

SARDEGNA



7 JULY - 23 JULY 2017

JNM
The Sardinia-crew





INTRODUCTION

From 7 July to 23 July 2017 a group of Dutch birders as part of a larger group from the “Jeugdbond voor Natuur- en Milieustudie” (aka the JNM) undertook a journey towards the island Sardinia. We drove from the Netherlands towards Livorno and took the ferry on the night of the 9th. Arrived the 10th in Olbia and spent the first week in the northern part of the island, near Orgòsolo. On the 16th we travelled to another camp spot in the southernmost part of Sardinia. Took the ferry back home on the night of the 20th and arrived back in the Netherlands on the 23th. The only dip was Marmora’s Warbler (only Peter saw a juvenile), all other targets were seen and a total of 102 bird species. Since Sardinia is a region not visited by many birders, we hope this report can help you make the most out of your trip.

Diedert Koppenol

On behalf of the others, especially the birders:

Wouter van der Ham, Lonnie Bregman, Gijs Baller, Peter Links & Wouter Monster



HIGHLIGHTS

Scopoli's Shearwater, Yelkouan Shearwater, , Eleonora's Falcon, Western Swamphen, Audouin's Gull, Blue Rock Thrush, Common Rock Thrush, Moltoni's Warbler, Dartford Warbler, Spectacled Warbler, Mediterranean Flycatcher, Woodchat Shrike ssp badius and Corsican Finch.

LOGISTICS

We took the ferry from Livorno with cabins. Sadly, we had to take the night ferry, so we missed out on any cetaceans or seabirds. We rented two minivans in the Netherlands at GoRoadTrip, but ended up with one minivan, a Mini Countryman and a Mercedes Benz due to the breaking down of one of the minivans. The two cars did prove to be less ideal than the van, but not by that much.

Costs for petrol or diesel are quite okay, but the difference between highroad gas stations and local stations is big enough to justify a detour.

SOURCES

For the planning of this trip we made use of http://observado.org/gebied/species_list/35029. This links to the specific page on observado for Sardinia. Since it combines observations with exact GPS-locations, it can prove quite useful. We added all of our sightings to observado as well, you can check our profiles for details. The descriptions in the trip report won't be as detailed, because the GPS-locations provide more than enough detail. Other than that we got some helpful intel from Rob Sponselee (for which many thanks!) and the website created by Jason Anderson ibis.atwebpages.com, which holds many useful tips and gives information about where to watch birds. Details about target species are also noted on his website.

Literature

- Collins Bird Guide, Lars Svensson et al., 2012.

Trip reports

- Late June 2001 – Birdwatching Trip Report – Steve Webb
- January 2008 – Italy – Wallcreeper and Lanner Falcon in Tuscany – Sean Cole

SLEEPING AND EATING

We spent all of our nights on campings and slept in tents. These were not very cheap, as one might have expected, but more regular westerly priced. We did book 4-personsuits on the ferry. You could also just book a passage and sleep in the hallways, but we couldn't withstand the luxury of having a shower. There were enough LIDL's on the island so food was not a big cost. The local supermarkets are notably more expensive.



ITINERARY

- 7 July** Departure from the Netherlands in the early afternoon.
- 8 July** Travelling from Germany to Tuscany. Due to several traffic jams and a molten clutch in one of the vans we did not reach Tuscany the same day.
- 9 July** Arrival at Poggi del Sasso, Tuscany at 05:30. A couple of us took half an hour for sleep and then went to [Roccalbegna](#) to tick Lanner Falcon. Took the ferry at 19:30 and departed at 21:30 from Livorno to Olbia.
- 10 July** Arrival in Olbia at 06:00. Travelled upwards towards Arzachena and started searching for Margined Tortoise somewhere halfway. First hours of birding here. After lunch we went to Lago del Coghinas to search for several dragonflies. Also visited Tula to try and locate Rock Sparrow. Birded our way to the camp site in Orgòsolo.
- 11 July** Another attempt to find Rock Sparrow. A location near our camp site was thoroughly checked. Due to high temperatures we decided to take a swim near Cala Gonone. Beautiful site for snorkelling.
- 12 July** In search for Little Bustard we drove towards Ottana. One of us had retrieved a paper that studied summer dispersal of Little Bustard so we searched along the provided dots on the map, sadly without luck. We also did our third attempt to locate Rock Sparrow.
- 13 July** Woke up really early to try for Barbary Partridge near Sadali. After a siesta we went looking for dragonflies near the river that runs near Oliena.
- 14 July** Today we took a day off birding to go snorkelling with the entire group.
- 15 July** A climb to the highest peak of Sardinia, Punta la Marmora. Here we found Common Rock Thrush and established the first known evidence for its occurrence on Sardinia.
- 16 July** This day was used to tick several species in the middle of the island as we were going to relocate south. We spent the day birding on several locations near Oristano.
- 17 July** Our goal for this day was to find Marmora's Warbler and other Sylvia's. The morning was spent near Stagno di Porto Botte, after a couple of hours we travelled to a bridge near Is Achenzas where we encountered a beautiful Western Whip Snake and some dragonfly species. The afternoon we went birding at Lago di Monte Prano.
- 18 July** A special trip to San Pietro Island was organised today. Upon arrival we drove towards the western side of the island, as recommended by Jason, for the colony of Eleonora's Falcon. Dedicated some good hours to watching the sea as well, which resulted in cool observations. Ended the day at our camp site, Porto Pino.
- 19 July** We started a bit later than normally because we were all really tired. So, after a slow start we went to a cave to locate one of the endemic Cave Salamander species.
- 20 July** Our last day in the south of Sardinia, so we chose to do some relaxed birding and visited the same place of caves again to check out another one close by. After that we finished the day with snorkelling.

