

# Spring Birding in Sicily

Naturetrek Tour Report

16th – 23rd April 2026

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Audouin's Gull



Greater Flamingoes



Striped Hawk-moth



Common Swallowtail

Tour report by Marcus Ward

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Naturetrek    Mingledown Barn    Wolf's Lane    Chawton    Alton    Hampshire    GU34 3HJ    UK

T: +44 (0)1962 733051

E: [info@naturetrek.co.uk](mailto:info@naturetrek.co.uk)

W: [www.naturetrek.co.uk](http://www.naturetrek.co.uk)

Tour participants: Marcus Ward and Emily Griffin (leaders) with 14 Naturetrek clients

## Summary

A memorable week in Sicily delivered an outstanding mix of birds, wildlife, scenery and culture. From the wetlands of Foce del Simeto, Vendicari Nature Reserve, and Siracusa Salinas to the private reserve at Pantano Cuba e Longarini, the group enjoyed excellent birding, with highlights including Greater Flamingo, Collared Pratincole, Ferruginous Duck, Richard's Pipit, Blue-cheeked Bee-eater, Red-footed Falcon and Eastern Black-eared Wheatear. Offshore watches produced Scopoli's Shearwater, while migration brought a steady arrival of warblers, flycatchers and wagtails. Moth trapping added further interest, with Striped Hawk-moth a particular favourite. Beyond the wildlife, the dramatic landscapes of Mount Etna, the gorge at Cava Grande del Cassibile, and the historic streets of Noto and Siracusa added great variety. Combined with excellent food, warm hospitality and a cheerful group, it made for a thoroughly enjoyable week.

## Day 1

Thursday 16th April

### Arrival in Sicily

Marcus and Emily met the group at the arrivals gate at Catania Airport, after an extremely early start for most. After organising the transport, we got underway and headed directly for Foce del Simeto, for a well-earned leg stretch. Upon arrival, we spotted our first Bee-eaters of the trip perched on overhead wires. While enjoying our first picnic lunch of the trip (nicely laid out on the bonnet, as the boot was full of luggage!), the group began spotting some of the regular cast of birds for the week, including a lovely singing Crested Lark, Sardinian Warbler and an obliging Eastern Subalpine Warbler, all set against the dramatic backdrop of snow-covered Mount Etna.

After what had been a rainy morning, the sky cleared for the short walk to the mouth of the Simeto River. The flora-lined pathway appeared to be alive with insects, while notable plant species included a lone Man Orchid and a beautiful display of French Honeysuckle. The gull roost at the river mouth produced a great mix of birds, including Caspian, Gull-billed, Sandwich and Common Terns, alongside Mediterranean, Black-headed, Audouin's and Yellow-legged Gulls, giving a good opportunity to discuss the identification of each. Offshore, a single Scopoli's Shearwater was seen passing relatively close inshore, while a Common Sandpiper was found on the marsh.

Back at the vehicles, we headed directly on to the wonderful accommodation at Agriturismo Pozzo di Mazzo, spotting nesting White Storks along the motorway en route. The group then met for the regular checklist and to talk through plans for the week (as well as to admire Mediterranean Brocade and Adulatrix, the pick of the previous evening's moths) before the first dinner of the trip.

## Day 2

Friday 17th April

### Vendicari – Capo Murro di Porco

The day started with an early check of the moth trap, which produced several species, including a very fresh Striped Hawk-moth, before we headed out birdwatching around the grounds of the hotel. A productive walk introduced

the guests to the regular cast of characters, with highlights including excellent scope views of the resident Stone-curlew in the adjacent field, a group of fifty Bee-eaters overhead, and the biggest surprise of all: a Barn Owl perched in one of the palm trees. A roosting, dew-covered Southern Blue also proved to be very photogenic.

After a delicious breakfast, we headed off for Vendicari Nature Reserve, on the south coast of Sicily. This is a popular spot with school groups, but we managed to dodge most of them and had the hides to ourselves. We enjoyed our first views of Greater Flamingo and Black-winged Stilt, along with Glossy Ibis, Spoonbill and some lovely summer-plumaged Spotted Redshanks.

