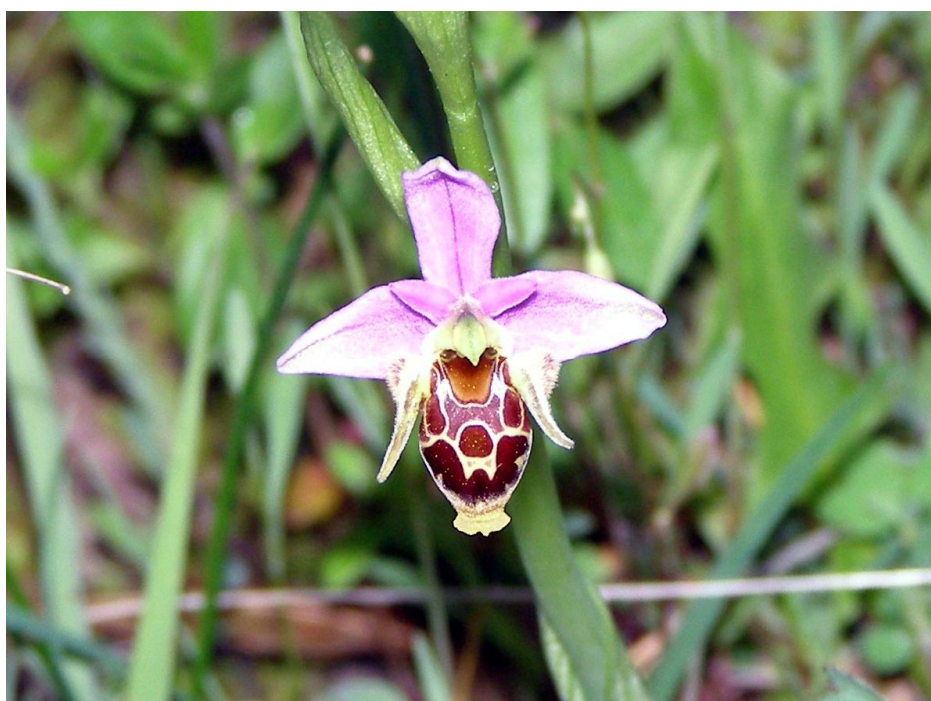


REPORT OF AN  
ECOTOURS WILDLIFE HOLIDAYS TRIP TO  
CROATIA AND MONTENEGRO

3<sup>rd</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> May 2009



**Horned Ophrys** *Ophrys cornuta*  
Seen in Lovcen National Park, Montenegro. 4<sup>th</sup> May 2009  
Photo by John Smallwood

## THE TRIP

This is a report of a trip made to Croatia and Montenegro for 8 days from 3<sup>rd</sup> May to the 10<sup>th</sup> 2009. Those on the trip were a group of friends which included Phyll and Vernon Davies, Dot and Roy Head, Chris Johnson and Pam and John Smallwood. The purpose of the trip was principally bird watching, but other aspects of natural history such as plants, butterflies, dragonflies and insects were also included.

All arrangements were made by Celia Barton which included discussions, via e-mail, with Attila Steiner of Ecotours of Hungary Ltd regarding the trip, booking of flights and transportation to and from Exeter Airport. It was most unfortunate therefore, that after a great deal of work and at the very last moment, Celia was unable to travel which left just seven of us on the trip.

We were met at Dubrovnik airport by Attila, who was to be our driver as well as our guide and taken to our hotel for the first night before crossing the border into Montenegro the following day. We then drove around the Bay of Kotor, though the Lovcen National Park and onto Virpazar on the shores of Lake Skadar for the next three nights. This was followed by a drive into the mountains through the Tara Gorge to Zabljak and the Durmitor National Park. After two nights there we returned to Dubrovnik via Savnik, Niksic, Cetinje and Tivat. A further night was spent in Dubrovnik before returning home.

The accommodation used on the trip was more than adequate but as usual had their good and not so good points.

The first hotel was the Hotel Astarea at Mlini, some 10 kilometres south of Dubrovnik. A very comfortable package holiday hotel although the dining room seemed a little 'cafeteria style', ideal for breakfast but not so good for dinner. Their 'a la carte' restaurant was a far better choice. The second hotel located in the village of Virpazar, the Hotel Pelikan, was very different. Situated on the banks of Lake Skadar in the east of the country, it is a little bit of the country that time had past by, although the hotel itself was very up to date. It had six rooms so we took up all the available space, a rather quirky restaurant with lots of pictures, antiques and various other things hanging on the walls and an elderly proprietor who daily presented the ladies in the group with fresh cut herbs. The food was most enjoyable with their speciality, smoked carp, served at one meal; very nice but rather too much for us. To add to the idiosyncrasies of the hotel, the top floor was taken up with a museum based on a typical Montenegrin house of yesteryear with all the paraphernalia you would expect to find there. All in all, a pleasant and clean hotel with friendly and helpful staff and a good restaurant; but oh that small small bedroom!

The hotel in Zabljak was substituted for the original booking as that had been closed for renovation. Our new abode, the Hotel Zabljak must have been built back to the late sixties or early seventies and was of typical Eastern European design and build quality. To get from the road up to reception you had to negotiate at least 25 steps while carrying your luggage and then a similar number again to reach your room (no lift or porter!). But while the hotel itself was in need of renovation or at least redecoration, the bedroom was at least a reasonable size. The food in the restaurant was pleasant and enjoyable although the size of the sandwiches provided in our lunch time picnic had to be seen to be believed; possibly the largest any of us had ever seen!!

We all had met and travelled with Attila Steiner before on a trip to Hungary and Slovakia in 2007 and again to Croatia in 2008 and were happy to have him as a guide for this trip. Attila is the Principle Guide and Tour Consultant for Ecotours Hungary Ltd and his knowledge of the bird calls plus his skill in spotting and identifying the birds, as well as his determination that everyone had a good views of them, plus his good sense of humour and willingness to pander to all our little whims and idiosyncrasies made for a successful and enjoyable trip.

As on our previous trips, all pre-trip exchange of correspondence was conducted by e-mail and when requesting information regarding the trip, or the country, or answers to any question, Attila was quick to reply. On arrival at Dubrovnik we were each handed check-lists, up to date itineraries, and other relevant information.

