

Slovenia – Birds, Bears and Caves

Naturetrek Tour Report

17th – 22nd June 2019



Tour report and images by Luca Boscain



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Day 1

Monday 17th June

Ljubljana airport - Markovec

Our flight from Stansted landed at the Ljubljana - Brnik International Airport at 4.16pm, with only 6 minutes delay. It is a very small airport so in a short time we collected our suitcases and went out. Luca, our Italian tour leader, was waiting for us at the exit; as he gathered one by one all his little sheep, he sent us to the small external bar where there was Kay as well, who had arrived by herself from Austria. With the complete group, we moved to the car park where we took possession of our comfortable nine-seater minibus. The weather, which had been very hot and humid earlier, was now fresher because of a lovely breeze, although accompanied by some threatening dark clouds.

After half an hour driving south-west along the motorway, we turned off at the Unec junction, onto the secondary roads that lead to the Cerknica lake. We had a short break by the village of Martinjak, before the turning to Loska Dolina, where from at least a dozen years, White Storks have chosen a chimney on which to build their huge nest. Here we noticed an adult and the heads of two juveniles, the latter with short black bills. Continuing along peaceful roads that run through hilly landscapes, with wide meadows and endless forests, we noticed a road-killed Stone (also known as Beech) Marten, a couple of Common Buzzards and three Ravens.

Then we arrived at our base for the holiday, just outside of the little village of Markovec: the small family hotel managed by Miha Mlakar. He has been able to develop in recent years a new business, involving the local bear-hunters and buildings they used to shoot the bears: now they are comfortable photo hides from which observe those large carnivores in absolute safety. Dinner was at 8pm, so we had some time to settle in. Some explored the graceful garden and surrounds of the hotel, spotting the first birds: Nuthatch and Red-backed Shrike.

During supper, Luca explained the plan for tomorrow and, more generally, how our experience in Slovenia would unfold. Afterwards we went outside for a short walk. Unfortunately, the owls were silent, so we had to content of the endless chirps of Field Crickets.

Day 2

Tuesday 18th June

Mount Slivnica and bear-hide session

During the night some of us were woken up by the weird howls of Golden Jackals (*Canis aureus moreoticus*) that seemed to have established themselves near the hotel, listening also the barking of a Red Fox.

At 7am, most of the group met with Luca to have a pre-breakfast walk in the surroundings of Markovec. We walked along a not-so-busy road that connects rustic houses, observing the heronry of Grey Herons in some spruce, with youngsters almost ready for their first flight, before descending to the bridge on the stream Veliki Obrh. Among the fruit trees and the gardens, we saw a number of Fieldfares and Red-backed Shrikes, plus Gold- and Greenfinches. From the bridge we noticed the tadpoles of Common Toad in a watering place and some

Brown Trout leaping out from the water to catch the many mayflies that were flickering. Among the willows in the distance, we had some glimpses of a singing Marsh Warbler. On the way back we also saw two Kestrels and an Hobby were hunting the mayflies in flight.

For breakfast, at 8am, we sat on the gorgeous veranda with wide windows that faced the riverine woodland of the Veliki Obrh. The buffet, particularly rich, offered many options from the yogurt, to cereals, ham, cheese and a delicious homemade jam with wild berries. Katia, the very kind lady that served us during the meals, prepared some scrambled eggs and cappuccino too.

While we were waiting for the arrival of everybody, by the car park, some of us spotted a Roe Deer in the adjacent meadow and photographed a Hawfinch on the ground. The weather forecast for the day was rather poor, with a forecast of mainly rain in the morning if not even for the whole day. The reality was instead much better, with patches of blue here and there, so Luca decided to lead us to the summit of mount Slivnica (1114 metres), one of the highest mountains that surround the lake of Cerknica. On the way, we observed many Mistle and Song Thrushes on the edge of the fields, four Ravens and many Lesser Butterfly Orchids (*Platanthera bifolia*) and Bird's-nest Orchids (*Neottia nidus-avis*) in the woodlands. Under the anthropological side, instead, was remarkable that during all the morning we encountered just a single car: a true heaven of tranquillity!

We parked not far from the top, where there used to be a former ski run with a ski-lift, now derelict: in this season, the meadows around were in the heart of the bloom, so much that somebody asserted: "I've never seen a meadow with so many types of flowers in all my life!" Particularly numerous were the orchids, with hundreds of Fragrant (*Gymnadenia conopsea*) and Globe Orchids (*Traunsteinera globosa*), but also White Helleborine (*Cephalanthera damasonium*) in the shady woodlands. A light rain started while we were continuing the exploration noticing other species of interesting flowers such as Bulgarian Columbine (*Aquilegia nigricans*) with variable colours from the pale blue to the very dark purple, the eastern European orange Carniola Lilies (*Lilium carniolicum*), Bladder Gentian (*Gentiana utriculosa*), Great Masterwort (*Astrantia major*) and two pretty rampions, *Phyteuma ovatum* and *Phyteuma zahlbruckneri*.

The rain stopped when we were by the summit and some sunshine appeared: the butterflies started to fly again, beginning with Woodland Ringlets and a Pearly Heath followed by the stunning Clouded Apollos, Mazarine and Adonis Blues. Then we descended along the mountainside facing south, among large plants of White Asphodel (*Asphodelus albus*) and purple roses (*Rosa* sp.) and small patches of Grass-leaved Iris (*Iris graminea*). Red-backed Shrikes, Tree Pipits and Yellowhammer were singing in the bushes. We reached a natural view point that faced a breath-taking panorama: the whole "polje" (the karstic plain) that hosts the Cerknica lake was visible, with its vast meadows on the eastern side and the forest edging mirrored in water on the western side, but also with the various urban centres from the isolated settlement of Otok to Cerknica, the largest town of the area with its 4,000 inhabitants.

On the many flowers there were we spotted some interesting moths, like Mother Shipton, Lead Belle and Six-spot Burnet and other bugs like the froghopper *Cercopis vulnerata*, the soldier beetle *Cantharis livida* and Italian Striped Bug (*Graphosoma italicum*). We also had wonderful views of a Swallowtail butterfly in the shade of a Beech (*Fagus sylvatica*). We walked past the hut called "Dom na Slivnici", apparently abandoned, before heading back to the minibus, passing through patches of Beech where we discovered some Solomon's-seal (*Polygonatum multiflorum*), almost over, and a pretty Chequered Skipper butterfly.

