

Spring Birding in Sicily

Naturetrek Tour Report

29 Apr – 5 May 2015



Curlew Sandpiper



Greater Flamingo

Report compiled by Andrew Bray and Philip Thompson
Images by Andrew Bray



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 and twelve clients.

Day 1

Wednesday 29th April

Most of our group started the tour from the UK. We arrived at Catania late afternoon where the last two members were waiting for us. Once we had left the airport it was a one-hour trip to Case de Feudo, our base for the tour. We travelled down the freeway passing a number of White Stork nests, and then on smaller roads before the final leg down a dirt track to our farm destination. After settling in to our individually themed rooms there was time to explore the farm grounds containing orange and lemon groves, and vines for wine.

We met at 7pm which set the timings for the evening and the rest of the tour. We enjoyed the pre-dinner hospitality of bread, cheese, salami, olives and wine produced from the farm. We also met our host who produced some Spumante to celebrate our arrival. After dinner at a long table everyone retired, tired but replete.

Day 2

Thursday 30th April

We started the day with an early-morning walk before breakfast. We stopped by the valley where we could scan for birds and saw several species including a decent flock of European Bee-eaters. We also had an early glimpse of the flowers around the coast that we would see during our visit, and there were Ragusa's Nine-spotted moths in the grass.

We left slightly early as there were two sites to take in today. Our first site was the nature reserve at Vendicari. We arrived to find coach loads of children also visiting the site so we had a short wait before we filled the first hide overlooking the water to the north. Here there were over 200 Greater Flamingoes in various shades of pink, and plenty of Black-winged Stilts that were common at any water location we stopped at. At a close distance was Spotted Redshank, Wood Sandpiper, Curlew Sandpiper, and on our return before lunch two Spoonbills. We were introduced to Little Terns with their yellow bill, small size and hovering flight. A Marsh Harrier flew by and Squacco Herons, Little Egrets and a couple of Great Egrets were seen. Reed Warblers called from the reeds and Golden Orioles were seen well in the trees. During the morning we also spent time in the next hide as well as walking out on the boardwalk to the coast. On the beach we had a great view of Grey Plover in summer plumage, hence the alternative name of Black-bellied Plover. There were plenty of butterflies including Painted Lady as well as an assortment of whites, and also our first orchid of the trip, a Tongue Orchid. Lunch had been bought on the way at Noto (a town re-built in the baroque style after being destroyed in the 17th century) and was consumed in the car park amongst the few lemon trees.

In the afternoon we headed back towards Siracusa, stopping at Capo Murro di Porca. Here we walked out to the lighthouse and the classic limestone pavement. After an explanation of the geology a Scopoli's Shearwater flew past. During a walk through the Dwarf Fan Palms a few Northern Wheatears and Whinchats were seen. Further on the area was covered in Barbary Nuts whose flowers open in the afternoon, brightening up the landscape. A Woodchat Shrike was ever present during our walk. Our final stop was at Capo le Rocca to look for a Cream-coloured Courser but it had moved on which was confirmed by a Sicilian birdwatcher we met a couple of days

later. We did however get some great views of Stone Curlew, Crested Lark and a glimpse of a Collared Flycatcher.

On our return after some shopping in the outskirts of Siracusa, Pipistrelle Bats were flying around the entrance to the buildings and the frogs provided a serenade as we sat outside for pre-dinner drinks and nibbles whilst we carried out the evening log call. Later that night a Scops Owl called from far off. Eventually there were up to three birds calling late at night but none came close.

Day 3

Friday 1st May

Today was a public holiday in Italy. Once again we had an early morning walk, primarily so we could see at least one of several Nightingales singing along the farm track. In addition we also saw Cetti's Warbler; several were also singing around the farm. These birds were present every day and were often seen, as were Serin, Goldfinch and Buzzard. Bee-eaters were once again present. On this particular morning we watched a pair of Nightingales build a nest as they collected bits of vegetation. There was also a Subalpine Warbler besides the many Sardinian Warblers that were ever present.

After breakfast we headed south in glorious sun to Rantano Morghello where we found a small flock of Garganey and a pair of Ferruginous Ducks. Also a Wood Warbler was in a bush not far from our viewing point, three Gull-billed Terns were flying about, and a Whimbrel flew in and landed on the central bank. We then stopped at a cafe in Pachino for a coffee where swifts were common and at least one Pallid Swift was identified. We stopped at our second lake of the morning at Pantano Longarini where Squacco Herons were in abundance, a Marsh Harrier flew past close-by, a Whitethroat called from a bush, and the head of a Purple Heron was spotted, snakelike in the tall grass. A walk down the road to the waiting minibuses produced a few water birds and an Avocet flew past.

Lunch was eaten by the beach near Punta Casteazzo where, on arrival, we found Ringed Plover, Kentish Plover, Little Stint, and Curlew Sandpiper to name a few. After lunch a pair of Glossy Ibis took off and flew west for everyone to see. Just as we were departing a flock of 22 Curlew Sandpipers in a range of plumages including some with reddish heads, landed by the minibuses at the lagoon edge. Next we headed for the port at Portopalo where the restaurants were busy. There were plenty of Yellow-legged Gulls and eventually everyone had good views of one of the four Audouin's Gulls. We stopped at Bar dello Sport Bar/Gelateria in Portopala for a some very nice gelato and drinks. Our final stop was again at Rantano Morghello as we passed the lake on our way home but the light was all wrong for a lengthy stay. During the day we had seen our first Spanish and Tree Sparrows besides the daily Italian Sparrows. Once again we had had good views of Golden Orioles, and seen our first Corn Buntings with its jangly song.

