

Spring Birding in Sicily

Naturetrek Tour Report

1 – 7 May 2013



Mount Etna



European Bee-eater



Elephant Hawk-moth



Italian Wall Lizard

Report compiled by Dave Nevitt and Stu Elsom

Images by Rachael Anderson and Stu Elsom



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| | Stu Elsom | Ornithologist/Naturalist |

| | |
|---------------|------------------|
| Participants | Bill Ashby |
| | Chris Ashby |
| | Paul Gavens |
| | Angie Gavens |
| | Fred Wickens |
| | Anita Wickens |
| | Chris Stephens |
| | Jill Stephens |
| | Michael Anderson |
| | Rachael Anderson |
| | Elizabeth Fish |
| | Dave Ellis |
| | Marion Ellis |
| Lesley Benson | |
| Jill Black | |

Day 1

Wednesday 1st May

The group's Sicilian adventure started with an on-time flight arrival from Gatwick to Catania arriving at 18:30. The weather was pretty cloudy and gloomy but a warm 23 degrees C. Since we already had the minibuses, we were swift to depart the airport and were soon on the motorway headed towards Siracusa. As it was still light, we were able to spot several roadside White Storks sitting on their nests before arriving at Case del Feudo at dusk. This was new accommodation for both the clients and the leaders but after a warm welcome from Baron Pietro we settled into our fantastic rustic rooms and then met for a fine glass of wine (produced on this very farm!) and a sumptuous "light snack" of quiches, hams, cheeses and salad. Replete and tired, we headed for an early night, although many managed a quick investigation of the Scops Owl which was calling nearby.

Day 2

Thursday 2nd May

We had a bit of a lie-in today, with breakfast at 08:30. Several had got up early and had already heard Golden Oriole and Nightingale from their room! We left by 09:30 and had only gone 50 metres when we stopped to admire a Honey Buzzard over the track. We detoured via the supermarket to buy our picnic lunch then we were off to Capo Murro di Porco, a nearby headland. On the way we again stopped, this time for a Lesser Kestrel and two Honey Buzzards. At the Capo we were welcomed by a throng of life – Woodchat Shrikes sat proudly atop bushes, Whinchats were more discrete on lower vegetation and Fan-tailed Warblers sang constantly overhead.

Clouded Yellows and Swallowtails kept us on our toes, as did the Western Whip Snake seen by some. This snake is interesting in that the Sicilian individuals are all black, lacking the markings of their mainland cousins. The Nine-spotted moths that we saw many of have since been identified as Ragusa's Nine-spotted, a localised species of the Eastern Mediterranean. We had a geology lesson from Dave, explaining the three types of rock in the world, then a more detailed explanation of the formation of the superb limestone pavement in front of us. Our lesson was interrupted to watch two Slender-billed Gulls which flew past distantly. Several harriers hunted in the distance and we were able to confidently identify one as a Montagu's. Bee-eaters were calling regularly as they arrived in off the sea but were difficult to see against the bright sky. However a female Black-eared Wheatear was more accommodating, showing itself to all on a wall. We headed back towards the buses, only to stop in our tracks as a superb flock of 35+ Bee-eaters circled around us and alighted on a nearby fence. We had stunning views and beaming smiles adorned all our faces!

We then decanted to Isola where we prepared lunch next to a coffee bar with fine views across the picturesque bay towards Siracusa. After lunch we checked out the bay and discovered not one but two Audouin's Gulls on the buoys, plus Sandwich Terns, Little Terns and a Peregrine. We enjoyed our first Sicilian gelato then moved to the nearby Saline de Siracusa. Looking across the pools, Bill soon discovered a fine Purple Heron sat in the open for all to enjoy. A Woodchat Shrike kept vigil from a telegraph wire as we made our way down to the coast. Here we found a Little Ringed Plover sat on a nest, giving us an excellent opportunity to see the yellow eye ring that separates it from Ringed Plover. Paler Kentish Plovers scuttled along the beach and were joined by a migrating Greenshank and six Sanderlings. Little Terns entertained us with their noisy antics and we spotted a distant Great Egret. On our return, it became clear that there was a small fall of migrants as we counted five Woodchat Shrikes at once, where just 30 minutes before there was only one. Spotted Flycatchers were also enjoyed by everyone.

We then popped back to the supermarket to get the next two days' supplies and were back in time for relaxation, a swim or a shower. We did our checklist for the day outside on the patio with the calls of Bee-eaters in our ears before feasting on rice and tomatoes followed by veal and potatoes. As we set the moth trap it started to drizzle, then lightning, but the forecast was just for light rain so we risked leaving the trap out.

Day 3

Friday 3rd May

The early birds amongst the group joined Dave for an early morning bird walk and we were treated to a great variety of birds just a few hundred metres from the farmhouse. Five Nightingales constantly serenaded us and we even managed to see two of them, one through the telescope for five minutes! We also saw Sardinian Warblers aplenty, a Redstart, Spotted Flycatchers, beautiful Turtle Doves, a Squacco Heron, Marsh Warbler and many Cetti's Warblers. Not bad before breakfast!

We then returned to check the moth trap and were treated to many exciting finds due to the warm damp weather last night. These included two Striped Hawk Moths, Cream-spot Tigers, Tawny Shears, Purple Marbled, Four-spotted and Spotted Sulphur. Many of these are crippling rarities back home.

