

Wise Birding Holidays

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Trip Report

ITALY, ABRUZZO NP:

Bears, Woodpeckers & Rock Partridge Tour

Saturday 18th - Wednesday 22nd May 2013



Tour Participants: Pat & John Bartley, Lynne & Roger Favell

Leader: Chris Townend

HIGHLIGHTS OF TRIP

Marsican Brown Bear: Sightings on 4 out of 5 days and over 2.5 hours of total viewing time. At least three different animals, including a male hot on the scent of a female bear!

Rock Partridge: A single bird gave good scope views and at least another 2 birds calling.

Apennine Chamois: A group of 6 animals seen running across the snow on La Camosciara made for a great atmospheric sighting.

Red-footed Falcon: Two birds seen well on our return from the Rock Partridge site.

Butterflies & Orchids: The good weather produced some nice species that included: Grizzled Skipper, Wall Brown, Pearl-bordered Fritillary, Bertoloni's Bee Orchid & Burnt Tip Orchid.



This Marsican Brown Bear was one of four sightings that we enjoyed.

See video here: www.wisebirding.co.uk/wise-birding-holidays-bird-mammal-videos

Saturday 18th May

After meeting at Rome's Fiumicino airport and transferring to a comfortable minibus, we were soon on the ring road around the city of Rome and then headed east towards our destination, the Abruzzo National Park. Once away from the outskirts of Rome, the habitat soon changed as we entered a lush green landscape of hills and forest with small villages perched on the top. A brief stop en route allowed everyone to stretch their legs and have some lunch, but more importantly, it allowed everyone to see their first birds of the trip! A singing **Melodious Warber** and the first of many **Italian Sparrows** were the most notable species. We headed on and soon passed Mount Velino, complete with snow capped peaks and before long we were winding our way up into the Abruzzo National Park, just 2.5 hours drive from the airport.

It was a lovely bright and sunny evening and we had made good time, so we checked into our beautifully renovated guest house in the heart of the historic part of Pescasseroli. Once settled in, we headed up the beautiful Sangro valley, taking in our first superb male **Red-backed Shrike** en route, thanks to Lynne's sharp eyes. A few miles further up the valley and we were in position at a site that is now becoming probably the most reliable place in the park to see the endemic race of European Brown Bear, the **Marsican Bear**. It was a lovely evening and whilst we parked near the church at Gioia Vecchio, it seemed we were not the only people keen to look for bears! There was a small crowd already in position, hoping, like us that the bears would reveal themselves. It was great to see a small crowd of Italians as keen and passionate about seeing "their" bears as we were! We had a commanding position overlooking the lush valley below us and we simply watched, waited and scanned the numerous meadows, bushes and forest edge. The light was a little harsh with some but it was out of one of these shadows that our prize appeared! A little excitement from the crowd was a clear sign there was something of interest below us. After a little dialogue with a friendly local and another careful scan, Chris was soon onto what we were all waiting for, a **Marsican Brown Bear!** It was only 18.45hrs and still very light so the views were pretty special in a scope and everyone was soon enjoying their first views of this rare endemic bear and within only 30 minutes of arriving!

There really is no better feeling than standing in the beautiful surroundings of the Abruzzo NP with the warm sunshine of the day on your back and watching a wild bear in its natural habitat! It was great to watch this animal behaving totally naturally and completely oblivious to our presence as it slowly ambled along the mosaic of woodland edge and bushes, stopping every now and again to dig at the ground. After watching the animal for a little while, Pat noticed that the animal appeared to be limping slightly on its front left paw. Closer inspection of video and confirmation with park officials confirmed that this animal was known to them and actually had an old gin trap injury! Despite its injury, it seemed completely unhindered by its disability and we continued to watch the animal for over 45 minutes until it disappeared into thick cover. It had been a great start to our short break and we decided to head into Pescasseroli for an exceedingly large celebratory meal and a few beers!

