



Montenegro

26th July – 4th August 2022

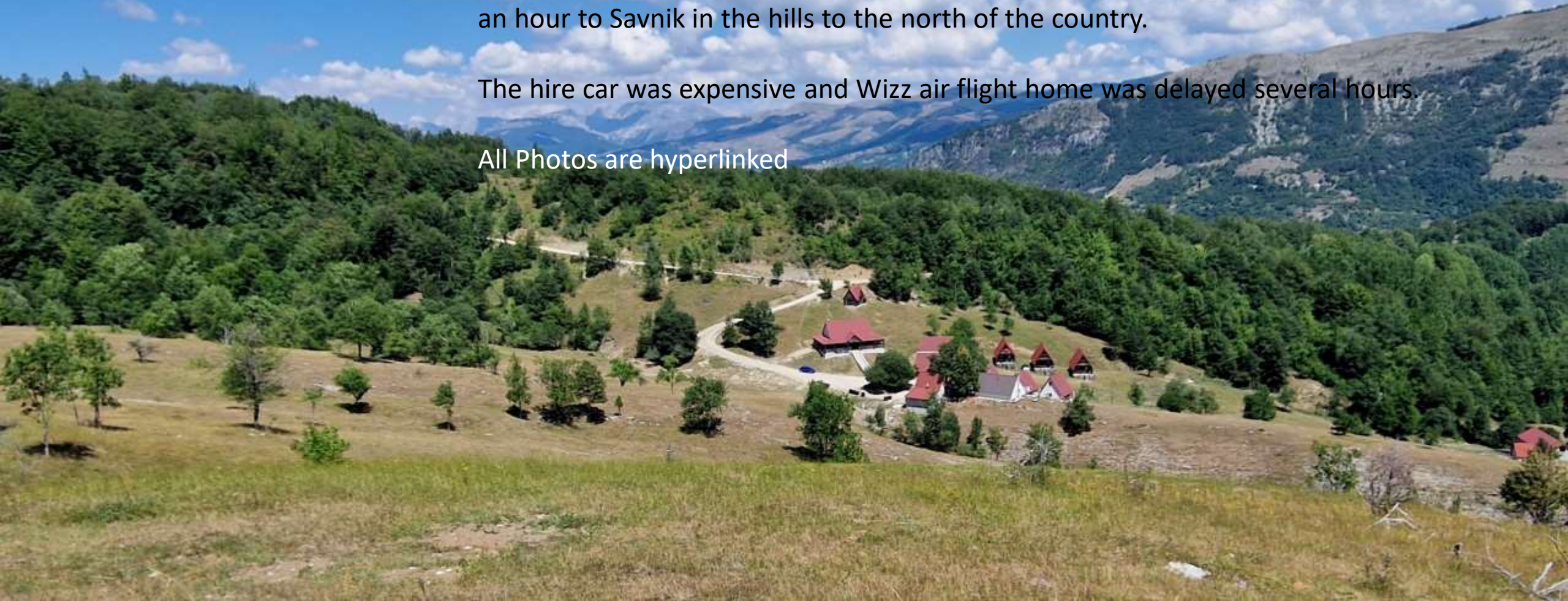
Introduction

After the Covid interruption the Dutch mammal Society Field Trip to Montenegro was given the green light to go ahead. We stayed in Ethno village Vojnik not far from Savnik in the Northern part of Montenegro, the area is dominated by hills and mountains, a high plateau and river gorges and is a very picturesque. Although mammal focussed we recorded all taxa. The weather was generally hot and dry but we had a couple of nights of storms.

I flew Wizz air from Gatwick to Podgorica and had a hire car from Sixt to drive just over an hour to Savnik in the hills to the north of the country.

