

Trip-report

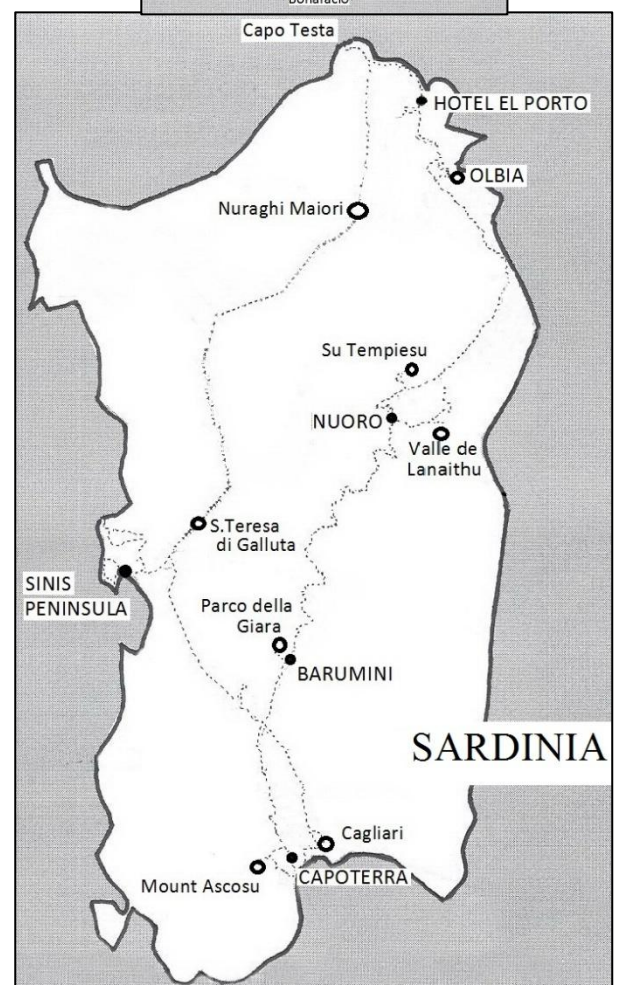
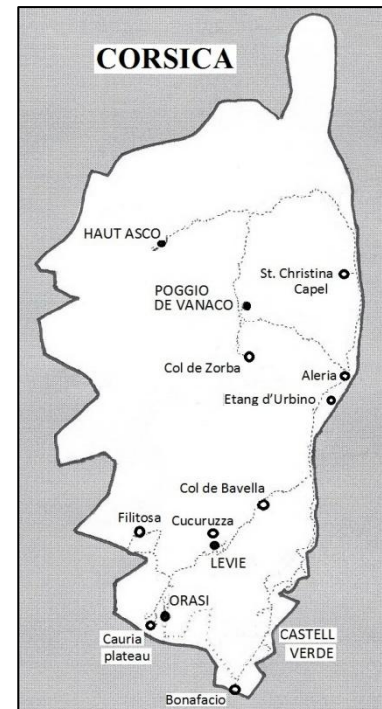
CORSICA & SARDINIA



June 2013
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Itinerary

- 2/6 Sardinia: Olbia Airport, drive Olbia-Nuoro, stop at Su Tempiesu.
- 3/6 Sardinia: drive Nuoro to Su Cologne, Su Cologne, Valle de Lanaithu, Serra Orrios, S' Ena' E' Thòmes.
- 4/6 Sardinia: drive Nuoro to Barumini, Parco della Giara.
- 5/6 Sardinia: Parco della Giara, Barumini, drive Barumini to Capoterra.
- 6/6 Sardinia: Mt. Arcosu, around Cagliari, Cagliari to Sinis peninsula drive, Laguna di Mistras, N of Laguna di Mistras.
- 7/6 Sardinia: Tharros, Oasi de Siu, Area Protetta Pauli'e Sali, Stagno Sale Pòrcus, Porto Mandriola, su Pallosu, coast S of Is Arutas.
- 8/6 Sardinia: drive Sinis peninsula to S.Teresa di Galluta, Capo Testa, ferry from S.Teresa di Galluta to Bonifacio. Corsica: Bonifacio, drive Bonifacio to Orasi.
- 9/6 Corsica: morning walk Orasi, prehistoric sites on Cauria plateau (Pagliaju; Stantari, Renaju & Fontanaccia) , Filitosa, around Levie.
- 10/6 Corsica: A'Pignata (Levie), Cucuruzza/Capula near Levie, Col de Bavella (15-16), drive to Poggio de Venaco.
- 11/6 Corsica: Col de Sorba (06.25-07.25), Poggio de Venaco, drive to Haut Asco, Haut Asco (12.30-).
- 12/6 Corsica: Haut Asco (morning walk 06.30-07.50, walk 09.15-12.15, and late afternoon watch 17.45-18.45), Asco (13-15).
- 13/6 Corsica: Haut Asco (06.35-07.45), around Asco, drive Asco to Porto-Vecchio, around Saint Christina Chapel, Aleria, Etang d'Urbino, hotel Castell Verde hotel Castell Verde.
- 14/6 Corsica: hotel Castell Verde, Castello d'Arraggiu, Tappa, Suarton.
- 15/6 Corsica: hotel Castell Verde, Bonifacio, ferry Bonifacio to S.Teresa di Galluta. Sardinia: drive to Hotel el Porto, around Arzachena (Albucciu, Coddu Vecchju, La Prigiona).
- 16/6 Sardinia: drive Cannigione to Olbia Airport.



Introduction

This report holds information on mammals, birds, amphibians, reptiles, butterflies, dragonflies and a few orchids from an early June visit to Sardinia and Corsica. The trip was a holiday with my partner, Lene Smith, and was just as much a trip for visiting cultural sites. On both Sardinia and Corsica our two main tracks of interest are fairly easy to combine and in particular a number of the stone age/bronze age sites involved nice walks in various types of maquis allowing plenty of opportunities to enjoy the flora and fauna. In respect of nature, the aim of the trip was to see the endemic species/subspecies of birds and what else would turn up.

Bird-wise the trip was successful with records of all endemic species (Corsican Nuthatch, Sardinian Warbler, Corsican Citril finch) and a significant part of the endemic subspecies (including Treecreeper, Spotted Flycatcher, Woodchat Shrike & Common Crossbill). The ferry-trip between the islands offers great opportunities for watching seabirds – including a fair chance for Mediterranean Storm Petrel. For birders on a visit to only one of the islands it can be recommended to make a daytrip back and forth with one of the ferries – the crossing takes only 50 min and there are several daily departures. We didn't search for Little Bustard, Purple Gallinule and Roller - prolific birds still found on Sardinia.

