

Spring Birding in Sicily

Naturetrek Tour Report

8 - 14 May 2012



Eurasian Scops Owl



9-spotted Moth



Italian Wall Lizard



Sicilian Rock Partridge

Report and images compiled by Stuart Elsom



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Day 1

Tuesday 8th May

Fine and warm

The group members met Stuart at Catania Airport after their flight from the UK. With Lloyd's experience in handling large bulky items, the luggage was carefully packed into the minibus and we headed off into the warm Mediterranean night which we all agreed was much warmer than the UK had been that day! We travelled south-east for about an hour and reached Pozzo di Mazza, which was to be our base for the week. This converted winery is situated deep within the agricultural countryside and surrounded by lemon groves. After having settled into our rooms, we enjoyed a light supper of cheese and ham baguettes washed down with a glass of the local red wine, while Stuart outlined the plan for the week ahead. Later we retired to bed accompanied by two or three Scops Owls "singing" in the nearby orchard.

Day 2

Wednesday 9th May

Hot and sunny

Today started with an optional pre-breakfast walk around the Pozzo at 7am. Fan-tailed Warblers, or to give them their 'new' name, Zitting Cisticolas, bounced around in flight while constantly 'zitting' overhead. Serins sang enthusiastically from overhead wires whilst Tree Sparrows mingled with a few Italian Sparrows on the roofs. As was soon to become part of the daily routine, an Italian Wall Lizard crept from behind the wall-light by the lounge entrance to catch the first rays of sunshine. The grounds around the Pozzo are home to many pairs of Sardinian Warblers, and the males gave their scratchy song from the bushes while Crested Larks sang in the fields nearby. Spotless Starlings were also noted, many wearing their smart metallic-green plumage. Exploring the area just beyond the Pozzo produced several Wood Warblers, a single Melodious Warbler, and Spotted Flycatcher in the oak trees. We returned to the Pozza for breakfast, al-fresco-style, enjoying the morning sun.

Soon afterwards we were driving the short distance to the headland of Capo Murro di Porco then setting out on our walk to the lighthouse. En route we became familiar with some of the Mediterranean plant species, especially those which were most bright and appealing including the golden, thistle-like Spanish Oyster Plant, which is characteristic of this spiny coastal heath. Birds seen around the lighthouse included Yellow-legged Gull, a male Linnet, and White Wagtail, whilst offshore we had reasonable views of 15 Scopoli's and at least 30 Yelkouan Shearwaters.

On our return to the gardens nearby we enjoyed superb views of Wood Warbler, Melodious Warbler, and Spotted Flycatcher. We also had at least seven Bee-eaters drifting overhead while giving their far-carrying 'quilt quilt' calls. The warm weather and light winds meant that several butterflies were visible. Eastern Dappled, Large and Small White, Meadow Brown, Small Skipper, Painted Lady, and Wall Brown were all noted. At one point a very small all-dark butterfly also caught our eye which we suspected was a skipper species but one that none of us had seen before. After a few failed attempts by group members and the leader, a local resident made light work of catching one in his hands which we then transferred to a catch-pot for closer inspection before release. A quick reference to "The Butterflies of Europe" field guide confirmed the mystery butterfly as being a Pygmy Skipper - a new species for us all.

After such a good start to the day, we made our way to Isole, where we enjoyed cold drinks and wonderful view overlooking the sea. Here we had four Sandwich Terns and several Little Terns fly by, while in the nearby grass, Martin located a superbly camouflaged grasshopper which we identified as *Acrida unguicaria mediterranea*.

By way of needing somewhere suitable for our picnic we returned to the lighthouse at the Capo. This proved to be an excellent decision because, during the preparation of the lunch, we were able to watch a mixed flock of migrants come through. The first to be seen were at least 13 Red-rumped Swallows, soon to be joined by at least nine Bee-eaters, and then, to top that, we had at least two Alpine Swifts! All these birds were on a mission, and within a few minutes they had all drifted north leaving us to savour the excellent lunch made up of various local produce, and to toast a very productive few hours of migrant-watching with a glass of wine.

After lunch we drove to Saline di Siracusa. Here we walked along the track overlooking the reed beds and saline pools before it dropped down to the sea. Little Grebe and Coot were noted along with Grey Heron, Little Egret, five Black-winged Stilt, a pair of Kentish Plovers, and Common Sandpiper. A colony of Little Terns gave great views with several close fly-pasts, while an immaculate adult Whiskered Tern fed over the pools.

Our next stop was a flooded meadow behind Saline di Ciane. Here we quickly located two Squacco Herons, while a Cattle Egret became an equine-egret as it perched on top of a horse! A pair of Wood Sandpipers was seen, with one being very confiding, while Pool Frogs were croaking and a Cetti's Warbler gave its explosive call. Great Reed Warbler gave its crunching song from deep within the reed bed and another Whiskered Tern quartered the wet fields. Just as we were about to leave a Hoopoe flew right in front of the group thus giving excellent views.

Before heading back to the Pozzo we took another look around the Capo. A few minutes here produced much better views of both shearwaters than those seen earlier in the morning, and we caught sight of three more Red-rumped Swallows heading north. After a full first day we returned to the Pozzo, with time to relax or swim, before an excellent dinner. The moth trap was set up for the night and the Scops Owls started tuning up again!

Day 3

Thursday 10th May

Fine, hot and sunny

We checked the moth trap before breakfast, finding, amongst other species, Bright Line Brown Eye, Ni Moth, and a most spectacular Striped Hawk-moth.

Soon afterwards, we took a walk around the grounds which produced six Wood Warblers and two Spotted Flycatchers in the oak trees, and an immaculate male Lesser Kestrel, picked up by Martin T, heading south over our accommodation.

After breakfast, we drove to the Archaeological Park in Syracuse, spending time at the very impressive Greek and Roman Theatres and the 'Ear of Dionysius'. A spontaneous rendition of 'The Sound of Music' by a nearby tourist sparked a duet, with Finlay, of 'Flower of Scotland'! After the excitement had died down we added Greenfinch and Jackdaw to help top-up our ever-increasing list of birds.

Soon we were on the road again, this time driving inland, past Canicattini, to the Cavagrande del Cassibile, a spectacular limestone gorge with the River Cassibile flowing through it. As we rounded the top of the gorge heading southeast, we stopped to listen to two Nightingales trying to out-sing each other; we caught a fleeting glimpse of a Woodchat Shrike on a low bush and during another stop we added Corn Bunting to our list. We had our picnic at the main viewpoint, where we saw a stunning male Blue Rock Thrush perched on nearby wires thus affording us some good views. A short while later an Eastern Subalpine Warbler was located, by the car park. It showed surprisingly well even though briefly. Bee-eaters could be heard all around and we were treated to telescope-views of two birds on wires. House Martins were abundant, and Common Kestrel, Common Buzzard, Hoopoe, Raven and Stonechat were noted.

We set out to walk along the edge of the gorge and in the first meadow we found a male Spectacled Warbler, of which two displaying males and a female eventually gave excellent views: a special bird for this area. Soon afterwards everyone had superb views of Cirl Bunting sitting at the top of a bush, singing loudly. Butterflies here included Clouded Yellow, Small Copper and Small Blue, which flew alongside several smart-looking day-flying moths of which the identification has yet to be confirmed.

After a couple of hours we left the area, descended the road of hair-pin bends which allowed wonderful views of the gorge at different angles, then we stopped half-way down at a car-park to take photographs of this unspoilt area. Down in the valley below we watched a pair of Hoopoes on a disused building and while we watched these Stuart heard a sound that instantly sent shivers down his spine – the call of Sicilian Rock Partridge! We scanned the valley while the calling continued but the birds refused to show; then suddenly one was picked up in-flight and we all had good views of its grey upper-side before the bird landed in thick grass! While searching to get a better view, Finlay said 'there's a strange bird on the dry stone wall here'. Following his directions, Stuart was delighted to see a male Rock Partridge standing alone. As it was still well-camouflaged against the stones, telescopes were quickly trained on the bird and we all enjoyed superb views before this difficult to see species flew off and out of sight - Wow!