Day 4

Saturday 2nd May

This morning we checked the moth trap which had been put out overnight. There were plenty of Rustic moths and a couple of Cream-spot Tigers. There were also quite a few micro moths as well.

After breakfast we headed south again, stopping at Avola for bread before heading up steep limestone towards a viewpoint. We kept lookout for specialist rock loving birds but not a sight or peep. Whilst we hardly saw a bird

the views were stunning. We continued up the side of the hill and along the top of the plateaux until we finally parked in the car park overlooking the Cava Grande on the far side. The gorge was magnificent with steep drops of several hundred metres to the river at the bottom. We had a look for birds and searched the meadow nearby for orchids. We walked to an old house location and looked over the gorge where Common House Martins were flying below us and Ravens were seen. We walked further up the track locating a Spectacled Warbler and a Subalpine Warbler and both were seen by everyone. On the walk back we stopped by some pines and everyone saw the Collared Flycatcher and Short-toed Treecreeper. Lunch was eaten in the shade outside the closed cafe with quite a few cats enviously watching the fare provided. After lunch we had a look for Blue Rock Thrush which was eventually located further down the slope; a stunning blue male that held its various positions so everyone was able to admire it in the telescope. Unfortunately Rock Sparrows were not so obliging and only quick views were had or the song heard.

We re-traced our drive down the hill and drove back to Syracuse. After negotiating a 'busy' roundabout we eventually found a parking spot so that tickets could be bought to visit the ancient site. The traffic and taxi radio interference meant that it took a bit longer for the two minibuses to end up in the car park. There was still plenty of time to explore the Greek Theatre, Street of Tombs, Latomia de Paradiso, and Orecchio di Dionsio which was reputedly a prison where the king could eavesdrop on his prisoners. It was a hot day and the group finished at the cafe with a range of refreshment including freshly squeezed orange juice.

Eventually it was time to head back for an earlier log call before going to Palazzo Beneventano del Bosco in Piazza Duomo in Ortigia. We parked the vehicles by the sea front and joined the masses walking along the narrow streets towards the square. The streets were so narrow that you could talk to your neighbour opposite from your balcony. On arrival at the Barone's house we were given a tour of some of the rooms and shown many historic documents as well as paintings and furniture designed by Maserati. After welcoming drinks we headed down a staircase to the ground floor for a sumptuous meal in the wine room. An excellent night was had by all that ended all too soon.

Day 5

Sunday 3rd May

This morning we did some early morning birding and also checked the moth trap which had been on overnight and was found to contain a Spurge Hawk-moth. After breakfast we set off and headed north to the coast. We drove around the long sandy beach to the end of the causeway before walking around Penisola Magnisi. It was a scorching hot day and the sight of 70+ Yellow Wagtails of three subspecies posing in the sun started a memorable morning. Twenty Stone Curlew flew about and Tawny Pipit was seen as well as some Greater Short-toed Larks. Turning a corner after searching for Calandra Lark in the sky, we were confronted by them at eye level. By now we had all got to grips with the call of Zitting Cisticola which serenaded us as we headed back past the ruined buildings where a Collared Flycatcher put on a good show. Eventually it was time for refreshments at the cafe in Priolo Garghella where we enjoyed coffee, beer and gelato. Cakes were also bought for lunch that followed on the beach at Marina di Melilli.

After lunch we had a short walk to Reserva Naturale Saline di Priolo which was established by the Italian Birdlife Partner, LIPU. We walked out on the board walk to a hide at the lake and immediately in front were Greater Flamingo, Curlew Sandpiper, Ringed Plover, Little Stint and the ever present Black-winged Stilts. Two Slender-billed Gulls were swimming gracefully in the water and there were at least 30+ Little Gulls. A sweep of the

reserve also found us a wide range of birds including Ferruginous Duck, Little Grebe, Avocet, Grey Plover, Kentish Plover and Spotted Redshank. We also visited another hide however there was little to see so we headed back to the vehicles for the short drive back to the Casa.

Day 6

Monday 4th May

After an early morning start we once again headed north and after a minor detour took the correct turnoff for Mt Etna. We then experienced the kamikaze drivers, the dense traffic and those who courted fate before we left behind the built up areas and continued uphill, stopping at a car park area to take photos of Mt Etna surrounded by its named Broom. We arrived at the cable car station at Refugio Sapienza just before a coach load of tourists which was good timing. It was a lovely sunny day and a few layers were added after we had taken the cable cars and before we boarded our 4-wheel coaches to take us further up the mountain. The views were becoming more dramatic and there were still patches of snow, some still deep. At the end stop we were taken by a guide for a trip around the new crater that had been formed in 2002. Even at 2,800 metres the weather was warm with only a light wind. We posed for a photograph in front of the coach before we headed back down the Piccolo Refugia for drinks before taking the cable car back down the mountain. At the bottom we found a cafe for lunch and enjoyed another Italian pasta feast.