Endemic land-mammals on the islands are sadly extinct but among the contemporary land-mammals there are interesting aspects as several are result of ancient/historic introductions (e.g. Mouflon, Red Deer, and Corsican Hare). We hoped to see the Corsican Red Deer in the Mt. Arcosu Reserve, but had no detailed pre-visit information and/or contacts – and finding the park-office closed on the day of our visit, we ended by enjoying a fairly short walk.

On Sardinia an extra main target was to find one of the unique endemic cave salamanders of which at the moment five species are described - each living in and around caves in separate lime-stone mountains.

Despite the proximity between Corsica and Sardinia and their similarity in habitats, i.e. maquis, the two islands each have their unique characteristics: Sardinia being dryer, much farmland and flatter, while Corsica is greener, mountainous and forest clad. Infrastructure on Sardinia is well developed, while on Corsica many roads are narrow, twisted and takes time.

The time of year for the trip was carefully selected to be before the start of the hot and crowded holiday-season. We were late for the breeding-season for the birds as many species had fledged young - late April/first half of May is probably when bird-song is peaking and also when amphibians are more vocal.

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Mammals



Except for the bats all contemporary land-mammals of Corsica and Sardinia originate from translocations by humans - since Stone Age (e.g. Muflon) and up to present times. A unique, endemic fauna became extinct after the arrival of man. The archaeological museum in Nuoro (Sardinia) has a very interesting room with fossil finds of the unique Sardinian fauna during Pleistocene including Sardinian Dog, a Hyena, the Pika, a Goral-type of goat, a Macaque and others. Texts are only in Italian and it is recommended to come a little prepared, e.g. to have some ideas of the scientific names. Only the Pika survived until as recently as the 18 century. Two sub fossil skulls of the Pika were on display in the archaeological museum in Cagliari and the museum in Levie (Corsica) has a complete skeleton on display, see photo. Contemporary mammals recorded:

1. **West European Hedgehog** *Erinaceus europaeus*. Sardinia: 2/6 3 road-kills drive Olbia-Nuoro, 8/6 1 road-kill drive Sinis peninsula to S.Teresa di Galluta.
2. **Kuhl's Pipistrelle** *Pipistrellus kuhlii*. Sardinia: 15/6 probably the species recorded around strong streetlamps in Cannigione – the frequency was 39-41 KHz. Besides a few un-identified bats were seen: Sardinia: 3/6 few in caves Valle de Lanaihu. Corsica: 14/6 1 hotel Castell Verde. During the first days, I tried a couple of times to use my bat-detector after sunset (e.g. in Nuoro) but without success - probably due to chilly weather.
3. ***Lesser Horseshoe Bat** *Rhinolophus hipposideros*. Sardinia: 8/6 50 in Nuraghi Maiori (drive Sinis peninsula to S.Teresa di Galluta), see photo. A well known site – even mentioned in the Lonely Planet Guidebook. Torches are available for free at the ticket office.
4. **Red Fox** *Vulpes vulpes*. Sardinia: 2/6 1 road-kill drive Olbia-Nuoro, 5/6 1 road-kill drive Barumini to Capoterra, 6/6 1 crossed the road in full day-light at Genna Maria (drive Cagliari to Sinis peninsula).
5. **Pine Marten** *Martes martes*. Sardinia: 5-6/6 1 road-kill just outside Capoterra.
6. **Wild Boar** *Sus scrofa*. None seen, but according to feeding tracks the species is widespread and common. Sardinia: 6/6 feeding tracks Mt. Arcosu. Corsica: 9/6 feeding tracks Cauria plateau, feeding tracks Filitosa, 10/6 feeding tracks A'Pignata, feeding tracks Cucuruzza/Capula near Levie, 11/6 feeding tracks Col de Sorba, 14/6 feeding tracks Castello d'Arraggiu, feeding tracks Tappa. On Corsica also domestic pigs can be free-ranging.
7. **Mouflon** *Ovis gmelinii musimon*. Corsica: 11/6 7 (incl. 2x 1 females with calf) Haut Asco, 12/6 only 1 (became active 18.40) Haut Asco. All were seen high up on the slopes east of Haut Asco hotel, where they become active and starts feeding by early evening.
8. **Corsican Hare** *Lepus corsicanus*. Corsica: 9/6 1 probably this species Cauria plateau. The hare was seen very briefly on a track through a forest clad slope. It appeared slightly long-eared - a character for *L.corsicanus* - but as no other details were noted, the identification is tentative. A study in 2010 showed that most hares on Corsica is this species (which is an old introduction from mainland Italy) although recently also European Hare *L.europeus* and Iberian Hare *L.granatensis* has been introduced for hunting. - Small pellets from a hare/rabbit on the Cauria plateau on 9/6 were probably from European Rabbit *Oryctolagus cuniculus*.



We had a brief morning-visit on a weekday to Mt. Arcosu Reserve (Sardinia) hoping to see the Corsican Red Deer *Cervus elaphus corsicanus* – today the reserve should hold a healthy population. The park-office seems only open in weekends and without detailed information the species seems difficult to find in the steep forest-clad hills.



We visited Parco della Giara (Sardinia) the main goal being to see the free-ranging Giara – the small Sardinian horse probably brought to the island several centuries BC by Phoenicians or Greek people. The horses are roaming on the top of a basalt-plateau. This is a beautiful area covered in dense macchia-forest making it a challenge to find the horses if not for the fact that they at times come out for feeding around some large temporary lakes, see photo. We had one group of 11 horses very well at Lake Paùli Piccia (see photo) and 2-3 briefly at Lake Paùli Maiori.

BIRDS

1. **Barbary Partridge** *Alectoris barbara*. Sardinia: 4/6 probably this species heard once Parco della Giara, 6/6 heard Laguna di Mistras.
2. ***Common Shelduck** *Tadorna tadorna*. Sardinia: 7/6 1 su Pallosu, 7 Porto Mandriola, 35 Stagno Sale Pòrcus.
3. **Mallard** *Anas platyrhynchos*. Sardinia: 6/6 15 incl. 1 female 8 large ducklings N of Laguna di Mistras.
4. ***Cory's Shearwater** *Calonectris diomedea*. Sardinia: 8/6 4 Capo Testa, 25 Ferry S.Teresa di Galluta to Bonifacio. Corsica: 15/6 2 Bonifacio, 10 + 12 + 80 ferry Bonifacio to S.Teresa di Galluta.
5. ***Yelkouan Shearwater** *Puffinus yelkouan*. Sardinia: 7/6 40 in flock (late afternoon) Oasi de Siu, 8/6 400 Capo Testa, 50 (almost exclusively flying E) Ferry from S.Teresa di Galluta to Bonifacio. Corsica: 15/6 1 Bonifacio, 150 fairly near Bonafacio + 250 nears Sardinia from the ferry btw. Bonifacio to S.Teresa di Galluta. Seen really well including some feeding frenzies where it seems that the approaching shearwaters are flying directly into the water – obviously they are able to dive at a very shallow angel.