Sunday 19th May

Following the previous day's events, we were all eager to get a full day in the field. So we headed out just after sunrise and back to our viewpoint from the night before. Here we enjoyed a much needed coffee and snacks whilst we adopted our usual drill of carefully scanning the meadows and woodland edge below us. It was a clear morning and the resident **Black Redstart** was singing from the church and a more distant **Common Cuckoo** and **Eurasian Hoopoe** could clearly be heard as the sun began to slowly warm us up. Chris then heard the song of a **Golden Oriole** and after some careful scanning we were all watching two of these stunning birds in the scope as they very appreciatively perched up on the top of a bush warming themselves in the early morning sunshine! After an hour or so further scanning with no sign of any bears, it reminded us just how fortunate we had been the previous day and we decided to have a change of scenery. A short drive away and we were overlooking another meadow complex near the historic village of Bisenga. The clear highlight here was a superb immature **Golden Eagle** that soared above us for a good ten minutes allowing some excellent views showing off the distinctive white upper tail and white wing flashes. The familiar songs of both **Yellowhammer** and **Corn Bunting** were common at this quite idyllic spot and both species perched up nicely in the morning sunshine, as did a fine male **Common Stonechat**. Lynne and Roger immersed themselves in the great botany of the meadow with the numerous orchids a sight to behold. However, stomachs were soon rumbling and we returned to our homely guest house where Salvatore awaited us with a smile and only too pleased to fill our mugs with coffee, as we enjoyed a good breakfast.

After breakfast we took a short drive to the Difesa Forest where we were to spend most of the day walking in the beautiful Beech woodland. The weather was still bright and quite warm as we slowly ambled along the stony track. Here we encountered some of the woodland specialities including a superb singing male **Wood Warbler** as it sang out its distinctive song complete with final trill as it glided from branch to branch. A **Common Redstart** was singing nearby and we soon found ourselves entering an open meadow where we spent some time scanning the many dead trees in the hope of finding our main target species, the **White-backed Woodpecker**.

The scenery was pretty impressive as we looked to the mountains in the distance and the breezy conditions tempted a **Northern Goshawk** to take to the sky, but unfortunately it disappeared almost as quickly as it had appeared! We took time to enjoy the view and the peaceful forest and with no sight nor sound of our main target species, we headed a little further into the forest. A male **Collared Flycatcher** sang nearby but was unwilling to show itself as it remained in the thick canopy, so we headed to a high point. Here, we had a good view over the forest and we waited patiently, but again there was no sign of our hoped for target.

It seemed as if lunch was calling, so we slowly re-traced our steps down the wooded slope and just as we reached the bottom, a **White-backed Woodpecker** called and flew over us, landing just out of view where we had been sat earlier! A quick sprint back up the hill by Chris failed to reveal its whereabouts, so once more we waited for a while but the forest was rather frustratingly silent, so we decided to call it a day and head back to our vehicle for a somewhat later than planned lunch!

A **Western Green Lizard** was a good spot by Pat on our way back down and a singing male **Cirl Bunting** greeted us at our vehicle whilst Roger and Lynne enjoyed their lunch and some more botany. Chris then headed back up the track to give both Pat and John a lift back down to civilisation and more importantly, to re-unite them with their packed lunches! Once everyone was feeling better for food, we returned to Pescasseroli for a break before another evening session looking for bears!

The evening was spent, once again overlooking the valley where we had been successful on our first evening. The weather was still pleasantly warm and the light not quite as harsh as the previous evening and the familiar task of scanning began. A **Red Deer** was the first mammal to reveal itself as it cautiously broke from cover and then at around 7pm, Chris called "Bear!" and we were soon all watching our second **Marsican Brown Bear** of the trip. This was a different bear to the one from the previous day as although similar in size, its markings were different and it clearly had no injury to its front paws. We were treated to a full hour of pretty much non-stop viewing as we followed the bear's movements around the meadow slopes as it foraged for food. Its golden head and upper back was very striking contrasting with a much darker almost black neck hump and front legs. Once again, we just immersed ourselves in the beautiful landscape and the fact that we were watching wild bears behaving perfectly naturally without the need of a baited bear hide. At around 8pm the bear slowly lumbered off towards the forest and that was our cue to head for home. En route Lynne spotted a fine male **Whinchat** before we arrived in Pescasseroli for another evening meal. Here we enjoyed some traditional Italian pizzas and some alcohol, whilst raising a glass to the Marsican Bears!