During the eight days spent in Croatia and Montenegro we saw a total of 139 different species of birds plus 3 subspecies of Yellow Wagtail. This number was similar to our previous trip to Croatia and what was expected. Although one or two species did elude us we did have good views of a group of

Dalmatian Pelicans as well as Sombre Tit and Crested Tit and nice views of a pair of Rufous-tailed Rock Thrushes. We did well for raptors seeing 12 species.

We were to see few mammals but insects, including butterflies, were well in evidence and we were able to get close enough to get some good photographs some of them. However, the orchids and other plants we saw most certainly exceeded our expectations by a long stretch. The orchid count alone numbered at least 14.

Everyone in the group was of the opinion that the whole trip had been a great success and very enjoyable. They all thought that this success was due to Attila whose hard work and skills made the trip so agreeable and worthwhile. We have no hesitation in recommending Ecotours Hungary wholeheartedly.

As well as offering my thanks to Attila, I would like to add my appreciation to the group for their help in compiling this report. But my thanks go particularly to Celia for not only organising the trip, but for her efforts in identifying the orchids and flowers from the pictures we had taken. It must have been galling to be shown so many photographs when you were denied the chance of travelling on a trip you had organised.

Any further information can be obtained from John Smallwood  
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## REFERENCES

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**Ecotours Wildlife Holidays.** 2092-Hungary, Nefelejcs 9, Budakeszi, Phone +36 30 6061651.  
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### Map

Map Link, California USA. **Montenegro.** 1:250,000

## ITINERARY AND TRAVEL NOTES

What follows is a summary of the places and various sites visited on our trip to Croatia and Montenegro together with details of some of the birds and other wildlife seen and heard. The first time sighting of a bird seen is shown in **bold**, while any mention of a bird not seen is shown in *italics*.

For complete details of all the birds seen, please refer to the Systematic Lists on page 9.

Day 1: Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> May

Route: Stourbridge – Exeter – Dubrovnik.

An 8:10am take off by Flybe necessitated an early start at 3:00am for a smooth journey down to Exeter International Airport courtesy of Ray's Coaches. The flight took off and landed more or less on time and on our arrival we were met by a smiling Attila who soon had the minibus loaded up and we were rapidly on the way to our first hotel. Stopped on the way for lunch where we saw the birds we were to see plenty of during our stay: **Yellow-legged Gull**, **Common Swift**, **Barn Swallow**, **House Martin**, **Great Tit**, **Goldfinch** and **House Sparrow**.

After unloading and checking into the hotel we drove on to Dubrovnik for a sightseeing walk around the old town. Before reaching there we stopped at a viewpoint overlooking the town with plenty of traffic roaring by where we were surprised to hear the calls of a **Rock Partridge**; I'm pleased to say we later obtained good views of it. Also seen or heard at the viewpoint as well as in the town itself and at other stops along the way were **Eurasian Kestrel**, **Collared Dove**, the inevitable **Feral Pigeon** seen in every town, plenty of **Alpine Swift**, **European Bee-eater**, **Woodchat Shrike**, **Red-rumped Swallow**, **Sardinian Warbler**, **Subalpine Warbler**, **Common Nightingale** and **Blackbird**.

After an easy days birding we returned to the very comfortable hotel for an enjoyable evening meal in the hotel's a la carte restaurant, Konoba Astarea, with plenty of the local wine followed by a much needed nights sleep.

Night at Hotel Astarea, Mlini, Croatia.

Birds Seen Today: 19

New Birds: 19

Total To Date: 19

Day 2: Monday 4<sup>th</sup> May

Route: Dubrovnik – Herceg Novi – Kotor – Lovcen National Park - Cetinje – Virpazar.

Birding from our room balcony at the hotel before breakfast produced **Turtle Dove**, Common Swift, plenty of Barn Swallow on migration along the top of the nearby mountain, House Martin, **Golden Oriole**, **Blackcap** plus a **Nightingale** singing.

Following breakfast we loaded up the minibus and set off where after a lengthy border crossing and custom check we arrived in Montenegro. While waiting at the border we were to see our first bird in the new country which was a **White Wagtail**. What followed was a very pleasant drive around the coast of the various Bays of Tivat, Risan and Kotor to arrive at the UNESCO listed 'World Natural and Historical Heritage Site' of Kotor town, then onto the former capital of Montenegro, Cetinje via the Lovcen National Park and finally through the valley of Rijeka Crnojevica to arrive at our destination, Virpazar on the shores of Lake Skadar. We had been told that Montenegro was a picturesque and scenic country and we were certainly not disappointed.

Along the way we stopped at numerous places, including a restaurant at Njegusi to have an enjoyable lunch of their speciality of smoked ham and cheese and to see various new birds including **Mallard**, **Little Egret**, **Eurasian Buzzard**, **Jay**, **Magpie**, **Hooded Crow**, **Crag Martin**, **Coal** and **Blue Tits**, **Chiffchaff**, **Lesser Whitethroat**, our first of many **Black-eared Wheatear**, **Blue Rock-Thrush**, **Mistle Thrush**, **Cirl Bunting**, good views of **Rock Bunting** plus **Chaffinch** and **Greenfinch**. In addition we were hearing plenty of Cuckoos calling as well as a good close view of a large Green Lizard along with a large number of butterflies. What was most striking however, were the perfusion of flowers, particularly orchids and plenty of photos were taken for later identification! It later transpired that we had seen a total of eleven different species of orchids during the day; quite exceptional!

After a long day we were glad to book into our attractive and welcoming hotel, have an excellent evening meal, again with the local wine and retire for an early night.

Night at Hotel Pelikan, Virpazar.

Birds Seen Today: 38

New Birds: 23

Total To Date: 42

Day 3: Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> May

Route: Virpazar – Sutomore – Bar – Ulcinj – Velika Plaza – Vladimir – Arbnes – Donja Briska – Seoca – Virpazar.

Arose after sleeping in the smallest bedroom ever; nicely appointed but so cramped it became uncomfortable and as for washing in the bathroom basin – impossible; but the shower was good. A walk around the village before breakfast produced loads of House Martin, family parties of **Little Grebe**, **Pygmy Cormorant**, **Grey Heron**, as many as 30 **Squacco Heron**, **Coot**, **Moorhen**, **Jackdaw**, **European Starling**, our first sighting of **Cuckoo** and a flock of **Whiskered Tern**.