That evening, after a superb meal, the Scops Owl in the grounds showed in flight but stubbornly sang from the depths of a conifer and it refused to budge - well there's always tomorrow!

Day 4

Friday 11th May

Hot and sunny

Another fine day saw the group checking out the birds in the local oak trees and lemon groves. Melodious Warbler and 2 Wood Warblers were found, along with Spotted Flycatchers.

A little further on, a female Golden Oriole flew lazily across the field, and then back again, giving good views. We also had a good look at the local Jays which appeared much more open-faced than the birds back in England.

After breakfast, we set out north for the Penisola di Magnisi, which sticks out in the middle of the Golfo di Augusta, north of Siracusa. This small outcrop can be a magnet for migrants in the trees along its edge, but today all was quiet, apart from Garden Warbler which was giving a subsong from a Fig tree beside some buildings. Two Whinchats were seen on the surrounding fence and an Ashy-headed Wagtail flew over calling. We walked up the track and across towards a barn near to the sea. Soon several Calandra Larks were being heard, their raspy flight call giving them away and, with their flappy flight, black underwings and black throat patches, several males climbed into the bright blue sky to sing their very skylark-like song. Nearby, Clouded Yellow, Eastern Dappled White, Small Heath and Meadow Brown butterflies were on the wing along with several day-flying moths.

We retraced our steps, and then took the track towards Thapsos, the Bronze Age settlement and necropolis. We then returned to Priolo Gargallo to visit a bar for refreshments, before having our picnic by the sea, glad of the cooling breeze. Little Terns were fishing in the bay and a Common Sandpiper flew across rocking from side-to-side on characteristic flickering wing-beats.

In the afternoon we visited the Saline di Priolo where we had good views of several Ferruginous Ducks, a special species for the area. Speckled Wood butterflies were flying in the shady areas along with Meadow Brown and several superb Carpenter Bees. On the way back we saw an Egyptian Grasshopper which Stuart managed to catch and show to all present. At the same time John and Martin had a Purple Heron fly-over which to our frustration eluded us when trying to find where it had landed.

On our way back to the Pozzo we called in to see the flooded field at Ciane where two Squacco Herons showed well and a flock of over 20 Wood Sandpipers flew overhead, giving their characteristic 'chiff-if-if' flight call. Nearby a Moorish Gecko posed on some electrical ducting at the stonemason's. We arrived back to the Pozzo in time for a cooling swim and once again enjoyed a meal consisting of local produce.

After dinner we set out to track down one of the Scops Owls, and after a while we obtained very good views of one perched in a Fan-palm. A Nightjar was also churring in the distance which made a lovely end to a great day. The moth trap was once again set out under Martin's supervision.

Day 5

Saturday 12th May

Very hot and sunny

This morning, the moth trap held not one but two fine specimens of Striped Hawk Moth, along with Bright Line Brown Eye, Spotted Sulphur, Spectacled and several species of micro moth. A brief walk around the grounds produced two Golden Orioles and a female Red-backed Shrike as well as the omnipresent Fan-tailed and Sardinian Warblers; Bee-eaters were also noted flying over calling.

After another breakfast in the sun, we headed south to explore the lakes and coast of the south eastern tip of the island. Our first stop was at Pantano Longarini.

As we scanned the lake, we saw several Ferruginous Duck, three Black-necked Grebes in summer plumage, drake Garganey and a passage fly-through of waders including Greenshank, eight Avocets, 30+ Little Stint and two Great White Egrets in addition to numerous Greater Flamingos. The one that got away here though was an unseen flock of Bee-eaters which contained a hard dry call which certainly wasn't a European - could it have been Blue-cheeked? We will never know...

Nearby at Pantano Cuba we hit the tern jackpot with all three marsh terns present including six dapper White-winged Black, one Black, and two Whiskered, along with a clumsy looking Purple Swamphen, and a very close Purple Heron. A passage Spotted Redshank was heard calling overhead as were several Bee-eaters. Some striking insects provided interest with the large black and yellow wasp-like *Scolia flavifrons* and several glossy-black Carpenter Bees visiting the wild flowers.

A leisurely lunch was enjoyed at Pantano Longarini whilst a Water Rail squealed from the vegetation and two Marsh Harriers sailed past at close range. At Longarini Beach we enjoyed ultra close up views of two Little Stints in the tidal pools and also two Slender-billed Gulls on the sea. Several of the group took advantage of the inviting blue sea and decided to cool their feet from the heat of the sun. Nearby Black-winged Stilts were nesting, a Kingfisher flashed past in flight, and a handsome male Ashy-headed Wagtail showed well.

We next stopped at Portapalo Harbour where an adult Audouin's Gull flew past close inshore, several Yellow-legged Gulls were loafing on the fishing boats and a single Scopoli's Shearwater cruised past much further out. On our way back north we stopped at Pantano Morghella where there was another Audouin's Gull, a very showy Pallid Swift, and two new additions to our checklist in the form of a Black-headed Gull and a Turnstone. Our journey back to the Pozzo was enlivened somewhat by a nice Woodchat Shrike on roadside wires near Noto.

In the evening a Stone-curlew wailed in the darkness and a Scops Owl showed well. A shy Moorish Gecko also came out into the open momentarily after dinner.

Day 6

Sunday 13th May

Hot and sunny but cooler on Mt. Etna

Today our destination was Mount Etna, the active volcano that dominates the eastern side of Sicily. To make the most of the day we had an early breakfast and were on the road by 7.20am. As we headed north up the autostrada, on the outskirts of Catania, we noted a White Stork on its nest, atop a pylon, and another was seen on the opposite side of the road. We left the motorway and started climbing through the towns on the lower slopes, busy with morning traffic. As we got clear of the conurbation, the landscape began to change, and we could see lava, some of which dated from the 2002/3 eruption. The road climbs through a series of hairpin bends to the Rifugio Sapienza, at 1900m. Just below this we stopped in a bare, rocky area, which produced Rock Sparrow and a Northern Wheatear both feeding on the vegetation in between the bare rock, and a male Black Redstart was singing nearby. We picked up a kettle of raptors which contained several Common Buzzards, a Marsh Harrier and to our surprise two ringtail harriers. Through the 'scope the dark secondaries, pale collar and dark neck band of Pallid Harrier were easily noted as was the fact that these birds showed four-fingered primaries. However these raptors soon gained height and were lost to view.

As we approached the Rifugio the sides of the road were covered with a thick layer of volcanic ash from the recent eruptions. We continued to the Rifugio, noting the lower temperature and thinner air compared with sea level. There was a queue of about 100 people waiting for tickets, but soon we were in the Funivia (cable-car), climbing gently to the Piccolo Rifugio at 2500m. From here, we transferred to the impressive 4-wheel drive buses, and bumped our way through enormous canyons of permanent snow and ice, striated with layers of ash and several of us had good views of a Lanner Falcon hanging in the breeze. The views were stark but stunning.

We reached the destination at 2900m and got out into a bright and clear landscape where the air was thin but with little wind (unlike the previous week which had windchill of below zero). Gathering our thoughts at the sheer scale of Etna and the Rifugio buried by the 2001 eruption, we walked to the fissure which opened up in 2002/3, erupting over a three month period. Although emitting hot steam, it is now plugged by cold lava, and probably won't erupt there again. The recent volcanic eruptions have been on the south east side, forming a new crater there. However, we could feel the warmth of the lava, and one only had to scrape down a few inches for the rock to be too hot to touch comfortably. The Etna guide informed us that the magma at present was at 1000°C and when an eruption has commenced the lava takes 10-15 years to cool down! After we had noted several white butterflies and a Seven-spot Ladybird, we took photos of the summit cone, the fissure, and the amazing surroundings. We then returned to the Piccolo Rifugio for hot coffees and paninis. From the cable car, we mused over what would happen here next and how the 12-year cycle meant that a serious eruption may not be that far off. All agreed that a visit to Etna was an awesome experience!