- 21 July** Departed from Porto Pino to Olbia. We wanted to try for Yellow-veined Skimmer, but were all too tired. Took the ferry at 19:30.
- 22 July** Arrival in Livorno at 05:30 and departed from Livorno at 08:00. Last stop in Luxembourg.
- 23 July** Back in the Netherlands at 12:30.



DAY 0.1 — JULY 7TH

Utrecht - Karlsruhe

We departed in the early evening to arrive, after several stops due to red lights in the van turning on, around 21:00 in Karlsruhe.

DAY 0.2 — JULY 8TH

Karlsruhe – Poggi del Sasso

Spent the entire morning and afternoon in Karlsruhe waiting for a new van from the Netherlands. Meanwhile, the other van broke down and had to be switched for two cars. Around 16:00 we departed for Poggi del Sasso, Tuscany.

DAY 0.3 — JULY 9TH

Poggi del Sasso – Livorno – Tyrrhenian Sea

This day we arrived in Tuscany. During the night drive we spotted our first mammal species for the trip, namely **Red Fox** and **European Badger**. We stayed with a very friendly Italian family, who own a beautiful farm where they raise pigs, collect honey from their own bees etc. In the early morning when we arrived there was a **Nightjar** singing. After a couple of minutes of listening we could list **Eurasian Scops Owl**, two **Subalpine Warblers** (not seen, so we were not able to establish which exact species) and a male **Cirl Bunting**. After a short sleep of four hours we decided to wake ourselves with a dive in the pool. During our sleep three others had spent the morning around a WWF-reserve to tick **Lanner Falcon**. Sadly, they didn't wake us. We saw several **Italian Sparrows** near the farm, a male **Sardinian Warbler**, a singing **Golden Oriole** and a **European Honey Buzzard** flew over. The most delicious lunch we ever had was served and after that we drove to Livorno. During this drive we saw our first **Hooded Crows**. We boarded and ended the day by watching the sunset above Livorno.



DAY 1 — JULY 10TH

Tyrrhenian Sea – Olbia – Orgòsolo

Around 06:30 we sailed into the harbour. We stood on deck to add our first species to the Sardinia-list. A good amount of **Yellow-legged Gulls** were flying next to the ferry. We discovered a **Mediterranean Gull** in the mass of gulls. A bit further, near several fish traps, a group of **Common Terns** was flying. After a short stop at the gas station we went up north, looking for **Marginated Tortoise**. At the site of the Tortoise we saw our first **European Goldfinch**, **Common Chaffinch**, **Eurasian Blue Tit** and **Great Tit** for the island. After a bit of birding in the area we found two **Mediterranean Flycatchers**. This species has recently been split from **Spotted Flycatcher** and is endemic for the Balearic Islands + Corsica and Sardinia. It does not migrate and is reproductively isolated from the populations of **Spotted Flycatcher**. The **Mediterranean Flycatchers** on Sardinia and Corsica belong to the subspecies *tyrrhenica*. A male **European Turtle Dove** was singing and several **Cirl Buntings** flew by. We encountered a **Eurasian Jay** and two **Common Firecrest** here as well. The Firecrests looked different from what we were used in the Netherlands, probably juveniles. We found two **Marginated Tortoise** here, with a **Sardinian Warbler** singing in the background. Back at the cars we had two **European Bee-eaters** flying over, characteristically calling.

After a short lunch break, which gave us our first **Common Buzzards** and **Common Blackbirds**, we continued to Lago del Coghinas to try and find dragonflies. We located several **Violet Dropwings**, a beautiful species of dragonfly. A pair of **Eurasian Crag Martin** was flying near the bridge. After the hottest part of the day had past, we drove further to Tula. **Rock Sparrow** had been seen here, but we did not find it. Instead, we saw 20+ **Spanish Sparrows** and a flock of **Spotless Starlings**. After a short hour of searching we went to the camping. (We first had to tow our van out of a ditch before we could continue.)



