

Corsica

1 – 8 May 2011

Tour Leader

Mike Read

Daily Diary

Sunday 1st May

Following an early direct flight from Gatwick, the group landed at 09.15 and after clearing customs, were met by the leader and were soon seeing their first Corsican birds from just outside the airport building. These included House Martin, Barn Swallow and Spotless Starling. A short drive to the Cathedral Canonica produced good views of Italian and Tree Sparrows, Whinchat, Red Kite and Common Buzzard amongst other things. Coffee not far from the Etang de Biguglia had us watching a group of feeding hirundines and some passing Common Swifts.

A little further north we paused and managed to locate a passing female Montagu's Harrier as well as 2 Marsh Harriers. A Hoopoe flew off and rapidly disappeared from view and among a gathering of Barn Swallows perched on overhead cables there was just one lone Sand Martin. Other birds seen here included more Whinchats, Great Tit and a Common Buzzard.

After securing something for our picnic lunch we drove some way up the Golo Valley and off on to a side road. At a hairpin bend a pause produced lots of Dark Ophrys as well as Kohlrauschia flowers. Further up the road, more orchids were located. These were Narrow-leaved Helleborine, Dense-flowered, Provence, Barton's, Green-winged and Common Spotted. Lunch was taken at a picnic spot from where we could hear Blackcaps and European Robins singing, a Red Kite flew overhead and a Firecrest gave very close views.

On up the Golo Valley we paid a brief visit to Ponte Novu to read about the defeat of Pascale Paoli by the French that robbed the Corsicans of their independence. We then paused by another bridge where we were able to see a few Crag Martins and 2 male Blue rock thrushes.

Due to the very early check-in time the group had had, it was felt best to complete the journey to the hotel so that they could rest before dinner.

Monday 2nd May

During the pre breakfast walk we saw a few birds including Coal & Great Tit, Eurasian Jays, 2 Grey Wagtails and a Crag Martin. After breakfast we set off into the Restonica Valley and paused at one spot and began walking along the road. We soon encountered the typical pine-forest birds such as Chaffinch, Great Spotted Woodpecker and other species noted on our early outing. A pair of Common Ravens flew overhead and a Blue Rock Thrush was seen on a rock outcrop.

As we drove onwards, a Grey Wagtail flew up from the roadside. We took another short walk through Corsican Pines and were soon enjoying excellent views of Corsican Nuthatch. After 'hot chocolates all round' up at the car park, we had a short stroll we managed to locate a pair of Corsican Citril Finches and also saw Alpine Choughs high overhead plus Chaffinches, Jays and Long-tailed Tits at close quarters. We also saw good numbers of Corsican Crocuses growing close to a bank of snow and the endemic 'cyrnea' sub species of Alpine Pasque Flower.

After lunch in the woodland, and in worsening weather, we drove south east of Corte but the rain that was now falling was encouraging birds to remain hidden. However, at a regular stopping spot, a Woodlark sang well from overhead wires, Collared Doves and 4 Stonechats were noted and a large group of House Martins, Barn Swallows and Common Swifts moved through the area.

As so often happens, the Hirundines and swifts were moving ahead of worsening weather; rain soon set in much heavier than before. We therefore decided that walking was pretty much out of the question so we took a gentle drive along smaller roads via St-Lucie-di-Mercurio and Tralonca. As soon as we turned on to this side road, a pair of Red-legged Partridges wandered across in front of us but most birds remained resolutely hidden from the rain. As we reached the first village, the rain eased considerably and we paused to view some roadside flowers. Whilst we looked at common plants like Green-winged Orchids and French Lavender, a Red Kite flew overhead giving good views. We soon headed onwards and saw a few Common Blackbirds and Spotless Starlings and a

lone Common Buzzard as we went. More orchids (Barton's and Provence in particular) studded roadside banks and even with the low cloud, the scenery was quite stunning. We eventually made it back to the hotel in good time to rest before the evening meal.

Tuesday 3rd May

There was no pre-breakfast walk due to overnight rain so after breakfast we set off for the lower-lying 'Gentle Valley' in the hope of finding a few grounded migrants among the resident birds. During the journey we saw or heard many of the regular Corsican birds including Red Kite, Spotless Starlings, Nightingale, Woodlark, Swifts, Swallows and House Martins. We also paused to get 'scope views of our first Turtle Dove.

In the Gentle Valley itself we first found a pair of Cirl Buntings that were collecting food; they obviously had a nest full of young nearby. At our second stop we managed to glimpse one of the singing Nightingales, the first of dozens we were to hear in this valley. At the same spot we also saw Robin, Stonechat, Raven and another Red Kite. At our next stop we saw at least 4 more of this latter species and 5 or more Kestrels riding the breezes over the higher ground. A couple of 'bush stops' provided worthwhile here with the participants getting good views of Dipper and Nightingales respectively. Also here we saw Wryneck, a pair of Woodchat Shrikes, Common Whitethroat, 2 Turtle Doves, Grey Wagtail, Pied Flycatcher, Long-tailed Tits and we heard 1, perhaps 2 Scops Owls calling.

As we pulled up at a spot further up the valley to have lunch, a couple of Hoopoes were seen briefly. During lunch a pair of Golden Eagles were spotted as they soared around over a distant hill top. Then, as we were all trying to get views of a Wood Warbler, calls overhead alerted us to the presence of more eagles that may well have been involved in a territorial dispute. We ended up with excellent, close views of 2 adult and one juvenile Golden Eagle. Brilliant!

We reluctantly moved on (once the eagles had disappeared of the hill top) and at another 'pause' we were able to see many Pink Butterfly and Green-winged Orchids growing on a cow shed roof! Later we also found a new species of orchid for *Travelling Naturalist/Limosa* on Corsica, namely the Rainbow Ophrys (Ophrys iricolor)

From here we took a long return route and from the roadside, one member of the group glimpsed a Wild Boar disappearing into the scrub. Towards Moltifao we made one final stop. On some grazed open grassland we found a good selection of birds. These included at least 6 Corsican Citril Finches, 8 Rock Sparrows, 10 Cirl Buntings, Corn Bunting, Whinchat and a couple of Northern Wheatears. At Castifao we paused to take photographs towards the mountains. From here, we drove directly back to the hotel where, on arrival, we could see the Blue Rock Thrush on his usual song post.

Wednesday 4th May

Our early walk took us towards Corte where we noted a few birds including Cirl Bunting, Coal Tit, Dipper, Common Buzzard and Blue Rock Thrush. However, one member of the group had walked in the opposite direction and had managed to find 2 adult and 2 juvenile Dippers.

