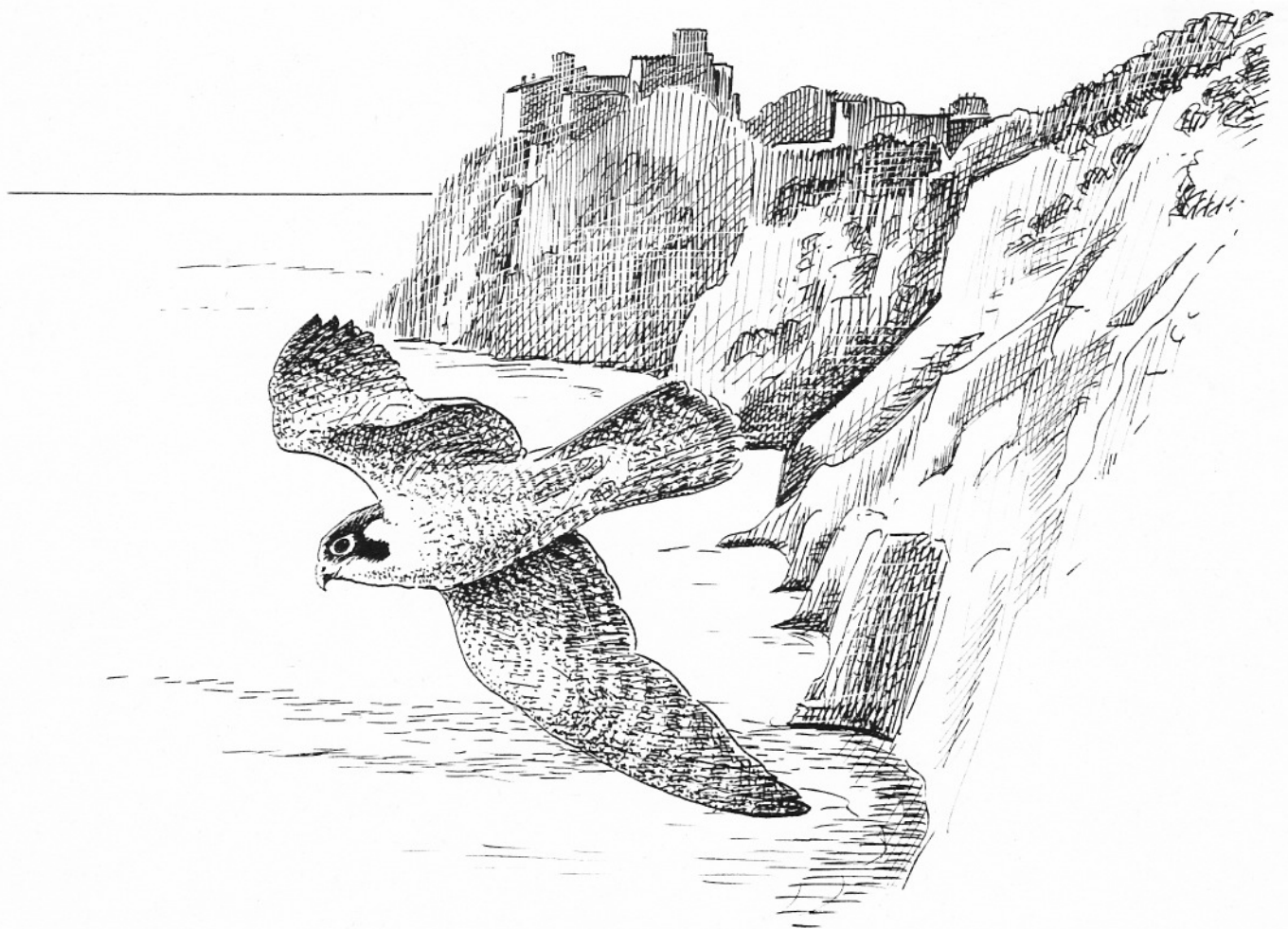

MOUNTAINS AND MARSHES OF NORTH EAST ITALY

6-16 June 1992



Mountains and Marshes of north-east Italy
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List of participants

Misha Saunders	Norwich
Peggy Tuffs	Peterborough
Denys Cook	Peterborough
Anne Riddoch	Woking
Joyce Murphy	Blandford, Dorset
Janet Farmer	Woodbridge
Paul Ingram	Woodbridge
Jo Burrough	Holt, Norfolk
John (Jumbo) Burrough	Holt, Norfolk

Leaders

Paul Tout	Duino, Trieste, Italy
Chris Durdin	Norwich

Our hostess: Luciana Lauretano, Hotel Alla Pineta, Sistiana

Illustrations by Rob Hume

Front cover: peregrine from Rilke path in front of Duino Castle

Report written and typed by Chris Durdin.