DAY 2 — JULY 11TH

Today we went to locate **Rock Sparrow** at a location found on observado, quite close to our camping. The picture showed two **Rock Sparrows** sitting on a plastic pole, but we were never able to find this pole. Maybe the GPS-position was not correct, that happens sometimes. However, we did see a group of **Corsican Finch** here! At least seven birds were present, with some males showing really well. **Corsican Finch** has been split from **Citril Finch** and can only be found on Corsica and Sardinia. We learned that they have quite a distinct call and after this first encounter we saw several more across the island. During our search for **Rock Sparrow** we also saw a **Mistle Thrush** and several **Common Wood Pigeons**. When the temperature began to rise we cut our loss and went to sea. The beach was located at some quite steep cliffs. A group of **Eurasian Crag Martins** was feeding on insects between the tourists laying on the beach. Higher up in the sky several **Alpine Swifts** were flying. At one moment a gull was flying past and we were almost too lazy to check it, because of the large amount of **Yellow-legged Gulls** around. After a shout from the water, we took our binoculars and saw that it was not a **Yellow-legged Gull**, but an **Audouin's Gull**! A beautiful gull species that only occurs in the Mediterranean Sea, around the western coast of Saharan Africa and around the Iberian Peninsula. After a couple of snorkelling sessions we headed back to do some shopping in Nuoro. Here we saw the first **Eurasian Sparrowhawk** for the trip. Wouter van der Ham and Diedert had their binoculars with them when they went to the shop. After shopping, we went outside to eat our food and a police car drove by. Apparently we were noted by the police and we were questioned. It turned out that carrying binocs inside the urban area is forbidden in Italy. We did not receive any fines, only our ID-cards were checked. In the evening we tried to locate and see **Eurasian Scops Owl**, but they turned out to be more elusive than we hoped. We did hear a group of five **Sardinian Tree Frogs** calling as well.



DAY 3 — JULY 12TH

Little Bustard is a rare breeding species on Sardinia and was still a lifer for Wouter Monster, so we decided to give this one a go. The area near Ottana has been researched and the paper included spots of where **Little Bustards** were found spending their summer. At dawn we scanned these spots. The first spot resulted in a distant but nice **Red Fox**. A **Purple Heron** called and flew by. Further scanning made us realise that every bush had its own **Balearic Woodchat Shrike**. We decided to drive to the next spot, where we saw a **Woodlark**, large groups of **Spotless Starlings** and a **Corn Bunting**. **Tawny Pipits** were quite common as well, calling everywhere. The nests of **European Stonechat** seemed to have emptied all over the island, because we saw a lot of families, including here. During the drive to the last spot we saw two **Little Owls** and an **European Rabbit**. Monster found a **Eurasian Stone-curlew** in the far distance, but sadly no **Little Bustards** were seen, thus we decided to search for shade near a river. After a short drive we arrived at a river, which held our first **Island Bluetails** (dragonfly), **Zitting Cistiocola**, a singing **Cetti's Warbler** and singing **Eurasian Blackcaps**. Back at the camp site we had several **Northern Ravens** and an **Alpine Swift** which we could admire from the swimming pool.





DAY 4 — JULY 13TH

At the start of our journey we had made a list of target species and at first we included **Barbary Partridge**. Although we suspected it had been introduced some time ago on Sardinia, we still wanted to see it. We decided to dedicate this day to **Barbary Partridge** for which we drove towards an observation on observado. Upon arrival a **Grey Wagtail** flew over, but no **Barbary Partridges** were seen after thorough scanning of the hillsides. Driving a bit further to scan several other hills did not result in sightings of the bird. However, some of our group did hear a couple of calls. We tried taping, but this did not result in immediate response. During our scanning session someone heard a *Sylvia* and after some time we found a female **Dartford Warbler**. It showed quite well and in the background a family of **Red-backed Shrikes** was seen. **Common Swifts**, **Common House Martins** and **Crag Martins** were flying by as well. Two **Common Linnets** were flushed. We decided to drive back towards the camping as the temperature rose above 40 °C again. A break at the pool was most welcome and after we could withstand the heat again we went searching for **Green Hooktail**. There had been sightings near a slow running river, so we went there to find this beautiful species. After a long walk and some great viewings of **Western Spectre** Linnie, Monster and Diedert took a short break during which a **Least Weasel** was hunting in full view, oblivious to its observers. When the search for **Green Hooktail** started again they flushed a **Red Fox**. The next pitstop resulted in the wanted **Green Hooktail**, but only for Monster and Diedert. We continued the search further upstream but this only resulted in a couple of **Little Ringed Plover** and a **Common Kestrel**.



