

Istria in Spring

Holiday Report 24th April - 1st May 2018

Led by Paul Tout



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Wildlife of Istria in Spring

24th April – 1st May 2018

Day 1 – 24th April 2018

Our flight arrived at Trieste at 16:40 and we were out of the airport by 17:10 and on our way towards the hotel across two borders. Taking the road for the centre of Trieste along the *Costiera* we stopped at the *Galleria naturale* for views across the Gulf of Trieste and towards the Slovenian and Croatian coast of **Alpine Swifts** above and below us Santa Croce. Passing through the centre of Trieste, the city looked very fine in the sunshine with the smell of roasting coffee in the air close to the Illy headquarters, the journey towards the hotel often being interrupted by sound of **Nightingales** beside the road. We arrived at destination and ate a very nice meal at Oportelj with **Scops Owls & Nightingales** calling at the hotel on our return.

Day 2 – 25th April

After breakfast, we started the day a little later than usual at 09:30 with a walk around the hotel grounds which are excellent for wildlife of all kinds. Even this early the weather was very warm in the sunshine and **Adriatic Lizard Orchids** already shooting up flower spikes. Plenty of butterflies were already on the wing and both **Nightingale** and **Golden Oriole** were heard. Going up the rock behind the hotel we saw the first flowers of the rare, endemic **Tommasini's Sandwort** (*Moehringia tommasinii*), named (like the variety of spring crocuses called "Tommies") after a former mayor of Trieste, Muzio de Tommasini, who was also a famous 19th century botanist in this part of the world.



A statue of Muzio de Tommasini in the public gardens in Trieste.
It doesn't say "mayor" (1850-1861) but "botanist"!

Up on the rock things were rather quiet in the heat, but we were treated to good views of **Alpine Swift** and **Common Buzzard** and **Grey-headed Woodpecker** could be heard calling from the damp forest along the river below us. **Lady Orchid** and **Monkey Orchid** were found in the scrub behind the hotel. We had lunch on the "stone tables" (actually concrete table tennis tables!) in the shade close to the crazy golf course before heading off nearby.

After lunch it was extremely warm and humid, about 30°C, a very high temperature for time of year and across the road from the hotel, along the Mlaka stream we encountered **Yellow-bellied Toad** and **Agile Frog**, **Queen-of-Spain** and **Heath Fritillary**, **Cream-spot Tiger**, a nest of **Black-veined White** butterfly larvae on **Blackthorn**, **Short-tailed**, **Common** and **Eastern Baton Blue** and **Peacock** (not a common butterfly in this part of the world where nettles are rare) as well as brief views of one of the local **Short-toed Eagle** pairs and heard a **Cuckoo**.

Our final stop was in a side valley of the nearby River Bračana, a large tributary of the Mirna river, for **Green-winged & Lax-flowered Orchids** and a quick view of the ancient ruin of the Pietrapelosa Castle with **Sword-leaved Helleborine**. On the castle brief views were had of **Blue Rock Thrush** and two **Red-rumped Swallows** (a species increasing rapidly in Istria in recent years) were seen flying high overhead but they soon moved off. Later we enjoyed a delicious dinner at the Dolina restaurant in Gradinje.

Day 3 – 26th April - Učka & Čićarija

We started the day (with the 'coalition of the willing') at 06:30 with a walk around the hotel grounds. It was rather cool (11°C and clear). Paul's impression was that there are fewer resident birds around the grounds, perhaps the very cold winter has taken its toll? Of the birds seen, perhaps the best of the bunch were the local **Ravens** (nesting on the rock above the hotel), **Alpine Swifts**, 3 **Golden Orioles** seen chasing each other and heard more regularly, a pair of **Hawfinches** seen well and several **Serins**. At 09:00 we set off for Vela Učka ... again very few birds were seen compared with other years but the lower meadows were in superb condition with a display of thousands of *columnae* ssp. **Cowslips** (which are very large and look more like Oxlips) and many more **Spring Gentians** than in previous years.

Moving on to Brgudac we stopped for lunch, afterwards admiring the flower meadows along the road that featured **Mountain Pasqueflower**, **Villous Viper's-grass** and the bright blue flowers of the rare **Narrow-leaved Lungwort** at one of its few sites in Istria. Unlike. One of the orchid species added today was a form of the **Early Purple Orchid** ... perhaps *Orchis mascula speciosa*, although some authors give the subspecies full species status: *Orchis speciosa*. Virtually identical morphologically, the latter is much larger than nominate *mascula* growing nearby and it is difficult to see how this is not a full species.

On our journey through Rocko Polje and on into the badlands near Hum we spotted a **Hoopoe**, seen well by all and added **Monkey Orchid**, **Fly Orchid**, **Early Spider Orchid** and hybrids between the two! The season is in utter confusion as these two species should be separated by more than a month in their flowering periods. It will be interesting to follow the hybrid plant in the years to come as it offers a "bridge" between the two species with its flowering time and we may well see more hybrids in the future. Beside the van the two species of Juniper, *communis* and *oxycedrus*, were able to be compared side-by-side. Our final stop was more of a cultural one at the watermill at Kotli, one of the most beautiful spots in central Istria.



