

# BIRDING TRIP REPORT

*THE ISLAND OF VIS 2015–2019*

INCLUDING SITE LIST



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# BIRDING TRIP REPORT: THE ISLAND OF VIS 2015–2019, INCLUDING SITE LIST

## THE ISLAND OF VIS (SOUTHERN DALMATIA, CROATIA) INCLUDING THE FERRY SPLIT–VIS.

Swedish birdwatchers have done some birding on Vis 2015–2019.

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FRONT PAGE PHOTO: BLACK-WINGED STILT  
(**HIMANTOPUS HIMANTOPUS**), VIS JULY 2016  
BY BENGT JÖNSSON

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Common Kestrel (Tornfalk), Vis July 2016 Photo by Bengt Jönsson

# INTRODUCTION/INLEDNING

This guide to the birds of Vis consists of two parts. First, we present the most interesting observations we made during the years 2015-2019. Then follows a section where we list the sites that we found most rewarding from a birdwatcher's point of view. The sites are listed first in Vis city and then clockwise (right-hand turn) if you look at a map.

The observations were mainly made during annual visits to the island 2-3 weeks in July-August and 1 week in April and October respectively.

The island of Vis and the areas described are all part of the Global Geopark Vis Archipelago, which was established by UNESCO on April 17, 2019.

Denna guide till fåglarna på Vis består av två delar. Först presenteras de mest intressanta observationer vi gjort under åren 2015-2019. Därefter följer en del där vi listar de lokaler som vi funnit mest givande ur artperspektiv. Lokalerna anges med början i Vis stad och sedan medsols (högervarv) om man betraktar en karta.

Observationerna gjordes huvudsakligen under årliga besök på ön 2-3 veckor i juli-augusti och 1 vecka i april respektive oktober.

Ön Vis och de beskrivna områdena ingår alla i Global Geopark Vis Archipelago, som instiftades av UNESCO 17 april 2019.

# LIST OF BIRD SPECIES/ ARTLISTA

Bird names in: English (Swedish), Latin.

If not otherwise stated, observations are made in July–August.

Taxonomy mostly follows the IOC World Bird List (Gill & Donsker 2017).

## **Pheasants, Partridges and Quails 1**

Common Pheasant (Fasan), *Phasianus colchicus*. Observed in cultivated areas, fields.

## **Petrels and Shearwaters 2**

Scopoli's Shearwater (Scopolilira), *Calonectris diomedea*. Seen from the ferry Split–Vis. Also spotted from the coast of Zenka approx 2 km SE from the coast line.

Yelkouan Shearwater (Medelhavslira), *Puffinus yelkouan*. 4 seen from the ferry Split–Vis, between Hvar and Vis 10/9 2016; 2 seen from the ferry Vis–Split south of the island Paklenjaci 13/9 2016. (Torgny Göransson personal communication).

## **Hérons and Bitterns 2**

Gray Heron (Gråhäger), *Ardea cinerea*. 1 Milna 17/7 2015. 2 Greben August 2017.

Little Egret (Silkeshäger), *Egretta garzetta*. 1 Zenka 11/8 2017.

## **Cormorants 2**

European Shag (Toppskarv), *Phalacrocorax aristotelis*. Often at least 1–5 on reefs and islands outside Zenka, maximum 12 2019. 12 on the small rock Hr. M. Volic, seen from Fort George 27/8 2019.

Great Cormorant (Storskarv), *Phalacrocorax carbo*. Some along stony parts of the coast 2015.

## **Osprey 1**

Osprey (Fiskgjuse), *Pandion haliaetus*. 1 Zenka 25/7 and 27/7 2015.

## **Kites, Hawks and Eagles 5**

Short-toed Snake Eagle (Ormörn), *Circaetus gallicus*. 2 Zenka 19/7 2016. 1 Vela Glava 7/8 2017.

Common Buzzard (Ormvråk), *Buteo buteo*. 2 over the bee-eaters breeding place close the northern road between Milna and Vis; 1+2+3 along the road Milna–Podhumlje 21/7 2015. 1 Ravno 24/8 2019; 1 Velo polje 26/8 2019.

Eurasian Sparrowhawk (Sparvhök), *Accipiter nisus*. 1 Zenka, the slope of Smokovo 16/8 2019.

Western Marsh Harrier (Brun kärrhök), *Circus aeruginosus*. 1 passing by Kut 22/8 2019.