We drove down the mountain a little way for our picnic, taking a side road and parking near the Observatory. Here we enjoyed watching the Lava Beetles as we eat our lunch. This area was very tranquil but alive with birds. Several of the Sicilian race of Coal Tit were seen, along with Cuckoo, Rock Bunting, Wren, Eastern Subalpine Warbler, several Black Redstarts and Woodlark, the latter delighting us with its musical song. Firecrest was also heard in the lower forested area and eventually showed very well at close range along with Nuthatch and two Short-toed Treecreepers. Soon it was time to leave and we worked our way, through the hectic Catania rush-hour, to the Pozzo – all feeling tired but pleased to be back after a long, but interesting day.

That evening, after another lovely meal, the Scops Owl within the grounds showed obligingly in his favoured tree before we retired for the night.

Day 7

Monday 14th May

Hot and sunny

This was our final day, but with an evening flight, we were able to enjoy further outings. We woke to rain-laden skies which, after six days of scorching sunshine, did seem somewhat strange. Before breakfast, realising the potential for migrants, Stuart took some group members to the headland, Capo Murro di Porco, which we had visited on our first day. The change in weather had produced a mini fall and we enjoyed at least five Woodchat Shrikes and three Whinchats in the short time we were present.

After breakfast and some time to pack, we headed for the Oasi Faunistica di Vendicari, a coastal and wetland reserve south of Siracusa. As we vacated the minibus, we could hear Turtle Dove and had superb views of one sitting in an overhanging Giant Reed in the car park.

Blackcap and Cetti's Warbler were heard and a Cleopatra butterfly was also noted. From the first hide, looking north, we saw Squacco Heron, Little Tern, Cormorant and Shelduck, as well as Black-winged Stilt, three Little Egrets, and a single Pochard. A few moments later Martin T picked up an adult Audouin's Gull which showed well before flying around the corner and out of view. Leaving the hide, we saw a Penduline Tit's nest suspended from a branch in a Poplar tree. This had been noted the previous week – possibly an old nest. This week, however, a new nest was being constructed on a lower branch, and we were able to watch the male taking material from the old nest to incorporate into the new. We sat on the wall beside the second hide and watched this tiny bird's behaviour while some good photos were taken. From the second hide, we saw the Squacco Heron again, with two Black-winged Stilts and Reed Warbler also noted.

We then moved on, following the path towards the sea. Reed Warblers and Cetti's Warblers were calling loudly, but did not show themselves. We came across another Penduline Tit's nest, swaying wildly in the wind, with the male involved in its construction too, and again good views were had. From the beach we could see the disused tuna fishery replete with Yellow-legged Gulls and Shelduck, adjacent to the tower built in the thirteenth century by Peter of Aragon.

We walked south along the edge of the sand dunes, noting the activity of brown and cream-spotted Tiger Beetles on the path. We soon reached another hide, overlooking the Pantano Roveto. Here we saw ten Great White Egrets, three Grey Heron, six Little Egrets, two Spoonbill, three Grey Plover, Avocet, Curlew and a party of Ringed Plover and Little Stint. Spotted Flycatchers seemed to be on every other post and as we headed along the sandy track a Hoopoe flew up and away. Further on, at the next screen viewpoint, we saw two Little Stints on the edge of the pool.

Back at our vehicle we reconvened for our picnic, eaten in the shade of orange trees or the Giant Reeds, serenaded by the Turtle Doves around us, and joined by Cleopatra and Speckled Wood butterflies. Having tidied up, it was time to head north, but our journey home was broken by a last gelato in Cassibile. We then had to do our final packing before heading for the airport, noting en route three White Stork's nests, with a female incubating on the nearest one, while the male stood guard. At the airport, we bid a fond farewell to Sicily and checked-in for our flight to London and home.

Reflecting on a wonderful week we'd seen just over 130 species of bird, about 40 species of butterfly and moth and enjoyed some breathtaking scenery and wonderful weather. Our week in Sicily left us with some truly wonderful memories to take home!

My thanks go to all members of the group for their wonderful company and navigational skills! Also to Martin Coles for his work regarding the identification of many of the moth species.

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Species List

Plants

Scientific name	Common name	Location
LOWER PLANTS		
Lichens		
<i>Stereocaulon vesuvianum</i>	Mount Vesuvius Lichen	Lava flows, Mt Etna
PTERIDOPHYTES		
Adiantaceae		
<i>Adiantum capillus-veneris</i>	Maidenhair Fern	Archaeological Park, Siracusa, round the waterfall
<i>Anogramma leptophylla</i>	Jersey Fern	Lower slopes of Etna
Aspleniaceae		
<i>Asplenium adiantum-nigrum</i>	Black Spleenwort	Lower slopes of Etna
<i>Asplenium trichomanes</i>	Maidenhair Spleenwort	Archaeological Park, Siracusa
<i>Ceterach officinarum</i>	Rustyback	Archaeological Park, Siracusa
Dennstaedtiaceae		
<i>Pteridium aquilinum</i>	Bracken	Lower slopes of Etna
Polypodiaceae		
<i>Polypodium cambricum</i>	Southern Polypody	On way to Cavagrande
PINOPSIDA (GYMNOSPERMS)		
CONIFERS		
Cupressaceae		
<i>Juniperus communis subsp. hemisphericum</i>	Juniper	Slopes of Etna
<i>Juniperus oxycedrus</i>	Prickly Juniper	Vendicari
Pinaceae		
<i>Pinus halepensis</i>	Aleppo Pine	Widespread
<i>Pinus pinea</i>	Umbrella Pine	Scattered
<i>Pinus nigra ssp. laricio</i>	Corsican Pine	Upper slopes of Etna
MAGNOLIOPSIDA (ANGIOSPERMS)		
FLOWERING PLANTS		
Magnoliidae (Dicotyledons)		
Acanthaceae		
<i>Acanthus mollis</i>	Bear's-breech	Widespread
Aizoaceae		
<i>Carpobrotus acinaciformis</i>	Red Hottentot Fig	Saline di Siracusa
Anacardiaceae		
<i>Pistacia lentiscus</i>	Mastic Tree	Widespread and common shrub
<i>Pistachia terebinthus</i>	Terebinth	Scattered tree
Apiaceae		
<i>Crithmum maritimum</i>	Rock Samphire	Vendicari