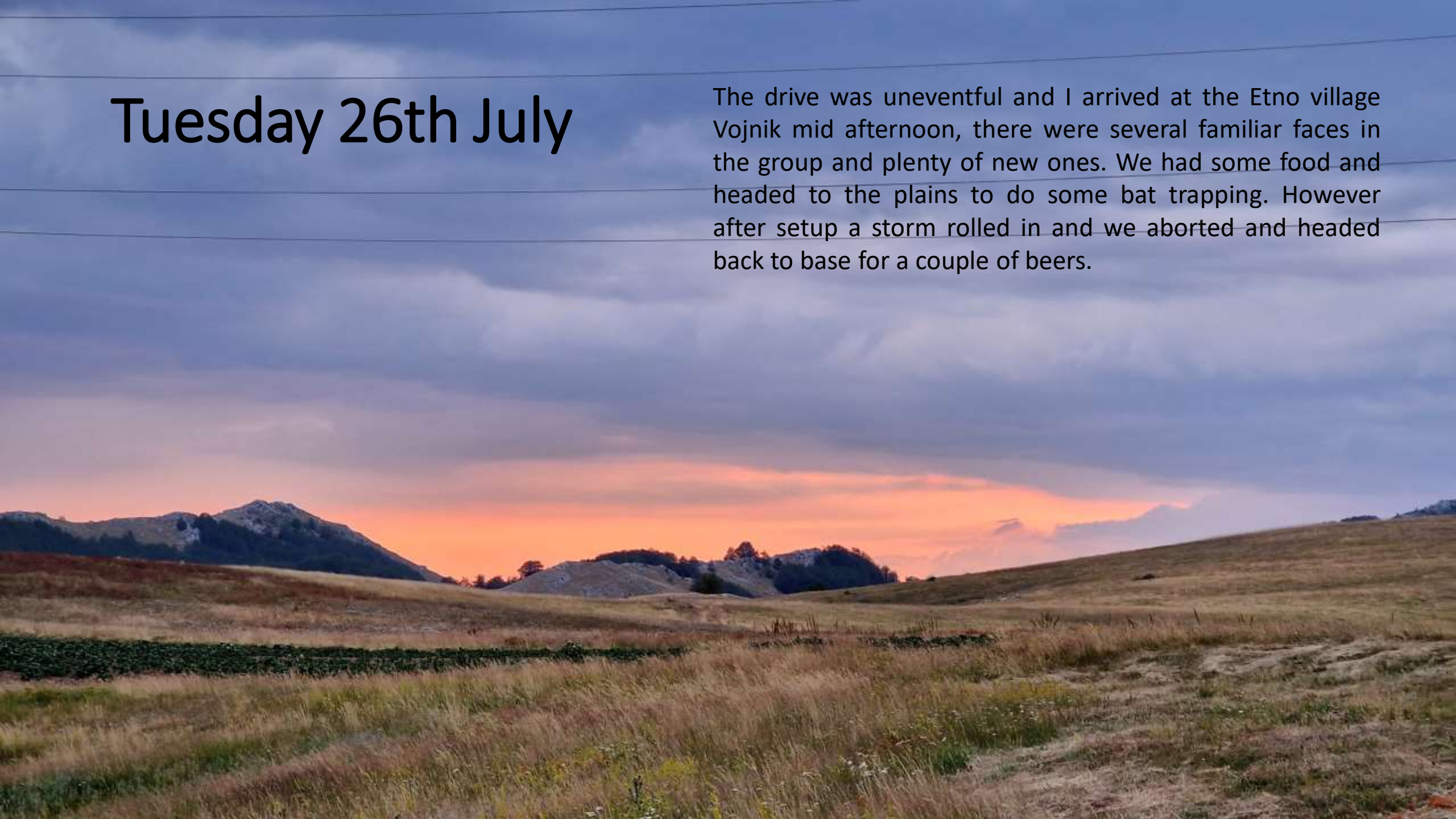
The hire car was expensive and Wizz air flight home was delayed several hours.

All Photos are [hyperlinked](#)



Tuesday 26th July

The drive was uneventful and I arrived at the Ethno village Vojnik mid afternoon, there were several familiar faces in the group and plenty of new ones. We had some food and headed to the plains to do some bat trapping. However after setup a storm rolled in and we aborted and headed back to base for a couple of beers.



I was up early and had a wander round the site before the heat of the day, nice bee eaters and a family of red backed shrikes entertained. We headed off to some lakes and a gorge near Savnik to set some longworth traps at several sites. We had lots of incidental sightings while setting the traps a few Balkan green lizards a lesser grey shrike, alpine swift, a few butterflies such as Southern red admiral.



Striped Shieldbug

Wednesday 27th July

We stopped for lunch in a local café where a power cut interrupted the cooking but it did return and we had something to eat with a flyover short toed snake eagle. We headed back to base to get ready for the evening bat catching activities. We were set up and a few bats started to fly but again a big thunder storm rolled in and we packed up before catching a bat. We drove back to base for a beer or two stopping for a hare and a frog sp.

Thursday 28th July

Another hot day, checking the traps we had an Edible dormouse in one of the large Shermans but not much else. A nice honey buzzard, a hare, a nice hummingbird hawkmoth.



Aesculapian Snake eating Edible Dormouse



Northern white-breasted hedgehog

I took a walk down to the local church in the afternoon a stoat crossed the path, very nice and a large tortoiseshell. A rain shower interrupted proceedings and after dinner we check the longworth traps a common vole the only thing present, but I did find an edible dormouse that was present in a disused building. Driving back in the dark we came across two Northern white-breasted hedgehogs and an Aesculapian snake eating an edible dormouse.