After breakfast we drove to the Asco Valley and began our watching in the lower part where there were a number of good birds to be seen. These were at least 3 Whinchats, 2 pairs of Woodlarks, 3 or 4 Red Kites, a pair of Serins and a Tawny Pipit. Also heard in this area were Hoopoe, Cuckoo and a group of Bee-eaters heading north. During a coffee break at Asco Village there were many House Martins and Common Swifts flying around. A Goshawk soaring up towards the high ground was our first good find and as we sat drinking our coffees, high above the ridge a group of 5 Black Kites were seen heading northwards on their migration. Further up the valley we paused and managed to find two fine male Mouflon.

During our picnic lunch few birds were seen but those noted included Red Kite, Crag and House Martin and a Great Spotted Woodpecker. Higher up the valley a male Corsican Nuthatch was well seen and watched for a good few minutes and we then drove to the upper car park to enjoy the fantastic views around the area. Snow-capped peaks appeared above layers of cloud, large patches of blue sky allowed shafts of sunlight to highlight the pine forest and above the high ridges a few Alpine Choughs were seen.

We returned to the Asco area in the hope of finding more birds and almost straight away we had a second viewing of presumably the same Goshawk that we had noted earlier in the day. More Red Kites and a couple of Kestrels were seen and a Raven flew across the valley calling frequently. This bird was obviously on a mission and by watching it we were able to see it stoop behind a ridge and came out in hot pursuit of a Golden Eagle. Soon after we had seen this we were given a tantalising very brief view of a Lammergeier disappearing over a ridge. While most of the group had actually seen the bird most agreed that the views were somewhat less than satisfactory. The decision was made to drive a short distance back up the valley and from here we had a slightly

longer view of the same bird and then after a while it appeared once again and drifted along the ridge and eventually out of sight. All agreed that the slight delay of our return to the hotel had been worthwhile.

Thursday 5th May

There was no pre-breakfast walk to allow time for packing as today we were moving to a different hotel. Cases packed and loaded, by 9am we were heading past Corte and setting off towards the east coast. Some distance along the N200 we paused at some fields where a couple of Citril Finches and a Linnet were seen and Woodlark was heard singing. Nearby in some typical Mediterranean scrub, 3 species of warbler were seen, namely Sardinian, Dartford and Marmora's with the best views being reserved for the latter species. Whilst we were watching these birds, Common Pheasant and Cuckoo were heard calling in the distance and a group of Bee-eaters passed unseen.

Despite nearby road improvement works there were a few good birds to be seen at the Genoese bridge. These included Cirl Bunting, Goldfinch and Chaffinch, Italian and Tree Sparrows, Crag and House Martins and a couple of Dippers in the Tavignano River. Again a group of Bee-eaters flew passed unseen.

After a break for coffee at Ghisonaccia we drove a little further south and out towards a beach at Calzarellu. Along the roadside here a group of 9 Bee-eaters were well seen on overhead wires. As we began our walk along the beach beside the Marais de Canna Cetti's Warbler and Nightingale could be heard singing from the depths of the vegetation. Two species of frogs (Italian Pool and Marsh) were noted in the waterways whilst Reed Warblers gave their song from the reedbeds. As we reached the area of open water there were plenty of birds on view, including Great Crested Grebes, Coots, Moorhen, Gadwall and at least 19 Red-crested Pochard. There were at least 5 Squacco Herons around the edge of the water and a couple of Purple Herons were seen in flight. Raptors here included a female/juvenile Marsh Harrier and in the distance were at least 6 Red-footed Falcons. Just before we left a small group of waders were seen further along the beach amongst some Yellow-legged Gulls. Heat haze seemed to prevent positive identification so a brief walk later and we were able to identify them as 4 Sanderlings and 1 Little Ringed Plover. We then returned to the car park and enjoyed our picnic lunch before beginning the journey northwards towards Bastia.

At the Etang d'Urbino a couple of Corn Buntings were singing from overhead wires and a Linnet was noted on some nearby brambles. From the high ground we had distant views of a Grey Heron, half a dozen Little Egrets and a pair of Shelducks. A brief walk down the northern slope had us looking at 35 or more Wood Sandpipers, 5 Common Ringed and 1 Little Ringed Plover and 3 Little Stints. A Fan-tailed and a Sardinian Warbler were seen here while to the south of the road a number of European Shags were resting on Oyster-rearing pens along with dozens of Yellow-legged Gulls. As we left this area we paused to check a raptor on a telegraph pole which turned out to be a Common Buzzard. As we watched this, we suddenly became aware of another raptor much closer to us. Just a few yards away a Peregrine seemed very reluctant to fly as it was feeding on recently captured prey. However, it unfortunately did take off leaving its prey behind so we quickly moved away to allow it to return.

Further north we overlooked part of the Etang de Diane. Another Grey Heron and 2 Great White Egrets were wading in the shallows whilst nearby a Greater Flamingo was stood about preening. Coots and Mallard seemed to be the only other water birds present and so we began our walk back towards the minibus and beside the track we noted some *Cytinus hypocistis* parasitising *cistus* plants. Some rather large *serapias* orchids were originally identified by the leader as intermediate but on checking the books later a more accurate identification was possible and they were in fact Heart-flowered. Just before we boarded the vehicle a Sardinian Warbler was glimpsed amongst the shrubs and a Dartford Warbler was heard singing.

This was our last stop of the day so we drove to the hotel close to the Etang de Biguglia in good time for our evening meal.

Friday 6th May

The pre-breakfast walk produced some good bird records even before we had left the car park. 30 European Bee-eaters were seen perched in tree tops and flying around catching insects and a Golden Oriole was briefly heard singing. As we began our walk a couple of Spotless Starlings were in a dead tree and a few Common Swifts were steadily heading northwards. Within the woodland there were at least 3 Tree Pipits and in the distance Nightingale, Hoopoe and Cetti's warbler could be heard singing. Throughout our walk small numbers of Swallows could be seen and as we made our way back to the hotel a male Common Redstart was feeding in a parking area.

With Cap Corse being our destination today we set off immediately after breakfast to head for this most northerly point of Corsica. During the journey to Macinaggio a few Ravens, Yellow-legged Gulls and a couple of

Cormorants were seen along with a Common Buzzard, a few Crag Martins and a Hoopoe. During our coffee stop a Common Sandpiper was seen not far from the cafe.