Saturday 6 June: Heathrow-Venice-Sistiana

The lagoon of Venice glistened as the 'plane banked and we made our descent to Marco Polo airport. Paul and Ann were there to meet us in the minibuses from the United World College of the Adriatic and we were soon on the *autostrada* heading east. A male Montagu's harrier flew over the motorway and continued over the fields of wheat and soya. Soon we were off the main road and stopping at the milk bar in Duino for a welcome ice cream.

Down the road in Sistiana, there was a warm welcome from Luciana and we were shown to our comfortable rooms in the Alla Pineta. After settling in, we crossed the road to overlook the harbour by the start of the Rilke path. The legs on the yellow-legged herring gulls on the boats below were clear. A look at some of the shrubs revealed Montpellier maple, hop hornbeam, black pine and hairy oak.

At supper, champagne was followed by lasagne then sole, the first of a succession of outstanding meals prepared by Luciana's son Claudio, washed down tonight as always by the local wine.

Sunday 7 June: The Karst

First stop was an alpine swift colony on local cliffs, high above a nudist beach. A blue rock thrush appeared too. Then we took a short drive to the Karst, a band of limestone slopes that stretches westward from Trieste. At a war memorial Paul outlined the troubled history of this area, a crossroads of nationalities and changing fortunes of power. We found a patch of the elegant crown vetch.

The area of Karst we explored was an intricate mixture of flower-filled meadows, scrub, footpaths and patches of woodland. Three buzzards and a distant short-toed eagle drifted past. The fields were full of scabious and yellow rattle with clouds of butterflies. Nickerl's fritillary was a species identified early on with the aid of butterfly net, box and book starting a list that reached 42 species [see page 11] surprising all of us. The limestone meadows are what remain after the trees were removed and grazing started, leaving a diverse flora with elements from the Balkans, Alps and northern Europe. With grazing having stopped, much is in the process of disappearing under scrub, for example the spreading branches and misty-pink flowers of smoke-tree or wig tree (*Cotinus coggyria*) and juniper.

Some of the plants noted were:

A golden-drop *Onosma javorkae*, nice (or variable) milkwort (*Polygala nicaeensis* subsp. *mediterranea*), cypress spurge, the spurge *Euphorbia frogifera*, burning bush (*Dictamnus albus*) and a small white pea *Dorycnium germanicum*.

The first of Ann's glorious packed lunches was accompanied by a calling crested tit. Into a more open area after lunch there were hoopoes, a singing woodlark and several linnets not far from where we looked over the border to Slovenia. Then with the aid of Paul's tape a superb male ortolan bunting sang and came to see us. There was a red-backed shrike on a wire,

intended to keep them fixed on the area - we noticed that black kites and hooded crows were attracted to the enclosure too.

Griffons nested in this area in the last century, persecution including poisoning and changes in land use having driven them away. They reckoned there is room for 40 pairs of griffons in this part of Dalmatia and are optimistic of success following the Cevennes reintroduction project where after 10 years and the release of 66 birds there are 10-15 pairs. Griffons in the Alps are traditionally resident, though spending the winter at lower altitudes.

With the rain continuing we went to the pretty village of Venzona. This was destroyed by an earthquake 16 years ago; when rebuilt, the signs and litter bins were all made removable providing an easy to adapt film set. After coffee, with the rain easing, we walked to the river. A honey buzzard flew over and we noted the ferns maidenhair spleenwort and rue-leaved spleenwort by the bridge.

Back at Sistiana we enjoyed an early evening walk along part of the Rilke path, named after the poet Rainer Maria Rilke from Prague who stayed in Duino Castle from 1911-1912 and here found inspiration for his 'Duino Elegies'. A female sparrowhawk flew past; spring asparagus, wall germander and the geranium little robin were identified.

