

The Apennines: Italy's Abruzzo National Park

Naturetrek Tour Report

24 – 31 May 2018



Abruzzo Chamois by Mark Thomas



Italian Sparrow by Ian Parker



Military Orchid by Ian Parker



Bath White by Mark Thomas

Report by Jessica Turner
Images courtesy of Ian Parker and Mark Thomas



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Summary

The Abruzzo National Park in the central Apennines of Italy always offers a wide range of great wildlife encounters, including a few surprises. We were extremely fortunate to see the Marsican Brown Bear snoozing in the sun, the only down side being that, as we were only en route from the airport, we didn't have telescopes! Chamois, the alpine flowers and the scenery at the top of the Val di Rose were a particular delight, plus the sounders of Wild Boar with their piglets, the Red and Roe Deer and Apennine Hare. The Rosy Starlings in Val Fondillo were an unexpected bonus! We enjoyed a wide selection of birds, butterflies, other insects and flowers, especially the orchids in their abundance, all to the soundtrack of Field Crickets and Cuckoos.

Geraldine and Marco, as ever, provided a warm welcome and excellent hospitality, introducing us to several local specialities. An excellent week in a delightful location!

Day 1

Thursday 24th May

UK to Rome to Pescasseroli

Five group members travelled from the UK to Rome airport on different flights, where they met with Jessica, who had led a trip the previous week. Having retrieved the vehicle from the car park, Jessica picked up the group who were waiting in the late afternoon sun (or shade), and we set off round the Rome ringroad. The traffic was rather slow, but as we went, we were able to note the Umbrella Pines (*Pinus pinea*) Oleander (*Nerium oleander*), Hooded Crows, Yellow-legged Gulls and a Grey Heron in flight.

The traffic eased as we drove east, enjoying the little hill-top villages and gorges of the Apennine foothills. We stopped for a break just into Abruzzo province, noting the Italian Sparrows round the service area. The motorways branched, and we took the A24 towards Pescara, seeing soon after the flat plain that used to be Lake Fucino, the third largest in Italy, before it was finally drained in the 1870's. As we left the autostrada, a Nightingale was in full song from a bush by the road, visible to some. We dropped down to Pescara before taking the winding road up into the National Park. We enjoyed the evening light on the mountains and hills, the green of the Beech trees (*Fagus sylvatica*), and bright yellow Laburnums (*Laburnum anagyroides*) along the road. When we reached Gioia Vecchio, we stopped behind the church for a leg stretch and to see the valley that we visit to scan for wildlife. A Red Deer was seen in a clearing, and Cuckoos were calling. Then, to our amazement, a fellow watcher pointed out that a brown patch on the far hillside was, in fact, a Marsican Brown Bear sleeping in the open! It was probably a female, having a more golden-brown head and mantle. She woke and shifted the air, and it looked as though she rolled on her back before eventually getting up and wandering off, disappearing behind some bushes. She reappeared, walking in the direction of the herd of cattle that were grazing in the valley. We couldn't see any dogs with them, but a moment later, the bear was running up the hillside, and she disappeared into more extensive woodland, with the cows (who had calves) all staring after her. What an amazing start to the week!

After that, we drove straight to Pescasseroli and through the village to the Albergo Paradiso, where we received the usual very warm welcome from Geraldine and Marco. We quickly settled into our rooms and then had a delicious dinner, during which Jessica outlined plans for the morrow. After a very long day, we then retired to bed.

Day 2

Friday 25th May

Around Hotel; Camosciara; Gioia Vecchio

This morning dawned fine and sunny, and some of the group ventured out at 7am, to explore the local area. Tree Sparrows were nesting in the hotel roof and gave good views. A Firecrest showed well in a Spruce tree, and a Common Redstart was singing from the top of a tree, as was a Serin. We walked up the track behind the hotel, towards a small hill, noting Giant Red Dead-nettle (*Lamium garganicum*), Solomon's Seal (*Polygonatum multiflorum*) and Greater Celandine (*Chelidonium majus*). A Blackcap was seen in a nearby bush. On a rocky bank we found the endemic Pansy *Viola engeniae* in various shades, but predominantly yellow, together with Meadow Saxifrage (*Saxifraga granulata*), Stinking Hellebore (*Helleborus foetidus*) and the blue Anchusa *Cynoglossis barrelieri*. A Mazarine Blue and a Common Blue were warming up, and Green-winged and Toothed Orchids (*Amacamptis morio* and *Neottia tridentata*) were on the slope. From the hilltop we had stunning views up and down the Sangro valley. Time was pressing, so we returned for an excellent breakfast.

After breakfast, with the picnic bought, we headed south-east down the valley of the Sangro, past Opi, to our destination of Camosciara, in the heart of the National Park. Having parked the vehicle, we set off up the valley, diverting from the path to explore. Among the Juniper (*Juniperus communis*), Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), Blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*) and Wild Pear (*Pyrus pyraster*) scrub, we found spikes of Military Orchid (*Orchis militaris*), Twayblade (*Neottia ovata*), Green-winged Orchid (*Anacamptis morio*) Early Purple Orchid (*Orchis mascula* subsp. *speciosa*, with pointed petals and sepals), and Fly Orchid (*Ophrys insectifera*), all growing with some protection from grazing. We also noted Nice Milkwort (*Polygala nicaeensis*), Common Globularia (*Globularia vulgaris*) and Horseshoe Vetch (*Hippocrepis comosa*). Duke of Burgundy and Scarce Swallowtail gave exceptionally good views, and Wood White and Clouded Yellow were also added to the butterfly list. Cuckoos were calling and three, two males and a female, flew overhead, the female landing in a nearby tree, giving her 'bubbling' call.

The road was lined by trees and shrubs, including Dogwood (*Cornus sanguinea*), Cornelian Cherry (*Cornus mas*), Turkey Oak (*Quercus cerris*), and Goat Willow (*Salix caprea*). Under these were Lady Orchids (*Orchis purpurea*) and more Early Purple Orchids, and we also noted Reflexed Crane's-bill (*Geranium reflexum*). Blackcap, Chiffchaff and Song Thrush were singing, and there was the constant accompaniment of Field Cricket. Common Wall Lizards were on rocks and the stone pillars of the entrance to the central area of Camosciara. On a bank we found White Helleborine (*Cephalanthera damasonium*) and False Vetch (*Astragalus monspessulanus*). We also stopped to admire and photograph a beautiful clump of Lady's Slipper Orchids (*Cypripedium calceolus*) flowering by the stream. Near here we also found another plant of Lady's Slipper with a couple of flowers, *Dactylorhiza saccifera* just coming out, and a leafy Lousewort *Pedicularis boermanniana*. We also found emerging brown Bird's-nest Orchid (*Neottia nidus-avis*), Sword-leaved Helleborine (*Cephalanthera longifolia*), Columbine (*Aquilegia vulgaris*) and Greater Meadow-rue (*Thalictrum aquilegifolium*). Butterflies included Speckled Wood, Small Heath and Pearl-bordered Fritillary.

We stopped for our picnic by a nearby bridge, but just as we were starting, so the rain came. We tried to move to shelter under a large Beech, but the heavens opened and the picnic and we all got rather soggy. However, it eased, and we carried on up the valley, to the café which provided hot drinks and shelter to sort ourselves out. We decided to continue to the waterfalls Cascata delle Tre Cannelle and Cascata delle Ninfe (Cascade of Three Channels and Cascade of the Nymphs), seeing Brown Trout in the stream. Under the Beech trees we found several spikes of Coralroot Orchid (*Corallorhiza trifida*) and more Bird's-nest Orchids. There was plenty of water coming over the falls and we could see the blue of the endemic Trumpet Gentian (*Gentiana dinarica*) on the rocks above. By the second waterfall the Bear's Ears (*Primula auricula*) were still quite fresh. We slowly retraced our steps down the valley, noting Mayflies, the leaves of Green False-helleborine (*Veratrum lobelianum*), Shrubby Milkwort (*Polygala chamaebuxus*) with red- or yellow-and-white flowers, and Apennine Lungwort (*Pulmonaria apennina*). We found a patch of Gentians near the stream, along with the enormous kidney-shaped leaves of Thore's Buttercup (*Ranunculus thora*) and the endemic, large-flowered Camosciara Butterwort (*Pinguicula vallis-regiae*) was flowering well on the far side of the water, amongst more Gentians.

