

Abruzzo in Autumn

Naturetrek Tour Report

20 – 27 September 2015



Wasp Spider



Abruzzo Chamois



Firecrest



Italian Toadflax

Report compiled by Jessica Turner

Images courtesy of Luca Boscain



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together with ten Naturetrek Clients

Summary

This is the first year that we have visited Abruzzo in the autumn. We enjoyed some great wildlife and had some excellent (though relatively distant) views of Marsican Brown Bears, with at least four individuals being seen at Gioia Vecchio. We were also particularly fortunate with sightings of a Grey Wolf family who had made a base in the valley at Gioia Vecchio. Red Deer were rutting, and the roars of stags echoed round the hillsides. The Abruzzo Chamois in the Val di Rose were very confident. The extensive forest was starting to take on autumn tints and there was an interesting selection of wildflowers. The Cyclamen in the Sagittario Gorge were particularly fine. Bird life was fairly quiet, but the Golden Eagles and Griffon Vultures were good to see, and there was a good selection of late-flying butterflies. Our hosts Geraldine, Marco and Elena, as ever, provided a warm welcome and excellent hospitality, introducing us to several local specialities. A delightful week in a stunning location!

Day 1

Sunday 20th September

London Heathrow to Rome to Pescasseroli

Six clients flew out from London Heathrow, meeting up with two who had arrived earlier, and with Jessica and Luca, who were already in Italy. We soon made our way to the vehicles, loaded up and set off round the Rome ringroad. Once we were heading north-east along the A25, the traffic eased and we could see the approaching hills of the Apennine chain. We passed by attractive hill-top villages as the scenery became more dramatic, before reaching the Avezzano plain, which was the site of the now-drained Lake Fucino, once the third largest lake in Italy. Here we left the autostrada to wend our way via Pescara, along the edge of the plain before climbing up into the Abruzzo National Park. The hills were clothed with trees, mainly Beech (*Fagus sylvatica*), still green, while Field Maples (*Acer campestre*) and Spindles (*Euonymus europaea*) were starting to show yellow and red respectively. We passed by Gioia Vecchio with its church, one of our main mammal watchpoints, and descended towards Pescasseroli. In a steep, scrubby field, just by the road, we encountered an extended family group, or sounder, of Wild Boar, consisting of about 30 adults and youngsters of various ages.

We drove through the small town of Pescasseroli, along small roads until we reached the Albergo Paradiso, our base for the next week. We received a warm welcome from Elena and the staff and were soon settled into our rooms, meeting up with the two group members who had made their own way there. Jessica outlined the plans for the following day, and we enjoyed an excellent dinner before retiring for the night.

Day 2

Monday 21st September

Gioia Vecchio; Vallone Pesco di Lordo; Rifugio di Iorio

It was still dark when we rose this morning, to catch the dawn at Gioia Vecchio. Fortified by coffee, we drove north, parking by the church where we joined other 'watchers'. A Wild Boar, two Red Deer stags and a Roebeek were spotted, but the highlight of the morning was a Marsican Brown Bear, which showed briefly but well. On

the bird front we saw two Western Marsh Harriers, presumably on passage, with passerines including Black Redstart, Marsh Tit and Blackcap. Delighted at this good start, we returned for a well-earned breakfast at the hotel.

We then drove the short distance to the start of the morning's walk, along the Vallone Pesco di Lordo. The morning was warm and sunny, but with a strong breeze. We started with a magnificent specimen of Wasp Spider, with its yellow and black coloration. Amongst the birds, Great Spotted and Green Woodpeckers were recorded along with Common Buzzard, Bullfinch, Tree Pipit and large numbers of House Martins. Plants included Herb Paris (*Paris quadrifolia*), Blue Eryngo (*Eryngium amethysteum*), Glaucous Spurge (*Euphorbia myrsinites*), Musk Mallow (*Malva moschata*) and Rampion Bellflower (*Campanula rapunculus*). The bushes were laden with berries: Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), Rose hips (*Rosa canina* agg.) and Sloes (*Prunus spinosa*) glistened in the morning sun. Butterflies were also enjoying the fine morning, with many Berger's Clouded Yellows, one Clouded Yellow, Silver-washed Fritillary, Wall Brown and Large Wall Brown, and Common and Lang's Short-tailed Blues being recorded. We walked through an area of established old Beech trees before coming to another open area with large water troughs. These were for the large number of sheep that used to be summered in this area, before being driven to the lower Apulia region overwinter: the 'transumanza'. A butterfly resting by the stream was found to be a Long-tailed Blue.

We continued along the track, going onto a smaller path, where we stopped to look at Common Rock-rose (*Helianthemum nummularium*), Purple Toadflax (*Linaria purpurea*), White and Tasteless Stonecrop (*Sedum album* and *Sedum sexangulare*), the latter being duly tasted to distinguish it from Wallpepper (*Sedum acre*). Grasshoppers were widespread including some of the 'Flash Colour' species, showing bright red or pale blue wings when they jumped. We also noted Queen of Spain Fritillary. We then had to retrace our steps in order to return to the hotel for lunch.