DAY 5 — JULY 14TH

We decided to go snorkelling with the entire group this day. The **Crag Martins** were still there, as were the **Alpine Swifts**.

DAY 6 — JULY 15TH

The highest peak of Sardinia is Punta la Marmora, called after the same naturalist after which **Marmora's Warbler** is named, and it reaches 1834 meters high. We drove to Rifugio su Filariu and parked the van there. Arrived just before sunset and after a quick breakfast we started our climb. At the start of our walk we flushed a **Barbary Partridge**, but we did not relocate it, so no good views sadly. Since it is the only partridge on the island, we at least know what we saw. After about half an hour in we came across a **Rock Thrush** and since Diedert had read that only **Blue Rock Thrush** was known from the island, we were a bit confused by this bird. It showed features not fitting **Blue**, so after some pictures and more time watching the bird we were sure we found Sardinia's first known **Common Rock Thrush**. Further along the road we saw another **Rock Thrush**, but this one turned out to be a **Blue Rock Thrush**. A bit further up ahead, some of our group started pointing up above. After a short search everyone was able to see three male **European Mouflon** walking. We passed through a bit of wood and there we found four female **Mouflon** grazing on the side of the mountain. During our walk several **Tawny Pipits** were calling and flying past us. A group of five **Corsican Finches** were found through their distinct calls as well. Once we reached the Punta we had an amazing view of the land beneath us and watched the beautiful sunrise. Here we had a large group of **Alpine Swifts** gliding above our heads. After some shouting to listen to echo's Diedert suddenly noted a *Falco* flying towards the group. Soon everyone had lifted their binoculars and after some thinking out loud we identified our first **Eleonora's Falcon** of the trip. A beautiful light form and after some hunting on the present **Eurasian Crag Martins** it went off again. A single **Northern Wheatear** was present as well. We went back towards the car and did a quick playback and search for the **Partridge**, but could not find it. During our lunch two **Corsican Finches** were feeding on our crumbs underneath the van. We decided that we had a well-deserved dive in the pool waiting for us and called it a day.



DAY 7 — JULY 16TH

Orgòsolo – Oristano - Porto Pino

After spending a week in the mountain region of Gennargentu, we were relocating towards the south. This allowed us to go searching for birds in the Midwest of the island. We had received some locations for a few nice species from Rob Sponselee, who had been on Sardinia a couple of weeks ago. After packing all our stuff we drove towards Nurachi, to look for **Western Swamphen**. Near Stagno di Càbras Rob had seen **Western Swamphen**, so we parked the car at a good vantage point and started scanning the lake. We had read that **Common Moorhen** seemed to be a good indicator for the presence of **Swamphen**, so after we saw this species we had some good hope. **Little Terns**, **Gull-billed Terns** and a close-by **Zitting Cisticola** formed a nice distraction. We did not find any **Shags** between large amount of **Great Cormorants**, but after a while we finally found a **Western Swamphen**. It did not show really well, so we decided to continue our search, meanwhile ticking species for the trip list, such as **Little Egret**, **Western Marsh Harrier** and **Grey Heron**. A **Peregrine Falcon** *ssp brookei* gave a quick fly-by as well. **Barn Swallows** and **Eurasian Coots** were largely present and we saw two juvenile **Common Shelduck** in a large group of **Mallards**. Some time passed by but after a while we found four more **Western Swamphen**, showing quite well. After we gave these birds some good looks, we wanted to see more of the lake so we drove a bit further. When we exited the car a **Common Sandpiper** got spooked and flew up. After a bit of walking we suddenly noticed a **Northern Banded Groundling**, we was following us. This is some quite cool behaviour this dragonfly species performs. It follows humans and cattle to catch the insects the followed organisms flush. Three more **Banded Groundlings** joined the party, including females. In search for another spot to scan the lake, Diedert flushed a **Common Quail**. A **Glossy Ibis** flew up when we found a suitable place to scan. Here we saw a pair of **Gadwall** flying in a group of **Mallards**. A **Great Egret** was flying by as well, with a **Water Rail** calling in the background. After a while, Lonnie called us, for he had found a **Bladetail**. A rare species of dragonfly and a stunning beauty as well. We had some great views and found a **Eurasian Reed Warbler** near the dragonfly.

