

# Corsica

## Saturday 18 – Saturday 25 April 2009

### Tour Leaders

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### Daily Diary

#### Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> April

Following an early arrival at Stansted airport, we all were soon on our way towards Bastia airport via Cologne. While flying over the south of France, those of us lucky enough to have window seats had excellent but tantalising views of the Alps where the clouds were broken enough. The flight and the landing were both very smooth and as we taxied in towards the terminal building, we could see huge swathes of blooming Green-winged Orchids. After lunch and some liquid refreshment at the airport we began the journey towards Corte

Just a short distance along the road we paused to view a group of Barn Swallows and House Martins and a mile or two further on we saw the first of 5 or 6 Red Kites that we noted during the journey. Colourful flowers lined our route up through the Golo Valley towards Ponte Leccia and these included lots of bright yellow Woad, and some Pink Butterfly Orchids and Dark Ophrys at one stop. At this same location we also heard Mistle Thrush and a Serin singing.

Further on at Ponte Novu we paused to view the bridge where a decisive battle had taken place between the Corsican independence movement led by Pascal Paoli, and the French. This was a decisive battle fought on 8<sup>th</sup> May 1769. At this place we saw a pair of Grey Wagtails down by the river. At another lay-by we added Crag Martins to the list when perhaps a dozen flew around. A short while later 5 Common Buzzards were seen in the air at one time, a very distant Blue Rock Thrush was perched up on a ridge and a Common Kestrel was glimpsed by a few of the group.

We then completed our journey to our hotel near Corte and after spending some time settling in, we went the short distance down the road for a splendid evening meal to complete the day.

#### Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> April

The day began with a clear sky and a cooling breeze and our pre breakfast walk further up the Restonica Valley had us viewing a few birds and lots of flowers. The birds included the Corsican subspecies of Chaffinch, Great, Blue and Coal Tit as well as Eurasian Jay. A Common Buzzard was seen circling high over the trees and it eventually landed on a large conifer while a few Crag Martins were perching on a sun-bathed craggy rock face. Other birds noted were Grey Wagtail, Blackbird, Mistle Thrush (again heard but not seen) and a pair of Common Ravens that were fairly frequently encountered. There were many Corsican hellebores and Euphorbias.

After breakfast we headed into town where we found the supermarket was closed but a local garage had enough liquid supplies to improve the hotel picnics! While the leaders shopped, the group noted a few House Martins and both Common and Pallid Swifts. From here we drove back into the Restonica Valley and we stopped to search for wildlife. A couple of Common Buzzards were the first main sighting and then a Golden Eagle soon appeared. A few Tyrrhenian Wall Lizards were seen among the plants and then we saw Coal and Great Tits, a male Cirl Bunting, Wren, Chaffinch and 2 Treecreepers. Further on another stop produced Grey Wagtail, 2 Great Spotted Woodpeckers and a Corsican Nuthatch.

We then drove to the car park at the top of the valley where carpets of Corsican Crocuses greeted us. This was the best display of the species that the leaders had seen in 10 years of visiting this beautiful island. A good number of photos were taken of them as well as the spectacular views back out of the valley. High over the crags a few Alpine Choughs were seen and later some of them came lower and close enough to see the colour of their beaks. During a walk along the footpath we encountered a few Crag Martins, another Wren or two and one of the 'target species' here ..... a couple of European Robins! As we made our way back towards the car park we had another sighting of Golden Eagle.

Through the morning the cloud cover had increased and by the end of lunch it began to rain a little. As we headed back down the valley the intensity of the rain worsened and we decided to visit our hotel for some coffees etc as the usual restaurant was closed. After this we drove a little east of Corte and stopped at a field to search for birds. These were in very short supply no doubt due to the rain. Fortunately two birds did appear and these were a pair of Corsican Citril Finches, the other island endemic species. Across the road there were a couple of wild orchids noted and these were Dark Ophrys and Green-winged. A minor road then took us on a loop back towards Corte past a couple of known plant locations. At one place we found that many Polyanthus Narcissus were in bloom. This seemed rather late for this species and in general plants seemed to be at least 10 days late compared to previous years. Also blooming here were Green-winged and Milky Orchids and a few Dark Ophrys. Birds noted at this spot included a Woodlark, a few Italian Sparrows, Collared Dove, 2 Whinchats, Spotless Starlings, Corn Bunting and Cirl Bunting. This completed our time out for the day so we returned to the Hotel.

Later the rain had eased and we went to the restaurant a short distance towards Corte where we enjoyed a fine Corsican meal and then as we arrived back at the Hotel Arena, a European Scops Owl was heard calling.

### **Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April**

Before breakfast we took a short stroll towards town and during this walk noted a number of Wood Pigeons, about 20 Crag Martins, Chaffinch, Tree Creeper, Long-tailed Tit and we had good views of a pair of Blackcaps. The bird of this walk however was the Marmora's Warbler that put in a brief appearance.

Our destination for the day was the Asco Valley and on the way there we paused at Ponte Leccia. While the leaders gathered a few picnic extras, the clients managed to see 10 species of birds including House Martins, Pallid Swift, Greenfinch, Goldfinch and Serin. A short way into the Asco Valley a Mistle Thrush was sat on the top of a tree and gave good views while on the opposite side of the road Cirl Bunting and Woodlark were seen. A number Red Kites soared around in the distance along with Common Buzzard and a Golden Eagle. Butterflies noted here included many Brown Argus a couple of Clouded Yellows and a Scarce Swallowtail and we also noted a Western Whip Snake. At the same spot we also noted many flowers including Green-winged orchids, Star Clover, Narrow-leaved Lupin and lots of Field Madder. Further into the valley we paused at a farm track where there were more Red Kites to be seen including one or two that flew over a very short range. Spotless Starlings and Serins were noted as was a Woodlark and a couple of Rock Sparrows.

The weather was again proving unhelpful but we still managed to see Northern Goshawk two Common Buzzards and three or four more Red Kites at another location. There were also two Whinchats and a pair of Woodchat Shrikes seemed to be settled on territory where they were the previous year. After a coffee stop we drove beyond Asco where we managed to locate Robin, Long-tailed Tit, Blackcap, Blue Rock Thrush and a lovely Firecrest. We moved further up the valley to pause for lunch with low clouds obscuring much of the surrounding scenery. A couple of Ravens were almost constantly present and a Golden Eagle appeared briefly out of the clouds. However, the best find here was a magnificent male Mouflon which was seen just across the small valley. We drove up to Haut Asco but by this time

we were in thick cloud so we descended back to our lunch spot in the hope of other birds but all we managed were the same old Ravens and a couple of Common Buzzards.

Back in some lower lying fields the two Woodchat Shrikes were again present as were Red Kites and Common Buzzards. Woodlark and Whinchats were also noted, the latter of which were obviously on migration moving through. Also passing by despite the cloudy weather were quite large numbers of Painted Lady butterflies but another insect seemed to provide the greatest interest to most members of the group. There were a number of Dung Beetles that many people were intent of photographing. The fields were also full of many shrubs of Narrow-leaved Cistus. As we left the lower part of the Asco Valley we made one more brief stop to view a falcon that was flying around and this proved to be a Hobby. This was in the company of yet more Red Kites. We returned to the hotel and soon headed out to another fine evening meal.

