
2	Common Frog	<i>Rana temporaria</i>			tadpoles			
3	Edible-Pool Frog hybrid	<i>Rana esculenta-lessonae</i>				✓		H
4	Eastern Green Lizard	<i>Lacerta viridis</i>				1		1
5	Viviparous Lizard	<i>Zootoca vivipara carniolica</i>			1			
6	Common Wall Lizard	<i>Podarcis muralis</i>				2		1

Freshwater Fish

1	Grayling	<i>Thymallus thymallus</i>		5				
2	Common Chub	<i>Squalius cephalus</i>					30	

Butterflies

1	Green-veined White	<i>Pieris napi</i>			1?			1
2	Orange Tip	<i>Anthocharis cardamines</i>			1			2
3	Brimstone	<i>Gonepteryx rhamni</i>				2		1

Moths

1	Tau Emperor	<i>Aglaia tau</i>			5			
2	Scarlet Tiger	<i>Callimorpha dominula</i>						1
3	Common Heath	<i>Ematurga atomaria</i>			2			
4	A micropterid	<i>Micropterix cf. schaefferi</i>						20

Other Invertebrates

1	A may fly	<i>Ephemeroptera sp.</i>						1
2	A caddisfly	<i>Trichoptera sp.</i>						1
3	Common Cave-cricket	<i>Troglophilus cavicola</i>			1			
4	A buprestid beetle	<i>Anthaxia sp.</i>			1			
5	Fire Bug	<i>Pyrrhocoris apterus</i>		✓				
6	A bug	<i>Spilostethus saxatilis</i>			1			

	Common name	Scientific name	May					
			5	6	7	8	9	10
7	A scorpion fly	<i>Panorpa</i> sp.		1				
8	Wood Ant	<i>Formica rufa</i>				✓✓		
9	Buff-tailed Bumblebee	<i>Bombus</i> cf. <i>terrestris</i>			1			1
10	Common Carder Bee	<i>Bombus pascuorum</i>						3
11	Honey Bee	<i>Apis mellifera</i>				✓		✓
12	Nursery-web Spider	<i>Pisaura mirabilis</i>			1		2	
13	A wolf spider	<i>Pardosa</i> cf. <i>saltans</i>						
14	Roman Snail	<i>Helix</i> cf. <i>pomatia</i>						1

Plants

	Scientific Name	Common Name	Location
MARCHANTIOPHYTES			
MARCHANTIACEAE			
LIVERWORTS			
1	<i>Marchantia</i> sp.	A liverwort	Rakov Skoecjan
PTERIDOPHYTES			
CALAMOPHYTES			
FERNS & ALLIES			
HORSETAILS			
HORSETAIL FAMILY			
2	<i>Equisetum palustre</i>	Marsh Horsetail	Cerknica lake
LEPTOSPORANGIATE FERNS			
TRUE FERNS			
ASPLENIACEAE			
SPLEENWORT FAMILY			
3	<i>Asplenium scolopendrium</i>	Hart's-tongue Fern	Rakov Skoecjan
4	<i>Asplenium trichomanes</i>	Maidenhair Spleenwort	Planinsko Polje
CYSTOPTERIDACEAE			
BLADDER-FERN FAMILY			
5	<i>Cystopteris</i> cf. <i>fragilis</i>	Brittle Bladder-fern	Planinsko Polje
DRYOPTERIDACEAE			
BUCKLER-FERN FAMILY			
6	<i>Dryopteris</i> cf. <i>filix-mas</i>	Male-fern	Racna Gora
GYMNOSPERMS			
CONIFERS			
CUPRESSACEAE			
JUNIPER FAMILY			
7	<i>Juniperus communis</i>	Common Juniper	Bloscica bogs
PINACEAE			
PINE FAMILY			
8	<i>Abies alba</i>	European Silver Fir	Cerknica lake
9	<i>Larix decidua</i>	European Larch	Stari Kot
10	<i>Picea abies</i>	Spruce	Markovec
11	<i>Pinus sylvestris</i>	Scots Pine	Bloscica bogs
ANGIOSPERMS			
FLOWERING PLANTS			
EU-DICOTS			
TRUE DICOTYLEDONS			
MOSCHATTEL FAMILY			
12	<i>Sambucus nigra</i>	Elder	Stari Kot
13	<i>Viburnum lantana</i>	Wayfaring Tree	Cerknica lake
14	<i>Viburnum opulus</i>	Guelder Rose	Cerknica lake
APIACEAE			
CARROT FAMILY			
15	<i>Hacquetia epipactis</i>	Hacquetia	Planinsko Polje