The nimble leader leaps a stream (Photo Anne Venables)

Day 4 – 27th April - Around Opatalj-Portole

Today was a local day, beginning at 09:00. First Paul negotiated with the hotel for a patch of **Adriatic Lizard Orchids** on the hotel's minigolf course right in front of where we are staying to be spared the strimmer! During the field visit a **Monkey Orchid** in bloom was also spotted. We climbed into the van and went up to our first stop at Santa Lucija near Opatalj to examine the **Heath/Common Spotted Orchids** beside the road. They are a very odd bunch indeed, a 'hybrid swarm' with characteristics of both species.

Our walk to Lagansi and Jadroni in warm sunshine featured some interesting plants including a **Yellow Broomrape** and lots of **Tuscan Honeysuckle**. The oddest bird of the trip so far was an **Orphean Warbler** in song with its deep throaty and thrush-like song coming from the deep cover of **Oriental Hornbeam** scrub. The species breeds locally in Istria but is much commoner further south in Dalmatia. Like most **Orphean Warblers** it remained in deep cover and refused to show. Butterflies were rather scarce but **Orange-tips**, **Brimstones**, **Green Hairstreaks** and **Wall Browns**, all typical early spring species in Istria, were seen as well as a single **Grizzled Skipper** and a single **Weaver's Fritillary**. This latter species is THE small violet-eating fritillary in the warmer areas around the Adriatic, the two "common" *Boloria* species, Pearl-bordered and Small Pearl-bordered like cooler, damper areas. One worrying sign was a complete lack of defoliating caterpillars of the *Tortrix* genus on the fresh young oak leaves. Had they hatched during the warm spell in February only to be killed off by the ice and snow in mid-March? Volumes of bird song are very low compared to previous years and tit species almost absent.

After our walk we made our way by to the meadows at lunch at the countryside church of Marije Snježne where, although the weather was poor, we added both **Woodlark** and **Easter Baton Blue** butterfly to our list.



Marsh Frog in the Pasjak River outflow (Photo: Paul Tout)

Not far away we had a walk at Cepic-Ceppici, a small karstic *polje*, a sump flat-floored depression within karst limestone, whose long axis develops in parallel with a water course, in this case the Pasjak stream that starts life underground but surfaces here and there as the limestone is eroded away. Cepic is unusual because it is the point where the river disappears underground, following a line of sinkholes across the landscape before reappearing several kilometres away, several degrees warmer and a little bit radioactive, in the thermal springs at our hotel! The damp meadows were host to several plants of large, snowdrop-like, **Summer Snowflake**, while the pool and outflow held **Marsh Frog** and **Palmate Newt**.

Stopping off briefly at Oprtalj-Portole for a coffee, in the evening there were **Scops Owls**, **Tawny Owls** and even an **Eagle Owl** "in song" around the hotel.

Day 5 – 28th April – Premantura and the Mirna Valley

Our early morning walk this morning was up to the quarry above the hotel. Now abandoned, the quarrymen enlarged caves in the cliff-face to extract marble over several decades leaving deep (and dangerous) artificial caves that are used by a range of species. In winter the site is a favourite of Wallcreepers but these move back to the Alps for the summer. We encountered the summer residents including a small colony of **Alpine Swifts** flying in and out of the caves above our heads, the rush of their wings clearly audible in the still air, **Blue Rock Thrush**, **Black Redstart**, **Lesser Spotted Woodpecker** and **Hawfinch**.

Departing at 9 a.m on the journey down to the southern tip of Istria we had brief views of **Bee-eater**, **Black Kite** (a rare bird in Istria) and 2 **Hoopoes** flying across the motorway as we headed south. This is a species that seems to be increasing rapidly in Istria in recent years. A decade ago it was rare and some weeks we failed to find it but since about 2015 it is popping up all over the place and it is difficult to find a reason for this change. As we neared the Kamenjak (= "Look-out") nature reserve close to Punta Premantura, passing alongside the sea, a summer plumage **Black-throated Diver** was visible just offshore. Unfortunately there was no possibility to pull off the road and observe the bird more closely.

At Kamenjak – Premantura the usual ornithological suspects were present, including **Tawny Pipit**, **Linnet**, **Subalpine** and **Sardinian Warbler** with **Yellow-legged Gull**, and **Mediterranean Shag** visible at sea. **Pallid Swifts** were also seen, but poorly and they did not visit the usual nesting cave close to the southernmost point. Last year's nests appeared to have been swept away during the winter storms and there was little evidence of swift activity on the ledges.

There was more to see on the botanical front however, after the very wet winter and early spring with lots of **Large Quaking Grass** and **Hare's-tail Grass**, **Pink Butterfly Orchid**, **Bertoloni's Bee**, **Bumblebee** and **Dark Spider Orchid** with lots of **Myrtle**, **Montpellier Cistus**, **Mastic-bush** and **Phillyrea** in the Mediterranean scrub.