After a lightish breakfast we headed off via Sutomore and Bar to visit the Ulcinj salt pans. On arrival and having obtained the necessary permission, we walked the 2.5 km between the pans, which were unfortunately dry, down to the end of the track. Being dry obviously had an effect on the number of birds there, but we did see **Great Cormorant**, **Eurasian Thick-knee**, **Black-wing Stilt**, **Common Sandpiper**, **Common Redshank**, **Little Stint**, some 4 or 5 **Little Tern**, **Kentish Plover**, **Black-headed Yellow Wagtail**, **Great Reed Warbler**, **Whinchat**, **Greater Whitethroat** and **Corn Bunting** and heard **Cetti's Warbler** calling. The walk back produced **Collared Pratincole**, **Bee-eater** and a small flock of **Spanish Sparrow** in addition to the usual sightings. The staff at the Salt Pans were very helpful and presented each of us with a souvenir bag of sea salt.

Following this, as we were in need of nourishment we headed for Velika Plaza to eat our lunch. While sitting there at the side of the road we were to see **Honey Buzzard**, **Levant Sparrowhawk**, various sub species of **Yellow Wagtail**, a large flock of **Bee-eater** plus **European Roller** and **Hoopoe**, **Calandra Lark** amongst others. We then headed back to Virpazar along the narrow but picturesque road on the southern edge of Lake Skadar. This drive produced **Great Crested Grebe**, **Hobby**, **Rock Dove**, **Great Spotted Woodpecker**, **Cirl Bunting**, **Tawny Pipit**, **Zitting Cisticola** and **Sombre Tit** as well as giving good views of the attractive countryside and lake.

A return to the hotel for our evening meal of which the main course was smoked carp. Very tasty but whether or not it came from the nearby lake we never found out.

Night at Hotel Pelikan, Virpazar.

Birds Seen Today: 65

New Birds: 37

Total To Date: 79

Day 4: Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> May

Route: Virpazar – Skadar Lake – Podhum – Petrovac Na Moru – Sutomore – Virpazar.

Another pleasant early morning walk around the lake edge in the village produced the usual birds.

We had been informed that 4 *Dalmatian Pelicans* had been seen on the lake near to the village and so after breakfast we drove the short distance to the far side of the village to see if we could find them. Unfortunately, this was not to be as they had obviously moved on, but we did see a **Steppe Buzzard** as it flew just above our heads. So with that we boarded a boat for a trip further out on the lake. This produced the usual **Pygmy Cormorant**, **Squacco Heron**, **Yellow-legged Gull** as well as **Great Cormorant**, **Little Egret**, 3 **Little Bittern**, **Purple Heron**, **Red-footed Falcon**, **Black-headed Gull**, **Common Tern**, **Pallid Swift**, **Great Reed Warbler** and the largest raft of **Great Crested Grebe** I had ever seen; many hundreds, may have been well over 1000!

Returning to the village, we boarded the minibus and drove to Podhum and a small bay on the north coast of the lake. On the way we saw a large gathering of **Sand Martin** collecting on telephone wires, obviously on migration, as well as **Crested Lark** and **Subalpine Warbler**. Arriving at the bay, we drove down to a viewing tower where we were able to look over the bay to see **Mallard**, a large breeding colony of **Pygmy Cormorant**, **Grey Heron**, an unexpected **Great Egret**, male and female **Western Marsh Harrier**, **Caspian Tern** and **Alpine Swift** as well as **Reed Warbler** and **Olivaceous Warbler**, both heard calling. As we were about to leave, a last minute sweep of the area was made and lo and behold, a flock

of large white birds was seen which turned out to be a group of 9 **Dalmatian Pelican**. These gave good but distant views as they circled around in front of us before disappearing into the lakes vegetation.

Following our visit to Podhum we returned to the coast at Sutomore via Montenegro's new Sozina Tunnel, 4260 metres long and opened on 13 July 2006. On the way Roy spotted a **Little Owl** which we all saw along with **Tree Sparrow** and Goldfinch. At another stop two Honey Buzzard were seen while others included 2 **Bonelli's Eagle**, Blue Rock Thrush, **Red-backed Shrike** and Whinchat.

Following that we returned to Virpazar and the Hotel Pelikan for the last time.

During the previous night a **Scops Owl** had been heard calling from the square in front of the hotel and so a small number of the group ventured out after dinner to try and locate it. After a short search it was found and good views obtained with the help of a flashlight.

Birds Seen Today: 67                      New Birds: 19                      Total To Date: 98

Day 5: Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> May

Route: Virpazar – Podgorica – Moraca Canyon – Tara Canyon – Slijivansko - Bare – Pasina Voda - Zabljak.

The usual birds were seen on the pre-breakfast walk around the village. After breakfast we loaded up the minibus but before we departed we were invited to view the museum on the top floor of the hotel. This museum had tried to recreate a typical old Montenegrin house with all the paraphernalia that might exist in such a place. Most interesting but the space allocated to the museum would have made a wonderful hotel room.

Set off at 9.30am to drive to Zabljak and the Durmitor Nation Park. Weather forecasts had been promising generally coolish temperatures and some rain but today dawned bright with a few clouds in an otherwise clear blue sky and temperatures a little too high for the clothes we were dressed in.

The first of a number of stops was just before Podgorica where we saw Levant Sparrowhawk, Red-rumped Swallow, Bee-eater, Red-backed Shrike, Greenfinch and Cirl Bunting as well as Common Blue and Small Heath butterflies.

A further stop near Kolasin gave us **Short-toed Eagle**, **Grey Wagtail**, Blue Rock Thrush, **Winter Wren**, **Long-tailed Tit** as well as the calls of a **Rock Nuthatch** which unfortunately was not seen. We continued up the Moraca Gorge to Mojkovac and then into the Tara Gorge, stopping some 15 km short of Zabljak where we took a diversion via Bare to view some of the small lakes in the area. Along here we saw plenty of **Northern Wheatear** as well as Mallard, Common Buzzard, Kestrel, **Tree Pipit**, **Skylark**, Mistle Thrush, **Raven**, Hooded Crow, **Siskin**, **Linnet**, and on the last lake, Lake Vrazje, we saw approximately 30 **Ruff** and a solitary **Little Gull** plus an **Ortolan Bunting** heard singing.

Night at Hotel Zabljak at Zabljak.