	Scientific Name	Common Name	Location
	Apocynaceae	Periwinkle Family	
16	<i>Vinca major</i>	Greater Periwinkle	Markovec
17	<i>Vinca minor</i>	Lesser Periwinkle	Planinsko Polje
	Araliaceae	Ivy Family	
18	<i>Hedera helix</i> agg.	Ivy	Markovec
	Berberidaceae	Barberry Family	
19	<i>Berberis vulgaris</i>	Barberry	Planinsko Polje
	Betulaceae	Birch Family	
20	<i>Alnus glutinosa</i>	Black Alder	Planinsko Polje
21	<i>Betula pendula</i>	Silver Birch	Cerknica lake
22	<i>Carpinus betulus</i>	Hornbeam	Planinsko Polje
23	<i>Corylus avellana</i>	Hazel	Markovec
	Boraginaceae	Forget-me-not Family	
24	<i>Buglossoides purpureocaerulea</i>	Purple Gromwell	Markovec
25	<i>Myosotis</i> sp.	A forget-me-not	Markovec
26	<i>Omphalodes verna</i>	Creeping Navelwort	Markovec
27	<i>Pulmonaria</i> cf. <i>officinalis</i>	Lungwort	Planinsko Polje
28	<i>Symphytum officinale</i>	Common Comfrey	Planinsko Polje
29	<i>Symphytum tuberosum</i>	Bulbous Comfrey	Planinsko Polje
	Brassicaceae	Cabbage Family	
30	<i>Alliaria petiolata</i>	Garlic Mustard	Planinsko Polje
31	<i>Arabidopsis arenosa</i>	Sand Rock-cress	Rakov Skocjan
32	<i>Barbarea vulgaris</i>	Bittercress	Markovec
33	<i>Capsella bursa-pastoris</i>	Shepherd's-purse	Markovec
34	<i>Cardamine bulbifera</i>	Coralroot Bitter-cress	Cerknica lake
35	<i>Cardamine enneaphyllos</i>	Drooping Bittercress	Racna Gora
36	<i>Cardamine heptaphylla</i>	Pinnate Coralroot	Leskova Dolina
37	<i>Cardamine pentaphyllos</i>	Five-leaved Coralroot	Rakov Skocjan
38	<i>Cardamine</i> cf. <i>pratensis</i>	Lady's Smock or Cuckoo-flower	Planinsko Polje
39	<i>Cardamine trifolia</i>	Trefoil Bittercress	Rakov Skocjan
40	<i>Lunaria rediviva</i>	Perennial Honesty	Rakov Skocjan
	Caprifoliaceae	Honeysuckle Family	
41	<i>Knautia</i> sp.	A scabious	Planinsko Polje
42	<i>Lonicera alpigena</i>	Alpine Honeysuckle	Rakov Skocjan
43	<i>Lonicera</i> cf. <i>caprifolium</i>	Perfoliate Honeysuckle	Planinsko Polje
44	<i>Lonicera xylosteum</i>	Fly Honeysuckle	Markovec
45	<i>Valeriana dioica</i>	Marsh Valerian	Bloscica bogs
	Caryophyllaceae	Pink Family	
46	<i>Cerastium arvense</i>	Field Mouse-ear	Planinsko Polje
47	<i>Silene latifolia</i>	White Campion	Planinsko Polje
	Compositae (Asteraceae)	Daisy Family	
48	<i>Achillea millefolium</i>	Yarrow	Markovec
49	<i>Aposeris foetida</i>	Aposeris	Rakov Skocjan
50	<i>Bellis perennis</i>	Daisy	Markovec
51	<i>Petasites albus</i>	White Butterbur	Racna Gora

