



Honeyguide

WILDLIFE HOLIDAYS

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Wallcreeper and woodpecker
break (Istria)
9 – 13 March 2016

Participants

Mike Kempton and John Lerpiniere
Karen Foulkes
John and Sarah Barney

Leader

Paul Tout
Report by Paul Tout.

Photos by Mike Kempton (MK) and Paul Tout (PT), all taken on the holiday.

Cover: crested tit, grey-headed woodpecker and wallcreeper (all MK). Below: photo of the group.



We stayed at Hotel Mirna at the spa of Istarske Toplice in Istria.



This holiday, as for every Honeyguide holiday, also puts something into conservation in our host country by way of a contribution to the wildlife that we enjoyed. The conservation contribution of £40 per person was supplemented by Gift Aid and we were able to give £250 to DOPPS (BirdLife Slovenia). As at the end of March 2016, the total for all conservation contributions through Honeyguide since 1991 was £105,338.

Above: Paul presents the DOPPS representative, Borut Mozetič, with the donation; see account on page 7.

9 March – Arrival at airport and travel to our hotel.

The planes (from Munich and Stansted) arrived at Trieste on time. For Karen and Paul there was time to check the airport grounds and three birds of prey were noted to the list, **hen harrier** (2), **common buzzard** and **Eurasian kestrel**, and soon we were off towards our hotel in NW Croatia about 90 minutes away. Everything went smoothly along the coast and through Trieste and by 8:00 p.m. we were sitting in the restaurant and enjoying two magnificent home-made 'fresh' pastas, one with **white truffles** *Tuber magnatum* and the other with **penny-buns** *Boletus edulis*, the latter being extraordinarily abundant in Istria's oakwoods in autumn 2015.

10 March – Around the hotel grounds and along the River Mirna to the coast

The grounds of the hotel and the immediate surroundings are excellent for birding and a walk before breakfast was in order. The extensive riverine oakwoods in front of the hotel rapidly produced calling **great spotted**, **green** and **grey-headed woodpecker** with distant views of hawfinches too. A detour up a rocky path for a singing **rock bunting** failed to yield a sighting of the bird but as we descended Paul recognised the cat-like call of a **middle spotted woodpecker** which gave brief views, at which point it was time to return for breakfast. The enormous numbers of **song thrushes** in the local woods were in full voice.

After breakfast a tour of the area around the hotel was in order. A brief stop at the large rock behind the hotel seemed to yield a wallcreeper, it was, after all, a bird climbing about on the rockface, flicking its wings, but it was not to be, just a **blue rock thrush** and the only red visible was Paul's red face! After brief views of a **Eurasian nuthatch** and a calling **short-toed treecreeper** we encountered a territorial fight between three **lesser spotted woodpeckers** that included the strange, slow bat-like courtship flight that this species engages in at this time of year. Both **green** and **grey-headed woodpeckers** were heard but not seen and a **hawfinch** gave brief views and a small flock of **house martins** visited the colony on the nearby aqueduct pump-house.



A painted lady: a surprise arrival close to the hotel (PT).

ourselves with views of **raven**, **rock dove** and the first **early spider orchids** of the year.

From the hotel we headed towards the mouth of the river Mirna – Quieto for lunch. The lagoon where it reaches the sea is protected and an Important Bird Area. The sea produced a few species including the only **Mediterranean shag** and **black-necked grebes** of the week but there were some interesting birds in the lagoon including **shelduck**, **great white** and **little egrets**, **Mediterranean gulls** and three **ferruginous ducks**, all males.

Making the climb up to the quarry yielded a singing male **cirl bunting** and, in a small suntrap with a willow bush or two in flower, several butterflies including at least four **painted ladies**, a couple of **peacocks**, a **nettle-tree butterfly**, a **clouded yellow** and a **brimstone** together with a couple of **violet carpenter bees**, a **wall lizard** (but which species?) and a hummingbird hawkmoth which posed nicely on a rock. Not something you usually see later in the year when it is warmer. Large numbers of migrant Lepidoptera had passed through Malta three days earlier and the **painted ladies** were probably the vanguard of a much wider invasion. Unfortunately, when we arrived up at the quarry there were no wallcreepers to be seen and we consoled



A nettle-tree butterfly feeding on the spring flowers of Montpelier maple (MK).