After lunch we headed a few bends down the road before stopping to look at the lava flows. A brief talk was interrupted as an Osprey flew past high up even at this altitude - no wonder we could not see migrating raptors at sea level! Further down the road we turned off, parked the vehicles and went for a walk. It was not long before we saw Black Redstart and Rock Bunting. There were also Coal tits, Chaffinches, an obliging Short-toed Treecreeper and Firecrest. Further down the road we looked for other birds as well as flora, finding a few Elderflower Orchids. Time was getting on and we had to face the queues and congestion before we were back on the freeway heading back for our last meal. That night a liqueur was produced as well as the normal wine that was rather addictive!

Day 7

Tuesday 5th May

After an early breakfast we packed the minibuses and left at 8am for the airport. This was the final drive of the trip. Once at the airport everyone was dropped off to queue for check-in, security, passport control and the flight. It was rather windy as we came in to land at Gatwick. By the time we had walked along endless corridors and passed through Passport Control, our bags were already coming through on the carousel. At this stage we said goodbye to everybody and we all set out on our homeward journeys.

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Mt Etna Bus Stop

Species Lists

Birds (✓ = recorded but not counted; h = heard only)

	Common name	Scientific name	April/May					
			29	30	1	2	3	4
1	Shelduck	<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>		12	✓		2	
2	Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>		1	2		1	
3	Garganey	<i>Anas querquedula</i>			8			
4	Ferruginous Duck	<i>Aythya nyroca</i>			6		1	
5	Common Pheasant	<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>		1				
6	Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>			h		4	
7	Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>		2	6			
8	Scopoli's Shearwater	<i>Calonectris diomedea diomedea</i>		2	1			
9	Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>	2					
10	Squacco Heron	<i>Ardeola ralloides</i>		3	12			
11	Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>		12	15			
12	Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>		2				
13	Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>		1	2			
14	Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>			1			
15	White Stork	<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>	2					5
16	Glossy Ibis	<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>			2			
17	Spoonbill	<i>Platalea leucorodia</i>		2				
18	Greater Flamingo	<i>Phoenicopterus roseus</i>		239			78	
19	Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	1	2	5	2	3	2
20	Peregrine	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>		1				
21	Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>						1
22	Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>		2	2		3	2
23	Common Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>	1	5	4	6	2	4
24	Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>		2	3			
25	Eurasian Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>		4	✓		✓	
26	Pied Avocet	<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>			1		2	
27	Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>		✓	✓		✓	
28	Stone Curlew	<i>Burhinus oedicephalus</i>		1			20	
29	Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>		7			8	
30	Kentish Plover	<i>Charadrius alexandrinus</i>			2		2	
31	Grey Plover	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>		1			1	
32	Sanderling	<i>Calidris alba</i>			3			
33	Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>			1			
34	Dunlin	<i>Calidris alpina</i>			6			
35	Curlew Sandpiper	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>		1	22		10	
36	Little Stint	<i>Calidris minuta</i>		6	2		5	
37	Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>		8	6			
38	Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>		3	4		1	
39	Spotted Redshank	<i>Tringa erythropus</i>		2			1	
40	Common Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>		2	4		2	
41	Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>			1		1	
42	Ruff	<i>Philomachus pugnax</i>		14	4		1	
43	Slender-billed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus genei</i>		1			2	
44	Yellow-legged Gull	<i>Larus michahellis</i>		✓	✓			
45	Audouin's Gull	<i>Larus audouinii</i>			4			
46	Lesser Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus fuscus</i>			2			
47	Little Tern	<i>Sternula albifrons</i>		12			32	

	Common name	Scientific name	April/May					
			29	30	1	2	3	4
48	Gull-billed Tern	<i>Gelochelidon nilotica</i>			3			
49	Rock Dove / Feral Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
50	Common Wood Pigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
51	Eurasian Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
52	European Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
53	Common Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>			1	1		
54	Eurasian Scops Owl	<i>Otus scops</i>		h	h	h	h	
55	Common Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
56	Pallid Swift	<i>Apus pallidus</i>		6		2		
57	Eurasian Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>		4		1		
58	European Bee-eater	<i>Merops apiaster</i>	10	60	30	5	h	H
59	Crested Lark	<i>Galerida cristata</i>	✓	✓	✓		✓	
60	Woodlark	<i>Lullula arborea</i>						2
61	Greater Short-toed Lark	<i>Calandrella brachydactyla</i>					4	
62	Calandra Lark	<i>Melanocorypha calandra</i>					6	
63	Common Sand Martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>		1	6		6	
64	Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
65	Common House Martin	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>	2	3	1	✓	6	
66	Tawny Pipit	<i>Anthus campestris</i>					1	
67	Red-throated Pipit	<i>Anthus cervinus</i>					2	
68	White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba alba</i>		2		1	2	
69	Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava sp.</i>	15	2	6		70	3
70	Common Nightingale	<i>Luscinia megarhynchos</i>	2	h	2	1		H
71	Black Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>						6
72	Northern Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>		5			2	1
73	Whinchat	<i>Saxicola rubetra</i>		10	1	2		1
74	Common Stonechat	<i>Saxicola torquatus</i>				2	2	1
75	Common Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
76	Blue Rock Thrush	<i>Monticola solitarius</i>				1	h	
77	Garden Warbler	<i>Sylvia borin</i>			1			1
78	Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>				1	h	h
79	Common Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia communis</i>			1	1	1	
80	Spectacled Warbler	<i>Sylvia conspicillata</i>				1		
81	Lesser Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia curruca</i>				1		
82	Sardinian Warbler	<i>Sylvia melanocephala</i>	2	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
83	Subalpine Warbler	<i>Sylvia cantillans</i>			2	2	1	1
84	Zitting Cisticola	<i>Cisticola juncidis</i>	1	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
85	Cetti's Warbler	<i>Cettia cetti</i>	h	2	1	h	1	
86	European Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>		h	h		2	
87	Wood Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus sibilatrix</i>			1			
88	Common Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>						1
89	Firecrest	<i>Regulus ignicapilla</i>						2
90	Winter Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>				h		h
91	Spotted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>				1		
92	Pied Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula hypoleuca</i>		1			1	
93	Collared Flycatcher	<i>Ficedella albicollis</i>		1		1	1	
94	Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>	1	2	1		1	h
95	Coal Tit	<i>Pariparus ater</i>				h		1
96	European Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>				2		1
97	Long-tailed Tit	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>						h