We returned to the hotel to dry out a bit and for an early, delicious dinner, after which some of the group ventured out again. The rain had cleared but it was quite misty. We drove north from Pescasseroli, soon stopping for Roe Deer in a meadow, and then a Red Deer. We then saw a large troop or sounder of Wild Boar, with six adults, females of differing ages, with at least 26 brown, stripey piglets, which were almost hidden by the long grass. We were able to watch them for some time, before they disappeared into the trees. We also saw a distant Red Deer on the hillside. We carried on, driving north up the valley to Gioia Vecchio, passing a Buzzard on a post and having a glimpse of Red-backed Shrike by the road. We saw two more Red Deer, but all was otherwise quiet. As we returned to the hotel, an Apennine Hare crossed the road in front of us. This species, also called the Corsican Hare, is smaller than the Brown Hare, and is restricted to Central-Southern Italy and Sicily; (it was introduced into Corsica). A final touch to a full and satisfying first day in the field.

Day 3

Saturday 26th May

Gioia Vecchio; Val Fondillo; Opi

A 6am start saw some of the group heading out again. It was a fine but misty morning, and as we left the hotel, a Hoopoe flew in front of us, landing in one of the small fields where it fed for some time – nice to see, despite the poor visibility. The mist was hanging especially heavily towards Opi, as we discovered when we headed in that direction, hoping to scan the meadows near there for Wolves. As we couldn't even see the edges of the fields, we headed north again towards Gioia Vecchio, climbing out of the worst of the mist. We saw a Red Deer on the hillside, and a Wild Boar in the valley. Black Redstart was around the church and other birds included Common Redstart, Wren and Great Tit.

Our main destination today was Val Fondillo, which is adjacent to Camosciara but very different in character. With the picnic bought, we set off to drive back down the valley, to just past Opi. The mist had, by now, burnt off and the sun was shining. We parked under some willows, seeing Swallows collecting mud, and a White Wagtail on a roof. Past the old saw-mill, now a museum, we saw Glanville Fritillary and several Shield Bugs on Mullein (*Verbascum* sp.). On a dry slope we found several spikes of Late Spider Orchid (*Ophrys fuciflora*), together

with a Bertoloni's Bee Orchid (*Ophrys bertolonii*). We also found Pale Flax (*Linum bienne*), Salad Burnet (*Poterium sanguisorba*), the leaves of Blue Eryngo (*Eryngium amythystinum*), white Star-of-Bethlehem (*Ornithogalum umbellatum*), and Wild Thyme (*Thymus oenipontanus*). Butterflies included Red-underwing Skipper, which was quite abundant, Mazarine Blue, Common Blue, Clouded Yellow, many 'White' butterflies and just one brilliantly coloured Adonis Blue. Violet Carpenter Bees and Little Blue butterflies were also on the wing. As we crossed the valley, we had good views of Red-backed Shrike, with at least two birds perching on tops of bushes, while a number of Green-winged and Toothed Orchids (*Anacamptis morio* and *Neotinea tridentata*) were round our feet. On the slopes at the edge of the valley we found the dwarf Spiny Broom (*Cytisus spinescens*), Rock-rose (*Helianthemum nummularium*) and the smaller-flowered Hoary Rock-rose (*Helianthemum oelandicum* subsp. *incanum*), the endemic Pansy *Viola eugeniae*, Meadow Saxifrage (*Saxifraga granulata*) and more spikes of Toothed Orchid. Green Hairstreak, Southern and Oberthur's Grizzled Skippers and Brimstone were recorded. We also found Tortoise Shield Bug, the black larva of Two-spot Ladybird, and caterpillars of Black-veined White butterfly and Feathered Footman moth.

We dropped down to the main path near a large boulder which forms a cave, and had our picnic nearby, enjoying the local cheeses and hams in the dry; despite clouding up at times, the day remained fine. Refreshed, we looked at the boulder, which bore an endemic Reddish Saxifrage (*Saxifraga porophylla*) and Rustyback fern (*Asplenium ceterach*), while Maidenhair Splenwort (*Asplenium trichomanes*) was growing inside the cave formed by its overhang. Nearby, were some magnificent spikes of Military Orchid (*Orchis militaris*). With the bridge having been washed away by winter rain, we continued up the track, diverting to a meadow which was a mass of Green-winged and Toothed Orchids, together with Common Globularia (*Globularia vulgaris*). Green Tiger Beetle was noted.

We slowly retraced our steps down the valley, diverting into a marshy area, where we found Early Marsh Orchid (*Dactylorhiza incarnata*) and Water Mint (*Mentha aquatica*). Birds seemed rather thin on the ground but scanning over the slopes of Monte Marsicano produced very distant Common Buzzard and Golden Eagle. At the Visitor Centre, we paused for refreshments then, leaving the valley, we chose to visit the hill-top village of Opi. We took the steep road to the village and parked on the main street, spending some time exploring and admiring the magnificent views in every direction. Common Swifts were overhead, and Crag Martins were nesting under the eaves of the church. We also learnt a little of the sad history of this village, and visited a house set out as it would have been in days gone by. We then returned to the hotel for another delicious meal, and a quiet evening.

Day 4

Sunday 27th May

La Difesa; Vallone Pesco di Lordo; Gioia Vecchio

Some of the group were out at 7am to walk along the road past the small garden and field plots. Along with the now-familiar Serin, Common Redstart and Tree Sparrows, we added a singing Common Whitethroat, and distant Northern Wheatear and Red-backed Shrike. The Hoopoe was calling quite loudly, but remained elusive, while we also heard a distant Green Woodpecker and one call of Wryneck.

After breakfast, we took the vehicles a short distance to the start of the day's walk in the Difesa forest. First, we looked at a rocky bank where butterflies were starting to fly, including Common Blue, Orange Tip, Duke of

Burgundy and many Large and Small Whites. We found Field Cricket, Hairy and Vernal Shieldbugs on Mullein plus a more orange one which was *Carpocoris pudicus*, and the remains of old Wolf scat full of hair and Fox scat with beetle wing-cases. A Honey Buzzard was seen circling close overhead, giving great views.

We noted the bright blue Speedwell *Veronica orsiniana* and more of the endemic Pansies, before the path took us into the forest, past moss- and lichen-covered boulders and large, old Beech trees. Here, we found Round-leaved Saxifrage (*Saxifraga rotundifolia*) abundant on boulders, Herb-Paris (*Paris quadrifolia*), Baneberry (*Actaea spicata*), Sweet Woodruff (*Galium odoratum*) and Reflexed Crane's-bill (*Geranium reflexum*). Wood Warbler, Western Bonelli's Warbler, Blackcap and Chiffchaff were heard. A female Brimstone was nectaring on a Crab Apple (*Malus sylvestris*), along with the White butterflies, allowing us to see the differences. We arrived at a clearing with enormous water troughs, reminding us of the importance of sheep in the past. In the stream were two Common Toads in amplexus, with plenty of fresh spawn, and we could hear another calling. A Marsh Tit flew over several times and landed nearby, and we spotted a fine Green Lizard. Some very rotten trees held Hoof Fungus, Coral Spot and King Alfred's Cakes and we could see many insect holes and tunnels. Another had the magnificent longhorn beetle *Morimus asper* agg. (recent studies suggest that *Morimus funereus* is part of this very variable species) and a Rose Chafer, both of whose larvae live on rotten wood. There were also some beautiful clumps of Lungwort lichen. We continued up the track through the area of mature Beech trees, but without seeing any of the hoped-for woodpeckers.

We turned up into the Vallone Pesco di Lordo, an open valley, admiring the beautiful blue Speedwell *Veronica orsiniana* and magenta-coloured *Geranium austroapenninum*, an endemic form of Ashy Crane's-bill. As well as Pearl-bordered Fritillary, we had good views of Queen of Spain Fritillary and Green Hairstreak. We had our picnic in a sunny spot, watching a bird silhouetted on the distant horizon which revealed itself to be a Kestrel. Further on, we found a very large and fresh Wolf scat on a rock, being enjoyed by a Red Admiral. Near the forest edge some large clumps of the endemic Marsican Iris (*Iris marsica*) were in good flower; it is a species restricted to this area, although resembling the 'ordinary' Garden Iris (*Iris germanica*). The cloud was building, and the rain started as we reached the water troughs. We sheltered for a while, but then continued as it got heavier, the tracks back to the hotel running like rivers.