We arrived at Mlakar's hotel at 1.15 for lunch.

After some time to relax, we met at 2.45pm; Miha allocated us, and many other visitors of various nationalities he had, to the many different photo-hides available. There are at least 24 hides distributed in the forests around Markovec and by the border with Croatia, usually no more than a half-hour drive from the hotel. Three of us went with Luca in a hide located in the woodlands nearby Stari Kot, while the other four went to another one close to Loski Potok. To go to a photo-hide doesn't mean you have 100% guarantee of seeing a bear, because they are wild animals that, even if they come rather frequently, they do definitely what they want, deciding if and when to appear, not always in daylight or during the afternoon hide sessions.

During our first afternoon the first group of us was particularly lucky, with the observation of a female Brown Bear with the two cubs for more than an hour and, later on, of a beautiful male with a golden collar. The second group had views of the fast Bank Voles, heard the call of a Ural Owl and the meow of a male cat, that most likely was a Wild Cat, so far from any village. The hide sessions usually last for about five hours, so you need to train the patience and stamina during the long wait, sharpening one's senses to hear the sounds of the forest. Birds heard included Common Treecreeper and Spotted Nutcracker, while innumerable Jays and Wood Pigeons kept the cameras active.

We all met again at about 9.30pm for supper and Luca set up a small moth-trap outside the veranda.

Day 3

Wednesday 19th June

Križna Caves, Bloke Plateau and bear-hide session

At 7am, we met by the moth-trap to check the night's harvest: the wall was covered in mayflies, but there were also many moths, maybe 50, that had been trapped or had just decided to land nearby. Luca and Sheila, a county recorder for moths, extracted and identified exciting specimens such as Lime Hawk-moth (*Mimas tiliae* f. *brunnea*), Pine-tree Lappet and Scarce Hook-tip. It was great to be able to compare Elephant and Small Elephant Hawk-moths side by side: a joy for the photographers! In the background was a singing male Lesser Whitethroat and six Hawfinches were also noticed.

After breakfast, we had an appointment at 9.15 by the mouth of the Križna Jama, the "Cross Cave", one of the few caves of this size maintained as far as possible in a natural condition, unlike the more famous Škocjan and Postojna caves. This cave does not have a permanent illumination system and limits the number of visitors that can enter the underground tunnels, which extend for about eight kilometres, and therefore still hosts a natural ecosystem. We were each equipped with wellington boots and a torch and, guided by the knowledgeable Marco, we walked along the bottom of the cavern, noticing first the vestiges of Neolithic human settlement, then the remains of the extinct Cave Bear (*Ursus spelaeus*) that used to descend to hibernate here about 30,000 years ago and was at least the double the size of Brown Bears. Among the deposits of precipitated stalactites from the ceiling during the millennia, we noticed some Common Cave-crickets, a few Tissue moths, dead and now covered in mould, and the tiny Cave Millipede, devoid of pigments and perfectly adapted to the life in the darkness. The cave does not support Olm (*Proteus anguinus*), the blind salamander endemic to the Karst, as the waters of the torrent that flow there are too poor in food, although Bats hibernate here in winter. We coasted a

stream, that deposited on its bed fantastic ripples of calcium carbonate, and then we reached a small lake. Here we boarded a small yellow dinghy paddled by Marco; we switched off the torches, voyaging in silence on the crystal turquoise water illuminated by a light under the boat. It was a memorable experience. We left the 8°C of the cave to exit into the heat of the surface, where the sunshine lit up the bright green of the beech forest.

For the second half of the morning we moved on to the Bloke Plateau, passing through meadows red with poppies and pinewoods, and arrived at the valley of the small stream Bloscica, forming a nice series of wet meadows and bogs. Butterflies included a Marsh Fritillary and a False Heath Fritillary and, just as a marvellous Woodland Brown started to fly around us, a heavy downpour started. We sheltered for about 10 minutes in the minibus before the rain stopped and we could resume our exploration, enjoying the range of orchids. We moved from the common Fragrant, Twayblade (*Neottia ovata*), Spotted (*Dactylorhiza fuchsii*) and Lesser Butterfly, we passed to the rarer Early Marsh (*Dactylorhiza incarnata* var. *haematodes*) and Bog Orchids (*Anacamptis palustris*), in the middle of the bog, the latest ones particularly fresh and in full bloom. Near the stream we saw many Beautiful and Banded Demoiselles, White-legged Damselfly and few pretty flowers of Bogbean (*Menyanthes trifoliata*). The cloudy sky, with a temperature of about 24°C, didn't impede the flight of many interesting butterflies among which we noticed Clouded Apollo, Black-veined White, Clouded Yellow and Lesser Marbled Fritillary.

Then we returned to the hotel for lunch, before meeting again at 3pm for the bear-hide session. This time four of us went to a hide just 20 metres from the Croatian border, not far from Babno Polje, while the other four went to a hide near Loski Potok. The luckiest group was today the second one, because from about 4.30pm, they had in front of the hide a mother Bear with three two-year-old cubs, but unfortunately in bad weather conditions, with rain and mist. The others saw a solitary immature Bear that spent about half an hour in front of the hide, as well as brief views of two shy Red Deer stags (*Cervus elaphus*), plus Bank Voles and Jays. As we left the Babno Polje hide, Luca's playback allowed us to find a Ural Owl, although the light was now too poor for good photos. The other group, from Loski Potok, observed an unidentified marten on the way back to Markovec.

Day 4

Thursday 20th June

Planinsko Polje and Cerknica lake

Today, while Luca was shopping before breakfast, group members also out early saw two Common Buzzards, two Hobbies, Kestrel, Green Woodpecker and the usual Hawfinches.