6. **Mediterranean Storm Petrel** *Hydrobates [pelagicus] melitenis*. Sardinia: None seen during the early evening crossing on 7/6, but 15/6 1 flew W a little more than halfway during the crossing by ferry from Bonifacio to S.Teresa di Galluta. Identification to (sub)species is solely based on the location.
7. **Great Crested Grebe** *Podiceps cristatus*. Sardinia: 6/6 2 Canale Scolmatore (Cabres), 7/6 5 Area Protetta Pauli'e Sali.
8. **Flamingo** *Phoenicopterus ruber*. Sardinia: 6/6 300 Laguna di Mistras, 7/6 500 Area Protetta Pauli'e Sali, 2500 Stagno Sale Pòrcus, 100 Porto Mandriola.



9. **Black-crowned Night Heron** *Nycticorax nycticorax*. Sardinia: 8/6 1 near Oristana (drive Sinis peninsula to S.Teresa di Galluta).
10. **Squacco Heron** *Ardeola ralloides*. Sardinia: 7/6 1 Area Protetta Pauli'e Sali.
11. **Cattle Egret** *Bubulcus ibis*. Sardinia: 2/6 3 drive Olbia-Nuoro, 6/6 40 btw Cabres and San Salvatore, 7/6 150 coast S of Is Arutas, 8/6 3 drive Sinis peninsula to S.Teresa di Galluta.
12. **Grey Heron** *Ardea cinerea*. Sardinia: 6/6 1 Canale Scolmatore (Cabres).
13. **Purple Heron** *Ardea purpurea*. Sardinia: 7/6 3 Area Protetta Pauli'e Sali, Corsica: 13/6 1 Etang d'Urbino.
14. **Little Egret** *Egretta garzetta*. Sardinia: 2/6 2 (during landing) Olbia Airport, 6/6 Laguna di Mistras, 5 N of Laguna di Mistras, 7/6 15 Area Protetta Pauli'e Sali. Corsica: 13/6 2 Etang d'Urbino, 8 hotel Castell Verde, 14/6 2 hotel Castell Verde.
15. **Great Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax carbo*. Sardinia: 7/6 50 Area Protetta Pauli'e Sali.

16. ***European Shag** *Phalacrocorax aristotelis desmarestii*. Sardinia: 7/6 1 Oasi de Siu, 1 su Pallosu, 8/6 10 Capo Testa, 2 Ferry S.Teresa di Galluta to Bonifacio. Corsica: 13/6 27 Etang d'Urbino, 15/6 1 Bonifacio, 2 + 1 ferry Bonifacio to S.Teresa di Galluta.
17. **Common Kestrel** *Falco tinnunculus*. Sardinia: 3/6 3 drive Nuoro to Su Cologne, 4/6 1 Barumini, 5/6 1 Barumini, 1 drive Barumini to Capoterra, 6/6 2 Cagliari to Sinis peninsula, 1 Laguna di Mistras, 7/6 2 Tharros, 5+ rest of day, 8/6 2 drive Sinis peninsula to S.Teresa di Galluta, 2 Ferry S.Teresa di Galluta to Bonifacio, 15/6 2 drive to Hotel el Porto. Corsica: 10/6 2 drive to Poggio de Venaco, 13/6 3 drive Asco to Porto-Vecchio, 15/6 1 Bonifacio.
18. **Eleonora's Falcon** *Falco eleonora*. Sardinia: 3/6 2 drive Nuoro to Su Cologne.
19. **Peregrine Falcon** *Falco peregrines*. Sardinia: 6/6 1 Mt. Arcosu. Corsica: 13/6 1 at dusk hotel Castell Verde.
20. ***Red Kite** *Milvus milvus*. Corsica: 9/6 1 Filitosa, 1 around Levie, 10/6 1 Cucuruzza/Capula near Levie, 2 drive to Poggio de Venaco, 11/6 1 Poggio de Venaco, 3 drive to Haut Asco, 12/6 2 Asco, 13/6 5 (see photo) around Saint Christina Chapel, 1 drive Asco to Porto-Vecchio, 1 Aleria, 2 Etang d'Urbino.
21. ***Lammergeyer** *Gypaetus barbatus*. Corsica: 11/6 1 soaring bird seen briefly Haut Asco, 12/6 1 sitting from 08.00-10.00 on a cliff-top ESE of the hotel at Haut Asco. We could see it from our room.
22. **Western Marsh Harrier** *Circus aeruginosus*. Sardinia: 5/6 1 (salines) drive Barumini to Capoterra, 6/6 2 N of Laguna di Mistras, 7/6 5 Area Protetta Pauli'e Sali, 1 su Pallosu, 8/6 2 drive Sinis peninsula to S.Teresa di Galluta.
23. ***Eurasian Sparrowhawk** *Accipiter nisus wolterstorffii*. Sardinia: 2/6 1 (see photo) Su Tempiesu.
24. ***Eurasian Buzzard** *Buteo buteo arrigonii*. Sardinia: 2/6 2 drive Olbia-Nuoro, 1 Su Tempiesu, 3/6 3 Valle de Lanaithu, 4/6 2 drive Nuoro to Barumini, 1 Parco della Giara, 5/6 1, Parco della Giara, 2 drive Barumini to Capoterra, 7/6 3 all day, 8/6 3 drive Sinis peninsula to S.Teresa di Galluta, 15/6 1 (see photo) around Arzachena. Corsica: 9/6 3 driving all day, 13/6 1 around Asco, 1 Aleria, 1 Etang d'Urbino.
25. **Golden Eagle** *Aquila chrysaetos*. Corsica: 11/6 1 Haut Asco.
26. **Common Moorhen** *Gallinula chloropus*. Sardinia: 7/6 1 heard Area Protetta Pauli'e Sali.
27. ***Common Coot** *Fulica atra*. Sardinia: 5/6 20+ (incl. nest) Parco della Giara, 6/6 25 N of Laguna di Mistras, 7/6 15 Area Protetta Pauli'e Sali. Corsica: 13/6 24 Etang d'Urbino.
28. **Eurasian Oystercatcher** *Haematopus ostralegus*. Sardinia: 6/6 1 Laguna di Mistras.
29. **Black-winged Stilt** *Himantopus himantopus*. Sardinia: 6/6 10 N of Laguna di Mistras, 7/6 1 Porto Mandriola.
30. **Kentish Plover** *Charadrius alexandrinus*. Sardinia: 7/6 1 male coast S of Is Arutas.
31. **Audouin's Gull** *Larus audouinii*. Sardinia: 8/6 5 Capo Testa.
32. ***Yellow-legged Gull** *Larus cachinnans*. Sardinia: Widespread including far inland where often seen feeding on newly moved fields: 2/6 2 Olbia Airport, 50+ drive Olbia-Nuoro, 3/6 2 drive Nuoro to Su Cologne, 4/6 1 drive Nuoro to Barumini, 5/6 2 Parco della Giara, 100+ drive Barumini to Capoterra, 6/6 huge colony around Cagliari, 100 (colony) Laguna di Mistras, 75 (colony) N of Laguna di Mistras, 7/6 all day, colony su Pallosu, 8/6 seen drive Sinis peninsula to S.Teresa di Galluta, 25 Capo Testa, 10 Ferry S.Teresa di Galluta to Bonifacio, 15/6 20 drive to Hotel el Porto. Corsica: On the southern part of the island often seen overflying even far inland. Other records: 8/6 25 Bonifacio, 9/6 10 Orasi, 10/6 1 drive to Poggio de Venaco, 13/6 colony – hundreds Etang d'Urbino, 15/6 25 Bonifacio, 5 ferry Bonifacio to S.Teresa di Galluta.
33. **Slender-billed Gull** *Larus genei*. Sardinia: 5/6 1+ drive Barumini to Capoterra, 6/6 15 around Cagliari, 40 Laguna di Mistras, 7/6 2 Area Protetta Pauli'e Sali.
34. **Gull-billed Tern** *Sterna nilotica*. Sardinia: 7/6 2 Stagno Sale Pòrcus.
35. **Sandwich Tern** *Sterna sandvicensis*. Sardinia: 5/6 2 drive Barumini to Capoterra, 6/6 1 around Cagliari.
36. **Common Tern** *Sterna hirundo*. Sardinia: 6/6 1 Laguna di Mistras, 15 (breeding?) N of Laguna di Mistras. Corsica: 13/6 3 Etang d'Urbino.
37. **Little Tern** *Sterna albifrons*. Sardinia: 6/6 10+ N of Laguna di Mistras, 7/6 6 Area Protetta Pauli'e Sali.