Heading back up the river the second of several **great grey shrikes** were seen. These are winter visitors and, after a brief respite for the local invertebrates will be replaced by numbers of red-backed shrikes in a few weeks. There had been no sign of the local **corn buntings** on the way down the river. These are very late nesters and were still in a large flock on the farmland and not yet holding territories. On the way towards the river mouth we'd had poor views of a male and female **merlin**. Like the **great grey shrikes** these are scarce winter visitors to the area.

In cold winters they often move on but this year four or five shrikes have remained in the Mirna valley throughout. Most of the other birds seen were common local residents including **stonechats** and **black redstarts**. Arriving back at the hotel at dusk there was little left to do but rest and wait for dinner – again a marvellous meal produced by Edi and Mirijan in the Trattoria Dolina – Italian food and east European numbers of birds. What's not to like, eh?



This beautiful adult male merlin was perched in a tree beside the track (MK).

11 March – The caves of Škocjan, the valley of the river Osp & Škocjanski Zatok



The River Reka before it tumbles into the cave system that ultimately leads to the Adriatic (PT).

Our failure to hook up with wallcreeper at the hotel meant that it was imperative that we did so today. We had an opportunity to visit one of the best sites for the species at the mouth of the caves at Škocjan near Divača in Slovenia. This was a splendid opportunity not usually accorded to the public on regular visits. Arriving at 09:30 we were met by Karmen Peternej, the park's European projects' officer who led us 'in' the exit and down in a small funicular lift to where the river Reka (which later becomes the Timavo when it exits 40km away in Italy) tumbles into the cave system and begins its journey beneath the Karst.

Search as we might on the towering rock faces there was no trace of the wallcreeper and very few other birds, just a **wren** and a **grey wagtail!** There were compensations however. Even the help of the young eyes of Domen Stanič and Sara Cernich failed to find it, although the guides had seen the bird as recently as Monday, just 72 hours earlier. The river was extremely high and powerful and made for a great display and the woodland close to the circular walk had a magnificent spring flora on show, including **Hacquetia epipactis**, **bear's-ear primrose**, **maidenhair fern**, **hepatica**, **snowdrops** in profusion, **bulbous corydalis**, **toothwort**, **mezereon**, **wild garlic**, **spurge-laurel**, **nine-leaved bittercress**, **alpine squill**, **dogstooth violet**, **fragrant hellebore**, **wood** and **yellow anemones**, **lungwort** and white-flowered **spring crocus**. Most years these species would have been in flower later but this year, as elsewhere in Europe, everything is very early.

After saying goodbye and thank you to Karmen we stopped for a coffee in the caves' restaurant. We would have to go on to a second (third?) wallcreeper site, the most reliable one even if it required a



bit of a climb! There would be a third (fourth?) fallback site that has a bird in late afternoon if we failed here! Making our way to the site in the Osp valley just behind Trieste we stopped for lunch in an olive grove before making our way up to the cliffs with a large cave-mouth at the base.

The climb up was fairly demanding but everybody managed it and even before we had all arrived Domen's young eyes had spotted the **wallcreeper** which performed well, if rather distantly (about 75m away).

The group admiring and photographing a very early bear's-ear primrose (PT).

Still in winter plumage and hopping languidly across the rockface, the wallcreeper occasionally paused, immobile for a minute or two before setting off again, making the occasional short flight, showing off white-spotted vermillion wing feathers to perfection. On one occasion it flushed a fairly sizeable insect from the rockface and it proceeded to fly-catch, butterfly-like in the sunshine. High above it on a jutting branch sat one of the local **peregrines**, almost out of sight. As we set off back down towards the van Domen picked up the bird returning to the original rockface and most of group (those that were not already too far back down the path) were treated to a further ten minutes or so of its antics as it made its way towards the cave, before climbing up and out of sight.

The birds weren't the only thing to look at, there were flowers too including the endemic sandwort ***Moehringia tommasinii***, the cliffs behind the hotel being another of only three sites for this incredibly rare plant. It is probably already extinct at a fourth site in Italy, perhaps as a result of damage by rock-climbers. There were also clumps of the strange white corydalis ***Pseudofumaria alba*** and spikes of the grape hyacinth ***Muscari botryoides***.

Flushed with success and back at the van there was still time to stop off at the newly inaugurated visitor centre at the Škocjanski Zatok-Val Stagnon bird reserve, managed by DOPPS and the beneficiary of the Honeyguide Charitable Trust donation from this holiday.