We enjoyed local mulberries for breakfast with juice from local blood oranges and then we were off again. But we had left the bread so Stu went back for it while the first bus watched Pallid Swifts by the roadside. With Bill helping with the navigation, we successfully found the turn-off to Casa Grande and were soon winding our way up the hill on a switchback road. We stopped at a pull-in half way up to enjoy Blue Rock Thrushes, a showy Sardinian Warbler, Stonechats and an obliging Rock Sparrow that had the leaders guessing for a moment with its seldom-heard call. Birds of prey were moving along the ridges and we saw Montagu's Harrier, Honey and Common Buzzards. Unfortunately our playback of Rock Partridge calls failed to elicit any response. Onwards to the top of the gorge and we parked by the taverna with the most amazing view across the impressive Cava Grande del Cassibile Gorge, justly known as the Italian Grand Canyon.

Despite being at high altitude, the temperature was warming up and we prepared ourselves for a relaxing walk. Subalpine Warblers were common and most enjoyed spectacularly close views, a Blue Rock Thrush was picked out on the rock face in the telescope for all to see and Dave had a brief sighting of a Lanner. A Hummingbird Hawk Moth was a very popular visitor to some gorge-top flowers and several managed impressive photos. We progressed further along the track where we heard several Woodlarks singing and managed to see one in the scope. Arriving at the turn-off to the Spectacled Warbler site, we had only just stepped onto the track when we heard one singing and watched as he gave a display-flight. Waiting for the tail-enders to catch up, we then set to trying to get another glimpse. And what a treat we had – this normally secretive and difficult to find bird thrilled us with close-up views as he came out to investigate us! We were all able to see his dark peachy underparts, dark slate-grey/blue head and even his “spectacles”.

Unable to beat such views, we retired back to the buses to prepare lunch, on the way clocking singing Girl Bunting, several more good sightings of Subalpine Warbler and Dave sneaked in another solo sighting of the Lanner. Stu deftly negotiated the use of picnic tables at the taverna which made our picnic so much more enjoyable. After lunch, just before we left, the Lanner finally gave itself up and we were all able to see its longer inner wing that gives it a silhouette so distinct from Peregrine. Phew!

We then dropped back down the wiggly road to Siracusa and the Archaeological Park. A must-see on any visit to the area, we got a splendid insight into the history of the island with the Greek and Roman features in the park. Despite the installation of wooden seats covering the stone-tiered seating of the Greek amphitheatre, it left us in awe at its scale and very impressed at how well preserved it was. A sight to behold, that is for sure! Whilst here, several group members found Pied Flycatcher and another two were in the car park for the others to catch up with.

We then boarded the buses to return to the Case del Feudo. However when we got to the turn-off, it had been blocked off by the road-works workmen. So we ended up detouring via Floridaia to get us home in time for a relaxing evening and another magnificent feast at dinner.

Day 4

Saturday 4th May

Dave and Stu were joined by eight of the group for the early morning bird walk which yielded good views of Turtle Doves, Spotted Flycatchers and we heard Golden Orioles and Nightingales.

Dave returned early to check the moth trap and pot up the interesting catches. These included the strange white Asparagus Moth with its long tail and odd stubby wings, a beautiful bright pink Elephant Hawk Moth that had everyone amazed, the Turnip Moth and a Passenger. Another very satisfying haul!

After breakfast we left for Penisola Magnisi, a wonderful semi-desert peninsular connected to the mainland by a narrow neck of land. On the way we looked at the beach and found two lovely Avocets. On Magnisi we first encountered the ever-present Woodchat Shrikes, and then a Corn Bunting sang from a wire. Further along the track, the beautiful flower-filled meadows were alive with butterflies and we had soon netted specimens of both the Bath White and the Eastern Dappled White that we were able to compare side-by-side. The small group of trees didn't reveal any migrants so we headed along the track into more open areas. We could hear Stone Curlews calling in the distance and we were then surprised and delighted when one of these strange birds gave us a fly-past and landed nearby, before repeating this performance some while later. Having been given a summary of the expected lark songs before we left the car park, we strained our ears for the characteristic buzzing notes of the sought-after Calandra Lark, and we soon picked up several of these large larks in the area. Their strange flight is more reminiscent of a Quail or a wader than a lark and we soon became adept at picking them up and noted their dark underwings and white trailing edges to the wings.

We then split into two groups, Dave heading north to explore along the eastern edge of the peninsula whilst Stu's group took the easier walk retracing their steps to the buses. The intrepid eastern group struck it lucky with a very obliging Short-toed Lark out in the open, followed by five more Stone Curlews, briefly on the ground then in flight.

Back at the buses, we headed for a drink and comfort stop at a nearby bar before returning to the beach for our picnic. On the way, we came to an unscheduled stop to admire nine beautiful Greater Flamingos which were settled just offshore, allowing quite close approach and great photo opportunities for all. We then moved to the Saline di Priolo reserve where we came across a secretive couple of Marsh Warblers chuntering away in the bushes. We heard the shrill call of the Penduline Tit on four separate occasions but our efforts to try to coax them out of the bushes came to nothing.

Arriving at the spectacular hide in the middle of the lake, we were welcomed by a feast of birds. Ferruginous Ducks were on show – a Red Data Book species that is a speciality of this reserve. A Squacco Heron was on show and an area of mud in one corner held Curlew Sandpipers and a Ruff. Recent management work had created several shingle islands in front of the hide which were adorned with nesting Black-winged Stilts with their legs so long that they stuck out beyond their tails when they were sat on their nests! Kentish Plovers ran around amongst them & the furthest island had dozens of nesting Little Terns. The warm weather had brewed up plenty of cloud and it culminated in a spell of rain, fortunately whilst we were in the hide! It brought down more migrating waders including Sanderling and a big flock of Little Terns which had presumably been fishing offshore. Our constant searching of the reed edges finally bore fruit in a fine pair of Purple Gallinules which showed off their ridiculously large feet!