The next stop was to find **Spectacled Warbler**. Rob provided us with a spot where he had seen three birds, so we decided to give that place a go. Only a minute or so after arrival we saw three *Sylvia's* in a small coastal bush, so after rushing back to get all our stuff we managed to find three **Spectacled Warblers**. They were extremely skulky, so it was hard to get good views. During our expedition to get better views a **Eurasian Stone-curlew** was flushed. We also discovered a group of 20 **Greater Flamingo's** and a **Tawny Pipit**. After a good amount of attempts to get the best views possible we continued our journey towards the camping.



DAY 8 — JULY 17TH

Since we still had not yet seen **Marmora's Warbler** we decided to combine a quest for this species with exploring the local area a bit more. We went to Stagno di Porto Botte, for it seemed to be suitable habitat for *Sylvia* warblers. A long dam allowed us to drive along the lake, but it was still a bit too dark to see anything. After some waking up in the van we walked along the road up north. Here we came across some **Eurasian Collared Doves**, two **Eurasian Hoopoes** we kept flying in front of us and a small group of **European Serins**. A thorough sweep through the area resulted in a total of 20 **Sardinian Warblers**, but sadly no other warbler species. We went back to the van and decided to slowly drive back across the dam and watch from inside a comfortable chair. Halted in the middle of the dam to scan the lake which gave us nice views of some twenty **Slender-billed Gulls**, four **Little Grebes** and two close-by **Kentish Plovers**. A **Black-winged Stilt** came flying in as well and gave some cool views. Meanwhile **Western Cattle Egrets** kept flying over nonstop.

Onwards to the next stop, a small bridge. The small bit of water running underneath provided a suitable habitat for several dragonfly species such as **Lesser Emperor** and **Small Red Damselfly**. A **Western Whip Snake** was also caught here, a feisty individual and quite large. After some looks we released the snake again. Another cool nonbird here was **Ctenomorpha chronus**, a species of walking stick!

Thereafter we went towards a large dammed lake. Here we spent quite some time birding. Upon arrival Diedert discovered an **Eleonora's Falcon** but it quickly flew off and was thus not seen by all. A **Green Sandpiper** flew over and **Zitting Cisticola's** were all over the place. Birds went a bit silent after that and we focused ourselves on the present **Green Hooktails** and **Northern Banded Groundlings**. We also found a population of **Blue-eye**. Next on the menu was lunch and succeeding a nice siesta we went back to the lake. Upon arrival a **Western Osprey** was hunting above the lake. We also located an or the **Eleonora's Falcon** sitting on the bank of the lake. Some more birding did not give us any new species for the triplist and we decided to call it a day.



DAY 9 — JULY 18TH

For today we had something special planned. Since we wanted to make sure that we would see **Eleonora's Falcon** we had arranged a small trip to the island San Pietro. San Pietro is one of two smaller islands for the south-west coast of Sardinia. During the drive towards the ferry a **Western Barn Owl** flew alongside the van. We took the ferry from Portoscuso with the van, which takes a bit longer than from Calasetta, hopefully more time to watch seabirds. Sadly, we only saw some *Phalacrocorax spec.* flying by far away. We arrived in the early morning in Carloforte and immediately drove off towards the western edge of the islet. The **Eleonora's Falcons** breed along the cliffs here and LIPU (Birdlife Partner Italy) has created a sighting place here. As soon as we lifted our binoculars **Eleonora's Falcons** were seen. They were showing amazingly well, performing stunning dives with insane speed. **European Shags** were swimming down below the cliffs and some **Audouin's Gulls** flew by. Subsequently we started seawatching at the vantage point, getting great views of **Scopoli's Shearwaters**. Suddenly someone saw a splash of something large out of the water, which turned out to be a **Common Bottlenose Dolphin**. The other part of our group arrived as well and we waited a long time to see if the **Dolphin** would return. We noted a couple more jumps out of the water and deemed the **Dolphin** back, but when we looked more closely at the photographs, this turned out to be **Tuna**. Sadly, no dolphins for the rest, but this observation might even be way cooler! There seemed to be some schools of fish around on which they were feeding, because the **Scopoli's Shearwaters** were constantly flying towards the same places we would see the **Tuna** appear. Thorough checking of a group of shearwaters resulted in a single **Yelkouan Shearwater** as well. Furthermore we had several groups of **Rock Pigeon** flying by. Since we really wanted to see wild **Rock Pigeon**, these were scanned on every inch of their appearance and did not fail a single aspect, resulting in very happy birders. Some walks through the maquis, which we were told were good places for *Sylvia's*, gave us cool views of **Dartford Warblers** and **Sardinian Warblers**. It just didn't seem to be the time for **Marmora's Warbler** anymore. Relocating to another place on San Pietro turned into a long siesta. One of our group did not participate and did a splendid rediscovery of **Black Percher** on San Pietro. Rick had located a beautiful female! Great views followed and we returned to Carloforte to take the ferry back to 'mainland' Sardinia.