There were some birds to see, especially on the first pools, including **wigeon**, **ruff**, the only **common snipe(s)** of the holiday, **pygmy cormorants** and, particularly beautiful, a flock of about 25 **great white egrets**, most with the '*aigrettes*' that were almost their downfall a century-and-a-half ago and in breeding plumage and some already with the red legs associated with breeding birds. Again there were **house martins** present and the very early March arrival now seems standard practice for these birds.



***Moehringia tommasinii* at one of only three sites.**

Heading back towards the hotel the final bird, apart from the **great grey shrike** on its usual tree and poor views of an uncooperative **grey-headed woodpecker** was a large female **goshawk** alongside the van. There has been an immature female present in the area in question all winter so it is unlikely to have been a breeding bird as youngsters are not tolerated within their territories by pairs and they are often forced to occupy more open and suboptimal habitats. All that was left after this was a wash and brush-up and dinner.

12 March – Rakov Škocjan, Cerknisko Jezero & Senožeče

Day 4 dawned much colder and windier than yesterday, and the closure of the international road border crossing at Sočerga added considerably to the journey which was a shame. Woodpeckers hate wind and indeed, the woodpecker surveys by DOPPS are postponed if the days are not flat calm, so it was with some trepidation that we set off for Rakov Škocjan, a limestone gorge towards the Slovene interior, under leaden skies.

Arriving after about an hour, with little to show but a pair of **woodlarks** flying off the verge of the road, a male **sparrowhawk** with prey, our 'usual' **great grey shrike** and large flock of **lapwings** near Postonja, something interesting had happened. The river Rak from which the gorge takes its name, instead of a fast-flowing mountain stream with nesting dippers, tumbling into the *Tkalca Jama* or Weaver's Cave, was a lake! Evidently all the rain had swept a mass of logs and debris into the cave, blocking it, as sometimes also happens at the Škocjan caves which famously backed up in 1966. Apart from a few **common buzzards**, a **coal tit** and a calling **black woodpecker** there were few birds to be had and we headed for the lake at Cerknisko Jezero.

The lake was extremely high. Up to the level of the road in places, and any birds that there were (**coots**, **great crested grebes**, **pochards**, **tufted ducks** and a flock of five **ferruginous ducks**, were 'diluted' across about 30 square kilometres of shallow water. Arriving at the imaginatively named island of Otok (meaning 'island' in Slovene) we walked around a nice patch of mixed woodland dotted with clearings. Even though it was windy there were a few birds including nice views of **marsh tit**, **goldcrest** and, finally, a decent view of a **grey-headed woodpecker**, admirably photographed by Mike Kempton in spite of the very poor light conditions, and showing its strange reptilian character (see cover picture).



Lots of Great Grey Shrikes were seen during the week (PT).

There was plenty of ground flora to admire too, similar in large part to that observed at the caves at Škocjan but at an earlier stage in the year and with much larger numbers of spring crocus and many, many **Christmas rose** (*Helleborus niger*). The geography around the northern Adriatic is like a time machine. In woods close to the coast a species such as **cornelian cherry** or **snowdrop** may already be over when in cool, upland north-facing areas inland it hasn't yet begun to flower. Moving away from the coast one has the strange experience of going 'back in time' through the spring or forward into autumn. Making our way back to the van a **bullfinch** was heard calling, a species that this far south in Europe occupies cool mixed woodlands, rarely appearing on the coast. At the van itself Karen picked up on a **crested tit** which gave great views, together with a **goldcrest**.

Moving on, we saw the only **greylag geese** of the day, a pair. They remain inexplicably rare inland even if the feral Italian coastal population now numbers in the thousands. The causeway to Gorenje Jezero was still (just about) above water so no forest diversion was required. On the shallow, southern basin there were about 30 or so **mute swans** but little else. Continuing on around the lake, the only stop on the asphalt was for a suspiciously 'wild' looking **cat** hunting in a meadow beside the road. Crouching as Paul neared, it sprinted off, the long thin tail and, especially, the white paws suggesting it was less than the genuine article! Wild cats are common around the lake and elsewhere in the Karst. So much so that there is little or no interbreeding with domestic ones, the unpaired females having plenty of choice of real wild tomcats – a situation that is certainly not the case in Scotland.