While we were gathering in the car park, prior to meeting with the Ecotur guides, we had good views of four Griffon Vultures thermalling high over the town. Having met up with Paolo, we drove to the Valle di Iorio where we left our vehicles and transferred to a jeep for the drive up the rough track to the start of our walk, noting clumps of Shaggy Ink Cap fungi on the verge. Paolo explained about the cycles of Beech 'mast years' and its importance as a food source for Bears, and we set off, climbing slowly through the Beech forest. We stopped to examine some old Wolf droppings, full of Red Deer hair. Eventually we came to the tree line, with open rocky habitat, where we started to see montane plants including the endemic Italian Toadflax (*Linaria pallida*), a local speciality, plus the bright pink Ashy Crane's-bill (*Geranium subcaulescens*), Rock Crane's-bill (*Geranium macrorhizum*), Great Yellow Gentian (*Gentiana lutea*), a bright blue Spring Gentian (*Gentiana verna*) and Cobweb Houseleek (*Sempervivum arachnoideum*). As we reached the ridge, we had stunning views in all directions in the late afternoon sunshine, and saw a juvenile Golden Eagle.

After a short break at the rifugio, we donned our extra layers of clothing and walked along the ridge where we made ourselves comfortable to look over the valleys below, where the slopes were dotted with bushes of Alpine Buckthorn (*Rhamnus alpinus*). Paolo had explained to us that the Alpine Buckthorn had berried early this year, due to the hot summer, and the season had finished. While no bears had been seen recently, it was still possible that they were in the area, and might be spotted. We looked hard. However, despite the lack of Bears, we had some

excellent views of Red Deer, including some fine stags at close quarters, two of which were parallel walking as each tried to establish dominance without actually fighting. We also saw a Fox and a Roebuck.

When it was getting too dark to see any more, we returned to the rifugio. Warmed by the wood-burning stove and lit by torchlight, we enjoyed an excellent supper of soup, bread, local cheeses and salami, and tomato salad, accompanied by local red wine or water. By now it was really dark, and we sorted out torches in preparation for our walk down. With everything tidied away and the rifugio locked, we carefully set off along the mountain path, our eyes adjusting to the darkness. We stopped in a clearing, switching off our torches so we could see the stars above, and identified some of the constellations. As we walked, we could hear the eery bellows of stags around us. We also heard the call of Tawny Owl, and two birds responded to Luca's calls, perching overhead and giving good views. We were shuttled back down the valley, and returned to the hotel, agreeing that it had been a most enjoyable evening.

Day 3

Tuesday 22nd September

Gioia Vecchio; La Camosciara; Gioia Vecchio

This morning we revisited Pesco di Lordo before breakfast to see if there was any more bird activity. Great Spotted Woodpecker, Nuthatch, Common Buzzard and Marsh Tit were among the birds seen, along with enormous flocks of feeding House Martins. We also had excellent views of Firecrest, and saw Crossbills by the hotel.

After breakfast, with picnic supplies on board, we drove down the Sangro valley to Camosciara. This valley is really at the heart of the National Park; a tarmac road climbs gently alongside the River Scerto, through mixed woodland and glades, ending in an amphitheatre surrounded by the dolomitic limestone peaks of La Camosciara. Red Deer and a party of Wild Boar were seen, distantly, on the slopes above. The trees and shrubs included Turkey Oak (*Quercus cerris*), Wild Pear (*Pyrus pyraster*), Field and Montpellier Maples (*Acer campestre* and *A. monspessulanus*), Privet (*Ligustrum vulgare*) and Spindle (*Euonymus europaeus*). Tree Pipit and Nuthatch were heard. We noted three species of Carline Thistle: Acanthus-leaved (*Carlina acanthifolia*) with a very large flower head, *Carlina acaulis* subsp. *caulescens* with medium ones, and Corymbose Carline Thistle (*C. corymbosa*) with small heads. Butterflies were enjoying the sun including Lang's Short-tailed, Long-tailed and Common Blues, Silver-washed Fritillary, Clouded and Berger's Clouded Yellows, Green-veined and Wood Whites, Red Admiral, Peacock and Speckled Wood. We also found a larva of a Ground Beetle, and a very active Fox Moth caterpillar.

We had our picnic of local hams and cheeses at the head of the valley. We then took a footpath through the trees which climbed up to two waterfalls: the Cascata delle Tre Cannelle and Cascata delle Ninfe (Cascade of Three Channels and Cascade of the Nymphs), before retracing our steps to the vehicles.

We returned to Gioia Vecchio for an evening watch and were delighted to see a female Brown Bear, followed by a cub, emerge from the trees on the far side of the valley. Shortly afterwards we saw another, a very dark female with a slight limp, and then a much paler female appeared and vanished into the trees. She reappeared again briefly, but then the dark female reappeared, and we had extensive views as she moved across the valley. The sun

disappeared behind the mountains and we were treated to a beautiful sunset. Very content, we returned to the hotel.

Day 4

Wednesday 23rd September

Val di Rose

We woke to another sunny day and decided to do our 'high' walk of Val di Rose. After breakfast and making our own picnics, we drove back down the Sangro valley, seeing a Fox from the bus. At Villetta Barrea we took the road across the river, up to the village of Civitella Alfedena, the starting point for our climb. We parked above the village and set off up the steep, stony track, noting a spike of Larkspur (*Consolida ajacis*). All was quiet, apart from the occasional roar of a Red Deer stag. The path climbed through Beech forest with grassy clearings, from which we could see back down over the Lago di Barrea, a large, artificial lake. Along the path plants included Autumn Crocus (*Colchicum lusitanum*) and the very spiny vetch Mountain Tragacanth (*Astragalus sempervirens*).

