

Slovenia – Bears, Birds and Caves

Naturetrek Tour Report

7th to 11th September 2020



Brown Bear



Middle Spotted Woodpecker



Silver-washed Fritillary



Red Fox

Report and images compiled by Luca Boscain



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Tour participants – Luca Boscain (Leader) with five Naturetrek clients

Summary

This trip was the first “Bears, Birds and Caves” tour organized in September, so it was interesting to compare it with the late spring and early summer ones of the previous year. First of all, once again the bear hides were successful, because on two sessions out of three we had bears that stayed around for a long time, offering amazing photo opportunities. As usual, the night tour around Cerknica Lake was exciting, because this time it produced the totally unexpected sighting of an Otter on the roadside.

The birding was richer than in summer, with over 70 species recorded, including some very good sightings of Black Storks and Tawny Owls and a brief Ural Owl. Woodpeckers (Great, Middle and Lesser Spotted, Green and Grey-headed) were more active at this time of the year. For the insects, especially for butterflies and moths, it was probably a little too late in the year, with pretty cool nights with temperatures under the 10°C, but we managed to find a fair number of species. As to flora, the meadows were still very interesting, with many late flowers, including the wonderful Marsh and Willow Gentians in full bloom.

The Covid19 restrictions didn't weigh too much; we wore masks all the time when in the vehicle or inside, we were well distanced at the dining table, the minivan and the hides were sanitized every day, etc, but when we were outside we could breathe in freedom, keeping at the right distance from one another and enjoying birding.

Despite the shorter than usual length of the tour, which, because of a limited choice of flights to Ljubljana, included just three full days, the trip was once again particularly rich and enjoyable.

Day 1

Monday 7th September

Today we were due at Brnik Airport near Ljubljana at 19.35, but the flight went so smoothly, also considering the Covid19 restrictions, that at 19.25 we were already out of the small airport, in front of the bar, and here we met Luca, our Italian guide.

We took the minivan, driving through the last light of the day, seeing from the motorway the shapes of the hilly landscape and of the endless expanses of forest, while well lighted were the pretty little churches, usually built on the top of prominent hills.

It took about an hour to arrive to the remote village of Markovec, where we spotted four Roe and two Red Deer in the nearby fields, before we stopped at Miha Mlakar's pension, our accommodation the entire tour. Miha has changed his business over the years - the bear hides were previously used by local bear hunters, but they are now comfortable photo hides from which to observe these large omnivores in absolute safety.

In the dining room two more members of the group were waiting for us and a lovely dinner, well distanced on a wide table, was enjoyed, with a soup followed by meat and polenta with a tiny red baby bear on the top!

Day 2

Tuesday 8th September

Since we had decided the day before to have an earlier breakfast than usual, having only three full days on this trip, we didn't do a pre-breakfast walk, and we left the pension at 8 o'clock.

In the car park, we noticed two Red Crossbills, a couple of Marsh Tits and family of Siskins, busy on the top of the birches, then we took the minivan heading to the "Cerknisko Jezero".

This morning we explored the northern side of the famous intermittent lake that extends not far from the small town of Cerknica. We left the metalled road to take a tiny countryside track, not far from Martinjak, where we noticed the large nest of a pair of White Storks, now probably on the way to Africa, and we descended to a vast area of meadows and fields; here were flying a number of Common Buzzards, Kestrels and a Marsh Harrier.

Then we kept going as far as a wooden cross and, from there we came closer to the lake. From the minivan, Quentin spotted a Swallowtail butterfly in a meadow, so we went exploring a little among the Alfalfa (*Medicago sativa*) and we noticed Common Heath (*Coenonympha pamphilus*), Red Bartsia (*Odontites vernus*) and Brown Knapweed (*Centaurea jacea*).

We finally reached a beautiful bay of the lake, near Dolenje Jezero, where we stopped again to have a look. The water level was higher than usual this year, so the Cerknica Lake was looking particularly extensive and had a deep blue colour.

There were a lot of birds around, ranging from Yellow Wagtails, Tree Pipits and Whinchats in the fields, to Goldfinches, Serins and Tree Sparrows by the houses, to tens of House Martins and Barn Swallows in the sky.

We had a fairly short, peaceful walk from there, following the shore of the lake in a succession of wet meadows and hedges particularly rich in fruiting shrubs like Buckthorn (*Rhamnus cathartica*), Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), Dogwood (*Cornus sanguinea*), Guelder-rose (*Viburnum opulus*), Spindle (*Euonymus europaeus*) and Blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*).

The wet grass held lots of frogs, which being mainly juveniles, it wasn't possible to identify them for sure, because all the three species of the complex of the genus *Pelophylax* are present in the area. The colour, varying from cream yellow, to brown, to green, is not diagnostic, while the length of the legs can help in the identification of the adults.

The breeze increased, but the day remained gloriously sunny. We found a beautiful male Silver-washed Fritillary on the ground, then we reached a meadow covered in the purple flowers of Devil's-bit Scabious (*Succisa pratensis*) and rare Fragrant Onions (*Allium suaveolens*). Here we started to find some Marsh Gentians (*Gentiana pneumonanthe*) in bud, then, in more open wet meadows, flowers in full bloom - what a gorgeous species, with its deep violet-blue colour and its tiny little spots on the petals!

Through the telescope, we spotted two very distant Black Storks, feeding on the other side of the lake.

Our last morning stop was by the Dolenje Jezero bridge, where we had a better view of the two sides of the lake, seeing Little and Great Egrets and a female Marsh Harrier. Interesting were some very new installations. One of these was a circle of wooden beams, each one with an example of local wildlife. The only beam orientated in a

different direction, out of tune with the others, was the human beam, intended presumably to represent our lack of harmony with the natural world!