However, the rain was short-lived and by 6pm the sun was shining. After a delicious early dinner, we headed out to drive north up the valley towards Gioia Vecchio. A large, solitary Wild Boar was in a meadow and a Roe Deer was seen running up the hill. At Gioia Vecchio we saw a Red Deer hind and a distant Wild Boar, but there were a lot of watchers out, having a social evening, so after a while we left to return to the Bisegna road junction. Near Passo Diabolo we saw another large sounder of Boar, this time five adults and maybe 35 piglets. They all froze when they saw us, enabling good views, before they streamed off up the hill and out of sight. Tawny Owl was calling. The light was by now fading fast, but at the junction a Fox appeared and spent some time close to the van, watching us watching it, before moving off, and we returned to the hotel.

Day 5

Monday 28th May

Val di Rose

This morning, with the promise of fine weather, we decided to do our high walk, up the Val di Rose. We made our own picnics today, before leaving at 8.45am, Mo opting to spend the day in the vicinity of the hotel. We drove back down the Sangro valley, and turned at Villetta Barrea to drive up to Civitella Alfedena, our starting point for the walk. We parked above the village and took path I1, which climbs through a patchwork of forest and glades. We noted the spiny Berberis (*Berberis vulgaris*), native here. Chiffchaff, Blackcap, Robin and Song Thrush were singing.

Under trees, we noted White Helleborine (*Cephalanthera damasonium*) leaves, Bird's-nest Orchid (*Neottia nidus-avis*) and some spikes of Coralroot Orchid (*Corallorhiza trifida*), all just emerging. In the clearings, butterflies included Scarce Swallowtail, Common Blue, Clouded Yellow, Eastern Bath White and Red-underwing Skipper, plus Chimney Sweeper, Mother Shipton and Small Elephant Hawk-moth. A Green Lizard scurried through the Beech leaves and sat on a rock, while several Common Wall Lizards were also seen. The views back down the valley, over the lake, were stunning, as well as being encouraging, as we could see how much we had climbed. A little further on, we could no longer see the lake but started getting tantalising glimpses of the mountain tops. Wood Warbler was singing and gave occasional views as it moved through the trees. When we reached the last glade before the tree line, we stopped for a well-deserved rest. The glade held much less snow than the previous week, but still had patches of Alpine Squill (*Scilla bifolia*) amongst the Lesser Celandines (*Ficaria verna* agg.). We could see an Abruzzo Chamois on the slopes above and, distantly through the scope, a perched Common Rock Thrush.

Eventually we reached the tree line, crossing further snow patches and emerging into a rocky meadow. There were more deep-blue Alpine Squill, mauve Spring Crocus (*Crocus vernus*), clumps of the endemic pansy (*Viola eugeniae*), predominantly in shades of purple, mauve and cream, along with a few yellow Heart-leaved Leopard's-bane (*Doronicum columnae*) and pink Mezereum (*Daphne mezereum*). Intense blues were provided by a Spring Gentian (*Gentiana verna*) and the endemic Alpine Wood Forget-me-not (*Myosotis graui*). A boulder held some beautiful specimens of the endemic Reddish Saxifrage (*Saxifraga porophylla*) and some yellow Bear's Ears (*Primula auricula*). We climbed a short distance further before having our picnic enjoying the fantastic view. A Tree Pipit was singing nearby, and we saw Northern Wheatear, Black Redstart and Red-billed Choughs. An exciting find was two distant Rock Partridge on the horizon, their facial markings clearly visible through the scope – a new sighting for this trip. A nearby boulder held Cobweb Houseleek (*Sempervivum arachnoideum*) and Rock Crane's-bill (*Geranium macrorrhizum*).

The stars, however, of this delightful location were the Abruzzo Chamois, of which we probably saw around eight in total, some giving excellent views. It was a privilege to be able to watch them feeding and resting, apparently unconcerned by our presence. We continued to explore the slopes, enjoying these wildlife encounters. After our picnic some of the group opted to walk up to the ridge, where the views were stupendous. As we went, a Kestrel and another Honey Buzzard flew overhead. Plants included the endemic Cinquefoil *Potentilla rigoana*, and Apennine Buttercup (*Ranunculus apenninus*). From the top, we saw Alpine Pasqueflower (*Anemone alpina*), the endemic Trumpet Gentian (*Gentiana dinarica*), more Spring Gentian and Forget-me-nots and the delightful little

Ciliate Rock-jasmine (*Androsace villosa*). A couple of at first similar yellow pea-flowers on rocky ground were Small Scorpion-vetch (*Coronilla vaginalis*) and a Medick *Medicago prostrata*. Two pairs of Red-billed Chough were flying round, sometimes perching, and calling loudly.

Eventually, we started our slow descent, making our way to the village Bar della Lince, where we refreshed ourselves with cool drinks. As we drove down from Civitella, a Red Deer hind was by the road. We returned to the hotel for welcome showers, another excellent meal, and a quiet evening. It was a strenuous day, but everyone really enjoyed it.

Day 6

Tuesday 29th May

Barrea; Passo Godi; Gioia Vecchio

The early risers were out this morning at 7am, enjoying the local bird life. As well as Serin, Common and Black Redstarts and Tree Sparrows, we heard a distant Wryneck call once, watched a Marsh Tit nesting in the top of a lamp post, and glimpsed a Hoopoe as it flew, but we couldn't relocate it.

After breakfast we left to drive back to the far end of the lake, to the hillside town of Barrea. Before we left, Mark saw a Red Deer stag in the meadow behind the car park. We parked in Barrea overlooking the lake, and we could see where we had walked the previous day. Flocks of Swifts were screaming around us, and Great Crested Grebe were visible on the lake. We took the short path which climbs to Barrea Gorge, noting Thick-leaved Stonecrop (*Sedum dasyphyllum*) flowering on the walls. At the gorge, Red-billed Choughs were playing in the breeze and entering cracks in the cliffs opposite, and a larger flock was seen more distantly. A Sparrowhawk flew overhead, and a very distant, thermalling raptor was probably a Golden Eagle.

Plants included Thick-leaved Saxifrage (*Saxifraga callosa*) with dramatic sprays of creamy-white flowers, Burnt Orchid (*Neotinea ustulata*), Cotoneaster (*Cotoneaster integerrimus*), the tiny Paronychia (*Paronychia kapela*) whose bracts resemble miniature finger-nails (hence its name), an endemic Houseleek (*Sempervivum riccii*) and Winter Savory (*Satureja montana*). Many butterflies were on the wing, including Pearl-bordered, Lesser Spotted and Heath Fritillaries, Scarce Swallowtail, Little Blue, Brown Argus and Clouded Yellow. Many of the bushes of St. Lucie's Cherry (*Prunus mahaleb*) were covered with webs of Orchard Ermine moth and Black-veined White caterpillars. We also saw Humming-bird Hawk-moth, Transparent and Six-spot Burnets, Burnet Companion and Silver-Y moths, an Ascalaphid, Scorpion Fly, Assassin Bug and a bright-red-and-black, male Ladybird Spider, amongst other invertebrates. A longhorn beetle in a drain was later identified as *Herophila tristis*, similar to the beetle *Morimus*, but not confined to ancient forest. Eventually we retraced our steps, and drove to a picnic site by the lake, just across the long bridge. Frogs and small fish could be seen in the shallow water, and Red-veined Darter dragonflies rested on twigs and stalks. Periodically the frogs set up a chorus of croaks. As we were about to leave, Ian recorded a Nine-spotted moth.

Refreshed, we drove north out of Villetta Barrea, climbing towards the Passo Godi. We stopped to see a Red Deer hind resting in a gully by the road, then at a road bend where we noted Man Orchids (*Orchis anthropophora*), Late Spider Orchids (*Ophrys fuciflora*), an endemic Star-thistle, *Centaurea ceratophylla*, with its spiny buds, the

beautiful spikes of St. Bernard's Lily (*Anthericum lilago*), the milkwort *Polygala major*, Sessile Broom (*Cytisophyllum sessilifolium*) and a female Green Huntsman spider. Moving on, we passed through the ski resort at Passo Godi and parked beyond, at the start of path Y1, at about 1,550 metres above sea level. Here we walked along the track and explored the slopes on either side. Birds included Rock Bunting, Linnet, Meadow Pipit, Yellowhammer, Kestrel and Common Buzzard. The slopes bore stunning displays of both colour forms of Elder-flowered Orchids (*Dactylorhiza sambucina*), Pale Orchid (*Orchis pallens*), and we looked through the scope at an area of Sparse-flowered Orchids, Early Purple, and their hybrids (*Orchis pauciflora*, *O. mascula* subsp. *speciosa* and *O. x colemanni*), the hybrids showing a range of colour and form. There was also Spring Gentian (*Gentiana verna*), Tuberous Valerian (*Valeriana tuberosa*) and an endemic Spurge (*Euphorbia gasparrinii* subsp. *samnitica*). We had to leave in good time, as we were having an early dinner before an evening outing. We had just passed the ski resort when we saw a Red-backed Shrike on a roadside kilometre-marker, with food in its beak, and we watched as it dropped into a Juniper bush.