As we lingered at one spot to allow a school party to get ahead, a Turtle Dove flew in and gave prolonged, excellent views, allowing the whole group to appreciate feather detail. Alongside the birds, a nice mix of other taxa was also recorded, with highlights including Giant Orchid, Swallowtail butterfly and Lesser Emperor dragonfly. On the way back to the car park for our picnic lunch, we spotted a handsome male Golden Oriole near the reserve entrance, topping off a very productive visit.

We returned to the hotel for an afternoon siesta to escape the heat of the day, before heading out for a visit to Capo Murro di Porco. This turned into another productive session, with brief but lovely views of a Richard's Pipit, along with distant Scopoli's Shearwaters and Sandwich Terns offshore. Just as we were getting back into the car, a group of twenty European Bee-eaters gave us a close fly-by, accompanied by a single Blue-cheeked Bee-eater, which Marcus was photographed to confirm the identity of this very rare migrant. While watching them, we also picked up a handful of Wood Warblers, Pied Flycatchers and a single Common Whitethroat in the garden behind the parking area.

It was then back to the hotel for yet another delicious dinner, before retiring for the evening, serenaded by the local Scops Owl and Stone-curlew. The owl gave a few of the group the runaround, steadfastly refusing to show itself.

## Day 3

Saturday 18th April

### Pantano Cuba e Longarini – Siracusa Salinas

The pre-breakfast moth trap check produced our largest haul to date, including four spectacular Striped Hawk-moths. The birding walk was also rewarding, with prolonged views of Stone-curlew and a smart male Pied Flycatcher, along with the regular cast of characters.

Today was the much-anticipated trip to the private reserve at Pantano Cuba e Longarini, purchased by a German consortium through donations. The land had once been used as an illegal horse racing course and poaching site, where the resident bird population had been decimated. Fourteen years on, it has been transformed into a fantastic wetland area comprising lakes and shallow lagoons, and is now home to around eight hundred pairs of Greater Flamingoes.

The reserve manager, Paulo, expertly led us around the site. Highlights were many, but included excellent views of Collared Pratincole, Ferruginous Duck, displaying and parading Flamingoes, and a great mix of wading birds including Broad-billed Sandpiper, Curlew Sandpiper and Kentish Plover.

After a refreshing picnic on site, we headed back to the hotel for a short rest, as it had been a very hot morning out on the reserve. The group reconvened at 5.00pm for the seven-minute drive to the Siracusa Salinas, a wonderful, small wetland site which had benefitted from the wet winter.

We were immediately greeted by scores of Black-winged Stilts and Avocets alarm-calling, and mobbing what appeared to be a mammalian threat. After ten minutes, the perpetrator revealed itself to be a cat, which was causing chaos amongst the breeding waders. Swifts and Swallows hawked all around us as we completed the short walk to the main viewpoint, which provided wonderful views across to Ortigia (Siracusa Old Town).

In the harbour, Caspian, Sandwich and Little Terns were watched fishing, while calling Wood Sandpipers and Greenshanks eventually gave themselves away and produced good views. On the way back to the vehicles, a pre-roost flock of nine Cattle Egrets gathered among the roosting Cormorants at the river mouth.

Back at the hotel, the group gathered for the regular pre-dinner checklist, debrief and planning update for Day 4, before another hearty meal and a well-earned rest!

## Day 4

Sunday 19th April

### Siracusa Salinas – Penisola Magnisi – Saline di Priolo – Siracusa

We changed today's pre-breakfast outing to the Siracusa Salinas after such a productive visit the previous evening, and a clear appetite for more of the same. The decision paid off, with views of three Night Herons along the river as we arrived. We went on to enjoy excellent views of waders, herons and warblers at this fantastic site, including a trio of Blue-headed Yellow Wagtails, shining like yellow jewels as they foraged along the pathway.

After another hearty breakfast, we headed out for the thirty-minute journey to Penisola Magnisi, a wonderful peninsula off the industrial coastline north of Siracusa. Although it is linked to the mainland by a narrow causeway, it is virtually an island. The site is protected thanks to the historical importance of the prehistoric village of Thapsos. As a result, the "island" has developed into a superb wildflower meadow, supporting a wide range of wildlife. The biggest surprise for the group was the discovery of a Collared Pratincole hawking over the grassland, most likely a bird pausing on passage, as was a patrolling Montagu's Harrier and several Bee-eaters passing overhead. This was a magical location, with an incredible mix of flora, butterflies and moths, all set to the constant soundtrack of singing Crested Larks and Corn Buntings.