It had by now nearly stopped raining and it was time to go so we returned to the minibuses and made our way back to Siracusa where we stocked up with picnic supplies at the supermarket before returning for a well-earned rest and another delicious dinner.

We had a go after dinner at seeing the Scops Owl. We successfully found some eyes reflecting in the tree which he was calling from and were very pleased that we had found him – that is until Dave went to get his telescope which revealed that we were looking at a Woodpigeon!! With much mirth and merriment we called it a day and retired to bed!

Day 5

Sunday 5th May

Stu took the early morning bird walk today and those who went were elated at having seen FIVE Golden Orioles in one tree! What a special moment! Dave checked out the interesting moths before breakfast - these included a Porter's Rustic, The Amah, Mediterranean Brocade and *Palpita vitrealis*.

After breakfast we journeyed south to explore the lakes and headlands of the most southerly part of Sicily. With continuing glorious sunshine, we were soon at our motorway turn-off and enjoying the beautiful rural countryside. All eyes remained peeled for the elusive hoopoe but sadly we were unsuccessful. Our first stop was the lake at Pantano Morghella on the east coast. We arrived to find that it was a lake no more as the dry winter meant that it was just mud with a few pools of water. However we did manage to pick out a pair of Kentish Plovers. But it was otherwise quiet so we moved on round the corner where there was more water. A quick roadside stop produced a flock of some 16 Curlew Sandpipers, resplendent in their brick-red summer finery.

Onwards we went to Pachino where we enjoyed coffee and nibbles in the friendly atmosphere of the Bar del Sole café. Next stop was Pantano Cuba where we had a good view across the lake. We soon latched on to Ferruginous Ducks lurking near the reedbed, accompanied by a couple of Pochard. A Marsh Harrier quartered the reeds and a distant falcon came right across the lake towards us, eventually revealing itself as a smart Hobby as it flew right over our heads. We had heard brief snatches of song from Great Reed Warbler so we tried to lure him out with the tape but he was having none of it! It was quite windy, so not the best day to try to see the reedbed dwellers which were keeping their heads down. We then struck it lucky as two Purple Herons came out of the reeds to give protracted flight views such that we could all see the differences between them and the Grey Heron.

As the buses were turned round, the group got to see some fine Bee Orchids by the track, then we were off to Pantano Longarini where we parked up and scanned the waters. Flamingos were in the middle of the lake and a Marsh Harrier hunted along the edges. A group of four herons were spotted on the far side of the lake coming towards us. As they twisted and turned in the wind, we picked up hints as to their identity – it was a good lesson in the different techniques that we use to identify birds. They then revealed themselves as Night Herons before dropping in to some riverside trees.

We decided to drive further along the road to explore new areas and we soon came across some lovely muddy pools right by the roadside. We stayed in the buses and enjoyed very close views of 16 Little Stints, a Wood Sandpiper, Little Ringed Plover and a Snipe. We drove on further through farmland and greenhouses growing various squashes. As we turned the buses around, Michael spotted a bird on the track that turned out to be a Short-toed Lark! We used the walkie-talkies to tell the other bus and whilst we were waiting for them we entertained a local dog by the bus to stop him from flushing the lark.

We retraced our steps and then headed for the coast down a small track. A Kestrel feeding over the marsh came under close scrutiny but couldn't be made into a Lesser. As the group scanned the beach for waders and the sea for shearwaters we made our picnic in the buses and enjoyed it to the soothing waves of the Mediterranean. After Dave did an impersonation to get everyone clued up as to what we were looking for, we succeeded in getting all the group onto Scopoli's Shearwater!

We then headed for Sicily's most south-easterly point at Portopalo. We stopped at the harbour car park where we had several Audouin's Gulls but precious little else so we moved to the harbour wall. Another seawatch was rather less productive. It was time for a gelato so we stopped in the centre of Portopalo to get one. Unfortunately the bar was teeming with football fans as the Juventus match was on the TV so we didn't stop long and returned back nice and early for a good rest before another lovely dinner. We didn't set the moth trap this evening as we have an early departure tomorrow.

Day 6

Monday 6th May

We were up early, ready for our day trip up Mount Etna. We breakfasted at 06:30 and were on the road by 07:00. Passing Catania, the traffic got quite busy and our progress was slow but after Nicolosi, things improved and we were soon winding our way upwards towards the mountain which was by now giving tantalising peaks through the cloud. We stopped at a couple of areas of lush vegetation in the hope of an early morning Sicilian Long-tailed Tit but despite our best efforts they didn't show. We did however get consolation prizes of a splendid male Black Redstart and several Sicilian Coal Tits, a very distinctive form that may one day become a new species and an "armchair tick" for us all. Further up we had another quick stop to try to lure out a Sicilian Rock Partridge but without any luck.

So we continued up to our destination of the Rifugio Sapienza, keen to beat the anticipated crowds. With the volcano having erupted just ten days previously, we expected it to be thronged with tourists but we were pleasantly surprised. Dave went ahead and got our tickets remarkably quickly. With much excitement we boarded the cars of the Funivia and ascended the mountain at a nice gentle pace. With the clouds receding, we had pretty good views but we saw no birds on the way up. The snows of a week ago were receding and just remained in the gullies. At the top of the Funivia we disembarked and then boarded our 4x4 vehicles for the final ascent, along a track cut through the banks of snow and ice. Excitement mounted as the snow got thicker and we could see the main volcanic cone in the distance. Then we arrived at the end of the line – the side-cone that was created in the 2002/3 eruption.