	Common name	Scientific name	April/May					
			29	30	1	2	3	4
98	Short-toed Treecreeper	<i>Certhia brachydactyla</i>				2		1
99	Woodchat Shrike	<i>Lanius senator</i>	1	5		2	2	
100	Common Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
101	Eurasian Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
102	Western Jackdaw	<i>Corvus monedula</i>				1		
103	Hooded Crow	<i>Corvus cornix</i>	2	2	2	6	2	2
104	Common Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>				2		
105	Spotless Starling	<i>Sturnus unicolor</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
106	Eurasian Golden Oriole	<i>Oriolus oriolus</i>		8	6	3	3	3
107	Italian Sparrow	<i>Passer italiae</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
108	Spanish Sparrow	<i>Passer hispaniolensis</i>			3			
109	Eurasian Tree Sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>			1		3	1
110	Common Rock Sparrow	<i>Petronia petronia</i>				2		
111	Common Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>				2		2
112	Common Linnet	<i>Linaria cannabina</i>		5	1	2		
113	European Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
114	European Greenfinch	<i>Chloris chloris</i>	1	1		1		
115	European Serin	<i>Serinus serinus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
116	Cirl Bunting	<i>Emberiza cirlus</i>				2		
117	Corn Bunting	<i>Emberiza calandra</i>			3	3		
118	Rock Bunting	<i>Emberiza cia</i>				h		4

Butterflies

1	Southern Festoon	<i>Zerynthia polyxena</i>						✓
2	Swallowtail	<i>Papilio machaon</i>			✓	✓		
3	Scarce Swallowtail	<i>Iphiclides podalirius</i>				✓		
4	Large White	<i>Pieris brassicae</i>		✓	✓		✓	✓
5	Small White	<i>Artogeia rapae</i>		✓		✓	✓	
6	Eastern Dappled White	<i>Euchloe ausonia</i>					✓	✓
7	Orange Tip	<i>Anthocharis cardamines</i>				✓		
8	Clouded Yellow	<i>Colias crocea</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
9	Brimstone	<i>Gonnepteryx thamni</i>					✓	
10	Cleopatra	<i>Gonnepteryx cleopatra</i>					✓	
11	Holly Blue	<i>Celastrina argiolus</i>		✓				
12	Little Blue	<i>Cupido minimus</i>				✓		
13	Common Blue	<i>Polyommatus icarus</i>					✓	
14	Red Admiral	<i>Vanessa atalanta</i>		✓				✓
15	Painted lady	<i>Vanessa cardui</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
16	Queen of Spain Fritillary	<i>Issoria lathonia</i>						
17	Wall Brown	<i>Lasiommata megera</i>			✓		✓	✓
18	Small Heath	<i>Coenonympha pamphilus</i>				✓	✓	
19	Speckled Wood	<i>Pararge aegeria</i>			✓	✓	✓	
20	Small Skipper	<i>Thymelicus sylvestris</i>		✓	✓			

Macro Moths (T – trapped)

1	Bordered Straw	<i>Heliothis peltigera</i>				✓T		
2	Clancy's Rustic	<i>Platyperigea kadenii</i>				T	T	
3	Clay Triple-lines	<i>Cyclophora linearia</i>					T	
4	Cream-spot Tiger	<i>Arctia villica</i>				✓T		
5	False Mocha	<i>Cyclophora puppillaria</i>					T	