Coming back to Markovec, we had a good view of a juvenile Red-backed Shrike on a post, then we had lunch of a tasty soup of vegetables followed by schnitzels and French fries.

We were due to go to the bear hides at 14.30 and while we were waiting, we noticed Brimstone and Geranium Bronze on the orange carnations in the garden.

We followed the pick-up driven by one of the guys who works for Miha, as far as three hides situated in the same area, a few hundred metres from the border with Croatia, in the forests above the little settlement of Novi Kot.

In the undergrowth of the mixed woodland, Luca pointed out some nice flowers like Willow Gentians (*Gentiana asclepiadea*), Sticky Sage (*Salvia glutinosa*) and Alpine Cyclamen (*Cyclamen purpurascens*).

The hides were little wooden structures, with two to four seats each, elevated about a couple of metres from the ground and facing a hill slope covered in white limestone and mixed trees, like spruces and beeches.

We had to wait for some time, entertained by the endless passage of Chaffinches and Jays, with a couple of sightings of Middle-spotted Woodpecker, until about 18.30, when a large Brown Bear, possibly a male, appeared from the forest. Quiet and fearless, it started to feed on the bait (some corn grains), before relaxing and lying down to eat more comfortably.

The sunset lighted the bear laterally, drawing interesting shapes in the long fur and making its beautiful eyes particularly shiny.

A Red Fox came to have a look, but disappeared in a second after seeing the bear. Possibly a second young fox, appeared when the bear, happy with its snack, had left. It was an incredibly beautiful individual, with soft orange fur and a smart face touched by the last red light of the day - a brilliant cherry on the cake!

But it wasn't the last surprise; driving back to Loski Potok, we noticed the huge silhouette of a Ural Owl flying calmly above the road!

We celebrated the wonderful day with the local Lasko beer and a nutritious and tasty bean soup for dinner.

Day 3

Wednesday 9th September

When we left the pension, at 8 o'clock, the early morning mist was thinning, giving way to another glorious, sunny day.

This time from Markovec we drove through the village of Dane, then we continued along a track in the forest as far as a view point on the southern edge of the Cerknica lake. From here, through the telescope, we spotted seven Black Storks feeding together in a wet meadow and, much more distant, 20 Great Egrets and tens of Mallards.

Along the road side, in the crevices of the limestone boulders, we noticed pretty plants of Wall-rue (*Asplenium ruta-muraria*) and Maidenhair Spleenwort (*Asplenium trichomanes*).

Then, after an elbow junction that tested the manoeuvring skills of Luca, we descended through the village of Laze, noticing a number of relaxed cats, but also amazing flocks of hundreds of House Martins, probably having some rest on the roofs and wires before the trip to Africa.

We followed an embankment which crossed some wide, wet meadows, as far as a bridge over a lovely river with crystal clear water.

From here we watched the activity of plenty of passerines in between willow bushes and reed-beds, including Linnets, Yellow and White Wagtails, Whinchats, Goldfinches, Red-backed Shrikes and a single Reed Warbler.

We went walking in a meadow by the river side, flushing 10 Snipe and noticing some more Marsh Gentians, Autumn Crocus (*Colchicum autumnale*), Purple Loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*), Meadowsweet (*Filipendula ulmaria*) and particularly fragrant Watermint (*Mentha aquatica*).

We had a quick stop nearby Zerovnica, after Luca saw a single Hobby in flight, and from a beautiful track we spotted Common Buzzard, Marsh Harrier and another Red-backed Shrike.

We spent the second half of the morning visiting the “Cave of the Cross”, (Krizna Jama in Slovenian). It has been decided that this cave must remain as natural as possible, with only a limited number of visitors per year and without the use of the artificial lights characteristic of more popular caves like the Postojna ones, which caused the disappearance of all the creatures that used to live there in total darkness.

Outside the entrance of the cave, we were furnished with wellington boots and with a personal torch to use during the visit. Nearby on a slope we noticed some more Willow Gentians, Herb Robert (*Geranium robertianum*) and Green Spleenwort (*Asplenium viridis*).

Our guide, inside the cave, was another Luca, this time Slovenian, who explained in good English the different peculiar aspects of the cave, including a Neolithic fireplace, the remains of the Cave Bear, much larger than the living species, but strictly vegetarian, stalactites and stalagmites. By the edge of a secondary branch of the cave, the Cave Bear tunnel, we were informed that at the beginning of the last century a total of five skeletons of Cave Bears were collected, but now we know that just three are visible in the Natural History museums of Wien and Trieste, while two disappeared... most likely prey of some private collectors.

We followed the course of an underground torrent, with amazing calcareous ripples underwater, but the noise of the current, unfortunately, couldn't cover the cries of a couple of unhappy little girls who were visiting the cave.

Much more silent were the typical inhabitants of the cave: a couple of bats, most likely some early arrived Lesser Horseshoe Bats that come here to hibernate, and four Tissue Moths - two dead covered in mould and two possibly still alive.

We finished the visit with a short boat trip on an underground lake, propelled by Luca's oar, admiring the clear water lit in green from the bottom of the dinghy.

For lunch we came back to the Mlakar's pension, where we had a good mushroom soup and meat with mashed potatoes.

This afternoon's hide session, starting at 2 o'clock, took place in the forests of Racna Gora, not far from Markovec. We hiked for about 800m to another baiting station with three different hides between which we spread the members of the group.

A bear, possibly an adult female, in view of its size, arrived early, possibly afraid of other bears arriving, at about 3 o'clock.

A number of birds moved around, including Wren, Coal Tit, Willow Tit, Nuthatch, Common Treecreeper, Chaffinch, Jay and Goldcrest.