We began our journey back towards base shortly after lunch as we had a few stop-offs to visit, the first being to see the spectacular Roman Arena at Pula which is the sixth largest in the world still standing and once had seating for 20,000 spectators.

Driving along the Mirna-Quieto back towards base there were still four late **Garganey** on the lagoon near the mouth of the river and while we were standing scanning across the water a **Glossy Ibis**, probably late migrant and non-breeder, arrived in from the south, flying up and down for a few minutes before moving on. Moving upriver, a single female-type **Montagu's Harrier** was seen moving north and there were many **Spanish Sparrows** back at their colony in one of the farmhouses along the river. Who knows where they go in the winter when the colonies along the valley are deserted? Further up the river the first **Red-backed Shrikes** had arrived back at their breeding sites.

After dinner we went out to hear the territorial **Eagle Owl** calling above the hotel. It was seen poorly but heard very well in the enveloping darkness.

Day 6 – 29th April - Škocjanski zatok - Val Stagnon and Rakitovec

Today we explored the northern part of Istria, crossing the border at Brestovica where we found a nice selection of **Military Orchids**, further on, at Butari we found **Adderstongue Fern** in the damp meadows and a large plant of **Yellow-berried Mistletoe** growing on a **Sessile Oak** close to a farmhouse. This deciduous mistletoe, *Loranthus europaeus*, is spread by Mistle Thrushes and grows exclusively on **Sessile Oak**. Its leaves are used to prepare a type of local *grappa* called *biska* which we were offered that evening in the restaurant.



Corn Bunting – abundant and tame in Istria (Photo: Paul Tout)

Crossing the main road between Koper and Croatian border, we climbed again towards the Karst near Rakitovec where an EU-sponsored grazing project with cows, sheep, goats, horses and donkeys is being used to restore a vast area of dry limestone grassland that was being lost to scrub encroachment. Here we had good views of the local **Short-toed Eagles**, **Red-backed Shrikes**, **Skylarks**, **Corn Buntings** and **Mistle Thrushes**, further specimens of **Eastern Baton Blue** and the rare local Illyrian Goldendrop *Onosma stellulata*.

Following a picnic on a hillock beside a pretty Karst church of Sveti Kirk we moved on to Skocjanski Zatok-Val Stagnon, a semiurban wetland reserve close to the city of Koper-Capodistria managed by the Slovenian Birdlife partner DOPPS, and similar in many ways to the RSPB reserve of Radipole Lake. Here there were lots of birds to catch up on including **Cattle Egret**, **Squacco Heron**, **Ruff**, **Wood Sandpiper**, **Curlew**, **Greenshank**, **Redshank**, **Common Tern**, **Little Tern**, **Shoveler**, **Great White Egret**, **Grey Heron**, **Great Crested Grebe**, **Little Grebe**, **Pochard** and **Great Reed Warbler** as well as a **Small Copper** butterfly.

Heading back into Croatia at the end of the day a brief stop at Mlini, below the rock faces at Socerga produced a startlingly red **Cardinal Beetle** and unsatisfactory glimpses of the local **Red-rumped Swallows**

Day 7 – 30th April – Sbevnica, Mirna-Quieto Valley, Tar-Torre and Grisignano-Groznjan

The early morning walk around the hotel saw us cross to the other side of the road and along the Mlaka stream. The local **Wrynecks** were calling ferociously as they set up territory, while the **Grey-headed Woodpeckers** gave brief views and are well on with their nesting efforts. The **Eagle Owl** that had been calling behind the hotel had moved to cliffs above the Mlaka. Some years ago a pair of Peregrines nested on these cliffs but they have largely disappeared, with just a single bird seen occasionally. Eagle Owls are major predators of Peregrines at the nest-site in this part of Croatia (as well as in nearby parts of Italy and Slovenia), have increased in numbers in recent years and the latter's decline in the latter may well be connected to this.

All week we had been frustrated in our attempts to visit inner (higher) Istria because of poor weather, but time was running out. Luckily we had always had the option of the coast where the weather is generally much better. In the morning, in decent if chilly weather we visited Sbevnica, a 1000m peak with open grassland. **Skylarks** and **Tree Pipits** dominated the local bird community and were in fine voice while another of the local pairs of **Short-toed Eagle** put in an appearance, another large, predatory species which seems to be increasing in Istria in recent years. In the large *dolina* (sinkhole) on the ridge, the wild flowers were spectacular including large stands of **Wild Peony**, **White Asphodel**, **Spring Gentian** and **Poet's Narcissus** but it was too cool for any of the local butterflies to be on the wing.



Heart-leaved Globularia (*Globularia cordifolia*)



Giant Peacock Moth (*Saturnia pyri*)

At this point the weather began to worsen rapidly, clouds building and thunder off towards Vela Učka but coming our way and we made a dash for the coast yet again. Stopping off to fill the van in Buzet, Paul spotted a male **Giant Peacock Moth**, a common species here in April and May, that had evidently been attracted to the lights of the petrol station the previous night. This is Europe's largest native moth species with a wingspan approaching 150mm and twice the size of the similarly-patterned Emperor Moth found in UK. We collected the moth and took it to a piece of woodland close to the hotel to release it.