	Common name	Scientific name	April/May					
			29	30	1	2	3	4
6	Flame	<i>Axylia putris</i>				T		
7	Four Spotted	<i>Tyta luctuosa</i>			T	T		
8	Gem	<i>Orthonama obstipata</i>			T	T		
9	Large Yellow Underwing	<i>Noctua comes</i>				T		
10	Lime-speck Pug	<i>Eupithecia centaureata</i>			T			
11	Lustrous Least Carpet	<i>Idaea filicata</i>			T	T		
12	Passenger	<i>Dysgonia algira</i>			T			
13	Porter's Rustic	<i>Proxenus hospes</i>			T	T		
14	Portland Ribbon Wave	<i>Idaia degeneraria</i>				T		
15	Ragusa's Nine-spotted	<i>Amata kruegeri</i>		✓		✓	✓	
16	Rustic	<i>Hoplodrina blanda</i>			T	T		
17	Silver Y	<i>Autographa gamma</i>				T		
18	Six-spot Burnet	<i>Zygaena triflii</i>					✓	
19	Small Fan-footed Wave	<i>Idaea biselata</i>				T		
20	Spurge Hawk-moth	<i>Hyles euphorbiae</i>				T		
21	Straw Dot	<i>Rivula sericealis</i>				T		
22	Asparagus Moth	<i>Parahypopta caestrum</i>				T		
23	Scarce Bordered Straw	<i>Heliothis nubigera</i>				T		
24	Willow Beauty	<i>Peribatodes secundria</i>				T		
25	White-speck	<i>Mythimna unipuncta</i>				T		
26	Delicate	<i>Mythimna vitellina</i>				T		
27	Pale Shoulder	<i>Acontia lucida</i>				T		

Micro Moths

1		<i>Pandemis corylana</i>				T		
2	Common Plume	<i>Emmelina monodactyla</i>				T		
3	Plume moth	<i>Platyptilia gonodactyla</i>				T		
4	Rusty-dot Pearl	<i>Udea ferrugalis</i>				T		
5		<i>Euchromius bellus</i>				T		

Other Invertebrates

1	Beefly	<i>Bombyliidae sp.</i>		✓	✓	✓		
2	Egyptian Grasshopper	<i>Anacridium aegyptium</i>		✓				
3	Mining bee	<i>Colletes sp.</i>		✓				
4	Sand-hopper	<i>Talitridae sp.</i>			✓			
5	White-tailed Bumble Bee	<i>Bombus lucorum</i>					✓	

Amphibians & Reptiles

1	Italian Tree Frog	<i>Hyla intermedia</i>	h	h	✓	h	h	✓
2	Italian Wall Lizard	<i>Podarcis sicula</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
3	Sicilian Wall Lizard	<i>Podarcis wagleriana</i>			✓			
4	Moorish Gecko	<i>Tarentola mauritanica</i>	✓	✓		✓	✓	
5	Turkish Gecko	<i>Hemidactylus turcicus</i>			✓			

Plants (** = Endemic to Sicily; * = Endemic to Italy and Sicily)

Scientific name**Common name****GYMNOSPERMS****CONIFERS****Cupressaceae***Juniperus communis* (ssp. *hemisphaericum*)*Juniperus oxycedrus**Juniperus phoenicea***Juniper Family**

Juniper

Prickly Juniper

Phoenician Juniper

Ephedraceae*Ephedra distachya***Joint Pine family****Pinaceae***Pinus nigra* ssp. *laricio**Pinus pinea***Pine Family**

Corsican Pine

Stone or Umbrella Pine

ANGIOSPERMS**FLOWERING PLANTS****Pre-dicots****Primitive Angiosperms****Aristolochiaceae***Aristolochia rotunda***Birthwort Family**

Birthwort

Eu-dicots**True Dicotyledons****Acanthaceae***Acanthus mollis***Bear's-breech Family**

Bear's-breech

Aizoaceae*Carpobrotus acinaciformis***Mesembryanthemum Family****Apiaceae***Crithmum maritimum**Daucus carota**Eryngium campestre**Eryngium maritimum**Ferula communis* subsp. *communis**Ferulago nodosa**Foeniculum vulgare**Kundmannia sicula**Oenanthe globulosa**Smyrniolus olusatrum**Smyrniolus perfoliatum* subsp. *rotundifolium**Thapsia garganica**Tordylium apulum***Carrot Family**