Very little was seen along the road to Barcaggio and our first walk here produced a number of birds. A group of Bee-eaters were heard overhead and were eventually picked up flying over at a high altitude and no doubt heading for the European mainland. Two Purple Herons were noted in the wetter areas along with Little Egret whilst the walled garden held Tree Pipit, 3 Turtle Doves and a male Pied Flycatcher. In the more open areas Whinchat and a couple of juvenile Sardinian Warblers were noted whilst overhead we saw a couple of Red Kites, Common Kestrel and a Hobby.

After lunch back at the car park we set off along the beach in the hope of picking up a few migrants. Yellow-legged Gulls and a few Shags could be seen out by the Isle de Giraglia but sadly there were not shearwaters on view. A Sub Alpine Warbler was seen and heard briefly amongst the trees while the more open ground held a number of Whinchats and at least 3 Yellow Wagtails. Out by a large pond were Wood Sandpiper and Little Egret and was that a Squacco Heron that we noted through the heat haze? If it was it didn't make it on to the day list as we couldn't be sure. As we made our way back to the car park a pair of Linnets were seen along with a Northern Wheatear and just before reaching the minibus a Cleopatra butterfly was noted.

We made our way to Capo Grosso and on the drive noted female Redstart, Spotted Flycatcher and Pied Flycatcher but the best bird here was the Osprey that we saw in the distance. As we left the area 2 or 3 more Spotted Flycatchers were seen but during the return journey to the hotel little else was noted.

Saturday 7th May

Our early walk took us out to the beach and southwards from the hotel but once again before leaving the car park we were seeing good birds. A few Bee-eaters were in the woodland where we managed to see 3 Golden Orioles (1 male, 2 females) and as we set off a female Hen Harrier drifted northwards over the car park. Out at sea were the usual Yellow-legged Gulls and there were at least 8 European Shags on the mooring buoys. Small groups of Swallows trickled their way northwards as did a Sandwich Tern a short distance off shore along with 5 Ringed Plovers. As we headed inland there quite a number of Bee-eaters again heading northwards and we then found 4 Stone Curlews in a field. Making our way back towards the hotel there was Hoopoe, Nightingale and Cetti's warbler all calling but sadly the Orioles had gone from the woodland.

After breakfast there was a Spotted Flycatcher in the car park just before we left and a short distance away the number of Stone Curlews had increased to 7. In the same fields but much closer to us there was a large group of Yellow Wagtails involving well over 40 individuals. There was also a Wheatear or two present and at least 4 Whinchats on the roadside fence and a Red-rumped Swallow was seen passing overhead by one or two members of the group.

A little further north a fair number of the migrating Swallows had paused to rest and preen on overhead wires and amongst them were at least 11 Sand Martins. A few groups of Bee-eaters were passing by and in the distance we could make out at least 5 Red Kites and a Marsh Harrier. We were leaning on the gate scanning the field for Yellow Wagtails etc. when the farmer drove up. We obliged by opening the gate for him and allowing him in and did the same when he was leaving. As we had been so kind he almost insisted that we have a wander onto his land to look for birds and it would have been churlish not to take him up on this. At first it seemed the effort was not worthwhile but just before we left a bird was seen in the distance which turned out to be a Collared Pratincole. Even though the views were rather distant we could make out all the appropriate markings to clinch the identification and it did occasionally come a little closer to us. This is only the second sighting of Pratincole for a *Travelling Naturalist/Limosa* tour on Corsica. Finally as we were leaving we spotted a female Red-footed Falcon.

A cup of coffee seemed appropriate to celebrate and whilst we were drinking our coffees 2 Honey Buzzards flew over heading northwards. A short distance from our coffee break we paused at another place beside Biguglia and from here we found quite a number of good birds including Great Crested Grebe, Whinchats, more Bee-eaters, Spotted Flycatcher and there were at least 3 unseen Golden Orioles singing. Raptors here included Common Kestrel, a male Red-footed Falcon and 2 Common Buzzards. At the northern end of the lake there is a nature trail and we walked this for a while at here we added Audouin's Gulls, a distant Greater Flamingo, Cetti's Garden and Wood Warblers and Nightingale.

After lunch we drove round to the Fort area and were told of some Black-winged Stilts just a short way down the track. Soon we were watching 3 of these elegant waders. There were also some Squacco Herons to be seen and back close to the vehicle we noted 4 Common Sandpipers, Little Grebe, 20 Yellow Wagtails and 1 White Wagtail along the water channel and overhead were quite a number of Swallows, Sand and House Martins and beautifully coloured Bee-eaters. We boarded the minibus and as we were driving away we had one more pleasant surprise.

First one and then overall 10 Black-crowned Night Herons flew up from a little way to the south of us (presumably disturbed by someone walking the lake side) and we were able to get reasonable views of these birds.

Our final visit was to an area on the south west corner of the Etang de Biguglia this meant a walk down a barriered track and although it was quite warm in the afternoon we still saw a few good birds. These included 2 close Red Kites, Great Spotted Woodpeckers, Nightingale, female Montagu's and male Marsh Harriers, Fan-tailed and Cetti's Warblers and Common Buzzard. Southern Speckled Woods were quite numerous and we also noted Red Admiral butterflies and Corsican Blue-tailed Damselflies. The waterway held Marsh and Italian Pool Frogs and a lone European Pond Terrapin. We strolled back to the minibus and after the short drive back to the hotel we were soon relaxing prior to our evening meal.

Sunday 8th May

Following an early breakfast we headed for Poretta Airport and during the journey noted a pair of Red-footed Falcons perched on roadside wires and there were a couple of distant Red Kites to perhaps bid us farewell to this lovely island. We checked in and relaxed in the terminal building before boarding our homeward bound flight which took off and landed just a little early. We bade our farewells at the baggage reclaim and all headed homewards at the end of a fabulous tour.