Friday 29th July



Field garlic

Another hot day, the Longworths traps yielded wood mice, and common voles and the traps by the stream had a nice water shrew. I had a good walk on the high plain a nice hoopoe and a short toed snake eagle. Early afternoon I headed back to base and had a few hours relaxing during the heat of the day. We did a night drive after checking the traps - several green toads, and a yellow necked mouse running down the road giving good views for several minutes were the highlights.



Silver Washed Fritillary

Saturday 30th July

After trap checking I drove to a small gorge nr Savnik for a walk, a nice grass snake was hunting tadpoles in the stream and Balkan ringed dragonflies were buzzing about. The area had a nice selection of butterflies and some rather nice plants such as Carthusian Pink. We drove up the massive gorge - Nevidio Canyon with spectacular views and a colony of cliff nesting house martins. We drove slowly through the gorge and across the plateau at the top spotting a nice selection of birds hoopoe, peregrine, sombre tit, spotted flycatcher. We explored some of the churches looking for signs of bats before heading back to base. A few of us took a walk to the river a nice Eastern Green lizard, some scorpions of note. It was incredibly hot so I left the group to continue to the river and I explored the area on a slow wander back. I stopped at the church for a look, there were plenty of bat droppings so I planned a visit after dinner to see what bats were present. I was joined by a Dutch colleague at the church and we had detectors trained on the church and I started to film on my phone as the bats started to fly, they were long eared bats but we could not be sure which species. Back at base the moth trap attracted a massive Tanner beetle.



Grass Snake

Sunday 31st July

More trap checking first thing produced a nice water shrew and a mouse it looked like a house mouse but closer inspection I was pretty sure that this was Macedonian mouse, which lacks the distinctive smell of the house mouse. I have trapped them before a couple of times and am pretty sure that the ID is correct. It was mega hot so I had a chilled afternoon. After dinner we split into two bat trapping groups one headed to the church where I saw bats the previous evening and another group headed to the plains to trap over a stream, I was in this group and took the moth trap with me. We had a phone call that they had caught some of the long eared bats at the church so a couple of us drove down to take a look. They were processing a couple of Alpine long eared bats which were new to me. We drove back to the plains area a fox crossed the road and close to the traps we encountered a lesser mole rat running up the road, we got out and managed to catch it for some photos before letting it go in the grass. We did not catch any bats on the plains but I had a few nice moths in the trap, tawny wave, tissue, gallium carpet.



Water Shrew



Macedonian Mouse



Lesser Mole Rat

Lesser Mouse eared Bat



The traps had a couple of yellow necked mice then a couple of us took a drive in the gorge getting out to walk at several sites looking for wildlife, plentiful bird life, dipper, crag martin, black redstart along with a smooth snake and a few nice plants including flowering houseleeks. Late afternoon we headed back for dinner then headed to Podmalinsko Monastery to bat trap by the river, this was quite successful with Whiskered, Parti coloured, lesser mouse eared and natterer's bats.

Monday 1st August



Tuesday 2nd August

After checking the mammal traps I spent the morning on the plains looking for insects doing a bit of sweep netting for ladybirds I managed to find a few species *Exochomus nigromaculatus* and *Platynaspis luteorubra* of note.

I headed to the small gorge just north of Sarnik to eat my picnic in a nice shady spot, the area had a nice selection of plants and butterflies. I looked for insects here as well finding several shieldbugs.

My last stop was a walk by the lakes doing a bit of sweep netting more shieldbugs and a couple of cormorants were fishing on the lakes but not much else. I did a little shopping before heading back for dinner.



Platynaspis luteorubra



Alpine Long Eared Bat

We headed to the gorge to bat trap, I took the moth trap as well (Jersey Tiger, sprinkled rustic, gold triangle). Bat wise we caught Alpine long eared bat, Geoffroy's and natterer's bats.

And also we had a very nice flyover of Free tailed bat.

Wednesday 3rd
August



Yellow Necked Mouse



Red Backed Shrike

My last full day and after trap checks a couple of wood mice and a yellow necked mouse I walked back to the accommodation from the trapping site, I had a nice honey buzzard, some bee eaters, a red backed shrike family, loads of butterflies and I spent quite a bit of time photographing them before heading back to base for an ice cream and a couple of hours relaxing before dinner. It was trap checking after dinner one yellow necked mouse and I had the moth trap running for the last time – fortified carpet and Burren green the pick. It was midnight so cake and beers for my birthday a nice way to finish off a nice trip.