After a while we could no longer see back to the valley, but forwards to the mountains. We stopped for a rest in a large clearing and, through the telescope, we could see small groups of Abruzzo Chamois on the slopes above. The Abruzzo or Apennine Chamois is a different species from the Alpine one, being an endemic subspecies more closely related to Pyrenean Chamois. The population remains at a critical level in Abruzzo, but is now increasing, and re-introductions have been made to the neighbouring National Parks of Majella and Gran Sasso.

It was not much further until we cleared the tree line and climbed through rocky alpine meadows, stopping for our picnic under a solitary tree. Birds spotted included Linnet, Water Pipit, Black Redstart and a possible Alpine Accentor, and Luca heard Rock Partridge. A Red Deer stag was visible, and Brown Argus, Adonis Blue and Great Banded Grayling butterflies were seen. The stars of the show were, however, the Abruzzo Chamois, of which we saw about 30 in total, some exceedingly close, giving excellent views. We split up, with some climbing on up to the Passo Cavuto (1,942 metres), some to the ridge, and others generally enjoying the slopes and the Chamois. However, the weather was now cloudy with a cold wind, so we didn't tarry long and started our walk back down. In a clearing, some of the group had good views of Rock Bunting, and we saw a large flock of 43 Alpine Chough, calling and wheeling around, sometimes below us, allowing clear views of bills and legs. We reconvened at the Bar della Lince for restoring refreshments. Some of the group found the Wolf Sanctuary where they had good views of the Wolves. Tired but happy, we headed back to the hotel for an excellent meal and a quiet evening.

Day 5

Thursday 24th September

Gioia Vecchio; Ortona dei Marsi – Cocullo – Gole di Sagittario – Passo Godi

This morning we ventured out again to Gioia Vecchio. It was much colder today, with low cloud. We saw a Fox in a field, and then a young Fox on the road, and one vehicle was nearly run over by a sizeable Wild Boar! Roe Deer were feeding on the hillside but, otherwise, all was very quiet. The low cloud turned into thick fog, so we cut our losses, and returned to the hotel for breakfast.

Today we had the opportunity to see some of the countryside surrounding the Abruzzo National Park, with some stunning scenery. With our picnic on board, we set off north, passing through the narrow streets of Bisegna and San Sebastiano (where the only street life on this Thursday morning consisted of cows and dogs). We passed through Ortona dei Marsi and started to climb above the autostrada, stopping above the valley. A flock of nine kestrels were hawking: they were identified as Common Kestrel, probably a family group, although their behaviour was more typical of Lesser Kestrel. A Rock Bunting below us gave good views, as did a Tree Grayling butterfly. Plants included the very aromatic Winter Savory (*Satureja montana*) and a Sideritis (*Sideritis italica*). Moving on, we next stopped near a road junction with extensive views of the Sirente-Velino mountains to the north-west. On the rocky road edge, plants included Matted Globularia (*Globularia cordifolia*), the Milkwort *Polygala major* and the delicate Shrubby Plantain (*Plantago sempervirens*), and a Green Huntsman Spider was also noted. Woodlark provided the main bird interest. We then dropped down off the mountains, to the town of Anversa degli Abruzzi, at the head of the Gole di Sagittario, a dramatic limestone gorge.

We had our picnic in the valley, listening to the bells of a large herd of goats. A Cardinal Fritillary flew past and, unfortunately, wasps were rather attentive. We then walked along the Sagittario River, through part of the gorge. We started at a small Botanic Garden with numerous streams and pools, before the path continued under the town, through mixed woodland. There were lots of ferns, especially Polypody (*Polypodium vulgare* agg.), while Butcher's Broom (*Ruscus aculeatus*), and Terebinth tree (*Pistacia terebinthus*) were new species. However, the botanical highlight was the Ivy-leaved Cyclamen (*Cyclamen hederifolium*) that carpeted the valley floor in pink.

It was time to move on, so we returned to the vehicles and took the road that winds along the side of the steep gorge, above the river. We pulled in by a lake at Villalago, noting Coot and Mallard on the water, and Crag Martins among the House Martins feeding overhead. Spiny Spurge (*Euphorbia spinosa*) was growing on the cliff face here. The large lake at Scanno had Great Crested Grebes on it to add to our list. We then started the climb out of the valley, back up into the mountains, stopping on the Passo Godi, the watershed, to watch Red Deer. We saw more Red Deer and also some Wild Boar as we progressed. We stopped again above Villetta Barrea, having good views of several groups of Red Deer. We were able to watch the rutting stags bellowing and herding their hinds. We eventually left them to return to the hotel and another excellent meal.

Day 6

Friday 25th September

Gioia Vecchio; Val Fondillo; Gioia Vecchio

We paid another early visit to Gioia Vecchio this morning, en route seeing four separate Wild Boar, one of which was very pale, two Roe Deer and five Red Deer hinds. From the viewpoint, we again saw the dark coloured Brown Bear with the slight limp: she is resident in the area and has been seen there over several years. Two Roe Deer were again feeding on the slopes. About 8.15am we saw one of the Wolf pups and, shortly afterwards, two more. We were able to watch them for some time, and then we saw an adult plus a futher two pups, and another adult approaching. One of the adults collected the pups from the area where we'd been watching them and led them up the hill a short way to another scrubby area, where we could see them feeding under the trees. What a great sight!