Our next stop for a picnic lunch was at the nearby Saline di Priolo Nature Reserve, followed by a wander around the reserve itself. From the hide, among the hundreds of Flamingoes loafing and feeding, we had good scope views of one bird sitting on a volcano-shaped nest.

In the afternoon, we visited the Siracusa Archaeological Park, where the group explored the ancient Greek and Roman remains, and the fascinating system of tunnels. Within the entrance of one, a pair of Crag Martins was busy building a nest. Other birds recorded across the site included Raven, Jackdaw and Peregrine.

Back at the hotel, we had an hour to relax, before meeting again for the checklist and another excellent meal.

## Day 5

Monday 20th April

### Mount Etna

We made an early start today for the long journey to Mount Etna, stopping on the lower slopes at Monti Rossi for a leg stretch. The only birds of note here were flyover Common Buzzard and Raven. Climbing further, we passed through the lava fields and patches of accumulated snow, and then reached the main visitor area on Etna.

We booked onto the 4x4 bus trip to the 2500m level, but not before enjoying a hearty cooked lunch at a local restaurant. Soon after we started heading up on the large buses, a glimpse of a striking black and white bird flitting around on the lava flow revealed itself to be an Eastern Black-eared Wheatear: a most unexpected find.

At the top, the group ventured out for views of the volcano in calf-deep snow, before joining the queue for the return journey. Having returned to the centre, we embarked on the drive back to the hotel for yet another wonderful home-cooked, locally inspired meal.

## Day 6

Tuesday 21st April

### Siracusa Salinas – Cava Grande – Noto

Our final day had come around very quickly. By popular demand, our last pre-breakfast birding walk was just down the road at the Siracusa Salinas, and this proved to be an excellent decision. Upon arrival, a large feeding group of Swifts and Swallows was hawking at head height, over an area alive with birds. Among the highlights were a pair of Red-throated Pipits, a very vocal disagreement between a Great Tit and Great Reed Warbler, and a beautiful adult male Red-footed Falcon hawking for insects across the marshes.

We went back to the hotel for breakfast and had a chance to freshen up, before making the forty-minute journey to Cava Grande del Cassibile, a dramatic gorge offering wonderful views across to Siracusa and Penisola Magnisi. Strolling to the first viewpoint, we quickly found a Sawfly Orchid, the first of many orchid species to be recorded in the area.

Along the way, we also found a copulating pair of Italian Wall Lizards, as well as our only Blue Tit and Cirl Bunting of the trip, while a Woodlark was heard singing. The café kindly permitted us to have our picnic on the benches, serving up a well-received cappuccino to accompany lunch.

Our next stop was the beautiful town of Noto which, although a little touristy, is regarded as one of the ‘must-see’ towns in Sicily. Although an ancient settlement, it was almost completely rebuilt in the eighteenth century in the Baroque style, following the devastating earthquake of 1693. One of the highlights of the town was the huge number of nesting House Martins and Common Swifts, constantly on the move overhead.

Back at the hotel, there was time for packing for the return home, before dinner and one final serenade from the local Scops Owl. It had been a wonderful week with a great group.

## Day 7

Thursday 23rd April

### Departure

An early breakfast enabled our departure at 8.00am for the drive to Catania Airport, seeing our final Spotless Starlings and White Storks of the trip along the way.