Tuesday 9 June: Isonzo

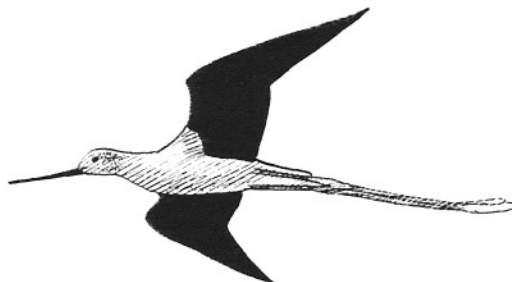
After collecting wellies from the college at Duino we took the short drive via Monfalcone to the new wetland reserve at the mouth of the Isonzo river. A marsh warbler was singing on an exposed perch by the car park; a spirited mimic this bird, now all but extinct in the UK. A short walk took us to a magnificent, thatched, three-storey hide with a view over marsh and islands to rival Minsmere. Little egrets showed their yellow feet; smokey-looking whiskered terns dipped in and out of the water; black-winged stilts mobbed a passing marsh harrier except for the one sitting discretely on its nest. Great reed warblers sang "kara kara krik krik gurr gurr" from reed tops; the inevitable Cetti's warbler shouted from the scrub and a dot of a fan-tailed warbler sang "zit zit zit" in the sky. Cuckoos were everywhere, including a brown phase individual; a kingfisher flashed by. A squacco heron sat out in the open. Near the spoonbill several species of duck were identified, already showing the start of their eclipse plumage, including wigeon, pochard, tufted duck and gadwall. Our friends the gazza - magpie - were much in evidence.

The warden, Ignatius, joined us and he and Paul explained something of the wetland creation work here. All of this peninsula was at one time marshland, in common with huge areas of the coastal plain between here and Venice now in intensive agriculture. This marsh was in the process of re-creation by the regional government; indeed the field behind the hide was in the early stages of the necessary earth moving work. The result is a mosaic of reed, islands, open water and low marsh. Invasion by vegetation was being controlled by several Camargue white horses, which also added a picturesque element to the scene. Only recently a large marina project proposed nearby had been thrown out.

Paul had arranged for us all to go on a boat trip to the mouth of the Isonzo and the first of the three returned with tails of flocks of eiders and curlews. The second boat trip added two red-breasted mergansers and Kentish plovers. The peculiarity of the presence of the eiders and mergansers can hardly be overstressed; they are both northern, often arctic species. They winter in the Mediterranean, though not in large numbers, but the oversummering is of great interest. Neither species breed, but the eiders are held here in this most northern bit of the Adriatic by the extensive cultivated mussel beds and breeding in the future cannot be ruled out. The third boat trip also found Sandwich tern, dunlin and little terns, the terns having been flooded out earlier in the season from their nests on sand spits which are the one LIPU reserve in the marshes.

In between times, lunch was under the other new reserve building set back from the 'scrape' and somehow one group managed to visit a coffee bar. Before group three set out there was a brief visit to an enormous reedbed with several marsh harriers present, but the mosquitos were a little irritating and we returned to the reserve's hide. In the meantime there had been several changes in the birds; a wood sandpiper and three little stints had joined the stilts and a pair of garganey had appeared.

Then it was back for a cappuccino or a beer under the wisteria-covered terrace of the Alla Pineta.



Wednesday 10 June: Venice

Another pre-breakfast petrol run to Slovenia and tanks were full for the drive to Venice. It was fine in Sistiana, poured while we were on the autostrada but fine again in Venice - continuing the trend for rain but largely at convenient moments. Parking on the edge of Venice we then took the waterbus which gives in effect an hour's tour of the city's waterways.

Passing under the Rialto bridge, the 'bus dropped us at St Mark's Square. The group split into two at this point, Paul with the quicker tour of Venice, Chris with the slower group. An advantage of Venice is that there is no need to feel embarrassed about being a tourist as everyone else is. An ice cream, then the Bridge of Sighs and into St Mark's Square, past the statue on the corner so like the 'spitting image' puppet of Margaret Thatcher. Both groups made for the Rialto bridge to catch the waterbus back at their different paces, past pigeons, the Doges Palace and Japanese tourists in gondolers. "Just a town without a sewer" sings Gaston in the musical Gigi, but it really is amazing. For the slow group there was time

to have a coffee, potter and shop on the Rialto bridge and the adjacent market. Then it was on the waterbus back to the minibus for a late lunch and return again through driving rain on the autostrada.

The other group visited the WWF reserve of Valle Averte, a wetland reserve of 150 hectares managed by grazing with water buffalo. Purple and night herons, little bittern, coypu and mute swans with white 'Polish' cygnets were seen and the rain conveniently came while enjoying coffee and cake in the reserve centre.