Elizabeth had set herself the goal of getting to the top of the cone and, arm in arm with Stu, off she set. The rest of the group followed behind, and Dave made regular stops to tell us of the important geological features on display – as well as an opportunity to get our breath back! As we walked by the fumarole it was still emitting volcanic gases and this all added to the wonderful atmosphere. As we looked up to the main cone above us, we noticed that it was starting to emit more gases than when we had arrived and this made us quicken our steps a little! Soon we were at the top and enjoyed spectacular views down to the coast, as well as plentiful photo opportunities with the volcano behind us. Everyone congratulated Elizabeth for reaching the top! It was pretty cold on that ridge so after our photos we decided that a hot cup of coffee and some lunch were in order.

We descended back down and on the way Dave dug 40cm beneath the surface of the ash to reveal the warm rocks for everyone to have a feel. It really brought it home to us that this is very much an active volcano – and not very deep beneath our feet! Then it was back to the 4x4 vehicles and to the top of the Funivia. Here we stopped at the café and all enjoyed fine Sicilian pizzas and hot drinks, followed by apple pie. What an amazing experience it was, and as we exited at the bottom of the Funivia, we were all buzzing.

We then drove a few miles back down the mountain and explored an area of ash fields with conifers that were adorned with the silk nests of Pine Processionary Moths. We heard our first Cuckoo of the trip as well as a Short-toed Treecreeper. We saw Sicilian Coal Tit, Woodlarks, Black Redstarts and a superb Rock Bunting singing in the top of a tree. We had a good look at the plentiful Queen of Spain Fritillary butterflies amid the beautiful flower meadows.

A little further on we stopped at the roadside to photograph the elegant Elder-flowered Orchids in myriads of colour shades that had us guessing as to their identity. We then chanced upon two orange-tipped butterflies that were mating on a flower. At the time we thought they were Moroccan Orange Tips but after studying photos Michael and Rachael suggested that they may be Eastern Orange Tips and they were right! Well done to them. This is a rare species with a very restricted range that has Mount Etna as its most westerly outpost. What a find!

Then it was time to turn homewards as we had a long drive back. Many took advantage of the time to have a snooze before arriving back at the Case del Feudo in time to freshen up before dinner. After an amazing day, we enjoyed our last dinner then retired to our rooms to pack for tomorrow.

Day 7

Tuesday 7th May

We completed our packing and sat down to breakfast on a fine sunny morning with a brisk wind. Lesley had reported seeing a so-called “kettle” of 27 spiralling, migrating raptors near the accommodation early on, and this turned out to be a fore-runner of what was to come as our breakfast was repeatedly interrupted by calls of raptors cruising over northwards into the wind. One group consisted of over 85 birds and the total seen was well over 200. Most were Honey Buzzards but keen eyes also picked out a Black Kite, a probable Short-toed Eagle and a couple of unidentified falcons. What a spectacular start to the day!

We headed for the supermarket to get our picnic then zipped down the motorway to Oasi di Vendicari. We had just turned onto the entrance track when our path was blocked by a huge Carob tree that had fallen and blocked the road. It was too large to move, even with 17 willing hands, so as we stood there scratching our heads and weighing up our options, a friendly local farmer came to our rescue. A quick chat in Dave’s improving Italian and we were turning round the minibuses to follow him onto a parallel dirt track that fortunately took us conveniently past the fallen tree and back onto our target track! Not surprisingly, the car park was pretty empty, and we were pleased to be greeted by the purring of Turtle Doves in the surrounding trees, together with display flights. We reported the fallen tree to the staff and got on our way.

Entering the first hide, it was obvious that the low water level was producing benefits as we were treated to a feast of waders in the shallow waters. Smart summer-plumaged Curlew Sandpipers were the commonest, with over a dozen Little Stints, several smart Grey Plovers, Ruff and Wood Sandpiper. A showy Gull-billed Tern gave good scope views in front of the hide.

Outside the second hide we found a Penduline Tit nest from a previous year and then heard their distinctive high-pitched call from the reeds. A few moments searching and we found a pair of them building a new nest right by the path. The whole group were delighted by these little gems as they wove pieces of reed to make the initial ring that was to become their elaborate nest. The photographers in the group had a field day snapping away.

We had intended to walk the boardwalk to the next hide but it was closed for maintenance so we walked to the beach instead, admiring the ancient disused tuna fishery, and the tower built in the C13 by Peter of Aragon. With time pressing on, we returned to the pleasant setting of the car park where we prepared our picnic. We sat under the shade of beautiful orange trees to enjoy our meal.

Alas it was then time to leave, so we headed back to the Case del Feudo where we got changed and freshened up for our journey, loaded the cases into the minibuses and set off reluctantly for the airport. We again saw the White Storks but otherwise the journey was uneventful and we were in good time for our flight home.

What an amazing week we had experienced. Fantastic weather throughout, a stunning selection of birds that performed so very well for us all, and a group of lovely people! Any group is only as good as the people who form it and thanks must go to all the group members who got on so well together, sharing knowledge and stories to enhance the overall enjoyment of the trip.

Stu and Dave hope that everyone had an enjoyable week, seeing many new species on a beautiful island. We look forward to seeing you all on your next Naturetrek trip.