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## Species lists

### Birds

Common name	Scientific name	April 2026						
		16	17	18	19	20	21	22
Common Shelduck	<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>		✓	✓	✓		✓	
Garganey	<i>Spatula querquedula</i>			✓				
Northern Shoveler	<i>Spatula clypeata</i>		✓	✓				
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	
Northern Pintail	<i>Anas acuta</i>			✓				
Red-crested Pochard	<i>Netta rufina</i>			✓				
Common Pochard	<i>Aythya ferina</i>				✓			
Ferruginous Duck	<i>Aythya nyroca</i>			✓				
Common Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Pallid Swift	<i>Apus pallidus</i>		✓				✓	
Feral Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i> var. <i>domestica</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Common Wood Pigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
European Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>		✓					
Eurasian Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Water Rail	<i>Rallus aquaticus</i>			✓				
Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>						✓	
Eurasian Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>		✓	✓	✓		✓	
Western Swamphen	<i>Porphyrio porphyrio</i>			✓				
Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>			✓	✓			
Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>		✓	✓				
Black-necked Grebe	<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>			✓				
Greater Flamingo	<i>Phoenicopterus roseus</i>		✓	✓	✓		✓	
Eurasian Stone-curlew	<i>Burhinus oedicephalus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>		✓	✓	✓		✓	
Pied Avocet	<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>			✓	✓		✓	
Little Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>			✓			✓	
Kentish Plover	<i>Anarhynchus alexandrinus</i>			✓				
Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	
Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>			✓	✓		✓	
Common Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>			✓				
Spotted Redshank	<i>Tringa erythropus</i>		✓	✓				
Common Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>		✓	✓				
Ruff	<i>Calidris pugnax</i>			✓			✓	
Broad-billed Sandpiper	<i>Calidris falcinellus</i>			✓				
Curlew Sandpiper	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>			✓				
Collared Pratincole	<i>Glareola pratincola</i>			✓	✓			
Little Tern	<i>Sternula albifrons</i>			✓	✓		✓	
Gull-billed Tern	<i>Gelochelidon nilotica</i>	✓		✓				
Caspian Tern	<i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>	✓		✓	✓			
Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>	✓						
Sandwich Tern	<i>Thalasseus sandvicensis</i>	✓		✓	✓			
Slender-billed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus genei</i>			✓			✓	
Black-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>	✓	✓	✓				
Audouin's Gull	<i>Ichthyaetus audouinii</i>	✓			✓			
Mediterranean Gull	<i>Ichthyaetus melanocephalus</i>	✓						
Yellow-legged Gull	<i>Larus michahellis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	
Scopoli's Shearwater	<i>Calonectris diomedea</i>	✓	✓					

Common name	Scientific name	April 2026						
		16	17	18	19	20	21	22
White Stork	<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>	✓				✓		✓
Great Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>		✓	✓	✓		✓	
Glossy Ibis	<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>		✓	✓				
Eurasian Spoonbill	<i>Platalea leucorodia</i>		✓	✓	✓			
Black-crowned Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>				✓			
Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	
Squacco Heron	<i>Ardeola ralloides</i>			✓				
Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>			✓			✓	
Western Cattle Egret	<i>Ardea ibis</i>	✓		✓			✓	
Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>		✓	✓	✓		✓	
Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>			✓				
Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>			✓	✓			
Montagu's Harrier	<i>Circus pygargus</i>				✓		✓	
Western Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>		✓	✓			✓	
Common Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Western Barn Owl	<i>Tyto alba</i>		✓					
Eurasian Scops Owl	<i>Otus scops</i>		✓	✓	✓		✓	
Eurasian Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>		✓	✓				
Common Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>						✓	
Blue-cheeked Bee-eater	<i>Merops persicus</i>		✓					
European Bee-eater	<i>Merops apiaster</i>	✓	50	20	5	2	✓	
Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	
Red-footed Falcon	<i>Falco vespertinus</i>						✓	
Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>				✓			
Eurasian Golden Oriole	<i>Oriolus oriolus</i>		✓					
Woodchat Shrike	<i>Lanius senator</i>						✓	
Eurasian Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Eurasian Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Western Jackdaw	<i>Coloeus monedula</i>				✓			
Hooded Crow	<i>Corvus corone cornix</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Northern Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>				✓	✓	✓	
Coal Tit	<i>Parus ater</i>							
Eurasian Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>						✓	
Great Tit	<i>Parus major aphrodite</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	
Woodlark	<i>Lullula arborea</i>						✓	
Eurasian Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>				✓			
Crested Lark	<i>Galerida cristata</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Sand Martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	
Eurasian Crag Martin	<i>Ptyonoprogne rupestris</i>				✓			
Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Western House Martin	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	
Cetti's Warbler	<i>Cettia cetti</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Wood Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus sibilatrix</i>		✓					
Common Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>						✓	
Great Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus arundinaceus</i>						✓	
Sedge Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i>			✓	✓		✓	
Common Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>			✓			✓	
Zitting Cisticola	<i>Cisticola juncidis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Eurasian Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>		✓				✓	
Sardinian Warbler	<i>Curruca melanocephala</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Eastern Subalpine Warbler	<i>Curruca cantillans</i>	✓						