Thursday 11 June: the Julian Alps

At the end of the motorway we rendez-vous'ed with Arduino Candolino and continued higher and higher through picturesque alpine villages and past banks of flowers until we reached the Refugio Tolazzi. The group was again split into two with Paul taking the more fit and energetic group to the tops while Chris led the potters on a more sedate botanical ramble.

Up high, Paul's group encountered alpine chough, alpine accentor, alpine marmot (a large furry rodent) and, most amazingly, the intrepid Peggy and Paul saw the elusive snow finch. Birdwise the lower group made do with crag martin, crested tit and a nesting coal tit. But a long list of alpine flowers was amassed under the trees and increasingly out in the open as we climbed to where the bear's ear (*Auricula*) was flowering. Here's the list, with all names from 'The Alpine Flowers of Britain and Europe' by Christopher Grey-Wilson and Marjorie Blamey (Collins).

May lily, cypress spurge, wood cranesbill (in great drifts by the roadside lower down), globeflower, water avens, *Anemone trifolia*, yellow wood violet, alpine clematis, heather, both alpine and white butterbur, alpine honeysuckle, herb paris, white false helleborine (broke rule one here of botanising in strange places by identifying a plant without flowers), pyramidal bugle, three-leaved valerian, the alpine figwort *Scrophularia canina hoppii*, matted globularia, buckler mustard (breaking rule two by identifying a crucifer), alpine cinquefoil, hepatica - leaves only, Clusius's gentian, dwarf alpenrose, daisy (!), alpine butterwort - white-flowered and growing almost inaccessibly high, white pasque flower, auricula, Bergamasque saxifrage, germander speedwell, wood buttercup, wood forget-me-not and field forget-me-not.

The last three were identified from specimens while sitting in the refuge by the minibus after the heavens opened, during which time there was the surprise of a 'phone call from Paul in the refuge at the top of the pass by the Austrian border to say that they had been delayed and that we were to continue ahead. So the botanists dropped down the slopes a few miles, stopped for a coffee and continued in another meadow. Here the following were added:

Sweet William, dark columbine, meadow clary, spreading bellflower, harebell, great burnet, ox-eye daisy, the hemp nettle *Galeopsis bifida*, scorzonera-leaved rampion, bush vetch, meadow vetchling and, from the minibus, orange lily.

Then it was back to Sistiana to tuck into the tortellini, those more-ish bread sticks and plates of locally caught crayfish.

Friday 12 June: The lagoon of Grado/Marano

First stop in the drizzle was by a cemetery on a hummock of sand in the agricultural fens. Here a bee-eater flew away and a long-eared owl was glimpsed moving through some conifers. Swallow-wort (also known by its latin name *Vincetoxicum*) and yellow woundwort was growing there. Second stop was an interesting cultural diversion; the Basilica of Aquileia. The floor is covered in the largest known Paleo-Christian mosaic in western Europe. Covering some 760 square metres, it was only discovered between 1909-12. Christ the Good Shepherd is featured with quite a range of wildlife including deer, gazelles, dolphins, partridges and ducks.

At the lagoon there is the most glorious new reception building in which we were later able to eat lunch while Paul recovered from hitting his head on an over-low overhang. Smaller members of the party (all of us) escaped unscathed and took a walk around the lagoons. Marsh harriers were in view most of the time, purple herons flew past and a little grebe nest was pointed out. Incongruously there was also a scattering of introduced, pinioned wildfowl including red-crested pochard, whooper swan, pintail and shelduck, described by those brought up in the British school of thought as 'plastics'.

A boat trip was again planned, in the capable hands of Paulo (the smaller boat) and Glauco (the larger one). The enormous lagoon of Marano is something of a cross between a Mediterranean coastal wetland and the Norfolk Broads. Much of it is enormous freshwater reedbeds - plus the occasional patch of giant reed - with marsh harriers and reed buntings but also great reed warblers, purple herons and the frequent flight calls of penduline tits. In the open water areas there were great crested grebes, coots and at one point a group of 20 immature little gulls. Little terns were widespread too, seen on newly-built mudbanks where they nest, a far cry from their traditional British shingle beaches. Some also saw a flock of black terns. There was also the chance to stretch our legs on an island with a thatched chalet owned by Glauco's family. Easing round one of the reedy backwaters, suddenly a huge net lifted up with a poor catch of fish on this occasion. Then a family party of bearded tits sat as still and close on some drying nets as you could imagine. Then it was time to enjoy the spray as we headed back to base for the minibuses and the return drive home.