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Species Lists

Birds (✓ = recorded but not counted; H = Heard Only; S = singing)

| | Common name | Scientific name | May | | | | | | |
|----|------------------------|--------------------------------------|-----|----|---|-----|----|---|------|
| | | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| 1 | Shelduck | <i>Tadorna tadorna</i> | | | | | 11 | | |
| 2 | Mallard | <i>Anas platyrhynchos</i> | | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ |
| 3 | Pochard | <i>Anas ferina</i> | | | | | 2 | | |
| 4 | Ferruginous Duck | <i>Aythya nyroca</i> | | | | 5 | 20 | | |
| 5 | Common Pheasant | <i>Phasianus colchicus</i> | | | H | | | | |
| 6 | Little Grebe | <i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i> | | | | 8 | 6 | | |
| 7 | Great Crested Grebe | <i>Podiceps cristatus</i> | | 1 | | 4 | 2 | | 4 |
| 8 | Scopoli's Shearwater | <i>Calonectris diomedea diomedea</i> | | | | | 10 | | |
| 9 | Cormorant | <i>Phalacrocorax carbo sinensis</i> | | | | | | 1 | 10 |
| 10 | Night Heron | <i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i> | | | | 4 | | | |
| 11 | Cattle Egret | <i>Bubulcus ibis</i> | 2 | | | | | | |
| 12 | Squacco Heron | <i>Ardeola ralloides</i> | | | 1 | 1 | 2 | | 1 |
| 13 | Little Egret | <i>Egretta garzetta</i> | | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ |
| 14 | Great Egret | <i>Casmerodius albus</i> | | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ |
| 15 | Grey Heron | <i>Ardea cinerea</i> | | | | ✓ | ✓ | | |
| 16 | Purple Heron | <i>Ardea purpurea</i> | | 1 | | | 2 | | |
| 17 | White Stork | <i>Ciconia ciconia</i> | 2 | | | | | 5 | 4 |
| 18 | Spoonbill | <i>Platalea leucorodia</i> | | | | 1 | | | 15 |
| 19 | Greater Flamingo | <i>Phoenicopterus roseus</i> | | | | 34 | 40 | | 1 |
| 20 | Common Kestrel | <i>Falco tinnunculus</i> | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| 21 | Lesser Kestrel | <i>Falco naumanni</i> | | 2 | | | | 1 | 1 |
| 22 | Eurasian Hobby | <i>Falco subbuteo</i> | | | | | 1 | | |
| 23 | Peregrine | <i>Falco peregrinus</i> | | 1 | | | | | |
| 24 | Lanner | <i>Falco biarmicus feldeggi</i> | | | 1 | | | | |
| 25 | Black Kite | <i>Milvus migrans</i> | | | | | | | 1 |
| 26 | Marsh Harrier | <i>Circus aeruginosus</i> | | 1 | | 1 | 7 | 1 | 3 |
| 27 | Montagu's Harrier | <i>Circus pygargus</i> | | 1 | 1 | | | | |
| 28 | Pallid Harrier | <i>Circus macrourus</i> | | | | | | | |
| 29 | Common Buzzard | <i>Buteo buteo</i> | | | 2 | | 1 | 3 | |
| 30 | European Honey Buzzard | <i>Pernis apivorus</i> | | 4 | 4 | | | | 200+ |
| 31 | Eurasian Sparrowhawk | <i>Accipiter nisus</i> | | | | | | 1 | 1 |
| 32 | Water Rail | <i>Rallus aquaticus</i> | | 2H | | | H | | H |
| 33 | Common Moorhen | <i>Gallinula chloropus</i> | | ✓ | | ✓ | | | ✓ |
| 34 | Eurasian Coot | <i>Fulica atra</i> | | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ |
| 35 | Purple Swamp-hen | <i>Porphyrio porphyrio</i> | | | | 2 | | | |
| 36 | Pied Avocet | <i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i> | | | | 2 | | | 2 |
| 37 | Black-winged Stilt | <i>Himantopus himantopus</i> | | | | 50+ | 10 | | 30 |
| 38 | Stone Curlew | <i>Burhinus oedicephalus</i> | H | | | 4+ | H | | |
| 39 | Little Ringed Plover | <i>Charadrius dubius</i> | | 1 | | | 1 | | |
| 40 | Kentish Plover | <i>Charadrius alexandrinus</i> | | 2 | | 3 | 3 | | 5 |
| 41 | Grey Plover | <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i> | | | | | | | 5 |
| 42 | Sanderling | <i>Calidris alba</i> | | | | 4 | | | |
| 43 | Turnstone | <i>Arenaria interpres</i> | | | | | | | 1 |
| 44 | Dunlin | <i>Calidris alpina</i> | | | | | | | 5 |
| 45 | Curlew Sandpiper | <i>Calidris ferruginea</i> | | | | 5 | 16 | | 30 |
| 46 | Little Stint | <i>Calidris minuta</i> | | | | 2 | 16 | | 12 |
| 47 | Wood Sandpiper | <i>Tringa glareola</i> | | | | 1 | 1 | | 2 |