Thursday 4th August

I had a leisurely drive to the airport to fly home and had a nice 3 hour delay waiting for my flight.



Lists

Here is a list of what I saw, The group recorded over 40 mammal species on the trip, but that included trail cameras, static bat detectors, tracks and signs, dead animals etc as well as live sightings.



Illyrian Walking Bush-cricket

flickr

Mammals - 21

Brown Hare	Edible Dormouse	Stoat
Common Vole	Wood mouse	Yellow Necked Mouse
Water Shrew	Macedonian Mouse	Red Fox
Lesser Mole rat	Alpine Long eared bat	Northern white-breasted hedgehog
Whiskered Bat	Lesser Mouse eared Bat	Parti coloured Bat
Natterer's bat	Geoffroy's bat	Weasel
Stoat	European Free Tailed Bat	Field Vole



Alpine Long Eared Bat



Edible Dormouse



Common Vole

Birds - 39



Short Toed Snake Eagle

Dipper	Grey Wagtail	White Wagtail
Red backed Shrike	Lesser Grey Shrike	Great Tit
Red Rumped Swallow	Tree Swallow	Bee eater
Goldfinch	Chaffinch	Blackbird
Linnet	House Martin	Yellowhammer
Nuthatch	Rock Dove	Honey Buzzard
Green Woodpecker	Stock Dove	Raven
Northern Wheatear	Hoopoe	kestrel
Eagle sp	Common buzzard	Whitethroat
Sombre tit	Peregrine	Spotted Flycatcher
House Sparrow	Tree Sparrow	Jay
Crag Martin	Black redstart	Collared Dove
Eagle sp	Cormorant	Corn Bunting



Red Backed Shrike

Butterflies - 39



Sooty Copper

Southern Red Admiral	Painted Lady	Scarce Swallowtail
Marbled White	Large Tortoiseshell	Brimstone
Silver Washed Fritillary	The Hermit	Small Tortoiseshell
Sooty Copper	Silver-washed Fritillary	Scarce Copper
Purple Hairstreak	Meadow Brown	Large Skipper
Great Sooty Satyr	Dusky Meadow Brown	Dark Green Fritillary
Damon Blue	Common Blue	Clouded Yellow
Chalk Hill Blue	The Dryad	Silver Spotted Skipper
Brown Argus	Large White	White Admiral
Speckled Wood	Large Wall Brown	Queen of Spain Fritillary
Woodland Grayling	High Brown fritillary	Small White
Oberthür's Grizzled Skipper	Holly Blue	Blue Spot Hairstreak
Brown hairstreak	Green Underside Blue	Small Heath



The Hermit

Herps 11



Balkan Green Lizard	Fire Bellied toad	Green Toad
Frog sp	Nose Horned Viper	Aesculapian snake
Grass snake	Smooth Snake	Common Wall Lizard
Midwife toad	Eastern Green Lizard	



Moths



Burren Green



Fortified Carpet

Hummingbird hawkmoth	Uncertain	Tree Lichen Beauty
Yellow-barred Brindle	Yellow Shell	Tawny Wave
Tissue	Sycamore	Tawny Speckled Pug
Synaphe punctalis	sprinkled rustic	Small Waved Umber
Small Phoenix	Small Elephant Hawk-moth	Elephant Hawk-moth
Sitochroa verticalis	Silver Y	Setaceous Hebrew Character
September Thorn	Selagia spadicella	Scarce Footman
Rusty Dot Pearl	Rustic	Rustic Shoulder-knot
Ruddy Carpet	Rosy Footman	Riband Wave
Pyrausta purpuralis	Pyrausta despicata	Purple Treble-bar
Phycita roborella	Pempelia palumbella	Pebble Hook-tip
Paramesia gnomana	Pale Prominent	Oncocera semirubella
Oak Hook-tip	Nine-spotted Moth	Mullein Wave
Mottled Beauty	Mint Moth	Minor Shoulder-knot
Marbled orchard tortrix	Maple pug	Maple Prominent
Little Emerald	Lime-speck Pug	Notocelia roborana
Latticed heath	L-album Wainscot	Lackey
Lace Border	Jersey Tiger	Hoary Footman
Heart and Dart	Heart and Club	Handmaid
Gypsy Moth	Grey pug	Grey Birch
Garden Carpet	Gallium Carpet	Four-spotted Footman
Fortified Carpet	Eudonia lacustrata	Evergestis limbata
Dusky Brocade	Dun-bar	Double-striped Pug
Dew Moth	Delicate	Dark Arches
Dark Sword-grass	Copper underwing	Common Heath
Common Carpet	Clouded-bordered Brindle	Cloaked Carpet
Clay	Chocolate-tip	Chalk Carpet
Catoptria pinella	Catoptria falsella	Cabbage Moth
Burren green	Bud Moth	Bryotropha basaltinella
Brown-line Bright-eye	Bright Wave	Barred Straw
Barred Hook-tip	Argyresthia goedartella	Ancylosis cinnamomella
Agonopterix arenella	Agapeta zoegana	Aethes smeathmanniana
Acrobasis tumidana	Burnet Companion	Marbled Clover