Passing through Martinjak, the **white stork's nest**, familiar to generations of Honeyguiders, was still on its chimney-pot but has been dramatically trimmed and placed within a sort of weldmesh basket. It had grown so large in recent years, even with an elder tree growing out of it, that it was threatening the roof of the building supporting it.

Finishing the loop around the lake, we began to cross the old flood plain or **polje**. There was a lot of bird activity in a cultivated field on our right and a cursory check revealed **chaffinches** and **tree sparrows**, a flock of about 40 **linnets** together with large numbers of starlings and a dozen or so **fieldfares**. **Fieldfares** are common breeders around the lake but unlike **mistle thrushes** (also seen) they do not defend winter territories and wander locally, mixing with members of the same species that arrive from further afield.



Dogstooth violets, a rare species in the Karst (PT).

Further out onto the **polje** there were large numbers of **great white egrets** feeding on, what were to judge by the burrows, a considerable number of **common voles** (*Microtus arvalis*), a species absent from UK (other than Orkney where it was probably introduced accidentally during the Neolithic period) and which reaches extraordinary densities in C. Europe. As well as **common buzzards** there were also at least two **hen harriers**, a ringtail and a splendid adult male which gave excellent views as it hunted a metre off the ground, head into a stiff breeze, pouncing at one point onto what proved to be a vole (or other small rodent). Nearing the bird in the bus it got up, flying a further 150 metres into the field to eat its meal in peace.

Having circuited the lake in the strong wind, all that we could do at this point is visit a final woodpecker site in the hope of finding another middle spotted and black woodpecker but it was looking unlikely in the light of the strong **bora**, a geostrophic north-easterly that was blowing hard. Heading back down the motorway the **lapwings** and **starlings** were in a panic and the reason became clear with a passing **peregrine falcon**. Arriving at Senožeče the ground flora was splendid, with masses of **lungwort**, **snowdrops**, **wood anemones**, **hepatica**, *Haquetia epipactis* and especially large numbers of **dogstooth violets**, a rare species in the Karst where there is plenty of slightly-acidic soil overlying the limestone. We gave it our best shot, but it was not to be. There was too much wind and no woodpecker activity as we headed back towards the hotel, Our disappointment was assuaged with another splendid meal in the restaurant, a notable absentee being the great grey shrike, no longer on its usual bush. Perhaps it had made its way to the gate?

13 March – Škocjanski Zatok, The Lake of Doberdò & Isola della Cona



The unfortunate roadkill Beech Marten

Day 5 dawned bright and (unfortunately) very breezy once again. An early morning walk did provide good views of **hawfinches** and a **grey-headed woodpecker** and well as the very entertaining sight of **short-toed treecreepers** displaying on a tree-trunk right outside the hotel itself. Setting off at about 9:00 we were briefly delayed when we stopped to take a close look at a beautiful but unfortunate beech marten that had finished under a vehicle.

At Škocjanski Zatok Paul presented the DOPPS representative, Borut Mozetič, with €320 from the Honeyguide Charitable Trust which will help DOPPS with their important research work into conserving Slovenia's birds. Contributions such as these, while small compared with government and European funding, can be used quickly, effectively and without strings or bureaucracy, for example as mileage payments for the survey workers who took part in the

woodpecker survey on March 20th, finding 8 calling middle spotted woodpeckers in the Karst, showing that the species has firmly established itself in the west of country in the last decade, having been historically confined to the east and south of the country last century.

Crossing back into Italy, we headed towards the Lake of Doberdò in a final but ultimately vain search for Black Woodpecker. Along the way the first barn swallows of the year crossed the road in front of the van. Again the wind was blowing hard and keeping all the woodpeckers out-of-sight and completely out-of-earshot. Cutting our losses we headed towards the nature reserve of Isola della Cona, a huge wetland reserve (2,200 hectares) at the mouth of River Isonzo.



A symbol of Istria, the Istrian Ox or Podolica type Boškarin

After lunch we made our way around the hides where there were plenty of wetland birds including pygmy cormorant and large numbers of waterfowl including **greylag goose, mute swan, teal, wigeon, gadwall, shoveler** and **shelduck**. At the main hide there were large numbers of summer plumage **great cormorants** sheltering on a gravel island, many of them with the white heads of the *sinensis* subspecies. The first arrivals from Africa were also visible at the reserve in the form of ruffs and black-tailed godwits that are traditionally the first trans-saharan migrants to arrive in spring in this part of the world. This trickle will become a flood in the coming weeks. By now time was getting on and it was time to make our way to the airport about 15 minutes away for the various flights where we said our goodbyes, wrapping up a thoroughly pleasant and fruitful few days.