After breakfast we set off along the Sangro valley to visit Val Fondillo, just beyond the hilltop village of Opi. A Grey Heron in flight was noted en route. We parked under the trees, divided up the picnic, and set off along the track, admiring the berries on the Sloe (*Prunus spinosa*) and Spindle (*Euonymus europaea*) bushes. Scanning the slopes of Monte Marsicano behind us, we could see large numbers of Red Deer (50+). Two birds of prey over the mountain were identified as Golden Eagles, and we were able to watch them for some time. In a marshy area was a large patch of Water Mint (*Mentha aquatica*), which was proving particularly attractive to insects. Butterflies included Lang's Short-tailed, Long-tailed, Chalk-hill, Adonis, Common and Little Blues, Brown Argus, Berger's Clouded Yellow, Large Wall Brown and Small White. We also found Field Crickets in their burrows, and Mayflies on the wing. We had our picnic on a series of fallen tree trunks before continuing along the path. Goldfinches were flitting through the trees and a Peregrine flew over. Trout were noted in the stream, and a Red Deer stag was nearby. Plants included Yellow Milkwort (*Polygala flavescens*), Chicory (*Cichorium intybus*), Spiny Restharrow (*Ononis spinosa*), Glaucous Spurge (*Euphorbia myrsinites*), Nettle-leaved Bellflower (*Campanula trachelium*), and the Harebell-like Scheuchzer's Bellflower (*Campanula scheuchzeri*).

After a short break back at the hotel, we were out again at 5.30pm to return to Gioia Vecchio. We were delighted to see the mother and cub Marsican Brown Bears again, this time appearing from high up on the slope opposite the church, and walking down to the stream in the valley bottom. We then spotted one of the Wolf cubs in their usual area. A little while later we saw the two Bears again, crossing one of the clearings, as they re-traced their tracks up the hillside. There was a cold wind this evening, and we were glad to return to the warmth of the hotel for dinner.

Day 7

Saturday 26th September

Gioia Vecchio; Pescasseroli; Gioia Vecchio or La Diffesa

There was frost on the vehicles this morning as we left at 6.30am for another visit to Gioia Vecchio. Although no Bears were spotted, birds included Crossbill, Blackcap, Black Redstart, Great Spotted and Green Woodpeckers, and the usual Hooded Crows and Wood Pigeons. Two Roe Deer appeared, a mother and fawn, the former still with a summer coat, the latter already with a winter one. One Wolf cub was spotted very briefly, but disappeared quickly among the trees.

We spent some time this morning in Pescasseroli, exploring the old parts of the town, shopping, and drinking coffee while watching the world go by. Flocks of House Martins were overhead. We then returned to the hotel for our picnic, on the terrace of the hotel. We were hoping to see Red Squirrels, which had been rather elusive this week, but only one glimpse was had, which was missed by most people. Coal Tit and Crossbill were noted.

Chris and Anne had opted for a walk from the hotel instead, and reported excellent views of a Lilford's White-backed Woodpecker, and also a Red Fox. The group then split into two, Luca taking about half the group to see if they could locate a Lilford's Woodpecker. They explored the C1 path and found well-established old and dead Beech trees, good habitat for this elusive species. However, sadly, they were not able to locate a bird, despite finding good signs of White-backed Woodpecker activity.

Jessica took the others for a slow drive through the park, to the Bisegna watchpoint, and then to Gioia Vecchio. This group saw a Red Fox hunting in one of the meadows. From the layby on the road to Bisegna they could see and hear the Red Deer on the hill behind and, in the field below they watched a Buzzard on the ground, probably hunting for earthworms. A Cirl Bunting was also seen. Moving on to Gioia Vecchio, all again seemed quiet but, as the light was fading, a Bear moved through several clearings, appearing then quickly disappearing into the scrub and trees.

We reconvened at the hotel for our final dinner, and were pleased to meet Geraldine, who had had to be away for a few days. Several moths had been attracted to the light in the hotel porch, including Brimstone Moth and Treble-bar.

Day 8

Sunday 27th September

Gioia Vecchio; Rome - UK

This morning, we made a final visit to Gioia Vecchio. We had good views of a Wild Boar en route. Two Roe Deer were again visible on the slopes opposite the church. The Wolves were fairly elusive this morning, but we did catch glimpses of three of the pups. We also had excellent views of the Black Redstart, plus Crossbill and Marsh Tit, among the birds.

After breakfast we had a little time to pack and do our final lists, before it was time to leave. We said goodbye to David and Pat, who were extending their trip on the coast. The rest of us had a good journey to Rome airport, where we said our farewells to Luca, Chris and Anne. The remainder boarded our flights back to the UK, our heads full of images of Abruzzo, in all its glorious diversity.

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Species Lists

Plants (* = a species is endemic)

The layout of the plant list and plant names are in line with current taxonomy (mainly based on DNA studies).