Birds Seen Today: 67                      New Birds: 14                      Total To Date: 112

Day 6: Friday 8<sup>th</sup> May

Route: Zabljak – Durmitor National Park – Zabljak.

After a good evening meal and a sound night's sleep we were woken at 5.00am by what we at first assumed was a large diesel engined lorry starting and warming up on a very cold morning. After this had been running for twenty minutes or so we decided to see if we could see where the noise was coming from only to find that it was in fact the local street cleaning brigade washing down the square in front of the hotel. Thankfully this only happened once a week, but unfortunately we picked the day it happened!

The weather had confounded both us as well as the forecasters with bright, cloud free skies and brilliant sunshine with temperatures much higher than anticipated. And not a sign of the expected rain!

The hotel was a typical eastern European style hotel, possibly from the late sixties or early seventies, badly in need of decoration and renovation, but after the last experience it was a pleasure to have a proper sized room in which to comfortably move around. A trip before breakfast to the local Crno Jezero, or Black Lake, gave us **Wood Pigeon**, Great Spotted Woodpecker, Jay, Coal Tit, **Goldcrest**, **Robin**, **Song Thrush** plus Chaffinches everywhere.

After breakfast we drove into the Durmitor National Park to spend the day in the area. Some of the first birds we saw once there included a flock of some 20 **Alpine Chough** while others included Northern Wheatear, **Black Redstart**, a good sighting of a pair of **Rufous-tailed Rock Thrush** plus a pair of **Marsh Tit**. We drove into the park as far as we could until stopped by snow drifts which were still blocking the road. At this point some of the group walked farther on to see 2 pairs of **Ring Ouzel** and **Water Pipit**.

After retreating back down the hill we had a picnic lunch with gigantic sandwiches supplied by the hotel, where we saw **Wood Warbler**, **Spotted Flycatcher** and heard **Yellowhammer**. We spent time in the pine woods to see **Eurasian Treecreeper**, good but fleeting views of **Black Woodpecker**, **Common Redstart** and close and sustained views of both **Firecrest** and **Crested Tit**.

Having spent an enjoyable day in the park we returned to the hotel to enjoy another good evening meal, again sampling plenty of the local wine.

Night at Hotel Zabljak at Zabljak.

Birds Seen Today: 50                      New Birds: 18                      Total To Date: 130

Day 7: Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> May

Route: Zabljak – Savnik – Niksic – Ostrog Monastery – Podgorica – Cetinje – Budva – Tivat – Bijela – Dubrovnik.

Another pre-breakfast stroll down to the near-by Black Lake to see Jay, Great Tit, Coal Tit, Goldcrest, pair of Song Thrush, our first **Duncock** and the ever present Chaffinch.

We then set off at 9.20am for the return journey to Dubrovnik via Niksic, Podgorica and Tivat. With plenty of stops along the way, around the lakes near Zabljak we saw Mallard, a solitary Coot, 6 **Wood Sandpiper**, 10 Ruff, well down on the 30+ we had seen there previously, Yellow-legged Gull, Skylark and Whinchat while on the journey we were to see Honey Buzzard, Eurasian Kestrel, **Peregrine Falcon**, Alpine Swift, 2 **Wryneck**, Red-backed Shrike, Raven, Red-rumped Swallow, Blue Tit, **Eurasian Nuthatch**, Chiffchaff, Golden Oriole, White Wagtail, Tree Pipit, Corn Bunting and good views of 4 **Hawfinch**.

Stopped for lunch overlooking the Ostrog Monastery and shortly after recommencing our journey we had excellent views of a **Golden Eagle** as it flew up and down the valley in front of the Monastery.

Our last stop was at the Tivat Salt Pans before crossing the Kotor Bay by the ferry to Kamenari. At the Salt Pans we saw Grey Heron, Purple Heron, about 12 to 15 Little Egret, **Eurasian Spoonbill**, Turtle Dove, Woodchat Shrike, **Lesser Grey Shrike**, as many as 3 Zitting Cisticola and the ever present Cetti's Warbler.

We then continued on our final drive to Mlini and through the border customs where nothing seemed to hurry them. Arriving at the hotel we had started from, we booked in, had a welcome shower and very pleasant farewell dinner in their a la carte restaurant; a most fitting end to a very good and enjoyable trip. During the dinner Attila copied all the photos taken by himself and the group onto a CD and presented a copy to each of us. A nice gesture and a welcome reminder of the trip.

Night at Hotel Astarea, Mlini, Croatia.

Birds Seen Today: 68                      New Birds: 9                      Total To Date: 139

Day 8: Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> May

Route: Dubrovnik – Exeter – Stourbridge.

An early morning trip out, just Pam, Attila and myself, to try and see if we could find a bird that had so far eluded us. Despite seeing Turtle Dove, Woodchat Shrike, Raven, Blackcap, Subalpine Warbler, Sardinian Warbler, Whinchat, Golden Oriole and Cirl Bunting, plus the usual, there was no *Olive-tree Warbler* to be found; perhaps we were too early and they had not yet arrived.

Following a substantial breakfast we loaded up the minibus for the last time and set off for the airport. Having bid our farewells to Attila we eventually boarded the plane and our flight to Exeter where Ray and his coach smoothly carried us back to Stourbridge.

Birds Seen Today: 28

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New Birds: 0

Total To Date: 139



## SYSTEMIC LISTS

## BIRDS

This includes all the species either seen or heard while in Croatia and Montenegro along with details of where they were observed.

The sequence, together with their English and scientific names generally follows the Howard and Moore Taxonomy.