WILDLIFE LISTS

BIRDS

		09/03/2016	10/03/2016	11/03/2016	12/03/2016	13/03/2016
001	Little grebe		x	x		x
002	Great crested grebe		x	x	x	
003	Black-necked grebe		x			
004	Cormorant		x	x	x	x
005	Shag		x			
006	Pygmy cormorant			x		x
007	Little egret		x	x		x
008	Great white egret		x	x	x	x
009	Grey heron		x		x	x
010	Mute swan		x	x	x	x
011	Greylag goose				x	x
012	Shelduck					x
013	Wigeon			x		x
014	Teal			x		x
015	Pintail					x
016	Gadwall			x		x
017	Mallard		x	x	x	x
018	Shoveler			x		x
019	Ferruginous duck		x (3)		x (5)	
020	Pochard				x (30)	
021	Tufted duck				x (5)	
022	Hen harrier	x			x (2, MF)	
023	Sparrowhawk				x	
024	Goshawk			x		
025	Common buzzard	x	x	x	x	x
026	Common kestrel	x				
027	Peregrine			x	x	
028	Merlin		x			
029	Pheasant		x	x		x
030	Moorhen					x

031	Coot		x	x	x	x
032	Little ringed plover					x
033	Lapwing				x	x
034	Ruff			x		x
035	Curlew			x		x
036	Redshank			x		x
037	Black-tailed godwit					x
038	Common sandpiper		x			
039	Common Snipe			x		x
040	Mediterranean gull		x			
041	Black-headed gull		x		x	x
042	Yellow-legged gull	x	x	x	x	x
043	Lesser-black-backed gull		x			
044	Rock dove/feral pigeon		x	x		
045	Woodpigeon					x
046	Collared dove			x		x
047	Green woodpecker		x	H	H	H
048	Grey-headed woodpecker		x	H	x	
049	Black woodpecker				H	
050	Great spotted woodpecker		x	x	x	x
051	Lesser spotted woodpecker		x			H
052	Middle spotted Woodpecker		x			
053	Woodlark				x	
054	Skylark				x	
055	Swallow					x
056	House martin		x	x	x	x
057	Grey wagtail		x	x	x	x
058	White wagtail	x	x	x	x	x
059	Wren		H	x	x	x
060	Robin		x	x	x	x
061	Black redstart		x		H	
062	Stonechat		x		x	
063	Blue rock thrush		x	x		
064	Blackbird		x	x	x	x
065	Fieldfare				x	
066	Song thrush		x	x	x	x
067	Mistle thrush			H	x	
068	Cetti's warbler			H		H
069	Chiffchaff		x	H	x	H
070	Goldcrest				x	
071	Firecrest				x	
072	Long-tailed tit		x		x	x
073	Marsh tit		x	H	x	
074	Crested tit				x	
075	Coal tit				x	
076	Blue tit		x	x	x	x
077	Great tit		x	x	x	
078	Nuthatch		x	H	x	x
079	Wallcreeper			x		
080	Short-toed treecreeper		x	H	x	x
081	Great grey shrike		x (4)	x	x	
082	Jay		x	x	x	x
083	Magpie		x	x	x	x
084	Jackdaw	x				x
085	Hooded crow	x	x	x	x	x
086	Raven		x	x	x	x
087	Starling		x	x	x	x
088	House sparrow		x	x	x	x
089	Italian sparrow					x
090	Tree sparrow					x
091	Chaffinch		x	x	x	x
092	Bullfinch					H
093	Greenfinch				x	x
094	Goldfinch		x	H	x	x

095	Linnet				x	
096	Hawfinch		x		x	x
097	Cirl bunting		x	x	x	x
098	Rock bunting		x			
099	Reed bunting				x	
100	Corn bunting					

BUTTERFLIES

Red admiral
Painted lady
Large tortoiseshell
Peacock
Nettle-tree butterfly
Small white
Clouded yellow
Brimstone