### **Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> April**

We began the day with a pre breakfast visit to the edge of Corte. Here we noted Goldfinch, Greenfinch, Serin, Blackcaps, Great Tit, numerous Swifts (probably of both species) and a distant Red Kite. From the river bridge we had good views of Grey Wagtail and could hear Cetti's Warbler singing in the undergrowth. There was a lovely display of Borage along the roadside and the Manna Ash was just beginning to come out. After breakfast we headed north out of town and paused a few kilometres short of Ponte Leccia. Here we could hear at least two Nightingales singing and one eventually gave good views. Also noted here were Corn Bunting, Stonechat, Greenfinch and Goldfinch.

Beyond Ponte Leccia we drove into the Rau de Lagani where our first good sighting was a pair of Eurasian Hoopoes. One was seen in flight and the other was perched on the top of a dead tree. One of this pair later landed on a hilltop rock and could be viewed through telescopes. At this spot we found a plant of *Aristolochia rotunda*, Kermes Oak and Star Clover amongst others. Further into the valley there were numerous Nightingales singing and judging by their behaviour and visible singing, they were probably freshly arrived. Cirl Bunting and a few Red Kites followed and then we saw 2 Golden Eagles soaring effortlessly overhead. A few Barn Swallows and Common Swifts seemed to be heading northwards and a Wryneck or two were heard but only glimpsed by one or two of the group.

During lunch we noted some Southern Early Purple orchids growing on the railway bank and close to our vehicles were Star of Bethlehem, Grape Hyacinth and Stemless Thistle. We were serenaded by more Nightingales and a Golden Eagle perched on a nearby hilltop. Turtle doves, Rock Sparrows and Spotless Starlings were also seen at this point and then a Scops Owl was heard calling. We tried unsuccessfully to see this bird but then as we returned towards the vehicles, a juvenile Lammergeier was seen overhead in the company of a Golden Eagle ..... and our first Eagle at this spot was still on his perch! We soon headed further into this gentle valley and paused to view a cow shed roof which had numerous Pink Butterfly and Green-winged Orchids growing on it. More Red Kites were noted overhead as was another Golden Eagle and then we turned on to a smaller road where Sardinian Warblers were soon found. The hills were covered in typical Mediterranean scrub and no doubt held numerous unseen warblers and other skulking species.

After passing through a small village we paused to take in the view to some mountains and here we found another Sardinian Warbler as well as seeing yet another Golden Eagle overhead. A few Crag Martins flew around and a short way up a small track, a group of the unusual parasitic plant *Cytinus ruber* were found. We began the journey back towards Corte and paused long enough in Ponte Leccia for afternoon teas, coffees etc and were back at the hotel in good time to relax before heading to the restaurant for dinner.

### **Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> April**

There was no pre breakfast walk to allow time for packing in readiness for our move to the coast. At 9 a.m. we bade farewell to the Hotel Arena and after negotiating the outskirts of Corte we set off east on the N200. A few kilometres out of town we reached a field where good birds have been seen in the

past. However in the poor weather today, there was virtually nothing to be seen. Along the roadside there were numerous patches of orchids to be seen as we sped along and we also glimpsed a Common Buzzard.

At the Genoese bridge we paused to look at the river and soon saw a Dipper that unfortunately sped off before we all saw it. Italian Sparrows occupied part of the old building nearby and along the side road we found Woodlark, Cirl Bunting, Citril Finches, Green and Goldfinches while overhead were a few Crag Martins and a pair of Common Ravens. As we neared Aleria, a few Red Kites were over the fields and a couple more Common Buzzards sat sentinel on telegraph poles.

After a pause for coffee, we made our way to Calzarellu for a walk along the beach to overlook the nearby marsh and etang. Before leaving the vehicles we could hear Nightingale and Cetti's Warbler singing. The sandy stroll slowed our progress a little but we did not worry as the weather was quite warm now. Eurasian Coots were along the waterway and a few of the 10 or more Red-crested Pochards could be seen from some distance away. Water Rail and Reed Warblers could be heard as we neared the lake and some of the group actually saw the latter species. The French equivalent of our Red Arrows, the Patrice de France, took off from the nearby small airfield and began practising their manoeuvres not far from us. Many of the group watched the 'bleu, blanc, rouge' smoke trails left by the skilful pilots as they weaved their way across the sky in various formations. It was almost difficult to re-focus the group on to birding but a Eurasian Hobby seemed intent on outdoing the French pilots as it swooped after dragonflies. Another member of this speedy raptor family, a female Red-footed Falcon was located perched on a distant tree while a couple of Purple Herons flew past. Along the beach we noted many plants including Sea Medick, Sea Rocket, Sea Stock, Yellow Flag, Tufted Vetch and Tamarisk.

After lunch nearby, many of the group paused to photograph some of the nearby Loose-flowered Orchids before we headed to the Etang d'Urbino to seek out more birds. From the top of the hill we could see a Little Egret and two Squacco Herons in a grassy area and many more Eurasian Coots out on the etang. In the fields we found some plants of Friar's Cowl and along the road a lovely display of bright blue Borage. At the bottom of the slope on a sandy patch of ground there were at least 8 Little Ringed and 4 Greater Ringed Plovers as well as a Dunlin, 3 Wood Sandpipers and, amongst the short vegetation, 5 Water Pipits. Further out at the edge of the etang was a group of about a dozen Greenshanks along with a couple of Common Redhanks and 2 or more of their Spotted 'cousins'. Another Purple Heron was out on the marsh while overhead a Red Kite came past at really close range. Growing over most of the shrubs and trees close to the minibuses was the very prickly Smilax - a creeper that is very common on the island. A further stop at the Etang de Terrenzana provided little of interest except two species of 'tongue' orchid. We then made our way to our new hotel and, after dinner, we strolled out into the car park and here we heard a couple of Eurasian Scops Owls calling and eventually located them. We were even able to watch them mating a couple of times! All the time we were watching them, another bird could be heard calling in the distance. This made a super end to another fascinating day in Corsica.

#### **Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> April**

We left the hotel at 8 a.m. and set off for Cap Corse. The winding coast road does not make for easy driving and by the time we reached Macinaggio it was agreed an early coffee stop was called for. Whilst sat outside at the pavement café, House Martins and Italian Sparrows were almost constant companions and then high overhead we found passing Common Buzzard and Osprey. As we began the onward drive, a flying Golden Oriole was glimpsed and when we stopped to see if we could relocate it, a Eurasian Siskin was noted. Along the roadsides were many Three-corned Leek and Anemone Hortensis flowering as well as Pale Flax, Rosemary and lots of cistus.

As we arrived at Barcaggio, a Sparrowhawk was seen circling over some scrub and a Spectacled Warbler dived off into some bushes never to reappear. We are sure the two are not connected! A short walk to the nearby marsh only provided views of a Little Egret and a couple of Yellow Wagtails. One of the 'joys' of migration watch-points is that you can have days when the place is full of birds and

then there are days when everything leaves during the previous night and the location seems deserted. Unfortunately we had arrived on one of the latter days and the strong wind was certainly not helping us! The usual walk along the beach only produced occasional views of Sardinian Warblers while a Cetti's Warbler sang from the depths of the scrub. Offshore we could see large groups of Yellow-legged Gulls and almost certainly there were Audouin's Gulls among them but the distance from us to them was too great to be sure. However, there were a number of Cory's Shearwaters to be seen among the gulls. As we headed back to the car park for lunch, a Marsh Harrier was seen drifting about over the scrub and a Subalpine Warbler gave good though brief views. During lunch the Marsh Harrier was again noted and the unusual sight of a group of about 24 Great Cormorants were seen a short distance offshore spiralling up just like a kettle of raptors in a thermal.