Common name	Scientific name	April 2026						
		16	17	18	19	20	21	22
Common Whitethroat	<i>Curruca communis</i>		✓				✓	
Eurasian Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>				✓			
Spotless Starling	<i>Sturnus unicolor</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Common Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
European Pied Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula hypoleuca</i>		✓	✓	✓			
Whinchat	<i>Saxicola rubetra</i>		✓	✓	✓		✓	
European Stonechat	<i>Saxicola rubicola</i>						✓	
Northern Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>			✓			✓	
Eastern Black-eared Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe melanoleuca</i>					✓		
Eurasian Tree Sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Italian Sparrow	<i>Passer italiae</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Blue-headed (Yellow) Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava flava</i>			✓	✓			
White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>					✓		
Richard's Pipit	<i>Anthus richardi</i>		✓					
Red-throated Pipit	<i>Anthus cervinus</i>						✓	
Eurasian Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>						✓	
European Greenfinch	<i>Chloris chloris</i>						✓	
Common Linnet	<i>Linaria cannabina</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
European Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
European Serin	<i>Serinus serinus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Corn Bunting	<i>Emberiza calandra</i>			✓				
Cirl Bunting	<i>Emberiza cirlus</i>						✓	

## Mammals

Common name	Scientific name	April 2026						
		16	17	18	19	20	21	22
European Rabbit	<i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i>	✓			✓			
Brown Rat	<i>Rattus norvegicus</i>				✓			
Kuhl's Pipistrelle	<i>Pipistrellus kuhlii</i>	✓				✓	✓	
Least Weasel	<i>Mustela nivalis</i>						✓	

## Reptiles

Common name	Scientific name	April 2026						
		16	17	18	19	20	21	22
Moorish Gecko	<i>Tarentola mauritanica</i>	✓						
Mediterranean House Gecko	<i>Hemidactylus turcicus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Western Green Lizard	<i>Lacerta bilineata</i>			✓				
Sicilian Wall Lizard	<i>Podarcis waglerianus</i>	✓		✓		✓	✓	
Italian Wall Lizard	<i>Podarcis siculus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	

## Butterflies

Common name	Scientific name	April 2026						
		16	17	18	19	20	21	22
Common Swallowtail	<i>Papilio machaon</i>		✓	✓				
Mallow Skipper	<i>Carcharodus alceae</i>				✓			
Cleopatra	<i>Gonepteryx cleopatra</i>			✓	✓			
Clouded Yellow	<i>Colias croceus</i>		✓	✓	✓			
Eastern Bath White	<i>Pontia edusa</i>				✓			

Common name	Scientific name	April 2026						
		16	17	18	19	20	21	22
Large White	<i>Pieris brassicae</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Small White	<i>Pieris rapae</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Eastern Orange-tip	<i>Anthocharis damone</i>						✓	
Brown Argus	<i>Aricia agestis</i>						✓	
Southern Blue	<i>Polyommatus celina</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓		
Small Tortoiseshell	<i>Aglais urticae</i>	✓						
Small Heath	<i>Coenonympha pamphilus</i>			✓	✓		✓	
Speckled Wood	<i>Pararge aegeria</i>		✓	✓	✓		✓	
Wall Brown	<i>Lasiommata megera</i>		✓				✓	

## Moths

Common name	Scientific name	April 2026						
		16	17	18	19	20	21	22
Diamond-back	<i>Plutella xylostella</i>		1	2		1		
Forester	<i>Adscita statices</i>				1			
Six-spot Burnet	<i>Zygaena filipendulae</i>		2	2				
Rusty-dot Pearl	<i>Udea ferrugalis</i>	1				1		
Rush Veneer	<i>Nomophila noctuella</i>		1			2		
Grass Eggar	<i>Lasiocampa trifolii</i>				1			
Striped Hawk-moth	<i>Hyles livornica</i>		2	4				
Riband Wave	<i>Idaea aversata</i>		1					
Portland Ribbon Wave	<i>Idaea degeneraria</i>			1				
Many-lined	<i>Costaconvexa polygrammata</i>	1						
Cypress Carpet	<i>Thera cupressata</i>	✓	1					
Lime-speck Pug	<i>Eupithecia centaureata</i>			1				
Great Prominent	<i>Peridea anceps</i>						1	
Adulatrix	<i>Eutelia adulatrix</i>	1						
Ruby Tiger	<i>Phragmatobia fuliginosa</i>			1				
Ragusa's Nine-spotted	<i>Amata marjana</i>		15		10			
Hoary Footman	<i>Eilema caniola</i>			1				
an erebid	<i>Nodaria nodosalis</i>		1					
Small Marbled	<i>Eublemma parva</i>				1			
Silver Y	<i>Autographa gamma</i>			1				
Bordered Straw	<i>Heliothis peltigera</i>			1				
Small Mottled Willow	<i>Spodoptera exigua</i>	✓		1				
Mediterranean Brocade	<i>Spodoptera littoralis</i>	✓						
Pale Mottled Willow	<i>Caradrina clavipalpis</i>	✓	3	5				
Vine's Rustic	<i>Hoplodrina ambigua</i>	✓	9	6		13		
Porter's Rustic	<i>Athetis hospes</i>		2	5		9		
Dingy Shears	<i>Apterogenum ypsilon</i>					1		
Bright-line Brown-eye	<i>Lacanobia oleracea</i>					1		
Dark Sword-grass	<i>Agrotis ipsilon</i>	✓	1	4				
Flame	<i>Axylia putris</i>					2		
Radford's Flame Shoulder	<i>Ochroleura leucogaster</i>	1		1		1		
Large Yellow Underwing	<i>Noctua pronuba</i>		2	3		1		