38. **Rock Dove** *Columba livia*. Sardinia: 2/6 2 under bridge near Nuoro, 3/6 4 Su Cologne. Corsica: 15/6 10 Bonifacio. Besides domestic/wild rock doves seen here and there.
39. **Woodpigeon** *Columba palumbus*. Sardinia: Widespread in low numbers – seen every day. Corsica: 10/6 10 Cucuruzza/Capula near Levie, 11/6 4 Col de Sorba, 13/6 seen drive Asco to Porto-Vecchio, 14/6 heard.
40. **European Turtle Dove** *Streptopelia turtur*. Sardinia: 2/6 2 heard Su Tempiesu, 3/6 2 + heard Valle de Lanaithu, 1 drive Nuoro to Su Cologne, 1 heard S' Ena' E' Thòmes, 4/6 1 heard near Orgosolo, 2 Parco della Giara, 5/6 1 + heard Parco della Giara, heard Barumini, 6/6 heard Mt. Arcosu, heard Cagliari to Sinis peninsula, heard Laguna di Mistras, 7/6 heard, 8/6 seen drive Sinis peninsula to S.Teresa di Galluta. Corsica: 9/6 1 heard Orasi, 2 + 4 heard Cauria plateau.
41. **Eurasian Collared Dove** *Streptopelia decaocto*. Sardinia: Widespread. Corsica: Widespread.
42. **Common Cuckoo** *Cuculus canorus*. Sardinia: 2/6 1 h drive Olbia-Nuoro, 1 h Su Tempiesu, 3/6 heard Valle de Lanaithu, 4/6 heard drive Nuoro to Barumini, 1 + heard Parco della Giara, 5/6 heard Parco della Giara, 6/6 heard Mt. Arcosu, 7/6 heard. Corsica: 8/6 1 drive Bonifacio to Orasi, 10/6 1 heard Levie, 11/6 1 heard Col de Sorba, 14/6 1 heard hotel Castell Verde, 1 heard Castello d'Arragiu, 15/6 1 heard hotel Castell Verde.
43. ***Little Owl** *Athene noctua*. Sardinia: 7/6 1 Tharros, see photo.
44. **Alpine Swift** *Tachymarptis melba*. Sardinia: 3/6 7 drive Nuoro to Su Cologne, 20+ Valle de Lanaithu. Corsica: 8/6 2 Bonifacio.
45. **Common Swift** *Apus apus*. Sardinia: Widespread in cities with maximum noted 3/6 150+ Nuoro. Corsica: Widespread with maximum noted 11/6 50 Poggio de Venaco and 250 drive to Haut Asco. At higher altitudes only noted once: 12/6 3 Haut Asco.
46. **Pallid Swift** *Apus pallidus*. Sardinia: 15/6 6 Cannigione. Corsica: 8/6 2+ Bonifacio, 15/6 10 Bonifacio.
47. ***European Bee-eater** *Merops apiaster*. Sardinia: 3/6 1+4 drive Nuoro to Su Cologne, 1 S' Ena' E' Thòmes, 4/6 2 drive Nuoro to Barumini, 7/6 2 Tharros, 4 coast S of Is Arutas. Corsica: 13/6 2 Etang d'Urbino.
48. **Common Hoopoe** *Upupa epops*. Sardinia: 3/6 1 heard S' Ena' E' Thòmes. Corsica: 9/6 2 Orasi.
49. **Great Spotted Woodpecker** *Dendrocopos major*. Sardinia (ssp. harterti): 3/6 2 Valle de Lanaithu, 4/6 2 heard Parco della Giara, 5/6 1 + heard Parco della Giara, 8/6 1 drive Sinis peninsula to S.Teresa di Galluta. Corsica (ssp. parroti): 10/6 2 A'Pignata, 11/6 2 Col de Sorba, 1 Haut Asco, 12/6 5 Haut Asco.
50. **Red-backed Shrike** *Lanius collurio*. Sardinia: 3/6 2 males S' Ena' E' Thòmes. Corsica: 14/6 2 Suarton.
51. ***Woodchat Shrike** *Lanius senator badius*. Sardinia: 3/6 1 S' Ena' E' Thòmes, 6/6 2 Mt. Arcosu.
52. **Eurasian Jay** *Garrulus glandarius*. Sardinia (ssp. ichnusae): Widespread in forest areas and maquis. Corsica (ssp. coricanus): Widespread and seen daily.
53. **Jackdaw** *Corvus monedula*. Sardinia: Seen daily in low numbers. Corsica: 15/6 1 Bonifacio.
54. **Hooded Crow** *Corvus cornix*. Sardinia: Widespread – often in pairs. Most seen 7/6 on the Sinis peninsula where flock-wise in open farmland. Corsica: Widespread except for Haut Asco.
55. **Common Raven** *Corvus corax*. Sardinia: 2/6 1 Near Orune, 4/6 6+ Orgosolo, 6/6 2 Mt. Arcosu, 1 Cagliari to Sinis peninsula, 7/6 2 Tharros, 1 Area Protetta Pauli'e Sali, 2 coast S of Is Arutas, 8/6 1 drive Sinis peninsula to S.Teresa di Galluta. Corsica: 9/6 3 around Levie, 10/6 1 heard Cucuruzza/Capula near Levie, 11/6 2 Col de Sorba, 2 Haut Asco, 12/6 1 Haut Asco, 13/6 around Asco, 2 around Saint Christina Chapel.
56. **Great Tit** *Parus major corsus*. Sardinia: 2/6 + Su Tempiesu, 3/6 seen Valle de Lanaithu, 4/6 few drive Nuoro to Barumini, few Parco della Giara, 5/6 seen Parco della Giara, 6/6 seen Mt. Arcosu. Corsica: 9/6 2 Orasi, 10/6 2 A'Pignata, heard Cucuruzza/Capula near Levie, 11/6 1 heard Haut Asco, 13/6 seen around Saint Christina Chapel, seen hotel Castell Verde.
57. **Blue Tit** *Parus caeruleus ogliastreae*. Sardinia: 2/6 1 (call reminding me of Great Tit) + heard Su Tempiesu, 3/6 seen incl. family-flocks Valle de Lanaithu, 4/6 few Parco della Giara, 5/6 seen Parco della Giara, 6/6 seen (incl. family flocks) Mt. Arcosu, 8/6 seen drive Sinis peninsula to S.Teresa di Galluta. Corsica: 9/6 10 (incl. juveniles) Orasi, 10/6 2 A'Pignata, 2 Cucuruzza/Capula near Levie, 11/6 5 Poggio de Venaco, 13/6 seen around Saint Christina Chapel, 14/6 heard Castello d'Arragiu, 15/6 1 with peculiar sharp call hotel Castell Verde.
58. ***Coal Tit** *Parus ater sardus*. Sardinia: 3/6 5 Valle de Lanaithu, 8/6 seen (pass) drive Sinis peninsula to S.Teresa di Galluta. Corsica: 10/6 5 Col de Bavella, 11/6 5 Col de Sorba, 15 Haut Asco, 12/6 25 Haut Asco, 13/6 5 h Haut Asco.