The same bear appeared again at 5 o'clock and then again, after half an hour staying for about one hour. During this time, it never really relaxed, giving all the time worried scans around, so we hoped to see bigger bears appear, but it didn't happen.

The hides are managed by an organisation called Slovenianbears and their representative arrived earlier than usual today, at 19.15, so Luca could set up a moth trap outside the veranda and we could have dinner at 8.15. After that, we decided to have a "night safari", returning once again to the shores of Cerknica lake.

The woodlands of this corner of Slovenia are particularly rich in mammals, so to drive around by night often offers some nice surprises. We first had a Fox and some Roe Deer, then a Northern White-breasted Hedgehog near Laze, distinguished by its whitish throat patch. Then we stopped at the clearing where they used to hunt the bears. In the darkness, the grass was alive with a number of water frogs, while we heard from the trees some weird calls. We had just a glimpse of an Edible Dormouse on a tree, then a pair of loud Tawny Owls settled for minutes on the top of a Spruce.

Following the track on the western side of the lake, we passed through the settlement of Otok, avoiding squashing tens of Common Toads on the move, then a large mammal was spotted in the light of high beams; the long kangaroo-like tail, the white belly and the hydrodynamic shape left no doubt that it was an Otter!

We came back to the hotel after eleven o'clock, incredibly happy after a lucky and exciting night tour.

Day 4

Thursday 10th September

This morning Luca met the members of the group interested in the moth trap, at 6.30am. Despite the mist, about 40-45 moths had come, entering in the trap or lying on the walls nearby. The most abundant were Large Yellow Underwing, Feathered Gothic and Hedge Rustic all three common in UK as well, but we noticed also Four-spotted Footman, Vestal and L-album Wainscot - much rarer and recent immigrants from the continent.

At 8 o'clock, when we left the pension, the mist cleared and we enjoyed another sunny day. Passing through the village of Gorenje Jezero, the colours were particularly warm and bright, and we enjoyed our umpteenth view of Cerknica lake.

Today we explored the western side of the lake, stopping first by the settlement of Otok, the "island". Scanning with the telescope, we saw a lot of distant ducks and egrets, lost in the haze, then three Marsh Harriers soared closer to us.

A domestic cat came along the lake side carrying an unfortunate vole in its mouth; most likely it was one of the Field Voles that Luca had observed in the past on these meadows.

Quentin, with his telescope, spotted first a Wood Pigeon, then a Hobby perched on a dead tree, while a Grey-headed Woodpecker flew past and a Lesser Spotted Woodpecker called from a nearby orchard. We tried hard to pin down the latter, but our efforts produced only a juvenile Willow Warbler, a species that here can be observed only on migration.

Luca got a glimpse of a Goshawk mobbed by the Hooded Crows and we found it briefly by telescope, although it wasn't perched in a particularly showy position, showing mainly its grey back.

At the junction to Dolenje Jezero, we stopped for few minutes to have a look and Luca managed to catch two water frogs in order to show us how to distinguish the species. They were both Edible Frogs, the intermediate-sized one of the three species found in Slovenia, characterized by touching knees when handled.

We had another panoramic stop by a view point not far from the village of Dolenja Vas and here we noticed a large variety of interesting plants, including Fir Mistletoe (*Viscum album* ssp. *abietis*) on a Fir (*Abies alba*), European Bladdernut (*Staphylea pinnata*), Hairy Hemp-nettle (*Galeopsis pubescens*), Oregano (*Origanum vulgare*) and the pretty purple leaved cow-wheat *Melampyrum velebicum*.

From here, we penetrated into the forest to reach the gorge of Rakov Skočan, where the “crayfish river”, called Rak, eroded an stunning system of tunnels, natural bridges, sinkholes and canyons.

We walked on one of the impressive natural bridges and, from there, we could see the clear waters of the river flowing tens of metres below. Later, some the members of the group decided to descend a steep path that went into a deep sinkhole, in order to reach the bottom of the gorge and to follow for some hundreds of metres the course of the river.

This micro-habitat was particularly humid and hosted a number of primitive plants like the liverwort *Conocephalum salebrosum*, Spiky Bog-moss (*Sphagnum squarrosum*), Hart's Tongue (*Asplenium scolopendrium*) and many other ferns, but also true flowering plants like Purple Lettuce (*Prenanthes purpurea*), Lesser Centaury (*Centaureum pulchellum*) and Knotted Crane's-bill (*Geranium nodosum*).

Memories of that location included the class of children, with their teachers, posing for a photo on the picturesque little bridge that crossed the river, and the “rain” of leaves falling from the beeches overlooking the aperture of the sinkhole.

Later we went to walk along another segment of the river Rak, enjoying the peace and the solitude of such a pristine place, with the underwater plants visible through the transparent waters of the stream, the newly cut meadows along the riverside and the mixed forest on the hill slopes.

The birding produced a couple of Little Grebes, Moorhen and Hawfinch, while more interesting were the few late flying dragonflies which we had; two elegant Beautiful Demoiselles, some Common Darters and a single Balkan Emerald.

After a bend of the river, we were surprised by finding another huge natural bridge above the water. We climbed a little way up the side of it to come back to the main path, where Luca came with the minivan in few minutes, to pick up us for lunch.

At the pension were waiting for us Comma and Geranium Bronze on the carnations outside, and some good lasagne and pasta, inside.

The third hide session was again in the Racna Gora, not far from some cute bee-hives. The hides, this time, faced onto a diagonal hill slope with a lovely background to forested hills. Once again we watched the busy comings and goings of Jays, Blackbirds, Chaffinches and Wood Pigeons, but no bears came - that's nature, only in zoos are observations of animals 100% guaranteed! We consoled ourselves with a nice sighting of a Middle Spotted Woodpecker, not far from the windows of the hides.