SPECIES LIST:

BIRDS

Red-legged Partridge	<i>Alectoris rufa</i>	2 seen near Tralonca on 2 nd
Common Pheasant	<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>	A single bird was heard calling a little south east of Corte on 4 th
Common Shelduck	<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>	2 on 5 th at the Etang d'Urbino
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	Noted on 5 th at the Marais de Canna and on 7 th around the Etang de Biguglia
Gadwall	<i>Anas strepera</i>	2 or 3 seen at the Marais de Canna on 5 th
Red-crested Pochard	<i>Netta rufina</i>	19 at the Marais de Canna on 5 th was a good number to see
Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>	1 on 7 th near le Fort
Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>	Numerous on the etangs on 5 th then a few seen at Biguglia on 7 th
Greater Flamingo	<i>Phoenicopterus ruber</i>	1 on 5 th at the Etang de Diane and another at Biguglia on 7 th
Black-crowned Night-heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticoax</i>	As we were driving away from Le Fort, a group of 10 birds were seen in flight a little to the south. Presumably, these had been disturbed from their day roost.
Squacco Heron	<i>Ardeola ralloides</i>	5 on 5 th at the Marais de Canna then at least 3 around the Etang de Biguglia on 7 th
Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	Noted at various wetlands on the last 3 days
Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>	2 at the Marais de Canna on 5 th then 2 at Cp Corse the following day
Great White Egret	<i>Egretta alba</i>	2 at the Etang de Diane on 5 th
Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	A scattering of individuals seen on each of the final 3 full days on Corsica
Great Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>	2 at Diane on 5 th and another 2 on the way to Cap Corse on 6 th
European Shag	<i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis</i>	At least 6 at Diane on 5 th then smaller numbers seen on each of the following 2 days
Common (Eurasian) Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	Seen every day except 2 nd with at least 10 in the Gentle Valley on 3 rd being the most in one day
Red-footed Falcon	<i>Falco vespertinus</i>	At least 6 beyond the Marais de Canna on 5 th and a male seen near le Fort on 7 th . On our way to the airport on 8 th , 2 were perched on roadside overhead wires
Eurasian Hobby	<i>Falco subbuteo</i>	A single bird was well seen at Cap Corse on 6 th

Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	1 disturbed off a kill very close to the road as we drove away from the Etang d'Urbino on 5 th
Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	1 distant bird seen at Cap Corse on 6 th
European Honey Buzzard	<i>Pernis apivorus</i>	As we sat at a café beside the Etang de Biguglia on 7 th , 2 birds were seen heading northwards
Red Kite	<i>Milvus milvus</i>	Seen every day
Black Kite	<i>Milvus migrans</i>	Unusually, 5 were seen flying northwards high over the mountains at Asco on 4 th
Lammergeier	<i>Gypaetus barbatus</i>	3 sightings in the Asco Valley on 4 th
Western Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>	2 seen beside the Etang de Biguglia on 1 st then 2 in the Gentle Valley on 3 rd and also noted at various wetlands on the final 3 full days
Hen (Northern) Harrier	<i>Circus cyaneus</i>	A single sighting of a female flying north as we began the early morning walk on 7 th
Montagu's Harrier	<i>Circus pygarrus</i>	A female was noted beside Biguglia on 1 st then it, or another female, was seen the opposite side of the lake on 7 th
Northern Goshawk	<i>Accipiter gentilis</i>	A single bird was seen soaring high above Asco on 4 th
Common (Eurasian) Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>	Small numbers seen everyday
Golden Eagle	<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>	At least 3, possibly 5, seen over the Gentle Valley on 3 rd and another was seen briefly on 4 th at Asco
Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	3 on 5 th at the Marais de Canna and also noted on 7 th at Biguglia
Eurasian Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>	Many seen at various wetland locations on the final 3 days of the tour
European Stone-curlew	<i>Burhinus oedicephalus</i>	7 close to La Lagune hotel on 7 th
Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>	3 seen close to Le Fort on 7 th
(Common) Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>	5 at the Etang d'Urbino on 5 th and another 5 seen flying north during the pre breakfast walk on 7 th
Little Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>	Singles seen on the beach at the Marais de Canna and the Etang d'Urbino both on 5 th
Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>	A flock of at least 35 seen at Urbino on 5 th then a single seen at Cap Corse the next day
Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>	A single bird seen at Macinaggio on 6 th then we saw at least 4 around Biguglia the following day
Sanderling	<i>Calidris alba</i>	4 seen on the beach at Marais de Canna on 5 th
Little Stint	<i>Calidris minuta</i>	3 at the Etang d'Urbino on 5 th
Collared Pratincole	<i>Glareola pratincola</i>	A single bird seen at the southern end of the Etang de Biguglia on 7 th was only our second Pratincole on Corsica
Audouin's Gull	<i>Larus audouinii</i>	2 or 3 seen at the northern end of Biguglia on 7 th
Yellow-legged Gull	<i>Larus michahellis</i>	Many seen on 1 st , 5 th , 6 th & 7 th
Sandwich Tern	<i>Sterna sandvicensis</i>	A single bird flew northwards just offshore during the early walk on 7 th
Rock Dove (Feral Pigeon)	<i>Columba livia</i>	Seen on 5 days
(Common) Woodpigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	Small numbers seen every day except 6 th
European Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>	Small numbers noted on 3 rd , 5 th and 6 th
Eurasian Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decacotta</i>	Seen every day
Common (Eurasian) Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>	First heard in the Gentle Valley on 3 rd then seen elsewhere later that day. Also noted on 4 th , 5 th and 7 th
Eurasian Scops Owl	<i>Otus scops</i>	2 or more heard calling in broad daylight in the Gentle Valley on 3 rd then seen or heard at the Hotel de la Lagune on 4 successive days including early on 8 th
Common Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>	Seen every day

