

**ORNITHOLIDAYS TOUR TO ITALY – SICILY**  
*Heart of the Mediterranean*

**08 - 15 April 2016**



**Leaders: Nicola Scatassi & Renzo Ientile**

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### A Personal Diary

This was the second Ornitholidays tour to Sicily, following the successful one in April 2014. Being in the heart of the Mediterranean, Sicily is a great place to witness active bird migration, and of course mid-April is a very good time of year for migrating birds! This tour concentrates on the south-eastern corner of this huge island, from the powerful Mount Etna to the plains of Gela on the southern coast: this part of the island has rocky coasts, lagoons and freshwater lakes, as well as a few forested areas and large expanses of Mediterranean maquis with rocky outcrops. Agriculture is prominent, with orange and lemon trees, olive trees and tomato being among the most widespread cultivations, but nonetheless there are large unspoiled areas and beautiful wild landscapes.

Last winter had been very mild in Sicily, and as a result many flowers and especially orchids had had an early blooming, so we saw slightly fewer species and individuals compared with the previous tour. Bird migration is largely unpredictable, as it depends heavily on weather conditions: during this tour we had a couple of days with strong winds and another couple of days with very high temperatures for this time of year, reaching over 30 degrees Celsius. These conditions are not ideal for bird migration, and, especially passerines, numbers were fewer than expected. Nevertheless, we managed to see a good number of species and to make some great observations such as the two pairs of Sicilian Rock Partridge and several Purple Swamphen, including adults feeding their young! Beautiful carpets of wild flowers were a pleasant sight throughout the tour, while the two hotels were comfortable and in nice settings.

#### **08 April, Friday**

The group left Gatwick and arrived into Catania with a slight delay of around 20 minutes. Renzo and I greeted them at the arrivals hall and we then picked up our two minibuses and drove south towards Siracusa and our hotel for the first five nights, noticing several White Storks' nests along the highway and seeing a couple of their occupants, many Common Swifts and the first Zitting Cisticola. Casa di Melo, where we arrived shortly after 5 pm, is a really nice Bio Hotel which serves organic food, mostly vegetables cultivated in its own property, and the first dinner was very tasty with a set of three different antipasti followed by two main courses. We then retired to our lovely rooms, while a Eurasian Scops Owl was singing outside.

#### **09 April, Saturday**

Those who opted for a short pre-breakfast walk inside the grounds had good views of three different Eurasian Hoopoes, a very nice male Common Linnet, a Tree Pipit flying over, and also a brief view of a Sardinian Warbler, while European Goldfinches were numerous and a single European Greenfinch was seen. We had our breakfast at 7.30 am, having the chance of personally squeezing the local oranges to make our own fresh juice! We then left for the Anapo valley, less than an hour's drive away, stopping en route for obliging Corn Buntings and seeing along the way a nice male Montagu's Harrier and our first Woodchat Shrike. We walked in the valley until noon, stopping several times for birds and flowers as well, especially for beautiful wild orchids: several species were seen, including Italian Man, Tongue, Early Spider, Mirror and Yellow Bee. Among the birds, alongside widespread species such as Common Kestrel, Common Buzzard, perhaps the most noticeable sighting were of a very obliging male Subalpine Warbler, showing very well in display flight and singing on exposed branches at very close quarters. Also the Sicilian form of the Long-tailed Tit was appreciated, with its darker back and rose tinged head.

The Saline di Priolo Reserve, our second stop, had a few hides from which we observed our first waterbirds: a pair of Garganey, several Northern Shoveler, three very handsome Black-necked Grebes, a couple of Sandwich Terns, and of course the beautiful Greater Flamingos, with many dozens of individuals present, including several young which were probably born here, as the colony started to breed for the first time last year.

Close by at the Magnisi peninsula we saw our first Calandra Larks, Stone Curlews, Kentish Plovers, and Audouin's Gulls, though the strong wind probably contributed to a shorter list of migrating passerines, as we only saw a few Whinchats and Yellow Wagtails. A couple of Moorish Gecko were also noticed and photographed.

For dinner we had an assortment of various Italian focaccias, flat bread filled with broccoli, onions, spinach, potatoes and tomatoes, an unusual and very tasty dinner.