After a good picnic lunch we began the drive towards Capo Grosso and soon encountered a Common Kestrel and along the grassland at the top of a rocky shoreline there was a group of 30 or more Yellow Wagtails. A brief drive took us out through short coastal scrub that was a blaze of colour. Soon we were able to stand high on cliffs overlooking the sea that separates Corsica from mainland Europe; 150 miles of open sea that migrant birds have to cross on their way to their breeding grounds. No wonder this is such a fabulous migration watch point in poor weather. Here too, under clear skies, the migrants had moved on. All we saw were a couple of European Shags far below us on rocks, a Common Buzzard riding the wind currents along a ridge and a couple of the resident Marmora's Warblers. The unusual looking *Evax Pygmaea* was abundant and we also noted Pink Colvolvulus, *Santolina Corsica*, *Genista acanthoclada* and *Thymlea hirsuta* as well as the usual garrigue shrubs. A Corsican Swallowtail butterfly was also seen along with numerous Painted Ladies, many of which were heading north just like the Barn Swallows and other migrant birds. Here, like many of our days on Corsica, we were able to witness another migration miracle in action! Our final sighting here was a female Hen Harrier that seemed eager to head north but somehow seemed to lack the commitment.

During the journey back to our hotel, the main sightings came after an ice cream stop in Macinaggio, a couple of Audouin's Gulls that kept pace with us. They were on a straightish line flying along the coast while we were on the winding road back towards Bastia. After dinner we were again able to see a couple of Scops Owls in the Hotel car park.

### Friday 24<sup>th</sup> April

Before breakfast we took a short stroll out to the beach and around the adjacent woodland. We walked passed many False Acacia trees. Apparently the French eat the flowers from this tree. They are dipped in a kind of batter and deep fried! A view along the shore produced nothing while over the sea a number of Yellow-legged Gulls were the only birds to be seen. Checking each gull one by one proved worthwhile as a dark dorsal fin broke the surface of the calm sea just below 'yet another Yellow-legged'. This proved to be one of at least 3 Harbour Porpoises that seemed to be moving through the area or possibly feeding nearby; a new species of mammal for *Travelling Naturalist* in Corsica. As we kept watch, a Sandwich Tern passed heading south. We continued our walk with a trickle (compared to some visible migration in previous years) of Barn Swallows and Common Swifts heading north while a few Spotless Starlings seemed to be investigating the trees perhaps in search of nesting sites. Through the rest of the walk we heard other species including Sardinian and Cetti's Warblers, Nightingale, Turtle Dove and Hoopoe.

After breakfast we drove to some nearby fields where we had good views of at least 7 Stone Curlews, 3 Hoopoes, Serins, Cirl Bunting and Spotless Starlings. Along the track side we noted Greater Broomrape and Yellow Bartsia. Some other nearby fields were blue with large swathes of Tufted Vetch. At another location close to the Etang de Biguglia we saw Marsh Harrier, Common Buzzard and Red Kite in flight with one bird of the latter species conveniently perching on a fence post not far away. Also noted here were Grey Heron, Black-headed Gull, at least 4 Tree Sparrows among the Italians, a female Redstart, 2 Whinchats and a Golden Oriole. A short distance further on we saw Cetti's and Fan-tailed Cisticola. At our final pause before morning coffee we managed to locate numerous Mallards, Coots and a few Great Crested Grebes as well as single Little Egret and Black-winged Stilt.

With refreshing drinks consumed and the full picnic lunch secured, we set off for another pause beside the Etang de Biguglia. As we drove along the track towards our parking spot, a Eurasian Wryneck flew up and into some brambles. It then moved further along the track and began feeding so everyone gained excellent views. At least 2 Cetti's Warblers were heard and one was seen during lunch as were half a dozen Whinchats but perhaps best of all here were the 5 species of raptor. These were Marsh Harrier, Common Buzzard, Red Kites, 2 Ospreys and a Common Kestrel with the latter species giving excellent, close views. A stroll later near the northern end of the etang produced good views of about 8 Audouin's Gulls and a juvenile Greater Black-backed Gull all standing on posts in the bay. Great Crested Grebes and a single Black-necked Grebe could be seen out on the water and across the far side we could make out 7 Grey Herons and 3 or 4 Great White Egrets as well as an Osprey perched on a log at the edge of the lake. As we walked through the trees there were a few Willow Warblers to be seen and at the screen hide we had views of 3 Greater Flamingos, 1 Little Egret and 2 more Great White Egrets.

We then drove to a spot on the western side of the Etang de Biguglia and strolled down a leafy lane to the lake side. Within the trees we found Great Spotted Woodpecker, Great Tit and a few more Willow Warblers while in the open fields were 4 Wheatears, a Tree Pipit, 3 Whinchats and a pair of Stone Curlews. A female flycatcher provided some discussion but eventually everyone agreed it was a Collared Flycatcher. Close to the end of the track we found a couple of Common Moorhens in their usual spot while nearby were 3 Woodchat Shrikes. Three Common Buzzards and 2 Hobbies circled overhead, Stonechats and Serins were seen and another Wryneck was heard. As we made our way back towards the vehicles a group of birds were moving through the trees and these included at least half a dozen male Pied Flycatchers and 2 Common Redstarts. We returned to the hotel and after dinner as we were in our rooms packing ready for Saturday's departure, we could hear the Scops Owls calling around the car park.

### **Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> April**

As we began our early walk a Red-footed Falcon dashed overhead heading northwards. The woodland was again fairly quiet with just a couple of Serins and a few Spotless Starlings seen. Fields nearby held a couple of Hoopoes and 3 or 4 Stone Curlews, a Purple Heron flew southwards and Common Buzzard, Red Kite and a Marsh Harrier were seen in flight.

After breakfast we bade farewell to La Lagune staff and we drove to a spot along the eastern side of the Etang de Biguglia to check for birds. Here we found Mallards. Coots, Great Crested Grebes and presumably the same Black-necked Grebe as seen the previous day were all noted and a new species for the tour also put in an appearance, a male Common Teal. At another location we saw a Common Kestrel and heard a Water Rail calling in the reed beds. We then made our way to the La Canonica Cathedral where plenty of Tree and Italian Sparrows vied with Spotless Starlings for nesting places and at least 5 more Red Kites were seen flying.

From here we drove up towards Ponte Leccia and took a side road where birds were in short supply. The species seen were Robin, Jay, Blackcap and one member of the group saw a Common Crossbill on a wall at the side of the road. At a suitable spot we pulled over and parked with a good view over the surrounding hills to the Mediterranean. Flowers nearby were plentiful and included Dense-flowered, Barton's, Green-winged and Pink Butterfly Orchids. An early picnic lunch followed the botanising and then it was time to head for the airport to catch homeward-bound flights.