Scientific name	Common name	Location
PTERIDOPHYTES		
FERNS & ALLIES		
Leptosporangiate Ferns		
True Ferns		
Aspleniaceae	Spleenwort Family	
<i>Asplenium ceterach</i>	Rustyback	Pesco di Lordo
Cystopteraceae	Bladder-fern Family	
<i>Cystopteris fragilis</i>	Brittle Bladder-fern	Pesco di Lordo
Polypodiaceae	Polypody Family	
<i>Polypodium vulgare</i> agg.	Common Polypody	Gole di Sagittario
GYMNOSPERMS		
CONIFERS		
Cupressaceae	Juniper Family	
<i>Juniperus communis</i>	Common Juniper	Pesco di Lordo
<i>Juniperus communis</i> subsp. <i>alpina</i>	Dwarf Juniper	Passo Godi
Pinaceae	Pine Family	
<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	Widespread
ANGIOSPERMS		
FLOWERING PLANTS		
Eu-dicots		
True Dicotyledons		
Adoxaceae	Moschatel Family	
<i>Sambucus ebulus</i>	Dwarf Elder	Pesco di Lordo
Anacardiaceae	Sumach Family	
<i>Pistacia terebinthus</i>	Terebinth Tree	Gole di Sagittario
Apiaceae	Carrot Family	
<i>Daucus carota</i>	Wild Carrot	Above Villetta Barrea
<i>Eryngium amethystinum</i>	Blue Eryngo	Pesco di Lordo
<i>Seseli montanum</i>		Val Fondillo
Apocynaceae	Periwinkle Family	
<i>Nerium oleander</i>	Oleander (planted)	Rome ringroad
Araliaceae	Ivy Family	
<i>Hedera helix</i>	Ivy	Gole di Sagittario

Scientific name	Common name	Location
Asteraceae	Daisy Family	
<i>Bellis perennis</i>	Daisy	Pesco di Lordo
<i>Carlina acanthifolia</i>	Acanthus-leaved Carline Thistle	Camosciara
<i>Carlina acaulis</i> subsp. <i>caulescens</i>	Stemmed' Stemless Carline Thistle	Camosciara
<i>Carlina corymbosa</i>	Corymbose Carline Thistle	Camosciara
<i>Cichorium intybus</i>	Chicory	Blue flowers, widespread
<i>Cota tinctoria</i>	Yellow Chamomile	Val Fondillo
<i>Helichrysum italicum</i>	A Curry Plant	Above Ortona
<i>Jacobaea samnitum</i> *	A large-flowered Ragwort	Val Fondillo
<i>Leucanthemum vulgare</i>	Ox-eye Daisy	Pesco di Lordo
Betulaceae	Birch Family	
<i>Corylus avellana</i>	Hazel	Pesco di Lordo
Boraginaceae	Forget-me-not Family	
<i>Cynoglossum magellense</i> *	An endemic Hound's-tongue	Rifugio di Iorio
<i>Myosotis alpestris</i>	Alpine Wood Forget-me-not	Val di Rose
Campanulaceae	Bellflower Family	
<i>Campanula rapunculus</i>	Rampion Bellflower	Pesco di Lordo
<i>Campanula scheuchzeri</i>	Scheuchzer's Bellflower (a Harebell)	Rifugio di Iorio
<i>Campanula trachelium</i>	Nettle-leaved Bellflower	Gole di Sagittario
Caprifoliaceae	Honeysuckle Family	
<i>Cephalaria leucantha</i>	a Cream Scabious	Gole di Sagittario roads
<i>Dipsacus fullonum</i>	Wild Teasel	Pesco di Lordo
<i>Lonicera xylosteum</i>	Fly Honeysuckle	Camosciara
<i>Scabiosa columbaria</i>	Small Scabious	Gole di Sagittario
<i>Scabiosa triandra</i>	A Scabious with v. divided leaves	Above Ortona
Caryophyllaceae	Pink Family	
<i>Cerastium tomentosum</i>	Snow-in-Summer	Pesco di Lordo (leaves)
<i>Petrorhagia saxifraga</i>	a Tunic Flower	Pesco di Lordo
Celastraceae	Spindle Family	
<i>Euonymus europaeus</i>	Spindle Tree	Camosciara
Cistaceae	Rock-rose Family	
<i>Helianthemum nummularium</i>	Rock-rose	Pesco di Lordo
Convolvulaceae	Bindweed Family	
<i>Convolvulus cantabrica</i>	A pink Bindweed	Above Ortona
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	Pesco di Lordo
<i>Sedum sexangulare</i>	Tasteless Stonecrop	Pesco di Lordo