| | Common name | Scientific name | May | | | | | | |
|----|----------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----|-----|-------|------|-------|----|----|
| | | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| 48 | Common Sandpiper | <i>Actitis hypoleucos</i> | | 1 | | 1 | | | 1 |
| 49 | Common Greenshank | <i>Tringa nebularia</i> | | 1 | | | | | H |
| 50 | Common Snipe | <i>Gallinago gallinago</i> | | | | | 1 | | |
| 51 | Ruff | <i>Philomachus pugnax</i> | | | | 1 | | | 2 |
| 52 | Black-headed Gull | <i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i> | | | | 5 | 4 | | 15 |
| 53 | Slender-billed Gull | <i>Chroicocephalus genei</i> | | 2 | | | | | 5 |
| 54 | Yellow-legged Gull | <i>Larus michahellis</i> | | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ |
| 55 | Audouin's Gull | <i>Larus audouinii</i> | | 2 | | | 7 | | |
| 56 | Little Tern | <i>Sternula albifrons</i> | | 20 | | 50+ | | | 6 |
| 57 | Sandwich Tern | <i>Sterna sandvicensis</i> | | 10 | | | 1 | | |
| 58 | Gull-billed Tern | <i>Gelochelidon nilotica</i> | | | | | | | 1 |
| 59 | Rock Dove / Feral Pigeon | <i>Columba livia</i> | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| 60 | Common Wood Pigeon | <i>Columba palumbus</i> | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| 61 | Eurasian Collared Dove | <i>Streptopelia decaocto</i> | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| 62 | European Turtle Dove | <i>Streptopelia turtur</i> | | 2 | 5 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 5 |
| 63 | Common Cuckoo | <i>Cuculus canorus</i> | | | | | | H | |
| 64 | Eurasian Scops Owl | <i>Otus scops</i> | H | H | H | H | H | H | H |
| 65 | Common Swift | <i>Apus apus</i> | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| 66 | Pallid Swift | <i>Apus pallidus</i> | | | 4 | 2 | | | |
| 67 | Alpine Swift | <i>Apus melba</i> | | 1 | 1 | | | | |
| 68 | Eurasian Hoopoe | <i>Upupa epops</i> | | | 1 | | 1 | | 1 |
| 69 | European Bee-eater | <i>Merops apiaster</i> | | 30+ | 25 | 8 | 6 | 12 | H |
| 70 | Great-spotted Woodpecker | <i>Dendrocopus major</i> | | | H | | | | |
| 71 | Skylark | <i>Alauda arvensis</i> | | | H | | | | |
| 72 | Crested Lark | <i>Galerida cristata</i> | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ |
| 73 | Woodlark | <i>Lullula arborea</i> | | | 3 | | | 2 | |
| 74 | Greater Short-toed Lark | <i>Calandrella brachydactyla</i> | | | | 1 | 1 | | |
| 75 | Calandra Lark | <i>Melanocorypha calandra</i> | | | | 5+ | | | |
| 76 | Common Sand Martin | <i>Riparia riparia</i> | | ✓ | H | 100+ | ✓ | | 2 |
| 77 | Barn Swallow | <i>Hirundo rustica</i> | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ |
| 78 | Red-rumped Swallow | <i>Hirundo daurica</i> | | 6 | | | | | |
| 79 | Common House Martin | <i>Delichon urbicum</i> | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| 80 | Tawny Pipit | <i>Anthus campestris</i> | | 1 | | | | | |
| 81 | Tree Pipit | <i>Anthus trivialis</i> | | | 1 | | | | |
| 82 | White Wagtail | <i>Motacilla alba alba</i> | | 1 | | | | | 2 |
| 83 | Blue-headed Yellow Wagtail | <i>Motacilla flava sp.</i> | | | | 2 | 1 | | 1 |
| 84 | Grey Wagtail | <i>Motacilla cinerea</i> | | 1 | | | | 1 | |
| 85 | European Robin | <i>Erithacus rubecula</i> | | | | | | 2H | |
| 86 | Common Nightingale | <i>Luscinia megarhynchos</i> | 1H | 1H | 7(2S) | 5H | 6(3S) | 3H | H |
| 87 | Common Redstart | <i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i> | | | 1 | | | 1 | |
| 88 | Black Redstart | <i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i> | | | | | | 6 | |
| 89 | Northern Wheatear | <i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i> | | | | | | 5 | |
| 90 | Black-eared Wheatear | <i>Oenanthe hispanica</i> | | 1 | | | | 2 | |
| 91 | Whinchat | <i>Saxicola rubetra</i> | | ✓ | 3 | | 1 | | |
| 92 | Common Stonechat | <i>Saxicola torquatus</i> | | | 5+ | ✓ | | 3 | |
| 93 | Common Blackbird | <i>Turdus merula</i> | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| 94 | Blue Rock Thrush | <i>Monticola solitarius</i> | | | 3 | | | 3 | |
| 95 | Blackcap | <i>Sylvia atricapilla</i> | | | 2H | | | 4H | H |
| 96 | Common Whitethroat | <i>Sylvia communis</i> | | | 2 | 1 | | | |
| 97 | Spectacled Warbler | <i>Sylvia conspicillata</i> | | | 3 | | | | |