Saturday 13 June: Rilke Path and Carsiana

There was a red squirrel - almost black in colour though - from the view point over Sistiana bay before breakfast. As usual, some of the local alpine swifts put in an appearance too.

A local day, starting off with a walk along the Rilke path from Sistiana to Duino. Blue rock thrushes seemed to hop up and sit still in telescope view at regular intervals. Rock buntings moved along this part of the coast,

also settling below us from the odd viewpoint along the way. A family of black redstarts hopped tame as can be in and out of the scrub. Common shrubs and trees here included hop hornbeam, flowering ash, Christ's thorn and cornelian cherry, sometimes with the glorious virgin's bower (or fragrant clematis) clambering over them or a fence along the path side. A subalpine warbler flitted down below. Then a powerful bird of prey came pass - a peregrine at last, as pictured on the front cover of this report. This was of some relief as a few weeks previously an eagle owl had taken residence in the cliffs, had probably accounted for the peregrine chicks and caused the adults to desert. With the owl gone, the peregrine was back.

Not long before Duino, the trill of crested tits was heard in the pines and with a little encouragement from Paul's tape they came to see us before we moved on. Paul and Ann live in an annex of Duino Castle and we enjoyed Ann's usual super picnic on the terrace overlooking the Adriatic. During this, a concerted scolding from jays and magpies in the maquis scrub below sent hopes rising and Paul scurrying for the eagle owl, only to find a cat causing the energetic mobbing.

A short trip after lunch to the botanic gardens of the Carsiana. The gardens are in a swallowhole or dolina, a collapsed cave. The natural variety of the site plus the collection of flowers from the Karst explain the range of botanical communities of the Karst, helped for us by Paul's expert interpretation. The gardens were also full of apparently tame butterflies such as marbled whites and pearly heaths.

After an early supper we returned to the reserve at Isonzo. A fast walk to avoid the evening mosquitos soon took us into the familiar and mosquito-free hide. The range of wetland birds were added to this evening by many night herons, both on the ground and moving in and out of the bare trees, alongside scores of little egrets.

Sunday 14 June: Slovenia

A black-throated diver was just outside Sistiana harbour this morning: a few of this northern (generally arctic) bird species summer in the Mediterranean. It was also there the following morning.

There seemed to be hundreds of Italian cars with us crossing the border into Slovenia, some in search of cheap petrol or booze perhaps, but many plainly heading for a day out in the hills. But was it anything but crowded us we enjoyed the wooded, hilly terrain on a scenic drive. The first stop was to look up at a crag emerging from the hillside. There was a golden eagle's nest with soaring adults and a half-grown chick. Further up the hill we stopped at a different vantage point where from a flower meadow we could look down into the nest.

Extensive woods and sloping meadows were the order of the day in this small country, now well and truly independent of the former Yugoslavia. As lunchtime approached we found ourselves in such a meadow complete with picnic tables. From here the less footsure group explored the meadows for a couple of hours while the fitter climbers went up through the woods

nearby, returning with tales of irises and rock thrushes. Particularly striking in this alpine-type meadow were the frosted-looking encrusted saxifrage and great patches of Sweet-scented Solomon's seal.

The following flowers were also found:

Fragrant orchid, winged greenweed, mountain clover, whorled Solomon's seal, large speedwell, the buttercup *Ranunculus platanifolius*, great meadow-rue, purple milk-vetch, mountain kidney-vetch of the SE Alps subspecies *Anthyllis montana jacquinii* and tufted milkwort.

In the woods of beech, mountain ash and whitebeam there were also May lily, yellow archangel and wood stitchwort, plus the loud cry of the black woodpecker, one of which flew across a distant clearing but not in view of the group. At least the treecreeper showed well for all.

With the two groups re-assembled we moved through the extensive beech woods to look into an enormous dolina. Here the reverse of the usual habitat cline going up a mountain could be seen, with the deciduous trees being superceded by tall conifers as you looked downwards to then themselves be replaced by prostrate conifers towards the bottom of the hole. Martagon lily and yellow veronica were found by the roadside. A black woodpecker called a little further down the road in response to the tape but did not come into view.

The second dolina was smaller but easy to climb into. The further we descended, the colder it got until down by the steps into a cave at the bottom there was a large patch of ice, still solid in mid-June. Apparently men with pack horses used to collect this ice through the summer.