59. **Barn Swallow** *Hirundo rustica*. Sardinia: Widespread in low numbers, Corsica: Widespread in low numbers except at Haut Asco.
60. **Eurasian Crag Martin** *Ptyonoprogne rupestris*. Sardinia: 3/6 5 Valle de Lanaithu, 4/6 few drive Nuoro to Barumini, 4 Parco della Giara, 6/6 6 incl. at probable nest-site Mt. Arcosu, 8/6 2 (bridge) drive Sinis peninsula to S.Teresa di Galluta. Corsica: 12/6 5 Haut Asco.
61. **Northern House Martin** *Delichon urbicum*. Sardinia: Daily with highest number 2/6 75+ Olbia Airport. Corsica: Seen most days.
62. **Long-tailed Tit** *Aegithalos caudatus irbii*. Corsica: 9/6 1 + heard Orasi, 13-15/6 up to 5 hotel Castell Verde.
63. **Calandra Lark** *Melanocorypha calandra*. Sardinia: 7/6 7 coast S of Is Arutas.
64. **Zitting Cisticola** *Cisticola juncidis*. Sardinia: 2/6 2 drive Olbia-Nuoro, 4/6 1 Barumini, 6/6 1 heard S of Capoterra, 1 singing Laguna di Mistras, 7/6 around. Corsica: 13/6 1 heard Etang d'Urbino.
65. **Cetti's Warbler** *Cettia cetti*. Corsica: 13/6 1 heard near Saint Christina Chapel.
66. **Eurasian Reed Warbler** *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*. Sardinia: 7/6 2 singing Area Protetta Pauli'e Sali.
67. **Blackcap** *Sylvia atricapilla paucii*. Sardinia: Often heard in areas with forest. Corsica: Often heard in forest areas except at the higher altitudes around Haut Asco.
68. **Marmora's Warbler** *Sylvia sarda*. Sardinia: 6/6 2 + heard Mt. Arcosu. Corsica: 14/6 2-3 males in song and song-flight Castello d'Arragiu.
69. **Moltoni's Warbler** *Sylvia [cantillans] moltonii*. Sardinia: 2/6 1 heard and seen briefly Su Tempiesu, 5/6 1 heard Parco della Giara, 6/6 1 male heard and seen briefly Mt. Arcosu. Corsica: 9/6 1 female Orasi, 15/6 1 male song-flight hotel Castell Verde. The Wren-like call is very diagnostic, but a quiet species this time of the year.
70. ***Sardinian Warbler** *Sylvia melanocephala*. Sardinia: 2/6 2 heard Su Tempiesu, 3/6 2 Serra Orrios, 2 S' Ena' E' Thòmes, 4/6 2 heard Parco della Giara, 5/6 3 + heard Parco della Giara, 6/6 3 heard Mt. Arcosu, 7/6 3 Tharros, 10+ Oasi de Siu, 8/6 3 Capo Testa. Corsica: 9/6 3 + heard Cauria plateau, 14/6 2 heard Castello d'Arragiu, 15/6 10 Bonifacio.
71. **Firecrest** *Regulus ignicapilla*. Sardinia: 3/6 2 singing Valle de Lanaithu, 5/6 1 singing Parco della Giara, 6/6 1 singing (Genna Maria) Cagliari to Sinis peninsula, 8/6 1 singing (Sancta Cristina) drive Sinis peninsula to S.Teresa di Galluta, 1 singing (pass) drive Sinis peninsula to S.Teresa di Galluta. Corsica: 10/6 2 singing A'Pignata, 1 singing Cucuruzza/Capula near Levie, 14/6 1 singing Castello d'Arragiu.
72. **Goldcrest** *Regulus regulus*. Corsica: 11/6 1 singing Col de Sorba, 12/6 3 Haut Asco, 13/6 1h Haut Asco,
73. **Winter Wren** *Troglodytes troglodytes koenigi*. Sardinia: Widespread and heard every day. Corsica: Widespread.
74. ***Corsican Nuthatch** *Sitta whiteheadi*. Corsica: 11/6 1 pair at nest-hole Col de Sorba, 1 + heard Haut Asco, 11-13/6 one pair by nest-hole Haut Asco.
75. **Eurasian Treecreeper** *Certhia familiaris corsa*. Corsica: 13/6 1 near the camping site below Haut Asco. Responded to play-back. Long, curved bill. Clear supercilium. Grayish cast to plumage. White underside but with dirty cast to undertail coverts and lower belly.
76. ***Spotless Starling** *Sturnus unicolor*. Sardinia: Widespread in towns and countryside. Corsica: Widespread but less numerous than on Sardinia. Not seen at Haut Asco.
77. **Eurasian Blackbird** *Turdus merula*. Sardinia: 2/6 1 drive Olbia-Nuoro, 3/6 singing Valle de Lanaithu, 3 S' Ena' E' Thòmes, 4/6 here and there drive Nuoro to Barumini, heard Parco della Giara, 5/6 2 Parco della Giara, seen drive Barumini to Capoterra, 6/6 2 Mt. Arcosu, 1 Cagliari, 8/6 seen drive Sinis peninsula to S.Teresa di Galluta. Corsica: 9/6 2 Orasi, seen, 10/6 2 A'Pignata, 1 singing Cucuruzza/Capula near Levie, seen drive to Poggio de Venaco, 11/6 seen Poggio de Venaco, 13/6 seen drive Asco to Porto-Vecchio, 1 ad 1 newly fledged juv around Saint Christina Chapel.
78. **European Robin** *Erithacus rubecula*. Sardinia: Heard daily, and 6/6 2 fledged juvenile + heard Mt. Arcosu. Corsica: Heard daily including around Haut Asco.
79. **Common Nightingale** *Luscinia megarhynchos*. Sardinia: 8/6 1 heard near Nuraghi Maiori (drive Sinis peninsula to S.Teresa di Galluta). Corsica: 9/6 1 heard Cauria plateau, 13/6 1 heard Etang d'Urbino.