After breakfast we drove for almost an hour, having a break for a second time by the White Stork nest in Martinjak, where we discovered a third chick now training for its first flight, before reaching the plain of Planinsko Polje, that gets its name from the village of Planina. The river that flows here, called the Unica, collects the waters that we had already seen in the Križna cave, where the Bloke stream coming from the homonymous plateau and the Obrh, that flows in the Loska Dolina plain of Markovec, join together, before crossing the large basin, where appears and disappears the intermittent lake of Cerknica, and to emerge on the surface by the gorges of Rakov Skocjan that we were going to visit the last day: a complex system of karstic rivers that connects the different poljes, the karstic plains, flowing to Ljubljana and, much further, to the Danube.

Here we did a loop of about three kilometres, walking first on the edge of the riverine woodland of poplars, willows and Black Alders (*Alnus glutinosa*) of the river Unica, then crossing on a bridge and going to see the springs that were formerly used to power some mills. The luxuriant vegetation hosted a lot of birds among them Red-backed Shrike, Yellowhammer, Grey Wagtail, Short-toed Treecreeper and Marsh Tit, but unfortunately, perhaps because of the heat, only few conceded a view, while most of those kept hidden in the depth of the foliage. More active were instead the insects, with the elegant Beautiful Demoiselles and Hungarian Gliders and fritillaries like Knapweed and Silver-washed.

We found a nice spot with a wooden table and some seats in the shade of some Large-leaved Lime trees (*Tilia platyphyllos*), and Luca prepared the picnic, including three different types of cheese, fresh tomatoes, fruit juices, apricots and nuts. Particularly welcome was then a refreshing break by a bar in Cerknica, for an ice cream, a coffee or... both! Unfortunately, dark clouds and sinister noises of thunder began to gather in the sky: when we moved from the bar to a beautiful area with meadows and fields, the clouds started to release their abundant contents. For a while we continued scanning by binocular under the rear door of the van, observing Common Buzzard, Kestrel, Whinchat and many Ashy-headed Yellow Wagtails (*Motacilla flava cinereocapilla*) and Skylarks but to avoid getting completely wet, we decided to drive on. In one meadow we spotted two White Storks, in another six Yellow-legged Gulls, then we reached the bridge of Dolenje Jezero, but it was still raining. The Yellow Water-lilies (*Nuphar lutea*) and the Summer Snowflakes (*Leucojum aestivum*) seemed to have been flooded by the fast rise of the lake level and we couldn't see much more than Little and Great Egrets resting on a shore. When we arrived at the bay that opens on the side of the tiny village of Otok, we flushed seven Grey Herons, while in the middle of the road we noticed the bulky shape of a Hawfinch, but the shower didn't stop. We visited the small glade that in the past used to be where bears were fed with the aim of shooting them, but this year, after the hunting has been finally banned thanks to the action of Greenpeace Slovenia, there weren't any more traces of food. Among the flowers of the glade we saw Twayblade and Lesser Butterfly Orchid, and also the Burnet Companion and Lewes Wave moths.

The thunderstorm finished when we reached the bridge that connects Laze and Gorenje Jezero: here it was all a concert of Sedge and Marsh Warblers. We walked into the wet meadow among Early Marsh and Bog Orchids, Fen Ragworts (*Jacobaea paludosa*) and Wild Gladiolus (*Gladiolus illyricus*): the aim was to observe one of the Corn Crakes that frequented the area but, despite the efforts, we could only hear the croaking calls. Other birds seen were one White Stork, Reed and Corn Bunting, while among the Clouded Yellows Luca found also an individual of the grey form *helice*. Particularly interesting was the endless passage of tens of Painted Ladies, definitely on migration.

We ended our afternoon exploring the wet meadows west of Zerovnica, on the eastern side of the Cerknica lake. Here we saw some more Wild Gladiolus and Bog Orchids, but we heard also some new species of birds like Golden Oriole and Wryneck, while we had a good view of Red-backed Shrike, Yellow Wagtail and Kestrel. We also added here the darker form *procida* of Marbled White butterfly and a Hummingbird Hawk-moth. We returned to the hotel at about 5.30pm, with dinner at 7.30 in order to have time for a "night safari".

At dusk, we came back to the lake Cerknica: from a viewpoint, Luca spotted a far furry head crossing the river, perhaps an Otter, while all the group was rapt by the multitude of sounds coming from the tall grass. At least five Corn Crakes, a distant Great Reed Warbler, Marsh and Sedge Warblers and a single Savi's Warbler were all heard. A Corn Crake was flushed in front of us, showing the reddish colour of the wings to the fastest of us who

were quick enough to get it in the binoculars. With the fall of darkness, we travelled for tens of kilometres along dirt roads, crossing the Beech and Spruce forests of the mounts Javornik, with Luca carefully avoiding the hundreds of Common Toads on the road, and descended to the bridge of Dolenje Jezero. Here were many Glow Worms while in the distance we could hear the impressive concert of water (*Pelophylax* sp.) and Tree Frogs (*Hyla arborea*), second only to the beauty of the Milky Way above us.

A tour among the fields that surround Dolenje Jezero gave the observation of a Long-eared Owl, but it was now late. On the way back to Markovec, we encountered two cute Northern White-breasted Hedgehogs with the distinctive contrast between the white and dark brown of breast and belly, a Field Mouse (*Apodemus* sp.), four Red Deer and a lovely Stone Marten, on the roadside at Klance.

We arrived home at 11.15, tired but happy with the magnificent day.

Day 5

Friday 21st June

Babno Polje area, Snežnik castle and bear-hide session

Today we had breakfast at 7am in order to be in the field earlier than usual: the objective of the day was in fact to get a good sighting of the Ural Owl for all the members of the group. To do it, we were accompanied by Giorgio, who works for Miha, and who led us once again into the forests around Babno Polje. We drove slowly along the dirt roads in the woodland, noticing on the roadsides Lesser Butterfly, Bird's-nest and Common Spotted Orchids, until we arrived not far from the bear-hide. After a short wait we got an answer to the playback from a Ural Owl and then, after a couple of tries, we all managed to have a great view and to photograph the bird perched clearly on a twig of a Silver Fir (*Abies alba*).