Black Kite (Brunglada), *Milvus migrans*. 1 over the fields 500m N. of Zenka 27/7 2015.

### Falcons 3

Eurasian Kestrel (Tornfalk), *Falco tinnunculus*. 1 near the freshwater pond (Lokva) S. of Podselje 19/7 2015.

Eleonora's Falcon (Eleonorafalk), *Falco eleonora*. 3-4 (one dark morf) at Komitza-Stupitsce 20-21/7, 1 Okljucna 24/7, 2 Tommy supermarket Vis Samogor 25/7 2015. 2016-2019 seen several times in the southern part of the island.

Peregrine Falcon (Pilgrimsfalk), *Falco peregrinus*. 1 near the freshwater pond S. of Podselje 18/7 and 2 Podhumlje 21/7 2015.

### Stilts and avocets 1

Black-winged Stilt (Styltlöpare), *Himantopus himantopus*. 1 the freshwater pond S. of Podselje 19/7 2017.

### Sandpipers 5

Common Greenshank (Gluttsnäppa), *Tringa nebularia*. 1 on the reef outside Zenka 23/8 and 2 26/8 2019.

Wood Sandpiper (Grönbenä), *Tringa glareola*. 1-3 the freshwater pond (Lokva) S. of Podselje 18-22/7 2015.

Green Sandpiper (Skogssnäppa), *Tringa ochropus*. 1-3 the freshwater pond S. of Podselje 19/7 2015.

Common Sandpiper (Drillsnäppa), *Actitis hypoleucos*. On the reef outside Zenka. Also seen at Milna and Velika Budikovac.

Little Stint (Småsnäppa), *Calidris minuta*. 1 the freshwater pond S. of Podselje 16/8 2019.

### Gulls and Terns 4

Black-headed Gull (Skrattmås), *Larus ridibundus*. 2 in the harbor of Vis 16/7, 1 on the reef outside Zenka 23/7 2015.

Mew Gull (Fiskmås), *Larus canus*. 1 Fort George, Vis 20/7 2015.

Yellow-legged Gull (Medelhavstrut), *Larus michahellis*. Common, at most approx. 300 at the island Veli Parzanj 2019.

Common Tern (Fisktärna), *Sterna hirundo*. 1 at the northern coast of the island Veli Budikovac 28/7 2015.

### Pigeons and Doves 3

Eurasian Collared Dove (Turkduva), *Streptopelia decaocto*. In the harbor of Vis town. European Turtle Dove (Turturduva), *Streptopelia turtur*. Small flocks at Tihobrace polje. 1 Zenka 16/8 2019.

Rock Dove (Klippduva), *Columba livia*. Observed in cultivated areas and in the town Vis.

### Cuckoos 1

Common Cuckoo (Gök), *Cuculus canorus*. 1 Milna 20/7 2016.

The valley Veli polje 2019  
Photo by Christian Löwbeer





Little Owl (Minervauggla), Vis July 2016 Photo by Bengt Jönsson

### Owls 3

European Scops Owl (Dvärguv), *Otus scops*. 1–2 in Milna 17–22/7; 1 near the police station, Vis 19/7 2015. 1 Stoncica 22/7 2016. 1–3 often heard calling in Vis town 2015–2019. 1 calling at the central parking place in Komiza August 2019.

Little Owl (Minervauggla), *Athene noctua*. 1 daytime approx. 500 meters N. of Zenka 22/7 and 27/7 2015. Seen in the area several times 2015–2019 at Tihobrace polje.

Long-eared Owl (Hornuggla), *Asio otus*. 2 begging juveniles N. of Zenka 17–21/7 2015.

### Shrikes 1

Red-backed Shrike (Törnskata), *Lanius collurio*. Seen at Okljucna, Podspilje and Galija.

### Crows 2

Hooded Crow (Kråka), *Corvus cornix*. Common.

Common Raven (Korp), *Corvus corax*. 1 Ravno 20/7 2015. 1 Zenka August 2019.

### Nightjars 1

European Nightjar (Nattskärja), *Caprimulgus europaeus*. 1 Podhumlje 20/7, 1 W. and 1 NE. of Milna respectively 21/7, 1 Stoncica 23/7 2015. 1 Zenka 21/7 and 1 Milna June–July 2016.