### **Sunday, 10 April**

Pre-breakfast birdwatching produced the first European Turtle Dove of the trip. After breakfast our first stop was the beautiful Vendicari reserve, a complex of brackish lagoons, sand beaches and rocky coast with maquis vegetation. The first two very conveniently located hides allowed us scope views of a set of waders, which included Common and Spotted Redshank, with some individuals in their almost black breeding plumage, Wood Sandpiper, Common Snipe, Pied Avocet and distinctive Marsh Sandpipers in breeding plumage. Apart from the waders, there were quite a few European Spoonbills, which we admired at close quarters. Greater Flamingos were numerous here as well as in almost all the lakes and lagoons we visited today. Again, like yesterday, a European Reed Warbler was heard but not seen. Two different groups of colourful European Bee-eaters arrived directly from the sea, giving us a real feeling of active migration, unfortunately a very strong wind was blowing all day, disturbing both the birds and the birdwatchers. Besides the very common Italian Wall Lizard; which we saw every day, this morning we also saw a nice Sicilian Wall Lizard, an endemic species, with much brighter green colours. For our picnic lunch, we moved to the lovely coastal village of Marzamemi, where we sat facing the sea and during lunch we observed Sandwich Terns, Audouin's Gulls and a number of very active Kentish Plovers.

In the afternoon we moved further south checking various coastal lakes, namely Morghella, Ponterio and Baronello, where we had good looks at a Woodchat Shrike, while Red-throated Pipit and Greater Short-toed Larks were heard but only very briefly seen in flight, by the tour leaders. Waterbirds included both Common Ringed and Little Ringed Plovers and a nice group of Glossy Ibis seen well through the scopes in full light, looking very glossy indeed. Other good birds were several Black-necked Grebes in full breeding plumage and at least two pairs of Ferruginous Ducks.

### **Monday, 11 April**

An unusually obliging Great Reed Warbler, which showed very well in a patch of reeds just outside the Casa di Melo's property, was the best of the pre-breakfast observations, though Andrew also saw a Lesser Whitethroat, and Eurasian Hoopoes, Common Linnets, European Serins and European Goldfinches were always numerous in the garden. Today we drove north towards the powerful Mount Etna, clearly visible also from our hotel, with its snow-covered summit. We climbed up to Rifugio Sapienza at almost 2,000 metres, while our best observations were made around Piano Vetore, an area on the edge of a Black Pine mixed forest, which was mostly open and rocky with groves of the peculiar Mount Etna Broom. During the morning, a good flow of migrating raptors drew our attention: these included Marsh and Montagu's Harriers and a beautiful male Pallid Harrier (the latter only seen by Peter), plus a few Common Buzzards and a single Black Kite. Woodlarks and especially Rock Bunting allowed for stunning close up views, the latter being perched very close for a few minutes. During the whole morning, thousands and thousands of Painted Ladies was seen, working their way north arriving directly from Africa: what a fascinating migration for such a small animal! A couple of Eurasian Nuthatches and a few Coal Tits also showed well, but certainly today's highlights were the two Sicilian Rock Partridges seen along the road: a really beautiful and fascinating bird.

Less than an hour after seeing these two beauties, we were watching Glossy Ibises and Purple Swamphens on the Simeto River! Two Purple Swamphen chicks were watched as they were fed by the adults, a great sighting indeed! Cattle Egret and Lesser Black-backed Gull were also new birds for the tour.

### **Tuesday, 12 April**

Today most of the group had a very early start and we left our hotel shortly after 6 am working our way up an impressive limestone gorge, called Cava Grande del Cassibile. Our first observation there was a nice male Cirl Bunting singing from the top of a blooming Hawthorn. Once we arrived on the high plateau we soon located a couple of male Spectacled Warblers, while Woodlarks and Eurasian Golden Oriole were singing, though the latter was not seen. A few new orchids were noticed, including Monkey and Sombre Bee. We had brief views

of a couple of pairs of Common Rock Sparrows which breed in the cliffs, but the best observation was another pair of Sicilian Rock Partridges, which were seen well as they walked along the road, though only by party members in the front minibus.

After a rather late breakfast we drove a short distance to the Saline di Siracusa, where we had some interesting observations including good scope views of an Osprey perched on a stump and five male Ferruginous Ducks. From another viewpoint we then found an interesting trio of gulls, at times perched close to each other: Black-headed, Slender-billed and Mediterranean. We also had scope views of Collared Pratincole, together with six Common Ringed Plovers and a single Kentish Plover, while a distant Little Tern was also noticed.