European Bee-eater	<i>Merops apiaster</i>	Heard calling on 4 th in the lower part of the Asco Valley and then seen on the next 3 days
(Eurasian) Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>	1 seen briefly beside the Etang de Biguglia on 1 st then also noted on a further 5 days
(Eurasian) Wryneck	<i>Jynx torquilla</i>	1 seen and a second bird heard calling on 3 rd in the Gentle Valley
Great Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>	Small numbers noted every day
Woodchat Shrike	<i>Lanius senator</i>	A pair were well seen in the Gentle Valley on 3 rd
(Eurasian) Golden Oriole	<i>Oriolus oriolus</i>	Heard calling on 6 th close to the hotel then the following morning there was 1 male and 2 females feeding in a tree at the same location. Also on 7 th there were a further 2 or 3 heard further north beside Biguglia
Eurasian Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>	Seen every day
Alpine (Yellow-billed) Chough	<i>Pyrrhocorax graculus</i>	About a dozen seen in the Restonica Valley on 2 nd
Hooded Crow	<i>Corvus cornix</i>	Seen every day
Common Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>	At least 2 on 2 nd in the Restonica Valley then also seen on 3 rd , 4 th and 6 th
Coal Tit	<i>Parus ater</i>	Just seen in the mountains on 2 nd and 4 th and also before we left the Arena/Le Refuge on 5 th
Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>	Seen every day in small numbers
Blue Tit	<i>Parus caeruleus</i>	Seen every day except 4 th
European Sand Martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>	1 on 1 st near the Etang de Biguglia where there were at least 10 on 7 th . The species was also noted on 6 th at Cap Corse
Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	Seen every day with many still heading northwards on their spring migration
Eurasian Crag Martin	<i>Hirundo rupestris</i>	Small numbers seen every day except 7 th
Common House Martin	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>	Seen every day
Red-rumped Swallow	<i>Cecropis daurica</i>	Just a single bird seen close to the Etang de Biguglia on 7 th
Long-tailed (Bush) Tit	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>	Small numbers seen on each of the first 4 days of the tour
Wood Lark	<i>Lullula arborea</i>	1 well seen south east of Corte on 2 nd then seen on the following 3 days
Zitting Cisticola (Fan-tld warb)	<i>Cisticola juncidis</i>	Singles seen on 5 th at the Etang d'Urbino and on 7 th at the Etang de Biguglia
Cetti's Warbler	<i>Cettia cetti</i>	Heard on 3 days in the coastal zone before being glimpsed by some members of the group beside Biguglia on 7 th
(Eurasian) Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>	Many heard and 1 or 2 seen at the Marais de Canna on 5 th
Common Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>	A single bird was seen beside the Etang de Biguglia on 1 st
Wood Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus sibilatrix</i>	Singles seen on 3 rd in the Gentle Valley and at Biguglia on 7 th
Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>	Seen or heard every day
Garden Warbler	<i>Sylvia borin</i>	A single sighting beside the Etang de Biguglia on 7 th
Common Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia communis</i>	1 in the Gentle Valley on 3 rd
Dartford Warbler	<i>Sylvia undata</i>	1 seen south east of Corte on 5 th and another seen close to the Etang de Diane later the same day
Mamora's Warbler	<i>Sylvia sarda</i>	Good views of one south east of Corte on 5 th
Subalpine Warbler	<i>Sylvia cantillans</i>	1 heard calling and glimpsed by some of the group at Barcaggio on 6 th
Sardinian Warbler	<i>Sylvia melanocephala</i>	Noted on the final 3 full days of the tour
Firecrest	<i>Regulus ignicapillus</i>	Excellent views of 1 or 2 off the Golo Valley on 1 st
(Winter) Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	Noted on 4 consecutive days from 2 nd

Corsican Nuthatch	<i>Sitta whiteheadi</i>	1 in the Restonica Valley on 2 nd and 1 in the Asco Valley on 4 th
Spotless Starling	<i>Sturnus unicolor</i>	Seen every day
Common (Eurasian) Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	Seen every day
European Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>	Heard or seen on the first 3 days only
Common Nightingale	<i>Luscinia megarhynchos</i>	Many were singing in the Gentle Valley on 3 rd and this difficult-to-see species was also noted on 1 st , 5 th , 6 th & 7 th
Common Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>	1 Male and 1 female seen at Cap Corse on 6 th
Whinchat	<i>Saxicola rubetra</i>	At least 10 close to Biguglia on 1 st then also noted on a further 4 days
Common Stonechat	<i>Saxicola torquata</i>	Noted on 4 days of the tour
Northern Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>	2 in the Gentle Valley on 3 rd and also seen on 4 th , 6 th & 7 th
Blue Rock Thrush	<i>Monticola solitarius</i>	2 well seen in the Golo Valley on 1 st and then seen in the Restonica Valley on the following 3 days
Spotted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>	1 on 6 th at Barcaggio and 2 at the Hotel on 7 th & 8 th
European Pied Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula hypoleuca</i>	A female was seen in the Gentle Valley on 6 th then there were 2 at Cap Corse on 6 th
(White-throated) Dipper	<i>Cinclus cinclus</i>	2 in the Restonica Valley on 2 nd were our first birds then also seen on 3 rd , 4 th & 5 th
House (Italian) Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	Seen every day
Eurasian Tree Sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>	Seen at the Canonica Cathedral on 1 st and at the Pont Genoio on 5 th
Rock Sparrow (Petronia)	<i>Petronia petronia</i>	At least 8 near Castifao on 3 rd and 1 in the lower Asco Valley on 4 th
Western Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava</i>	3 on 6 th at Cap Corse and at least 30 near Le Fort on 7 th
Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>	Noted on 4 consecutive days in the mountains from 2 nd
White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba alba</i>	Just a single female seen near Le Fort on 7 th
Tawny Pipit	<i>Anthus campestris</i>	1 well seen in the Asco Valley on 4 th and another was at Capo Grosso on 6 th
Tree Pipit	<i>Anthus trivialis</i>	3 during the pre breakfast walk on 6 th plus another at Cap Corse that same day and then 3 around Biguglia on 7 th
Common Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	Seen every day except 1 st
European Serin	<i>Serinus serinus</i>	2 on 4 th in the Asco Valley, 1 on 6 th at Cap Corse and finally one at the Lagune on 7 th
European Greenfinch	<i>Carduelis chloris</i>	Seen every day except 2 nd
European Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	Seen every day
Corsican Citril Finch	<i>Serinus corsicanus</i>	2 on 2 nd high in the Restonica Valley, 6 near Castifao on 3 rd then also noted on the following 2 days
Common Linnet	<i>Carduelis cannabina</i>	2 on 3 rd in the Gentle Valley and also seen on 5 th and 6 th
Corn Bunting	<i>Emberiza calandra</i>	2 on 3 rd in the Gentle Valley then also seen on 5 th
Cirl Bunting	<i>Emberiza cirius</i>	Seen on 4 consecutive days from 3 rd
MAMMALS		
Western Hedgehog	<i>Erinaceus europaeus</i>	One or two of the subspecies <i>horizontalis</i> (e.g. dead on roads) seen on 3 rd and 5 th
Wild Boar	<i>Sus scrofa</i>	One seen near Castifao on 3 rd by one member of the group
Mouflon	<i>Ovis orientalis</i>	2 seen in the Asco Valley on 4 th
European Rabbit	<i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i>	1 seen in the Gentle Valley on 3 rd
AMPHIBIANS		
Common Tree Frog	<i>Hyla arborea</i>	Heard on 6 th & 7 th