Rock Samphire

Wild Carrot

Field Eryngo

Sea Holly

Giant Fennel

Fennel

Water Dropwort

Alexanders

Perfoliate Alexanders

Thapsia

Tordylium

Anacardiaceae*Pistacia lentiscus***Sumach Family**

Mastic Tree

Apocynaceae*Nerium oleander**Vinca major***Periwinkle Family**

Oleander

Greater Periwinkle

Scientific name	Common name
Araliaceae	Ivy Family
<i>Hedera helix</i>	Ivy
Asteraceae	Daisy Family
<i>Achillea ligustica</i>	-
<i>Anthemis aetnensis</i> **	Etna Daisy
<i>Anthemis arvensis</i>	Corn Chamomile
<i>Artemisia arborescens</i>	A Wormwood
<i>Bellis perennis</i> (var. <i>strobiliana</i> **)	Daisy
<i>Bellis sylvestris</i>	Southern Daisy
<i>Calendula arvensis</i>	Field Marigold
<i>Calendula officinalis</i>	
<i>Carlina corymbosa</i>	
<i>Carthamus</i> (<i>Carduncellus</i>) <i>caeruleus</i>	Carduncellus
<i>Carthamus lanatus</i>	-
<i>Centaurea calcitrapa</i>	Red Star-thistle
<i>Centaurea solstitialis</i>	Yellow Star-thistle
<i>Centaurea sphaerocephala</i>	
<i>Dittrichia viscosa</i>	Stink Aster
<i>Galactites tomentosa</i>	Galactites
<i>Glebionis coronarium</i>	Crown Daisy
<i>Glebionis segetum</i>	Corn Marigold
<i>Helichrysum stoechas</i>	Curry Plant
<i>Notobasis syriaca</i>	Syrian Thistle
<i>Onopordum illyricum</i>	-
<i>Pallenis spinosa</i>	Pallenis
<i>Phagnalon rupestre</i>	Phagnalon
<i>Scolymus grandiflorus</i>	Oyster Plant
<i>Senecio squalidus</i> subsp. <i>aethnensis</i> **	A Ragwort
<i>Senecio squalidus</i> subsp. <i>squalidus</i>	Rock Ragwort
<i>Silybum marianum</i>	Milk Thistle
<i>Sonchus asper</i>	Rough Sow Thistle
<i>Sonchus oleraceus</i>	Sow Thistle
<i>Tanacetum siculum</i>	Etna Tansy
<i>Tragopogon porrifolius</i>	Salsify
<i>Urospermum dalechampii</i>	Urospermum
Berberidaceae	Barberry Family
<i>Berberis aetnensis</i>	Etna Barberry
Betulaceae	Birch Family
<i>Betula aetnensis</i> **	Etna Birch
<i>Corylus avellana</i>	Hazel
Boraginaceae	Borage Family
<i>Anchusa azurea</i>	Large Blue Alkanet
<i>Borago officinalis</i>	Borage
<i>Cerintho majus</i>	Honeywort
<i>Cynoglossum creticum</i>	Blue Hound's-tongue
<i>Echium arenarium</i>	Coastal Viper's Bugloss
<i>Echium italicum</i>	Pale Bugloss
<i>Echium parviflorum</i>	Small Flowered Bugloss
<i>Echium plantagineum</i>	Purple Viper's-bugloss

Scientific name	Common name
Brassicaceae	Cabbage Family
<i>Biscutella maritima</i>	A Buckler-mustard
<i>Brassica nigra</i>	Black Mustard
<i>Cakile maritima</i>	Sea Rocket
<i>Erysimum bonannianum</i> **	A Treacle-mustard
<i>Hirschfeldia incana</i>	Hoary Mustard
<i>Isatis tinctoria subsp. canescens</i>	Woad
<i>Lobularia maritima</i>	Sweet Alyssum
<i>Matthiola tricuspidata</i>	Three-horned Stock
<i>Raphanus raphanistrum</i>	
<i>Sisymbrium officinale</i>	Hedge Mustard
Campanulaceae	Bellflower Family
<i>Campanula erinus</i>	Annual Bellflower
Caprifoliaceae	Honeysuckle Family
<i>Centranthus ruber</i>	Red Valerian
<i>Fedia cornucopiae</i>	Fedia
<i>Lonicera etrusca</i>	Etruscan Honeysuckle
<i>Scabiosa atropurpurea</i>	-
<i>Vallerianella lacustris</i>	Common Cornsalad
Caryophyllaceae	Pink Family
<i>Herniaria glabra</i>	Smooth Rupturewort
<i>Polycarpon tetraphyllum</i>	Four-leaved Allseed
<i>Scleranthus aetnensis</i> **	a Knawel
<i>Silene colorata</i>	
<i>Silene latifolia</i>	White Campion
<i>Silene sedoides</i>	
<i>Silene vulgaris</i>	Bladder campion
<i>Spergularia marina</i>	Lesser Sand-spurrey
Chenopodiaceae	Goosefoot Family
<i>Arthrocnemum macrostachyum</i>	
<i>Beta vulgaris</i>	Sea Beet
<i>Halimione portulacoides</i>	Sea Purslane
<i>Suaeda vera</i>	Shrubby Seablite
Convolvulaceae	Bindweed Family
<i>Convolvulus althaeoides</i>	Mallow-leaved Bindweed
<i>Convolvulus arvensis</i>	Field Bindweed
<i>Cuscuta epithimum</i>	Common Dodder
Crassulaceae	Stonecrop Family
<i>Sedum aetnense</i> **	Etna Stonecrop
<i>Sedum caeruleum</i>	Blue stonecrop
<i>Umbilicus rupestris</i>	Wall Pennywort
Cucurbitaceae	Cucumber Family
<i>Ecballium elaterium</i>	Squirting Cucumber
Ericaceae	Heather Family
<i>Erica multiflora</i>	

Scientific name**Euphorbiaceae**

Euphorbia ceratocarpa
Euphorbia characias subsp. *characias*
Euphorbia dendroides
Euphorbia helioscopia
Euphorbia peplis
Ricinus communis