This evening, we again drove slowly towards Gioia Vecchio, but all seemed very quiet. We saw two Red Deer stags and a Roe Deer across the valley and, as we returned, two Wild Boar, scarcely visible in the fading light. Despite it being nearly dark, a Cuckoo was competing with the Field Crickets.

Day 7

Wednesday 30th May

Val Fondillo and Opi meadows; Pescasseroli; Castel Mancino; Bisegna Viewpoint

We heard at Gioia Vecchio last night that there had been a flock of Rosy Starlings in Val Fondillo yesterday afternoon, so we decided to drive down there this morning in case they were still around. As we reached the entrance to the valley, a Nightingale was singing, and a Cirl Bunting took off from a fence. We wandered across to the fields where there is more grazing, getting some excellent views of Red-backed Shrike, and saw three Red Deer hinds silhouetted on the slopes of Monte Marsicano. We soon heard and saw a flock of Starlings fly out of a hedge; we thought they looked like Common Starling, mainly youngsters, but later they flew into a tree and we could see an adult Rosy with them. We had good views and started to walk back towards the track, when a group of about 10 adults were seen in flight, their pink-coloration very clear. They landed in a Poplar tree and, a moment later, we realised that the tree was full of Rosy Starlings, over 50, adults and juveniles. They showed well among the sparse leaves of the Poplar, so we had some excellent views. There has been an eruption into the north of Italy this summer but, according to our Italian source, there had not been other records from the Abruzzo area. We were delighted and returned very satisfied to a slightly late breakfast.

Wednesday is market day in Pescasseroli, so we spent some time looking round the town this morning, doing some shopping and exploring the old parts with their narrow streets and alleys. Before we left, we looked for Firecrest round the hotel, getting reasonable, but mainly silhouetted, views. Our main destination was Castel Mancino, so we drove up to the town cemetery, where we parked under the trees. As we climbed through the coniferous woodland, we could hear Short-toed Treecreeper, Coal Tit and Bonelli's Warbler, as well as the ubiquitous Chiffchaff. We found some Dark Ophrys (*Ophrys sphegodes* subsp. *atrata*), and Adriatic Lizard Orchids (*Himantoglossum adriaticum*) which were just coming into flower on the slopes. We added some nice butterflies and moths, including very fresh 'common' Swallowtail, nectaring on the endemic Treacle Mustard (*Erysimum*

pseudorhaeticum), Spotted Fritillary, Scarce Swallowtail, Clouded Yellow, Green Hairstreak, Brown Argus, Common and Little Blue butterflies, Six-spot and Transparent Burnet moths and a pinkish-coloured micro moth *Synaphe antennalis*. We enjoyed the views from the top of the hill, and the remains of the mediaeval castle, before returning in a loop through a meadow back to the bus.

We returned to the hotel for our final picnic, taken on the sunny terrace, but trying to ignore the building black clouds, before heading back to Pescasseroli for dessert: traditional 'gelati' all round. The rain started as we were choosing, so we ate them in the shelter of the bar. We then drove some of the group back to the hotel before driving back north of the town. However, the further we went, the worse the weather became, so we admitted defeat, and returned to the hotel where, despite the thunder rumbling around, it was still dry.

We met again at 5pm to update our checklists before enjoying a final, delicious dinner together. Having said farewell and thank you to Geraldine, who we would not see in the morning, we then went out again, driving up to the Bisegna road junction, from where we scanned the valley. Apart from a Red Deer hind, all was quiet, so we went on to the Bisegna viewpoint, overlooking a flat meadow with scrub and hills around. As we approached, a Roe Deer buck was in a glade, then three more were seen in the meadow, one barking for a while. Two Red Deer stags were on the hillside, but were obliterated by mist, while another two were silhouetted on the mountain behind us, showing impressive antlers against the sky. Several Cuckoos were calling loudly, including a female several times; other birds heard included Corn Bunting, Skylark, Yellowhammer, Quail and Tawny Owl, the lark song almost drowned by the Field Crickets. A large Wild Boar was rooting in the distance. Eventually, with the light going, we set off back to the hotel, stopping for a Toad crossing the road. As a final flourish, a Glow-worm was shining in the wall of the hotel car park.

Day 8

Thursday 31st May

Pescasseroli to Rome and onwards.

This morning, sadly, we had to leave and head back to Rome. After an early breakfast, we loaded the minibus and said our farewells and thanks to Marco and the staff at Albergo Paradiso, who had looked after us so well. A Hoopoe was calling nearby as we prepared to leave and, en route, we heard Nightingale as well as seeing a Buzzard flying just by us. As we drove back through the park, we were still watching, just in case... We took the route through Bisegna to Pescina and the autostrada, enjoying the scenery. There was a lot of mist, quite thick, above the Avezzano plain, but it was clearer as we started to leave the mountains. Despite busy traffic on the Rome ringroad, we arrived at the airport in good time, where we said farewell to two of the group who were staying in Italy. The rest of us checked in for our journeys home, with many happy memories of the fascinating and beautiful area that is the Abruzzo National Park.

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Species Lists

Plants (* = a species is endemic)

Nomenclature contained within this list follows the taxonomic amendments, based on DNA analysis, made by the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew and the Missouri Botanic Garden, and following The Plant List, an internationally accepted list of vascular plant families, published and maintained by these two Institutions.

Scientific name	Common name	Location
PTERIDOPHYTES		
Leptosporangiate Ferns		
FERNS & ALLIES		
True Ferns		
Aspleniaceae	Spleenwort Family	
<i>Asplenium ceterach</i>	Rusyback	Val Fondillo
<i>Asplenium trichomanes</i>	Maidenhair Spleenwort	Val Fondillo
Cystopteraceae	Bladder-fern Family	
<i>Cystopteris fragilis</i>	Brittle Bladder-fern	Val Fondillo
Polypodiaceae	Polypody Family	
<i>Polypodium vulgare</i> agg.	Common Polypody	Pesco di Lordo
GYMNOSPERMS		
CONIFERS		
Cupressaceae	Juniper Family	
<i>Juniperus communis</i>	Common Juniper	Camosciara
<i>Juniperus communis</i> var. <i>saxatilis</i>	Dwarf Juniper	Val di Rose
Pinaceae	Pine Family	
<i>Pinus mugo</i>	Dwarf Mountain Pine	Val di Rose
<i>Pinus nigra</i> subsp. <i>italica</i> *	Villetta Barrea Black Pine	Camosciara
<i>Pinus nigra</i> subsp. <i>nigra</i>	Austrian or Black Pine	Above Villetta Barrea
<i>Pinus sylvestris</i>	Scots Pine	Castel Mancino
ANGIOSPERMS		
FLOWERING PLANTS		
Eu-dicots		
Adoxaceae	Moschatel Family	
<i>Sambucus ebulus</i>	Dwarf Elder	Camosciara
<i>Sambucus nigra</i>	Elder	Roadsides
<i>Viburnum lantana</i>	Wayfaring Tree	Castel Mancino
Apiaceae	Carrot Family	
<i>Aegopodium podagraria</i>	Ground Elder	Camosciara
<i>Anthriscus sylvestris</i>	Cow Parsley	Castel Mancino
<i>Eryngium amethystinum</i>	Blue Eryngo	Val Fondillo
Apocynaceae	Periwinkle Family	
<i>Vincetoxicum hirundinaria</i>	Swallow-wort	Hotel
Araliaceae	Ivy Family	
<i>Hedera helix</i>	Ivy	Civitella Alfadena