Scientific name	Common name	Location
<i>Sempervivum arachnoideum</i>	Cobweb Houseleek	Rifugio di Iorio
Euphorbiaceae	Spurge Family	
<i>Euphorbia cyparissias</i>	Cypress Spurge	Pesco di Lordo
<i>Euphorbia myrsinites</i>	Glaucous Spurge	Pesco di Lordo
<i>Euphorbia spinosa</i>	Spiny Spurge	Gole di Sagittario (roadside stop)
Fabaceae	Pea Family	
<i>Astragalus sempervirens</i>	Mountain Tragacanth	Val di Rose
<i>Laburnum anagyroides</i>	Laburnum	Camosciara
<i>Lotus corniculatus</i>	Bird's-foot Trefoil	Pesco di Lordo
<i>Ononis spinosa</i>	Spiny Restharrow	Val Fondillo
<i>Trifolium pratense</i>	Red Clover	Pesco di Lordo
<i>Trifolium repens</i>	White Clover	Pesco di Lordo
Fagaceae	Beech Family	
<i>Fagus sylvatica</i>	Beech	Widespread
<i>Quercus cerris</i>	Turkey Oak	Camosciara
Gentianaceae	Gentian Family	
<i>Gentiana cruciata</i>	Cross Gentian	Pesco di Lordo (over)
<i>Gentiana lutea</i>	Great Yellow Gentian	Rifugio di Iorio
<i>Gentiana verna</i>	Spring Gentian	Rifugio di Iorio
<i>Gentianopsis ciliata</i>	Fringed Gentian	Camosciara
Geraniaceae	Crane's-bill Family	
<i>Geranium macrorrhizum</i>	Rock Crane's-bill	Rifugio di Iorio
<i>Geranium pyrenaicum</i>	Hedgerow Crane's-bill	Widespread
<i>Geranium robertianum</i>	Herb Robert	Pesco di Lordo
<i>Geranium subcaulescens</i>	Ashy Crane's-bill	Rifugio di Iorio
Hypericaceae	St. John's-wort Family	
<i>Hypericum perforatum</i>	Perforate St. John's-wort	Pesco di Lordo
Lamiaceae	Deadnettle Family	
<i>Clinopodium (Acinos) alpinum</i>	Alpine Basil Thyme	Pesco di Lordo
<i>Galeopsis ladanum</i>	Red Hemp-nettle	Pesco di Lordo
<i>Mentha aquatica</i>	Water Mint	Val Fondillo
<i>Satureja montana</i>	Winter Savory	Gole di Sagittario
<i>Sideritis italica</i>	Sideritis	Above Ortona
<i>Stachys recta</i>	Perennial Yellow Woundwort	Above Ortona
Malvaceae	Mallow Family	
<i>Malva moschata</i>	Musk Mallow	Pesco di Lordo
Oleaceae	Olive Family	
<i>Fraxinus ornus</i>	Manna or Flowering Ash	Gole di Sagittario
<i>Ligustrum vulgare</i>	Privet	Camosciara

Scientific name	Common name	Location
Orobanchaceae	Broomrape Family	
<i>Euphrasia agg</i>	Eyebright	Pesco di Lordo
<i>Odontites lutea</i>	Yellow Odontites	Gole di Sagittario
<i>Odontites vulgaris</i>	Red Bartsia	Camosciara
Plantaginaceae	Plantain Family	
<i>Cymbalaria muralis</i>	Ivy-leaved Toadflax	Near Hotel
<i>Cymbalaria pallida*</i>	Italian Toadflax	Rifugio di Iorio
<i>Digitalis ferruginea</i>	Brown Foxglove	Pesco di Lordo (remains)
<i>Globularia cordifolia</i>	Matted Globularia	Above Ortona (stop 2)
<i>Linaria purpurea</i>	Purple Toadflax	Pesco di Lordo
<i>Plantago sempervirens</i>	Shrubby Plantain	Above Ortona (stop 2)
Plumbaginaceae	Thrift Family	
<i>Armeria canescens</i>	Plantain-leaved Thrift	Rifugio di Iorio
<i>Plumbago europaea</i>	Plumbago or Common Leadwort	Gole di Sagittario (mauve flowers)
Polygalaceae	Milkwort Family	
<i>Polygala flavescens</i>	A Yellow Milkwort	Val Fondillo
<i>Polygala major</i>	A Milkwort	Above Ortona (stop 2)
Primulaceae	Primrose Family	
<i>Cyclamen hederifolium</i>	Common Sowbread	Gole di Sagittario
<i>Primula vulgaris</i>	Primrose	Camosciara (leaves)
Ranunculaceae	Buttercup Family	
<i>Consolida ajacis</i>	Larkspur	Val di Rose
<i>Hepatica nobilis</i>	Hepatica	Camosciara (leaves)
<i>Thalictrum simplex</i>	A Meadow-rue	Val Fondillo (maroon leaves)
Rhamnaceae	Buckthorn Family	
<i>Rhamnus alpinus</i>	Alpine Buckthorn	Rifugio di Iorio
Rosaceae	Rose Family	
<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	Hawthorn	Pesco di Lordo
<i>Fragaria vesca</i>	Wild Strawberry	Pesco di Lordo
<i>Malus sylvestris</i>	Crab Apple	Pesco di Lordo
<i>Prunus spinosa</i>	Blackthorn	Pesco di Lordo
<i>Pyrus pyraeaster</i>	Wild Pear	Camosciara
<i>Rosa canina agg</i>	Dog Rose	Pesco di Lordo
<i>Rubus fruticosus agg.</i>	Bramble	Gole di Sagittario
Rubiaceae	Bedstraw Family	
<i>Asperula aristata</i>	A yellow-green Squinancywort	Above Ortona (stop 2)
<i>Asperula cynanchica</i>	Squinancywort (pale pink flowers)	Above Ortona (stop 2)
<i>Cruciata laevipes</i>	Crosswort	Pesco di Lordo
<i>Galium odoratum</i>	Woodruff	Pesco di Lordo
Salicaceae	Willow Family	
<i>Salix alba</i>	White Willow	Gole di Sagittario