After lunch in Srbani overlooking the Mirna-Quieto we dropped down into the valley but, it being early afternoon, added little to the day's bird list apart from **Corn Bunting**, **Red-backed Shrike**, **Great White Egret**, **Little Egret** and **Shelduck**, the latter yet another species that was extremely rare in Croatia twenty years ago but following large increases in the coastal wetlands in NE Italy is now frequent and probably breeds at several sites in Istria and Dalmatia.

Before heading back to the hotel and our final splendid evening meal, we took time to visit an amazing site close to the town of Tar-Torre just south of the Mirna-Quieto with thousands of **Pink Butterfly Orchids** together with a range of commoner species. The specimens were in much better shape (and much larger) than those at Prematura and there were also small numbers of **Green-winged Orchids** and a couple very attractive hybrids between the two. The two species are clearly closely related and are now both placed in the genus *Anacamptis* but **Green-winged** usually finish flowering before **Pink Butterfly Orchids**. What was



Hybrid Green-winged x Pink Butterfly Orchids (Photo Robin Pittson)

noticeable however was that the specimens of **Green-winged** growing in the deep shade of the scattered **Prickly Juniper** were still flowering well, allowing them to overlap with the first flowering of the **Pink Butterfly**. **Dark Spider Orchid** was also seen at the site, the furthest north Paul had ever noted it, and, in the warm sunshine (in contrast to the inland areas) **Weaver's Fritillary**, **Sooty Copper**, **Heath Fritillary** and **Grizzled Skipper** were all seen on the wing and we were serenaded throughout our visit by a singing male **Woodlark**, a rather scarce species this year following the desperately long and cold winter.



Newly-arrived pair of Turtle Doves (Photo: Anne Venables)

Before heading back to the hotel there was just time to visit the historic town of Grisignano-Groznjan for an ice-cream and our final journey to the hotel along a minor unsurfaced road yielded splendid views of a singing male **Great Reed Warbler** and a very confident pair of newly-returned **Turtle Doves**.

The evening rounded off with our final meal in the splendid Dolina restaurant, saying our goodbyes to Miriana, Edi and the staff who had looked after us so well during the week.

Day 8 – 1st May - Carsiana and Isola della Cona

Our final morning saw us leave the hotel on time and make our way to the botanical gardens at Carsiana near Sgonico-Zgonik close to Trieste. It would have been nice to start the week here but this 6,000 m² themed garden with ca. 500 species from the local flora was an excellent way to round the week off in plant terms and revise what we had seen. There were **Marsh Tit**, a singing male **Nightingale** and several **Hawfinches** in the garden but the latter, although clearly audible, remained frustratingly out of sight.

From here we moved on to the nature reserve at Isola della Cona, a freshwater wetland set within a much larger reserve of 2200ha of brackish marshes, mudflats, river gravels and shallow sea at the mouth of River Isonzo. Best known as a bird reserve it has one of the longest bird lists in Europe (327 species) because of its position at a migration hotspot at the head of the Adriatic but also close to the limestone Karst and just 50km from the first 2000m peaks in the Alps.

After a picnic lunch we added several species to the week's checklist including **Pygmy Cormorant** (a species increasing rapidly in Italy), **Marsh Harrier**, **Spotted Redshank** but the overall impression was that the migration this year is "thin", with few birds moving through. There was some compensation however in the form of the splendid **Bee-eaters** just back from Africa and performing amazingly well in front the hide where a colony of about 30 pairs breeds annually.

By now it was time to make our way to the airport just a quarter of an hour away to catch the late afternoon flight back to London from Trieste. The weather had not made work easy during the week, with heavy downpours inland in Istria but we had managed to dodge all of them by taking advantage of the decent dry weather that is usually to be had on the coast.



Bee-eaters nest at Isola della Cona (Photo: Paul Tout)

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
1	PRINCIPAL LOCALITY	Hotel	Around the hotel	Učka & Čičarija	Around Oprtalj	Premantura	Val Stagnon	Upper Čičarija	Isola della Cona
2	Secondary locality					Mirna valley	Rakitovec		Carsiana
3	DATE	Day 0 - 24/4	Day 1 - 25/4	Day 2 - 26/4	Day 3 - 27/4	Day 4 - 28/4	Day 5 - 29/4	Day 6 - 30/4	Day 7 - 01/5
4	Black-throated diver					✓			
5	Little grebe						✓		
6	Great crested grebe						✓		
7	Pygmy Cormorant								✓
8	Great cormorant						✓		✓
9	Shag					✓			
10	Squacco heron						✓		
11	Cattle egret						✓		✓
12	Little egret					✓			✓
13	Great white egret						✓		
14	Grey heron						✓		✓
15	Glossy ibis					✓			
16	Mute swan					✓	✓		✓
17	Garganey					✓	✓		✓
18	Mallard	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
19	Shoveler						✓		
20	Pochard						✓		
21	Black kite					✓			
22	Short-toed eagle		✓				✓		
23	Montagu's harrier					✓			
24	Marsh Harrier								✓
25	Common buzzard		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	
26	Peregrine Falcon					H			
27	Pheasant					H			
28	Moorhen						✓		
29	Coot						✓		✓
30	Black-winged stilt						✓		✓
31	Ruff						✓		✓
32	Curlew						✓		
33	Spotted Redshank								✓
34	Redshank						✓		
35	Greenshank						✓		
36	Wood sandpiper						✓		
37	Common Sandpiper						✓		✓
38	Black-headed gull					✓			
39	Yellow-legged gull	✓	✓			✓	✓		