Marsh Frog	<i>Rana ridibunda</i>	Noted on 3 rd , 5 th & 7 th in various locations
Italian Pool Frog	<i>Rana bergeri</i>	First seen at Marais de Canna on 5 th then also seen on 7 th
REPTILES		
European Pond Terrapin	<i>Emys orbicularis</i>	1 beside the Etang de Biguglia on 7 th
Italian Wall Lizard	<i>Podarcis sicula</i>	Noted on 3 days
Tyrrhenian Wall Lizard	<i>Podarcis tiliguerta</i>	Seen on 5 days
BUTTERFLIES		
Scarce Swallowtail	<i>Iphiclies podalirius</i>	
Large White	<i>Pieris brassicae</i>	
Small White	<i>Artogeia rapae</i>	
Green-veined White	<i>Artogeia napi</i>	
Orange-tip	<i>Anthocharis cardamines</i>	
Clouded Yellow	<i>Colias croceus</i>	
Brimstone	<i>Gonepteryx rhamni</i>	
Cleopatra	<i>Gonepteryx cleopatra</i>	
Wood White	<i>Leptidea sinapsis</i>	
Green Hairstreak	<i>Callophrys rubi</i>	
Geranium Bronze	<i>Cacyreus marshalli</i>	
Holly Blue	<i>Celastrina argiolus</i>	
Green-underside Blue	<i>Glaucopsyche alexis</i>	
Brown Argus	<i>Artcia agestis</i>	
Common Blue	<i>Polyommatus icarus</i>	
Southern White Admiral	<i>Limenitis reducta</i>	
Red Admiral	<i>Vanessa atalanta</i>	
Painted Lady	<i>Cynthia cardui</i>	
Comma	<i>Polygonia c-album</i>	
Meadow Brown	<i>Maniola jurtina</i>	
Corsican Heath	<i>Coenonympha corinna</i>	
Speckled Wood	<i>Pararge aegeria</i>	
Wall Brown	<i>Lasiommata megera</i>	
MOTHS		
Pine Processionary	<i>Thaumetopoea pityocampa</i>	
DRAGONFLIES		
Black-tailed Skimmer	<i>Orthetrum cancellatum</i>	
Broad-bodied Chaser	<i>Libellula depressa</i>	
Broad Scarlet	<i>Crocothemis erytraea</i>	
Island Blue-tail	<i>Ischnura genei</i>	
OTHER INSECTS		
Egyptian Grasshopper	<i>Anacridium aegyptium</i>	
Blue-winged Grasshopper	<i>Oedipoda caerulea</i>	
Violet Carpenter Bee	<i>Xylocopa violacea</i>	
Dung Beetle	<i>Scarabaeus semipunctatus</i>	
Pepper Beetle		
Whirligig Beetles		
Large Diving Beetle spp		

PLANTS

a. Flowers and plants in Blamey's "Mediterranean Wild Flowers" (Collins) with reference numbers

Ref N°	Scientific name	Vernacular name
1	<i>Pinus pinea</i>	Stone [Umbrella] Pine
4	<i>Pinus nigra subsp laricio</i>	Corsican Pine
5	<i>Pinus pinaster</i>	Maritime Pine
11	<i>Cupressus sempervirens</i>	Italian [Funeral] Cypress
13	<i>Juniperus communis</i>	Juniper
15	<i>Juniperus oxycedrus</i>	Prickly Juniper
23	<i>Castanea sativa</i>	Sweet Chestnut
25	<i>Quercus ilex</i>	Holm [Holly] Oak
27	<i>Quercus suber</i>	Cork Oak
31	<i>Quercus pubescens</i>	Downy [White] Oak
32	<i>Cytinus hypocistis</i>	Yellow Cytinus
42	<i>Ficus carica</i>	Fig
47	<i>Urtica dioica</i>	Stinging Nettle
48	<i>Urtica pilulifera</i>	Roman Nettle
50	<i>Parietaria judaica [P diffusa]</i>	Pellitory of the Wall
70	<i>Polygonum maritimum</i>	Sea Knotgrass
74	<i>Rumex acetosella</i>	Sheep's Sorrel
115	<i>Carprobrotus edulis</i>	Hottentot Fig
136	<i>Paronychia argentea</i>	Silvery Paronichia
158	<i>Silene latifolia</i>	White Campion
176	<i>Silene galica</i>	Small-flowered Catchfly
180	<i>Silene colorata</i>	Mediterranean Catchfly
187	<i>Kohlruschia velutina</i>	Kohlruschia
235	<i>Ranunculus velutinus</i>	Buttercup sp
243	<i>Ranunculus muricatus</i>	Spiny-fruited Buttercup
246	<i>Ranunculus parviflorus</i>	Small-flowered Buttercup
250	<i>Ranunculus aquatilis</i>	Common Water-crowfoot
251	<i>Ranunculus sceleratus</i>	Celery-leaved Crowfoot
252	<i>Ranunculus ficaria</i>	Lesser Celandine
283	<i>Papaver rhoeas</i>	Common Poppy
287	<i>Papaver argemon</i>	Prickly Poppy
281	<i>Papaver somniferum</i>	Opium Poppy
293	<i>Glaucium flavum</i>	Yellow Horned Poppy
295	<i>Glaucium corniculatum</i>	Red Horned Poppy
304	<i>Fumaria bicolor</i>	Ramping Fumitory
306	<i>Fumaria officinalis</i>	Common Fumitory
310	<i>Isatis tinctoria</i>	Woad
322	<i>Arabis verna</i>	Spring Rockcress
341	<i>Biscutella didyma</i>	Biscutella [Buckler Mustard]
353	<i>Cardaria draba</i>	Hoary Cress
360	<i>Sinapis alba</i>	White Mustard
361	<i>Eruca sativa</i>	Eruca [Rocket]
369	<i>Raphanus raphanistrum</i>	Wild Radish
386	<i>Sedum album</i>	White Stonecrop
396	<i>Umbilicus rupestris</i>	Navelwort [Wall Pennywort]
400	<i>Platanus orientalis</i>	Oriental Plane
402	<i>Pittosporum tobria</i>	Japanese Plane
420	<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	Hawthorn
428	<i>Rubus sanctus [R ulmifolius]</i>	Bramble
430	<i>Cercis siliquastrum</i>	Judas Tree
432	<i>Acacia dealbata</i>	Silver Wattle/Mimosa
439	<i>Acacia cyanophylla</i>	Blue-leaved Wattle
468	<i>Genista cinerea</i>	Broom sp
481	<i>Spartium junceum</i>	Spanish Broom