**SPECIES LIST:****BIRDS**

<b>Red-legged Partridge</b>	<i>Alectoris rufa</i>	A single bird seen briefly beside the road on 21 <sup>st</sup> and seen briefly along a track at Cap Corse
<b>Mallard</b>	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	2 on 19 <sup>th</sup> close to Corte and 4 seen in the Asco valley the following day then noted on 22 <sup>nd</sup> , 24 <sup>th</sup> & 25 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Northern Pintail</b>	<i>Anas acuta</i>	One bird seen by one member of the group close to Corte on 19 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Common Teal</b>	<i>Anas crecca</i>	A male was on the Etang de Biguglia on 25 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Red-crested Pochard</b>	<i>Netta rufina</i>	At least 10 were at the marsh south of Calzarellu on 22 <sup>nd</sup>
<b>Cory's Shearwater</b>	<i>Caolonectris diomedea</i>	8 or more seen off Cap Corse on 23 <sup>rd</sup>
<b>Little Grebe</b>	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>	Just noted on 22 <sup>nd</sup> on the marsh south of Calzarellu on 22 <sup>nd</sup>
<b>Great Crested Grebe</b>	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>	Noted at Calzarellu on 22 <sup>nd</sup> and on the Etang de Biguglia on 24 <sup>th</sup> & 25 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Black-necked (Eared Grebe)</b>	<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>	A single bird was on the Etang de Biguglia on 24 <sup>th</sup> & 25 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Greater Flamingo</b>	<i>Phoenicopterus ruber</i>	2 on 23 <sup>rd</sup> and 3 on 24 <sup>th</sup> at the Etang de Biguglia
<b>Squacco Heron</b>	<i>Ardeola ralloides</i>	2 seen among distant vegetation on 22 <sup>nd</sup> at the Etang d'Urbino
<b>Grey Heron</b>	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	One seen in flight on 18 <sup>th</sup> as we drove towards Corte then 1 at Calzarellu on 22 <sup>nd</sup> and at least 8 seen around the Etang de Biguglia on 24 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Purple Heron</b>	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>	2 at Calzarellu and 1 at Urbino on 22 <sup>nd</sup> then 1 in flight during the early walk on 25 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Great White Egret</b>	<i>Egretta alba</i>	1 on 22 <sup>nd</sup> ***** and then at least 4 seen in the distance at the Etang de Biguglia on 24 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Little Egret</b>	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	Noted on 4 successive days from 22 <sup>nd</sup>
<b>Great Cormorant</b>	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>	Seen on 3 days from 22 <sup>nd</sup> with the unusual sighting of a group of about 24 spiralling up on a thermal at Cap Corse on 23 <sup>rd</sup>
<b>European Shag</b>	<i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis</i>	2 seen at Capo Grosso on 23 <sup>rd</sup>
<b>Common (Eurasian) Kestrel</b>	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	Noted every day in small numbers
<b>Red-footed Falcon</b>	<i>Falco vespertinus</i>	A female was at Calzarellu Marsh on 22 <sup>nd</sup> and one flew past the hotel at the start of the pre breakfast walk on 25 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Eurasian Hobby</b>	<i>Falco subbuteo</i>	A single bird was seen as we left the Asco Valley on 20 <sup>th</sup> then we saw the species on 22 <sup>nd</sup> at Calzarellu and 2 were close to Biguglia on 24 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Osprey</b>	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	1 on 23 <sup>rd</sup> as we drank coffee at Macinaggio on 23 <sup>rd</sup> then at least 2 at the Etang de Biguglia on 24 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Red Kite</b>	<i>Milvus milvus</i>	Noted every day except 19 <sup>th</sup> with at least 2 seen on 20 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Lammergeier</b>	<i>Gypaetus barbatus</i>	A juvenile was seen over the Rau de Lagani on 21 <sup>st</sup> , the first sighting of this species in this area
<b>Western Marsh Harrier</b>	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>	Our first was at Cap Corse on 23 <sup>rd</sup> then seen on the next 2 days near Biguglia
<b>Hen (Northern) Harrier</b>	<i>Circus cyaneus</i>	Just a single sighting of a female at Cap Grosso on 23 <sup>rd</sup>
<b>Eurasian Sparrowhawk</b>	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>	1 seen as we arrived at Barcaggio on 23 <sup>rd</sup>
<b>Northern Goshawk</b>	<i>Accipiter gentilis</i>	1 over the lower Asco Valley on 20 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Common (Eurasian) Buzzard</b>	<i>Buteo buteo</i>	Noted every day

<b>Golden Eagle</b>	<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>	2 sightings in the Restonica Valley on 19 <sup>th</sup> then a single brief sighting in the Asco Valley the following day. This was eclipsed by at least 6 birds being seen in the Rau de Lagani on 21 <sup>st</sup> and as we drove towards Aleria on 22 <sup>nd</sup> a single bird was glimpsed
<b>Water Rail</b>	<i>Rallus aquaticus</i>	Heard on 22 <sup>nd</sup> at Calzarellu and then at Biguglia on 25 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Common Moorhen</b>	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	Just a single bird seen on the western side of the Etang de Biguglia on 24 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Eurasian Coot</b>	<i>Fulica atra</i>	Seen on 4 successive days from 22 <sup>nd</sup>
<b>European Stone-curlew</b>	<i>Burhinus oedinenus</i>	At least 11 seen on 24 <sup>th</sup> and 2 on 25 <sup>th</sup> near Biguglia
<b>Black-winged Stilt</b>	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>	Just a single bird seen at the Etang de Biguglia on 24 <sup>th</sup>
<b>(Common) Ringed Plover</b>	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>	At least 4 at the Etang d'Urbino on 22 <sup>nd</sup>
<b>Little Ringed Plover</b>	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>	About 8 at the Etang d'Urbino on 22 <sup>nd</sup>
<b>Spotted Redshank</b>	<i>Tringa erythropus</i>	2 distant birds at the Etang d'Urbino on 22 <sup>nd</sup>
<b>Common Redshank</b>	<i>Tringa totanus</i>	2 distant birds at the Etang d'Urbino on 22 <sup>nd</sup>
<b>Common Greenshank</b>	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>	10 or more seen in the distance at Urbino on 22 <sup>nd</sup>
<b>Wood Sandpiper</b>	<i>Tringa glareola</i>	3 on 22 <sup>nd</sup> at the Etang d'Urbino and 1 on 24 <sup>th</sup> beside the Etang e Biguglia
<b>Dunlin</b>	<i>Calidris alpina</i>	A single bird seen on 22 <sup>nd</sup> at the Etang d'Urbino
<b>Audouin's Gull</b>	<i>Larus audouinii</i>	At least 2 on 23 <sup>rd</sup> on our way back from Cap Corse and 7 at the Etang de Biguglia on 24 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Yellow-legged Gull</b>	<i>Larus michahellis</i>	Seen every day except 19 <sup>th</sup> & 21 <sup>st</sup>
<b>Great Black-backed Gull</b>	<i>Larus marinus</i>	A single juvenile seen on 24 <sup>th</sup> at Biguglia
<b>Black-headed Gull</b>	<i>Larus ridibundus</i>	2 seen on 24 <sup>th</sup> not far from the hotel
<b>Sandwich Tern</b>	<i>Sterna sandvicensis</i>	A single bird seen on 24 <sup>th</sup> during the pre breakfast walk
<b>Rock Dove (Feral Pigeon)</b>	<i>Columba livia</i>	Noted every day with some birds in the mountains looking very much like the 'original' species
<b>(Common) Woodpigeon</b>	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	Noted every day except 23 <sup>rd</sup> & 24 <sup>th</sup>
<b>European Turtle Dove</b>	<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>	2 on 21 <sup>st</sup> in the Rau de Lagani
<b>Eurasian Collared Dove</b>	<i>Streptopelia decacoccto</i>	Noted every day
<b>Common (Eurasian) Cuckoo</b>	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>	Just heard on 19 <sup>th</sup> to the east of Corte
<b>Eurasian Scops Owl</b>	<i>Otus scops</i>	Heard on 18 <sup>th</sup> and 21 <sup>st</sup> close to our hotel but then we had excellent sightings at the second hotel on 22 <sup>nd</sup> , 23 <sup>rd</sup> & 24 <sup>th</sup> and we also heard the species early on 25 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Alpine Swift</b>	<i>Apus melba</i>	Noted on 20 <sup>th</sup> & 21 <sup>st</sup> in the Asco Valley and the Rau de Lagani respectively
<b>Common Swift</b>	<i>Apus apus</i>	Noted every day
<b>Pallid Swift</b>	<i>Apus pallidus</i>	Only specifically identified on 4 days but we no doubt saw it every day without realising it
<b>(Eurasian) Hoopoe</b>	<i>Upupa epops</i>	2 on 21 <sup>st</sup> in the Rau de Lagani then noted on 23 <sup>rd</sup> , 24 <sup>th</sup> & 25 <sup>th</sup>
<b>(Eurasian) Wryneck</b>	<i>Jynx torquilla</i>	Heard on 21 <sup>st</sup> & 23 <sup>rd</sup> then well seen on 24 <sup>th</sup> near Biguglia and also encountered on 25 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Great Spotted Woodpecker</b>	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>	2 on 19 <sup>th</sup> were our first then seen on a further 3 days
<b>Woodchat Shrike</b>	<i>Lanius senator</i>	2 on 20 <sup>th</sup> in the Asco Valley then at least 3 on 24 <sup>th</sup> close to the Etang de Biguglia
<b>(Eurasian) Golden Oriole</b>	<i>Oriolus oriolus</i>	1 on 23 <sup>rd</sup> at Macinaggio, 1 on 24 <sup>th</sup> near Biguglia and also heard close to the hotel on 25 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Eurasian Jay</b>	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>	Noted every day except 23 <sup>rd</sup>