In the evening we celebrated a short but incredibly enjoyable holiday drinking a bottle of the so called "bear's blood", a local liquor!

Day 5

Friday 11th September

On our last morning we met for breakfast at 6.15am, in order to leave at 7 o'clock. Daphne came in with a many-plumed moth (*Alucita* sp.), which she had caught in her room!

While we were loading the baggage, we saw the last birds in the garden, including Siskins, Goldfinches, Grey Wagtail and Great Spotted Woodpecker.

The journey to Brnik airport took about an hour, and on the way we noticed, among others, four Common Buzzards, a White Wagtail and 10 Starlings.

At the airport we said goodbye to Luca and boarded our flight back to London, where we collected our luggage after a bit of a delay due to Covid 19 restrictions. It had been a short but most enjoyable holiday amongst the fascinating wildlife and pristine landscapes of Slovenia.

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Species Lists

Birds (H = heard only)

	Common name	Scientific name	September 2020				
			7	8	9	10	11
1	Mute Swan	<i>Cygnus olor</i>			2		
2	Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>			50	50	
3	Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>			1	5	
4	Black Stork	<i>Ciconia nigra</i>		2	7		
5	Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>		5	3	3	
6	Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>		1	20	15	5
7	Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>		4			
8	Great Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>		1	3	2	
9	Northern Goshawk	<i>Accipiter gentilis</i>				1	
10	Western Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>		2	4	3	
11	Common Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>		5	7	5	4
12	Water Rail	<i>Rallus aquaticus</i>			2H	H	
13	Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>				H	
14	Eurasian Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>				1	
15	Common Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>			10		
16	Black-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>			6		
17	Feral Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i> var. <i>domestica</i>				4	
18	Common Wood Pigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>				6	
19	Tawny Owl	<i>Strix aluco</i>			2		
20	Ural Owl	<i>Strix uralensis</i>		1			
21	Common Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>			1		
22	Common Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>				H	
23	Lesser Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dryobates minor</i>				H	
24	Middle Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos medius</i>		1		1	
25	Great Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>		2	3H	3H	H
26	European Green Woodpecker	<i>Picus viridis</i>				H	H
27	Grey-headed Woodpecker	<i>Picus canus</i>				1	
28	Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>		1	2	1	
29	Eurasian Hobby	<i>Falco subbuteo</i>			1	1	
30	Red-backed Shrike	<i>Lanius collurio</i>		1	4	1	
31	Eurasian Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>		5	10	10	
32	Eurasian Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>		20	15	1	
33	Hooded Crow	<i>Corvus cornix</i>		20	5	5	
34	Coal Tit	<i>Parus ater</i>		3	5	2	
35	Marsh Tit	<i>Poecile palustris</i>		2H	H	H	
36	Willow Tit	<i>Poecile montanus</i>			H		
37	Eurasian Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>		3		2	
38	Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>		5	2	2	
39	Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>		50	20	5	
40	Common House Martin	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>		20	500	100	10
41	Long-tailed Tit	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>				H	
42	Willow Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>				1	
43	Common Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>		5	10	5	
44	Eurasian Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus</i> cfr. <i>scirpaceus</i>			1		
45	Eurasian Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>		5	5	5	
46	Goldcrest	<i>Regulus regulus</i>			2H	H	
47	Eurasian Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>			H	2H	

	Common name	Scientific name	September 2020				
			7	8	9	10	11
48	Eurasian Treecreeper	<i>Certhia familiaris</i>		H	2H	H	
49	Common Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>		30	10	100	10
50	Common Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>		3	5	10	1
51	Fieldfare	<i>Turdus pilaris</i>				1	
52	Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>			H	H	
53	Spotted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>			1		
54	European Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>		10	5	5	
55	Black Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>		3	1	2	1
56	Common Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>			1		
57	Whinchat	<i>Saxicola rubetra</i>		5	10	1	
58	Northern Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>			1	1	
59	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>			2		
60	Tree Sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>		5			
61	Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava</i>		10	10	10	
62	Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>		H		H	
63	White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>		5	10	5	1
64	Tree Pipit	<i>Anthus trivialis</i>		5	H	H	
65	Common Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>		30	20	15	
66	Hawfinch	<i>Coccothraustes coccothraustes</i>			H	2	
67	Eurasian Bullfinch	<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>				H	
68	European Greenfinch	<i>Chloris chloris</i>		3	1		
69	Common Linnet	<i>Linaria cannabina</i>		1	10		
70	Red Crossbill	<i>Loxia curvirostra</i>		2	H		
71	European Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>		20	5	30	H
72	European Serin	<i>Serinus serinus</i>		2			
73	Corn Bunting	<i>Emberiza calandra</i>		7	7	H	H
74	Common Reed Bunting	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>			H		

Other vertebrates (S=signs only)

	Common name	Scientific name	September 2020				
			7	8	9	10	11
Mammals							
1	N. White-breasted Hedgehog	<i>Erinaceus roumanicus</i>			1		
2	Lesser Horseshoe Bat	cfr. <i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i>			2		
3	Brown Bear	<i>Ursus arctos arctos</i>		1	1		
4	Red Fox	<i>Vulpes vulpes</i>		2	3		
5	Otter	<i>Lutra lutra</i>			1		
6	Red Deer	<i>Cervus elaphus</i>	2				
7	European Roe Deer	<i>Capreolus capreolus</i>	4		5		
8	Bank Vole	cfr. <i>Myodes glareolus</i>		1			
9	Brown Hare	<i>Lepus europaeus</i>		1			
10	Mole	<i>Talpa europaea</i>		S	S	S	
Amphibians & Reptiles							
1	Common Toad	<i>Bufo bufo</i>			30		
2	Common Tree Frog	<i>Hyla arborea</i>		H			