We wound our way through the woods and meadows back towards the border to join the throng of Italians returning home, but not before we had stopped for cheap petrol and duty frees before crossing the border for the short drive to Sistiana.

Monday 15 June: Around Friuli Venezia-Giulia

It was the hottest day so far as we joined two local conservationists, Roberto and his colleague who undertakes a ringing programme for birds of prey. We were soon at the unusual habitat, in these parts, of a raised bog. These hummocks of peat were once more extensive in the province, as they were in the UK, and they still have no protection or conservation management. We had only just arrived when the first of several Montagu's harriers flew closely by. We learned that there were c30 nests of Montagu's harriers in Friuli Venezia-Giulia, most of which are in the remaining raised bogs such as this. We were led through patches of marsh helleborines to a spring that supplies water at a constant temperature throughout the year. A yellow crucifer was pointed out; apparently this cabbage *Erocrastrum palustre* occurs nowhere else in the world.

Up a path nearby we could see how agriculture was nibbling at the edges of the bog, then into a poplar plantation where a long-eared owl flew off its nest and away. Returning towards the bog, a harrier dropped into its nest in a rough field of saw-sedge. Five harrier nests in this one bog is only

one less than the entire UK population in 1992! A yellow-bellied toad was pulled out of a ditch by Paul then he entertained us with a fruitless pursuit of glorious lesser purple emperor butterflies.

Some miles away, lunch was at the small church of San Martino, built in 870 AD and restored in 1981. Roberto went peering into thick conifer bushes until a long-eared owl flew round the churchyard before we retreated to leave it well alone. We were now in a particularly hot part of the province looking for specialities for which much local knowledge is necessary. For a start there were the first crested larks of the trip so far. The area was mainly intensive agriculture, dominated by sweetcorn, which is a pity as where fields had been left they were ablaze with wild flowers such as wild gladiolus and the serapias orchid with its enormous purple lip.

We stopped to look down an avenue of pylons where 14 of the 16 had crows' nests! There was then a short line of poplars on which we located a superb male lesser grey shrike. It even sang for us, an indistinct scratchy song.

The hot afternoon demanded an ice cream stop which was in the attractive town square at Palmanova by the sound of the church bells and under the trees of glossy or Chinese privet. But the natural history treats were not quite at an end. A slight detour by a quarry and there were brilliant bee-eaters, bold as you like on the fence. And finally, a field full of cornflowers such as you never see in the UK - and hardly ever in Italy for that matter.

Back at Sistiana, the tiny pink growing out of pavement cracks was at last identified as tunic flower. Ann, Paul and Paulo joined us for our last supper at the Alla Pineta. Peggy presented Paul with a butterfly net to continue with the catching and identifying that had been such a surprising element of this first ever wildlife holiday to this lovely part of Italy.

BUTTERFLY LOG



This butterfly log was compiled by Peggy Tuffs, without whose enthusiasm, determination and butterfly net we would only have scratched the surface of this rich vein for lepidopterists. The 42 species are noted on the next page against the days they were seen so that there is some record of the habitat in which they were found. There were also two unidentified ringlets; small heaths were in at least two forms.

These have since been added to by Paul, now armed with net, who has increased his total to 83 in NE Italy and Slovenia. His list includes large copper at Isonzo and false ringlet, Europe's most endangered and declining species, in the Karst.

Butterfly log: 7-15 June 1992

	KARST	PRE-ALPS	ISONZO	VENICE	JULIAN ALPS	GRADO / MARANO	RILKE PATH + CARSIANA	SLOVENIA	RAISED BOG + ELSEWHERE
JUNE	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Small heath	✓	✓					✓	✓	✓
Meadow brown	✓	✓	✓				✓		✓
Nickerl's fritillary	✓	✓					✓		✓
Common blue	✓	✓					✓		✓
Pearly heath	✓	✓					✓		✓
Painted lady	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
Adonis blue	✓					✓			✓
Marbled white	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓
Black-veined white	✓						✓		✓
Twin-spot fritillary	✓	✓							✓
Small blue	✓							✓	✓
Swallowtail	✓								✓
Scarce swallowtail	✓								
Idas blue	✓								
Small tortoiseshell	✓							✓	
Pale clouded yellow	✓								
Glanville fritillary	✓								
Grizzled skipper	✓							✓	
Wood white	✓	✓					✓		✓
Small skipper	✓						✓		
Small white	✓	✓	✓				✓		✓
Clouded yellow		✓							
Small pearl-bordered frit.		✓							✓
Large skipper		✓	✓				✓		✓
False heath fritillary		✓					✓	✓	
Large white		✓	✓						✓
Holly blue			✓				✓		
Comma			✓						
Peacock			✓						✓
Green-veined white				✓					
Wall							✓		
Ilex hairstreak							✓		✓
Chequered blue							✓		✓
Silver-studded blue							✓		
Green hairstreak								✓	
Woodland ringlet								✓	
Dingy skipper								✓	
Small copper									✓
Southern white admiral									✓
Orange tip									✓
Lesser purple admiral									✓
Brimstone									✓