Scientific name	Common name	Location
Berberidaceae <i>Berberis vulgaris</i>	Barberry Family Barberry	Above Civitella Alfedena
Betulaceae <i>Corylus avellana</i>	Birch Family Hazel	Val Fondillo
Boraginaceae <i>Cynoglossum magellense*</i> <i>Cynoglossum montanum</i> <i>Cynoglottis barrellieri</i> <i>Echium vulgare</i> subsp. <i>pustulatum</i> <i>Myosotis graui*</i> <i>Myosotis incrassata</i> <i>Onosma echioides</i> <i>Pulmonaria cf apennina*</i> <i>Solenanthus apenninus*</i>	Forget-me-not Family a Hound's-tongue Mountain Hound's-tongue an Anchusa (Blue) a Viper's-bugloss Alpine Wood Forget-me-not - A Golden-drops A Lungwort Solenanthus	Pesco di Lordo Pesco di Lordo Hotel Castel Mancino Pesco di Lordo Val Fondillo Roadsides Camosciara Pesco di Lordo
Brassicaceae <i>Arabis caucasica</i> <i>Barbarea</i> sp. <i>Cardamine bulbifera</i> <i>Draba aizoides</i> <i>Erysimum pseudorhaeticum*</i> <i>Hesperis laciniata</i> <i>Isatis tinctoria</i>	Cabbage Family Alpine Rock-cress A Wintercress Coralroot Yellow Whitlow-grass a Treacle Mustard Cut-leaved Dame's Violet Woad	Val di Rose Val Fondillo La Difesa Val di Rose Hotel Val Fondillo Road near Camosciara
Caprifoliaceae <i>Dipsacus fullonum</i> <i>Lonicera caprifolium</i> <i>Lonicera xylosteum</i> <i>Valeriana officinalis</i> <i>Valeriana tuberosa</i>	Honeysuckle Family Wild Teasel Perfoliate Honeysuckle Fly Honeysuckle Common Valerian Tuberous Valerian	Camosciara Camosciara Camosciara Val Fondillo - in bud Val di Rose
Caryophyllaceae <i>Cerastium tomentosum</i> <i>Paronychia kapela</i> <i>Silene conica</i> <i>Silene dioica</i> <i>Silene italica</i> <i>Silene latifolia</i> <i>Silene pendula</i> <i>Silene pusilla</i>	Pink Family Snow-in-Summer a Paronychia Sand Catchfly Red Champion Italian Catchfly White Champion Nodding Catchfly an Alpine Catchfly	Hotel Barrea Gorge Hotel Camosciara Val Fondillo Camosciara Road near Camosciara Opi
Cistaceae <i>Helianthemum nummularium</i> <i>Helianthemum oelandicum</i> subsp. <i>incanum</i>	Rock-rose Family Rock-rose Hoary Rock-rose	Val Fondillo Val Fondillo
Compositae (Asteraceae) <i>Bellis perennis</i> <i>Bellis sylvestris</i>	Daisy Family Daisy Southern Daisy	Camosciara Camosciara

Scientific name	Common name	Location
<i>Carlina acanthifolia</i>	Acanthus-leaved Carline Thistle	Val Fondillo - remains
<i>Centaurea ceratophylla</i> *	-	Above Villetta Barrea
<i>Cirsium tenoreanum</i>	a Woolly Thistle	Camosciara - leaves
<i>Cyanus (Centaurea) triumfettii</i>	A Perennial Cornflower	Barrea Gorge
<i>Doronicum columnae</i>	Heart-leaved Leopard's-bane	Val di Rose
<i>Helichrysum stoechas</i>	Curry Plant	Above Villetta Barrea
<i>Leucanthemum vulgare</i>	Ox-eye Daisy	Hotel
<i>Petasites hybridus</i>	Butterbur	Camosciara
<i>Tragopogon porrifolius</i>	Salsify	Barrea Gorge
<i>Tragopogon pratensis</i>	A Goat's-beard	Roadsides
Convolvulaceae	Bindweed Family	
<i>Cuscuta epithymum</i>	Common Dodder	Val Fondillo
Cornaceae	Dogwood Family	
<i>Cornus mas</i>	Cornelian Cherry	Camosciara
<i>Cornus sanguinea</i>	Dogwood	Camosciara
Crassulaceae	Stonecrop Family	
<i>Sedum album</i>	White Stonecrop	Barrea Gorge
<i>Sedum dasyphyllum</i>	Fat-leaved Stonecrop	Val Fondillo
<i>Sempervivum arachnoideum</i>	Cobweb Houseleek	Val di Rose
<i>Sempervivum riccii</i> *	A Houseleek	Barrea Gorge
Euphorbiaceae	Spurge Family	
<i>Euphorbia amygdaloides</i>	Wood Spurge	La Difesa
<i>Euphorbia cyparissias</i>	Cypress Spurge	Hotel
<i>Euphorbia gasparrinii</i> subsp. <i>samnitica</i> *	An endemic Spurge	Passo Godi
<i>Euphorbia helioscopia</i>	Sun Spurge	Barrea Gorge
<i>Euphorbia myrsinites</i>	Glaucous Spurge	Val Fondillo
<i>Mercurialis perennis</i>	Dog's Mercury	Camosciara
Fagaceae	Beech Family	
<i>Fagus sylvatica</i>	Beech	Common
<i>Quercus cerris</i>	Turkey Oak	Camosciara
<i>Quercus pubescens</i>	Downy Oak	Camosciara
Gentianaceae	Gentian Family	
<i>Gentiana dinarica</i> *	a Trumpet Gentian	Camosciara
<i>Gentiana lutea</i>	Great Yellow Gentian	Pesco di Lordo - leaves
<i>Gentiana verna</i>	Spring Gentian	Val di Rose
Geraniaceae	Crane's-bill Family	
<i>Erodium cicutarium</i>	Common Stork's-bill	Val Fondillo
<i>Geranium austroapenninum</i> * (<i>subcaulescens</i>)	Ashy Crane's-bill	Pesco di Lordo
<i>Geranium macrorrhizum</i>	Rock Crane's-bill	Val di Rose
<i>Geranium molle</i>	Dove's-foot Crane's-bill	Barrea Gorge
<i>Geranium pyrenaicum</i>	Hedgerow Crane's-bill	Camosciara
<i>Geranium reflexum</i>	Reflexed Crane's-bill	Camosciara
<i>Geranium robertianum</i>	Herb Robert	Val Fondillo

Scientific name	Common name	Location
Grossulariaceae	Gooseberry Family	
<i>Ribes uva-crispa</i>	Gooseberry	La Difesa
Lamiaceae	Deadnettle Family	
<i>Ajuga chamaepitys</i>	Ground Pine	Val Fondillo
<i>Ajuga reptans</i>	Bugle	Camosciara
<i>Clinopodium (Acinos) alpinum</i>	Alpine Basil Thyme	Passo Godi
<i>Lamium album</i>	White Dead-nettle	La Difesa
<i>Lamium garganicum</i>	Large Red Dead-nettle	Hotel
<i>Lamium maculatum</i>	Spotted Dead-nettle	Camosciara
<i>Melittis melissophyllum</i>	Bastard Balm	Camosciara
<i>Mentha aquatica</i>	Water Mint	Val Fondillo
<i>Salvia verbenaca</i>	Wild Clary	Val Fondillo
<i>Satureja montana</i>	Winter Savory	Barrea Gorge
<i>Thymus oenipontanus</i>	Wild Thyme	Camosciara
Leguminosae (Fabaceae)	Pea Family	
<i>Anthyllis vulneraria</i> agg.	Kidney Vetch	Camosciara
<i>Astragalus depressus</i>	Sprawling Milk-vetch	Val di Rose
<i>Astragalus monspessulanus</i>	False Vetch	Camosciara
<i>Astragalus sempervirens</i>	Mountain Tragacanth	Val di Rose
<i>Coronilla vaginialis</i>	Small Scorpion-vetch	Val di Rose
<i>Cytisophyllum sessilifolium</i>	Sessile Broom	Above Villetta Barrea
<i>Cytisus spinescens</i>	Spiny Broom	Val Fondillo
<i>Hedysarum coronarium</i>	Italian Sainfoin	Roadsides
<i>Hippocrepis comosa</i>	Horseshoe Vetch	Camosciara
<i>Laburnum anagroides</i>	Laburnum	Roadsides
<i>Lathyrus setifolius</i>	Red Grass Vetchling	Camosciara
<i>Lathyrus venetus</i>	A Spring Pea	La Difesa
<i>Lathyrus vernus</i>	Spring Pea	La Difesa
<i>Lotus corniculatus</i>	Bird's-foot Trefoil	Camosciara
<i>Medicago prostrata</i>	A Medick	Val di Rose
<i>Onobrychis viciifolia</i>	Sainfoin	Camosciara
<i>Pisum sativum</i>	Wild Pea	Near La Difesa
<i>Spartium junceum</i>	Spanish Broom	Roadsides
<i>Trifolium incarnatum</i> subsp. <i>molinerii</i>	a Crimson Clover	Barrea Gorge
<i>Trifolium nigrescens</i>	A small white clover	Barrea Gorge
<i>Trifolium resupinatum</i>	Reversed Clover	Camosciara
<i>Vicia villosa</i>	Fodder Vetch	Hotel
Lentibulariaceae	Butterwort Family	
<i>Pinguicula vallis-regiae</i> *	Camosciara Butterwort	Camosciara
Linaceae	Flax Family	
<i>Linum bienne</i>	Pale Flax	Val Fondillo
Oleaceae	Olive Family	
<i>Fraxinus ornus</i>	Flowering Ash	Camosciara