| | Common name | Scientific name | May | | | | | | | |
|-----|------------------------|----------------------------------|-----|-----|-------|-------|----|---|----|----|
| | | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | |
| 98 | Sardinian Warbler | <i>Sylvia melanocephala</i> | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| 99 | Subalpine Warbler | <i>Sylvia cantillans</i> | | | 6 | 3 | 2H | | | 2H |
| 100 | Zitting Cisticola | <i>Cisticola juncidis</i> | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| 101 | Cetti's Warbler | <i>Cettia cetti</i> | | H | H(1S) | H(1S) | H | H | H | H |
| 102 | European Reed Warbler | <i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i> | | | | H | H | | | 2H |
| 103 | Marsh Warbler | <i>Acrocephalus palustris</i> | | | 2H | 2H | | | | |
| 104 | Great Reed Warbler | <i>Acrocephalus arundinaceus</i> | | | | | H | | | |
| 105 | Willow Warbler | <i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i> | | | 1 | | | | | |
| 106 | Wood Warbler | <i>Phylloscopus sibilatrix</i> | | | | | 2 | | | |
| 107 | Common Chiffchaff | <i>Phylloscopus collybita</i> | | | | | | | 2H | |
| 108 | Firecrest | <i>Regulus ignicapilla</i> | | | | | | | 2 | |
| 109 | Winter Wren | <i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i> | | | H | | | | H | H |
| 110 | Spotted Flycatcher | <i>Muscicapa striata</i> | | 4 | 3 | 2 | 3 | | | |
| 111 | Pied Flycatcher | <i>Ficedula hypoleuca</i> | | | 3 | 2 | 1 | | | |
| 112 | Great Tit | <i>Parus Major</i> | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| 113 | Sicilian Coal Tit | <i>Periparus ater sp.</i> | | | | | | | 10 | |
| 114 | European Blue Tit | <i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i> | | | ✓ | ✓ | | | ✓ | ✓ |
| 115 | Penduline Tit | <i>Remiz pendulinus</i> | | | | 4H | | | | 2 |
| 116 | Short-toed Treecreeper | <i>Certhia brachydactyla</i> | | | | | | | H | |
| 117 | Woodchat Shrike | <i>Lanius senator</i> | | 10+ | | 4 | 1 | | | |
| 118 | Common Magpie | <i>Pica pica</i> | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| 119 | Eurasian Jay | <i>Garrulus glandarius</i> | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| 120 | Western Jackdaw | <i>Corvus monedula</i> | | | ✓ | | | | ✓ | |
| 121 | Hooded Crow | <i>Corvus cornix</i> | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | | | ✓ | |
| 122 | Common Raven | <i>Corvus corax</i> | | | 4 | | | | | |
| 123 | Spotless Starling | <i>Sturnus unicolor</i> | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| 124 | Eurasian Golden Oriole | <i>Oriolus oriolus</i> | | H | H(1S) | H | 7 | H | | 1 |
| 125 | Italian Sparrow | <i>Passer italiae</i> | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| 126 | Spanish Sparrow | <i>Passer hispaniolensis</i> | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| 127 | Eurasian Tree Sparrow | <i>Passer montanus</i> | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| 128 | Common Rock Sparrow | <i>Petronia petronia</i> | | | 1 | | | | | |
| 129 | Common Chaffinch | <i>Fringilla coelebs</i> | | | ✓ | | | | ✓ | ✓ |
| 130 | Common Linnet | <i>Carduelis cannabina</i> | | | ✓ | | | | ✓ | ✓ |
| 131 | European Goldfinch | <i>Carduelis carduelis</i> | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| 132 | European Greenfinch | <i>Chloris chloris</i> | | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | | ✓ |
| 133 | European Serin | <i>Serinus serinus</i> | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| 134 | Cirl Bunting | <i>Emberiza cirlus</i> | | | 3 | | | | H | |
| 135 | Corn Bunting | <i>Emberiza calandra</i> | | | H(1S) | H | 4 | | | |
| 136 | Rock Bunting | <i>Emberiza cia</i> | | | | | | | 1 | |

Butterflies

| | | | | | | | | | |
|---|-----------------------|-------------------------------|--|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Swallowtail | <i>Papilio machaon</i> | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ |
| 2 | Large White | <i>Pieris brassicae</i> | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| 3 | Small White | <i>Artogeia rapae</i> | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| 4 | Bath White | <i>Pontia daplidice</i> | | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | |
| 5 | Eastern Dappled White | <i>Euchloe ausonia</i> | | | | ✓ | | | |
| 6 | Eastern Orange Tip | <i>Anthocharis damone</i> | | | | | | ✓ | |
| 7 | Orange Tip | <i>Anthocharis cardamines</i> | | | ✓ | | | | |
| 8 | Clouded Yellow | <i>Colias crocea</i> | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| 9 | Cleopatra | <i>Gonepteryx cleopatra</i> | | ✓ | | | | ✓ | |

| | Common name | Scientific name | May | | | | | | |
|----|---------------------------|------------------------------|-----|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| 10 | Small Copper | <i>Lycaena phlaeas</i> | | | ✓ | ✓ | | | |
| 11 | Little Blue | <i>Cupido minimus</i> | | | ✓ | | | | |
| 12 | Holly Blue | <i>Celastrina argiolus</i> | | | ✓ | | | | |
| 13 | Brown Argus | <i>Aricia agestis</i> | | ✓ | ✓ | | | | |
| 14 | Painted Lady | <i>Vanessa cardui</i> | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| 15 | Queen of Spain Fritillary | <i>Issoria lathonia</i> | | | | | | ✓ | |
| 16 | Marsh Fritillary | <i>Eurodryas aurinia</i> | | | | | | ✓ | |
| 17 | Meadow Brown | <i>Maniola jurtina</i> | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ |
| 18 | Small Heath | <i>Coenonympha pamphilus</i> | | | ✓ | | | ✓ | ✓ |
| 19 | Speckled Wood | <i>Pararge aegeria</i> | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| 20 | Wall Brown | <i>Lasiommata megera</i> | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| 21 | Large Skipper | <i>Ochlodes venatus</i> | | ✓ | | ✓ | | | |
| 22 | Pygmy Skipper | <i>Gegenes pumilio</i> | | ✓ | | | | | |

Moths (macros)