3	Edible Frog	<i>Pelophylax kl. esculentus</i>				2	
4	Water Frog sp.	<i>Pelophylax</i> spp.	50	10	100		
5	Grass Snake	<i>Natrix natrix</i>				1	
	Freshwater Fish						
1	Common Chub	<i>Squalius cephalus</i>	10			1	

Invertebrates

			September 2020				
	Common name	Scientific name	7	8	9	10	11
	Butterflies						
		Papilionidae					
1	Swallowtail	<i>Papilio machaon</i>		2			
		Pieridae					
2	Small White	<i>Pieris rapae</i>		10			
3	Clouded Yellow	<i>Colias crocea</i>		5	1		
4	Berger's/Pale Clouded Yellow	<i>Colias alfacariensis/hyale</i>			1		
5	Brimstone	<i>Gonepteryx rhamni</i>		2	1	1	
		Lycaenidae					
6	Geranium Bronze	<i>Cacyreus marshalli</i>		1		1	
7	Common Blue	<i>Polyommatus icarus</i>		3			
		Nymphalidae					
8	Red Admiral	<i>Vanessa atalanta</i>			1	1	
9	Comma Butterfly	<i>Polygonum c-album</i>			1	1	
10	Silver-washed Fritillary	<i>Argynnis paphia</i>		2	1	2	
11	Weaver's Fritillary	<i>Clossiana dia</i>		1			
12	Heath Fritillary	<i>Mellitaea athalia</i>					
		Satyridae					
13	Meadow Brown	<i>Maniola jurtina</i>		5		2	
14	Small Heath	<i>Coenonympha pamphilus</i>		5	1		
15	Speckled Wood	<i>Pararge aegeria aegeria</i>				2	
	Macro moths						
		Erebidae					
1	Common Footman	<i>Eilema</i> cfr. <i>lurideola</i>				1	
2	Four-spotted Footman	<i>Lithosia quadra</i>				2	
		Geometridae					
3	Yellow Shell	<i>Camptogramma bilineata</i>				1	
4	Green Carpet	<i>Colostygia pectinataria</i>				1	
5	Pug sp.	<i>Eupithecia</i> sp.				1	
6	Willow Beauty	<i>Peribatodes rhomboidaria</i>				1	
7	The Vestal	<i>Rhodometra sacraria</i>				1	
8	A carpet moth	<i>Thera britannica/variata</i>				1	
9	Tissue Moth	<i>Triphosa dubitata</i>			4		
		Hepialidae					
10	Orange Swift	<i>Triodia sylvina</i>				1	
		Noctuidae					
11	Silver Y	<i>Autographa gamma</i>		2	2		
12	Vine's Rustic	<i>Hoplodrina</i> cfr. <i>ambigua</i>				1	

	Common name	Scientific name	September 2020				
			7	8	9	10	11
13	L-album Wainscot	<i>Mythimna l-album</i>				1	
14	Large Yellow Underwing	<i>Noctua pronuba</i>				10	
15	A noctuid	Noctuidae sp.				1	
16	Flame Shoulder	<i>Ochropleura plecta</i>				2	
17	Hedge Rustic	<i>Tholera cespitis</i>				3	
18	Feathered Gothic	<i>Tholera decimalis</i>			1	10	
	Micro moths						
		Crambidae					
19	A crambid	Crambidae sp.				1	
		Tortricidae					
20	Common Spruce Bell	cf. <i>Epinotia tedella</i>				1	
		Pyralidae					
21	Rosy-striped Knot-Horn	<i>Oncocera semirubella</i>				2	
		Alucitidae					
22	A many-plumed moth	<i>Alucita</i> sp.					1
	Other Invertebrates						
1	Beautiful Demoiselle	<i>Calopteryx virgo</i>				2	
2	Blue-tailed Damselfly	<i>Ischnura elegans</i>		5			
3	Balkan Emerald	<i>Somatochlora meridionalis</i>				1	
4	Ruddy Darter	<i>Sympetrum sanguineum</i>		10			
5	Common Darter	<i>Sympetrum striolatum</i>				5	
6	Large Conehead	<i>Ruspolia nitidula</i>		5			
7	Large Marsh Grasshopper	<i>Stethophyma grossum</i>		1			
8	A caddisfly	<i>Glyptotaelius pellucidus</i>				1	
9	A caddisfly	<i>Limnephilus</i> cf. <i>lunatus</i>				1	
10	Asian Lady Beetle	<i>Harmonia axyridis</i>				2	
11	Wasp Spider	<i>Argiope bruennichi</i>			1		
12	A slug	<i>Arion</i> sp.			1		

Plants

	Common Name	Scientific Name	Location
	MARCHANTIOPHYTES	LIVERWORTS	
	Marchantiopsida	Liverworts	
	Conocephalaceae	Liverwort Family	
1	<i>Conocephalum</i> cf. <i>salebrosum</i>	A liverwort	Rakov Skocjan (day 4)
	BRYOPHYTES	MOSSES	
	Sphagnopsida	Sphagnus mosses	
	Sphagnaceae	Sphagnus moss Family	
2	<i>Sphagnum</i> cf. <i>squarrosum</i>	Spiky Bog-moss	Rakov Skocjan (day 4)