BIRD LOG

Total bird species seen (✓) or heard (H) on the trip was 144. This includes the re-introduced griffon vultures which are, in effect, in a transitional status from captive to wild. The obviously captive or re-introduced wildfowl are excluded, namely shelduck, pintail, red-crested pochard and whooper swan. However wildfowl that have established a self-sustaining population after re-introduction - mute swan and greylag goose - are included. You could also add feral pigeon, such as the thousands in Venice. The Venice sparrows were the Italian sparrow subspecies *Passer domesticus italiae* with a chestnut-brown cap; further east they were more grey-capped and so closer in appearance to ordinary house sparrows.

	KARST	PRE-ALPS	ISONZO	VENICE	JULIAN ALPS	GRADO - MARANO	RILKE PATH + KARSANA	SLOVENIA	AROUND F.V.G.
JUNE 7	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Black-throated diver								✓	✓
Little grebe			✓			✓	✓		
Great crested grebe						✓			
Cormorant			✓						
Little bittern				✓					
Night heron				✓			✓		
Squacco heron			✓						
Little egret			✓	✓		✓	✓		
Grey heron	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓		
Purple heron				✓		✓	✓		
Spoonbill			✓				✓		
Greylag goose			✓	✓		✓	✓		
Mute swan			✓	✓		✓			
Wigeon			✓				✓		
Teal							✓		
Mallard			✓	✓		✓	✓		
Garganey			✓				✓		
Shoveler			✓				✓		
Pochard			✓				✓		
Tufted duck			✓				✓		
Eider			✓				✓		
Red-breasted merganser			✓						
Honey buzzard		✓							
Black kite		✓							
Griffon vulture		✓							
Short-toed eagle	✓	✓							
Marsh harrier			✓	✓		✓			
Montagu's harrier									✓
Sparrowhawk		✓							
Buzzard	✓	✓	✓		✓			✓	✓
Golden eagle		✓			✓			✓	
Kestrel	✓	✓			✓	✓		✓	✓
Peregrine							✓		
Quail						H			H
Pheasant				✓		✓			
Water rail							H		

	JUNE									
	KARST	PRE-ALPS	ISONZO	VENICE	JULIAN ALPS	GRADO-MARANNO	RIKKE PATH + CARSIANA	SLOVENIA	AROUND FRIULI	VENEZIA-GULIA
Moorhen			✓			✓	✓			
Coot			✓	✓		✓	✓			
Black-winged stilt			✓				✓			
Kentish plover			✓							
Lapwing			✓			✓	✓			✓
Little stint			✓							
Dunlin			✓							
Ruff			✓							
Curlew			✓							
Redshank			✓							
Wood sandpiper			✓				✓			
Mediterranean gull			✓							
Little gull						✓				
Black-headed gull			✓	✓		✓				
Herring gull	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Sandwich tern			✓							
Common tern			✓	✓			✓			
Little tern			✓			✓				
Whiskered tern			✓							
Black tern						✓				
Woodpigeon		✓								
Collared dove	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Turtle dove										✓
Cuckoo			✓	✓		✓	✓	H	✓	✓
Long-eared owl						✓			✓	✓
Swift	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Alpine swift	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓
Kingfisher			✓	✓			✓			
Bee-eater						✓				✓
Hoopoe	✓	✓								
Green woodpecker							✓			
Black woodpecker								✓		
Great spotted woodpecker		✓	✓	✓	H		✓	✓		
Crested lark										✓
Woodlark	✓									
Skylark	✓	✓							H	
Crag martin					✓					
Swallow	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
House martin	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Tree pipit					H			✓		
Water pipit					✓					
Yellow wagtail										✓
Grey wagtail					✓					
White wagtail	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
Wren					✓					
Duncock					✓			H		
Alpine accentor					✓					
Robin					H			H		
Nightingale	✓	✓	✓		H		H	H	H	
Black redstart		✓			✓	✓	✓	✓		
Redstart					✓					
Whinchat					✓					
Stonechat		✓				✓				✓
Wheatear					✓					