The idea was to continue the search, trying to locate the legendary dark morph of the Central European Ural Owl, not shown in most of the books. However, unfortunately we found our route blocked by a lorry that was collecting huge logs, so instead we stopped in a lovely glade, called Zupanov Laz. Here, next to a monument dedicated to the communist partisans of the Second World War, are vast meadows with plenty of flowers: Meadow Clary (*Salvia pratensis*), Small Scabious (*Scabiosa columbaria*), Greater Yellow Rattle (*Rhinanthus alectorolophus*), Clustered Bellflower (*Campanula glomerata*), and Fragrant, Globe and Burnt Orchids (*Neotinea ustulata*). While birds were rather silent, with the only Cuckoo, Common Treecreeper and Coal Tit heard, meadows with such a variety of flowers, couldn't lack a wide selection of butterflies, with Heath Fritillary, Duke of Burgundy, Woodland Ringlet, Small Tortoiseshell, Peacock, Dark Green Fritillary, Comma, Pearl-bordered Fritillary, Adonis Blue and Large White.

We ended the morning visiting the garden of the stunning 13th-century Snežnik Castle. Here we walked among ancient trees and meadows, observing many finches, tits and thrushes, plus a single Spotted Flycatcher, and checked a stream flowing out of the lake of the castle. We noticed a little Grass Snake, Minnows and Chubs and few Large Red Damselflies. While we were walking along the trail that surrounds the castle, many of us were tempted by the Wild Strawberries (*Fragaria vesca*), some others instead spotted the irresistible cute snout of a Bank Vole.

In the afternoon, for the last hide session, three of us came back to the Stari Kot hide, having five Brown Bears, a female, two youngsters and two males, while the other group visited a hide not far from Loski Potok: they

didn't see any bears, but a Red Fox provided a great show passing few centimetres from the big window and allowing amazing close-ups in the middle of a flowered meadow. Kay, already satisfied by the past hide-sessions, decided instead to have a walk in the woodlands near the hotel, to the little settlement of Dolenje Poljane, seeing a number of Great Spotted Woodpeckers and Common Buzzards. On the way back, almost at dusk, Luca managed to show to Lindsey the European Free-tailed Bat that he been hearing: it is one of the few European species that emits sounds audible for many people, but usually flies very high in the sky.

Day 6

Saturday 22nd June

Cerknica lake, Rakov Skocjan and departure from the Ljubljana airport

Once again, we had breakfast at 7am, so at 8.10 we were ready for the last morning in the field with all our suitcases comfortably in the trunk of the minibus. Unfortunately, the weather today wasn't the best, with low clouds that covered the peaks of the mountains and some mist in the bottom of the valley.

We had a first stop in Otok, where we saw a Grey-headed Woodpecker flying in front of the vehicle: when we stopped, we could all observe it, while a young Great Spotted Woodpecker was hopping on the wooden posts of a fence. Slightly further on we stopped to scan the lake: among tens of Mallard we spotted a drake Tufted Duck, some Great Egrets and Little Grebes, while in a meadow were obvious signs left by a rich population of Field Voles, with dens, paths and tunnels. At the following bridge, we looked unsuccessfully for Baillon's Crakes, reported recently from here, but the only creatures we had were innumerable Rudd and Perch underwater, plus a nice pair of Great Crested Grebes. After another stop by a panoramic point, we said farewell to the lake of Cerknica to go into the forests of the Rakov Skocjan Park. The weather was worsening, and it started to rain heavily.

When the rain finally stopped, we went to visit the system of gorges and natural rocky bridges, with deep valleys, sinkholes, caves and other odd karstic phenomena that feature the course of the torrent. This was a river that we had already seen before because it flows from the plain of Cerknica to the Planinsko Polje, but it was known here with the name of Rak. Unfortunately, due to the weather conditions and the dangerous slipperiness of wet rocks and roots, we were not able to descend by the bottom of the sinkhole but looked down from above to the flowing stream. We were rapt anyway by the atmosphere made magic by the dark clouds, the cliffs covered in ferns and the mist that invaded every corner of the landscape. The rain soon started again and all the following stops, to see from other viewpoints the river Rak flowing through enchanting valleys and very deep gorges, were done under the downpour.

For lunch we came back to the town of Cerknica, where we tried the Slovenian pizza that, even if it is not the same of the Italian, was however pretty much appreciated. From here we should have had about 45 minutes of driving to reach the airport, but a traffic jam forced us to go off the motorway: it was a good choice, because even if it had a speed limit of no more than a 50km/h, the secondary road went parallel to the motorway and we moved much faster than in the queue, arriving on time at 2.30pm at the Ljubljana airport. Here we said goodbye to Luca and at 4.30 we took off, heading to Stansted.