OTHER INVERTEBRATES

Hummingbird hawk moth
Violet carpenter bee

REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS

Italian wall lizard
Italian agile frog

MAMMALS

Western hedgehog
Mole
Noctule bat sp
Pipistrelle bat sp
Beech marten (roadkill)
Pine marten (scat)
Roe deer
Coypu
Red squirrel

PLANTS

FERNS & ALLIES

Adiantum capillus-veneris southern maidenhair fern
Asplenium ruta-muraria wall-rue
A. trichomanes maidenhair spleenwort
Ceterach officinarum rusty-back fern
Polypodium interjectum
Polypodium vulgare common polypody

CONIFERS

Juniperus communis juniper
Pinus nigra black pine

DICOTYLEDONS

Aceraceae

Acer campestre field maple
A. monspessulanum Montpellier maple

Anacardiaceae

Cotinus coggygria smoke bush
Pistachia terebinthus turpentine tree

Apiaceae

Hacquetia epipactis

Apocynaceae

Vinca minor lesser periwinkle

Araliaceae

Hedera helix ivy

Aristolochiaceae

Asarum europaeum asarabacca

Asparagaceae

Asparagus acutifolius spiny wild asparagus
Scilla bifolia alpine squill

Asteraceae

Aposeris foetida
Bellis perennis daisy
Tussilago farfara colt's-foot

Boraginaceae

Pulmonaria officinalis lungwort
Symphytum tuberosum tuberous comfrey

Brassicaceae

Arabis turrita tower mustard
Cardamine enneaphyllos nine-leaved bittercress

Caprifoliaceae

Lonicera xylosteum fly honeysuckle

Caryophyllaceae

Moehringia tommassinii

Cornaceae

Cornus mas cornelian cherry

Corylaceae

Carpinus betulus hornbeam
Corylus avellana hazel
Ostrya carpinifolia hop-hornbeam

Cucurbitaceae

Bryonia dioica white bryony

Euphorbiaceae

Euphorbia amygdaloides wood spurge
E. helioscopia sun spurge
E. wulfenii large Mediterranean spurge
Mercurialis perennis dog's mercury

Fabaceae

Coronilla emerus ssp. emeroides
Lathyrus vernus spring pea

Fagaceae

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

Fumariaceae

Corydalis cava bulbous corydalis
Pseudofumaria ochroleuca white corydalis

Lamiaceae

Lamium orvala great red dead-nettle
Lamium maculatum spotted dead-nettle
Teucrium flavum yellow germander

Loranthaceae

Loranthus europaeus (grappa – vischio)

Oleaceae

Fraxinus excelsior ash
F. ornus manna ash
Phillyrea latifolia

Papaveraceae

Chelidonium majus greater celandine

Primulaceae

Cyclamen purpurascens sowbread (leaves)
Primula auricula auricula
P. vulgaris primrose

Ranunculaceae

Anemone nemorosa wood anemone
Anemone ranunculoides yellow wood anemone
Helleborus niger Christmas rose
H. multifidus ssp. istriacus Istrian hellebore
H. odoratus fragrant hellebore
Hepatica nobilis hepatica
Isopyrum thalictroides rue-leaved isopyrum
Ranunculus ficaria lesser celandine

Rosaceae

Fragaria moschata musk strawberry (leaves)
F. vesca wild strawberry (leaves)

Santalaceae

Osyris alba

Salicaceae

Populus alba white poplar
P. nigra black poplar

Sapindaceae.

Acer monspessulanum Montpellier maple

Scrophulariaceae

Lathraea squamaria common toothwort

Thymelaeaceae

Daphne laureola spurge-laurel
D. mezereum mezereon

Tiliaceae

Tilia cordata small-leaved lime

Ulmaceae

Ulmus glabra wych elm

Violaceae

Viola hirta hairy violet
V. odorata sweet violet
V. reichenbachiana early dog violet

MONOCOTYLEDONS

Amaryllidaceae

Galanthus nivalis snowdrop
Allium ursinum wild garlic

Iridaceae

Crocus vernus ssp. albiflorus spring crocus

Liliaceae

Erythronium dens-canis dog's-tooth-violet
Maianthemum bifolia may lily (leaves)
Muscari botryoides grape hyacinth
Veratrum nigrum black false helleborine (leaves)

Ruscaceae

Ruscus aculeatus butcher's broom

Orchidaceae

Ophrys sphegodes early spider orchid