| | | | | | | | | | |
|----|-------------------------|---------------------------------|--|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Asparagus Moth | <i>Parahypopta caestrum</i> | | | | ✓ | | | |
| 2 | Pine Processionary Moth | <i>Thaumetopoea pityocampa</i> | | | | | | ✓ | |
| 3 | Striped Hawk Moth | <i>Hyles livornica</i> | | | ✓ | | ✓ | | |
| 4 | Elephant Hawk Moth | <i>Deilephila elpenor</i> | | | | ✓ | | | |
| 5 | Hummingbird Hawk Moth | <i>Macroglossum stellatarum</i> | | | ✓ | ✓ | | | |
| 6 | Cream-spot Tiger | <i>Arctia villica</i> | | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | |
| 7 | Hoary Footman | <i>Eilema caniola</i> | | ✓ | ✓ | | | | |
| 8 | Ragusa's Nine-spotted | <i>Amata kruegeri</i> | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| 9 | Brassy Waved Umber | <i>Menophra japygiaria</i> | | | ✓ | ✓ | | | |
| 10 | Un-named Geometrid | <i>Peribatodes umbraria</i> | | | | | ✓ | | |
| 11 | Small Blood-vein | <i>Scopula imitaria</i> | | | ✓ | | | | |
| 12 | Lustrous Least Carpet | <i>Idaea filicata</i> | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | |
| 13 | Lime-speck Pug | <i>Eupithecia centaureata</i> | | ✓ | | | | | |
| 14 | Un-named Pug | <i>Eupithecia breviculata</i> | | | | ✓ | | | |
| 15 | Turnip Moth | <i>Agrotis segetum</i> | | | | ✓ | | | |
| 16 | Common Quaker | <i>Orthosia cerasi</i> | | ✓ | | | | | |
| 17 | White-point | <i>Mythimna albipuncta</i> | | | ✓ | | | | |
| 18 | Tawny Shears | <i>Hadena perplexa</i> | | | ✓ | | | | |
| 19 | Mediterranean Brocade | <i>Spodoptera littoralis</i> | | | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | |
| 20 | Small Mottled Willow | <i>Spodoptera exigua</i> | | | | ✓ | | | |
| 21 | Grey/Dark Dagger | <i>Acronictya sp.</i> | | | ✓ | | | | |
| 22 | Porter's Rustic | <i>Proxenus hospes</i> | | | | | ✓ | | |
| 23 | Bordered Straw | <i>Heliothis peltigera</i> | | | ✓ | | | | |
| 24 | Eastern Bordered Straw | <i>Heliothis nubigera</i> | | | ✓ | | | | |
| 25 | Spotted Sulphur | <i>Emmelia trabealis</i> | | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | |
| 26 | Pale Shoulder | <i>Acontia lucida</i> | | | ✓ | ✓ | | | |
| 27 | Passenger | <i>Dysgonia algira</i> | | | | ✓ | | | |
| 28 | Four-spotted | <i>Tyta luctuosa</i> | | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | |
| 29 | Purple Marbled | <i>Eublemma ostrina</i> | | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | |
| 30 | Small Marbled | <i>Eublemma parva</i> | | | ✓ | | | | |
| 31 | Un-named Noctuid | <i>Nola chlamitulalis</i> | | | | | ✓ | | |
| 32 | Noctuid (Snout family) | <i>Hypena lividalis</i> | | | | | ✓ | | |

| | Common name | Scientific name | May | | | | | | |
|--|-------------|-----------------|-----|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |

Moths (micros)

| | | | | | | | | | |
|----|---------------------------|-------------------------------|--|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Pyralid | <i>Endotricha flammealis</i> | | ✓ | | ✓ | | ✓ | |
| 2 | The Amah, Sicilian form | <i>Dysauxes famula</i> | | | | | ✓ | | |
| 3 | Crambid | <i>Palpita vitrealis</i> | | | | | ✓ | | |
| 4 | Crambid | <i>Anania croceallis</i> | | | | | ✓ | | |
| 5 | Twenty-plume Moth | <i>Alucita hexadactyla</i> | | | ✓ | | ✓ | | |
| 6 | Wax Moth | <i>Galleria mellonella</i> | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | |
| 7 | Tortrix moth | <i>Notacelia cynosbatella</i> | | | | ✓ | | | |
| 8 | Bird-dropping Tortrix sp. | Various | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | | |
| 9 | Tortrix moth | <i>Epiblema cynosbatella</i> | | | | | ✓ | | |
| 10 | Crambid | <i>Pyrausta despicata</i> | | | | | | | ✓ |

Other invertebrates

| | | | | | | | | | |
|----|----------------------|------------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Ascalaphid | <i>Libelloides coccajus</i> | | | | ✓ | | | |
| 2 | Carpenter Bee | <i>Xylocopa violacea</i> | | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ |
| 3 | Seven Spot Ladybird | <i>Coccinella 7-punctata</i> | | ✓ | | | | | |
| 4 | Wasp | <i>Scolia flavifrons</i> | | | ✓ | ✓ | | | |
| 5 | Hairy Dragonfly | <i>Brachytron pratense</i> | | | | □ | | | |
| 6 | Ladybird sp. larva | | | | | ✓ | | | |
| 7 | Honey Bee | <i>Apis mellifera</i> | | | ✓ | | | | |
| 8 | Millipede sp. | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| 9 | Egyptian Grasshopper | <i>Anacridium aegyptium</i> | | | | | ✓ | | |
| 10 | Ichneumon wasp sp. | | | | | ✓ | | ✓ | |

Mammals

| | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---------------------|------------------------------|--|---|--|--|---|--|--|
| 1 | Rabbit | <i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i> | | ✓ | | | | | |
| 2 | Serotine Bat | <i>Eptesicus serotinus</i> | | ✓ | | | ✓ | | |
| 3 | Pipistrelle bat sp. | <i>Pipistrellus sp.</i> | | ✓ | | | | | |

Amphibians & Reptiles

| | | | | | | | | | |
|---|----------------------|---|--|---|---|---|---|---|--|
| 1 | Painted Frog | <i>Discoglossus pictus</i> | | | | | | | |
| 2 | Common Toad | <i>Bufo bufo</i> | | | | ✓ | | | |
| 3 | Pool Frog | <i>Rana lessonae</i> | | | | H | H | | |
| 4 | Western Green Lizard | <i>Lacerta bilineata</i> | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | |
| 5 | Italian Wall Lizard | <i>Podarcis sicula</i> | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | |
| 6 | Sicilian Wall Lizard | <i>Podarcis wagleriana</i> | | | | ✓ | | ✓ | |
| 7 | Moorish Gecko | <i>Tarentola mauritanica</i> | | | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | |
| 8 | Western Whip Snake | <i>Hierophis viridiflavus carbonarius</i> | | ✓ | ✓ | | | | |