

Hvar, Croatia

24/7-31/7 2010



View over the town of Hvar.

Photo: Peter Rudhe©

General:

Me and my family went to Croatia for one week's vacation for a lot of swimming and basking in the sun, the last week of July. Although very little time was spent for bird watching, some nice birds were seen on the trip.

We flew from Arlanda, Stockholm to Split with Norwegian for 1000 SEK for one person. We had rented an apartment in Split for one night and then an apartment in Hvar town on Hvar for the other six days. We were very pleased with both of our residents.

The weather was very comfortable. In the air, around 25-28°C and 23°C in the water. We had sunny almost all of our days, except the penultimate day when a real storm came over Hvar with a lot of rain and lightning.

Hvar Island:

The Island of Hvar is located southwest of Split in the Dalmatian region. It takes around one hour with the catamaran from Split and two hour with the local ferry. The city of Hvar is the biggest town and most of the ferries goes to this town. The town is situated on the southwest coast of the island. It's a nice town, which I really can recommend.

Besides the city of Hvar we did some sightseeing both with bicycles and car. We then visited the villages Stari Grad and Jelsa.

List of bird-species observed on Hvar, July 26-31

- 1. Cory's Shearwater** *Calonectris d. diomedea*
7 ex. were seen on a boat trip from Hvar to Vis on the 29th.
- 2. Short-toed Eagle** *Circaetus gallicus*
2 ex. close to the village of Grablje on the 28th.
- 3. Eurasian Honey Buzzard** *Pernis apivorus*
1 ex. at the village of Grablje on the 28th.
- 4. Eleonora's Falcon** *Falco eleonora*
3 ex. were seen on the island Bisevo, southwest of Vis. 1 ex. pale, 1 ex. dark and 1 ex. unknown morph. 1 ex. were also seen on the southwest peak of Vis, pale morph. Both observations were made on the 29th.
- 5. Yellow-legged Gull** *Larus michahellis*
Common, was seen every day. Good observations were possible on a waste disposal site a few kilometers north of the town of Hvar, on the road to Brusje.
- 6. Feral Pigeon** *Columba livia*
- 7. Eurasian Collared Dove** *Streptopelia decaocto*
Common, seen every day.
- 8. European Turtle Dove** *Streptopelia turtur*
A few birds were seen almost every day.
- 9. Common Swift** *Apus apus*
5 ex. on the 26th, 10 ex. on the 27th, 5 ex. on the 30th.
- 10. Pallid Swift** *Apus pallidus*
1 ex. on the 27th, 5 ex. on the 28th, 4 ex. on the island of Ravnik, on the 29th, 2 ex. on the 30th.
- 11. Alpine Swift** *Apus melba*
2 ex. Hvar town on the 27th, 8 ex. Grablje on the 28th.
- 12. European Bee-eater** *Merops apiaster*

20 ex. in Vrboska, 40 ex. in Jelsa on the 27th.



European Bee-eater in Vrboska.

Photo: Peter Rudhe©

13. Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica*

Common. Seen every day.

14. House Martin *Delichon urbicum*

Common. Seen every day.

15. White Wagtail *Motacilla alba*

1 ex. in Vrboska on the 27th.

16. European Blackbird *Turdus merula*

Common

17. Blue Rock Thrush *Monticola solitaries*

1 male seen in Hvar town on the 26th and 27th.

18. Sardinian Warbler *Sylvia melanocephala*

Common.

19. Great Tit *Parus major*

1 ex. seen in Hvar town on the 27th and 28th.

20. Red-backed Shrike *Lanius collurio*

Common.

21. Hooded Crow *Corvus cornix*

Common.

22. Common Raven *Corvus corax*

1 ex. on the island Bisevo

23. House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*

Common.

24. Spanish Sparrow *Passer hispaniolensis*

100 ex. in a colony just northwest of the town Jelsa in wine farming area.

25. Common Chaffinch *Fringilla coelebs*

Common.

26. European Goldfinch *Carduelis carduelis*

2 ex. in Jelsa on the 27th.

27. European Serin *Serinus serinus*

2 ex. seen on the 27th and the 28th.

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