Monday 20th May

Today we explored new territory and headed for the mountain village of Civitella Alfedena where we took in the wonderful views across Lake Barrea to the scenic town of Barrea. We then crossed the causeway over the lake where we added our only **Great Crested Grebes** of the trip before heading to the scenic Valle de Fondillo. Here we took a stroll along a nice open track, through some open meadows and alongside the river Sangro. No sooner were we out of the car than an adult

Golden Eagle glided effortlessly overhead, surely a good start to the day! As we followed the path alongside the river a **Eurasian Wryneck** called very close to us, but in true Wryneck style refused to show itself! Numerous **Red-backed Shrikes** perched up in full view after every few paces and it is clearly a very common bird in Abruzzo NP. The view across to Abruzzo's most famous mountain, La Camosciara was quite something with its snow covered jagged tops making it an impressive backdrop for birding. The early morning light was excellent and although distant, the sight of six **Apennine Chamois** running across the snow covered tops in the telescope was certainly a highlight. As we slowly ambled on, John heard a **Eurasian Tree Sparrow** fly over which perched up briefly, before we were soon distracted by a calling male **Lesser Spotted Woodpecker**. The bird flew overhead and landed out of sight, but some careful stalking and scanning soon relocated the bird as it perched up and sunned itself sitting in full view for five minutes! It really was great to get such superb

views of a species that has sadly become so much rarer back in the UK. A sunny slope attracted some butterfly interest with **Brown Argus** and **Grizzled Skipper** before we had to return to our vehicle. We then headed for Pescasseroli once more where yet another elusive **Eurasian Wryneck** called close to our guest house! However, the lure of another leisurely breakfast and large amounts of coffee was too much for everyone!

After some free time to explore Pescasseroli, we headed back out in the early afternoon, this time leaving the boundary of the Abruzzo NP and visiting another nearby mountain range. The purpose of this visit, was primarily to try and find **Rock Partridge!** This species has a very limited distribution in the Western Palearctic and can be notoriously hard to find, but we were keen to give it a go!

Within an hour of our accommodation, we were in the wilderness and heading up a quiet winding track and towards the Sirente-Velino Mountains. After a short while we parked and slowly walked up to an area of scree slopes. The walk was literally full of butterfly and botany activity and both Lynne and Roger were clearly wrestling with their passion for birds, butterflies and plants, not knowing where to look next! John, Pat and Chris continued slowly ahead, whilst Lynne and Roger recorded an impressive list of butterflies including, **Pale Clouded Yellow, Berger's Clouded Yellow, Scarce Swallowtail, Adonis Blue, Mazarine Blue, Small Heath** and **Pearl-bordered Fritillary**. Highlight birds of the walk included a number of singing **Common Nightingales** and a small group of **Red-billed Chough** before we finally reached the start of the scree slopes where we waited and listened. Almost immediately, Chris could hear a **Rock Partridge** calling, so it was just a simple case of scanning and more scanning and more scanning! Birds continued to call nearby, but nothing gave a hint as to their exact location, so a little bit more elevation was required and there was no way that John was not coming too! A bit more scanning and patience and then Bingo! A **Rock Partridge** in the telescope sat at the base of a rocky crag. It did the decent thing and waited for John and this difficult Western Palearctic bird was well and truly in the bag!

Before long, we were all back at the vehicle with an impressive combined list of orchids, butterflies and birds and all eager to return to the Abruzzo NP in time for some more bear watching! On our return route, Roger spotted a **Red Fox** right beside the vehicle that did not hang around and then a little later, whilst passing some arable land, Roger's sharp eyes spotted a falcon sitting on wires. Worthy of further investigation, we turned round and found somewhere safe to park and we were soon greeted by two cracking **Red-footed Falcons**, a 1st summer male and a female! We spent a good twenty minutes watching these great falcons hawking over the fields to the sound of a singing **Common Quail**, before it was time to head back to our viewpoint in the Park. The evening produced no bear sightings but five **Red Deer** and a single **Roe Deer** were a pleasant distraction and a male **Wild Boar** was the clear highlight of the evening, as it slowly walked down the grassy slope towards us. This was much to the relief of Roger who had never seen one before, so all in all a great ending to the day.

Tuesday 21st May

This morning we headed out at around sunrise and headed for the village of Bisenga where we enjoyed some hot coffee and snacks, on what was definitely a chillier morning. A **Red squirrel** and a **Brown Hare** were the highlights here and two new and very welcome mammal species for the trip. Chris began to get itchy feet and had a feeling that we should really be scanning from the church once again and so we headed in that direction, arriving at around 07.15hrs. The sun was very much breaching the mountain tops and slowly warming us up, when all of a sudden there was a shout from Chris and we were in luck – another **Marsican Bear!** This was probably the best sighting of the trip as we all watched this fantastic animal continuously from 07.30hrs until 08.15hrs and in absolutely brilliant light. This animal appeared was clearly on the scent of something (possibly another bear) as it relentlessly marched back and forth sniffing the air regularly and every now and again it would bound along almost breaking into a gallop with its golden head and saddle gleaming in the morning sun! It really was a very exciting encounter as the bear continued to come closer and closer to us, with the views just getting better and better before it finally disappeared from view right below us. There were huge grins all round and we returned to our guest house for what was probably the best breakfast of the week, content that we had just witnessed something really quite special!