## **Swallows, Martins and Swifts 5**

Common House Martin (Hussvala), *Delichon urbica*. The town of Vis in the evenings. Barn Swallow (Ladusvala), *Hirundo rustica*. Rather common.

Pallid Swift (Blek tornseglare), *Apus pallidus*. Rather common. For example good observations over the freshwater pond S. of Podselje.

Common Swift (Tornseglare), *Apus apus*. Rare with the pallid swifts.

Alpine Swift (Alpseglare), *Apus melba*. At least 20 observed Stupitsce–Komitza 20–21/7 2015. 2 Zenka 23/5 2016.

## **Kingfishers 1**

Common Kingfisher (Kungsfiskare), *Alcedo atthis*. 1 in shrubs at the freshwater pond (Lokva) S. of Podselje April 2019.

## **Bee-eaters 1**

European Bee-eater (Biätare), *Merops apiaster*. A site with breeding birds in a sandpit close to the northern road between Milna and Vis at Velo Zlopolje 2015. Also seen at: Stoncica, Tihobrache polje (maximum approx. 30), Velo polje, Vino polje and Podhumlje 2016–2019.

## **Hoopoes 1**

European Hoopoe (Härfågel), *Upupa epops*. 10–12 at Zenka in April 2018. Seen at Zenka and Ravno in April, and at Velo Zlopolje in August 2019.

## **Woodpeckers 1**

Great Spotted Woodpecker (Större hackspett), *Dendrocopos major*. 1 flying across the road, in the forest of the mountain Paklenica and 1 in pine forest at Tihobrache polje 2015.

## **Old world leaf warblers 1**

Willow Warbler (Lövsångare), *Phylloscopus trochilus*. 1 Podspilje 16/8 2019.

## **Reed warblers and allied 1**

Olivaceous Warbler (Eksångare), *Iduna pallida*. 1 Podspilje 16/8, 1 Plisko polje 25/8, and 3 along the road Lokva–Galija 26/8 2019.

## **Sylvia Warblers 3**

Eurasian Blackcap (Svarthätta), *Sylvia atricapilla*. Occasionally in April at Zenka.

Common Whitethroat (Törnsångare), *Sylvia communis*. 1–2 Tihobrache polje 9/8 2017.

Sardinian Warbler (Sammetshätta), *Sylvia melanocephala*. One of the most common passerines on the island. Alarm call can be heard almost anywhere.

## **Thrushes 2**

Blue Rock Thrush (Blåtrast), *Monticola solitarius*. 1 at Stiniva September 2016 (Torgny Göransson personal communication).

Eurasian Blackbird (Koltrast), *Turdus merula*. 1 Split 22/7 2015 seen from the ferry. No observations on Vis.

### **Chats and Flycatchers 3**

Spotted Flycatcher (Grå flugsnappare), *Muscicapa striata*. 2 approx. 300 m east of the freshwater pond (Lokva) S. of Podselje 26/8 2019.

European Robin (Rödhake), *Erithacus rubecula*. Occasionally in April at Zenka.

Whinchat (Buskskvätta), *Saxicola rubetra*. 1 Ravno September 2016 (Torgny Göransson personal communication). 1 Plisko polje 25/8 and 3 along the road Lokva–Galija 26/8 2019.

### **Sparrows 4**

House Sparrow (Gråsparv), *Passer domesticus*. Common in the town of Vis.

Spanish Sparrow (Spansk sparv), *Passer hispaniolensis*. 2–3 at the freshwater pond (Lokva) S. of Podselje 19/7 2015. 1 male 300 m east of Lokva 26/8 2019.

Rock Bunting (Klippsparv), *Emberiza cia*. 4 Tihobrace polje 23/7 2016.

Cirl Bunting (Häcksparv), *Emberiza cirlus*. Singing male and juveniles at Tihobrace polje end of August 2019.

### **Wagtails and Pipits 2**

Yellow Wagtail (Gulärla), *Motacilla flava*. Maximum approx. 10 at the freshwater pond (Lokva) S. of Podselje 16–18/8 2019.

White Wagtail (Sädesärla), *Motacilla alba*. 1 on the green grass close to the beach in the town of Vis 17/7 2015. 5–6 at the freshwater pond S. of Podselje 18/8 2019.

### **Finches 4**

European Greenfinch (Grönfink), *Chloris chloris*. 1 at the freshwater pond (Lokva) S. of Podselje 19/7 2015.