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40	Common tern						✓		
41	Little tern						✓		
42	Rock dove/feral pigeon	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
43	Woodpigeon							✓	✓
44	Collared dove		✓		H	✓	✓	✓	✓
45	Turtle dove		✓						
46	Cuckoo		H	H	✓	H	✓	H	H
47	Scops owl	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	
48	Swift				✓	✓	✓	✓	
49	Pallid swift					✓			
50	Alpine swift	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	
51	Bee-eater		H				✓	✓	✓
52	Hoopoe		H	✓	H	✓	H		
53	Wryneck				H				
54	Green woodpecker		H	H					
55	Grey-headed woodpecker		H						
56	Great spotted woodpecker		H	✓	H				✓
57	Lesser spotted woodpecker			H		✓			
58	Woodlark				✓		✓		
59	Skylark					H	✓		
60	Barn swallow		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
61	Red-rumped swallow		✓				✓		
62	House martin		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
63	Tawny pipit					✓	✓		
64	Tree pipit							✓	
65	Yellow wagtail (ashy-headed)				✓		✓		
66	Grey wagtail				✓				
67	White wagtail		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
68	Robin		✓	✓	✓	H	H		
69	Nightingale		H	H	H	H	H		H
70	Black redstart					H			
71	Stonechat				✓		✓		
72	Blue rock thrush		✓			✓			
73	Blackbird		✓		✓	✓	✓		
74	Song thrush		✓		✓	✓			

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75	Mistle thrush			✓	✓		✓		
76	Cetti's warbler								
77	Fan-tailed warbler					H			
78	Savi's warbler						H		
79	Great reed warbler						✓		✓
80	Melodious warbler		H						
81	Subalpine warbler					✓			H
82	Orphean warbler				H				
83	Sardinian warbler					✓			
84	Whitethroat				✓	✓	✓	✓	H
85	Blackcap		H	H	H	H	✓		
86	Chiffchaff		H	H	H				
87	Long-tailed tit			H					
88	Coal tit			✓					
89	Great tit		H		H	H	✓		
90	Nuthatch			H		✓			
91	Short-toed treecreeper		H	✓	H	H			
92	Golden oriole		H	✓	H	H			
93	Red-backed shrike					✓	✓		
94	Jay			✓		✓	✓		✓
95	Magpie					✓	✓		
96	Hooded crow					✓	✓		✓
97	Raven		✓	✓	✓		✓		
98	Starling		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
99	Spanish Sparrow					✓			
100	House sparrow	✓		✓	✓	✓			
101	Chaffinch		H	✓	✓	✓	✓		
102	Serin	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
103	Greenfinch		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
104	Goldfinch		✓			✓	✓		✓
105	Linnet					✓			
106	Hawfinch			✓	✓	✓			
107	Cirl bunting			✓	✓				
108	Corn bunting		✓	✓	H	✓	✓		