Scientific name	Common name	Location
<i>Daucus carota</i>	Wild Carrot	Scattered
<i>Eryngium maritimum</i>	Sea Holly	Vendicari
<i>Ferula communis subsp. communis</i>	Giant Fennel	Widespread
<i>Ferulago nodosa</i>	Ferulago	Cavagrande; yellow umbellifer with swollen nodes
<i>Foeniculum vulgare</i>	Common Fennel	Scattered
<i>Kundmannia sicula</i>	Kundmannia	Saline si Siracusa; yellow umbellifer
<i>Scandix pecten-veneris</i>	Shepherd's Needles	Scattered
<i>Seseli tortuosum</i>	-	Vendicari
<i>Smyrniolum olusatrum</i>	Alexanders	Etna
<i>Smyrniolum perfoliatum</i>	Perfoliate Alexanders	Cavagrande road
<i>Thapsia garganica</i>	Thapsia	Widespread - looks like Giant Fennel but not aromatic
Apocynaceae	Periwinkle Family	
<i>Nerium oleander</i>	Oleander	Widespread on roadsides
<i>Vinca major</i>	Greater Periwinkle	Nr Pozzo
Araliaceae	Ivy Family	
<i>Hedera helix</i>	Ivy	Scattered
Asteraceae	Daisy Family	
<i>Anthemis chia</i>	A Mayweed	Widespread - the common daisy-like plant
<i>Bellis annua</i>	Annual Daisy	Cavagrande - a tiny daisy
<i>Bellis perennis</i>	Daisy	Widespread
<i>Calendula arvensis</i>	Field Marigold	Inland - a smaller version of below
<i>Calendula officinalis</i>	Pot Marigold	Inland - the garden plant
<i>Carlina corymbosa</i>	Flat-topped Carlina Thistle	Dead flower heads scattered
<i>Centaurea calcitrapa</i>	Red Star Thistle	? In bud, Capo Murro di Porco
<i>Centaurea napifolia</i>	Winged Knapweed	Bar Pepe lunchspot
<i>Centaurea solstitialis</i>	Yellow-star Thistle	Scattered
<i>Cichorium spinosum</i>	Spiny Chichory	Capo Murro di Porco. Only on SE coasts of Sicily, and Spain
<i>Crepis capillaris</i>	Smooth Hawk's-beard	Locally common (yellow Dandelion-like flowers)
<i>Crepis species</i>	Unidentified Hawksbeards	Scattered
<i>Crupina crupinastrum</i>	Crupina	Capo Murro di Porco - like a delicate Hardhead
<i>Dittrichia viscosa</i>	Stink Aster	Widespread (and smelly!)
<i>Evax pygmaea</i>	Evax	Cavagrande, by the final viewpoint (tiny grey plant)
<i>Galactites tomentosa</i>	Galactites	Widespread and abundant - the pale thistle
<i>Glebionis coronarium</i>	Crown Daisy	Widespread and abundant - the large golden daisy
<i>Glebionis segetum</i>	Corn Marigold	Cavagrande road
<i>Helichrysum italicum</i>	An Everlasting	Cavagrande
<i>Hyoseris radiata</i>	Hyoseris	Scattered - another dandelion-like plant
<i>Inula crithmoides</i>	Golden Samphire	Vendicari
<i>Notobasis syriaca</i>	Syrian Thistle	Scattered
<i>Pallenis spinosa</i>	Pallenis	Scattered - a pale yellow Composite with spiny bracts
<i>Scolymus grandiflorus</i>	A Spanish Oyster Plant	Widespread - the impressive yellow-flowered thistle
<i>Scolymus hispanicus</i>	Spanish Oyster Plant	Scattered - similar to above, but no hairs on bracts
<i>Scorzonera deliciosa</i>	A Viper's-grass	Cavagrande (Pink 'dandelion' with thin leaves; sweet root)

Scientific name	Common name	Location
<i>Senecio aethnensis</i> **	Etna Ragwort	Mid slopes of Etna, not in flower
<i>Senecio squalidus</i>	Rock (or Oxford) Ragwort	Lower slopes of Etna
<i>Senecio vulgaris</i>	Groundsel	Widespread
<i>Silybum marianum</i>	Milk Thistle	Widespread and abundant - the commonest large thistle
<i>Sonchus oleraceus</i>	Sow Thistle	Widespread
<i>Tanacetum siculum</i>	Etna Tansy	Slopes of Mt Etna
<i>Tragopogon porrifolius</i>	Goat's-beard	Scattered - the large 'dandelion clocks' (purple flower)
<i>Urospermum dalechampii</i>	Urospermum	Scattered - the pale yellow 'dandelion' with a black centre
Berberidaceae	Barberry Family	
<i>Berberis aetnensis</i>	Etna Barberry	Slopes of Mt Etna
Betulaceae	Birch Family	
<i>Betula aetnensis</i>	Etna Birch	Slopes of Mt Etna (endemic)
Boraginaceae	Borage Family	
<i>Alkanna tinctoria</i>	Dyer's Bugloss	Cavagrande, near the orchids
<i>Anchusa hybrida</i>	An Anchusa	First stop to look at Etna
<i>Borago officinalis</i>	Borage	Widespread
<i>Cerintho majus</i>	Honeywort	Scattered eg Saline di Siracusa
<i>Cynoglossum creticum</i>	Cretan Hound's-tongue	Occasional
<i>Echium italicum</i>	Pale Bugloss	Scattered eg Saline di Siracusa - like tiny Christmas tree
<i>Echium parviflorum</i>	Small-flowered Viper's Bugloss	Scattered
<i>Echium plantagineum</i>	Purple Viper's-bugloss	Widespread
Brassicaceae	Cabbage Family	
<i>Biscutella didyma</i>	Biscutella	Fruit like two shields; widespread
<i>Biscutella lyrata</i>	a Biscutella	V similar to above; widespread
<i>Cakile maritima</i>	Sea Rocket	Coastal eg Vendicari
<i>Capsella bursa-pastoris</i>	Shepherd's-purse	Scattered
<i>Erysimum bonannianum</i>	A Treacle-mustard	Slopes of Mt Etna (endemic)
<i>Isatis tinctoria subsp. canescens</i>	Woad	Roadsides, esp round Etna
<i>Lobularia maritima</i>	Sweet Alyssum	Scattered eg Saline di Siracusa (garden plant in UK)
<i>Matthiola sinuata</i>	Sea Stock	Coastal eg Vendicari
<i>Matthiola tricuspidata</i>	Three-horned Stock	Widespread on coast
<i>Raphanus raphanistrum</i>	Wild radish	Scattered
<i>Sinapis arvensis</i>	Charlock	Widespread
<i>Sisymbrium officinale</i>	Hedge Mustard	Roadsides
Cactaceae	Cactus Family	
<i>Opuntia ficus-indica</i>	Prickly Pear	Widespread
Caprifoliaceae	Honeysuckle Family	
<i>Lonicera etrusca</i>	Etruscan Honeysuckle	Cavagrande, not yet in flower
Caryophyllaceae	Pink Family	
<i>Scleranthus aetnensis</i>	a Knawel	Upper slopes of Etna - a tiny plant (endemic)
<i>Silene bellidifolia</i>	A Catchfly	Vendicari; very hairy calices
<i>Silene colorata</i>	A Catchfly	Widespread and common; bright pink

Scientific name	Common name	Location
<i>Silene gallica</i>	Small-flowered Catchfly	Capo Murro di Porco
<i>Silene latifolia</i>	White Campion	Lower slopes of Mt Etna
<i>Stellaria media</i>	Common Chickweed	Scattered
Chenopodiaceae	Goosefoot Family	
<i>Arthrocnemum macrostachya</i>	Perennial Glasswort	Vendicari
<i>Atriplex patula</i>	Common Orache	Coastal habitats
<i>Beta vulgaris</i>	Sea Beet	Vendicari
<i>Halimione portulacoides</i>	Sea Purslane	Coastal habitats eg Capo Murro di Porco lighthouse
<i>Suaeda vera</i>	Shrubby Seablite	Coastal habitats eg Capo Murro di Porco lighthouse
<i>Salicornia europaea</i>	Glasswort	Vendicari
Cistaceae	Rockrose Family	
<i>Cistus creticus</i>	Cretan Cistus	Cavagrande - pink flowers
<i>Cistus salvifolius</i>	Sage-leaved Cistus	Road to Cavagrande - white flowers
Convolvulaceae	Bindweed Family	
<i>Calystegia silvatica</i>	Great Bindweed	Southern lakes
<i>Convolvulus althaeoides</i>	Mallow-leaved Bindweed	Widespread - the bright pink bindweed
<i>Convolvulus elegantissimus</i>	a Bindweed	Scattered; more delicate than above
<i>Cuscuta epithymum</i>	Common Dodder	Cavagrande (?)
Crassulaceae	Stonecrop Family	
<i>Sedum aetnense</i>	Etna Stonecrop	Slopes of Mt Etna, not in flower (endemic)
<i>Sedum caeruleum</i>	Blue stonecrop	Roadsides (endemic)
<i>Sedum rubens</i>	Reddish Stonecrop	Capo Murro di Porco
<i>Umbilicus rupestris</i>	Wall Pennywort	Cavagrande, Etna
Cucurbitaceae		
<i>Ecballium elaterium</i>	Squirting Cucumber	Pantano Longarini
Dipsacaceae	Teasel Family	
<i>Dipsacus fullonum</i>	Teasel	Scattered - old seedheads and young leaves
<i>Knautia integrifolia</i>	A Scabious	Scattered
Ericaceae	Heather Family	
<i>Erica multiflora</i>	A Heather	Cavagrande - likes alkaline soil
Euphorbiaceae	Spurge Family	
<i>Euphorbia ceratocarpa</i>	A Spurge	This is the common medium sized spurge in dry places
<i>Euphorbia characias subsp. characias</i>	Large Mediterranean Spurge	Common
<i>Euphorbia dendroides</i>	Tree Spurge	Common
<i>Euphorbia helioscopia</i>	Sun Spurge	Common - a very small spurge
<i>Euphorbia paralias</i>	Sea Spurge	Vendicari
<i>Euphorbia pinea</i>	A Spurge	Capo Murro di Porco
<i>Ricinus communis</i>	Castor Oil Plant	Southern lakes
Fabaceae	Pea Family	
<i>Acacia cyanophylla</i>	A Wattle	Vendicari, going over
<i>Anthyllis tetraphylla</i>	Bladder Vetch	Saline di Vendicari