	Common Name	Scientific Name	Location
	Bryopsida	Mosses	
	Mniaceae	A moss Family	
3	<i>Plagiomnium undulatum</i>	Palm-tree Moss	Rakov Skocjan (day 4)
	PTERIDOPHYTES	FERNS & ALLIES	
	Calamophytes	Horsetails	
	Equisetaceae	Horsetail Family	
4	<i>Equisetum palustris</i>	Marsh Horsetail	Gorenje Jezero (day 3)
	Leptosporangiate Ferns	True Ferns	
	Aspleniaceae	Spleenwort Family	
5	<i>Asplenium ruta-muraria</i>	Wall-rue	Rakov Skocjan (day 4)
6	<i>Asplenium scolopendrium</i>	Hart's-tongue Fern	Rakov Skocjan (day 4)
7	<i>Asplenium trichomanes</i>	Maidenhair Spleenwort	Laze (day 3)
8	<i>Asplenium viridis</i>	Green Spleenwort	Krizna Jama (day 3)
	Cystopteridaceae	Bladder-fern Family	
9	<i>Gymnocarpium</i> sp.	An oak fern	Rakov Skocjan (day 4)
	Dennstaedtiaceae	Bracken Family	
10	<i>Pteridium aquilinum</i>	Common Bracken	Krizna Jama (day 3)
	Polypodiaceae	Polypody Family	
11	<i>Polypodium</i> cfr. <i>interjectum</i>	Intermediate Polypody	Rakov Skocjan (day 4)
12	<i>Polypodium</i> cfr. <i>vulgare</i>	Common Polypody	Racna Gora (day 3)
	GYMNOSPERMS	CONIFERS	
	Pinaceae	Pine Family	
7	<i>Abies alba</i>	European Silver Fir	Dolenje Jezero (day 2)
8	<i>Picea abies</i>	Spruce	Dolenje Jezero (day 2)
9	<i>Pinus sylvestris</i>	Scots Pine	Dolenje Jezero (day 2)
	ANGIOSPERMS	FLOWERING PLANTS	
	Eu-dicots	True Dicotyledons	
	Adoxaceae	Moschatel Family	
10	<i>Sambucus nigra</i>	Elder	Dolenja Vas (day 4)
11	<i>Viburnum opulus</i>	Guelder Rose	Dolenje Jezero (day 2)
	Amaranthaceae (Chenopodiaceae)	Goosefoot Family	
12	<i>Chenopodium album</i>	Goosefoot	Otok (day 4)

	Common Name	Scientific Name	Location
	Apiaceae	Carrot Family	
13	<i>Daucus carota</i>	Wild Carrot	Gorenje Jezero (day 3)
14	<i>Pastinaca sativa</i>	Wild Parsnip	Laze (day 3)
	Apocynaceae	Dogbane Family	
15	<i>Vincetoxicum hirundinaria</i>	White Swallow-wort	Dolenje Jezero (day 2)
	Araliaceae	Ivy Family	
16	<i>Hedera helix</i>	Ivy	Dolenje Jezero (day 2)
	Asteraceae (Compositae)	Daisy Family	
17	<i>Achillea millefolium</i>	Yarrow	Dolenje Jezero (day 2)
18	<i>Aposeris foetida</i>	Aposeris (leaves)	Rakov Skocjan (day 4)
19	<i>Arctium</i> cfr. <i>minus</i>	Lesser Burdock	Dolenje Jezero (day 2)
20	<i>Artemisia</i> cfr. <i>vulgaris</i>	Common Mugwort	Dolenje Jezero (day 2)
21	<i>Bidens</i> sp.	A bur marigold	Rakov Skocjan (day 4)
22	<i>Bupthalmum salicifolium</i>	Ox-eye	Rakov Skocjan (day 4)
23	<i>Centaurea jacea</i>	Brown Knapweed	Dolenje Jezero (day 2)
24	<i>Cichorium intybus</i>	Common Chicory	Dolenje Jezero (day 2)
25	<i>Erigeron annuus</i>	Annual Fleabane	Dolenja Vas (day 4)
26	<i>Eupatorium cannabinum</i>	Hemp Agrimony	Rakov Skocjan (day 4)
27	<i>Galinsoga quadriradiata</i>	Shaggy Soldier	Otok (day 4)
28	<i>Inula britannica</i>	British Fleabane	Dolenje Jezero (day 2)
29	<i>Lactuca muralis</i>	Wall Lettuce	Rakov Skocjan (day 4)
30	<i>Prenanthes purpurea</i>	Purple Lettuce	Rakov Skocjan (day 4)
31	<i>Senecio</i> cfr. <i>nemorensis</i>	A ragwort	Rakov Skocjan (day 4)
32	<i>Serratula tinctoria</i>	Saw-wort	Dolenje Jezero (day 2)
33	<i>Solidago gigantea</i>	Giant Goldenrod	Dolenje Jezero (day 2)
34	<i>Sonchus asper</i>	Shaggy Soldier	Otok (day 4)
35	<i>Symphyotrichum</i> cfr. <i>novi-belgii</i>	New York Aster	Dolenje Jezero (day 2)
36	<i>Tanacetum vulgare</i>	Tansy	Dolenje Jezero (day 2)
37	<i>Tussilago farfara</i>	Colt's-Foot (leaves)	Rakov Skocjan (day 4)
	Betulaceae	Birch Family	
38	<i>Carpinus betulus</i>	Hornbeam	Rakov Skocjan (day 4)
39	<i>Corylus avellana</i>	Hazel	Dolenje Jezero (day 2)
	Boraginaceae	Forget-me-not Family	
40	<i>Myosotis</i> sp.	A forget-me-not	Rakov Skocjan (day 4)
	Campanulaceae	Bellflower Family	
41	<i>Campanula trachelium</i>	Nettle-leaved Bellflower	Krizna Jama (day 3)
	Cannabaceae	Hops Family	
42	<i>Humulus lupulus</i>	Common Hops	Dolenja Vas (day 4)
	Caprifoliaceae	Honeysuckle Family	
43	<i>Dipsacus fullonum</i>	Wild Teasel (dead stems)	Dolenje Jezero (day 2)
44	<i>Lonicera xylosteum</i>	Fly Honeysuckle	Krizna Jama (day 3)
45	<i>Stellaria aquatica</i>	Water Chickweed	Rakov Skocjan (day 4)