Scientific name	Common name	Location
<i>Salix caprea</i>	Goat Willow	Gole di Sagittario
Santalaceae	Sandelwood Family	
<i>Viscum album</i>	Mistletoe	Camosciara
Sapindaceae	Maple Family	
<i>Acer campestre</i>	Field Maple	Camosciara
<i>Acer monspessulanum</i>	Montpelier Maple	Camosciara
<i>Acer opalus</i>	Italian Maple	Camosciara
<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>	Sycamore	Gioia Vecchio
Saxifragaceae	Saxifrage Family	
<i>Saxifraga paniculata</i>	Live-long Saxifrage	Rifugio di Iorio (leaves)
<i>Saxifraga porophylla</i> *	Reddish Saxifrage	Val di Rose (over)
Scrophulariaceae	Figwort Family	
<i>Scrophularia canina</i> subsp. <i>canina</i>	Dog (French) Figwort	Pesco di Lordo
<i>Verbascum mallophorum</i>	a large branched Mullein	Pesco di Lordo
<i>Verbascum pulverulentum</i>	Hoary Mullein	Pesco di Lordo
Urticaceae	Nettle Family	
<i>Urtica dioica</i>	Nettle	Gole di Sagittario

Monocots**Monocotyledons**

Asparagaceae	Asparagus Family	
<i>Polygonatum multiflorum</i>	Solomon's Seal	Camosciara
<i>Ruscus aculeatus</i>	Butcher's Broom	Gole di Sagittario
Colchicaceae	Autumn Crocus Family	
<i>Colchicum lusitanum</i>	An Autumn Crocus	Val di Rose
Melanthiaceae	Herb Paris Family	
<i>Paris quadrifolia</i>	Herb Paris	Pesco di Lordo
Orchidaceae	Orchid Family	
<i>Neottia nidus-avis</i>	Bird's Nest Orchid	Camosciara (remains)
FUNGI		
Basidiomycetes		
<i>Coprinus comatus</i>	Shaggy Ink Cap	Valle di Iorio

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

	Common name	Scientific name	September							
			20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
1	Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>					✓			
2	Rock Partridge	<i>Alectoris graeca</i>				H				
3	Common Pheasant	<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>					✓			
4	Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>					✓			
5	Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>					✓	✓		

	Common name	Scientific name	September							
			20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
6	Griffon Vulture	<i>Gyps fulvus</i>		4						
7	Golden Eagle	<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>		1				2		
8	Eurasian Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>		1						
9	Western Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>		2						
10	Common Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
11	Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>					✓			
12	Eurasian Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>					✓			
13	Rock Dove/Feral Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	
14	Common Wood Pigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
15	Tawny Owl	<i>Strix aluco</i>		2 + H						
16	White-backed Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos leucotos lilfordi</i>							1	
17	Great Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>		✓	✓			✓	H	H
18	European Green Woodpecker	<i>Picus viridis</i>		H	H		H	✓	H	H
19	Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	
20	Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>						1		
21	Eurasian Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>	✓	H	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
22	Eurasian Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
23	Red-billed Chough	<i>Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax</i>		2		H	H	✓		
24	Alpine Chough	<i>Pyrrhocorax graculus</i>		H		43				
25	Western Jackdaw	<i>Coloeus monedula</i>	✓							
26	Hooded Crow	<i>Corvus cornix</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
27	Northern Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>			1				3	
28	Coal Tit	<i>Parus ater</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
29	Marsh Tit	<i>Poecile palustris</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
30	Eurasian Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>		✓	✓					
31	Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>		✓	✓		✓	✓		H
32	Woodlark	<i>Lullula arborea</i>					H		✓	✓
33	Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>			✓		✓			
34	Eurasian Crag Martin	<i>Ptyonoprogne rupestris</i>					10's		✓	
35	Common House Martin	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>	✓	>100	>400		✓	✓	✓	
36	Long-tailed Tit	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	
37	Common Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	H
38	Eurasian Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>		✓	✓		✓	✓	H	H
39	Common Firecrest	<i>Regulus ignicapillus</i>			3			✓		H
40	Eurasian Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	H	✓	H	✓	✓	H	H	H
41	Eurasian Nuthatch	<i>Sitta europaea</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
42	Short-toed Treecreeper	<i>Certhia brachydactyla</i>		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
43	Common Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>					✓			✓
44	Common Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
45	Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>		✓	✓					
46	Mistle Thrush	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>					>15		4	
47	European Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>		✓	✓		✓	✓	H	H
48	Black Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>		✓		✓	H		✓	✓
49	European Stonechat	<i>Saxicola torquata</i>					✓			
50	Italian Sparrow	<i>Passer italiae</i>	✓				✓		✓	
51	Eurasian Tree Sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>		H	✓	H	H	H	H	H
52	Alpine Accentor	<i>Prunella collaris</i>				Poss.				
53	Grey Wagtail	<i>Montacilla cinerea</i>		✓	✓		✓	✓		

	Common name	Scientific name	September							
			20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
54	White Wagtail	<i>Montacilla alba</i>					✓			
55	Tree Pipit	<i>Anthus trivialis</i>		✓	✓		✓			
56	Water Pipit	<i>Anthus spinoletta</i>		✓		✓	H			
57	Common Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
58	Hawfinch	<i>Coccothraustes coccothraustes</i>		✓						
59	Eurasian Bullfinch	<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>		✓	✓				✓	
60	European Greenfinch	<i>Chloris chloris</i>			✓			✓		
61	Common Linnet	<i>Linaria cannabina</i>				✓				
62	Red Crossbill	<i>Loxia curvirosta</i>			8	✓		✓	✓	✓
63	European Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
64	European Serin	<i>Serinus serinus</i>		✓	✓		✓		✓	
65	Rock Bunting	<i>Emberiza cia</i>				✓	✓	H		
66	Cirl Bunting	<i>Emberiza cirlus</i>		H					✓	