## Damselflies &amp; dragonflies

Common name	Scientific name	April 2026						
		16	17	18	19	20	21	22
Blue Emperor	<i>Anax imperator</i>	✓	✓	✓				
Red-veined Darter	<i>Sympetrum fonscolombii</i>			✓				

## Other invertebrates

Common name	Scientific name	April 2026						
		16	17	18	19	20	21	22
Egyptian Grasshopper	<i>Anacridium aegyptium</i>		✓	✓				
Cretan Seed Bug	<i>Lygaeus creticus</i>		✓					
a red-resin bee	<i>Rhodanthidium</i> sp.		✓					
Sicilian Mortar Bee	<i>Megachile sicula</i>		✓	✓				
Carpenter Bee	<i>Xylocopa violacea</i>		✓					
Honey Bee	<i>Apis mellifera</i>		✓					
Buff-tailed Bumblebee	<i>Bombus terrestris</i>					✓		
European Paper Wasp	<i>Polistes dominula</i>					✓		
Littoral Tiger Beetle	<i>Calomera littoralis</i>			✓				
Mediterranean Spotted Chafer	<i>Oxythyrea funesta</i>		✓	✓				
12-spot Ladybird	<i>Vibidia duodecimguttata</i>					✓		
5-spot Ladybird	<i>Coccinella quinquepunctata</i>					✓		
Fence Post Jumping Spider	<i>Marpissa muscosa</i>				✓			

## Plants

** = Endemic to Sicily, * = Endemic to Italy		
Scientific name	Common name	Location if not widespread
<b>GYMNOSPERMS</b>	<b>CONIFERS</b>	
<b>Cupressaceae</b>	<b>Juniper Family</b>	
<i>Juniperus communis</i>	Juniper	Vendicari
<b>Pinaceae</b>	<b>Pine Family</b>	
<i>Pinus halepensis</i>	Aleppo Pine	Vendicari
<i>Pinus nigra</i> ssp. <i>laricio</i>	Corsican Pine	Vendicari
<i>Pinus pinea</i>	Stone or Umbrella Pine	Vendicari
<b>ANGIOSPERMS</b>	<b>FLOWERING PLANTS</b>	
<b>Eu-dicots</b>	<b>True Dicotyledons</b>	
<b>Acanthaceae</b>	<b>Bear's-breech Family</b>	
<i>Acanthus mollis</i>	Bear's-breech	Vendicari
<b>Adoxaceae</b>	<b>Moschatel Family</b>	
<i>Sambucus nigra</i>	Elder	
<b>Amaranthaceae</b>	<b>Amaranth Family</b>	
<i>Achyranthes aspera</i>	Devil's Horse-whip	Cava Grande
<i>Atriplex portulacoides</i>	Sea-purslane	Siracusa Salinas
<b>Apiaceae</b>	<b>Carrot Family</b>	
<i>Crithmum maritimum</i>	Rock Samphire	Siracusa Salinas
<i>Daucus carota</i>	Wild Carrot	Vendicari
<i>Eryngium maritimum</i>	Sea-holly	Vendicari