- 1 **Little Grebe** *Tachybaptus ruficollis*  
Seen in various numbers on Lake Skadar.
- 2 **Great Crested Grebe** *Podiceps cristatus*  
Just 1 seen on 5<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> but large numbers on the boat trip on Lake Skadar on 6<sup>th</sup>.
- 3 **Dalmatian Pelican** *Pelecanus crispus*  
Nine on small bay at the north of Lake Skadar on the 6<sup>th</sup>.
- 4 **Great Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax carbo*  
Two at Ulcinj Salts Pans and several on Lake Skadar on the 6<sup>th</sup>.
- 5 **Pygmy Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax pygmeus*  
Very common on Lake Skadar.
- 6 **Grey Heron** *Ardea cinerea*  
Regular sightings throughout the trip near water.
- 7 **Purple Heron** *Ardea purpurea*  
Couple on Lake Skadar and 2 at Tivat Salt Pans.
- 8 **Great Egret** *Ardea alba*  
Just 1 seen on Lake Skadar.
- 9 **Little Egret** *Egretta garzetta*  
Common at Lake Skadar and Tivat Salt Pans.
- 10 **Squacco Heron** *Ardeola ralloides*  
Surprisingly common on marshes near Virpazar.
- 11 **Little Bittern** *Ixobrychus minutus*  
Three on the 6<sup>th</sup> and 1 on the 7<sup>th</sup> on Lake Skadar.
- 12 **Eurasian Spoonbill** *Platalea leucorodia*  
One seen at Tivat Salt Pans.
- 13 **Mallard** *Anas platyrhynchos*  
Seen at Bay of Kotor, on Lake Skadar, in Durmitor National Park and Tivat Salt Pans. The only duck seen.
- 14 **European Honey-Buzzard** *Pernis apivorus*  
Two seen each day after reaching Virpazar.
- 15 **Short-toed Eagle** *Circaetus gallicus*  
One seen on journey to Zabljak.
- 16 **Western Marsh-Harrier** *Circus aeruginosus*  
Pair on the north coast of Lake Skadar on the 6<sup>th</sup> and 1 on journey to Zabljak on 7<sup>th</sup>.
- 17 **Levant Sparrowhawk** *Accipiter brevipes*  
Single birds seen on 5<sup>th</sup> near Ulcinj and on 7<sup>th</sup> just south of Podgorica.
- 18 **Eurasian Buzzard** *Buteo buteo*  
One on 4<sup>th</sup> on journey to Virpazar, 3 on journey to Zabljak and 1 on 9<sup>th</sup> after leaving Zabljak.
- 18a **Steppe Buzzard** *Buteo buteo vulpinus*  
One at Virpazar on the 6<sup>th</sup> and 3 in the Durmitor National Park on the 8<sup>th</sup>.
- 19 **Golden Eagle** *Aquila chrysaetos*  
Very good views of 1 in front of Ostrog Monastery on 9<sup>th</sup>.
- 20 **Bonelli's Eagle** *Aquila fasciatus*  
Two on the 6<sup>th</sup> near Virpazar.
- 21 **Eurasian Kestrel** *Falco tinnunculus*  
Quite common, seen most days.
- 22 **Red-footed Falcon** *Falco vespertinus*  
One female near Virpazar on the 6<sup>th</sup>.
- 23 **Eurasian Hobby** *Falco subbuteo*  
One near Ulcinj on the 5<sup>th</sup>.

- 24 **Peregrine Falcon** *Falco peregrinus*  
One after leaving Zabljak on the 9<sup>th</sup>.
- 25 **Rock Partridge** *Alectoris graeca*  
One of the first birds seen as we stopped to look over the town of Dubrovnik on the 3<sup>rd</sup>.
- 26 **Common Moorhen** *Gallinula chloropus*  
Fairly common on Lake Skadar.
- 27 **Eurasian Coot** *Fulica atra*  
Quite common on Lake Skadar.
- 28 **Black-winged Stilt** *Himantopus himantopus*  
Two at Ulcinj Salt pans on the 5<sup>th</sup>.
- 29 **Eurasian Thick-Knee** *Burhinus oedicnemus*  
One seen briefly at Ulcinj Salt pans on the 5<sup>th</sup>.
- 30 **Collared Pratincole** *Glareola pratincola*  
Three at Ulcinj Salt pans on the 5<sup>th</sup>.
- 31 **Little Ringed Plover** *Charadrius dubius*  
Just 1 at Ulcinj Salt pans on the 5<sup>th</sup> seen by a few of the group.
- 32 **Kentish (Snowy) Plover** *Charadrius alexandrinus*  
Three at Ulcinj Salt pans on the 5<sup>th</sup>.
- 33 **Common Sandpiper** *Actitis hypoleucos*  
One at Ulcinj Salt pans on the 5<sup>th</sup>.
- 34 **Wood Sandpiper** *Tringa glareola*  
Six on lake near Zabljak; no doubt on migration.
- 35 **Common Redshank** *Tringa tetanus*  
Two at Ulcinj Salt pans on the 5<sup>th</sup>.
- 36 **Little Stint** *Calidris minuta*  
Six at Ulcinj Salt pans on 5<sup>th</sup>.
- 37 **Ruff** *Philomachus pugnax*  
About 30 birds seen on Lake Vrazje near Zabljak on the 7<sup>th</sup>, 21 on the 8<sup>th</sup> and 10 on the 9<sup>th</sup>.
- 38 **Yellow-legged Gull** *Larus michahellis*  
Very common, seen every day apart from Durmitor Nation Park.
- 39 **Black-headed Gull** *Larus ridibundus*  
A few seen on Lake Skadar on the 6<sup>th</sup>.
- 40 **Little Gull** *Larus minutus*  
One seen on Lake Vrazje near Zabljak on the 7<sup>th</sup>.
- 41 **Little Tern** *Sternula albifrons*  
Four or five seen at Ulcinj Salt pans on the 5<sup>th</sup>.
- 42 **Caspian Tern** *Hydroprogne caspia*  
One on the north coast of Lake Skadar near Podhum on the 6<sup>th</sup>.
- 43 **Whiskered Tern** *Chlidonias hybrida*  
Seen each day while at Virpazar.
- 44 **Common Tern** *Sterna hirundo*  
Seen on boat trip on Lake Skadar on the 6<sup>th</sup>.
- 45 **Rock Pigeon** *Columba livia*  
One at Skadar Lake on 5<sup>th</sup>, several in Tara Gorge on 7<sup>th</sup> and 3 at Durmitor National Park.
- 45a **Rock (Feral) Pigeon** *Columba livia 'feral'*  
Fairly common around towns.
- 46 **Common Wood-Pigeon** *Columba palumbus*  
One in Durmitor National Park on the 8<sup>th</sup>.
- 47 **Eurasian Turtle-Dove** *Streptopelia turtur*  
One in grounds of Hotel Mlini and 1 on journey to Virpazar, both on 4<sup>th</sup>, several on the 5<sup>th</sup> and 2 during return journey to Mlini on 9<sup>th</sup>.
- 48 **Eurasian Collared-Dove** *Streptopelia decaocto*  
Seen every day apart from in Durmitor National Park.
- 49 **Common Cuckoo** *Cuculus canorus*.  
Just 2 seen at Virpazar on the 5<sup>th</sup> but heard constantly calling on every other day.
- 50 **European Scops-Owl** *Otus scops*  
One seen by torchlight in Virpazar village square on the 6<sup>th</sup>. It had been heard the previous night as well as the following night but not seen.
- 51 **Little Owl** *Athene noctua*  
One seen on the 6<sup>th</sup> while returning from Podhum.