80. **Common Stonechat** *Saxicola torquatus*. Sardinia: 3/6 1 female S' Ena' E' Thòmes, 4/6 1 Parco della Giara, 5/6 1 Parco della Giara, 6/6 1 S of Capoterra, 1 Mt. Arcosu, 7/6 5 coast S of Is Arutas, 8/6 3 drive Sinis peninsula to S.Teresa di Galluta, 2 Capo Testa. Corsica: 9/6 1 around Levie.
81. **Blue Rock Thrush** *Monticola solitaries*. Sardinia: 2/6 1 drive Olbia-Nuoro.
82. ***Spotted Flycatcher** *Muscicapa striata tyrrhenica*. Sardinia: 3/6 1 Olivena, 2 Valle de Lanaithu, 5/6 1 Barumini, 1 Mt. Arcosu, 6/6 5 Mt. Arcosu, 8/6 1 (sancta Cristina) drive Sinis peninsula to S.Teresa di Galluta, 15/6 2 drive to Hotel el Porto. Corsica: 9/6 4 Orasi, heard Cauria plateau, heard Filitosa, 10/6 2 A'Pignata, heard Cucuruzza/Capula near Levie, 11/6 1 Col de Sorba, 5 (see photo) Poggio de Venaco, 13/6 2 hotel Castell Verde, 14/6 2 hotel Castell Verde, 15/6 1 hotel Castell Verde, 2 Bonifacio.
83. ***Italian Sparrow** *Passer italiae*. Corsica: First noted 9/6 15 Orasi. Seen daily except at the high altitudes around Haut Asco.
84. ***Spanish Sparrow** *Passer hispaniolensis*. Sardinia: Widespread with the highest number 7/6 around 100 in flock N of Futana Meiga (Sinis peninsula).
85. **Eurasian Tree Sparrow** *Passer montanus*. Sardinia: 6/6 1 S of Capoterra.
86. **Grey Wagtail** *Motacilla cinerea*. Sardinia: 5-6/6 1 singing Mt. Arcosu. Corsica: 11/6 1 Col de Sorba, 1 Haut Asco, 12/6 1 singing Asco, 13/6 around Asco.
87. **Tawny Pipit** *Anthus campestris*. Sardinia: 6/6 2 Laguna di Mistras.
88. ***Chaffinch** *Fringilla coelebs*. Sardinia (ssp. *sarda*): Recorded daily. Corsica: Widespread and recorded daily.
89. **European Serin** *Serinus serinus*. Sardinia: 5/6 5 + heard Barumini, 6/6 10 Mt. Arcosu, 5 around Cagliari, 10 Cagliari to Sinis peninsula, 7/6 seen, 8/6 seen, 15/6 2 singing drive to Hotel el Porto. Corsica: 9/6 heard Sartene, 11/6 2 singing Poggio de Venaco, 13/6 heard around Saint Christina Chapel.
90. **European Greenfinch** *Carduelis chloris madaraszi*. Sardinia: 2/6 2 drive Olbia-Nuoro, 3/6 few, 5/6 2 Parco della Giara, 2 Barumini, 6/6 1 Mt. Arcosu, 8/6 2 drive Sinis peninsula to S.Teresa di Galluta. Corsica: 9/6 5 Orasi, seen, 10/6 2 A'Pignata, 2 Cucuruzza/Capula near Levie, 11/6 2 singing Poggio de Venaco, 13/6 seen Etang d'Urbino, 14/6 seen, 15/6 heard hotel Castell Verde.
91. **European Goldfinch** *Carduelis carduelis tchusii*. Sardinia: Widespread and common. Corsica: Widespread and common except for the high altitudes around Haut Asco.
92. ***Corsican Citril Finch** *Carduelis corsicana*. Corsica: 10/6 8 (4 pairs)(see photo below) Col de Bavella, 11/6 1 Col de Sorba, 2 over-flying birds possibly this species Haut Asco.



93. **Common Linnet** *Carduelis cannabina*. Sardinia: 6/6 1 male Mt. Arcosu, 8/6 2 Capo Testa.
94. ***Red Crossbill** *Loxia curvirostra corsicana*. Corsica: 10/6 1 juvenile (see photo above) Col de Bavella.
95. **Hawfinch** *Coccothraustes coccothraustes*. Sardinia: 3/6 1 Valle de Lanaithu. Corsica: 9/6 1 Orasi,
96. ***Corn Bunting** *Emberiza calandra*. Sardinia: 4/6 10 drive Nuoro to Barumini, 2 Parco della Giara, 6/6 seen Cagliari to Sinis peninsula, 7/6 5 coast S of Is Arutas. Corsica: 13/6 2 singing Etang d'Urbino.
97. **Cirl Bunting** *Emberiza cirlus*. Sardinia: 2/6 1 singing drive Olbia-Nuoro, 3/6 1 singing + 1 heard S' Ena' E' Thòmes, 4/6 5 drive Nuoro to Barumini, 3 Parco della Giara, 5/6 5 Parco della Giara, 2 Barumini, seen drive Barumini to Capoterra, 6/6 5 Mt. Arcosu, 5 Cagliari to Sinis peninsula, 8/6 2 drive Sinis peninsula to S.Teresa di Galluta, 15/6 2 drive to Hotel el Porto. Corsica: 9/6 5 Orasi, 2 Cauria plateau, 10/6 2 A'Pignata, 6 Cucuruzza/Capula near Levie, 11/6 2 drive to Haut Asco, 15/6 1 singing hotel Castell Verde.