We had our picnic lunch in a pleasant and cool spot by a papyrus grove along the River Ciane, the only place in Europe where this plant (an ancient introduction) is now established; close views of European Reed Warbler and Wood Sandpiper were the most noticeable observations.

Our daily coffee stop today was in Ortigia, the beautiful historical centre of Siracusa, after which we went to the well-known Capo Murro di Porco, a small promontory with an abandoned lighthouse, where usually at this time of year a number of migrating passerines are present. We soon flushed a Richard's Pipit, which gave his typical call, took flight and could not be relocated. A few Northern Wheatears and a couple of Woodchat Shrikes were seen, while two Red-rumped Swallows were seen only by Andrew. Two Common Quail were flushed on two different occasions. Audouin's Gull and Peregrine Falcon were also seen, while a short spell of sea watching produced good views of several Scopoli's Shearwaters passing by.

### **Wednesday, 13 April**

Pre breakfast birding produced the usual Eurasian Hoopoe, European Serins and a single Woodchat Shrike. After breakfast we loaded our minibuses and left our lovely hotel where we had spent five pleasant nights, and headed southwest towards the Ragusa province. At our first stop at Maganuco we explored a few coastal pools and sand dunes with low vegetation. Our best find here was a Tawny Pipit which allowed good scope views. We stopped at the Irminio River reserve and walked close to the river up to its mouth on the beach, among nice Mediterranean maquis: by now temperatures had risen dramatically, up to 31°C, and bird activity became very low. Among the few birds seen the only new ones were a male Common Redstart and a Squacco Heron. After our picnic lunch under the shade of a nice Nettle Tree, we had a stop in Marina di Ragusa where Renzo took us to a gelateria where the ice-creams were indeed extremely tasty.

By the time we reached the coastal lake Biviere di Gela the sunshine and the temperatures had forced birds to rest and we saw few, so we decided to return to our hotel in Ragusa a little earlier for the check in and some deserved rest, before our wonderful dinner at the Il Baglio restaurant, a short drive away: real Sicilian cuisine at its best!

### **Thursday, 14 April**

As we left our beautiful hotel, La dimora di Spartivento, a Common Stonechat was singing from the top of the aerial. We reached the Gela plains further west where we started our birding with good views of a Spotted and a female Pied Flycatcher, while soon after the first European Bee-eaters started to appear and allowed for good views. We saw Lesser Kestrel, which breed in the old ruined down houses, farms and agricultural buildings - we mainly saw males, busy hunting in the fields, while most of the females were probably already incubating eggs. During the day we saw many dozens of these beauties; they really seem to be doing well. Short-toed Eagles were also seen, with a juvenile allowing scope views when perched in the ground. A large black Western Whip Snake was briefly seen sun bathing on an exposed rock, but suddenly disappeared in the tall grass nearby, perhaps having seen a Short-toed Eagle in the sky above?

The Gela plain is typical Mediterranean countryside, and we could hear Common Quail singing and European Bee-eaters giving their calls, while Lesser Kestrels, Crested Larks, Zitting Cisticolas and Corn Buntings were all around us. Better still was perhaps what we had in the afternoon, when we stopped for a female Pallid Harrier not far from the road, and we then could hear and see no less than four Calandra Larks and a single Greater Short-toed Lark singing loudly in the sky just above us.

Earlier we had had our picnic lunch at the Lake Communelli, where at least eight Purple Swamphen were seen feeding out in the open and then flying back into the reeds with their odd silhouette in flight! And how big they

are! Here we also found our only Great Egrets and Black-crowned Night-Herons of the trip, feeding and resting with some Eurasian Spoonbills, Grey Herons and a few waders including Ruff and Spotted Redshank. David counted the White Stork nests in the area of the Gela plain: 25, not bad! A single Stone Curlew was seen resting in the ground allowing good scope views for everyone. A few Western Jackdaws were about, the only observation of the tour, except for one or two seen by Andrew the day before.

Our last stop of the day was in the historical centre of Ragusa, at Ragusa Ibla where, unfortunately, we could not find the Blue Rock Thrush which had showed so well two years ago, though one was heard singing by Eileen. Ragusa Ibla is always beautiful and fascinating, and the number of Common Swifts and Common House Martin was as well impressive!