After another filling breakfast we headed out to explore a different part of the park, to the north and the road towards Scanno. We took a little time to stop at some woodland areas and the village of Villetta Barrea by the river where we finally managed some good views of **Common Redstart** as well as **Marsh Tit**. We then slowly wound our way up towards the Passo Godi making short stops en route. Here Roger was teased once again by calling **Eurasian Wrynecks** but a **Western Bonelli's Warbler** was a little more sociable as were the numerous orchids. We enjoyed our lunch with a spectacular view looking back towards the lake of Barrea.

After lunch, we took a walk along the Y7 trail where the weather looked a little threatening, but we decided to brave it nonetheless! A **Woodlark** sang above us as we slowly ambled along the well worn trail. Then no sooner were we out of sight of our vehicle, than the inevitable rain began to fall! So we sheltered under a tree and waited for it to abate. Once it eased a little, we continued along the trail where a cracking male **Rock Bunting** perched up brilliantly allowing some pretty good scope views. We then had to wait our turn as a group of sheep passed us under the watchful eye of the iconic *Maremma* Italian Sheep Dog, so typical of this region.

After a good leg stretch, we slowly returned to the vehicle in time to return to Pescasseroli and our final evening visit to look for bears. Whilst travelling back through the village of Villetta Barrea, a large **Red Deer** stag caused some amusement as it fed in one of the gardens, totally unperturbed by its onlookers!

Back near the church at Gioia Vecchio we were soon in position scanning once again for bears. However, there was a cold wind and some light rain and it was not quite as inviting as it had been the previous two evenings! Chris, being a great believer in the

motto "no pain no gain" continued to scan with Pat, whilst the others rather more sensibly scanned from the vehicle! Despite Pat and Chris's best efforts, there were sadly no further bear sightings, but some small groups of **Red Deer** and a single **Roe Deer** were the best they could muster. So we decided to head out for an earlier meal, reminding ourselves just how great the morning sightings had been!

Wednesday 22nd May

Today was our last day and despite having had some fantastic views of **Marsican Bears** already, everyone was still keen as mustard to try just one more time for a final sighting. We arrived at our usual spot at around 06.30hrs and no sooner were we out of the vehicle than we were watching yet another **Marsican Bear!** This time, the sighting was brief although pretty close and then there were two bears. No sooner had they appeared in view than they bounded off together and into the woodland never to be seen again! It was great to catch our final glimpse of these wonderful animals and highlighted just how unpredictable these bears can be and how privileged we had been earlier in the week!

After another leisurely breakfast back at the guest house, we had time to re-visit the Difesa Forest once more in the hope of improving on our **White-backed Woodpecker** views. Unfortunately, the weather had changed and we soon found ourselves walking in a rather heavy downpour with distant thunder! So we sheltered for a while to the sound of singing **Collared Flycatchers** and **Wood Warblers!** It was certainly atmospheric and good to experience the Abruzzo NP in all its weather. Sadly, we were out of luck with no sign of the hoped for **White-backed Woodpecker**. After a couple of hours of walking, we headed back to our vehicle where we had good views of **Eurasian Tree Sparrow** before arriving back at our guest house for the final time. Here we had plenty of time to pack and freshen up before our journey back to Rome.

Within three hours we were back in the hustle and bustle of Rome's busy airport and said our goodbyes, all full of our great experiences of the beautiful Abruzzo NP and its fantastic wildlife.

Conservation Donation from Wise Birding Holidays:

Following the successful conclusion of this tour, **a £150 donation from Wise Birding Holidays was made to Salviamo l'Orso: The Association for the Conservation of Marsican Bears.** This is an independent group passionate about bears working working to raise awareness and ensure the Marsican Brown Bear does not become extinct. **The Marsican Brown Bear** (*Ursus arctos marsicanus*), with an estimated population of no more than 50 animals, is a highly threatened sub-species of the European Brown Bear and is restricted almost entirely to the wonderful Abruzzo NP in Italy. With only 6-8 female bears currently producing young a year and such a small world population, the bears within the park are hugely important. Salviamo l'Orso also works together with researchers to get reliable estimates of the Marsican Bear population. The Females with Cubs Census is an annual survey determining numbers of new cubs born into the population. **More details can be found by following this link:** <http://www.salviamolorso.it/?lang=en>

Some scenery and wildlife of Abruzzo NP.....