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			Day 0 - 24/4	Day 1 - 25/4	Day 2 - 26/4	Day 3 - 27/4	Day 4 - 28/4	Day 5 - 29/4	Day 6 - 30/4	Day 7 - 01/5
	Macros:									
1	Tau Emperor	<i>Agla tau</i>	✓							
2	Latticed Heath	<i>Chiasmia clathrata clathrata</i>	✓							
3	Speckled Yellow	<i>Pseudopanthera macularia</i>	✓							
4	Great Oak Beauty	<i>Hypomecis roboraria</i>	✓							
5	Common Heath	<i>Ematurga atomaria atomaria</i>	✓							
6	Yellow Belle	<i>Smiaspilates ochreaia</i>	✓							
7	Hummingbird Hawkmoth	<i>Macroglossum stellatarum</i>	✓							
8	Pine Processionary	<i>Thaumetopoea pityocampa</i>	Web							
9	Cream-spot Tiger	<i>Arctia villica</i>	✓							
10	Silver-Y	<i>Autographa gamma</i>	✓							
	OTHER INVERTEBRATES:									
1	Azure Bluet	<i>Coenagrion puella</i>	✓							
2	Large Red Damselfly	<i>Pyrrosoma nymphula</i>	✓							
3	Broad-bodied Chaser	<i>Libellula depressa</i>	✓							
4	Egyptian Grasshopper	<i>Anacrida aegyptium</i>	✓							
5	White-spotted Field Cricket	<i>Gryllus bimaculatus</i>	✓							
6	Bee-fly	<i>Bombylis major</i>	✓							
7	Carpenter Bee	<i>Xylocopa violacea</i>	✓							
8	Dor Beetle	<i>Geotrupes stercorarius</i>	✓							
9	Rose Chafer	<i>Cetonia aurata</i>	✓							
10	S = Signs	<i>Cerambyx scopolii</i>	✓							
11	Great Diving Beetle	<i>Ditiscus marginalis</i>	✓							
	MAMMALS:									
1	Western Hedgehog	<i>Erinaceus europaeus</i>	D							
2	European Mole	<i>Talpa europaea</i>	S							
3	Noctule	<i>Nyctalus noctula</i>	•							
4	Pipistrelle	<i>Pipistrellus sp.</i>	•							
5	Red Fox	<i>Vulpes vulpes</i>	D							
6	Stone (Beech) Marten	<i>Martes foina</i>	D							
7	Wild Boar	<i>Sus scrofa</i>	S							
8	European Roe Deer	<i>Capreolus capreolus</i>	•							
9	European Hare	<i>Lepus europaeus</i>	•							
10	Coypu	<i>Myocastor coypus</i>	•							
	REPTILES & AMPHIBIANS:									
1	Yellow-bellied Toad	<i>Bombina variegata</i>	•							
2	Common Tree Frog	<i>Hyla arborea</i>	H							
3	Agile Frog	<i>Rana dalmatina</i>	•							
4	Edible Frog	<i>Pelophylax kl. esculenta</i>	•							
5	Marsh Frog	<i>Pelophylax ridibunda</i>	•							
6	European Green Lizard	<i>Lacerta viridis</i>	•							
7	Italian Wall Lizard	<i>Podarcis sicula</i>								
8	Dalmatian Wall Lizard	<i>Podarcis melisellensis</i>	•							
9	Dalmatian Algyroides	<i>Algyroides nigropunctatus</i>	•							
10	Grass Snake	<i>Natrix natrix</i>	•							
	MOLLUSCS:									
1	Roman Snail	<i>Helix pomatia</i>	•							
2	Copse Snail	<i>Arianta arbustorum</i>	•							

N.B.

D = Droppings

S = Signs

H = Heard

FERNS & ALLIES

Asplenium adiantum-nigrum	black spleenwort
Asplenium ruta-muraria	wall-rue
A. trichomanes	maidenhair spleenwort
Ceterach officinarum	rusty-back fern
Dryopteris dilatata	broad buckler-fern
Equisetum arvense	field horsetail
Polypodium vulgare	polypody
Pteridium aquilinum	bracken

CONIFERS

Juniperus communis	juniper
J. oxycedrus	prickly juniper
Pinus maritimus	maritime pine
P. nigra	black pine

DICOTYLEDONS

Aceraceae

Acer campestre	field maple
A. monspessulanum	Montpellier maple
A. monspessulanum x campestre	hybrid maple
A. obtusatum	Italian maple
A. pseudoplatanus	sycamore

Anacardiaceae

Cotinus coggygria	smoke bush
Pistachia lentiscus	mastic-tree
P. terebinthus	turpentine tree

Apiaceae

Aegopodium podagraria	ground elder
Heracleum sphondylium	hogweed
Laserpitium siler	
Orlaya grandiflora	

Apocynaceae

Vinca minor	lesser periwinkle
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Araliaceae

Hedera helix	ivy
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Aristolochiaceae

Aristolochia clematitis	birthwort
A. rotunda	A. rotunda

Asclepiadaceae

Vincetoxicum hirundinaria	swallow-wort (sspp. contiguum and laxum)
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Asteraceae

Achille millefolium	yarrow
Bellis perennis	daisy
Carduus nutans	musk thistle

<i>Centaurea cyanus</i>	cornflower
<i>C. triumfetti</i>	
<i>Crepis chondrilloides</i>	
<i>Evax pygmaea</i>	
<i>Filago vulgaris</i>	common cudweed
<i>Jurinea mollis</i>	
<i>Lactuca perennis</i>	blue lettuce
<i>Leucanthemum vulgare</i>	ox-eye daisy
<i>Mycelis muralis</i>	wall lettuce
<i>Scorzonera austriaca</i>	viper's-grass
<i>Tragopogon pratensis</i>	salsify

Boraginaceae

<i>Buglossoides purpureo-caeruleum</i>	purple gromwell
<i>Echium vulgare</i>	viper's-bugloss
<i>Onosma javorkae</i>	
<i>Pulmonaria angustifolia</i>	
<i>P. officinalis</i>	lungwort
<i>Symphytum officinale</i>	comfrey
<i>S. tuberosum</i>	tuberous comfrey

Brassicaceae

<i>Arabis turrita</i>	tower-cress
<i>Aurinia saxatilis</i>	
<i>Biscutella laevigata</i>	
<i>Cardamine bulbifera</i>	coralroot bittercress
<i>C. enneaphyllos</i>	
<i>C. pentaphylla</i>	
<i>C. pratensis</i>	lady's smock

Campanulaceae

<i>Campanula rapunculus</i>	rampion bellflower
<i>Legousia speculum-veneris</i>	large Venus's-looking-glass