Scientific name	Common name	Location
Orobanchaceae	Broomrape Family	
<i>Euphrasia</i> agg.	Eyebright	Val Fondillo
<i>Parentucellia latifolia</i>	Southern Red Bartsia	Val Fondillo
<i>Pedicularis hoermanniana</i>	a Leafy Lousewort	Camosciara
<i>Rhinanthus minor</i> agg.	Yellow Rattle	Val Fondillo
Papaveraceae	Poppy Family	
<i>Chelidonium majus</i>	Greater Celandine	Val Fondillo
<i>Papaver argemone</i>	Prickly Poppy	Barrea Gorge
<i>Papaver rhoeas</i>	Common Poppy	Roadsides
Plantaginaceae	Plantain Family	
<i>Cymbalaria muralis</i>	Ivy-leaved Toadflax	Opi
<i>Digitalis ferruginea</i>	Brown Foxglove	Camosciara - leaves
<i>Globularia vulgaris</i>	Common Globularia	Camosciara
<i>Plantago atrata</i>	Dark Plantain	Val di Rose
<i>Plantago media</i>	Hoary Plantain	Val Fondillo
<i>Veronica beccabunga</i>	Brooklime	Val Fondillo
<i>Veronica chamaedrys</i>	Germander Speedwell	Camosciara
<i>Veronica orsiniana</i>	a Speedwell	Pesco di Lordo
<i>Veronica serpyllifolia</i>	Thyme-leaved Speedwell	La Difesa
Plumbaginaceae	Thrift Family	
<i>Armeria canescens</i>	Plantain-leaved Thrift	Val Fondillo
Polygalaceae	Milkwort Family	
<i>Polygala alpestris</i>	Mountain Milkwort	Val di Rose
<i>Polygala chamaebuxus</i>	Shrubby Milkwort	Camosciara
<i>Polygala major</i>	A Milkwort	Val Fondillo
<i>Polygala nicaeensis</i>	Nice Milkwort	Camosciara
Primulaceae	Primrose Family	
<i>Androsace villosa</i>	Ciliate Rock-jasmine	Val di Rose
<i>Primula auricula</i>	Bear's-ear	Camosciara
<i>Primula vulgaris</i>	Primrose	Val Fondillo - leaves
Ranunculaceae	Buttercup Family	
<i>Actea spicata</i>	Baneberry	La Difesa
<i>Anemone (Pulsatilla) alpina</i>	Alpine Pasqueflower	Val di Rose
<i>Aquilegia vulgaris</i>	Columbine	Camosciara
<i>Delphinium fissum</i>	a Delphinium	Camosciara - leaves
<i>Helleborus foetidus</i>	Stinking Hellebore	Camosciara
<i>Hepatica nobilis</i>	Hepatica	Camosciara - leaves
<i>Ranunculus apenninus</i>	Apennine Buttercup	Val di Rose
<i>Ranunculus bulbosus</i>	Bulbous Buttercup	Camosciara
<i>Ranunculus millefoliatus</i>	Million-leaved Buttercup	Val di Rose
<i>Ranunculus montpeliacus</i>	-	Hotel
<i>Ranunculus pencillatus</i>	Stream Water Crowfoot	Val Fondillo
<i>Ranunculus serpens</i> subsp. <i>nemorosus</i>	Wood Buttercup	La Difesa
<i>Ranunculus thora</i>	Thore's Buttercup	Camosciara

Scientific name	Common name	Location
<i>Thalictrum aquilegifolium</i> <i>Thalictrum simplex</i>	Great Meadow-rue	Camosciara
Rhamnaceae <i>Rhamnus alpinus</i>	Buckthorn Family Alpine Buckthorn	Pesco di Lordo
Rosaceae <i>Aremonia agrimonoides</i> <i>Crataegus laevigata</i> <i>Crataegus monogyna</i> <i>Fragaria vesca</i> <i>Geum urbanum</i> <i>Malus sylvestris</i> <i>Potentilla detommasii</i> <i>Potentilla rigoana*</i> <i>Prunus mahaleb</i> <i>Prunus spinosa</i> <i>Pyrus pyraeaster</i> <i>Rosa canina</i> agg. <i>Rubus fruticosus</i> agg. <i>Rubus idaeus</i> <i>Sanguisorba minor</i>	Rose Family Bastard Agrimony Midland Hawthorn Hawthorn Wild Strawberry Wood Avens Crab Apple A Sulphur Cinquefoil a Cinquefoil St. Lucie's Cherry Blackthorn Wild Pear Dog Rose Bramble Raspberry Salad Burnet	La Difesa Val di Rose Camosciara Camosciara La Difesa Camosciara Val Fondillo Val di Rose Barrea Gorge / Hotel Camosciara Camosciara Camosciara Camosciara Val Fondillo
Rubiaceae <i>Cruciata laevipes</i> <i>Galium aparine</i> <i>Galium mollugo</i> <i>Galium odoratum</i> <i>Sherardia arvensis</i>	Bedstraw Family Crosswort Cleavers Hedge Bedstraw Woodruff Field Madder	Camosciara Camosciara Barrea La Difesa Val Fondillo
Salicaceae <i>Populus nigra</i> agg. <i>Salix alba</i> <i>Salix caprea</i>	Willow Family Black Poplar White Willow Goat Willow	Val Fondillo Val Fondillo Camosciara
Santalaceae <i>Viscum album</i>	Sandalwood Family Mistletoe	Camosciara
Sapindaceae <i>Acer campestre</i> <i>Acer monspessulanum</i> <i>Acer opalus</i> <i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>	Maple Family Field Maple Montpelier Maple Italian Maple Sycamore	Camosciara Val di Rose Camosciara Gioia Vecchio
Saxifragaceae <i>Saxifraga bulbifera</i> <i>Saxifraga callosa</i> <i>Saxifraga granulata</i> <i>Saxifraga porophylla*</i> <i>Saxifraga rotundifolia</i>	Saxifrage Family Bulbous Saxifrage Thick-leaved Saxifrage Meadow Saxifrage Reddish Saxifrage Round-leaved Saxifrage	Passo Godi Barrea Gorge Val Fondillo / Hotel Val Fondillo La Difesa

Scientific name	Common name	Location
<i>Saxifraga tridactylites</i>	Rue-leaved Saxifrage	Val Fondillo
Scrophulariaceae	Figwort Family	
<i>Scrophularia canina</i> subsp. <i>canina</i>	Dog (French) Figwort	Hotel
<i>Verbascum thapsus</i>	Aaron's Rod	Camosciara
Thymelaeaceae	Daphne Family	
<i>Daphne laureola</i>	Spurge Laurel	Camosciara
<i>Daphne mezereum</i>	Mezereon	Val di Rose
<i>Daphne oleoides</i>	-	Val di Rose
Urticaceae	Nettle Family	
<i>Urtica dioica</i>	Nettle	Val Fondillo
Violaceae	Violet Family	
<i>Viola alba</i> subsp. <i>dehnhardtii</i>	A Violet (mauve)	Camosciara
<i>Viola arvense</i>	Field Pansy	Val Fondillo
<i>Viola eugeniae</i> *	a Pansy	Val Fondillo
<i>Viola odorata</i>	Sweet Violet	Val di Rose
Monocots	Monocotyledons	
Amaryllidaceae	Daffodil Family	
<i>Allium saxatile</i>	Rock Onion	Val di Rose
<i>Galanthus nivalis</i>	Snowdrop	La Difesa - leaves
Araceae	Arum Family	
<i>Arum maculatum</i>	Cuckoo Pint	Passo Godi
Asparagaceae	Asparagus Family	
<i>Anthericum liliago</i>	St. Bernards Lily	Above Villetta Barrea
<i>Leopoldia (Muscari) comosa</i>	Tassel Hyacinth	Val Fondillo
<i>Muscari neglectum</i>	Dark Grape Hyacinth	Val Fondillo
<i>Ornithogalum umbellatum</i>	Common Star-of-Bethlehem	Camosciara
<i>Polygonatum multiflorum</i>	Solomon's Seal	Camosciara
<i>Scilla bifolia</i>	Alpine Squill	Val di Rose
Iridaceae	Iris Family	
<i>Crocus vernus</i>	Spring Crocus	Val di Rose
<i>Iris germanica</i>	German Iris	Gioia Vecchio
<i>Iris marsica</i> *	Marsican Iris	Pesco di Lordo
Liliaceae	Lily Family	
<i>Gagea bohemica</i>	a Yellow Star-of-Bethlehem	Val di Rose
Melanthiaceae	Herb-Paris Family	
<i>Paris quadrifolia</i>	Herb-Paris	La Difesa
<i>Veratrum lobelianum</i>	Green False-helleborine	Val Fondillo
Orchidaceae	Orchid Family	
<i>Anacamptis morio</i> subsp. <i>morio</i>	Green-winged Orchid	Camosciara