Looking towards
Abruzzo NP from
the Sirente-Velino
Mountains



This Marsican Bear
showed brilliantly
on the morning of
the 21st May



Red-backed
Shrikes are a
very common bird
in Abruzzo NP

Some scenery and wildlife of Abruzzo NP.....



This immature Golden Eagle showed well on our first morning in the National Park



The scenery in Abruzzo is always stunning and forever changing



This 1st summer male Red-footed Falcon was a nice surprise on the 20th

Some scenery and wildlife of Abruzzo NP.....



BIRD & MAMMAL LIST for Wise Birding Holidays:
ITALY: Bears, Woodpeckers & Rock Partridge Tour - 18th -22nd May 2013

#	COMMON NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME	NOTES
1.	Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	Recorded on 2 days
2.	Rock Partridge	<i>Alectoris graeca</i>	At least 3 birds calling with one bird giving good scope views
3.	Common Quail	<i>Coturnix coturnix</i>	A bird heard singing on the 20 th when watching Red-footed Falcons
4.	Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>	Seen only at the lake at Barrea
5.	Golden Eagle	<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>	Three birds seen over three days. Two adults and an immature
6.	Common Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>	Recorded on 4 days
7.	Northern Goshawk	<i>Accipiter gentilis</i>	A bird seen briefly by Chris only
8.	Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	Recorded on 4 days
9.	Red-footed Falcon	<i>Falco vespertinus</i>	A great spot by Roger. A 1 st summer male and a female
10.	Rock Dove/Feral Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>	Recorded daily
11.	Common Wood Pigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	Recorded daily
12.	European Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>	One bird seen on the 19 th
13.	Common Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>	Recorded daily, mostly heard but seen well on other days
14.	Tawny Owl	<i>Strix aluco</i>	Heard on our first night in Abruzzo
15.	Common Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>	Recorded on 4 days
16.	Eurasian Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>	Seen while travelling on the 18 th and heard on subsequent days
17.	European Green Woodpecker	<i>Picus viridis</i>	Recorded on 2 days
18.	Great Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>	Recorded on 1 day
19.	White-backed (Lilford's) Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos lilfordi</i>	A frustrating view of a bird flying overhead and calling!
20.	Lesser Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopus minor</i>	A superb view of a male on the 20 th
21.	Eurasian Wryneck	<i>Jynx torquilla</i>	Heard on 4 days

#	COMMON NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME	NOTES
22.	Woodlark	<i>Lullula arborea</i>	A singing bird seen on the 21 st
23.	Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	Recorded daily
24.	Common House Martin	<i>Delichon urbica</i>	Recorded on 3 days
25.	White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>	Recorded on 4 days
26.	Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava</i>	A single bird seen whilst watching Red-footed Falcons
27.	Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>	Recorded on 2 days
28.	European Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>	Recorded on 3 days
29.	Common Nightingale	<i>Luscinia megarhynchos</i>	Recorded on 3 days, mostly singing but seen well on the 20 th
30.	Common Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>	Recorded on 3 days with some good views on the 21 st and 22 nd
31.	Black Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>	Recorded daily
32.	Northern Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>	Two birds seen on the 19 th
33.	Common Stonechat	<i>Saxicola torquatus</i>	Recorded on 3 days
34.	Whinchat		Recorded on 2 days
35.	Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>	Recorded on 3 days
36.	Mistle Thrush	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>	Recorded on 4 days
37.	Common Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	Recorded daily
38.	Eurasian Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>	Recorded daily
39.	Common Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia communis</i>	Recorded on 2 days
40.	Melodious Warbler	<i>Hippolais polyglotta</i>	Recorded on our first day travelling to Abruzzo. Good views of a singing bird
41.	Wood Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus sibilatrix</i>	Singing males on 2 days
42.	Western Bonelli's Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus bonelli</i>	Recorded daily mostly singing but some good views on the 19 th
43.	Common Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>	Recorded daily
44.	Firecrest	<i>Regulus ignicapillus</i>	Heard on 3 days