Cannabaceae

<i>Humulus lupulus</i>	hop
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Caprifoliaceae

<i>Lonicera alpigena</i>	
<i>L. caeruleum</i>	
<i>Lonicera etrusca</i>	
<i>L. japonicum</i>	
<i>L. xylosteum</i>	fly honeysuckle
<i>Sambucus ebulus</i>	dwarf elder
<i>S. nigra</i>	

Caryophyllaceae

<i>Cerastium arvense</i>	field mouse-ear
<i>Dianthus carthusianorum</i>	Carthusian pink
<i>D. sylvestris</i> ssp. <i>tergestinus</i>	wood pink
<i>Lychnis flos-cuculi</i>	ragged-Robin
<i>Moehringia muscosa</i>	Mossy sandwort
<i>Moehringia tommasinii</i>	
<i>Silene alba</i>	white campion
<i>S. dioica</i>	red campion
<i>S. italica</i>	Italian catchfly

S. nutans	Nottingham catchfly
S. vulgaris	bladder campion
Celastraceae	
Euonymus europaeus	spindle
Chenopodiaceae	
Salicornia europaea	glasswort
Cistaceae	
Cistus incanus	hairy rockrose
C. monspeliensis	Montpelier cistus
Helianthemum nummularium	rock-rose
(+ ssp. grandiflorum)	
Convolvulaceae	
Convolvulus cantabricus	pink convolvulus
Cornaceae	
Cornus mas	cornelian cherry
C. sanguinea	dogwood
Corylaceae	
Carpinus betulus	hornbeam
C. orientalis	
Corylus avellana	hazel
Ostrya carpinifolia	hop-hornbeam
Crassulaceae	
Sedum acre	wall-pepper
S. ochroleucum	
S. sexangulare	tasteless stonecrop
Cucurbitaceae	
Bryonia dioica	white bryony
Dipsacaceae	
Knautia drymeia	
Euphorbiaceae	
Euphorbia amygdaloides	wood spurge
E. cyparissias	cypress spurge
E. fragifera	
E. helioscopia	sun spurge
E. wulfenii	large Mediterranean spurge
Mercurialis perennis	dog's mercury
Fabaceae	
Amorpha fruticosa	false indigo
Anthyllis montana ssp. jacquinii	mountain kidney-vetch
A. vulneraria	kidney-vetch
Chamaecytisus hirsutus	
C. purpureus	
C. supinus	
Chamaespartium sagittale	winged greenweed

Coronilla emerus	
C. varia	crown-vetch
Dorycnium germanicum	
D. pentaphyllum	
Genista tinctoria	dyer's greenweed
Hippocrepis comosa	horseshoe vetch
Lathyrus nissolia	grass vetchling
L. pratensis	meadow vetchling
L. sylvestris	narrow-leaved everlasting-pea
L. venetus	
L. verna	spring pea
Lembotropis nigricans	
Lotus corniculatus	bird's-foot-trefoil
L. uliginosus	marsh bird's-foot-trefoil
Medicago sativa ssp. sativa	lucerne
Melilotus altissima	tall melilot
Onobrychis viciifolia	sainfoin
Ononis spinosa	spiny rest-harrow
Spartium junceum	Spanish broom
Tetragonolobus maritimus	dragon's-teeth
Trifolium alpestre	mountain zigzag clover
T. badium	brown clover
T. campestre	hop-trefoil
T. incarnatum ssp. molinieri	
T. montanum	mountain clover
T. pratense	red clover
Vicia cracca	tufted vetch

Fagaceae

Fagus sylvatica	beech
Quercus cerris	turkey oak
Q. ilex	holm oak
Q. petraea	sessile oak
Q. pubescens	white oak
Q. robur	pedunculate oak

Fumariaceae

Corydalis cava	bulbous corydalis
Pseudofumaria officinalis	fumitory

Gentianaceae

Gentiana verna	spring gentian
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Geraniaceae

Geranium columbinum	long-stalked crane's-bill
G. dissectum	cut-leaved crane's-bill
G. macrorrhizum	rock crane's-bill
G. lucidum	shining crane's-bill
G. molle	dove's-foot crane's-bill
G. nodosum	knotted crane's-bill
G. phaeum	dusky crane's-bill
G. purpureum	little-Robin