Our final tour dinner was held in our hotel, which does not normally serve dinners but made for us the usual exception: and it was definitely a very good meal, ending with a much-appreciated small glass of herb liqueur.

### **Friday, 15 April**

We began our last day with the very generous breakfast at our hotel, after which we packed our bags and loaded them on our minibuses. We stopped in a mixed woodland of Cork Oaks and wild Olive trees, having a very pleasant short walk but with not many birds around. A male Collared Flycatcher was seen only by me, while the rich song of a Common Nightingale was heard by most of the group at very close range. A few butterflies were also noted, including Lesser Copper and Scarce Swallowtail. Perhaps the best observations were had by Eileen who remained near the vehicles: she saw another Western Whip Snake and also a Weasel, both at short distance.

We checked some roadside flooded fields but without luck and our last picnic stop near the Simeto River produced our only shared sighting of a mammal: a couple of European Rabbits. After lunch we headed for the airport where we discovered that the road entrance was still closed due to security issues after the tragic events at Brussels a few weeks earlier, so the group left the vehicles not far from the entrance, and we said farewell.

### **Acknowledgements**

I would like to personally thank all the participants on this tour: everyone got along very well together and the atmosphere was always good and positive. I always have something to learn from you all. A big thanks of course is due to Renzo, our great local guide, without whom we would have probably got lost a few times, and thanks also for his enthusiasm and knowledge. Many thanks to Peter Munro for allowing me to use his photographs in this report.

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## Itinerary and weather

08 April, Friday	London Gatwick > Catania > Cassibile Scattered clouds, 23° C
09 April, Saturday	Anapo Valley, Saline di Priolo, Penisola di Magnisi Scattered clouds, partly sunny, windy, 23°C
10 April, Sunday	Vendicari Reserve, Marzamemi, Capo Passero, Morghella and Baronello Lakes Sunny, strong wind, 21°C
11 April, Monday	Mount Etna, Simeto river at Pontebarca Sunny, 23°C
12 April, Tuesday	Cassibile gorge, Ciane river, Saline di Siracusa, Capo Murro di Porco Sunny, 28°C
13 April, Wednesday	Maganuco, Irminio river, Biviere di Gela Sunny, 31°C
14 April, Thursday	Gela plains, Communelli lake Sunny, 28°C
15 April, Friday	Francofonte, Simeto river Sunny, 24°C



**Mount Etna from the hotel**

## CHECKLIST OF BIRDS SEEN DURING TOUR

No of days recorded	Abundance Scale
1 2h means seen on 1 day and heard on 2 other days	(max for any one day) 1 = 1-4 2 = 5-9 3 = 10-99 4 = 100+

The sequence and nomenclature of this list follow Collins Bird Guide 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition 2010.

SPECIES	No of days recorded	Abundance Scale	SCIENTIFIC NAME
Mute Swan	1	1	<i>Cygnus olor</i>
Common Shelduck	3	3	<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>
Mallard	4	3	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>
Northern Shoveler	3	2	<i>Anas clypeata</i>
Eurasian Wigeon	1	2	<i>Anas penelope</i>
Garganey	1	1	<i>Anas querquedula</i>
Common Pochard	1	3	<i>Aythya ferina</i>
Ferruginous Duck	2	2	<i>Aythya nyroca</i>
(Sicilian) Rock Partridge	2	1	<i>Alectoris graeca (whitakeri)</i>
Common Quail	1 1h	1	<i>Coturnix coturnix</i>
Common Pheasant	- 1h	1	<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>
Little Grebe	5	3	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>
Great Crested Grebe	4	3	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>
Black-necked Grebe	2	2	<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>
Scopoli's Shearwater	2	3	<i>Calonectris diomedea diomedea</i>
Great Cormorant	3	2	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>
Black-crowned Night Heron	1	1	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>
Squacco Heron	1	1	<i>Ardeola ralloides</i>
Little Egret	6	3	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>
Great Egret	1	2	<i>Casmerodius albus</i>
Cattle Egret	1	2	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>
Grey Heron	6	3	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>
White Stork	4	3	<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>
Glossy Ibis	2	3	<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>
Eurasian Spoonbill	3	3	<i>Platalea leucorodia</i>
Greater Flamingo	2	4	<i>Phoenicopterus roseus</i>
Osprey	1	1	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>
Short-toed Eagle	1	2	<i>Circaetus gallicus</i>
Black Kite	1	1	<i>Milvus migrans</i>
Western Marsh Harrier	5	2	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>
Montagu's Harrier	2	1	<i>Circus pygargus</i>
Pallid Harrier	2	1	<i>Circus macrourus</i>
Common Buzzard	6	2	<i>Buteo buteo</i>
Eurasian Sparrowhawk	1	1	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>
Common Kestrel	5	2	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>
Lesser Kestrel	1	3	<i>Falco naumanni</i>
Peregrine Falcon	1	1	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>
Water Rail	- 1h	1	<i>Rallus aquaticus</i>
Common Moorhen	3 1h	2	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>
Eurasian Coot	7	4	<i>Fulica atra</i>
Purple Swampphen	2	2	<i>Porphyrio porphyrio</i>
Pied Avocet	1	1	<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>
Black-winged Stilt	5	3	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>
Stone Curlew	2	2	<i>Burhinus oedicephalus</i>
Collared Pratincole	1	1	<i>Glareola pratincola</i>
Little Ringed Plover	1	2	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>
Common Ringed Plover	2	2	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>
Kentish Plover	3	2	<i>Charadrius alexandrinus</i>
Grey Plover	1	1	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>