<b>Common Magpie</b>	<i>Pica pica</i>	Just seen at Cologne airport on 18 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Alpine (Yellow-billed) Chough</b>	<i>Pyrhocorax graculus</i>	At least 20 seen in the Restonica Valley on 19 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Hooded Crow</b>	<i>Corvus cornix</i>	Seen every day on Corsica
<b>Common Raven</b>	<i>Corvus corax</i>	Seen on 6 successive days from 19 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Coal Tit</b>	<i>Parus ater</i>	Seen on each of the first 4 days
<b>Great Tit</b>	<i>Parus major</i>	Seen every day except 18 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Blue Tit</b>	<i>Parus caeruleus</i>	Seen every day
<b>Barn Swallow</b>	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	Seen every day except 19 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Eurasian Crag Martin</b>	<i>Hirundo rupestris</i>	Seen on each of the first 5 days
<b>Common House Martin</b>	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>	Seen every day except 24 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Long-tailed (Bush) Tit</b>	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>	Seen 20 <sup>th</sup> , 21 <sup>st</sup> and 24 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Wood Lark</b>	<i>Lullula arborea</i>	Our first was a rather wet individual near Corte on 19 <sup>th</sup> then seen on each of the next 3 days
<b>Zitting Cisticola (Fan-tld warb)</b>	<i>Cisticola juncidis</i>	Heard on 23 <sup>rd</sup> near Barcaggio then at least 3 heard or seen the following day
<b>Cetti's Warbler</b>	<i>Cettia cetti</i>	Heard on 5 successive days from 21 <sup>st</sup> with sightings on 22 <sup>nd</sup> and 24 <sup>th</sup>
<b>(Eurasian) Reed Warbler</b>	<i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>	Seen on 22 <sup>nd</sup> at Calzarellu and heard on 24 <sup>th</sup> near the Etang de Biguglia
<b>Willow Warbler</b>	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>	Small numbers seen on 4 days from 21 <sup>st</sup>
<b>Blackcap</b>	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>	Seen or heard every day
<b>Mamora's Warbler</b>	<i>Sylvia sarda</i>	1 in the Restonica Valley on 20 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Spectacled Warbler</b>	<i>Sylvia conspicillata</i>	1 on 23 <sup>rd</sup> at Barcaggio
<b>Subalpine Warbler</b>	<i>Sylvia cantillans</i>	2 on 23 <sup>rd</sup> near Barcaggio
<b>Sardinian Warbler</b>	<i>Sylvia melanocephala</i>	Seen on 21 <sup>st</sup> , 23 <sup>rd</sup> , 24 <sup>th</sup> & 25 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Firecrest</b>	<i>Regulus ignicapillus</i>	Just a single sighting in the Asco Valley on 20 <sup>th</sup>
<b>(Winter) Wren</b>	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	Noted on each of the first 4 days and on 23 <sup>rd</sup>
<b>Corsican Nuthatch</b>	<i>Sitta whiteheadi</i>	Just a single bird seen in the Restonica Valley on 19 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Eurasian Treecreeper</b>	<i>Certhia familiaris</i>	2 on 19 <sup>th</sup> I the Restonica Valley and 2 seen on 20 <sup>th</sup> in widely separated locations
<b>Spotless Starling</b>	<i>Sturnus unicolor</i>	Noted every day
<b>Common (Eurasian) Blackbird</b>	<i>Turdus merula</i>	Noted every day
<b>Mistle Thrush</b>	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>	Heard singing close to the hotel on 18 <sup>th</sup> & 19 <sup>th</sup> and seen in the Asco Valley on 20 <sup>th</sup>
<b>European Robin</b>	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>	2 well seen high in the Restonica Valley on 19 <sup>th</sup> and a single bird noted the following day
<b>Common Nightingale</b>	<i>Luscinia megarhynchos</i>	First seen on 21 <sup>st</sup> close to Ponte Leccia then many seen in the Rau de Lagani later that day. Also seen on 22 <sup>nd</sup> and heard on a further 2 days
<b>Common Redstart</b>	<i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>	2 seen on 24 <sup>th</sup> around the Etang de Biguglia
<b>Whinchat</b>	<i>Saxicola rubetra</i>	Small numbers noted on 19 <sup>th</sup> , 20 <sup>th</sup> & 24 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Common Stonechat</b>	<i>Saxicola torquata</i>	At least 3 seen on 21 <sup>st</sup> near Ponte Leccia and in the Rau de Lagani then also seen on 24 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Northern Wheatear</b>	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>	3 seen on 24 <sup>th</sup> near the Etang de Biguglia
<b>Blue Rock Thrush</b>	<i>Monticola solitarius</i>	Singles noted on each of the first 3 days
<b>European Pied Flycatcher</b>	<i>Ficedula hypoleuca</i>	At least 6 males seen on the western side of the Etang de Biguglia on 24 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Collared Flycatcher</b>	<i>Ficedula albicollis</i>	A single female was seen near the Etang de Biguglia on 24 <sup>th</sup>
<b>(White-throated) Dipper</b>	<i>Cinclus cinclus</i>	2 on 19 <sup>th</sup> in the Restonica Valley then seen on 21 <sup>st</sup> & 22 <sup>nd</sup>
<b>House (Italian) Sparrow</b>	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	Noted every day except 18 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Eurasian Tree Sparrow</b>	<i>Passer montanus</i>	Seen on 24 <sup>th</sup> & 25 <sup>th</sup> close to the Etang de Biguglia