Scientific name	Common name	Location
<i>Cephalanthera damasonium</i>	White Helleborine	Camosciara
<i>Cephalanthera longifolia</i>	Sword-leaved Helleborine	Camosciara
<i>Corallorhiza trifida</i>	Coralroot Orchid	Camosciara
<i>Cypripedium calceolus</i>	Lady's Slipper Orchid	Camosciara
<i>Dactylorhiza fuchsii</i>	Common Spotted Orchid	Camosciara - in bud
<i>Dactylorhiza incarnata</i>	Early Marsh Orchid	Val Fondillo
<i>Dactylorhiza saccifera</i>		Camosciara
<i>Dactylorhiza sambucina</i>	Elder-flowered Orchid	Passo Godi
<i>Gymnadenia conopsea</i> agg	Fragrant Orchid	Camosciara - in bud
<i>Himantoglossum adriaticum</i>	Adriatic Lizard Orchid	Castel Mancino
<i>Neotinea (Orchis) tridentata</i>	Toothed Orchid	Hotel
<i>Neotinea (Orchis) ustulata</i>	Burnt Orchid	Barrea Gorge
<i>Neottia ovata</i>	Twayblade	Camosciara
<i>Neottia nidus-avis</i>	Bird's Nest Orchid	Camosciara
<i>Ophrys bertolonii</i>	Bertoloni's Bee Orchid	Val Fondillo
<i>Ophrys fuciflora</i> subsp. <i>fuciflora</i>	Late Spider Orchid	Above Villetta Barrea
<i>Ophrys fuciflora</i> subsp. <i>fuciflora</i> (<i>O. dinarica</i>)	A Late Spider Orchid	Val Fondillo
<i>Ophrys insectifera</i>	Fly Orchid	Camosciara
<i>Ophrys sphegodes</i> subsp. <i>atrata</i> (<i>incubacea</i>)	Dark Ophrys	Castel Mancino
<i>Orchis anthropophora</i>	Man Orchid	Above Villetta Barrea
<i>Orchis mascula</i> subsp. <i>speciosa</i> (<i>O. ovalis</i>)	an Early Purple Orchid	Camosciara
<i>Orchis x colemannii</i> (<i>O. mascula x pauciflora</i>)	Hybrid Orchid	Passo Godi
<i>Orchis militaris</i>	Military Orchid	Camosciara
<i>Orchis pallens</i>	Pale-flowered Orchid	Passo Godi
<i>Orchis pauciflora</i>	Sparse Flowered Orchid	Passo Godi
<i>Orchis purpurea</i>	Lady Orchid	Camosciara

Poaceae*Poa bulbosa* subsp. *vivipara***Grass Family**

Viviparous Meadow-grass

Val Fondillo

Xanthorrhoeaceae*Asphodeline lutea***Asphodel Family**

Yellow Asphodel

Roadsides near Camosciara

FUNGI**Lecanoromycetes***Lobaria pulmonaria*

Lungwort

Camosciara

Ascomycetes*Daldinia concentrica*

King Alfred's Cakes

La Difesa

Nectra cinnabarinum

Coral Spot

La Difesa

Basidiomycetes*Fomes fomentarius*

Hoof Fungus

La Difesa

Ganoderma applanatum

Artist's Bracket

La Difesa

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

	Common name	Scientific name	May							
			24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31
1	Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>							✓	✓
2	Rock Partridge	<i>Alectoris graeca</i>					✓			
3	Common Quail	<i>Cortunix cortunix</i>							H	
4	Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>						✓		

	Common name	Scientific name	May							
			24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31
5	Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	✓							
6	European Honey Buzzard	<i>Pernis apivorus</i>				✓	✓			
7	Golden Eagle	<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>			1			1		
8	Eurasian Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>						1		
9	Common Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓
10	Eurasian Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>						✓		
11	Yellow-legged Gull	<i>Larus michahellis</i>	✓							
12	Rock Dove/Feral Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
13	Common Wood Pigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
14	Common Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>	H	3	H	H	H	H	H	
15	Tawny Owl	<i>Strix aluco</i>				H			H	
16	Common Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
17	Eurasian Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>			✓	H		✓		H
18	Eurasian Wryneck	<i>Jynx torquilla</i>						H		
19	Great Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>					✓			
20	European Green Woodpecker	<i>Picus viridis</i>				H	H	H		
21	Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	✓			✓	✓	✓		✓
22	Red-backed Shrike	<i>Lanius collurio</i>		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	
23	Eurasian Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>	✓	✓						
24	Common Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
25	Red-billed Chough	<i>Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax</i>					✓	✓		
26	Western Jackdaw	<i>Coloeus monedula</i>	✓							✓
27	Hooded Crow	<i>Corvus cornix</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
28	Northern Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>						H		
29	Coal Tit	<i>Parus ater</i>				H			✓	H
30	Marsh Tit	<i>Poecile palustris</i>				✓		✓		
31	Eurasian Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
32	Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>		✓	✓	✓	H	H	✓	H
33	Eurasian Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>							H	
34	Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
35	Eurasian Crag Martin	<i>Ptyonoprogne rupestris</i>			✓					
36	Common House Martin	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
37	Common Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>	H	H	H	✓	✓	H	✓	H
38	Western Bonelli's Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus bonelli</i>			H	H		✓	H	
39	Wood Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus sibilatrix</i>				H	✓			
40	Eurasian Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>	H	✓	H	H	H	H	H	H
41	Common Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia communis</i>				✓		H		
42	Common Firecrest	<i>Regulus ignicapillus</i>		✓		H			✓	
43	Eurasian Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>			✓		H	H		
44	Eurasian Nuthatch	<i>Sitta europaea</i>				✓				
45	Short-toed Treecreeper	<i>Certhia brachydactyla</i>							H	
46	Rose-coloured Starling	<i>Pastor roseus</i>							✓	
47	Common Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
48	Common Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
49	Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>		H	H	H	H	H	H	H
50	European Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>		H	✓	✓	H	H	✓	
51	Common Nightingale	<i>Luscinia megarhynchos</i>	✓						H	H
52	Black Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

	Common name	Scientific name	May							
			24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31
53	Common Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
54	Northern Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>				✓	✓		✓	
55	Common Rock Thrush	<i>Monticola saxatilis</i>					✓			
56	Italian Sparrow	<i>Passer italiae</i>	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
57	Eurasian Tree Sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
58	White Wagtail	<i>Montacilla alba</i>	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	
59	Meadow Pipit	<i>Anthus pratensis</i>		✓				✓		
60	Tree Pipit	<i>Anthus trivialis</i>					H			
61	Common Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
62	Eurasian Bullfinch	<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>			LO	✓				
63	European Greenfinch	<i>Chloris chloris</i>				✓			✓	
64	Common Linnet	<i>Linaria cannabina</i>			LO			✓	✓	
65	Red Crossbill	<i>Loxia curvirosta</i>				✓				
66	European Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
67	Citril Finch	<i>Carduelis citrinella</i>								
68	European Serin	<i>Serinus serinus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
69	Corn Bunting	<i>Emberiza calandra</i>			H	✓			H	
70	Yellowhammer	<i>Emberiza citrinella</i>						✓	H	
71	Rock Bunting	<i>Emberiza cia</i>						✓		
72	Cirl Bunting	<i>Emberiza cirlus</i>				H			✓	

MAMMALS (S = Sign (Includes Scats / Droppings))

1	Roman Mole	<i>Talpa romana</i>				S		S		
2	Red Fox	<i>Vulpes vulpes</i>				1				
3	Grey Wolf	<i>Canis lupus</i>				S	S			
4	Marsican Brown Bear	<i>Ursus arctos marsicanus</i>	1							
5	Red Deer	<i>Cervus elaphus</i>	1	4	1	1	1	4	7	1
6	European Roe Deer	<i>Capreolus capreolus</i>		3				1	5	1
7	Apennine or Abruzzo Chamois	<i>Rupicapra pyrenaica ornata</i>					8+			
8	Wild Boar	<i>Sus scrofa</i>		32+	1	40+	S	2	1	
9	Apennine or Corsican Hare	<i>Lepus corsicanus</i>		1						
10	Snow Vole	<i>Microtus nivalis</i>					S			