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Checklists

	Common name	Scientific name	Trip	17	18	19	20	21	22
1	Greylag Goose	<i>Anser anser</i>	X						2
2	Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	X		2		7	1	40
3	Tufted Duck	<i>Aythya fuligula</i>	X						1
4	Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>	X				H		4
5	Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>	X				1		2
6	White Stork	<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>	X	3			8		
7	Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	X	5	15	1	10	x	2
8	Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>	X				1		4
9	Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	X				1		
10	Common Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>	X	2	4	1	10	10	2
11	Water Rail	<i>Rallus aquaticus</i>	L				H		
12	Corn Crake	<i>Crex crex</i>	X				5		
13	Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	X		H				
14	Eurasian Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>	X				3		5
15	Black-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>	X						3
16	Yellow-legged Gull	<i>Larus michahellis</i>	X				6		
17	Feral Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i> var. <i>domestica</i>	L			1			
18	Common Wood Pigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	X		2	2		15	3
19	Eurasian Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	X						1
20	Common Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>	X		H	H	2H	H	
21	Tawny Owl	<i>Strix aluco</i>	X				1		
22	Ural Owl	<i>Strix uralensis</i>	X		H	2		2	
23	Long-eared Owl	<i>Asio otus</i>	X				1		
24	Common Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>	X				30		20
25	Eurasian Wryneck	<i>Jynx torquilla</i>	X				H	H	
26	Great Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>	X		3	2	2H	5	2
27	Grey-headed Woodpecker	<i>Picus canus</i>	X						1
28	Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	X		2	1	4	2	
29	Eurasian Hobby	<i>Falco subbuteo</i>	X		1		2		
30	Red-backed Shrike	<i>Lanius collurio</i>	X	1	5	2	4		3
31	Eurasian Golden Oriole	<i>Oriolus oriolus</i>	X				2H		
32	Eurasian Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>	X	1	15	10	4	10	2
33	Eurasian Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>	X	x	10	x	10		
34	Spotted Nutcracker	<i>Nucifraga caryocatactes</i>	X		H				
35	Hooded Crow	<i>Corvus cornix</i>	X	x	10	x	20	x	x
36	Northern Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>	X	2	4		2		
37	Coal Tit	<i>Periparus ater</i>	X			2H	H	3H	H
38	Marsh Tit	<i>Poecile palustris</i>	X		H		2	1	
39	Eurasian Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>	X		2		5	2H	H
40	Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>	X		H		1		2
41	Eurasian Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>	X			H	10		
42	Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	X	x	1	1	xx	x	5
43	Common House Martin	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>	X	x	x	x	xx		xx
44	Long-tailed Tit	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>	X		H				
45	Common Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita collybita</i>	X		H	2H		3H	2H
46	Great Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus arundinaceus</i>	X				H		2H
47	Sedge Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i>	X				5		
48	Marsh Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus palustris</i>	X		1		3		H
49	Savi's Warbler	<i>Locustella luscinioides</i>	X				H		
50	Eurasian Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>	X		3H	H	3H	5H	2H

	Common name	Scientific name	Trip	17	18	19	20	21	22
51	Lesser Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia curruca</i>	X			H		2H	
52	Common Firecrest	<i>Regulus ignicapilla</i>	X		H			H	1
53	Goldcrest	<i>Regulus regulus</i>	X		H	2H		H	
54	Eurasian Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	X		H	2H	H	H	
55	Eurasian Nuthatch	<i>Sitta europaea</i>	X	1	1		2	H	
56	Eurasian Treecreeper	<i>Certhia familiaris</i>	X		H			H	H
57	Short-toed Treecreeper	<i>Certhia brachydactyla</i>	X				H		
58	Common Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	X		5	10	10	5	5
59	Common Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	X	2	20	x	xx	10	5
60	Fieldfare	<i>Turdus pilaris</i>	X		2		2	5	
61	Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>	X	x	10	3	xx	3	3
62	Mistle Thrush	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>	X		5	2			
63	Spotted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>	X					1	
64	European Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>	X		3	5H	2H	10	2
65	Black Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>	X	2	1	2	3	4	2
66	Whinchat	<i>Saxicola rubetra</i>	X				2		1
67	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	X	x	x	x	x	x	x
68	Dunnock	<i>Prunella modularis</i>	X			H		H	
69	Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava cinereocapilla</i>	X				8		2
70	Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>	X				2	2	H
71	White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>	X	1	1	1	5	5	2
72	Tree Pipit	<i>Anthus trivialis</i>	X		2	H	2		
73	Common Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	X		3	10	5	10	5
74	Hawfinch	<i>Coccothraustes coccothraustes</i>	X		4	6	5	3H	15
75	Eurasian Bullfinch	<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>	X		H		H		
76	European Greenfinch	<i>Chloris chloris</i>	X		1	H	2H	h	H
77	Common Linnet	<i>Linaria cannabina</i>	X			H	2		
78	European Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	X	2	5	1	5		H
79	European Serin	<i>Serinus serinus</i>	X		1		1	3	H
80	Corn Bunting	<i>Emberiza calandra</i>	X				2		H
81	Yellowhammer	<i>Emberiza citrinella</i>	X		2		2		
82	Common Reed Bunting	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>	X				1		

Other taxa

	Common name	Scientific name	Trip	June					
				17	18	19	20	21	22
	Mammals:								
1	N. White-breasted Hedgehog	<i>Erinaceus roumanicus</i>	X		D		2		
2	Bat sp.	Chiroptera sp.	X	x	x				
3	European Free-tailed Bat	<i>Tadarida teniotis</i>	X	H	H	H		1	
4	Brown Bear	<i>Ursus arctos arctos</i>	X		4	5		5	
5	Red Fox	<i>Vulpes vulpes</i>	X		H	2	1		
6	Golden Jackal	<i>Canis aureus moreoticus</i>	X		H				
7	Marten sp.	<i>Martes</i> sp.	X			1	S		
8	Stone or Beech Marten	<i>Martes foina</i>	X	D			1		
9	Wild Cat	<i>Felis</i> cf. <i>silvestris</i>	X		H				
10	Wild Boar	<i>Sus scrofa</i>	S					S	
11	Red Deer	<i>Cervus elaphus</i>	X			2	4		
12	European Roe Deer	<i>Capreolus capreolus</i>	X	1	5				1
13	Red Squirrel	<i>Sciurus vulgaris</i>	X			1			

	Common name	Scientific name	Trip	June					
				17	18	19	20	21	22
14	Field Mouse sp.	<i>Apodemus</i> sp.	X				1		
15	Bank Vole	<i>Myodes glareolus</i>	X		x	5		1	
16	Field Vole	<i>Microtus agrestis</i>	S						S
17	Vole sp.	<i>Microtus</i> sp.	X					1	
18	Brown Hare	<i>Lepus europaeus</i>	X		1				
19	European Mole	<i>Talpa europaea</i>	S			S	S		S
	Amphibians & Reptiles:								
1	Common Toad	<i>Bufo bufo</i>	X		T	D	100		
2	Common Tree Frog	<i>Hyla arborea</i>	X				5H		
3	Edible-Pool Frog hybrid	<i>Rana kl. esculenta-lessonae</i>	X				50H		10H
4	Common Wall Lizard	<i>Podarcis muralis</i>	X		2		1		
5	Grass Snake	<i>Natrix natrix</i>	X					1	
	Freshwater Fish								
1	Grayling	<i>Thymallus thymallus</i>	X				5		
2	Brown Trout	<i>Salmo trutta</i>	X	3	3				
3	Eurasian Minnow	<i>Phoxinus phoxinus</i>	X					30	
4	Rudd	<i>Rutilus erythrophthalmus</i>	X						100
5	Common Chub	<i>Squalius cephalus</i>	X					20	
6	European Perch	<i>Perca fluviatilis</i>	X						10