	Scientific Name	Common Name	Location
52	<i>Taraxacum officinale</i> agg.	Common Dandelion	Markovec
53	<i>Tussilago farfara</i>	Colt's-foot	Stari Kot
	Crassulaceae	Stonecrop Family	
54	<i>Sedum</i> sp.	A stonecrop	Markovec
	Euphorbiaceae	Spurge Family	
55	<i>Euphorbia amygdaloides</i>	Wood Spurge	Planinsko Polje
56	<i>Euphorbia carniolica</i>	A spurge	Rakov Skocjan
57	<i>Euphorbia cyparissias</i>	Cypress Spurge	Markovec
58	<i>Euphorbia illirica</i>	A spurge	Markovec
	Fagaceae	Oak & Beech Family	
59	<i>Fagus sylvatica</i>	Beech	Krizna caves
60	<i>Quercus robur</i>	Pendunculate Oak	Planinsko Polje
	Geraniaceae	Geranium Family	
61	<i>Geranium phaeum</i>	Dusky Crane's-bill	Planinsko Polje
62	<i>Geranium robertianum</i>	Herb Robert	Markovec
	Lamiaceae	Dead-nettle Family	
63	<i>Ajuga reptans</i>	Bugle	Markovec
64	<i>Betonica officinalis</i>	Betony	Cerknica lake
65	<i>Glechoma hederacea</i>	Ground-ivy	Planinsko Polje
66	<i>Lamiastrum galeobdolon</i> agg.	Yellow Archangel	Planinsko Polje
67	<i>Lamium orvala</i>	Balm-leaved Archangel	Markovec
68	<i>Lamium purpureum</i>	Red Dead-nettle	Markovec
69	<i>Mentha aquatica</i>	Water Mint	Cerknica lake
70	<i>Salvia pratensis</i>	Meadow Clary	Markovec
	Leguminosae (Fabaceae)	Pea Family	
71	<i>Anthyllis vulneraria</i> agg.	Kidney-vetch	Cerknica lake
72	<i>Cytisus (Chamaecytisus) hirsutus</i>	Hairy Broom	Markovec
73	<i>Genista</i> cf. <i>germanica</i>	Prickly Greenweed	Markovec
74	<i>Laburnum anagyroides</i>	Laburnum	Cerknica lake
75	<i>Lathyrus linifolius</i>	Bitter Vetch	Bloscica bogs
76	<i>Lathyrus vernus</i>	Spring Vetchling	Planinsko Polje
77	<i>Lotus corniculatus</i>	Bird's-foot Trefoil	Cerknica lake
78	<i>Medicago lupulina</i>	Black Medick	Markovec
79	<i>Trifolium pratense</i>	Red Clover	Planinsko Polje
80	<i>Vicia oroboides</i>	A vetch	Rakov Skocjan
	Oleaceae	Olive Family	
81	<i>Ligustrum vulgare</i>	Wild Privet	Cerknica lake
	Orobanchaceae	Broomrape Family	
82	<i>Lathraea</i> cf. <i>squamaria</i>	Toothwort	Racna Gora
	Oxalidaceae	Wood-sorrel Family	
83	<i>Oxalis acetosella</i>	Wood-sorrel	Leskova Dolina (mount Sneznik)
	Papaveraceae	Poppy Family	
84	<i>Chelidonium majus</i>	Greater Celandine	Markovec