486	<i>Lupinus angustifolium</i>	Narrow-leaved Lupin
488	<i>Robinia pseudacacia</i>	False Acacia
508	<i>Psoralea bituminosa</i>	Pitch Trefoil
519	<i>Vicia hirsuta</i>	Hairy Tare
521	<i>Vicia laxiflora</i>	Slender Tare
531	<i>Vicia sativa</i>	Common Vetch
541	<i>Lathyrus sphaericus</i>	Pea sp
551	<i>Lathyrus articulatus</i>	Pea sp
553	<i>Lathyrus aphaca</i>	Yellow Vetchling
555	<i>Pisum sativum</i>	Wild Pea
572	<i>Melilotus indicus</i>	Small Melilot
605	<i>Medicago marina</i>	Sea Medick
618	<i>Medicago polymorpha</i>	Toothed [Hairy] Medick
625	<i>Lotus corniculatus</i>	Common Bird's-foot Trefoil
645	<i>Trifolium pratense</i>	Red Clover
656	<i>Trifolium campestre</i>	Hop Trefoil
658	<i>Trifolium tomentosum</i>	Woolly Trefoil
662	<i>Trifolium stellatum</i>	Star Clover
676	<i>Dorycnium hirsutum</i>	[Hairy] Dorycnium
735	<i>Oxalis pes-caprae</i>	Bermuda Buttercup
736	<i>Oxalis articulata</i>	Pink Oxalis
741	<i>Geranium molle</i>	Dove's-foot Crane's-bill
743	<i>Geranium rotundifolium</i>	Round-leaved Geranium [Crane's-bill]
745	<i>Geranium dissectum</i>	Cut-leaved Crane's-bill
747	<i>Geranium robertianum</i>	Herb Robert
761	<i>Erodium cicutarium</i>	Common Stork's-bill
777	<i>Linum bienne</i>	Pale Flax
794	<i>Euphorbia acanthothamnus</i>	Greek Spiny Spurge
799	<i>Euphorbia helioscopia</i>	Sun Spurge
816	<i>Euphorbia cyparissias</i>	Cypress Spurge
819	<i>Euphorbia wulfenii</i>	Large Mediterranean Spurge
849	<i>Polygala nicaensis</i>	Nice Milkwort
856	<i>Acer monspessulanum</i>	Montpelier Maple
898	<i>Malva sylvestris</i>	Common Mallow
899	<i>Malva neglecta</i>	Dwarf Mallow
925	<i>Viola alba subsp dehnadtii</i>	Mediterranean White Violet
931	<i>Viola kitaibeliana</i>	Dwarf Pansy
957	<i>Hypericum perforatum</i>	Common [Perforate] St John's Wort
961	<i>Cistus albidus</i>	Grey-leaved Cistus
965	<i>Cistus salvifolius</i>	Sage-leaved Cistus
966	<i>Cistus monspeliensis</i>	Narrow-leaved Cistus
985	<i>Tuberaria guttata</i>	Annual Rockrose
1019	<i>Tamarix parviflora [T cretica]</i>	Tamarisk sp
1024	<i>Tamarix tetragyna [T meyeri]</i>	Tamarisk
1040	<i>Opuntia ficus-indica</i>	Prickly Pear
1052	<i>Myrtis communis</i>	Myrtle
1060	<i>Eucalyptus globulus</i>	Southern Blue Gum
1062	<i>Eucalyptus camaldulensis</i>	River Red Gum
1073	<i>Eryngium maritimum</i>	Sea Holly
1087	<i>Smyrniolimon olustratum</i>	Alexanders
1132	<i>Apium nodiflorum</i>	Fool's Water-cress
1141	<i>Ferula communis</i>	Giant Fennel
1149	<i>Tordylium apulum</i>	Ivory-fruited Hartwort
1168	<i>Daucus carota</i>	Wild Carrot
1178	<i>Erica arborea</i>	Tree Heath
1198	<i>Anagallis arvensis</i>	Scarlet Pimpernel (red and blue forms)
1199	<i>Anagallis foemina</i>	Blue Pimpernel
1207	<i>Cyclamen repandum</i>	Spring Sowbread
1245	<i>Fraxinus ornus</i>	Manna [Flowering] Ash
1248	<i>Olea europaea</i>	Olive

1268	<i>Cynancum acutum</i>	Stranglewort
1300	<i>Cruciata laevipes</i>	Crosswort
1294	<i>Gallium mollugo</i>	Hedge Bedstraw
1329	<i>Convolvulus cantabrica</i>	Pink Convolvulus
1334	<i>Convolvulus arvensis</i>	Field Bindweed
1383	<i>Echium plantagineum</i>	Purple Viper's Bugloss
1395	<i>Borago officinalis</i>	Borage
1475	<i>Lamium purpureum</i>	Red Dead-nettle
1502	<i>Melissa officinalis</i>	Balm
1526	<i>Rosmarinus officinalis</i>	Rosemary
1528	<i>Lavendula stoechas</i>	French Lavender
1545	<i>Salvia verbenaca</i>	Wild Clary
1597	<i>Verbascum thapsus</i>	Great Mullein [Aaron's Rod]
1609	<i>Antirrhinum majus</i>	Snapdragon
1646	<i>Veronica cymbalaria</i>	Cymbalaria-leaved Speedwell
1648	<i>Veronica anagallis-aquatica</i>	Water Speedwell
1651	<i>Parentucellia viscosa</i>	Yellow Bartsia
1652	<i>Parentucellia latifolia</i>	Southern Red Bartsia
1670	<i>Orobanche rapum genistae</i>	Greater Broomrape
1675	<i>Orobanche crenata</i>	Bean Broomrape
1693	<i>Plantago major</i>	Greater Plantain
1696	<i>Plantago coronopus</i>	Buck's-horn Plantain
1701	<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>	Ribwort Plantain
1712	<i>Lonicera etrusca</i>	Etruscan Honeysuckle
1791	<i>Bellis annua</i>	Annual Daisy
1792	<i>Bellis perennis</i>	Daisy
1799	<i>Aster tripolium</i>	Sea Aster
1857	<i>Anthemis maritimus</i>	Chamomile sp
1858	<i>Anthemis arvensis</i>	Corn Chamomile
1887	<i>Matricaria recutita</i>	Scented Mayweed
1916	<i>Senecio vulgaris</i>	Groundsel
1971	<i>Galactites tomentosa</i>	Galactites
1982	<i>Silybum marianum</i>	Milk Thistle
2032	<i>Hyoseris radiata</i>	(Composite family)
2039	<i>Urospermum dalechampii</i>	Soft <u>Urospermum</u>
2087	<i>Asphodelus fistulosus</i>	Common Asphodel
2089	<i>Asphodelus aestivus</i>	Hollow-leaved Asphodel
2201	<i>Muscari comosum</i>	Tassel Hyacinth
2224	<i>Allium roseum</i>	Rosy Garlic
2225	<i>Allium neapolitanum</i>	Naples [White] Garlic
2229	<i>Allium triquetrum</i>	Three-corned Leek
2276	<i>Polyanthus narcissus</i>	Many-flowered Narcissus
2290	<i>Iris pseudacorus</i>	Yellow Flag
2307	<i>Gladiolus italicus</i>	Field Gladiolus
2338	<i>Crocus corsicus</i>	Corsican Crocus
2460	<i>Briza maxima</i>	Large Quaking Grass
2473	<i>Lagurus ovatus</i>	Hare's-tail
2494	<i>Arundo donax</i>	Giant Reed
2504	<i>Juncus acutus</i>	Sharp Rush
2506	<i>Juncus articulatus</i>	Jointed Rush
2522	<i>Adiantum capillus-veneris</i>	Maidenhair Fern
2532	<i>Ceterach officinorum</i>	Rusty-back Fern
b. Orchids (as shown in the Field Guide to Orchids of Britain and Europe by Karl Peter Buttler)		
34	<i>Cephalanthera longifolia</i>	Sword-leaved Helleborine
38	<i>Limodorum abortivum</i>	Violet Limodore [Violet Bird's-nest Orchid]
72	<i>Dactylorhiza insularis</i>	Barton's Orchid
106	<i>Neotinea maculata</i>	Dense-flowered Orchid
112	<i>Orchis laxiflora</i>	Loose-flowered Orchid