European Goldfinch (Steglits), *Carduelis carduelis*. 1 at the freshwater pond S. of Podselje 18/7 2015.

Eurasian Linnet (Hämpling), *Carduelis cannabina*. Approx. 10 at the freshwater pond S. of Podselje 21/7 2015.

European Serin (Gulhämpling), *Serinus serinus*. 4 along the road from Podselje to Sv. Andrija 27/8 2019.

### **Number of bird species: 66**

### **Other animals:**

Common bottlenose dolphin (Öresvin), *Tursiops truncatus*. Approx. 2 km SE of Zenka, outside Parzanj and Budikovac 2019.

Balkan whip snake (Balkanpisksnok), *Coluber gemonensis*. Zenka 2016.

Four-lined snake (Fyrlinjesnok), *Elaphe quatuorlineata*. Okljucna 2017.

European hedgehog (Igelkott), *Erinaceus europaeus*. Common on the island.

# LIST OF SITES/ LOKALFÖRTECKNING

Bird names in: English (Swedish).

*Best sites marked with italic blue.*

## **The ferry Split-Vis**

Scopoli's Shearwater (Scopolilira)

Yelkouan Shearwater (Medelhavslira)

Yellow-legged Gull (Medelhavstrut)

### *Vis town*

Black-headed Gull (Skrattmåå)

Yellow-legged Gull (Medelhavstrut)

Eurasian Collared Dove (Turkduva)

Eurasian Scops Owl (Dvärguv): usually calls from: Prirovo, Smiderevo-Goveja,

Sv. Juraj-Ceska Vila)

Barn Swallow (Ladusvala)

Common House Martin (Hussvala)

House Sparrow (Gråsparv)

## **Sv. Andrija (the road from Podselje to Sv. Andrija)**

Pallid Swift (Blek tornseglare)

European Bee-eater (Biätare)

European Serin (Gulhämpling)

## **Stoncica**

European Nighthjar (Nattskärå)

### *The road between Vis and Milna – Tihobrace polje*

Common Pheasant (Fasan)

Short-toed Snake Eagle (Ormörn)

Black Kite (Brunglada)

Common Buzzard (Ormvråk)

Rock Dove (Klippduva)

European Turtle Dove (Turturduva)

Long-eared Owl (Hornuggla)

Little Owl (Minervauuggla)

Pallid Swift (Blek tornseglare)

European Bee-eater (Biätare)

Great Spotted Woodpecker (Större hackspett)

Hooded Crow (Kråka)

Common Raven (Korp)

Barn Swallow (Ladusvala)

Common Whitethroat (Törnsångare)

Sardinian Warbler (Sammetshättå)

Rock Bunting (Klippsparv)

Cirl Bunting (Häcksparv)

### *Zenka*

Scopoli's Shearwater (Scopolilira)

Gray Heron (Gråhäger)

Little Egret (Silkeshäger)

European Shag (Toppskarv)

Short-toed Snake Eagle (Ormörn)

Osprey (Fiskgjuse)

Eurasian Sparrowhawk (Sparvhök)

Eleonora's Falcon (Eleonorafalk)

Common Sandpiper (Drillsnäppå)

Common Greenshank (Gluttsnäppå)

Yellow-legged Gull (Medelhavstrut)

Rock Dove (Klippduva)

European Turtle Dove (Turturduva)

Little Owl (Minervauuggla)

Eurasian Scops Owl (Dvärguv)

Alpine Swift (Alpseglare)

Common Swift (Tornseglare)

Pallid Swift (Blek tornseglare)

European Bee-eater (Biätare)

European Hoopoe (Härfågel)

Barn Swallow (Ladusvala)

White Wagtail (Sådesårå)

European Robin (Rödhake)  
Hooded Crow (Kråka)  
Common Raven (Korp)  
Eurasian Blackcap (Svarthätta)  
Sardinian Warbler (Sammetshätta)

### *Islands outside Zenka and Milna*

#### **Greben**

Gray Heron (Gråhäger)  
European Shag (Toppskarv)  
Eleonora's Falcon (Eleonorafalk)

#### **Velika Parzanj**

European Shag (Toppskarv)  
Yellow-legged Gull (Medelhavstrut)