<b>Rock Sparrow (Petronia)</b>	<i>Petronia petronia</i>	At least 1 (possibly 3 or 4) seen in the Asco Valley on 20 <sup>th</sup> and a further 3 seen in the Rau de Lagani
<b>Western Yellow Wagtail</b>	<i>Motacilla flava</i>	A group of at least 30 near Barcaggio on 23 <sup>rd</sup> were obviously held up migrants then a few were seen the following day near Biguglia
<b>Grey Wagtail</b>	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>	Noted on each of the first 6 days
<b>Tree Pipit</b>	<i>Anthus trivialis</i>	A single bird was near Biguglia on 24 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Water Pipit</b>	<i>Anthus spinoletta</i>	At least 5 were close to the Etang d'Urbino on 22 <sup>nd</sup>
<b>Common Chaffinch</b>	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	Noted every day
<b>European Serin</b>	<i>Serinus serinus</i>	Seen every day except 19 <sup>th</sup> & 23 <sup>rd</sup>
<b>European Greenfinch</b>	<i>Carduelis chloris</i>	Seen every day from 20 <sup>th</sup>
<b>(Eurasian) Siskin</b>	<i>Carduelis spinus</i>	Just a single bird seen at Barcaggio on 23 <sup>rd</sup>
<b>European Goldfinch</b>	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	Seen every day
<b>Corsican Citril Finch</b>	<i>Serinus corsicanus</i>	Seen on 5 consecutive days from 19 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Common Linnet</b>	<i>Carduelis cannabina</i>	5 on 19 <sup>th</sup> to the east of Corte were our first then noted on a further 3 days
<b>Common (Red) Crossbill</b>	<i>Loxia curvirostra</i>	A single sighting y one member of the group as we drove towards Campile on 25 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Corn Bunting</b>	<i>Emberiza calandra</i>	A single bird seen near Corte on 19 <sup>th</sup> then seen on a further 4 days
<b>Cirl Bunting</b>	<i>Emberiza cirius</i>	Noted on 6 days of the tour from the mountainous Restonica Valley to the coastal plains
<b>MAMMALS</b>		
<b>Harbour Porpoise</b>	<i>Phocoena phocoena</i>	A group of 3 or more seen off the beach beside the Lagune hotel on 24 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Mouflon</b>	<i>Ovis orientalis musimon</i>	A good male seen in the Asco Valley on 20 <sup>th</sup>
<b>AMPHIBIANS (recorded species)</b>		
Common Tree Frog		
Marsh Frog		
Italian Pool Frog		
<b>REPTILES (recorded species)</b>		
Tyrrhenian Wall Lizard		
Bedriaga's Rock Lizard		
Western Whip Snake		
<b>BUTTERFLIES (recorded species)</b>		
Corsican Swallowtail		
Scarce Swallowtail		
Large White		
Small White		
Orange Tip		
Clouded Yellow		
Brimstone		
Cleopatra		
Wood White		
Green Hairstreak		
Small Copper		
Geranium Bronze		
Holly Blue		
Green-underside Blue		
Brown Argus		
Painted Lady		
Small Tortoiseshell		

**Meadow Brown**  
**Corsican Heath**  
**Speckled Wood**

**MOTHS**

**Hummingbird Hawkmoth**  
**Pine Processionary**  
**Silver Y**

**DRAGONFLIES**

**Common Blue-tailed Damselfly**  
**Common Darter**

**OTHER INSECTS**

**Egyptian Grasshopper**  
**Violet Carpenter Bee**  
**Dung Beetle**  
**Lygaeus equestris (beetle)**  
**Pepper Beetle**  
**7-spot Ladybird**

**FLOWERS**

The reference numbers for each species refers to the Collins Mediterranean Wild Flowers by Blamey and Grey-Wilson

3	<i>Pinus pinea</i>
5	<i>Pinus pinaster</i>
11	<i>Cupressus sempervirens</i>
13	<i>Juniperus communis</i>
15	<i>Juniperus oxycedrus</i>
23	<i>Castanea sativa</i>
24	<i>Quercus coccifera</i>
25	<i>Quercus ilex</i>
27	<i>Quercus suber</i>
31	<i>Quercus pubescens</i>
33	<i>Cytinus ruber</i>
39	<i>Celtis australis</i>
42	<i>Ficus carica</i>
46	<i>Urtica atrovirens</i>
47	<i>Urtica dioica</i>
48	<i>Urtica pilulifera</i>
56	<i>Humulus lupulus</i>
63	<i>Aristolochia rotunda</i>
115	<i>Carprobrotus edulis</i>
176	<i>Silene galica</i>
180	<i>Silene colorata</i>
187	<i>Kohlruschia velutina</i>
213	<i>Anemone hortensis</i>
235	<i>Ranunculus velutinus</i>
240	<i>Ranunculus bulbosus</i>
243	<i>Ranunculus muricatus</i>
246	<i>Ranunculus parviflorus</i>
251	<i>Ranunculus sceleratus</i>
281	<i>Papaver somniferum</i>
283	<i>Papaver rhoeas</i>
287	<i>Papaver argemone</i>
304	<i>Fumaria bicolor</i>
306	<i>Fumaria officinalis</i>

**Stone Pine, Umbrella Pine**  
**Maritime Pine**  
**Italian Cypress**  
**Juniper**  
**Prickly Juniper**  
**Sweet Chestnut**  
**Kermes Oak**  
**Holm Oak**  
**Cork Oak**  
**Downy Oak**