Plants

	Common Name	Scientific Name	Location
	PTERIDOPHYTES	FERNS & ALLIES	
	Leptosporangiate Ferns	True Ferns	
	Aspleniaceae	Spleenwort Family	
1	<i>Asplenium ruta-muraria</i>	Wall-rue	Rakov Skocjan
2	<i>Asplenium scolopendrium</i>	Hart's-tongue Fern	Cerknica lake
3	<i>Asplenium trichomanes</i>	Maidenhair Spleenwort	Planinsko Polje
	Cystopteridaceae	Bladder-fern Family	
4	<i>Cystopteris</i> cf. <i>fragilis</i>	Brittle Bladder-fern	Planinsko Polje
	Dennstaedtiaceae	Bracken Family	
5	<i>Pteridium aquilinum</i>	Common Bracken	Ljubljana
	Dryopteridaceae	Buckler-fern Family	
6	<i>Dryopteris</i> cf. <i>filix-mas</i>	Male-fern	Planinsko Polje
	GYMNOSPERMS	CONIFERS	
	Pinaceae	Pine Family	
7	<i>Abies alba</i>	European Silver Fir	Babno Polje
8	<i>Picea abies</i>	Spruce	Mount Slivnica
9	<i>Pinus sylvestris</i>	Scots Pine	Mount Slivnica
	ANGIOSPERMS	FLOWERING PLANTS	
	Pre-dicots	Primitive Dicotyledons	
	Nymphaeaceae	Water-lily Family	

	Common Name	Scientific Name	Location
10	<i>Nuphar lutea</i>	Yellow Water-lily	Cerknica lake
	Eu-dicots	True Dicotyledons	
	Adoxaceae	Moschatel Family	
11	<i>Sambucus nigra</i>	Elder	Markovec
12	<i>Viburnum opulus</i>	Guelder Rose	Bloke Plateau
	Apiaceae	Carrot Family	
13	<i>Aegopodium podagraria</i>	Ground Elder	Planinsko Polje
14	<i>Astrantia major</i>	Great Masterwort	Mount Slivnica
	Apocynaceae	Periwinkle Family	
15	<i>Vincetoxicum hirundinaria</i>	Swallow-wort	Mount Slivnica
	Araliaceae	Ivy Family	
16	<i>Hedera helix</i> agg.	Ivy	Planinsko Polje
	Compositae (Asteraceae)	Daisy Family	
17	<i>Achillea millefolium</i>	Yarrow	Markovec
18	<i>Aposeris foetida</i>	Aposeris	Mount Slivnica
19	<i>Bellis perennis</i>	Daisy	Loski Potok
20	<i>Bupthalmum salicifolium</i>	Ox-eye	Rakov Skocjan
21	<i>Centaurea</i> cf. <i>jacea</i>	Brown Knapweed	Planinsko Polje
22	<i>Cichorium intybus</i>	Common Chicory	Markovec
23	<i>Cirsium</i> cf. <i>pannonicum</i>	A plume thistle	Mount Slivnica
24	<i>Cirsium erisithales</i>	Yellow Melancholy Thistle	Mount Slivnica
25	<i>Crepis</i> sp.	An hawksbeard	Planinsko Polje
26	<i>Jacobaea</i> cf. <i>paludosa</i>	Fen Ragwort	Cerknica lake
27	<i>Leucanthemum vulgare</i>	Ox-eye Daisy	Markovec
28	<i>Petasites</i> cf. <i>albus</i>	White Butterbur	Cerknica lake
29	<i>Taraxacum officinale</i> agg.	Common Dandelion	Planinsko Polje
30	<i>Tragopogon pratensis</i>	Meadow Goat's-beard	Markovec
	Betulaceae	Birch Family	
31	<i>Alnus glutinosa</i>	Black Alder	Planinsko Polje
32	<i>Betula pendula</i>	Silver Birch	Markovec
33	<i>Carpinus betulus</i>	Hornbeam	Mount Slivnica
34	<i>Corylus avellana</i>	Hazel	Markovec
	Boraginaceae	Forget-me-not Family	
35	<i>Echium vulgare</i>	Viper's Bugloss	Mount Slivnica
36	<i>Myosotis</i> cf. <i>scorpioides</i>	Water Forget-me-not	Bloke Plateau
37	<i>Omphalodes verna</i>	Creeping Navelwort	Babno Polje (leaves)
38	<i>Pulmonaria</i> cf. <i>officinalis</i>	Lungwort	Planinsko Polje (leaves)
39	<i>Symphytum officinale</i>	Common Comfrey	Planinsko Polje (leaves)
	Brassicaceae	Cabbage Family	
40	<i>Capsella bursa-pastoris</i>	Shepherd's-purse	Markovec
41	<i>Cardamine bulbifera</i>	Coral-root Bittercress	Cerknica lake
42	<i>Cardamine enneaphyllos</i>	Drooping Bittercress	Stari Kot (leaves)
43	<i>Sinapis</i> cf. <i>arvensis</i>	Charlock Mustard	Cerknica lake