	Common Name	Scientific Name	Location
46	<i>Succisa pratensis</i>	Devil's-bit Scabious	Dolenje Jezero (day 2)
	Caryophyllaceae	Pink Family	
47	<i>Saponaria officinalis</i>	Common Soapwort	Cerknica (day 2)
48	<i>Silene latifolia</i>	White Campion	Laze (day 3)
	Celastraceae	Bittersweet Family	
49	<i>Euonymus europaeus</i>	European Spindle	Dolenje Jezero (day 2)
	Colchicaceae	Autumn Crocus Family	
50	<i>Colchicum autumnale</i>	Autumn Crocus	Gorenje Jezero (day 3)
	Convolvulaceae	Bindweed Family	
51	<i>Calystegia sepium</i>	Hedge Bindweed	Dolenje Jezero (day 2)
	Cornaceae	Dogwood Family	
52	<i>Cornus sanguinea</i>	Common Dogwood	Dolenje Jezero (day 2)
	Euphorbiaceae	Spurge Family	
53	<i>Euphorbia cyparissias</i>	Cypress Spurge	Dolenja Vas (day 4)
	Fabaceae (Leguminosae)	Pea Family	
54	<i>Genista tinctoria</i>	Dyer's Greenweed	Dolenje Jezero (day 2)
55	<i>Medicago sativa</i>	Alfalfa	Dolenje Jezero (day 2)
56	<i>Ononis spinosa</i>	Spiny Restharrow	Dolenje Jezero (day 2)
57	<i>Trifolium pratense</i>	Red Clover	Dolenje Jezero (day 2)
58	<i>Vicia</i> cfr. <i>cracca</i>	Tufted Vetch	Dolenje Jezero (day 2)
	Fagaceae	Oak & Beech Family	
59	<i>Fagus sylvatica</i>	Beech	Dolenje Jezero (day 2)
60	<i>Quercus robur</i>	Pendunculate Oak	Dolenje Jezero (day 2)
	Gentianaceae	Gentian Family	
61	<i>Centaurium</i> cfr. <i>pulchellum</i>	Lesser Centaury	Rakov Skocjan (day 4)
62	<i>Gentiana asclepiadea</i>	Willow Gentian	Novi Kot (day 2)
63	<i>Gentiana pneumonanthe</i>	Marsh Gentian	Dolenje Jezero (day 2)
	Geraniaceae	Geranium Family	
64	<i>Geranium nodosum</i>	Knotted Crane's-bill	Dolenje Jezero (day 2)
65	<i>Geranium robertianum</i>	Herb Robert	Krizna Jama (day 3)
	Hypericaceae	St. John's Wort Family	
66	<i>Hypericum</i> sp.	A Saint-John's-wort	Dolenje Jezero (day 2)
	Lamiaceae	Dead-nettle Family	
67	<i>Betonica officinalis</i>	Common Hedgenettle	Dolenje Jezero (day 2)
68	<i>Clinopodium vulgare</i>	Wild Basil	Racna Gora (day 3)
69	<i>Galeopsis</i> cfr. <i>pubescens</i>	Hairy Hemp-nettle	Dolenja Vas (day 4)
70	<i>Galeopsis speciosa</i>	Large-flowered Hemp-nettle	Dolenje Jezero (day 2)
71	<i>Lamium</i> cfr. <i>galeobdolon</i>	Yellow Archangel (leaves)	Racna Gora (day 3)
72	<i>Lamium maculatum</i>	Spotted Dead-nettle	Dolenje Jezero (day 2)

	Common Name	Scientific Name	Location
73	<i>Lycopus europaeus</i>	European Bugleweed	Rakov Skocjan (day 4)
74	<i>Mentha aquatica</i>	Water Mint	Gorenje Jezero (day 3)
75	<i>Mentha pulegium</i>	Pennyroyal	Dolenje Jezero (day 2)
76	<i>Origanum vulgare</i>	Oregano	Dolenja Vas (day 4)
77	<i>Prunella</i> cfr. <i>vulgaris</i>	Common Self-heal	Gorenje Jezero (day 3)
78	<i>Salvia glutinosa</i>	Sticky Sage	Novi Kot (day 2)
79	<i>Salvia pratensis</i>	Meadow Clary	Dolenje Jezero (day 2)
80	<i>Scutellaria galericulata</i>	Common Skullcap	Dolenje Jezero (day 2)
81	<i>Solidago virgaurea</i>	European Goldenrod	Novi Kot (day 2)
	Lythraceae	Lythrum Family	
82	<i>Lythrum salicaria</i>	Purple Loosestrife	Gorenje Jezero (day 3)
	Nymphaeaceae	Water-lily Family	
83	<i>Nuphar lutea</i>	Yellow Water-lily (leaves)	Dolenje Jezero (day 2)
	Oleaceae	Olive tree Family	
84	<i>Fraxinus</i> cfr. <i>excelsior</i>	European Ash	Dolenje Jezero (day 2)
	Orobanchaceae	Broomrape Family	
85	<i>Euphrasia officinalis</i>	Eyebright	Dolenje Jezero (day 2)
86	<i>Melampyrum velebiticum</i>	A cow-wheat	Dolenja Vas (day 4)
87	<i>Odontites vernus</i>	Red Bartsia	Dolenje Jezero (day 2)
	Oxalidaceae	Wood-sorrel Family	
88	<i>Oxalis</i> cfr. <i>acetosella</i>	Wood-sorrel (leaves)	Racna Gora (day 3)
89	<i>Oxalis stricta</i>	Upright Yellow Woodsorrel	Dolenje Jezero (day 2)
	Plantaginaceae	Plantain Family	
90	<i>Linaria vulgaris</i>	Common Toadflax	Dolenje Jezero (day 2)
91	<i>Plantago major</i>	Greater Plantain	Dolenje Jezero (day 2)
92	<i>Veronica longifolia</i>	Long-leaved Speedwell	Rakov Skocjan (day 4)
	Polygalaceae	Milkwort Family	
93	<i>Polygala</i> cfr. <i>comosa</i>	Tufted Milkwort	Dolenje Jezero (day 2)
	Polygonaceae	Knotweed Family	
94	<i>Persicaria</i> cfr. <i>maculosa</i>	Spotted Lady's Thumb	Otok (day 4)
	Primulaceae	Primrose Family	
95	<i>Cyclamen purpurascens</i>	Alpine Cyclamen	Dolenje Jezero (day 2)
96	<i>Primula vulgaris</i>	Primrose (leaves)	Racna Gora (day 3)
	Ranunculaceae	Buttercup Family	
97	<i>Clematis vitalba</i>	Old Man's Beard	Dolenja Vas (day 4)
98	<i>Hepatica nobilis</i>	Hepatica (leaves)	Rakov Skocjan (day 4)
99	<i>Ranunculus</i> cfr. <i>acris</i>	Crowfoot	Rakov Skocjan (day 4)
	Rhamnaceae	Buckthorn Family	
100	<i>Frangula alnus</i>	Alder Buckthorn	Laze (day 3)
101	<i>Rhamnus cathartica</i>	Common Buckthorn	Dolenje Jezero (day 2)