Fabaceae

Anagyris foetida
Anthyllis vulneraria subsp. *praepropera*
Anthyllis tetraphylla
Astragalus boeoticus
*Astragalus siculus***
Bitumaria bituminosa
Calycotome infesta
Coronilla valentina
*Genista aetnensis***
Hedysarum coronarium
Hippocrepis emerus subsp. *emeroides*
Hippocrepis unisiliquosa
Lathyrus cicera
Lathyrus clymenum
Lathyrus ochrus
Lathyrus setifolius
Lotus ornithopodioides
Medicago arabica
Medicago disciformis
Medicago marina
Medicago orbicularis
Medicago polymorpha
Melilotus indicus
Robinia pseudoacacia
Scorparius muricatus
Spartium junceum
Tetragonolobus purpureus
Trifolium angustifolium
Trifolium arvense
Trifolium cherleri
Trifolium fragiferum
Trifolium hybridum
Trifolium resupinatum
Trifolium scabrum
Trifolium stellatum
Trifolium tomentosum
Vicia hybrida
Vicia lathyroides
Vicia lutea
Vicia sativa subsp. *sativa*
Vicia tenuifolia
Vicia tetrasperma

Common name**Spurge Family**

Large Mediterranean Spurge
Tree Spurge
Sun Spurge
Purple Spurge
Castor Oil Plant

Pea Family

Mediterranean Kidney Vetch
Bladder Vetch
-
Pitch Trefoil
Thorny Broom
Scorpion-vetch
Etna Broom
Italian Sainfoin
A Scorpion-vetch
-
-
-
Cyprus Pea
-
-
Spotted Medick
a Medick
Sea Medick
Disc Medick
Toothed Medick
Small Melilot
False Acacia
Scorpion Vetch
Spanish Broom
Asparagus Pea
Narrow-leaved Clover
Hare's-foot Clover
-
Strawberry Clover
Alsike Clover
Reversed Clover
Rough Clover
Starry Clover
Woolly Trefoil
Hairy Yellow Vetch
-
Yellow Vetch
Fodder Vetch
Fine-leaved Vetch
Smooth Tare

Scientific name	Common name
Fagaceae	Beech Family
<i>Castanea sativa</i>	Sweet Chestnut
<i>Fagus sylvatica</i>	Beech
<i>Quercus ilex</i>	Holly Oak
<i>Quercus pubescens</i>	Downy Oak
Frankeniaceae	Sea Heath Family
<i>Frankenia laevis</i>	Sea Heath
Gentianaceae	Gentian Family
<i>Blackstonia perfoliata</i>	
<i>Centaurium maritimum</i>	Yellow Centaury
<i>Centaurium tenuiflorum</i>	
Geraniaceae	Geranium Family
<i>Erodium cicutarium</i>	Common Stork's-bill
<i>Erodium malacoides</i>	Mallow-leaved Stork's-bill
<i>Geranium dissectum</i>	Cut-leaved Crane's-bill
<i>Geranium molle</i>	Dove's-foot Crane's-bill
<i>Geranium purpureum</i>	Little Robin
Lamiaceae	Dead-nettle Family
<i>Ajuga chamaepitys</i>	Ground Pine
<i>Micromeria graeca (M. consentina*)</i>	-
<i>Origanum vulgare</i>	Marjoram
<i>Prasium majus</i>	Prasium
<i>Salvia fruticosa</i>	
<i>Salvia verbenaca</i>	Wild Clary
<i>Sideritis romana</i>	-
<i>Teucrium fruticans</i>	Shrub Germander
<i>Thymbra capitata</i>	A Thyme
Linaceae	Flax Family
<i>Linum bienne</i>	Biennial Flax
<i>Linum strictum</i>	
Malvaceae	Mallow Family
<i>Lavatera arborea</i>	Tree Mallow
<i>Malva cretica</i>	Cretan Mallow
<i>Malva sylvestris</i>	Common Mallow
Moraceae	Mulberry Family
<i>Ficus carica</i>	Fig
Oleaceae	Olive Family
<i>Fraxinus angustifolia</i>	Narrow-leaved Ash
<i>Fraxinus ornus</i>	Flowering Ash
<i>Olea europaea</i>	Olive
Orobanchaceae	Broomrape Family
<i>Bellardia trixago</i>	Bellardia
<i>Orobanche minor</i>	Common Broomrape
<i>Orobanche ramosa</i>	Branched Broomrape