Dunlin	1		2	<i>Calidris alpina</i>
Little Stint	1		1	<i>Calidris minuta</i>
Common Sandpiper	6		2	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>
Wood Sandpiper	5	1h	2	<i>Tringa glareola</i>
Common Redshank	1		1	<i>Tringa totanus</i>
Spotted Redshank	2		3	<i>Tringa erythropus</i>
Common Greenshank	4		3	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>
Marsh Sandpiper	1		1	<i>Tringa stagnatilis</i>
Whimbrel	-	1h		<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>
Common Snipe	2		1	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>
Ruff	2		2	<i>Philomachus pugnax</i>
Black-headed Gull	2		2	<i>Larus ridibundus</i>
Slender-billed Gull	2		2	<i>Larus genei</i>
Mediterranean Gull	1		1	<i>Larus melanocephalus</i>
Yellow-legged Gull	6		3	<i>Larus michahellis</i>
Audouin's Gull	3		2	<i>Larus audouinii</i>
Lesser Black-backed Gull	1		1	<i>Larus fuscus</i>
Little Tern	1		1	<i>Sternula albifrons</i>
Sandwich Tern	2		2	<i>Sterna sandvicensis</i>
Rock Dove	8		4	<i>Columba livia</i>
Common Wood Pigeon	8		4	<i>Columba palumbus</i>
Eurasian Collared Dove	8		3	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>
European Turtle Dove	6		1	<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>
Common Cuckoo	-	2h	1	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>
Little Owl	1		1	<i>Athena noctua</i>
Eurasian Scops Owl	-	5h	1	<i>Otus scops</i>
Common Swift	8		4	<i>Apus apus</i>
Eurasian Hoopoe	4		1	<i>Upupa epops</i>
European Bee-eater	4	1h	3	<i>Merops apiaster</i>
Great Spotted Woodpecker	-	1h		<i>Dendrocopos major</i>
Crested Lark	6		3	<i>Galerida cristata</i>
Woodlark	2		1	<i>Lullula arborea</i>
Greater Short-toed Lark	1		1	<i>Calandrella brachydactyla</i>
Calandra Lark	2		2	<i>Melanocorypha calandra</i>
Common Sand Martin	2		1	<i>Riparia riparia</i>
Eurasian Crag Martin	1		1	<i>Ptyonoprogne rupestris</i>
Barn Swallow	8		4	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>
Red-rumped Swallow	1		1	<i>Cecropis daurica</i>
Common House Martin	7		4	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>
Tawny Pipit	1		1	<i>Anthus campestris</i>
Tree Pipit	2		1	<i>Anthus trivialis</i>
Richard's Pipit	1		1	<i>Anthus richardi</i>
White Wagtail	3		1	<i>Motacilla alba</i>
Yellow Wagtail	5		2	<i>Motacilla flava</i>
Grey Wagtail	1		1	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>
European Robin	1	1h	1	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>
Common Nightingale	-	5h	1	<i>Luscinia megarhynchos</i>
Common Redstart	1		1	<i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>
Black Redstart	1		1	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>
Northern Wheatear	4		2	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>
Whinchat	5		2	<i>Saxicola rubetra</i>
Common Stonechat	4		2	<i>Saxicola torquatus</i>
Common Blackbird	7		3	<i>Turdus merula</i>
Blue Rock Thrush	1	1h	1	<i>Monticola solitarius</i>
Blackcap	1	3h	2	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>
Common Whitethroat	2	1h	1	<i>Sylvia communis</i>
Lesser Whitethroat	1		1	<i>Sylvia curruca</i>
Sardinian Warbler	7	1h	3	<i>Sylvia melanocephala</i>
Spectacled Warbler	1		1	<i>Sylvia melanocephala</i>
Eastern Subalpine Warbler	2		1	<i>Sylvia cantillans</i>
Cetti's Warbler	5	3h	2	<i>Cettia cetti</i>
Sedge Warbler	-	1h	1	<i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i>
European Reed Warbler	1	3h	1	<i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>