AMPHIBIANS

1. ***Corsican Salamander** *Salamandra corsica*. Corsica: 10/6 4 (see photo on front page) in the forest at Cucuruzza/Capula near Levie.
2. ***Supramontane Cave Salamander** *Speleomantes supramontis*. Sardinia: 3/6 7+ (see photo on front page) Su Ventu, Valle de Lanaithu. A special experience to enter the Su Ventu cave and find these salamanders on the walls in the bottom. One can borrow a torch at the nearby ticket office.
3. ***Green Toad** *Bufo [viridis] balearicus*. Corsica: 13/6 tadpoles in a road-side puddle near Asco.
4. ***Thyrrhenian Tree Frog** *Hyla sarda*. Sardinia: 3/6 8+ (see photo) Serra Orrios, 5/6 tadpoles probably this species Parco della Giara. Corsica: 13/6 1 heard hotel Castell Verde.
5. ***Italian Pool Frog** *Rana bergeri*. Corsica: 9/6 15+ Filitosa.



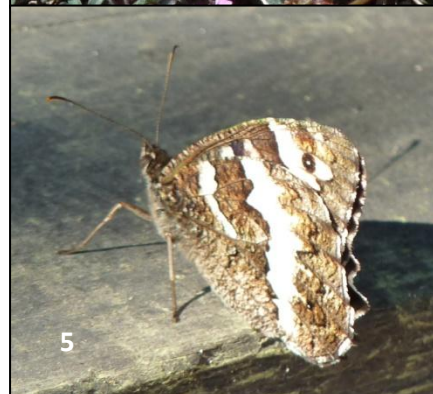
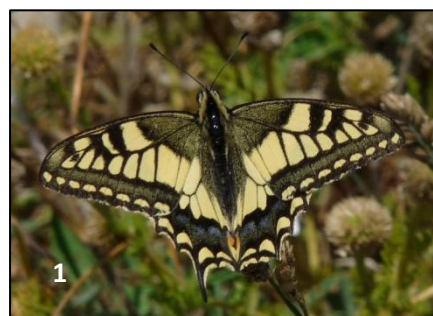
REPTILES

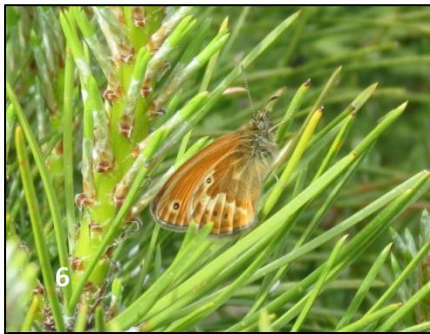
1. **European Pond Terrapin** *Emys orbicularis*. Sardinia: 5/6 1 Parco della Giara.
2. ***Moorish Gecko** *Tarentola mauritanica*. Sardinia: 6/6 5 hotel at Laguna di Mistras. Corsica: 14/6 1 Castello d'Arraggiu. ½ 14/6 1 Castello d'Arraggiu.
3. ***Tyrrehnian Wall Lizard** *Podarcis tiliguerta*. Sardinia: 3/6 10+ Serra Orrios, 4 S' Ena' E' Thòmes, 4/6 3 Parco della Giara, 5/6 15 Parco della Giara, 5 Barumini, 6/6 15 Mt. Arcosu, 8/6 3 drive Sinis peninsula to S.Teresa di Galluta. Corsica: 11-12/6 very common (see photo) Haut Asco, 14/6 common Castello d'Arraggiu.
4. ***Italian Wall Lizard** *Podarcis sicula*. Sardinia: 2/6 10+ Su Tempiesu, 3/6 20+ Su Cologne, 6/6 4 at Genna Maria (drive Cagliari to Sinis peninsula), 7/6 common Tharros, common Oasi de Siu. Corsica: 13/6 1 Aleria (see photo).
5. ***Western Whip Snake** *Coluber viridiflavus*. Sardinia: 3/6 2 (see photo) Serra Orrios, 7/6 a complete slough was perhaps this species Tharros. An un-identified snake crossed the road near Asco on 13/6.
6. **Viperine Snake** *Natrix maura*. Sardinia: 3/6 1 Serra Orrios. Was hunting young Tree Frogs with success.



BUTTERFLIES - Only identified by visual observations/photo.