**Southern Nettle Tree**  
**Fig**

**Stinging Nettle**  
**Roman Nettle**  
**Hop**

**Hottentot Fig**  
**Small-flowered Catchfly**  
**Mediterranean Catchfly**

**Bulbous Buttercup**

**Small-flowered Buttercup**  
**Celery-leaved Crowfoot**  
**Opium Poppy**  
**Common Poppy**  
**Prickly Poppy**

**Common Fumitory**

310	<i>Isatis tinctoria</i>	<b>Woad</b>
322	<i>Arabis verna</i>	<b>Spring Rockcress</b>
326	<i>Mathiola sinuata</i>	<b>Sea Stock</b>
360	<i>Sinapis alba</i>	<b>White Mustard</b>
361	<i>Eruca sativa</i>	<b>Eruca</b>
375	<i>Reseda alba</i>	<b>White Mignonette</b>
376	<i>Reseda lutea</i>	<b>Wild Mignonette</b>
386	<i>Sedum album</i>	<b>White Stonecrop</b>
396	<i>Umbilicus rupestris</i>	<b>Navelwort (Wall Pennywort)</b>
400	<i>Platanus orientalis</i>	<b>Plane Tree</b>
402	<i>Pittosporum tobria</i>	.
424	<i>Prunus spinosa</i>	<b>Blackthorn</b>
428	<i>Rubus sanctus</i>	<b>Bramble</b>
430	<i>Cercis silquastrum</i>	<b>Judas Tree</b>
432	<i>Acacia dealbata</i>	<b>Silver Wattle</b>
439	<i>Acacia cyanophylla</i>	<b>Blue-leaved Wattle</b>
437	<i>Acacia melanoxylon</i>	<b>Blackwood Acacia</b>
463	<i>Genista scorpius</i>	.
467	<i>Genista acanthodata</i>	.
468	<i>Genista cinerea</i>	.
481	<i>Sparticum junceum</i>	<b>Spanish Broom</b>
486	<i>Lupinus angustifolius</i>	<b>Narrow-leaved Lupin</b>
488	<i>Robinia pseudacacia</i>	<b>False Acacia</b>
508	<i>Psoralea bituminosa</i>	<b>Pitch Trefoil</b>
521	<i>Vicia laxiflora</i>	<b>Slender Tare</b>
531	<i>Vicia sativa</i>	<b>Common Vetch</b>
537	<i>Lathyrus latifolius</i>	<b>Broad-leaved Everlasting Pea</b>
540	<i>Lathyrus saxitalis</i>	
541	<i>Lathyrus sphaericus</i>	<b>(Pea Family)</b>
555	<i>Pisum sativum</i>	<b>Wild Pea</b>
572	<i>Melilotus indicus</i>	<b>Small Meliot</b>
605	<i>Medicago marina</i>	<b>Sea Medick</b>
618	<i>Medicago polymorpha</i>	<b>Toothed Medick</b>
623	<i>Medicago arabica</i>	<b>Spotted Medick</b>
625	<i>Lotus corniculatus</i>	<b>Common Bird's-foot Trefoil</b>
642	<i>Trifolium repens</i>	<b>White Clover</b>
645	<i>Trifolium pratense</i>	<b>Red Clover</b>
658	<i>Trifolium tomentosum</i>	<b>Woolly Trefoil</b>
659	<i>Trifolium pilulare</i>	<b>Ball Cotton Clover</b>
662	<i>Trifolium stellatum</i>	<b>Star Clover</b>
735	<i>Oxalis pes-caprae</i>	<b>Bermuda Buttercup</b>
741	<i>Geranium molle</i>	<b>Dove's-foot Crane's-bill</b>
743	<i>Geranium rotundifolium</i>	<b>Round-leaved Geranium</b>
745	<i>Geranium dissectum</i>	<b>Cut-leaved Crane's-bill</b>
747	<i>Geranium robertianum</i>	<b>Herb Robert</b>
761	<i>Erodium cicutarium</i>	<b>Common Stork'sbill</b>
777	<i>Linum bienne</i>	<b>Pale Flax</b>
799	<i>Euphorbia helioscopia</i>	<b>Sun Spurge</b>
843	<i>Melia azedarach</i>	<b>Indian Bead Tree/Persian Lilac</b>
849	<i>Polygala nicaensis</i>	<b>Nice Milkwort</b>
856	<i>Acer monspessulanum</i>	<b>Montpelier Maple</b>
865	<i>Pistacia lentiscus</i>	<b>Lentisc</b>
898	<i>Malva sylvestris</i>	<b>Common Mallow</b>
912	<i>Lavatera arborea</i>	<b>Tree Mallow</b>
925	<i>Viola alba subsp. Dehnadtii</i>	<b>Mediterranean White Violet</b>
942	<i>Thymlea hirsuta</i>	
961	<i>Cistus albidus</i>	<b>Grey-leaved Cistus</b>
965	<i>Cistus salvifolius</i>	<b>Sage-leaved Cistus</b>
966	<i>Cistus monspeliensis</i>	<b>Narrow-leaved Cistus</b>
985	<i>Tuberaria guttata</i>	<b>Annual Rockrose</b>

1019	<i>Tamarix parviflora</i>	<b>Tamarisk</b>
1024	<i>Tamarix tetragyna</i>	<b>Prickly Pear</b>
1040	<i>Opuntia ficus-indica</i>	<b>Common Myrtle</b>
1052	<i>Myrtis communis</i>	<b>Southern Blue Gum</b>
1060	<i>Eucalyptus globulus</i>	<b>River Red Gum</b>
1062	<i>Eucalyptus camaldulensis</i>	<b>Sea Holly</b>
1073	<i>Eryngium maritimum</i>	<b>Alexanders</b>
1087	<i>Smyrniolum olusatrum</i>	<b>Giant Fennel</b>
1141	<i>Ferula communis</i>	<b>Wild Carrot</b>
1168	<i>Daucus carota</i>	<b>Strawberry Tree</b>
1176	<i>Arbutus unedo</i>	<b>Tree Heath</b>
1178	<i>Erica arborea</i>	<b>Scarlet Pimpernel</b>
1198	<i>Anagallis arvensis</i>	<b>Scarlet Pimpernel (blue form)</b>
1199	<i>Anagallis arvensis</i>	<b>Blue Pimpernel</b>
1207	<i>Anagallis foemina</i>	<b>Spring Sowbread</b>
1245	<i>Cyclamen repandum</i>	<b>Flowering Ash (Manna)</b>
1246	<i>Fraxinus ornus</i>	
1248	<i>Phillyrea angustifolia</i>	<b>Olive</b>
1249	<i>Olea europaea</i>	<b>Yellow-wort</b>
1268	<i>Blackstonia perfoliata</i>	<b>Stranglewort</b>
1300	<i>Cynanchum acutum</i>	<b>Crosswort</b>
1294	<i>Cruciata laevipes</i>	<b>Hedge Bedstraw</b>
1305	<i>Galium mollugo</i>	<b>Common Madder</b>
1329	<i>Rubia peregriana</i>	<b>Pink Convolvulus</b>
1334	<i>Convolvulus cantabrica</i>	<b>Bindweed</b>
1383	<i>Convolvulus arvensis</i>	<b>Purple Viper's Bugloss</b>
1395	<i>Echium plantagineum</i>	<b>Borage</b>
1475	<i>Borago officinalis</i>	<b>Red Deadnettle</b>
1502	<i>Lamium purpureum</i>	<b>Balm</b>
1518	<i>Melissa officinalis</i>	<b>Pot Marjoram</b>
1526	<i>Origanum onites</i>	<b>Rosemary</b>
1528	<i>Rosmarinus officinalis</i>	<b>French Lavender</b>
1545	<i>Lavendula stoechas</i>	<b>Wild Clary</b>
1575	<i>Salvia verbenaca</i>	<b>Thornapple</b>
1611	<i>Datura stramonium</i>	<b>Lesser Snapdragon</b>
1646	<i>Misopates orontium</i>	<b>Cymbalaria-leaved Speedwell</b>
1651	<i>Veronica cymbalaria</i>	<b>Yellow Bartsia</b>
1652	<i>Parentucellia viscosa</i>	
1670	<i>Parentucellia latifolia</i>	<b>Greater Broomrape</b>
1675	<i>Orobancha rapum genistae</i>	
1676	<i>Orobancha crenata</i>	<b>Ngaio</b>
1693	<i>Myoporum laetum</i>	<b>Greater Plantain</b>
1701	<i>Plantago major</i>	<b>Ribwort Plantain</b>
1710	<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>	<b>Dwarf Elder, Danewort</b>
1712	<i>Sambucus ebulus</i>	<b>Etruscan Honeysuckle</b>
1735	<i>Lonicera etrusca</i>	<b>Field Scabious</b>
1791	<i>Knautia arvensis</i>	<b>Annual Daisy</b>
1805	<i>Bellis annua</i>	
1824	<i>Evax pygmaea</i>	<b>Lavender Cotton</b>
1855	<i>Helichrysum stoechas</i>	
1857	<i>Santolina chamaecyparissus</i>	<b>Corn Chamomile</b>
1858	<i>Anthemis maritimum</i>	
1869	<i>Anthemis arvensis</i>	<b>Scented Mayweed</b>
1887	<i>Anthemis chia</i>	<b>Field Marigold</b>
1908	<i>Matricaria recutita</i>	<b>Cineraria</b>
1911	<i>Calendula arvensis</i>	<b>Groundsel</b>
1916	<i>Senecio cineraria</i>	<b>Galactites</b>
1971	<i>Senecio vulgaris</i>	<b>Milk Thistle</b>
1982	<i>Galactites tomentosa</i>	
	<i>Silybum marianum</i>	