- 52 **Alpine Swift** *Tachymarptis melba*  
Quite a common bird with sightings of 6 or more on 5 days.
- 53 **Common Swift** *Apus apus*  
Common apart from at Durmitor National Park.
- 54 **Pallid Swift** *Apus pallidus*  
Three seen from boat on Lake Skadar on 6<sup>th</sup>.
- 55 **European Bee-Eater** *Merops apiaster*  
Regular sightings throughout the trip apart from Durmitor National Park.
- 56 **European Roller** *Coracias garrulous*  
Three seen while lunching near Ulcinj on 5<sup>th</sup>.
- 57 **Eurasian Hoopoe** *Upupa epops*  
Two seen on journey to Ulcinj on 5<sup>th</sup>.
- 58 **Eurasian Wryneck** *Jynx torquilla*  
One seen near Savnik on the 9<sup>th</sup>.
- 59 **Great Spotted Woodpecker** *Dendrocopos major*  
One on return journey from Ulcinj to Virpazar and 1 in Durmitor National Park on 8<sup>th</sup>.
- 60 **Black Woodpecker** *Dryocopus martius*  
Good but short view of single bird in Durmitor National Park on 8<sup>th</sup>.
- 61 **Calandra Lark** *Melanocorypha calandra*  
Three near Ulcinj on 5<sup>th</sup> plus 1 on journey to Podhum.
- 62 **Crested Lark** *Galerida cristata*  
Seen only on journey to Podhum on 6<sup>th</sup>.
- 63 **Eurasian Skylark** *Alauda arvensis*  
Seen only around Zabljak and Durmitor National Park.
- 64 **Sand Martin (Bank Swallow)** *Riparia riparia*  
Seen near Lake Skadar on the 6<sup>th</sup> and Tivat Salt pans on the 9<sup>th</sup>.
- 65 **Barn Swallow** *Hirundo rustica*  
Most common bird seen every day.
- 66 **Eurasian Crag-Martin** *Ptyonoprogne rupestris*  
Singles seen 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> and on journey to Zabljak.
- 67 **House Martin** *Delichon urbicum*  
Another common bird seen in large numbers every day.
- 68 **Red-rumped Swallow** *Cecropis daurica*  
Seen every day, apart from in Durmitor National Park, in numbers up to 6.
- 69 **Tawny Pipit** *Anthus campestris*  
Seen only on return journey to Virpazar on the 5<sup>th</sup>.
- 70 **Tree Pipit** *Anthus trivialis*  
Just 1 seen near Zabljak on the 7<sup>th</sup>.
- 71 **Water Pipit** *Anthus spinoletta*  
Just 1 seen and several heard singing in Durmitor National Park on the 8<sup>th</sup>.
- 72 **White Wagtail** *Motacilla alba*  
Seen in varying numbers up to about 4 each day on most days.
- 73 **Yellow Wagtail** *Motacilla flava feldeggi*  
Seen at lunch stop near Ulcinj on the 5<sup>th</sup>.
- 73a **Yellow Wagtail** *Motacilla flava flava*  
Seen at lunch stop near Ulcinj on the 5<sup>th</sup>.
- 73b **Yellow Wagtail** *Motacilla flava thunbergi*  
Seen at lunch stop near Ulcinj on the 5<sup>th</sup>.
- 73c **Yellow Wagtail** *Motacilla flava beema*  
Seen at lunch stop near Ulcinj on the 5<sup>th</sup>.
- 74 **Grey Wagtail** *Motacilla cinerea*  
Single birds seen on two days; 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>.
- 75 **Goldcrest** *Regulus regulus*  
One seen on early morning walk to Crno Jezero on the 8<sup>th</sup>. Further 1 heard on 9<sup>th</sup> but not seen.
- 76 **Firecrest** *Regulus ignicapilla*  
Excellent, close and long views of 1 bird in Durmitor National Park on 8<sup>th</sup>. Further 1 heard on 9<sup>th</sup> but not seen.
- 77 **Winter Wren** *Troglodytes troglodytes*  
Just 1 bird seen on journey to Zabljak on the 7<sup>th</sup>.
- 78 **Dunnock** *Prunella modularis*