	JUNE									
	KARST	PRE-ALPS	ISONZO	VENICE	JULIAN ALPS	GRADO- MARANO	RILKE PATH + CARSIANA	SLOVENIA	AROUND FVG	
Rock thrush	✓							✓		
Blue rock thrush	✓	✓					✓		✓	
Blackbird	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Song thrush								✓		
Mistle thrush	✓									
Cetti's warbler		H	H	H		H	H		H	
Fan-tailed warbler			✓				H			
Marsh warbler			✓				H			
Reed warbler			✓	✓		✓	H			
Great reed warbler			✓	✓		✓	✓			
Melodious warbler	✓					✓			✓	
Subalpine warbler							✓			
Lesser whitethroat					✓					
Whitethroat	✓								✓	
Blackcap	H	H	H	H		H	H	✓	H	
Wood warbler					H					
Chiffchaff					✓			H		
Goldcrest					✓					
Firecrest								H		
Spotted flycatcher	✓		✓							
Bearded tit				✓		✓	H			
Long-tailed tit							✓	✓		
Willow tit							H	✓		
Crested tit	✓						✓	✓		
Coal tit					✓		✓	✓		
Blue tit	✓	✓						✓		
Great tit	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Penduline tit			H	H		✓				
Treecreeper									✓	
Golden oriole	H	H	✓				H		✓	
Red-backed shrike	✓	✓		✓	✓			✓		
Lesser grey shrike									✓	
Alpine chough					✓					
Hooded crow	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Raven	✓				✓					
Jackdaw		✓				✓	✓	✓		
Magpie	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Jay	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Starling	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
House/Italian sparrow	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Tree sparrow	✓					✓				
Snow finch					✓					
Chaffinch	✓	✓	✓	H	✓	H	✓	✓	✓	
Serín		H	✓	✓	✓	✓	H	H	H	
Greenfinch		✓	✓			✓		✓		
Goldfinch	✓	✓	✓			✓				
Linnet	✓									
Hawfinch	✓									
Yellowhammer		H								
Girl bunting	H									
Rock bunting	✓	✓					✓	✓	✓	
Ortolan bunting	✓									
Reed bunting			H	✓		✓	✓			
Corn bunting	✓	✓							✓	



Please reply to:-

6 Butlers Close
Broomfield
Chelmsford
Essex

**Italian League for Bird Protection – UK Branch
Lega Italiana Protezione Uccelli (LIPU)**

Honorary Patrons: Bill Oddie, Tony Soper.

Dear Chris,

I was most pleased to hear of the success of Honeyguide's 1992 Italian Birdwatching holiday and delighted to receive a cheque for £360, Honeyguide's donation to our 'Stop the Massacre' Appeal. The money will help fund LIPU's anti-poaching campaign on the Messina Strait, traditionally the blackest of black-spots for bird killing in Italy but where this year the level of poaching was reduced and a record number of poachers, thirtysix, were arrested – good news indeed. For supporting this important, dangerous and expensive bird protection programme, I can only say a sincere 'thank you' to Honeyguide and its patrons.

I am also very pleased that in 1993 Honeyguide will be supporting our new 'Italian Wetlands Appeal' by donating £25 for every patron who joins your 'Mountains & Marshes of N.E. Italy' trip. The money will be spent on little tern protection at LIPU's 130 ha Foci Isonzo reserve near Trieste. As the area you will be visiting boasts over 200 breeding species including 'star birds' like little egret, night heron, purple heron and little bittern, the Honeyguide holiday offers British birders a special opportunity to enjoy super birdwatching in Italy in the best of company, and the chance to help protect birds at the same time. As such, we have no hesitation in recommending Honeyguide to our members and supporters.

Finally, we are well aware that Honeyguide was the first British travel company to co-operate with LIPU in devising a birdwatching holiday that would really convince British birdwatchers that "Italia – per gli uccelli un posto stupendo" – Italy really is a special place for birds. For British birdwatchers, Honeyguide must be 'Number One in Italy'.

With thanks from Honeyguide's friends in LIPU and good wishes for your continuing success.

Sinceremente,

Roger Jordan
LIPU'S UK Representative