Scientific name	Common name	Location
<i>Anthyllis vulneraria ssp prarpropera</i>	Kidney Vetch (pink)	Scattered
<i>Astragalus siculus</i>	Etna Milk-vetch	Dense cushions on lava flows, Mt Etna (endemic)
<i>Bitumaria bituminosa</i>	Pitch Trefoil	Capo Murro di Porco
<i>Calicotome spinosa</i>	Thorny Broom	Widespread eg Capo Murro di Porco
<i>Cytisus villosus</i>	Hairy Broom	Lower slopes of Mt Etna
<i>Dorycnium rectum</i>	A Dorycnium	Vendicari, walkway to sea, like a giant clover
<i>Genista aetnensis</i>	Etna Broom	Dominant on upper slopes of Mt Etna, not in flower (endemic)
<i>Hedysarum coronarium</i>	Italian Sainfoin	Roadsides and fields near Catania; bright magenta
<i>Lathyrus cicera</i>	-	Road to Cavagrande; red
<i>Lathyrus clymenum</i>	-	Widespread eg Saline di Siracusa, pink and purple pea
<i>Lotus cytisoides</i>	A Birdsfoot Trefoil	Coastal - rather succulent leaves
<i>Lotus edulis</i>	Edible Lotus	Saline di Siracusa
<i>Medicago lupulina</i>	Black Medick	Round Pozzo
<i>Melilotus indicus</i>	Small Melilot	Scattered
<i>Robinia pseudoacacia</i>	False Acacia	Roadsides towards Etna
<i>Scorpiurus muricatus</i>	Scorpiurus	Cavagrande, in seed
<i>Spartium junceum</i>	Spanish Broom	Roadsides
<i>Tetragonolobus purpureus</i>	Asparagus Pea	Cavagrande; dark velvety red with 2 orange spots on keel
<i>Trifolium campestre</i>	Hop Trefoil	Scattered
<i>Trifolium repens</i>	White Clover	Widespread
<i>Trifolium resupinatum</i>	Reversed Clover	Capo Murro di Porco
<i>Trifolium stellatum</i>	Starry Clover	Widespread and common
<i>Vicia hybrida</i>	Hairy Yellow Vetchling	Saline di Siracusa
<i>Vicia sativa subsp. sativa</i>	Fodder Vetch	Scattered
<i>Vicia villosa subsp. ambigua</i>	Fodder Vetch (pale)	Lower slopes of Etna
Fagaceae	Beech Family	
<i>Castanea sativa</i>	Sweet Chestnut	Slopes of Mt Etna
<i>Fagus sylvatica</i>	Beech	Slopes of Mt Etna
<i>Quercus ilex</i>	Holly Oak	Scattered
<i>Quercus pubescens</i>	Downy Oak	Scattered eg round Cavagrande
Frankeniaceae		
<i>Frankenia laevis</i>	Sea Heath	Capo Murro di Porco
Fumariaceae	Fumitory Family	
<i>Fumaria capreolata</i>	White Ramping Fumitory	Widespread
<i>Fumaria officinalis</i>	Common Fumitory	Saline di Siracusa
Gentianaceae	Gentian Family	
<i>Blackstonia perfoliata</i>	Yellow-wort	Capo Murro di Porco and Vendicari
<i>Centaurium erythraea</i>	Common Centaury	Capo Murro di Porco and Vendicari (tiny pink flowers)
<i>Centaurium pulchellum</i>	Lesser Centaury	Capo Murro di Porco (as above but no basal rosette)
Geraniaceae	Geranium Family	
<i>Erodium cicutarium</i>	Common Stork's-bill	Scattered especially round Etna
<i>Erodium malacoides</i>	Mallow-leaved Stork's-bill	Widespread and common
<i>Geranium lucidum</i>	Shining Crane's-bill	Widespread and common

Scientific name	Common name	Location
<i>Geranium molle</i>	Dove's-foot Crane's-bill	Scattered
Juglandaceae <i>Juglans regia</i>	Walnut Family Walnut	Scattered
Lamiaceae <i>Ajuga chamaepitys</i>	Dead-nettle Family Ground-pine	Cavagrande, by the final viewpoint (small, yellow flowers)
<i>Mentha pulegium</i>	Pennyroyal	Scattered
<i>Prasium majus</i>	Prasium	Widespread - white flowers
<i>Salvia officinalis</i>	Wild Sage	Cavagrande
<i>Satureja hortensis</i>	Summer Savory	Cavagrande
<i>Sideritis romana</i>	Sideritis	Capo Murro di Porco and Vendicari
<i>Thymus capitatus</i>	A Thyme (small bush)	Cavagrande
Linaceae <i>Linum bienne</i>	Flax Family Biennial Flax	Pantano Longarini
<i>Linum strictum subsp. strictum</i>	A yellow flax	Capo Murro di Porco - tiny clustered flowers
<i>Linum trigynum</i>	A yellow Flax	Capo Murro di Porco - small solitary flowers
Loranthaceae <i>Loranthus europaeus</i>	Mistletoe Family Mistletoe	On a few trees on the lower slopes of Etna
Lythraceae <i>Lythrum junceum</i>	Loosestrife Family A Loosestrife	Flooded meadow off main road to Siracusa
Malvaceae <i>Lavatera cretica</i>	Mallow Family Small Tree Mallow	Capo Murro di Porco
<i>Malva cretica</i>	A Mallow	Capo Murro di Porco
<i>Malva neglecta</i>	Dwarf Mallow	Capo Murro di Porco
<i>Malva sylvestris</i>	Common Mallow	Widespread
Moraceae <i>Ficus carica</i>	Mulberry Family Fig	Common
Myrtaceae <i>Eucalyptus camuldulensis</i>	Red River Gum	Widely planted, eg Vendicari
Nyctaginaceae <i>Bougainvillea glabra</i>	Bougainvillea Family Bougainvillea	Saline di Siracusa and roadsides
Oleaceae <i>Olea europaea</i>	Olive Family Olive	Widely cultivated; occasionally wild
Orobanchaceae <i>Orobanche crenata</i>	Broomrape Family A Broomrape	Lemon Groves, nr Pozzo
<i>Orobanche minor</i>	Common Broomrape	Saline di Siracusa
<i>Orobanche rapum-genistae</i>	Greater Broomrape	Old stems, on Etna Broom, slopes of Mt Etna
Oxalidaceae <i>Oxalis corniculata</i>	Wood-sorrel Family Procumbent Yellow Sorrel	Archaeological Park, Siracusa