- One seen on early morning walk to Crno Jezero on the 9<sup>th</sup>.
- 79 **Rufous-tailed Rock-Thrush** *Monticola saxatilis*  
Good views of a pair in Durmitor National Park on the 8<sup>th</sup>.
- 80 **Blue Rock-Thrush** *Monticola solitarius*  
Several sightings of single birds seen each day between 4<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>.
- 81 **Ring Ouzel** *Turdus torquatus*  
Two pairs seen in Durmitor National Park on the 8<sup>th</sup>.
- 82 **Eurasian Blackbird** *Turdus merula*  
Common, seen in good numbers each day.
- 83 **Song Thrush** *Turdus philomelos*  
One bird seen on early morning walk to Crno Jezero on the 8<sup>th</sup> and a pair seen on the 9<sup>th</sup>.
- 84 **Mistle Thrush** *Turdus viscivorus*  
Sightings of single birds on 4 days, mainly around Zabljak area.
- 85 **Fan-tailed Warbler (Zitting Cisticola)** *Cisticola juncidis*  
One seen on return journey to Virpazar on the 5<sup>th</sup> and 3 seen at Tivat Salt pans.
- 86 **Cetti's Warbler** *Cettia cetti*  
Heard at all suitable habitats but only seen once on return journey to Virpazar on the 5<sup>th</sup>.
- 87 **Eurasian Reed-Warbler** *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*  
One heard on north coast of Lake Skadar.
- 88 **Great Reed-Warbler** *Acrocephalus arundinaceus*  
Several birds heard but only 1 seen at Ulcinj Salt pans.
- 89 **Eastern Olivaceous Warbler** *Hippolais pallida*  
Just 1 heard singing on north coast of Lake Skadar on the 6<sup>th</sup>.
- 90 **Common Chiffchaff** *Phylloscopus collybita*  
A few sightings but heard most days.
- 91 **Wood Warbler** *Phylloscopus sibilatrix*  
Just 1 seen at lunch stop in Durmitor National Park on the 8<sup>th</sup>.
- 92 **Blackcap** *Sylvia atricapilla*  
One to 3 birds seen each day.
- 93 **Greater Whitethroat** *Sylvia communis*  
One seen at Ulcinj Salt pans.
- 94 **Lesser Whitethroat** *Sylvia curruca*  
One on journey to Virpazar on the 4<sup>th</sup>.
- 95 **Subalpine Warbler** *Sylvia cantillans*  
Quite a common bird with regular sightings each day apart from Zabljak area.
- 96 **Sardinian Warbler** *Sylvia melanocephala*  
One seen while overlooking Dubrovnik first day and 1 on early morning drive on last day.
- 97 **Spotted Flycatcher** *Muscicapa striata*  
Single bird in Durmitor National Park on 8<sup>th</sup> and 2 on early morning drive on last day.
- 98 **European Robin** *Erithacus rubecula*  
Surprisingly uncommon but 6 seen in Durmitor National Park on the 8<sup>th</sup> and 1 on the 9<sup>th</sup>.
- 99 **Common Nightingale** *Luscinia megarhynchos*  
Either seen or heard each day apart from the Zabljak area.
- 100 **Black Redstart** *Phoenicurus ochruros*  
Only seen in Durmitor National Park with 6 on the 8<sup>th</sup>.
- 101 **Common Redstart** *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*  
Only seen in Durmitor National Park with 3 on the 8<sup>th</sup>.
- 102 **Whinchat** *Saxicola rubetra*  
Regularly seen with between 2 and 5 each day between 5<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>.
- 103 **Northern Wheatear** *Oenanthe oenanthe*  
Not seen until we reached Zabljak, then quite common plus 1 on early morning drive on last day.
- 104 **Black-eared Wheatear** *Oenanthe hispanica*  
Fairly common on lower ground before driving into the mountains in the North.
- 105 **Long-tailed Tit** *Aegithalos caudatus*  
Few seen at stop near Kolasin on journey to Zabljak.
- 106 **Sombre Tit** *Poecile lugubris*  
One seen on drive along south coast of Lake Skadar on 5<sup>th</sup>.
- 107 **Marsh Tit** *Poecile palustris*  
Pair seen in Durmitor National Park on 8<sup>th</sup>.
- 108 **Coal Tit** *Periparus ater*

Seen on the drive to Virpazar and in Durmitor National Park on 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>.

- 109 **Crested Tit** *Lophophanes cristatus*  
Good and close views of 1 bird in Durmitor National Park on 8<sup>th</sup>.
- 110 **Great Tit** *Parus major*  
Common, seen every day.
- 111 **Blue Tit** *Cyanistes caeruleus*  
Seen only on the 4<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>.
- 112 **Eurasian Nuthatch** *Sitta europaea*  
Two seen on the return journey from Zabljak to Dubrovnik.
- 113 **Rock Nuthatch** *Sitta neumayer*  
Bird heard calling near Kolasin on journey to Zabljak on the 7<sup>th</sup>.
- 114 **Eurasian Treecreeper** *Certhia familiaris*  
One seen in Durmitor National Park on the 8<sup>th</sup>.
- 115 **Eurasian Golden Oriole** *Oriolus oriolus*  
Regular sightings of 2 to 3 birds throughout the trip.
- 116 **Red-backed Shrike** *Lanius collurio*  
Between 1 and 3 birds seen while driving on 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>.
- 117 **Lesser Grey Shrike** *Lanius minor*  
One at Tivat Saltpans.
- 118 **Woodchat Shrike** *Lanius senator*  
Single birds seen on viewpoint over Dubrovnik, near Ulcinj Saltpans, at Tivat Saltpans and early morning drive on last day.
- 119 **Eurasian Jay** *Garrulus glandarius*  
Regular sightings of up to 4 birds most days.
- 120 **Eurasian Magpie** *Pica pica*  
Common.
- 121 **Yellow-billed Cough** *Pyrhocorax graculus*  
Sixteen birds seen in Durmitor National Park on the 8<sup>th</sup>.
- 122 **Eurasian Jackdaw** *Corvus monedula*  
Seen each day apart from first and last.
- 123 **Hooded Crow** *Corvus cornix*  
Very common.
- 124 **Common Raven** *Corvus corax*  
Regularly seen in the Zabljak area.
- 125 **European Starling** *Sturnus vulgaris*  
Seen each day apart from first and last.
- 126 **House Sparrow** *Passer domesticus*  
Common, seen each day.
- 127 **Spanish Sparrow** *Passer hispaniolensis*  
Five seen at Ulcinj Saltpans plus a few on the 6<sup>th</sup>.
- 128 **Eurasian Tree Sparrow** *Passer montanus*  
Pair seen on return journey to Virpazar on the 6<sup>th</sup> and on journey to Zabljak on the 7<sup>th</sup>.
- 129 **Chaffinch** *Fringilla coelebs*  
A few seen each day around Virpazar but common in the Zabljak area.
- 130 **European Greenfinch** *Carduelis chloris*  
Regular sightings of a few birds.
- 131 **Eurasian Siskin** *Carduelis spinus*  
Just one seen on way to Zabljak on 7<sup>th</sup>.
- 132 **European Goldfinch** *Carduelis carduelis*  
Very regular sightings of flocks of up to 20 birds.
- 133 **Eurasian Linnet** *Carduelis cannabina*  
Seen in small numbers in the Durmitor National Park area.
- 134 **Hawfinch** *Coccothraustes coccothraustes*  
4 seen near Savnik on return to Dubrovnik
- 135 **Yellowhammer** *Emberiza citronella*  
Heard only in the Durmitor National Park.
- 136 **Cirl Bunting** *Emberiza cirius*  
One seen each day apart from 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>.
- 137 **Rock Bunting** *Emberiza cia*  
One bird giving good views in the Lovcen National Park on the 4<sup>th</sup>.