Plants

Yellow woundwort	Yellow Oxeye	Yellow rattle
Yarrow	Wood Cow wheat	Wild carrot
Wild Basil	Whorled Clary	White Stonecrop
Wayfaring tree	Wall rue	Wall lettuce
Wall Germander	Tunic flower	Trailing Bellflower
Travellers Joy	Swedish whitebeam	Sticky Clary
Squinancywort	Spreading bellflower	Spiny restharrow
Spanish Stonecrop	Sowbane	Soapwort
Small Scabious	Slender St John's-wort	Skullcap
Sickle-leaved Hare's-ear	Sessile Oak	Selfheal
Saltmarsh rush	Salsify	Rusty Back Fern
Rampion Bellflower	Purple Loostrife	Perforate St John's-wort
Perennial Wall-rocket	Peach-leaved Bellflower	Nottingham Catchfly
Large Thyme	Nodding Thistle -	Nettle-leaved Bellflower
Narrow Leaved Ragwort	Mouse-ear Hawkweed	Mountain Germander
Mountain clover	Meadow Clary	Maiden Pink
Livelong Saxifrage	Long-stalked Crane's-bill	Large flowered Hemp nettle
Ladies bedstraw	Knapweed	Juniper
Hungarian Mullein	House-leek	Horse-radish
Horsemint	Hornbeam	Hedgerow Crane's-bill
Herb-Robert	Hard Rush	Hairy sedge
Gypsywort	Greater Plantain	Greater dodder
Grass of Parnassus	Garden yellow loosestrife	Garden Lady's-mantle
Fool's Parsley	Fly Honeysuckle	Fireweed - Chamaenerion angustifolium
Field Scabious	Field garlic	Dwarf Thistle
Danewort	Crown Vetch	Cross Gentian
Creeping cinquefoil	Common Water crowfoot	Common viper's bugloss
Common Toadflax	Common Spotted Orchid	Common Spleenwort
Common Ragwort	Common Bird's-foot-trefoil	Common Bindweed
Chicory	Chenopodium album	Carthusian Pink
Carlina Thistle	butterbur	Bulrush
Brown sedge	Broad leaved Everlasting Pea	Broad leaved Dock
Blue Fleabane	Blue eryngo	Black Medick
Asarum europaeum	Biting Stonecrop	Basil Thyme
Black horehound	Amaranthus sp	Arum maculatum
Alder Buckthorn	Agrimony	Acanthus-leaved Carlina-Thistle
Myrtle Spurge		



Fireweed

House Leek

Misc.



Rose Chafer

Praying Mantis	Field Cricket	Balkan Golden Ringed Dragonfly
Violet Carpenter Bee	Tanner Beetle	White Spotted Rose Chafer
Wart Biter	Volucella zonaria	Upland Green Bush-cricket
Tortoise shieldbug	Stripe-winged Grasshopper	Striped shield bug
Stenurella melanura	Spilostethus saxatilis	Southern Skimmer
Small Redeye Damselfly	saddle-backed bush cricket	Rose Chafer
Reduvius personatus	Pyrrhocoris apterus	Praying Mantis
Platynaspis luteorubra	Oak Bush-cricket	Large saw-tailed bush-cricket
large banded grasshopper	Illyrican Walking Bush-cricket	Harlequin ladybird
Green Shieldbug	Great Green Bush-cricket	Graphoderus cinereus
Graceful Bush-cricket	Forest Cockroach	Four Spot Orbweaver
Exochomus nigromaculatus	euscorpis italicus	Euscorpis flavicaudis
dor beetle	dock bug	Dark-shouldered Shieldbug
Dark Bush-cricket	Dalmatian Dark Bush-cricket	Brassica Shieldbug
Blue-winged Grasshopper	Blue Featherleg	Adonis' ladybird
24-spot Ladybird	16 Spot Ladybird	14 Spot Ladybird
7 Spot ladybird	Four Spotted Chaser	



Euscorpis italicus



Wartbiter



Praying Mantis