Scientific name	Common name	Location
<i>Oxalis pres-caprae</i>	Bermuda Buttercup	Widespread and common
Papaveraceae <i>Papaver rhoeas</i>	Poppy Family Common Poppy	Scattered
Plantaginaceae <i>Plantago coronopus</i> <i>Plantago crassifolia</i> <i>Plantago lagopus</i> <i>Plantago lanceolata</i> <i>Plantago serraria</i>	Plantain Family Buck's-horn Plantain A Plantain with linear fleshy lvs Hare's-foot Plantain Ribwort Plantain A Plantain with toothed leaves	Coastal Vendicari Widespread Scattered Locally common
Plumbaginaceae <i>Limonium sinuatum</i>	Thrift Family Winged Sea-lavender	Capo Murro di Porco (purple and white everlasting flower)
Polygonaceae <i>Rumex bucephaliflorus</i> <i>Rumex scutatus forma aetnensis</i>	Dock Family Horned Dock Etna Sorrel	Widespread Lava flows of Mt Etna, endemic
Primulaceae <i>Anagallis arvensis (Blue)</i> <i>Anagallis arvensis (Red)</i> <i>Anagallis foemina</i>	Primrose Family Scarlet Pimpernel, blue form Scarlet Pimpernel Blue Pimpernel	Widespread and common Scattered Capo Murro di Porco - more delicate blue flowers than above
Ranunculaceae <i>Clematis vitalba</i> <i>Nigella damascena</i> <i>Ranunculus millefoliatus</i> <i>Ranunculus scleratus</i> <i>Ranunculus cf trichophyllus</i> <i>Ranunculus cf velutinus</i>	Buttercup Family Traveller's Joy Love-in-a-mist Million-leaved Buttercup Celery-leaved Buttercup Thread-leaved Water-crowfoot a Buttercup	Scattered round Cavagrande area Capo Murro di Porco and elsewhere Scattered round Cavagrande area (finely divided leaves) Flooded meadow off main road to Siracusa Flooded meadow off main road to Siracusa Flooded meadow off main road to Siracusa
Resedaceae <i>Reseda alba</i>	Mignonette Family White Mignonette	Roadsides towards Etna
Rhamnaceae <i>Rhamnus alaternus</i>	Buckthorn Family Mediterranean Buckthorn	Widespread especially round Cavagrande
Rosaceae <i>Crataegus monogyna</i> <i>Eriobotrya japonica</i> <i>Potentilla calabra</i> <i>Prunus avium</i> <i>Prunus dulcis</i> <i>Pyrus amygdaliformis</i> <i>Rosa canina agg</i> <i>Rubus fruticosus agg</i>	Rose Family Hawthorn Loquat A Cinquefoil Wild Cherry Almond Almond-leaved Pear Dog Rose Bramble	Scattered round Cavagrande area Cultivated Lunch spot on Etna Scattered on slopes of Mt Etna, also cultivated Cultivated Scattered round Cavagrande area Scattered round Cavagrande area Scattered

Scientific name	Common name	Location
<i>Sarcopoterium spinosum</i>	Thorny Burnet	Scattered eg Capo Murro di Porco and Gorge
Rubiaceae	Bedstraw Family	
<i>Galium aparine</i>	Cleavers	Scattered
<i>Galium mollugo agg</i>	Hedge Bedstraw	Near Cavagrande
<i>Rubia peregrina</i>	Madder	Near Cavagrande
<i>Sherardia arvensis</i>	Sherardia	Cavagrande
Rutaceae	Rue Family	
<i>Citrus limon</i>	Lemon	Round Pozzo (cultivated)
<i>Citrus sinensis</i>	Orange	Round Pozzo (cultivated)
Salicaceae	Willow Family	
<i>Populus nigra</i>	Black Poplar	Venicari
<i>Salix species</i>	Willows (not identified)	Venicari
Santalaceae	Sandalwood Family	
<i>Osyris alba</i>	Osyris	Scattered eg Pantano Cuba
Scrophulariaceae	Figwort Family	
<i>Antirrhinum siculus</i>	Sicilian Snapdragon	Widespread; while and yellow flowers
<i>Bellardia trixago</i>	Bellardia	Widespread; yellow form at Saline di Siracusa
<i>Parentucellia viscosa</i>	Yellow Bartsia	Widespread
<i>Verbascum sinuatum</i>	A Mullein	Road towards gorge
<i>Veronica cymbalaria</i>	White Speedwell	Archaeological Park, Siracusa
Tamaricaceae	Tamarisk Family	
<i>Tamarix africana</i>	Tamarisk	Scattered (other species may also have been seen)
Urticaceae	Nettle Family	
<i>Parietaria diffusa</i>	Pellitory of the Wall	Widespread
<i>Parietaria officinalis</i>	Common Pellitory	Scattered
<i>Urtica dioica</i>	Nettle	Scattered
<i>Urtica membranacea</i>	Membranous Nettle	Archaeological Park, Siracusa
Thymelaeaceae	Daphne Family	
<i>Daphne laureola</i>	Spurge Laurel	Slopes of Mt Etna
Valerianaceae	Valerian Family	
<i>Centranthus ruber</i>	Red Valerian	Lava flows and slopes of Mt Etna
<i>Fedia cornucopiae</i>	Fedia	Scattered, especially inland
<i>Valerianella cf discoidea</i>	A Cornsalad	Cavagrande (in fruit)
Verbenaceae	Verbena Family	
<i>Phyla nodiflora</i>	Frog Fruit	Weed in the Pozzo lawns with heads of tiny mauve-white flowers
<i>Verbena officinalis</i>	Vervain	Archaeological Park, Siracusa
Violaceae	Violet Family	
<i>Viola aethnensis</i>	Etna Violet	Clump seen from Funivia, on Etna; endemic

Scientific name	Common name	Location
Liliidae (Monocotyledons)		
Agavaceae		
<i>Agave americana</i>	Agave family Agave or Century Plant	Scattered
Alismaceae		
<i>Alisma plantago-aquatica</i>	Water Plantain	Flooded meadow off main road to Siracusa
Araceae		
<i>Arum italicum</i>	Lords and Ladies Family Large Cuckoo Pint	Saline di Priolo
Cyperaceae		
<i>Carex otrubae</i>	Sedge Family False Fox Sedge	Saline di Priolo
Dioscoreaceae		
<i>Tamus communis</i>	Black Bryony Family Black Bryony	Saline di Priolo
Iridaceae		
<i>Gladiolus byzantinus</i>	Iris Family Byzantine Gladiolus	Among the Chamaerops Palms, Capo Murro di Porco
<i>Gladiolus italicus</i>	Italian Gladiolus	Cavagrande
<i>Moraea sisyrrhinchium</i>	Barbary Nut	Widespread: Pale blue Iris which opens in the afternoon
Juncaceae		
<i>Juncus acutus</i>	Rush Family Sharp Rush	Southern lakes
<i>Juncus articulatus</i>	Jointed Rush	Southern lakes
<i>Juncus maritimus</i>	Sea Rush	Vendicari
Liliaceae		
<i>Allium ampeloprasum</i>	Lily Family Wild Leek	Probable (in bud), riverside path to sea, Siracusa
<i>Allium roseum</i>	Rosy Garlic	Scattered
<i>Allium subhirsutum</i>	A Leek	Common inland, towards Cavagrande
<i>Asparagus acutifolius</i>	Prickly Asparagus	Scattered
<i>Asphodeline lutea</i>	Yellow Asphodel	Lower slopes of Mt Etna
<i>Asphodelus aestivus</i>	Common Asphodel	Generally over, still in flower round Etna
<i>Asphodelus fistulosus</i>	Small Asphodel	Saline di Siracusa
<i>Muscari comosum</i>	Tassel Hyacinth	Cavagrande
<i>Ornithogalum angustifolium</i>	Common Star of Bethlehem	Cavagrande
<i>Ornithogalum narbonense</i>	A spiked Star of Bethlehem	Capo Murro di Porco and Saline di Siracusa
<i>Pancratium maritimum</i>	Sea Daffodil	Vendicari (leaves only)
<i>Smilax aspera</i>	Smilax	Cavagrande
<i>Urginea maritima</i>	Sea Squill	Cavagrande (v large leaves, not in flower)
Orchidaceae		
<i>Dactylorhiza sambucina</i>	Orchid Family Elder-flowered Orchid	Lower slopes of Mt Etna, lemon. magenta and intermediates
<i>Ophrys apifera</i>	Bee Orchid	Track to flooded meadow off main road to Siracusa
<i>Ophrys biancae</i>	Bianca's Orchid	Cavagrande; endemic to Sicily
<i>Ophrys ciliata</i>	Mirror Orchid	Cavagrande
<i>Ophrys lutea</i>	Yellow Bee Orchid	Cavagrande
<i>Ophrys oxyrhynchos</i>	-	Cavagrande; endemic to Sicily and S Italy