	Common Name	Scientific Name	Location
	Campanulaceae	Bellflower Family	
44	<i>Campanula glomerata</i>	Clustered Bellflower	Mount Slivnica
45	<i>Campanula rapunculus</i>	Rampion Bellflower	Cerknica lake
46	<i>Phyteuma ovatum</i>	Dark Rampion	Mount Slivnica
47	<i>Phyteuma cf. zahlbruckneri</i>	A rampion	Mount Slivnica
	Caprifoliaceae	Honeysuckle Family	
48	<i>Knautia cf. arvensis</i>	Field Scabious	Mount Slivnica
49	<i>Scabiosa cf. columbaria</i>	Small Scabious	Mount Slivnica
	Caryophyllaceae	Pink Family	
50	<i>Cerastium tomentosum</i>	Snow-in-summer	Mount Slivnica
51	<i>Silene flos-cuculi</i>	Ragged-robin	Bloke Plateau
52	<i>Silene latifolia</i>	White Campion	Markovec
53	<i>Silene vulgaris</i>	Bladder Campion	Markovec
54	<i>Stellaria graminea</i>	Lesser Stitchwort	Planinsko Polje
55	Celastraceae	Spindle Family	
	<i>Euonymus europaeus</i>	European Spindle	Planinsko Polje
	Cistaceae	Rock-rose Family	
56	<i>Helianthemum nummularium</i>	Common Rock-rose	Mount Slivnica
	Convolvulaceae	Bindweed Family	
57	<i>Convolvulus arvensis</i>	Field Bindweed	Markovec
	Cornaceae	Dogwood Family	
58	<i>Cornus sanguinea</i>	Common Dogwood	Planinsko Polje
	Crassulaceae	Stonecrop Family	
59	<i>Sedum acre</i>	Goldmoss Stonecrop	Planinsko Polje
	Euphorbiaceae	Spurge Family	
60	<i>Euphorbia amygdaloides</i>	Wood Spurge	Planinsko Polje
61	<i>Euphorbia cf. flavicoma</i>	A spurge	Mount Slivnica
	Leguminosae (Fabaceae)	Pea Family	
62	<i>Anthyllis vulneraria</i>	Kidney-vetch	Mount Slivnica
63	<i>Cytisus (Chamaecytisus) hirsutus</i>	Hairy Broom	Mount Slivnica
64	<i>Genista tinctoria</i>	Dyer's Greenweed	Cerknica lake
65	<i>Medicago lupulina</i>	Black Medick	Markovec
66	<i>Melilotus cf. officinalis</i>	Yellow Sweet Clover	Planinsko Polje
67	<i>Trifolium alpestre</i>	A clover	Mount Slivnica
68	<i>Trifolium montanum</i>	Mountain Clover	Mount Slivnica
69	<i>Trifolium pratense</i>	Red Clover	Markovec
70	<i>Trifolium repens</i>	White Clover	Sneznik castle
71	<i>Vicia cracca</i>	Tufted Vetch	Markovec
72	<i>Vicia sepium</i>	Bush Vetch	Mount Slivnica
	Fagaceae	Oak & Beech Family	
73	<i>Fagus sylvatica</i>	Beech	Mount Slivnica
74	<i>Quercus robur</i>	Pendunculate Oak	Planinsko Polje

	Common Name	Scientific Name	Location
	Gentianiaceae	Gentian Family	
75	<i>Gentiana utriculosa</i>	Bladder Gentian	Mount Slivnica
	Geraniaceae	Geranium Family	
76	<i>Geranium molle</i>	Dove's-foot Crane's-bill	Mount Slivnica
77	<i>Geranium nodosum</i>	Knotted Crane's-bill	Mount Slivnica
78	<i>Geranium robertianum</i>	Herb Robert	Markovec
79	<i>Geranium sanguineum</i>	Bloody Crane's-bill	Mount Slivnica
	Hydrangeaceae	Deutzia Family	
80	<i>Deutzia scabra</i>	Fuzzy Deutzia	Planinsko Polje
	Hypericaceae	St. John's-wort Family	
81	<i>Hypericum perforatum</i>	Common St. John's-wort	Cerknica lake
	Juglandaceae	Walnut Family	
82	<i>Juglans nigra</i>	Eastern Black Walnut	Cerknica lake
	Lamiaceae	Dead-nettle Family	
83	<i>Ajuga reptans</i>	Bugle	Mount Slivnica
84	<i>Betonica officinalis</i>	Common Betony	Cerknica lake
85	<i>Lamium galeobdolon</i> agg.	Yellow Archangel	Mount Slivnica
86	<i>Lamium maculatum</i>	Spotted Dead-nettle	Planinsko Polje
87	<i>Lamium orvala</i>	Balm-leaved Archangel	Mount Slivnica
88	<i>Melittis melissophyllum</i>	Bastard Balm	Mount Slivnica
89	<i>Mentha aquatica</i>	Water Mint	Markovec (leaves)
90	<i>Prunella vulgaris</i>	Common Self-heal	Cerknica lake
91	<i>Salvia pratensis</i>	Meadow Clary	Mount Slivnica
92	<i>Stachys sylvatica</i>	Hedge Woundwort	Planinsko Polje
	Malvaceae	Mallow Family	
93	<i>Tilia</i> cf. <i>cordata</i>	Small-leaved Lime	Planinsko Polje
	Menyanthaceae	Bogbean Family	
94	<i>Menyanthes trifoliata</i>	Bogbean	Bloke Plateau
	Oleaceae	Olive tree Family	
95	<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>	European Ash	Mount Slivnica
	Orobanchaceae	Broomrape Family	
96	<i>Rhinanthus</i> cf. <i>alectorolophus</i>	Greater Yellow Rattle	Babno Polje
97	<i>Rhinanthus</i> cf. <i>minor</i>	Yellow Rattle	Bloke Plateau
	Oxalidaceae	Wood-sorrel Family	
98	<i>Oxalis</i> cf. <i>acetosella</i>	Wood-sorrel	Rakov Skocjan (leaves)
	Papaveraceae	Poppy Family	
99	<i>Chelidonium majus</i>	Greater Celandine	Markovec
100	<i>Papaver rhoeas</i>	Common Poppy	Bloke Plateau
	Plantaginaceae	Plantain Family	