114	<i>Orchis olbiensis</i>	Southern Early Purple Orchid
120	<i>Orchis provincialis</i>	Province Orchid
130	<i>Orchis papilionacea</i>	Pink Butterfly Orchid
136	<i>Orchis morio</i>	Green-winged Orchid
144	<i>Orchis purpurea</i>	Lady Orchid
160	<i>Serapias olbia</i>	Hybrid Serapias
162	<i>Serapias vomeracea</i>	Plough-share Serapias
166	<i>Serapias lingua</i>	Tongue Orchid
218	<i>Ophrys incubacea</i>	Dark Ophrys
?	<i>Ophrys iricolor</i>	Sombre Ophrys (perhaps subsp of previous sp)
c. Species not recorded in Blamey; reference numbers from Oleg Polunin's "Flowers of Europe: A Field Guide" (OUP, 1997)		
31	<i>Populus canescens</i>	Grey Poplar
33	<i>Populus nigra</i>	Black Poplar
35	<i>Juglans regia</i>	Walnut
36	<i>Betula pendula</i>	Silver Birch
40	<i>Alnus glutinosa</i>	Common Alder
41	<i>Alnus cordata</i>	Green Alder
73	<i>Viscum austriacum</i>	Mistletoe
138	<i>Stellaria graminea</i>	Lesser Stitchwort
?	<i>Santolina corsica</i>	Corsican Lavender Cotton
160	<i>Lychnis flos-cuculi</i>	Ragged Robin
199	<i>Helleborus lividus subsp corsicus</i>	Corsican Hellebore
243	<i>Ranunculus flammula</i>	Lesser Spearwort
278	<i>Corydalis ochroleuca</i>	Cream Corydalis
289	<i>Alliaria petiolata</i>	Garlic Mustard
?	<i>Barbarea rupicola</i>	Wintercress sp
322	<i>Lunaria annua</i>	Honesty
450	<i>Potentilla reptans</i>	Creeping Cinquefoil
456	<i>Potentilla anserina</i>	Silverweed
459	<i>Fragaria vesca</i>	Wild Strawberry
466	<i>Sorbus aucuparia subsp praemorsa</i>	Mountain Ash [Rowan]
?	<i>Genista corsica</i>	Corsican Broom
545	<i>Vicia cracca</i>	Tufted Vetch
598	<i>Trifolium subterraneum</i>	Burrowing Clover
654	<i>Erodium moschatum</i>	Musk Stork's-bill
?	<i>Euphorbia pithyusa subsp cupanii</i>	Corsican Sea Spurge
713	<i>Aesculus hippocastanum</i>	Horse Chestnut
777	<i>Viola riviniana</i>	Common Dog-violet
784	<i>Viola arvensis</i>	Field Pansy
978	<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>	Common Ash
1017	<i>Asperula cynanchica</i>	Squinancywort
1023	<i>Gallium aparine</i>	Cleavers
1068	<i>Myosotis ramosissima</i>	Early Forget-me-not
1220	<i>Veronica arvensis</i>	Wall Speedwell
1223	<i>Veronica persica</i>	Common Field Speedwell
1280	<i>Pinguicula vulgaris</i>	Common Butterwort
1309	<i>Valerianella locusta</i>	Cornsalad
1433	<i>Cotula coronopifolia</i>	Buttonweed
1477	<i>Carduus tenuifloris</i>	Slender Thistle
1599	<i>Gagea lutea</i>	Yellow Star of Bethlehem
1673	<i>Pancretium illyricum</i>	Illyrian Sea Lily
?	<i>Pteridium aquilinum</i>	Bracken

For me, Corsica never fails to disappoint! To the fabulous birds and all of the other wildlife, all you have to do is just add the scenery! How wonderful it was to see Corsican Nuthatch among the magnificent Corsican Pine

forest or the Lammergeier flying across the cliff face beneath a band of cloud. Corsica certainly gets me like that and I hope you feel the same too. At times we did not know which way to look; up at the birds or down at the flowers but hopefully you all managed to get enough to satisfy your own interests and requirements.

In total we managed to identify 116 species of birds including the 3 most sought after species (Nuthatch, Corsican C Finch and Marmora's Warbler) but there were lots of other Mediterranean species to add to those. Birds like Hoopoes, Bee-eaters and Red-footed Falcons all featured (in fact we even saw a couple of the latter species during the short drive to the airport!) but then add in such unexpected species as Collared Pratincole and a FLOCK of 10 Black-crowned Night Herons and you begin to realise Corsica is a very special place indeed.

Added to that was the irrepressible humour within the group and really my job as driver/guide was easy!! So thank you one and all for being such lovely clients – and even laughing at my jokes. What more could a leader ask?

I must finish by thanking Jill Bale for such a comprehensive plants list; and delivered in such a way that I could just insert her beautifully laid out table straight into the end of this report. Thanks Jill, without you, the flowers list would have been much shorter!

I hope I get to meet you all again on a future Travelling Naturalist/Limosa tour sometime.

*Mike Read
May 2011*