Scientific name	Common name
<i>Orobanche rapum-genistae</i>	Greater Broomrape
<i>Parentucellia viscosa</i>	Yellow Bartsia
Oxalidaceae	Wood-sorrel Family
<i>Oxalis pres-caprae</i>	Bermuda Buttercup
Papaveraceae	Poppy Family
<i>Fumaria capreolata</i>	White Ramping Fumitory
<i>Fumaria officinalis</i>	Common Fumitory
<i>Papaver rhoeas</i>	Common Poppy
<i>Papaver somniferum</i>	
Plantaginaceae	Plantain Family
<i>Antirrhinum siculus</i>	a Snapdragon
<i>Linaria purpurea</i>	Purple Toadflax
<i>Linaria reflexa</i>	a Toadflax
<i>Misopates orontium</i>	Weasel-snout
<i>Plantago arenaria</i>	Branched Plantain
<i>Plantago coronopus</i>	Stag's-horn Plantain
<i>Plantago lagopus</i>	Hare's-tail Plantain
<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>	Ribwort Plantain
<i>Plantago major</i>	Greater Plantain
<i>Plantago serraria</i>	A Plantain (toothed leaves)
<i>Veronica cymbalaria</i>	White Speedwell
Plumbaginaceae	Thrift Family
<i>Limonium sinuatum</i>	
Polygonaceae	Dock Family
<i>Rumex crispus</i>	Curled Dock
<i>Rumex cristatus</i>	Greek Dock
<i>Rumex scutatus forma aetnensis**</i>	Etna Sorrel
Primulaceae	Primrose Family
<i>Anagallis arvensis</i>	Scarlet Pimpernel
<i>Anagallis arvensis (var caerulea)</i>	Scarlet Pimpernel (Blue-flowered)
Ranunculaceae	Buttercup Family
<i>Anemone hortensis</i>	An Anemone
<i>Nigella damascena</i>	Love-in-a-mist
<i>Ranunculus millefoliatus</i>	Million-leaved Buttercup
Resedaceae	Mignonette Family
<i>Reseda alba</i>	White Mignonette
Rhamnaceae	Buckthorn Family
<i>Rhamnus alaternus</i>	Mediterranean Buckthorn
Rosaceae	Rose Family
<i>Crataegus orientalis (C. laciniata)</i>	A Hawthorn
<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	Hawthorn
<i>Geum urbanum</i>	Wood Avens
<i>Potentilla calabra</i>	A Cinquefoil

Scientific name	Common name
<i>Potentilla reptans</i>	Creeping Cinqufoil
<i>Prunus dulcis</i>	Almond
<i>Pyrus amygdaliformis</i>	Almond-leaved Pear
<i>Pyrus communis</i>	Wild Pear
<i>Rosa canina</i> agg	Dog Rose
<i>Rubus fruticosus</i> agg	Bramble
<i>Sarcopoterium spinosum</i>	

Rubiaceae	Bedstraw Family
<i>Galium aparine</i>	Cleavers
<i>Rubia peregriana</i>	Madder
<i>Sherardia arvensis</i>	Field Madder

Salicaceae	Willow Family
<i>Populus alba</i>	White Poplar
<i>Salix alba</i>	White Willow

Santalaceae	Sandalwood Family
<i>Osyris alba</i>	Osyris
<i>Viscum album</i> subsp. <i>austriacum</i>	Mistletoe

Scrophulariaceae	Figwort Family
<i>Scrophularia peregriana</i>	
<i>Verbascum sinuatum</i>	

Urticaceae	Nettle Family
<i>Parietaria judacea</i>	Pelitory-of-the-Wall
<i>Urtica dioica</i>	Nettle
<i>Urtica membranacea</i>	Mediterranean Nettle
<i>Urtica pilulifera</i>	

Tamaricaceae	Tamarisk family
<i>Tamarix africana</i>	

Thymelaeaceae	Daphne Family
<i>Daphne laureola</i>	Spurge Laurel

Verbenaceae	Verbena Family
<i>Lantana camara</i>	Lantana
<i>Verbena officinalis</i>	Vervain

Violaceae	Violet Family
<i>Viola aethnensis</i> **	Etna Violet
<i>Viola parvula</i>	-

Monocots**Monocotyledons**

Amaryllidaceae	Daffodil Family
<i>Allium ampeloprasum</i>	Wild Leek
<i>Allium neapolitanum</i>	Naples Garlic
<i>Allium roseum</i>	Rosy Garlic
<i>Allium trifoliatum</i>	
<i>Pancratium maritimum</i>	

Scientific name**Common name****Araceae**

Arum italicum subsp. *italicum*
Arum italicum subsp. *neglectum*

Lords and Ladies Family

Large Cuckoo Pint
 Large Cuckoo Pint (plain leaves)

Asparagaceae

Asparagus acutifolius
Muscari comosum
Ornithogalum narbonense
Ornithogalum umbellatum
Ruscus hypoglossum
Urginia maritima

Asparagus Family

Prickly Asparagus
 Tassel Hyacinth
 A Star of Bethlehem

 a Butcher's-broom

Iridaceae

Gladiolus communis
Gladiolus italicus
Iris pseudacorus
Moraea sisyrinchium

Iris Family

Yellow Flag
 Barbary Nut
 a Romulea

Orchidaceae

Anacamptis papilionacea (var. *grandiflora*)
Dactylorhiza sambucina
Ophrys apifera
Ophrys fuciflora subsp. *oxyrrhynchos*
Ophrys lutea subsp. *galilea* (formerly *sicula*)
Ophrys lutea subsp. *lutea*
Ophrys speculum subsp. *speculum*
Serapias lingua
Serapias orientalis
Serapias vomeracea

Orchid Family

Pink Butterfly Orchis
 Elder-flowered Orchid
 Bee Orchid
 Beaked Ophrys
 -
 Yellow Bee Orchid
 Mirror Orchid
 Tongue Orchid
 A Plough-share Tongue Orchid
 Plough-share Tongue Orchid

Smilacaceae

Smilax aspera

Smilax Family

Smilax

Sparganiaceae

Sparganium erectum

Bur-reed Family

Branched Bur-reed

Xanthorrhoeaceae

Asphodeline lutea
Asphodelus aestivus
Asphodelus fistulosus

Asphodel Family

Yellow Asphodel
 Common Asphodel
 Hollow-stemmed Asphodel