	Common Name	Scientific Name	Location
101	<i>Cymbalaria muralis</i>	Ivy-leaved Toadflax	Planinsko Polje
102	<i>Digitalis grandiflora</i>	Yellow Foxglove	Cerknica lake
103	<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>	Ribwort Plantain	Mount Slivnica
104	<i>Veronica austriaca</i>	Broadleaf Speedwell	Mount Slivnica
	Polygalaceae	Milkwort Family	
105	<i>Polygala cf. vulgaris</i>	Common Milkwort	Bloke Plateau
106	<i>Rumex cf. crispus</i>	Curled Dock	Planinsko Polje
	Primulaceae	Primrose Family	
107	<i>Cyclamen purpurascens</i>	Alpine Cyclamen	Cerknica lake (leaves)
108	<i>Primula vulgaris</i>	Primrose	Mount Slivnica (leaves)
	Ranunculaceae	Buttercup Family	
109	<i>Aquilegia cf. nigricans</i>	Bulgarian Columbine	Mount Slivnica
110	<i>Caltha palustris</i>	Marsh Marigold	Markovec (leaves)
111	<i>Clematis recta</i>	Erect Clematis	Planinsko Polje
112	<i>Hepatica nobilis</i>	Hepatica	Planinsko Polje (leaves)
113	<i>Ranunculus lanuginosus</i>	a Buttercup	Mount Slivnica
114	<i>Ranunculus cf. trichophyllus</i>	Thread-leaved Water-crowfoot	Markovec
115	<i>Thalictrum aquilegifolium</i>	Greater Meadow-rue	Mount Slivnica
	Rosaceae	Rose Family	
116	<i>Aruncus dioicus</i>	Goat's Beard	Planinsko Polje
117	<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	Hawthorn	Markovec
118	<i>Filipendula cf. vulgaris</i>	Dropwort	Markovec
119	<i>Fragaria vesca</i>	Wild Strawberry	Markovec
120	<i>Geum urbanum</i>	Wood Avens	Mount Slivnica
121	<i>Potentilla cf. anserina</i>	Silverweed	Cerknica lake
122	<i>Rosa cf. canina</i>	Dog Rose	Markovec
123	<i>Rosa sp.</i>	A rose	Mount Slivnica
124	<i>Rubus caesius</i>	European Dewberry	Planinsko Polje
125	<i>Sanguisorba officinalis</i>	Great Burnet	Cerknica lake
126	<i>Sorbus aria</i>	Whitebeam	Mount Slivnica
127	<i>Sorbus aucuparia</i>	Rowan	Babno Polje
	Rubiaceae	Bedstraw Family	
128	<i>Cruciata cf. glabra</i>	Slender Crosswort	Markovec
129	<i>Cruciata laevipes</i>	a Crosswort	Planinsko Polje
130	<i>Galium cf. boreale</i>	Northern Bedstraw	Bloke Plateau
131	<i>Galium cf. odoratum</i>	Sweet Woodruff	Babno Polje
	Salicaceae	Willow & Poplar Family	
132	<i>Populus nigra</i>	Black Poplar	Planinsko Polje
133	<i>Salix alba</i>	White Willow	Planinsko Polje
134	<i>Salix cf. purpurea</i>	Purple Willow	Cerknica lake
	Sapindaceae	Maple Family	
135	<i>Acer campestre</i>	Field Maple	Planinsko Polje
136	<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>	Sycamore	Planinsko Polje
	Scrophulariaceae	Figwort Family	

	Common Name	Scientific Name	Location
137	<i>Scrophularia nodosa</i>	Common Figwort	Planinsko Polje
	Solanaceae	Nightshade Family	
138	<i>Solanum dulcamara</i>	Bittersweet	Cerknica lake
	Urticaceae	Nettle Family	
139	<i>Urtica dioica</i>	Common Nettle	Markovec
	Monocots	Monocotyledons	
	Amaryllidaceae	Daffodil Family	
140	<i>Allium scorodoprasum</i>	Sand Leek	Planinsko Polje
141	<i>Leucojum aestivum</i>	Summer Snowflake	Cerknica lake
	Asparagaceae	Asparagus Family	
142	<i>Maianthemum bifolium</i>	May Lily	Loski Potok (over)
143	<i>Ornithogalum pyrenaicum</i>	Bath Asparagus	Planinsko Polje
144	<i>Polygonatum multiflorum</i>	Solomon's-seal	Mount Slivnica
	Asphodelaceae	Asphodel Family	
145	<i>Asphodelus albus</i>	White Asphodel	Mount Slivnica
	Cyperaceae	Sedge Family	
146	<i>Eriophorum cf. latifolium</i>	A cotton-grass	Bloke Plateau
	Iridaceae	Iris Family	
147	<i>Gladiolus cf. illyricus</i>	Wild Gladiolus	Cerknica lake
148	<i>Iris sp.</i>	A pale iris	Mount Slivnica
149	<i>Iris graminea</i>	Grass-leaved Flag	Mount Slivnica
150	<i>Iris pseudacorus</i>	Yellow Flag	Planinsko Polje
	Liliaceae	Lily Family	
151	<i>Lilium bulbiferum</i>	Orange Lily	Mount Slivnica
152	<i>Lilium carniolicum</i>	Carniolan Lily	Mount Slivnica
153	<i>Lilium martagon</i>	Martagon Lily	Planinsko Polje
	Melanthiaceae	Herb-paris Family	
154	<i>Paris quadrifolia</i>	Herb-paris	Planinsko Polje
	Orchidaceae	Orchid Family	
155	<i>Anacamptis morio</i>	Green-winged Orchid	Mount Slivnica (over)
156	<i>Anacamptis palustris</i>	Bog Orchid	Bloke Plateau
157	<i>Cephalanthera damasonium</i>	White Helleborine	Mount Slivnica
158	<i>Dactylorhiza incarnata</i> var. <i>haematodes</i>	Early Marsh Orchid	Bloke Plateau
159	<i>Dactylorhiza fuchsii</i>	Common Spotted Orchid	Bloke Plateau
160	<i>Gymnadenia conopsea</i>	Fragrant Orchid	Mount Slivnica
160 a	<i>Gymnadenia conopsea</i> var. <i>alba</i>		Babno Polje
161	<i>Neotinea ustulata</i>	Burnt Orchid	Babno Polje
162	<i>Neottia nidus-avis</i>	Bird's-nest Orchid	Mount Slivnica
163	<i>Neottia ovata</i>	Common Twayblade	Bloke Plateau
164	<i>Platanthera bifolia</i>	Lesser Butterfly-orchid	Bloke Plateau
165	<i>Traunsteinera globosa</i>	Globe Orchid	Mount Slivnica

	Common Name	Scientific Name	Location
	Poaceae	Grass Family	
166	<i>Phragmites australis</i>	Common Reed	Cerknica lake