#	COMMON NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME	NOTES
45.	Winter Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	Heard on one day
46.	Spotted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>	A single bird on the 21 st
47.	Collared Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula albicollis</i>	Singing birds on 2 days
48.	Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>	Recorded daily
49.	Coal Tit	<i>Parus ater</i>	Recorded on at least 1 day
50.	European Blue Tit	<i>Parus caeruleus</i>	Recorded on 4 days
51.	Marsh Tit	<i>Parus palustris</i>	Recorded on 3 days with the best views along the river near Villetta Barrea
52.	Long-tailed Tit	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>	Recorded on 1 day
53.	Eurasian Nuthatch	<i>Sitta europaea</i>	Recorded on 3 days
54.	Short-toed Treecreeper	<i>Certhia brachydactyla</i>	Heard singing on the 20 th
55.	Red-backed Shrike	<i>Lanius collurio</i>	A very common bird and always great to see. Recorded on 4 days
56.	Common Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>	Recorded on 2 days
57.	Eurasian Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>	Recorded on 4 days
58.	Western Jackdaw	<i>Corvus monedula</i>	Recorded on 1 day
59.	Red-billed Chough	<i>Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax</i>	Recorded on 2 days. The best views were whilst watching Rock Partridge!
60.	Hooded Crow	<i>Corvus corone cornix</i>	Recorded daily
61.	Common Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	Recorded on 4 days
62.	Golden Oriole	<i>Oriolus oriolus</i>	Two birds on the 19 th seen very well as they perched in the morning sun. Also heard singing on the 20 th
63.	Italian Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus italiae</i>	This endemic "subspecies" was recorded daily
64.	Eurasian Tree Sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>	Recorded on 2 days
65.	Common Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	Recorded on 4 days

#	COMMON NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME	NOTES
66.	Common Linnet	<i>Acanthis cannabina</i>	Recorded on 2 days
67.	European Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	Recorded on 4 days
68.	European Greenfinch	<i>Carduelis chloris</i>	Recorded on at least 1 day
69.	European Serin	<i>Serinus serinus</i>	Recorded daily
70.	Eurasian Bullfinch	<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>	Recorded on 2 days
71.	Yellowhammer	<i>Emberiza citrinella</i>	Recorded on 4 days
72.	Cirl Bunting	<i>Emberiza cirlus</i>	Recorded on 2 days
73.	Corn Bunting	<i>Miliaria calandra</i>	Recorded on 4 days
74.	Rock Bunting	<i>Emberiza cia</i>	A singing male on the 21 st

#	MAMMAL SPECIES	SCIENTIFIC NAME	NOTES
1.	Red Fox	<i>Vulpes vulpes</i>	A single animal on the 20th
2.	Marsican Brown Bear	<i>Ursus arctos marsicanus</i>	Recorded on 4 days, with great views of up to 5 different animals !
3.	Wild Boar	<i>Sus scrofa</i>	Two individual animals (one leader only)
4.	Red Deer	<i>Cervus elaphus</i>	Recorded every day with a max. count of 12 on the 21st
5.	Roe Deer	<i>Capreolus capreolus</i>	Singles recorded on 3 days
6.	Apennine or Abruzzo Chamois	<i>Rupicapra pyrenaica ornata</i>	At least 6 animals seen at La Camosciara on the 20th
7.	Red Squirrel	<i>Sciurus vulgaris</i>	A single dark morph animal seen well on the 21st
8.	Brown Hare	<i>Lepus europaeus</i>	Two animals seen on the 20 th and 21st

SOME OF THE OTHER SPECIES RECORDED

Western Green Lizard	Common Wall Lizard	
Orange Tip	Red Admiral	Painted Lady
Berger's Clouded Yellow	Clouded Yellow	Brown Argus
Wall Brown	Grizzled Skipper	Dingy Skipper
Wood White	Brimstone	Pearl Bordered Fritillary
Adonis Blue	Small Blue	Common Blue
Scarce Swallowtail	Common Swallowtail	Lady Orchid
Burnt Tip Orchid	Bertoloni's Bee Orchid	Early Spider Orchid
Loose-flowered Orchid	Pale-flowered Orchid	Pyramidal Orchid



All tours donate to conservation projects worldwide!

Wise Birding Holidays Ltd

3, Moormead, Budleigh Salterton, DEVON, EX9 6QA

Website: www.wisebirding.co.uk

Facebook: www.facebook.com/wisebirdingholidays

Email: chris@wisebirding.co.uk

Telephone: **07973 483227**