1. ***Swallowtail** *Papilio machaon*. Sardinia: 1 (photo 1) Oasi de Siu. Corsica: 15/6 1 Bonifacio. Besides the following un-identified swallowtails (only seen from the car): Sardinia: 4/6 3 drive Nuoro to Barumini, 5/6 1 Barumini. Corsica: 14/6 1 Tappa.
2. **Scarce Swallowtail** *Iphilides podalirius*. Corsica: 12/6 1 Asco.
3. **Large White** *Pieris brassicae*. Sardinia: Daily. Corsica: Daily.
4. **Small White** *Artogeia rapae*. Sardinia: 5/6 common Parco della Giara, 6/6 Mt. Arcosu, 7/6 seen, 8/6 seen, 15/6 seen. Corsica: 9/6 seen, 13/6 seen, 15/6 seen Bonifacio.
5. ***Bath White** *Pontia daplidice*. Sardinia: 6/6 1 (see photo 2) Genna Maria (drive Cagliari to Sinis peninsula).
6. ***Corsican Dappled White** *Euhloe insularis*. Corsica: 12/6 1 Asco.
7. ***Clouded Yellow** *Colias croceus*. Sardinia: 2/6 4 Su Tempiesu, 3/6 seen Valle de Lanaithu, 3 S' Ena' E' Thòmes, 4/6 5 Parco della Giara, 5/6 seen Parco della Giara, seen Barumini, 7/6 15+ (incl. White morph) Tharros, 8/6 5 Capo Testa, 15/6 2 around Arzachena. Corsica: 9/6 1 Filitosa, 11/6 4 Haut Asco, 12/6 seen Haut Asco, seen Asco, 13/6 2 around Saint Christina Chapel, 14/6 2 Tappa, 15/6 5 Bonifacio.
8. ***Cleopatra** *Gonepteryx cleopatra*. Sardinia: 2/6 1 drive Olbia-Nuoro, 3/6 2 Su Cologne, 5/6 1 male Parco della Giara, 1 male Barumini, 6/6 5 Mt. Arcosu, 7/6 2 males Area Protetta Pauli'e Sali, 1 Porto Mandriola, 15/6 seen drive to Hotel el Porto, 5 around Arzachena. Corsica: 13/6 1 before hotel Castell Verde, 14/6 8 Castello d'Arraggiu, 4 Tappa, 15/6 5 Bonifacio.
9. ***Small Copper** *Lycaena phlaeas*. Corsica: 9/6 1 Filitosa, 11/6 1 Haut Asco, 13/6 1 around Saint Christina Chapel.
Unidentified Blue. Sardinia: 2/6 4 Su Tempiesu, 3/6 5 Su Cologne. Corsica: 9/6 3 Filitosa, 12/6 5 Haut Asco, 13/6 10+ around Saint Christina Chapel.
10. **Holly Blue** *Celastrina argiolus*. Sardinia: 5/6 1 Parco della Giara, 6/6 1 Mt. Arcosu, Corsica: 14/6 1 Castello d'Arraggiu.
11. ***Northern Brown Argus** *Aricia agestis*. Corsica: 9/6 1 Filitosa, 10/6 5 E of Col de Bavella, 11/6 2 Haut Asco, 12/6 1 Haut Asco, 13/6 2 around Asco, 14/6 5 Tappa.
12. ***Southern Brown Argus** *Aricia cramera*. Sardinia: 6/6 1 Mt. Arcosu, 7/6 1 Oasi de Siu.
13. ***Common Blue** *Polyommatus icarus*. Sardinia: 7/6 1 Oasi de Siu. Corsica: 10/6 3 E of Col de Bavella.
14. ***Two Tailed Pasha** *Charaxes jasius*. Sardinia: 13/6 1-2 around Saint Christina Chapel, 14/6 20+ (see photo 3) Castello d'Arraggiu.
15. **Southern White Admiral** *Limenitis reducta*. Sardinia: 2/6 1 Su Tempiesu. Corsica: 11/6 1 Poggio de Venaco, 13/6 1 around Saint Christina Chapel.
16. ***Large Tortoiseshell** *Nymphalis polychloros*. Sardinia: 15/6 1 around Arzachena.
17. **Red Admiral** *Vanessa atalanta*. Corsica: 11/6 1 Haut Asco, 13/6 2 Haut Asco, 14/6 1 Tappa.
18. **Painted Lady** *Vanessa cardui*. Sardinia: 4/6 1 Parco della Giara, 7/6 1 Tharros. Corsica: 9/6 2 Cauria plateau, 13/6 2 around Saint Christina Chapel.
19. ***Tyrrhenian Small Tortoiseshell** *Aglais [urticae] ichnusa*. Corsica: 11/6 1 (see photo 4) Haut Asco, 12/6 2 Haut Asco.
20. ***Comma** *Polygonia c-album*. Corsica: 13/6 2 around Saint Christina Chapel, 14/6 1 Tappa.
21. ***Great Banded Grayling** *Kanetisa circe*. Sardinia: 15/6 3 (see photo 5) around Arzachena.
- 22.





23. ***Meadow Brown** *Maniola jurtina*. Sardinia: 3/6 common Valle de Lanaithu, common S' Ena' E' Thòmes, 4/6 c. drive Nuoro to Barumini. C. Parco della Giara, 5/6 common Parco della Giara, common Barumini, 6/6 seen, 7/6 seen, 15/6 seen around Arzachena. Corsica: 9/6 common Cauria plateau, common Filitosa, 13/6 seen around Saint Christina Chapel, 14/6 common Castello d'Arragiu, common Tappa.
24. ***Small Heath** *Coenonympha pamphilus*. Corsica: 9/6 2 Filitosa.
25. ***Corsican Heath** *Oenonympha corinna*. Corsica: 12/6 1 (see photo 6) Haut Asco.
26. ***Speckled Wood** *Pararge aegeria*. Sardinia: 2/6 5 Su Tempiesu, 3/6 c. Su Cologne, c. Valle de Lanaithu, 4/6 seen drive Nuoro to Barumini, 5/6 few Parco della Giara, 7/6 5 Oasi de Siu, 8/6 seen, 15/6 common around Arzachena. Corsica: 13/6 seen around Saint Christina Chapel, 14/6 3 Castello d'Arragiu.
27. ***Corsican Wall Brown** *Lasiommata paramegaera*. Sardinia: 4/6 1 Parco della Giara, 7/6 common Oasi de Siu, 8/6 seen. Corsica: 10/6 2 E of Col de Bavella, 11/6 common Haut Asco, 13/6 seen around Asco.
28. ***Oberthur's Grizzled Skipper** *Pyrgus armoricanus*. Corsica: 10/6 1 (see photo 7) E of Col de Bavella.
29. **Mallow Skipper** *Carcharodus alceae*. Sardinia: 7/6 2 Tharros.

DRAGONFLIES – Dragonflies is a new interest and I'm still learning. ID of most of the listed species are based on photos.

1. ***Copper Demoiselle** *Calopteryx haemorrhoidalis*. Sardinia: 3/6 5 Su Cologne, 15/6 common around Arzachena. Corsica: 13/6 common around Saint Christina Chapel.
2. ***Small Spreadwing** *Lestes virens*. Sardinia: 5/6 1 Parco della Giara.
3. ***Island Bluetail** *Ischnura genei*. Sardinia: 5/6 2 (see photo 8) Parco della Giara.
4. **Blue Emperor** *Anax imperator*. Sardinia: 3/6 1 probably this species S' Ena' E' Thòmes.
5. **Lesser Emperor** *Anax parthenope*. Sardinia: 5/6 5 Parco della Giara.
6. ***Blue Chaser** *Libellula fulva*. Sardinia: 15/6 2 (see photo 9) around Arzachena.
7. ***Southern Skimmer** *Orthetrum brunneum*. Corsica: 13/6 2 around Saint Christina Chapel.
8. ***Red-veined Darter** *Sympetrum fonscolombii*. Sardinia: 5/6 seen Parco della Giara.
9. ***Common Darter** *Sympetrum striolatum*. Sardinia: 15/6 3 around Arzachena (Albuccio). Corsica: 9/6 1 Filitosa.
10. ***Broad Scarlet** *Crocothemis erythraea*. Sardinia: 5/6 seen Parco della Giara.

ORCHIDS

1. **Red Helleborine** *Cephalanthera rubra*. Haut Asco.
2. *Dactylorhiza saccifera*. Near Levie.
3. *Orchis olbiensis*. Haut Asco.
4. **Loose-flowered orchid** *Orchis laxiflora*. Parco della Giara (see photo 10).