2006	<i>Centaurea pullata</i>	
2032	<i>Hyoseris radiata</i>	
2039	<i>Urospermum dalechampii</i>	<b>Urospermum</b>
2087	<i>Asphodelus fistulosus</i>	<b>Common Asphodel</b>
2089	<i>Asphodelus aestivus</i>	<b>Hollow-leaved Asphodel</b>
2171	<i>Ornithogalum umbellatum</i> <i>Bellevalia</i> spp.	<b>Star of Bethlehem</b>
2201	<i>Muscari comosum</i>	<b>Tassel Hyacinth</b>
2206	<i>Muscari neglectum</i>	<b>Common Grape Hyacinth</b>
2212	<i>Asparagus acutifolius</i>	<b>Sharp-leaved Asparagus</b>
2218	<i>Asparagus officinalis</i>	<b>Common Asparagus</b>
2222	<i>Smilax aspera</i>	<b>Common Smilax</b>
2224	<i>Allium roseum</i>	<b>Rosy Garlic</b>
2229	<i>Allium triquetrum</i>	<b>Three-cornered Leek</b>
2276	<i>Polyanthus tazetta</i>	<b>Polyanthus Narcissus</b>
2290	<i>Iris pseudacorus</i>	<b>Yellow Flag</b>
2307	<i>Gladiolus italicus</i>	<b>Field Gladiolus</b>
2362	<i>Arum italicum</i>	<b>Italian Lords and Ladies</b>
2377	<i>Arisarum vulgare</i>	<b>Friar's Cowl</b>
2459	<i>Lamarckia aurea</i>	<b>Golden Dog's-tail</b>
2460	<i>Briza maxima</i>	<b>Large Quaking Grass</b>
2473	<i>Lagurus ovatus</i>	<b>Hare's-tail</b>
2494	<i>Arundo donax</i>	<b>Giant Reed</b>
2504	<i>Juncus acutus</i>	<b>Sharp Rush</b>
2506	<i>Juncus articulatus</i>	<b>Jointed Rush</b>
2522	<i>Adiantum capillus-veneris</i>	<b>Maidenhair Fern</b>
2532	<i>Ceterach officinarum</i>	<b>Rusty Back Fern</b>

The numbers for the Orchid species refers to the Field Guide to Orchids of Britain and Europe by Karl Peter Buttler

72	<i>Dactylorhiza insularis</i>	<b>Barton's Orchid</b>
106	<i>Neotinea maculata</i>	<b>Dense-flowered Orchid</b>
112	<i>Orchis laxiflora</i>	<b>Loose-flowered Orchid</b>
114	<i>Orchis olbiensis</i>	<b>Southern Early Purple Orchid</b>
130	<i>Orchis papilionacea</i>	<b>Pink Butterfly Orchid</b>
136	<i>Orchis Morio</i>	<b>Green-winged Orchid</b>
144	<i>Orchis lactea</i>	<b>Milky Orchid</b>
160	<i>Serapias cordigera</i>	<b>Heart-flowered Orchid</b>
166	<i>Serapias lingua</i>	<b>Tongue Orchid</b>
218	<i>Ophrys incubacea</i>	<b>Dark Ophrys</b>
819	<i>Euphorbia wulfenii</i>	
E	<i>Berberis aetnensis</i>	
E	<i>Digitalis purpurea</i> var. <i>gyspergera</i>	<b>Foxglove</b>
E	<i>Alnus cordata</i>	<b>Green Alder</b>
E	<i>Alnus alnobetula</i> subsp. <i>suaveolens</i>	
E	<i>Crocus corsicus</i>	
E	<i>Pinus nigra</i> subsp. <i>Laricio</i>	<b>Corsican Pine</b>
E	<i>Genista corsica</i>	
E	<i>Helleborus lividus</i> subsp. <i>Corsicus</i>	
E	<i>Euphorbia pithyusa</i> ssp. <i>cupanii</i>	
E	<i>Pancreatium illyricum</i>	<b>Illyrian Sea Lily</b>
E	<i>Rubia peregrina</i> ssp. <i>requinenii</i>	<b>Wild Madder</b>
E	<i>Santolina Corsica</i>	
E	<i>Sorbus aucuparia</i> subsp. <i>Praemorsa</i>	<b>Mountain Ash</b>
E	<i>Stachys glutinosa</i>	<b>Sticky Woundwort</b>

## Also noted:

*Alnus glutinosa*  
*Populus canescens*  
*Betula pendula*  
*Viscum austriacum*  
*Viola riviniana*  
*Stellaria graminea*  
*Veronica persica*  
*Fragaria vesca*  
*Juglans regia*

*Populus nigra*  
*Alliaria petiolata*  
*Crataegus monogyna*  
*Ranunculus spp*  
*Galium aparine*  
*Galium mollugo*  
*Fraxinus excelsior*  
*Pocedonia oceanica*  
*Cotula coronopifolia*

*Lychnis flos-cuculi*  
*Rumex acetosella*  
*Ceterach officinarum*  
*Draba verna*  
*Sherardia arvensis*  
*Potentilla reptans*  
*Myosotis ramosissima*  
*Rhamnus catharticus*  
*Carlina acaulis*

**Common Alder**  
**Grey Poplar**  
**Silver Birch**  
**Mistletoe (parasitic on pines & larch)**  
**Common Dog-violet**  
**Lesser Stitchwort**  
**Common Field Speedwell**  
**Wild Strawberry**  
**Walnut**  
**Honesty**  
**Black Poplar**  
**Garlic Mustard**  
**Hawthorn**  
**Water-crowfoot spp.**  
**Cleavers**  
**Hedge Bedstraw**  
**Common Ash**

**Buttonweed**  
**Bracken**  
**Ragged Robin**  
**Sheep's Sorrel**  
**Rustyback**  
**Spring Whitlow-grass**  
**Field Madder**  
**Creeping Cinquefoil**  
**Early Forget-me-not**  
**Buckthorn**  
**Stemless Carline Thistle**

*Corsica is a superb island with gorgeous scenery, endemic plants and birds plus great food and wine; what more could one ask for? On this occasion, slightly better weather would have improved things a little!! A depression sat over the island for much of the week and did little to help the birding and it is very likely that many of the migrant birds were actually held up in North Africa. That said, there were days when we were in short-sleeved shirts and the weather was quite warm and sunny, there was lots of good humour and everyone seemed to enjoy this wonderful 'Isle de Beauty'.*

*On the wildlife side of things, we did manage 116 species of birds (including the two endemics on our first full day) plus our best ever total of flower species that we have noted on Corsica. Birding highlights included Black-necked Grebe, Squacco Herons, Red-footed Falcon, Ospreys, a juvenile Lammergeier at a new location, 3 species of Swift, Hoopoe, Wryneck and Woodchat Shrike. Golden Oriole was recorded on 3 days and we had our best ever views of Alpine Chough. Flora included 9 species of wild orchid and other highlights included Polyanthus narcissus, Aristolochia rotunda and swathes of Corsican Crocus at the top of the Restonica Valley. On reflection, we did exceptionally well overall.*

*I hope we meet up again on some future tour in the not too distant future.*

*Mike & Liz Read*