Great Reed Warbler	1	1h	1	<i>Acrocephalus arundinaceus</i>
Zitting Cisticola	6	2h	3	<i>Cisticola juncidis</i>
Willow Warbler	2	2h	1	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>
Wood Warbler	-	1h	1	<i>Phylloscopus sibilatrix</i>
Common Chiffchaff	1	1h	1	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>
Firecrest	1		1	<i>Regulus ignicapillus</i>
Winter Wren	3	1h	1	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>
Spotted Flycatcher	1		1	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>
Pied Flycatcher	1		1	<i>Ficedula hypoleuca</i>
Great Tit	6		2	<i>Parus major</i>
Coal Tit	1		2	<i>Periparus ater</i>
European Blue Tit	2	1h	2	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>
(Sicilian) Long-tailed Tit	1		2	<i>Aegithalos caudatus (siculus)</i>
Eurasian Penduline Tit	-	1h	1	<i>Remiz pendulinus</i>
Eurasian Nuthatch	1	1h	2	<i>Sitta europaea</i>
Short-toed Treecreeper	1	1h	1	<i>Certhia brachydactyla</i>
Woodchat Shrike	5		1	<i>Lanius senator</i>
Common Magpie	7		3	<i>Pica pica</i>
Eurasian Jay	6		2	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>
Western Jackdaw	2		3	<i>Corvus monedula</i>
Hooded Crow	6		3	<i>Corvus cornix</i>
Common Raven	4		1	<i>Corvus corax</i>
Spotless Starling	8		3	<i>Sturnus unicolor</i>
Eurasian Golden Oriole	-	1h	1	<i>Oriolus oriolus</i>
Italian Sparrow	8		3	<i>Passer italiae</i>
Spanish Sparrow	1		1	<i>Passer hispaniolensis</i>
Eurasian Tree Sparrow	8		3	<i>Passer montanus</i>
Common Rock Sparrow	1		2	<i>Petronia petronia</i>
Common Chaffinch	2	1h	1	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>
Common Linnet	6		2	<i>Carduelis cannabina</i>
European Goldfinch	7		3	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>
European Greenfinch	6		2	<i>Chloris chloris</i>
European Serin	7		2	<i>Serinus serinus</i>
Cirl Bunting	2	3h	1	<i>Emberiza cirlus</i>
Corn Bunting	5		3	<i>Emberiza calandra</i>
Rock Bunting	1		1	<i>Emberiza cia</i>

#### BUTTERFLIES

Small Heath	Scarce Swallowtail	Red Admiral
Wall	Clouded Yellow	Brimstone
Painted Lady	Orange Tip	Small Blue
Common Swallowtail		

#### REPTILES

Italian Wall Lizard	Western Whip Snake	Moorish Gecko
Sicilian Wall Lizard		

#### DRAGONFLIES

Copper Demoiselle	Black Tailed Skimmer	Blue Emperor
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#### MAMMALS

Common Rabbit	Weasel
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This list represents those birds and other animals seen by party members of this tour.



**Black-winged Stilt**



**Crested Lark**



**Great Crested Grebe**



**Greater Flamingo**



**Lesser Kestrel**



**Northern Wheatear**



**Rock Bunting**



**Sardinian Warbler**



**White Stork**



**Common Greenshanks & Marsh Sandpiper**



**Eurasian Spoonbills**



**Glossy Ibis**



**Sicilian Wall Lizard**



**Moorish Gecko**



**Sombre Bee Orchid**



**Yellow Bee Orchid**

**Front cover: Eastern Subalpine Warbler**

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