Scientific name	Common name	Location
<i>Ophrys sicula</i>	-	Cavagrande (smaller yellow bee orchid with 'bunny ears')
<i>Orchis papilionacea var. grandiflora</i>	Pink Butterfly Orchid	Cavagrande
<i>Serapias orientalis var. siciliensis</i>	A Tongue Orchid	Cavagrande; endemic to Sicily
<i>Serapias parviflora</i>	Small-flowered Tongue Orchid	Cavagrande
<i>Serapias vomeracea</i>	Plough-share Tongue Orchid	Cavagrande
Palmae		
<i>Chamaerops humilis</i>	Dwarf Fan Palm	Capo Murro di Porco
<i>Phoenix dactylifera</i>	Date Palm	Widely planted
Poaceae		
<i>Aegilops geniculata</i>	Aegilops	Capo Murro di Porco
<i>Ampelodesma mauritanica</i>	-	Widespread; tall majestic grass
<i>Anthoxanthum odorata</i>	Sweet Vernal Grass	Cavagrande
<i>Arundo donax</i>	Giant Reed	Widespread in wetlands
<i>Avena sterilis</i>	Winter Wild-oat	Widespread
<i>Briza maxima</i>	Great Quaking-grass	Scattered eg Capo Murro di Porco
<i>Bromus diandrus</i>	Great Brome	Widespread
<i>Bromus rigidus</i>	Stiff Brome	Scattered
<i>Cynodon dactylon</i>	Bermuda Grass	Vendicari
<i>Cynosurus echinatus</i>	Rough Dog's-tail	Scattered
<i>Dactylis glomerata</i>	Cock's-foot	Widespread
<i>Hordeum murinum</i>	Wall Barley	Scattered
<i>Lagurus ovatus</i>	Hare's-tail Grass	Common, v soft head
<i>Phragmites australis</i>	Common Reed	Widespread in wetlands
<i>Poa annua</i>	Annual Meadow-grass	Widespread
<i>Poa bulbosa vivipara</i>	Bulbous Meadow-grass	Slopes of Mt Etna (viviparous form)
Posidoniaceae		
<i>Posidonia oceanica</i>	Posidonia	Balls formed from leaf debris abundant on beaches

Birds (✓ = recorded but not counted; H = Heard only)

	Common name	Scientific name	May							
			8	9	10	11	12	13	14	
1	Shelduck	<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>		2				30		6
2	Mallard	<i>Anus platyrhynchos</i>		2	✓			✓		✓
3	Garganey	<i>Anas querquedula</i>						1		
4	Pochard	<i>Anas ferina</i>						2		1
5	Ferruginous Duck	<i>Aythya nyroca</i>				6	12			
6	Sicilian Rock Partridge	<i>Alectoris graeca whitakeri</i>			2					
7	Common Pheasant	<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>								1
8	Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>				8	6			
9	Black-necked Grebe	<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>					3			
10	Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>					10			✓
11	Scopoli's Shearwater	<i>Calonectris diomedea diomedea</i>		15			1			1
12	Yelkouan Shearwater	<i>Puffinus yelkouan</i>		30						
13	Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo sinensis</i>							1	
14	Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>		1			1			

	Common name	Scientific name	May						
			8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	Squacco Heron	<i>Ardeola ralloides</i>		2		3	3		
16	Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>		1			7		10
17	Great Egret	<i>Casmerodius albus</i>					2		10
18	Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>		2			2		2
19	Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>					1		
20	White Stork	<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>						1	1
21	Eurasian Spoonbill	<i>Platalea leucorodia</i>							2
22	Greater Flamingo	<i>Phoenicopterus roseus</i>					40		
23	Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>		4	2	2	2	1	1
24	Lesser Kestrel	<i>Falco naumanni</i>			1				
25	Lanner	<i>Falco biarmicus feldeggi</i>						1	
26	Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>		1			1	1	
27	Pallid Harrier	<i>Circus macrourus</i>						2	
28	Common Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>			2			4	2
29	Water Rail	<i>Rallus aquaticus</i>					H		
30	Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>		1		1	1		
31	Eurasian Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>		6		✓	✓		✓
32	Purple Swamp-hen	<i>Porphyrio porphyrio</i>					1		
33	Pied Avocet	<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>					8		2
34	Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>		5		3	20		10
35	Stone Curlew	<i>Burhinus oediconemus</i>					H		
36	Little Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>				1			
37	Common Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>							6
38	Kentish Plover	<i>Charadrius alexandrinus</i>		6		1			
39	Grey Plover	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>							3
40	Ruddy Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>					1		
41	Curlew Sandpiper	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>					15		
42	Little Stint	<i>Calidris minuta</i>					30		2
43	Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>		2		20	1		
44	Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>				1	1		
45	Spotted Redshank	<i>Tringa erythropus</i>					H		
46	Common Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>		1			1		
47	Eurasian Curlew	<i>Numenius arquata</i>							3
48	Ruff	<i>Philomachus pugnax</i>					3		
49	Black-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>					1		
50	Slender-billed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus genei</i>					2		
51	Yellow-legged Gull	<i>Larus michahellis</i>		2	3	3	100		6
52	Audouin's Gull	<i>Larus audouinii</i>					2		1
53	Little Tern	<i>Sternula albifrons</i>		20		4	3		12
54	Sandwich Tern	<i>Sterna sandvicensis</i>		6					1
55	Black Tern	<i>Chlidonias niger</i>					1		
56	White-winged Black Tern	<i>Chlidonias leucopterus</i>					6		
57	Whiskered Tern	<i>Chlidonias hybrida</i>		2			2		
58	Rock Dove / Feral Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
59	Common Wood Pigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
60	Eurasian Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
61	European Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>			1				2