DAY 10 — JULY 19TH

Located almost all of our targets and giving in to our tired state, we decided to go for a relaxed schedule. Sardinia hosts five endemic **Cave Salamander** species and we wanted to, at least, see one of them. After a long sleep we drove to a GPS-location where a cave should be. A quick search and we found the entrance. A **Western Barn Owl** was roosting in a cavity near the entrance and got flushed. Some young **European Robins** were present near the entrance as well. Inside the cave we located two **Brown Cave Salamanders**. They gave good views and the temperature in the cavern was nice, so we stayed there for quite some time. In another cave next to the old one we found several bats belonging to *Rhinolophus*. Hereafter we went back to the camping to do some local birding, but we did not find any new additions to our trip list.

DAY 11 — JULY 20TH

Our last full day on Sardinia was spent in different groups. One group wanted to locate another **Cave Salamander** and **Orange-winged Dropwing** and headed north. During their walk in search for **Orange-winged Dropwing** they had found two calling **Moltoni's Warblers** which gave some good views. Inside the cavern where the **Salamander** had to be, a **Mediterranean Flycatcher** was present. This species seems to be literally everywhere! Inside caverns near the beaches, in the towns, in caves, etc... A group of thirty **Rock Doves** was also present and some **Eurasian Crag Martins** were flying by. The other group decided to go do some birding at the salt flats near Cagliari. Scanning the marshes, which were full of **Greater Flamingo**, resulted in some nice ticks for the trip list, namely a **Common Greenshank** and a juvenile **Wood Sandpiper**. **Slender-billed Gulls** and **Black-headed Gulls** were quite common. They stumbled upon a tiny juvenile **Western Whip Snake**, which had a beautiful head pattern. **Barn Swallows** and **Spanish Sparrows** kept calling for attention while we headed back towards the car. They decided to give the cave another visit, to see the **Western Barn Owl** and walk through the batcave again. This cave turned out to end in a massive clearing. Beautiful scenery! With that image remaining on our retinal, we returned to the camping one last time. (after we went snorkelling of course)



DAY 0.12 – JULY 21TH

The journey homewards begins here. We drove to Olbia to board the ferry there.

DAY 0.13 – JULY 22TH

Disembarked, setting course for Luxembourg, our final stop before entering The Netherlands.

DAY 0.14 – JULY 23TH

Back home in the Netherlands!

Diedert ended the trip with 14 lifers, Peter had 13 lifers, Lonnie had 8 lifers, Wouter had also 8 lifers, Gijs 7, and Monster 6.

We were pleased with the specialties of the Mediterranean Sea. Of course, there is no 'need' to go to Sardinia for birds, for Corsica holds the same species and more, but combined with our interest in dragonflies and other animals, Sardinia was a great destination!



SPECIES LIST

TARGET SPECIES

Barbary Partridge

Only seen one, a flushed individual at the start of our walk towards Punta la Marmora. Several calls were heard throughout the entire trip, but never did we locate them. At prep, this species seemed to be quite easy, so we did not search for any good locations then. Also, we were a bit naïve, since Barbary Partridge has probably been introduced some 2000 years ago by Romans here, so we would not count them anyway.

Scopoli's Shearwater

Quite common along the coast of San Pietro. This was the only time we dedicated time to watch across the sea. Rob Sponselee told us that he had seen them every day when he sat down.

Yelkouan Shearwater

Again, we did not spend that much time near sea, so we only saw one individual. Same as with Scopoli's, Rob had seen multiple.

European Shag *ssp desmarestii*

Fairly common near San Pietro and also seen swimming in the sea near the places we went snorkelling.

Eleonora's Falcon

Different than we had expected, this species did not prove difficult. We had one bird in the mountains, near Punta la Marmora, and in the south we had a bird near the dammed lake. Also several times an Eleonora's had flown above the camping. On San Pietro we had seen at least six individuals, both forms!

Western Swamphen

Due to their nature, they can be hard to locate, but if you invest enough time in searching suitable habitat, most certainly you will find some birds. As noted before, Common Moorhen shares the same habitat and if this species is present, Western Swamphen can't be far.

Audouin's Gull

Harder than imagined at first, we saw an individual fly by near our snorkelling place in the north. On San Pietro, we had a few, but fewer than we would've liked. Probably we did not visit the right place. According to records, they should breed on San Pietro, but we did not find such a colony.

Blue Rock Thrush

Easy along the road towards Punta la Marmora. They should also occur on San Pietro, but we did not see any there.

Common Rock Thrush

Surprised by this sighting, we made some pictures of this individual. In the same area we found Blue Rock Thrush, alongside the track to Punta la Marmora.