#### **The reef outside Zenka (Hr. Plocica)**

European Shag (Toppskarv)  
Black-headed Gull (Skrattmå) s  
Yellow-legged Gull (Medelhavstrut)  
Common Sandpiper (Drillsnäppa)  
Common Greenshank (Gluttsnäppa)

#### **Velika Budikovac**

Common Tern (Fisktärna)  
Common Sandpiper (Drillsnäppa)

#### **Milna**

Gray Heron (Gråhäger)  
Common Sandpiper (Drillsnäppa)  
Common Cuckoo (Gök)  
European Nightjar (Nattskär) ra

### *Freshwater pond (Lokva) S. of Podselje, Plisko polje*

Black-winged Stilt (Styltlöpare)  
Wood Sandpiper (Grönben) a  
Green Sandpiper (Skogssnäppa)  
Little Stint (Småsnäppa)  
Pallid Swift (Blek tornseglare)  
Common Kingfisher (Kungsfiskare)  
Eurasian Kestrel (Tornfalk)  
Peregrine Falcon (Pilgrimsfalk)  
White Wagtail (Sädesärla)

Yellow Wagtail (Gulär) la  
House Sparrow (Gråsparv)  
Spanish Sparrow (Spansk sparv)

### *The road between Lokva and Galia (Velo Zlopolje)*

Common Pheasant (Fasan)  
Common Buzzard (Ormvråk)  
Rock Dove (Klippduva)  
Pallid Swift (Blek tornseglare)  
European Bee-eater (Biätare)  
Red-backed Shrike (Törnskata)  
Common Raven (Korp)  
Barn Swallow (Ladusvala)  
Olivaceous Warbler (Eksångare)  
Spotted Flycatcher (Grå flugsnappare)  
Whinchat (Buskskvätta)  
House Sparrow (Gråsparv)  
Spanish Sparrow (Spansk sparv)

#### **Podselje**

Eurasian Kestrel (Tornfalk)

#### **Plisko polje**

Little Owl (Minervau) ggla  
Pallid Swift (Blek tornseglare)  
Olivaceous Warbler (Eksångare)  
Whinchat (Buskskvätta)

#### **U. Stiniva**

Sardinian Warbler (Sammetshätta)  
Blue Rock Thrush (Blåtrast)

### *Dracevo polje*

Eurasian Kestrel (Tornfalk)  
Eleonora's Falcon (Eleonorafalk)  
Peregrine Falcon (Pilgrimsfalk)

#### **Podspilje**

Barn Swallow (Ladusvala)  
Olivaceous Warbler (Eksångare)  
Willow Warbler (Lövsångare)  
Red-backed Shrike (Törnskata)  
House Sparrow (Gråsparv)

#### **Podhumlje**

European Bee-eater (Biätare)

Pallid Swift (Blek tornseglare)

### **Ravno**

The road to U. Pritiscina:

Eleonora's Falcon (Eleonorafalk)

Alpine Swift (Alpseglare)

Pallid Swift (Blek tornseglare)

Whinchat (Buskskvätta)

The road to Stupisce:

Common Buzzard (Ormvråk)

Common Raven (Korp)

### **Okljucna**

Eleonora's Falcon (Eleonorafalk)

Pallid Swift (Blek tornseglare)

Red-backed Shrike (Törnskata)

### **Tommy Supermarket Vis Samogor**

Eleonora's Falcon (Eleonorafalk)

### **Fort George**

European Shag (Toppskarv)

Mew Gull (Fiskmås)

Yellow-legged Gull (Medelhavstrut)



*The view of Zenka and Milna August 2019 Photo by Christian L  wbeer*

# RELEVANT WEBSITES AND REFERENCES/ RELEVANTA WEBBPLATSER OCH REFERENSER

VAL TOURS traveling agency, <http://croatiabirding.hr/islands/pelagic-islands-the-home-of-the-eleonora-s-falcon-in-croatia/>

VAL TOURS traveling agency, <http://croatiabirding.hr/bird-check-list/>

Vakance d.o.o., <http://www.visinfo.org/>

Gill F & Donsker D (eds) 2017. IOC World Bird List (v.7.2)  
doi: 10.14344/IOC.ML.7.2.

Map: VIS ISLAND, Tourist and Trekking Map, scale 1:20 000,  
VJESNIK - Zagreb 2009. ISBN: 978-953-7527-02-0.

Black-winged Stilt (Styltlöpare), Vis July 2016  
Photo by Bengt Jönsson





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