	Common Name	Scientific Name	Location
	Rosaceae	Rose Family	
102	<i>Argentina anserina</i>	Silverweed (leaves)	Otok (day 4)
103	<i>Aruncus dioicus</i>	Goat's Beard	Rakov Skocjan (day 4)
104	<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	Hawthorn	Dolenje Jezero (day 2)
105	<i>Filipendula ulmaria</i>	Meadowsweet	Gorenje Jezero (day 3)
106	<i>Filipendula vulgaris</i>	Dropwort	Dolenje Jezero (day 2)
107	<i>Potentilla erecta</i>	Tormentil	Racna Gora (day 4)
108	<i>Prunus spinosa</i>	Blackthorn	Dolenje Jezero (day 2)
109	<i>Rosa</i> sp.	A rose	Dolenje Jezero (day 2)
110	<i>Rubus</i> cfr. <i>caesius</i>	European Dewberry	Dolenje Jezero (day 2)
111	<i>Rubus idaeus</i>	European Raspberry	Novi Kot (day 4)
112	<i>Sorbus aucuparia</i>	Rowan	Novi Kot (day 2)
	Rubiaceae	Bedstraw Family	
113	<i>Galium</i> sp.	A bedstraw	Rakov Skocjan (day 4)
	Salicaceae	Willow & Poplar Family	
114	<i>Populus nigra</i>	Black Poplar	Dolenje Jezero (day 2)
115	<i>Salix alba</i>	White Willow	Dolenje Jezero (day 2)
116	<i>Salix</i> cfr. <i>cinerea</i>	Grey Willow	Laze (day 3)
117	<i>Salix</i> cfr. <i>purpurea</i>	Purple Willow	Dolenje Jezero (day 2)
	Santalaceae	Sandalwood Family	
118	<i>Viscum album</i> ssp. <i>abietis</i>	Fir Mistletoe	Dolenja Vas (day 4)
	Sapindaceae	Maple Family	
119	<i>Acer campestre</i>	Field Maple	Rakov Skocjan (day 4)
120	<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>	Sycamore	Novi Kot (day 2)
	Scrophulariaceae	Figwort Family	
121	<i>Verbascum</i> sp.	A mullein	Dolenje Jezero (day 2)
	Staphyleaceae	Bluddernut Family	
122	<i>Staphylea pinnata</i>	European Bladdernut	Dolenja Vas (day 4)
	Thymelaeaceae	Daphne Family	
123	<i>Daphne mazereum</i>	Mazereon (leaves)	Racna Gora (day 3)
	Verbenaceae	Vervain Family	
124	<i>Verbena officinalis</i>	Common Vervain	Dolenje Jezero (day 2)
	Urticaceae	Nettle Family	
125	<i>Urtica dioica</i>	Common Nettle	Dolenje Jezero (day 2)
	Monocots	Monocotyledons	
	Amaryllidaceae	Daffodil Family	
126	<i>Allium suaveolens</i>	Fragrant Onion	Dolenje Jezero (day 2)

	Common Name	Scientific Name	Location
	Araceae	Arum-lily Family	
127	<i>Arum</i> cfr. <i>maculatum</i>	Cuckoo-Pint	Rakov Skocjan (day 4)
	Asparagaceae	Asparagus Family	
128	<i>Polygonatum multiflorum</i>	Solomon's Seal	Rakov Skocjan (day 4)
	Melanthiaceae	Herb-paris Family	
129	<i>Paris quadrifolia</i>	Herb Paris (leaves)	Novi Kot (day 2)
	Orchidaceae	Orchid Family	
130	<i>Epipactis</i> cfr. <i>helleborine</i>	Broad-leafed Helleborine (leaves)	Racna Gora (day 3)
131	<i>Neottia nidus-avis</i>	Bird's-nest Orchid (dead stem)	Racna Gora (day 3)
	Poaceae	Grass Family	
132	<i>Phragmites australis</i>	Common Reed	Gorenje Jezero (day 3)