	Scientific Name	Common Name	Location
	Plantaginaceae	Plantain Family	
85	<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>	Ribwort Plantain	Planinsko Polje
86	<i>Veronica chamaedrys</i>	Germander Speedwell	Cerknica lake
	Polygalaceae	Milkwort Family	
87	<i>Polygala chamaebuxus</i>	Shrubby Milkwort	Markovec
88	<i>Polygala cf. vulgaris</i>	Common Milkwort	Markovec
	Primulaceae	Primrose Family	
89	<i>Primula vulgaris</i>	Primrose	Racna Gora
	Ranunculaceae	Buttercup Family	
90	<i>Anemone nemorosa</i>	Wood Anemone	Racna Gora
91	<i>Anemone ranunculoides</i>	Yellow Anemone	Planinsko Polje
92	<i>Caltha palustris</i>	Marsh Marigold	Planinsko Polje
93	<i>Helleborus sp.</i>	An hellebore	Planinsko Polje
94	<i>Hepatica nobilis</i>	Hepatica	Rakov Skocjan
95	<i>Ranunculus lanuginosus</i>	a Buttercup	Rakov Skocjan
96	<i>Ranunculus cf. trichophyllus</i>	Threadleaf Crowfoot	Markovec
	Rosaceae	Rose Family	
97	<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	Hawthorn	Planinsko Polje
98	<i>Fragaria vesca</i>	Wild Strawberry	Markovec
99	<i>Geum rivale</i>	Water Avens	Bloscica bogs
100	<i>Malus sylvestris</i>	Crab Apple	Cerknica lake
101	<i>Potentilla cf. anserina</i>	Silverweed	Cerknica lake
102	<i>Prunus cf. padus</i>	Bird Cherry	Cerknica lake
103	<i>Rosa cf. canina</i>	Dog Rose	Markovec
104	<i>Rubus idaeus</i>	Raspberry	Stari Kot
105	<i>Sorbus cf. aucuparia</i>	Rowan	Planinsko Polje
	Rubiaceae	Bedstraw Family	
106	<i>Cruciata cf. glabra</i>	Slender Crosswort	Markovec
107	<i>Cruciata laevipes</i>	a Crosswort	Planinsko Polje
108	<i>Galium odoratum</i>	Woodruff	Rakov Skocjan
	Salicaceae	Willow & Poplar Family	
109	<i>Populus nigra</i>	Aspen	Cerknica lake
110	<i>Salix alba</i>	White Willow	Planinsko Polje
111	<i>Salix caprea</i>	Goat Willow	Cerknica lake
	Santalaceae	Sandalwood Family	
112	<i>Viscum album</i>	Mistletoe	Planinsko Polje
	Sapindaceae	Maple Family	
113	<i>Acer campestre</i>	Field Maple	Planinsko Polje
	Saxifragaceae	Saxifrage Family	
114	<i>Chrysosplenium alternifolium</i>	Alternate-leaved Golden Saxifrage	Rakov Skocjan
	Scrophulariaceae	Figwort Family	
115	<i>Verbascum thapsus</i>	Great Mullein	Markovec

	Scientific Name	Common Name	Location
	Staphyleaceae	Bladdernut Family	
116	<i>Staphylea pinnata</i>	European Bladdernut	Planinsko Polje
	Urticaceae	Nettle Family	
117	<i>Urtica dioica</i>	Common Nettle	Markovec
	Violaceae	Violet Family	
118	<i>Viola elatior</i>	Tall Violet	Cerknica lake
119	<i>Viola cf. reichenbachiana</i>	Early Dog Violet	Racna Gora
120	<i>Viola cf. riviniana</i>	Common Dog Violet	Bloscica bogs
121	<i>Viola cf. tricolor</i>	Heartsease	Cerknica lake
	Monocots	Monocotyledons	
	Amaryllidaceae	Daffodil Family	
122	<i>Allium ursinum</i>	Ramsons	Planinsko Polje
123	<i>Leucojum aestivum</i>	Summer Snowflake	Cerknica lake
	Araceae	Arum Family	
124	<i>Arum sp.</i>	An arum	Rakov Skoecjan
	Asparagaceae	Asparagus Family	
125	<i>Convallaria majalis</i>	Lily-of-the-Valley	Rakov Skoecjan
126	<i>Maianthemum bifolium</i>	May Lily	Leskova Dolina
127	<i>Muscari cf. neglectum</i>	Grape Hyacinth	Planinsko Polje
128	<i>Polygonatum multiflorum</i>	Solomon's-seal	Planinsko Polje
	Cyperaceae	Sedge Family	
129	<i>Carex cf. acuta</i>	Acute Sedge	Cerknica lake
	Melanthiaceae	Herb-Paris Family	
130	<i>Paris quadrifolia</i>	Herb-Paris	Planinsko Polje
	Orchidaceae	Orchid Family	
131	<i>Anacamptis morio</i>	Green-winged Orchid	Markovec
132	<i>Dactylorhiza incarnata</i> subsp. <i>cruenta</i>	Early Marsh Orchid	Bloscica bogs
133	<i>Dactylorhiza cf. majalis</i>	Broad-leaved (or Western) Marsh Orchid	Bloscica bogs
	Poaceae	Grass Family	
134	<i>Phragmites australis</i>	Common Reed	Cerknica lake



Herb Paris



Red-footed Falcon