Mammals (D= Droppings; S = signs of)

1	Mole	<i>Talpa sp.</i>		S	S	S	S	S	S	
2	Red Fox	<i>Vulpes vulpes</i>		1	1	1	2	1	3	
3	Grey Wolf	<i>Canis lupus</i>					8	2	3	
4	Marsican Brown Bear	<i>Ursus arctos marsicanus</i>		1	4		3	1		
5	Marten sp.	<i>Martes sp.</i>		D		D	D			
6	Red Deer	<i>Cervus elaphus</i>		40+	6	1	50+	50+	50+	H
7	Roe Deer	<i>Capreolus capreolus</i>		2			5	4	2	2
8	Apennine or Abruzzo Chamois	<i>Rupicapra pyrenaica ornata</i>				c30				
9	Wild Boar	<i>Sus scrofa</i>	30+	1	c20		11	5	S	1
10	Red Squirrel	<i>Sciurus vulgaris</i>							1	
11	Pipistrelle Bat	<i>Pipistrellus sp.</i>						1		
12	Soprano Pipistrelle	<i>Pipistrellus pygmaeus</i>							✓	

Reptiles & Amphibians

1	Common Wall Lizard	<i>Podarcis muralis</i>			✓	✓		✓		
2	Italian Wall Lizard	<i>Podarcis sicula</i>			✓	✓				

Fish

1	Brown Trout	<i>Salmo trutta</i>			✓		✓	✓		
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Butterflies

1	Large White	<i>Pieris brassicae</i>		✓	✓					
2	Small White	<i>Artogeia rapae</i>		✓	✓		✓	✓		
3	Green-veined White	<i>Artogeia napi</i>		✓	✓					
4	Clouded Yellow	<i>Colias crocea</i>		✓	✓		✓			
5	Berger's Clouded Yellow	<i>Colias alfacariensis</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
6	Wood White	<i>Leptidea sinapis</i>		✓	✓					
7	Long-tailed Blue	<i>Lampides boeticus</i>		✓	✓			✓		
8	Lang's Short-tailed Blue	<i>Leptotes pirithous</i>		✓	✓			✓		
9	Little Blue	<i>Cupido minimus</i>						✓		
10	Brown Argus	<i>Aricia agestis</i>		✓		✓		✓		
11	Chapman's Blue	<i>Agrodiaetus thersites</i>					✓			

	Common name	Scientific name	September								
			20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	
12	Chalk-hill Blue	<i>Lysandra coridon</i>							✓		
13	Adonis Blue	<i>Lysandra bellargus</i>				✓			✓		
14	Common Blue	<i>Polyommatus icarus</i>		✓					✓		
15	Peacock Butterfly	<i>Inachis io</i>			✓						
16	Red Admiral	<i>Vanessa atalanta</i>			✓			✓			
17	Comma Butterfly	<i>Polygonia c-album</i>			✓						
18	Cardinal Fritillary	<i>Argynnis pandora</i>			✓			✓			
19	Silver-washed Fritillary	<i>Argynnis paphia</i>		✓	✓						
20	Queen of Spain Fritillary	<i>Issoria lathonia</i>		✓							
21	Tree Grayling	<i>Neohipparchia statilinus</i>						✓			
22	Great Banded Grayling	<i>Kanetisa circe</i>					✓				
23	Meadow Brown	<i>Maniola jurtina</i>		✓	✓						
24	Small Heath	<i>Coenonympha pamphilus</i>		✓	✓			✓			
25	Speckled Wood	<i>Pararge aegeria</i>		✓	✓						
26	Wall Brown	<i>Lasiommata megera</i>		✓	✓			✓			
27	Large Wall Brown	<i>Lasiommata maera</i>			✓	✓			✓		
28	Dingy Skipper	<i>Erynnis tages</i>		✓							

Moths (L = Caterpillar)

Fox Moth, *Macrothylacia rubi* (L)

cf. Ash-banded Carpet, *Coenotephria tophaceata*

Brimstone Moth, *Opisthograptis luteolata*

Large Yellow Underwing, *Noctua pronuba*

Herald, *Scoliopteryx libatrix* (L)

Yellow Shell Moth, *Camptogramma bilineata*

Treble-bar, *Aplocera plagiata*

Humming-bird Hawk-moth, *Macroglossum stellatarum*

Silver Y, *Autographa gamma*

Other invertebrates

Mayfly, Order *Ephemeroptera*

Blue-winged Grasshopper, *Oedipoda caeruleascens*

Roesel's Bush-cricket, *Metrioptera roeselii*

Red & black Ground Bug, *Tropidothorax leucopterus*

Violet Carpenter Bee, *Xylocopa violacea*

Ground Beetle, *Carabus sp.*(L)

European Garden Spider, *Araneus diadematus*

A Harvestman (commonest sp.), *Phalangium opilio*

A Millipede, *Cylindroiulus sp.* (cf. *C. caeruleocinctus*)

Grasshopper spp, *Acrididae*

Red-winged Grasshopper, *Oedipoda cf. germanica*

Field Cricket, *Gryllus campestris*

Wood Ant , *Formica rufa*

Common Carder Bee, *Bombus pascuorum*

Wasp Spider, *Argiope bruennichi*

Green Huntsman Spider, *Micrommata virescens*

A Harvestman (dorsal white line), *Metaphalangium cirtanum*



Gioia Vecchio