Sardinian Warbler

What's in a name? We learned what was in this species' name. The most common *Sylvia*, every bit of *maquis* seemed to inhabit several.

Moltoni's Warbler

Due to the time we visited Sardinia all the warblers had gone silent already. This made it quite hard to locate any of them. We had some views of this species at different locations. If you were to go in an earlier time of the year, they should not prove difficult at all.

Dartford Warbler

Although less abundant than Sardinian Warbler, we saw several. Mostly female, but the individuals were showing quite well. Taping them seems to have some effect, but the time of the year downplayed the effect. For all Sylvia warblers, you should just search the maquis, they seem to be most abundant here. Small orchards can be good places as well.

Marmora's Warbler

Sadly, only Peter had recorded a juvenile at Punta la Marmora, and the rest of us missed this species. Why we were unable to locate any remains a bit of mystery, but the season will take most of the blame.

Spectacled Warbler

We received a location from Rob Sponselee, who had located them some time before. To us, it felt as a very weird place for a warbler, but upon arrival we had the three of them quite fast. Extremely skulky and we had to flush them a lot to get even a simple view. They moved on the ground between saline vegetation, so they would pop up several meters further than we saw them land. For the exact location, see observado.

Mediterranean Flycatcher

Most common bird of the entire island. Maybe not in numbers, but they are all over the place. We even had a nest above our tents on the second camp site.

Woodchat Shrike ssp badius

Not abundant, but locally abundant. We saw most of our Woodchat Shrikes in the north-western part of Sardinia.

Spotless Starling

Amazingly abundant across the entire islet. We did not see any Common Starlings and we don't believe they exist on Sardinia during the summer.

Spanish Sparrow

Common in every village. Every group of Sparrows we checked were Spanish Sparrows, so we doubt that any other species (Italian or House) exist on Sardinia.

Rock Sparrow

We did not see this species, despite multiple tries. There are records, but we don't believe all records are true. One record near our campsite showed two individuals showing well, but we suspect that the GPS-location of this observation was incorrect, for we could not find the pole they were perching on.

Corsican Finch

Quite easy in the uplands of the peninsula. We had multiple individuals near the place we searched for Rock Sparrow and also during our hike to Punta la Marmora. Learn their distinctive call before you go, this will make locating the species way easier.

TOTAL TRIPLIST (ON SARDINIA)

BIRDS

	Name (EN)	Subspecies
1.	Common Shelduck	
2.	Mallard	<i>platyrhynchos</i>
3.	Gadwall	<i>strepera</i>
4.	Barbary Partridge	
5.	Common Quail	
6.	Little Grebe	
7.	Great Crested Grebe	
8.	Scopoli's Shearwater	
9.	Yelkouan Shearwater	
10.	Great Cormorant	<i>sinensis</i>
11.	European Shag	<i>desmarestii</i>
12.	Western Cattle Egret	<i>ibis</i>
13.	Little Egret	<i>garzetta</i>
14.	Great White Egret	<i>alba</i>
15.	Grey Heron	<i>cinerea</i>
16.	Purple Heron	
17.	Glossy Ibis	
18.	Greater Flamingo	
19.	Osprey/haliaeetus	
20.	Western Marsh Harrier	<i>aeruginosus</i>
21.	Common Buzzard	<i>pojana</i>
22.	Eurasian Sparrowhawk	<i>wolterstorffii</i>
23.	Common Kestrel	
24.	Eleonora's Falcon	both forms (not a different subspecies)
25.	Peregrine Falcon	<i>brookei</i>
26.	Water Rail	
27.	Common Moorhen	
28.	Eurasian Coot	
29.	Western Swampphen	
30.	Black-winged Stilt	
31.	Eurasian Stone-curlew	
32.	Little Ringed Plover	
33.	Kentish Plover	
34.	Wood Sandpiper	
35.	Green Sandpiper	
36.	Common Sandpiper	
37.	Common Greenshank	
38.	Black-headed Gull	
39.	Slender-billed Gull	
40.	Mediterranean Gull	
41.	Yellow-legged Gull	
42.	Audouin's Gull	
43.	Little Tern	
44.	Gull-billed Tern	
45.	Common Tern	
46.	Rock Dove	