- 138 **Ortolan Bunting** *Emberiza hortulana*  
 One heard on way to Zabljak.
- 139 **Corn Bunting** *Emberiza calandra*  
 Regular sightings throughout the trip.

OTHER WILDLIFE SEEN

MAMMALS

- 1 **Common Weasel** *Mustela nivalis*
- 2 **European Roe Deer** *Capreolus capreolus*
- 3 **Eurasian Red Squirrel** *Sciurus vulgaris*
- 4 **Northern White-breasted Hedgehog** *Erinaceus roumanicus*

REPTILES

- 1 **European Green Lizard** *Lacerta viridis*
- 2 **European Glass Lizard** *Pseudopus apodus*
- 3 **Dalmatian Wall Lizard** *Podarcis melisellensis*
- 4 **Eastern Montpellier Snake** *Malpolon insignitus*
- 5 **Western Whip Snake** *Coluber viridiflavus*
- 6 **Nose-horned Viper** *Vipera ammodytes*

BUTTERFLIES AND MOTHS

- 1 **Swallowtail** *Papilio machaon*
  - 2 **Scarce Swallowtail** *Iphiclides podalirius*
  - 3 **Mountain Small White** *Artogeia ergane*
  - 4 **Green-veined White** *Artogeia napi*
  - 5 **Orange Tip** *Anthocharis cardamines*
  - 6 **Brimstone** *Gonepteryx rhimni*
  - 7 **Green Hairstreak** *Callophrys rubi*
  - 8 **Common Blue** *Polyommatus icarus*
  - 9 **Small Heath** *Coenonympha pamphilus* Male & Female
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- 1 **Syntomid Moth** *Syntomis phegea*
  - 2 **Treble Brown Spot Moth** *Idaea trigeminata*

OTHER INSECTS

- 1 **Broad-bodied Chaser** *Orthetrum cancellatum*
- 2 **Egyptian Grasshopper** *Anacridium aegyptium*
- 3 **Weevil** *Otirhynchus clavipes*
- 4 **Ground Beetle** *Pterosticus* ssp
- 5 **Longhorn Beetle** *Agapanthia* sp ----- (kirbyi?)
- 6 **Millipede** *Tachypodoiulus niger*
- 7 **Crab Spider** *Heriaeus hirtus*
- 8 **Scorpion** *Euscorpis italicus*

## ORCHIDS

- 1 **Loose Flowered Orchid** *Orchis laxiflora*
- 2 **Bog Orchid** *Orchis palustris*
- 3 **Sparse Flowered Orchid** *Orchis provincialis ssp pauciflora*
- 4 **Green Winged Orchid** *Orchis morio*
- 5 **Toothed Orchid** *Orchis tridentata*
- 6 **Milky Orchid** *Orchis lactea*
- 7 **Monkey Orchid** *Orchis simia*
- 8 **Pyramidal Orchid** *Anacamptis pyramidalis*
- 9 **Plough Share Serapias** *Serapias vomeracea*
- 10 **Yellow Ophrys** *Ophrys lutea*
- 11 **Bumble Bee Ophrys** *Ophrys bombyliflora*
- 12 **Horned Woodcock Ophrys** *Ophrys cornuta*
- 13 **Bertoloni's Ophrys** *Ophrys bertolonii*
- 14 ----- *Serapia sp*
- 15 **Helleborine sp** -----

## OTHER PLANTS

- 1 **Birthwort sp** *Aristolochia sp (rotunda?)*
- 2 **Fig** *Ficus carica*
- 3 ----- *Anemone blanda*
- 4 **Wood Anemone** *Anemone nemorosa*
- 5 **Yellow Poppy sp** *Papaver sp*
- 6 **Moricandia** *Moricandia arvensis*
- 7 **Drooping Bittercress** *Cardamine enneaphyllos*
- 8 **Stonecrop sp** -----
- 9 **Dog Rose** -----
- 10 **Cinquefoil sp** -----
- 11 **Wild Strawberry** *Fragaria vesca*
- 12 ----- *Vicia melanops*
- 13 **Pea** -----
- 14 ----- *Trifolium nigrescens*
- 15 **Strawberry Clover** *Trifolium fragiferum*
- 16 ----- *Euphorbia sp*
- 17 **Glaucous Spurge** *Euphorbia myrsinites*
- 18 **Dictamnus sp** -----
- 19 ----- *Daphne gnidium*
- 20 **Daphne** *Daphne*
- 21 **Voilet sp** -----
- 22 **Mountain Pansy** *Viola lutea*
- 23 **Cistus** *Cistus crispus / albidus*
- 24 **Pomegranate Flower** *Punica granatum*
- 25 **Fennel** *Foeniculum vulgare*
- 26 ----- *Orlaya sp*
- 27 **Tordylium** *Tordylium apulum*
- 28 **Cowslip** *Primula veris*
- 29 **Oxlip** *Primula elatior*
- 30 ----- *Gentiana verna*
- 31 **Spring Gentian** *Gentiana verna*
- 32 **Convolvulus sp** *Convolvulus sp*
- 33 **Viper's Bugloss** *Echium vulgare*
- 34 ----- *Anchusa sp*
- 35 ----- *Cynoglossum sp*
- 36 **Jerusalem Sage** *Phlomis fruticosa*
- 37 **Thyme** -----
- 38 **Mullein sp** *Verbascum sp*
- 39 ----- *Veronica sp*

- 40 **Clustered Bellflower** *Campanula glomerata*
- 41 **Spreading Bellflower** *Campanula sparsa / patula*
- 42 **Thistle sp** -----
- 43 **Illyrain Scotch Thistle** *Onopordon illyricum*
- 44 **Milk Thistle** *Silybum marianum*
- 45 ----- *Tragopogon sp*
- 46 **Dog's Tooth Violet** *Eythronium dens-canis*
- 47 **Yellow Asphodel** *Asphodeline lutea*
- 48 ----- *Ornithogalum sp*
- 49 **Meadow Squill** *Scilla litardierei*
- 50 **Scilla sp** -----
- 51 **Naples Garlic** *Allium neapolitanum*
- 52 **Rosy Garlic** *Allium roseum*
- 53 ----- *Gladiolus sp*
- 54 **Crocus sp** -----

- 1 **Pittosporum** *Pittosporum tobira*
- 2 **Rusty Back Fern** *Ceterach officinarum*
- 3 **Palm**
- 4 **Italian Cypress**