Globulariaceae

Globularia cordifolia	
G. punctata	

Grossulariaceae

Hypericum perforatum perforate St. John's-wort

Hippuridaceae

Hippuris vulgaris mare's-tail

Lamiaceae

Acinos alpinus alpine basil-thyme

Ajuga genevensis

A. pyramidalis pyramidal bugle

A. reptans bugle

Glechoma hederacea ground-ivy

Lamium orvala

Melittis melissophyllum bastard-balm

Mentha aquatica water mint

Prunella vulgaris self-heal

Salvia officinalis wild sage

S. pratensis meadow clary

Satureja variegata

Stachys recta yellow woundwort

Teucrium chamaedrys wall germander

T. flavum yellow germander

Thymus longicaulis wild thyme

Lauraceae

Laurus nobilis bay-tree

Linaceae

Linum bienne pale flax

Loranthaceae

Loranthus europaeus

Malvaceae

M. sylvestris common mallow

Moraceae

Ficus carica fig

Myrtaceae

Myrtus communis Common myrtle

Oleaceae

Fraxinus angustifolia narrow-leaved ash

F. ornus manna ash

Ligustrum vulgare wild privet

Phillyrea latifolia

Oxalidaceae

Oxalis acetosella wood sorrel

Papaveraceae

Chelidonium majus greater celandine

Papaver rhoeas common poppy

Paeoniaceae

Paeonia officinalis

peony

Plantaginaceae

Plantago holostea

P. lanceolata

P. media

ribwort plantain

hoary plantain

Polygalaceae

Polygala comosa

P. nicaeensis

tufted milkwort

Primulaceae

Primula veris

P. vulgaris

cowslip

primrose

Actaea spicata

Anemone nemorosa

A. trifolia

Aquilegia atrata

Clematis recta

C. vitalba

C. viticella

Helleborus multifida

Pulsatilla montana

Ranunculus acris

R. pygmaeus

Thalictrum aquilegifolium

baneberry

wood anemone

A. trifolia

Christmas rose

meadow buttercup

greater meadow-rue

Resedaceae

Reseda lutea

mignonette

Rhamnaceae

Frangula alnus

F. rupestris

Paliurus spina-christi

Rhamnus saxatilis

alder buckthorn

Christ's-thorn

rock buckthorn

Rosaceae

Crataegus monogyna

Filipendula vulgaris

Fragaria vesca

Prunus mahaleb

Rosa arvensis

R. canina

R. pimpinellifolia

R. sempervirens

Sanguisorba minor

Sorbus aria

hawthorn

dropwort

wild strawberry

St. Lucie's cherry

field rose

dog rose

burnet rose

salad burnet

whitebeam

Rubiaceae

Galium verum

Rubia peregrina

lady's bedstraw

wild madder

Rutaceae

Dictamnus albus
Ruta divaricata

burning-bush
rue

Santalaceae

Osyris alba
Thesium humifusum

bastard-toadflax

Salicaceae

Populus alba
P. nigra
Salix alba

white poplar
black poplar
white willow

Scrophulariaceae

Pedicularis verticillata
Rhinanthus angustifolius
R. minor
Scrophularia canina
S nodosa
Verbascum nigrum
V. phoeniceum
V. thapsus
Veronica austriaca
V. chamaedrys

greater yellow-rattle
yellow-rattle
French figwort
common figwort
dark mullein
purple mullein
great mullein
large speedwell
germander speedwell

Simaroubaceae

Ailanthus altissima

tree-of-Heaven

Tamaricaceae

Tamarix gallica

tamarisk

Tiliaceae

Tilia cordata

small-leaved lime

Ulmaceae

Celtis australis
Ulmus glabra

nettle-tree
wych elm

Urticaceae

Parietaria officinalis
Urtica urens

pellitory-of-the-wall
stinging-nettle

Valerianaceae

Valeriana tripteris

3-leaved valerian

Violaceae

Viola arvensis
V. odorata
V. reichenbachiana

field pansy
sweet violet
early dog violet

MONOCOTYLEDONS

Amaryllidaceae

Leucojum aestivum

summer snowflake

Narcissus poeticus var. radiiflorus

Poet's narcissus

Dioscoreaceae

Tamus communis

black bryony

Iris graminea

I. pallida ssp. illyrica

I. pseudacorus

yellow flag

Liliaceae

Anthericum ramosum

branched St. Bernard's lily

Asparagus acutifolius

Ornithogalum pyrenaicum

Bath asparagus (=spiked star-of-Bethlehem)

Paris quadrifolia

herb-Paris

Polygonatum multiflorum

P. odoratum

scented Solomon's-seal

P. verticillatum

whorled Solomon's-seal

Ruscus aculeatus

butcher's-broom

Orchidaceae

Cephalanthera longifolia

sword-leaved helleborine

Dactylorhiza fuchsii

common spotted-orchid

Himantoglossum adriaticum

eastern lizard orchid

Limodorum abortivum

violet bird's-nest orchid

Ophrys bertolonii

Bertoloni's bee orchid

Ophrys bombyliflora

bumblebee orchid

O. incubacea

dark spider orchid

O. insectifera

fly orchid

O. sphegodes

early spider orchid

Orchis laxiflora

loose-flowered orchid

O. mascula

early purple-orchid

O. militaris

military orchid

O. morio

green-winged orchid

O. papilionacea

pink butterfly orchid

O. simia

monkey orchid

O. tridentata

toothed orchid

Serapias lingua

tongue orchid

S. vomeracea

long-lipped tongue orchid

Poaceae

Briza maxima

large quaking grass

Lagurus ovatus

hare's-tail grass

Stipa eriocalis ssp. Austriaca

feather grass

Smilacaceae

Smilax aspera

Typhaceae

Typha angustifolia

lesser reedmace

T. latifolia

greater reedmace