47.	Common Wood Pigeon	
48.	Eurasian Collared Dove	
49.	European Turtle Dove	
50.	Barn Owl	<i>ernesti</i>
51.	Little Owl	<i>noctua</i>
52.	Eurasian Scops Owl	<i>scops</i>
53.	Common Swift	
54.	Alpine Swift	
55.	Eurasian Hoopoe	
56.	European Bee-eater	
57.	Great Spotted Woodpecker	<i>harterti</i>
58.	Eurasian Skylark	<i>cantarella</i>
59.	Woodlark	<i>pallida</i>
60.	Barn Swallow	
61.	Common House Martin	<i>meridionale</i>
62.	Crag Martin	
63.	Tawny Pipit	
64.	Grey Wagtail	
65.	European Robin	
66.	Northern Wheatear	<i>libanotica</i>
67.	European Stonechat	<i>rubicola</i>
68.	Mistle Thrush	<i>deichleri</i>
69.	Common Blackbird	
70.	Blue Rock Thrush	
71.	Common Rock Thrush	
72.	Eurasian Blackcap	<i>pauluccii</i>
73.	Sardinian Warbler	
74.	Moltoni's Warbler	
75.	Dartford Warbler	<i>undata</i>
76.	Marmora's Warbler	
77.	Spectacled Warbler	
78.	Zitting Cisticola	<i>juncidis</i>
79.	Cetti's Warblercetti	
80.	Eurasian Reed Warbler	
81.	Common Firecrest	
82.	Eurasian Wren	<i>koenigi</i>
83.	Mediterranean Flycatcher	<i>tyrrhenica</i>
84.	Great Tit	<i>ecki</i>
85.	Coal Tit	<i>sardus</i>
86.	Eurasian Blue Tit	<i>ogliastrae</i>
87.	Red-backed Shrike	
88.	Woodchat Shrike	<i>badius</i>
89.	Eurasian Jay	<i>ichnusae</i>
90.	Western Jackdaw	<i>spermologus</i>
91.	Hooded Crow	<i>cornix</i>
92.	Northern Raven	<i>hispanus</i>
93.	Spotless Starling	
94.	Spanish Sparrow	
95.	Common Chaffinch	<i>sarda</i>
96.	Common Linnet	

97. European Goldfinch
98. European Greenfinch
99. Corsican Finch
100. European Serin
101. Cirl Bunting
102. Corn Bunting

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MAMMALS

1. *Rhinolopus spec.*
2. Common Pipistrelle / *Pipistrellus pipistrellus*
3. Red Fox / *Vulpes vulpes*
4. Weasel / *Mustela nivalis boccamela*
5. Mouflon / *Ovis gmelinii musimon*
6. Cape Hare / *Lepus capensis*
7. Rabbit / *Ortyctolagus cinuculus*
8. Common Bottlenose Dolphin / *Tursiops truncatus*

DRAGONFLIES

1. Copper Demoiselle / *Calopteryx haemorrhoidalis*
2. Small Spreadwing / *Lestes virens virens*
3. Island Bluetail / *Ischnura genei*
4. Small Red-eyed Damselfly / *Erythromma viridulum*
5. Goblet-marked Damselfly / *Erythromma lindenii*
6. Migrant Hawker / *Aeshna mixta*
7. Blue Emperor / *Anax imperator*
8. Lesser Emperor / *Anax parthenope*
9. Western Spectre / *Boyeria irene*
10. Green Hooktail / *Paragomphus genei*
11. Bladetail / *Lindenia tetraphylla*
12. Keeled Skimmer / *Orthetrum coerulescens*
13. Southern Skimmer / *Orthetrum brunneum*
14. Long Skimmer / *Orthetrum trinacria*
15. Red-veined Darter / *Sympetrum fonscolombii*
16. Common Darter / *Sympetrum striolatum*
17. Broad Scarlet / *Crocothemis erythraea*
18. Violet Dropwing / *Trithemis annulata*
19. Northern Banded Groundling / *Brachythemis impartita*
20. Black Percher / *Diplacodes lefebvrii*



AMPHIBIANS & REPTILES

1. Sardinian Brook Salamander / *Euproctus platycephalus*
2. Tyrrhenian Painted Frog / *Discoglossus sardus*
3. Sardinian Tree Frog / *Hyla sardus*
4. European Green Toad / *Bufo viridis*
5. Imperial Cave Salamander / *Speleomantes imperialis*
6. Brown Cave Salamander / *Speleomantes genei*
7. Marginated Tortoise / *Testudo marginata*
8. Ocellated Skink / *Chalcides ocellatus*
9. Mediterranean House Gecko / *Hemidactylus turcicus*
10. European Common Gecko / *Tarentola mauritanica*
11. Fitzinger's Algyroides / *Algyroides fitzingeri*
12. Tyrrhenian Wall Lizard / *Podarcis tiliguerta*
13. Italian Wall Lizard / *Podarcis sicula*
14. Green Whip Snake / *Hierophis viridiflavus*
15. Viperine Water Snake / *Natrix maura*

Pictures in this report are taken by Tjomme Fernhout, Wouter van der Ham and Lonnie Bregman.
Printable version (without pictures) is available per request.

For questions, don't hesitate to contact me at: diedertkoppenol@gmail.com