Reptiles & Amphibians:

1	Common Toad	<i>Bufo bufo</i>		1		✓	✓		1	
2	cf Italian Hybrid Frog	<i>cf Pelophylax kl. hispanica</i>						✓		
3	Western Green Lizard	<i>Lacerta bilineata</i>				✓	✓	✓		
4	Common Wall Lizard	<i>Podarcis muralis</i>		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	

Fish:

1	Brown Trout	<i>Salmo trutta</i>		✓	✓					
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Butterflies (C = Caterpillar; P = Pupa)

1	Swallowtail	<i>Papilio machaon</i>						✓	✓	
2	Scarce Swallowtail	<i>Iphiclides podalirius</i>		✓	✓			✓	✓	✓
3	Black-veined White	<i>Aporia crataegi</i>			C/P	C		C		
4	Large White	<i>Pieris brassicae</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	

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			24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31
5	Small White	<i>Pieris rapae</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
6	Green-veined White	<i>Pieris napi</i>		✓						
7	Eastern Bath White	<i>Pontia edusa</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
8	Orange Tip	<i>Anthocharis cardamines</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
9	Clouded Yellow	<i>Colias crocea</i>		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	
10	Berger's Clouded Yellow	<i>Colias alfacariensis</i>			✓			✓		
11	Brimstone	<i>Gonepteryx rhamni</i>			✓	✓		✓		
12	Wood White	<i>Leptidea sinapis</i>		✓	✓					
13	Green Hairstreak	<i>Callophrys rubi</i>			✓	✓		✓	✓	
14	Small Copper	<i>Lycaena phlaeas</i>				✓				
15	Little Blue	<i>Cupido minimus</i>			✓			✓	✓	
16	Baton Blue	<i>Pseudophilotes baton</i>			✓					
17	Brown Argus	<i>Aricia agestis</i>		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	
18	Mazarine Blue	<i>Cyaniris semiargus</i>		✓	✓					
19	Adonis Blue	<i>Polyommatus bellargus</i>			✓					
20	Common Blue	<i>Polyommatus icarus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
21	Duke of Burgundy	<i>Hamearis lucina</i>		✓	✓	✓				
22	Red Admiral	<i>Vanessa atalanta</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓		
23	Painted Lady	<i>Vanessa cardui</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
24	Queen of Spain Fritillary	<i>Issoria lathonia</i>				✓				
25	Pearl-bordered Fritillary	<i>Boloria euphrosyne</i>		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	
26	Glanville Fritillary	<i>Melitaea cinxia</i>			✓			✓		
27	Spotted Fritillary	<i>Melitaea didyma</i>								✓
28	Lesser Spotted Fritillary	<i>Melitaea trivia</i>						✓		
29	Heath Fritillary	<i>Melitaea athalia</i>						✓		
30	Small Heath	<i>Coenonympha pamphilus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
31	Speckled Wood	<i>Pararge aegeria</i>		✓		✓				✓
32	Wall Brown	<i>Lasiommata megera</i>						✓	✓	
33	Large Wall Brown	<i>Lasiommata maera</i>						✓		
34	Southern Grizzled Skipper	<i>Pyrgus malvoides</i>			✓			✓		
35	Oberthür's Grizzled Skipper	<i>Pyrgus armoricanus</i>			✓					
36	Red-underwing Skipper	<i>Spialia sertorius</i>			✓		✓	✓		
37	Dingy Skipper	<i>Erynnis tages</i>				✓				
38	Lulworth Skipper	<i>Thymelicus acteon</i>								

Moths

1	Grass-moth spp	<i>Crambidae sp.</i>		✓	✓					
2	A Pyralid moth	<i>Synaphe antennalis</i>								✓
3	Orchard Ermine	<i>Yponomeuta padella</i>						C		
4	Six-spot Burnet	<i>Zygaena filipendulae</i>						✓	✓	
5	Transparent Burnet	<i>Zygaena purpuralis</i>						✓	✓	
6	Eastern Eggar	<i>Eriogaster catax</i>		C						
7	Chimney Sweeper	<i>Odezia atrata</i>					✓	✓		
8	Speckled Yellow	<i>Pseudopanthera macularia</i>					✓	✓		
9	Narrow-bordered Bee Hawk-moth	<i>Hemaris tityus</i>		✓						
10	Humming-bird Hawk-moth	<i>Macroglossum stellatarum</i>						✓	✓	
11	Small Elephant Hawk-moth	<i>Deilephila porcellus</i>					✓			
12	Feathered Footman	<i>Spiris striata</i>			✓					

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			24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31
13	Nine-spotted	<i>Amata phegea</i>						✓		
14	Light Feathered Rustic	<i>Agrostis cinerea</i>		✓						
15	Silver Y	<i>Autographa gamma</i>			✓			✓		
16	Mother Shipton	<i>Callistege mi</i>			✓		✓	✓		
17	Burnet Companion	<i>Euclidia glyphica</i>						✓		
18	A European Noctuid	<i>Hadena magnolii</i>		✓						

Other Invertebrates (N = Nymph; Lo = Leader Only)

1	Mayfly	<i>Ephemera sp.</i>		✓	✓					
2	Red-veined Darter	<i>Sympetrum fonscolombii</i>						✓		
3	Roesel's Bush-cricket	<i>Metrioptera roeselii</i>						N		
4	Field Cricket	<i>Gryllus campestris</i>	H	H	H	✓	H	H	H	H
5	Lined Shield Bug	<i>Graphosoma lineatum ssp. italicum</i>				✓		✓		
6	Vernal Shield Bug	<i>Peribalus strictus</i>			✓					
7	Hairy Shield Bug	<i>Dolycoris baccarum</i>			✓					
8	A Shield Bug (q orange)	<i>Carpocoris pudicus</i>			✓					
9	Tortoise Shield Bug	<i>Eurygaster testudinaria</i>			✓					
10	Assassin Bug	<i>Rhinocoris iracundus</i>						✓		
11	Cicada	<i>Cicadetta montana</i>	H					H		
12	Red and black Froghopper	<i>Cercopis vulnerata</i>			✓			✓		
13	Ascalaphid	<i>Libelloides coccajus</i>						✓	✓	
14	Scorpion Fly	<i>Panorpa sp. (cf. communis)</i>						✓		
15	Caddis Fly	<i>Trichoptera sp.</i>								
16	Bee Fly	<i>Bombylius cf. major</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
17	Black and white spotted Bee Fly	<i>Bombylius atra</i>			LO					
18	Violet Carpenter Bee	<i>Xylocopa violacea</i>						✓	✓	
19	Honey Bee	<i>Apis mellifera</i>						✓		
20	White-tailed Bumblebee	<i>Bombus lucorum</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓		
21	Common Carder Bee	<i>Bombus pascuorum</i>		✓				✓	✓	
22	Green Tiger Beetle	<i>Cicindela campestris</i>			✓					
23	Dor Beetle	<i>Geotrupes stercorarius</i>					✓			
24	Rose Chafer	<i>Cetonia aurata</i>				✓				
25	a Click Beetle	<i>cf Selatosomus amplicollis</i>				✓				
26	(Red-headed) Cardinal Beetle	<i>Pyrochroa serraticornis</i>				✓				
27	Glow-worm	<i>Lampyris noctiluca</i>							✓	
28	7-Spot Ladybird	<i>Coccinella 7-punctata</i>					✓	✓	✓	
29	2-Spot Ladybird	<i>Adalia bipunctata</i>						✓	✓	
30	Cream-spot Ladybird	<i>Calvia 14-guttata</i>					✓		✓	
31	a Longhorn Beetle	<i>Morimus asper agg.</i>				✓				
32	a Longhorn Beetle	<i>Herophila tristis</i>						✓		
33	Millipede	<i>cf Tachypodoiulus niger</i>			✓					
34	Ladybird Spider	<i>Eresus niger</i>						✓		
35	Red-bellied Jumping Spider	<i>Philaeus chrysops</i>			✓					
36	Green Huntsman Spider	<i>Micrommata virescens</i>						✓		

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Burnt Orchid by Ian Parker



Mazarine Blue by Mark Thomas