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<b>Scientific name</b>	<b>Common name</b>	<b>Location if not widespread</b>
<i>Ferula communis</i>	Giant Fennel	Vendicari
<i>Foeniculum vulgare</i>	Fennel	Longarini
<i>Thapsia garganica</i>	Thapsia	Magnisi
<b>Araliaceae</b>	<b>Ivy Family</b>	
<i>Hedera helix</i>	Ivy	Vendicari
<b>Betulaceae</b>	<b>Birch Family</b>	
<i>Corylus avellana</i>	Hazel	Vendicari
<b>Boraginaceae</b>	<b>Borage Family</b>	
<i>Alkanna tinctoria</i>	Dyer's Alkanet	Vendicari
<i>Anchusa azurea</i>	Large Blue Alkanet	Vendicari
<i>Echium parviflorum</i>	Small-flowered Viper's-bugloss	Pozzo di Mazza
<i>Echium plantagineum</i>	Purple Viper's-bugloss	Pozzo di Mazza
<i>Echium vulgare</i>	Viper's Bugloss	Pozzo di Mazza
<b>Caprifoliaceae</b>	<b>Honeysuckle Family</b>	
<i>Centranthus calcitrapa</i>	Annual Valerian	Foce di Salento
<i>Centranthus ruber</i>	Red Valerian	Longarini
<b>Caryophyllaceae</b>	<b>Pink Family</b>	
<i>Silene gallica</i>	Small-flowered Catchfly	Vendicari
<i>Silene italica</i>	Italian Catchfly	Vendicari
<i>Silene vulgaris</i>	Bladder Champion	Vendicari
<b>Compositae (Asteraceae)</b>	<b>Daisy Family</b>	
<i>Anthemis arvensis</i>	Corn Chamomile	Murro di Porco
<i>Bellis perennis</i>	Daisy	
<i>Galactites tomentosus</i>	Galactites	Foce di Salento
<i>Glebionis segetum</i>	Corn Marigold	Foce di Salento
<i>Helminthotheca echioides</i>	Bristly Oxtongue	
<i>Silybum marianum</i>	Milk Thistle	
<i>Sonchus oleraceus</i>	Sow Thistle	
<i>Tussilago farfara</i>	Colt's-foot	
<b>Convolvulaceae</b>	<b>Bindweed Family</b>	
<i>Convolvulus althaeoides</i>	Mallow-leaved Bindweed	Pozzo di Mazza
<b>Crassulaceae</b>	<b>Stonecrop Family</b>	
<i>Sedum caeruleum</i>	Blue Stonecrop	Mendisi
<i>Umbilicus horizontalis</i>	a wall pennywort	Cava Grande
<b>Euphorbiaceae</b>	<b>Spurge Family</b>	
<i>Euphorbia ceratocarpa</i>	Horned Spurge	
<i>Euphorbia dendroides</i>	Tree Spurge	
<b>Fagaceae</b>	<b>Beech Family</b>	
<i>Castanea sativa</i>	Sweet Chestnut	
<i>Fagus sylvatica</i>	Beech	
<b>Geraniaceae</b>	<b>Geranium Family</b>	
<i>Erodium cicutarium</i>	Common Stork's-bill	