	Common name	Scientific name	May							
			8	9	10	11	12	13	14	
62	Common Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>							2	
63	Eurasian Scops Owl	<i>Otus scops</i>	H	H	3	3	2	1		
64	European Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus europaeus</i>				H				
65	Common Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
66	Pallid Swift	<i>Apus pallidus</i>					1			1
67	Alpine Swift			2						
68	Eurasian Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>		1	3		1			1
69	Common Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>					1			
70	European Bee-eater	<i>Merops apiaster</i>		20	20	H	2			
71	Crested Lark	<i>Galerida cristata</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
72	Woodlark	<i>Lullula arborea</i>							2	
73	Calandra Lark	<i>Melanocorypha calandra</i>				6				
74	Common Sand Martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>		3	1	6	2			
75	Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
76	Red-rumped Swallow	<i>Hirundo daurica</i>		19	1					3
77	Common House Martin	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
78	White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba alba</i>			1		1	1	1	1
79	Ashy-headed Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinereocapilla</i>		2		1	1			15
80	European Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>							H	
81	Common Nightingale	<i>Luscinia megarhynchos</i>			H				H	
82	Black Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>							2	
83	Northern Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>							1	
84	Whinchat	<i>Saxicola rubetra</i>		1	1					2
85	Common Stonechat	<i>Saxicola torquatus</i>			5				3	1
86	Common Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
87	Blue Rock Thrush	<i>Monticola solitarius</i>			5					
88	Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>			H				H	
89	Sardinian Warbler	<i>Sylvia melanocephala</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
90	Spectacled Warbler	<i>Sylvia conspicillata</i>			3					
91	Moltoni's Subalpine Warbler	<i>Sylvia cantillans moltonii</i>			1				2	
92	Zitting Cisticola	<i>Cisticola juncidis</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
93	Cetti's Warbler	<i>Cettia cetti</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓			✓
94	European Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>				2	2			2
95	Great Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus arundinaceus</i>		H		1	H			
96	Melodious Warbler	<i>Hippolais polyglotta</i>		2	2					1
97	Wood Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus sibilatrix</i>		4	6	2				
98	Common Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>			1				2	
99	Firecrest	<i>Regulus ignicapilla</i>								1
100	Winter Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>							H	
101	Spotted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>		6	2	1	1			10
102	Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
103	Sicilian Coal Tit	<i>Periparus ater</i>							6	
104	European Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>			2					
105	Eurasian Penduline Tit	<i>Remiz pendulinus</i>								2
106	Eurasian Nuthatch	<i>Sitta europaea</i>							1	
107	Short-toed Treecreeper	<i>Certhia brachydactyla</i>							2	

	Common name	Scientific name	May						
			8	9	10	11	12	13	14
108	Red-backed Shrike	<i>Lanius collurio</i>					1		
109	Woodchat Shrike	<i>Lanius senator</i>			1		1		5
110	Common Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
111	Eurasian Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
112	Western Jackdaw	<i>Corvus monedula</i>			3				
113	Hooded Crow	<i>Corvus cornix</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
114	Common Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>			1				
115	Spotless Starling	<i>Sturnus unicolor</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
116	Eurasian Golden Oriole	<i>Oriolus oriolus</i>		1		1	2	H	
117	Italian Sparrow	<i>Passer italiae</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
118	Eurasian Tree Sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
119	Common Rock Sparrow	<i>Petronia petronia</i>						2	
120	Common Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>						3	
121	Common Linnet	<i>Carduelis cannabina</i>		1	2			3	3
122	European Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
123	European Greenfinch	<i>Chloris chloris</i>			2				
124	European Serin	<i>Serinus serinus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
125	Cirl Bunting	<i>Emberiza cirlus</i>			2			1	
126	Corn Bunting	<i>Emberiza calandra</i>			6	2	✓		
127	Rock Bunting	<i>Emberiza cia</i>						2	

Butterflies

1	Scarce Swallowtail	<i>Iphiclides podalirius</i>			✓				
2	Large White	<i>Pieris brassicae</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
3	Eastern Dappled White	<i>Euchloe ausonia</i>				✓			
4	Eastern Orange Tip	<i>Anthocharis damone</i>						✓	
5	Clouded Yellow	<i>Colias crocea</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
6	Cleopatra	<i>Gonepteryx cleopatra</i>			✓				✓
7	Small Copper	<i>Lycaena phlaeas</i>			✓				
8	Common Blue	<i>Polyommatus icarus</i>				✓			
9	Brown Argus	<i>Aricia agestis</i>				✓			
10	Little Blue	<i>Cupido minimus</i>			✓				
11	Painted lady	<i>Vanessa cardui</i>			✓	✓			
12	Small Tortoiseshell	<i>Aglais urticae</i>						✓	
13	Meadow Brown	<i>Maniola jurtina</i>					✓	✓	
14	Small Heath	<i>Coenonympha pamphilus</i>				✓			
15	Speckled Wood	<i>Pararge aegeria</i>				✓			
16	Wall Brown	<i>Lasiommata megera</i>		✓	✓				
17	Small Skipper	<i>Thymelicus sylvestris</i>		✓			✓		
18	Pygmy Skipper	<i>Gegenes pumilio</i>		✓					

Mammals

1	Serotine Bat	<i>Eptesicus serotinus</i>				✓			
2	Rabbit	<i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i>							✓

	Common name	Scientific name	May						
			8	9	10	11	12	13	14

Fish

1	Ocean Sunfish	<i>Mola mola</i>		✓					
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Amphibians & Reptiles

1	Italian Hybrid Frog	<i>Rana kl hispanica</i>		H			H	H		H
2	and/or Italian Pool Frog	<i>Rana bergeri</i>		H			H	H		H
3	Moorish Gecko	<i>Tarentola mauritanica</i>					L			
4	Italian Wall Lizard	<i>Podarcis sicula</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
5	Sicilian Wall Lizard	<i>Podarcis wagleriana</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
6	Western Whip Snake (black form)	<i>Hierophis viridiflavus var carbonarius</i>								✓

Moths

Sp No.	Scientific Name	Common Name	Where
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Macros

3998	<i>Zygaena filipendulae</i>	Six-spot Burnet	daytime
6860	<i>Hyles livornica</i>	Striped Hawkmoth	M.V.Light
7754	<i>Peribatodes rhomboidaria</i>	Willow Beauty	M.V.Light
7984	<i>Phaiogramma etruscaria</i>		M.V.Light
8042	<i>Scopula nigropunctata</i>	Sub-angled Wave	M.V.Light
8110	<i>Idaea filicata</i>		M.V.Light
8123	<i>Idaea sylvestraria</i>	Dotted Border Wave	M.V.Light
8211	<i>Rhodometra sacraria</i>	Vestal	M.V.Light
8364	<i>Thera cupressata</i>	Cypress Carpet	M.V.Light
8787	<i>Acronicta rumicis</i>	Knot Grass	M.V.Light
8857	<i>Zanclognatha zelleralis</i>	Dusky Fan-foot	M.V.Light
9081	<i>Trichoplusia ni</i>	Ni	M.V.Light
9093	<i>Abrostola triplasia</i>	Dark Spectacle	M.V.L.ight
9097	<i>Emmelia trabealis</i>	Spotted Sulpher	M.V.Light
9100	<i>Acontia lucida</i>	Pale Shoulder	daytime
9367	<i>Heliothis peltigera</i>	Bordered Straw	M.V.Light
9370	<i>Helicovera armigera</i>	Scarce Bordered Straw	M.V.Ligh
9454	<i>Hoplodrina ambigua</i>	Vines Rustic	M.V.Light
9460	<i>Spodoptera exigua</i>	Small Mottled Willow	M.V.Light
9462	<i>Spodoptera littoralis</i>	Mediterranean Brocade	M.V.Light
9478	<i>Proxenus hespes</i>	Porters Rustic	M.V.Light
9917	<i>Laconobia oleracea</i>	Bright-line Brown-eye	M.V.Light
10003	<i>Mythimna vittelina</i>	Delicate	M.V.Light
10035	<i>Mythimna unipuncta</i>	White Speck	M.V.Light
10087	<i>Ochropleura leucogaster</i>	Radfords Flame Shoulder	M.V.Light
10519	<i>Amata kruegeri</i>	(local sp. of Nine Spotted)	daytime

Micros

1525	<i>Plutella xylostella</i>	Diamond-back Moth	daytime
2303	<i>Batia lunaris</i>		M.V.Light

Sp No.	Scientific Name	Common Name	Where
2898	<i>Blastobasis phycidella</i>		M.V.Light
4370	<i>Tortrix viridana</i>	Green Oak Tortrix	M.V.Light
4887	<i>Crociosema plebejana</i>		M.V.Light
5031	<i>Pseudococcyx tessulatana</i>		M.V.Light
5381	<i>Amblyptilia acanthadactyla</i>		M.V.Light
5661	<i>Endotricha flammealis</i>		daytime
6390	<i>Schoenobius gigantella</i>		M.V.Light
6393	<i>Donacula forficella</i> , (probable)		M.V.Light
6719	<i>Nomophila noctuella</i>	Rush Veneer	M.V.Light

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Mount Etna