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<b>Scientific name</b>	<b>Common name</b>	<b>Location if not widespread</b>
<i>Erodium malacoides</i>	Mallow-leaved Stork's-bill	
<i>Geranium dissectum</i>	Cut-leaved Crane's-bill	
<i>Geranium lucidum</i>	Shining Crane's-bill	
<b>Leguminosae (Fabaceae)</b>	<b>Pea Family</b>	
<i>Spartium junceum</i>	Spanish Broom	
<i>Trifolium arvense</i>	Hare's-foot Clover	
<i>Trifolium campestre</i>	Hop Trefoil	
<i>Trifolium repens</i>	White Clover	
<i>Trifolium resupinatum</i>	Reversed Clover	
<i>Trifolium stellatum</i>	Starry Clover	
<b>Linaceae</b>	<b>Flax Family</b>	
<i>Linum bienne</i>	Biennial Flax	
<i>Linum punctatum</i>	A Flax	
<b>Malvaceae</b>	<b>Mallow Family</b>	
<i>Lavatera arborea</i>	Tree Mallow	
<i>Malva sylvestris</i>	Common Mallow	
<b>Orobanchaceae</b>	<b>Broomrape Family</b>	
<i>Phelipanche nana</i>	Dwarf Sorrel Broomrape	
<b>Oxalidaceae</b>	<b>Wood-sorrel Family</b>	
<i>Oxalis pres-caprae</i>	Bermuda Buttercup	
<b>Papaveraceae</b>	<b>Poppy Family</b>	
<i>Fumaria capreolata</i>	White Ramping Fumitory	
<i>Fumaria officinalis</i>	Common Fumitory	
<i>Papaver rhoeas</i>	Common Poppy	
<i>Papaver somniferum</i>	Opium Poppy	
<b>Plantaginaceae</b>	<b>Plantain Family</b>	
<i>Antirrhinum majus</i>	Snapdragon	
<i>Cymbalaria muralis</i>	Ivy-leaved Toadflax	
<i>Misopates orontium</i>	Weasel-snout	
<b>Polygonaceae</b>	<b>Dock Family</b>	
<i>Rumex scutatus</i>	French Sorrel	
<i>Portulaca oleracea</i>	Common Purslane	
<b>Primulaceae</b>	<b>Primrose Family</b>	
<i>Anagallis arvensis</i>	Scarlet Pimpernel	
<i>Cyclamen repandum</i>	Spring Sowbread	
<b>Rosaceae</b>	<b>Rose Family</b>	
<i>Prunus amygdalus (dulcis)</i>	Almond	
<i>Pyrus communis</i>	Wild Pear	
<i>Rosa canina</i> agg.	Dog Rose	
<i>Rubus ulmifolius</i> agg.	Bramble	
<b>Rubiaceae</b>	<b>Bedstraw Family</b>	
<i>Galium aparine</i>	Cleavers	
<i>Galium verrucosum</i>	Southern Cleavers	

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<b>Salicaceae</b>	<b>Willow Family</b>	
<i>Populus nigra</i>	Black Poplar	
<b>Urticaceae</b>	<b>Nettle Family</b>	
<i>Urtica membranacea</i>	Mediterranean Nettle	
<b>Verbenaceae</b>	<b>Verbena Family</b>	
<i>Lantana camara</i>	Lantana	
<b>Monocots</b>	<b>Monocotyledons</b>	
<b>Amaryllidaceae</b>	<b>Daffodil Family</b>	
<i>Allium roseum</i>	Rosy Garlic	
<i>Allium subhirsutum</i>	Hairy Garlic	
<b>Asparagaceae</b>	<b>Asparagus Family</b>	
<i>Ornithogalum arabicum</i>	a star-of-Bethlehem	
<i>Ornithogalum narbonense</i>	a spiked star-of-Bethlehem	
<b>Iridaceae</b>	<b>Iris Family</b>	
<i>Gladiolus italicus</i>	Italian Gladiolus	
<b>Orchidaceae</b>	<b>Orchid Family</b>	
<i>Anacamptis papilionacea</i> var. <i>grandiflora</i>	Pink Butterfly Orchid	
<i>Himantoglossum robertianum</i>	Giant Orchid	
<i>Ophrys apifera</i>	Bee Orchid	
<i>Ophrys bertolonii</i>	Bertoloni's Bee Orchid	
<i>Ophrys lutea</i> subsp. <i>lutea</i>	Yellow Bee Orchid	
<i>Ophrys sphegodes</i> subsp. <i>panormitana</i> *	an Early Spider Orchid	
<i>Ophrys sphegodes</i> subsp. <i>passionis</i>	an Early Spider Orchid	
<i>Ophrys tenthredinifera</i>	a Sawfly Orchid	
<i>Orchis italica</i>	Naked Man Orchid	
<i>Serapias orientalis</i> subsp. <i>siciliensis</i> **	a plough-share tongue orchid	
<i>Serapias parviflora</i>	Small-flowered Tongue Orchid	
<i>Serapias vomeracea</i>	Plough-share Tongue Orchid	
<b>Poaceae</b>	<b>Grass Family</b>	
<i>Arundo donax</i>	Giant Reed	
<i>Briza maxima</i>	Great Quaking-grass	
<i>Cenchrus setaceus</i>	Fountain Grass	
<i>Phragmites australis</i>	Common Reed	
<b>Xanthorrhoeaceae</b>	<b>Asphodel Family</b>	
<i>Asphodelus ramosus</i>	Branched Asphodel	