

## Sardinia April 4 – 11 April 2015

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### Introduction

This was primarily a family holiday with my wife. All trips were made by my wife and I. We visited cities and stopped by the road to watch birds and other things such as scenery, cattle or pigs in the mountains, for example. The food was excellent and the scenery was overwhelming.

### Sources

A very good source of information is a trip report by Steve Webb <http://www.birdtours.co.uk/tripreports/italy/sard2/sardjune2001.htm> and a trip report from Thomas Pettersson (2007), [http://www.club300.se/Files/TravelReports/Sardinia2007\\_TP.pdf](http://www.club300.se/Files/TravelReports/Sardinia2007_TP.pdf). It is also recommended to study areas to be visited on Google™ Earth. The main target birds, for me, were Corsican Finch, Marmora's Warbler and Purple Swamp-hen. We used a Michelin map in 1:200 000. It was not the best map because many of the main roads had changed numbers, but we managed to find our way through Sardinia. Driving through the cities was a challenge, but just drive slowly and it will be ok and I had a good co-driver in my wife.

### Flight and rental car

We flew from Stockholm-Skavsta, with Ryanair to Alghero. We had prebooked a car by Europcar to pick up at the airport. We got the car and drove towards Bosa Marina about 20 minutes after landing. We arrived at 12.00. Fuel is expensive here, petrol cost about € 1,60 per litre. We travelled 1100 km without any problems.

### Base

We were based in Bosa Marina on the north-west coast of the island, about 50 km south of Alghero at the hotel Al Gabbiano. We had a double room at a cost of € 75 per night, including continental breakfast. The hotel has a car park and a reserved part of the beach. We chose the hotel after reading Thomas Pettersson's trip report. It has a lovely beach and a strategic location if you are on a trip with your family and the main reason isn't birdwatching. Restaurants are available in the village, but for food shops, petrol and cash machines one has to go to nearby Bosa. In the eastern outskirts of Bosa there's a supermarket, open also on Sundays.

### Weather

The weather was chilly with cold northeast winds. Rain the first day but then sunny but cold in the wind from the north sector. In the morning the temperature was about +5 degrees. Average air temperature was 12-21° C during the week, maximum 21° C. Sunset at 19.00 and sunrise at 7.00.

### Itinerary

Saturday, 4th we arrived at Alghero-Fertilia airport at 10.00, picked up our car and drove through Alghero and further south on a scenic road to Bosa Marina. We checked in at our hotel at 12.00.

Sunday 5th. Early morning, walking at the harbour in Bosa Marina, the river and the small meadowland just east of Bosa Marina with fresh wind from the west. After breakfast we traveled to the wetlands of Oristano and were back in Bosa Marina at 19.00. We visited Stagno di Cabras (no

birds at all), Stagno di Marie Pauli (looked good for birds, but too windy, about 10 m/s), Stagno di Santa Giusta (some birds) and Stagno Ena Arrubia/Rugu Totu (with plenty of birds). Then home via the highway in rain. (driving through Cabras is a real challenge, but take it easy and you will have a life experience).

Monday 6th. Morning at the harbor of Bosa Marina. After breakfast we walked around in Bosa, a very nice town. From the Castello di Malaspina we had a good view over Bosa and we also saw 5 Griffons soaring at the nesting cliffs. Then we drove up to the Monte Sa Pittada area.

Tuesday 7th. Morning at the river Fiume Temo, very chilly with a north east wind and 4 °C. Driving to Stintino in the north west.

Wednesday 8th. Morning at the river Fiume Temo, very chilly with a north east wind and 4 °C to day also (there were a lot of Moor-hens). Another trip to the Oristano area. The main target was Purple swamp-hen at the west side of Stagno di Santa Gusta. Unfortunately, according to Steve Webb the swamps were dried up and there were no wetlands at all, except for some salines with flamingos (=salt water). I tried at river mouth into Stagno Ena Arrubia, but had no luck. I think Stagno di Marie Pauli is better place to look for the Swamp-hen. We visited Tharros and Stagno di Mistras (a lots of birds, herons, flamingo etc). There it is possible to stop at some dirt roads and walk to the Stagno). A stop at Stagno Sale Porcus (at the north side it is possible to park the car at the Stagno).

Thursday 9th. In the morning walking around Bosa Marina, chilly as usual! Today was the main target Corsican Finch. I looked at the reports from both Thomas and Steve and looked at the map and resolved to take a trip to Orgosolo, south of Nuoro. We drove through Orgosolo and took the way at Montes and a picnicarea. There were pigs and cattle on the road so we had to drive carefully. At the top, take the dirt road to the left. Soon you will see a pond (after some km) and you can park the car just after it. We had a flock of 50 Corsican Finch here and a singing Marmora's Warbler. There is also suitable nesting sites nearby for the Corsican Finch. Some birdwatching from Bosa marina in the afternoon. There where some dolphins hunting outside the harbor and there where also plenty of Cory's Shearwater and Yelkouan Shearwater.

Friday 10th. Early morning, walking at the harbour in Bosa marina, the river and the small meadowland just east of Bosa marina. Then we drove up to the Monte Sa Pittada area and spent the day there (15.00).

Saturday 11th. Early drive to Ahlgero and the plane home at 10.45.

Species list: (Lars Svensson, 2009)

*Common Shelduck/Gravand/Tadorna tadorna*. Common on St Ena Arrubia, St di Mistras and St Sale Porcus. 20 migrating north Bosa Marina on 10th.

*Mallard/Gräsand/Anas platyrhynchos*. Common in wetlands.

*Northern Shoveler/Skedand/Anas clypeata*. St Ena Arrubia. 3 N Bosa Marina 5th.

*Garganey/Årta/Anas querquedula*. Common Stagno. 25 N Bosa Marina on 4th.

*Common Pochard/Brunand/Aythya ferina*. St Ena Arrubia and nearby wetlands.

*Red-crested Pochard/Rödhuwad dykand/Netta rufina*. Common in wetlands around Oristano.

*Barbary Partridge/Klipphöna/Alectoris barbara*. 1 Ahlgero-Bosa road on 7th, 1 Mnt Sa Pittada and 1 Ahlgero-Bosa road on 11th.

*Black-Necked Grebe/Svarthalsad dopping/Podiceps nigricollis*. 1 St di Santa Gusta on 5th.

*Little Grebe/Smådopping/Tachybaptus ruficollis*. Common around Oristano.

*Great Crested Grebe/Skäggdopping/Podiceps cristatus*. Common around Oristano.

*Corys Shearwater/Gulnäbbad lira/Calonectris diomedea*. Common outside Bosa Marina from 7th. For example 100's foraging just outside on the 8th, 9th and 10th.

*Yelkouan Shearwater/Mindre lira/Puffinus yelkouan*. Common outside Bosa Marina from 7th. For example 30's foraging just outside on the 8th, 9th and 10th. 100's migrating north on the 8th.

*Great Cormorant/Storskarv/Phalacrocorax carbo*. Common Bosa and around Oristano wetlands.

*European Shag/Toppskarv/Phalacrocorax aristoteles desmarestii*. Seen on a daily basis outside Bosa Marina.

*Black-Crowned Night Heron/Natthäger/Nycticorax nycticorax*. 20 Bosa Marina on 4th. 1 Bosa Marina on 7th.

*Cattle Egret/Kohäger/Bubulcus ibis*. 50 St di Marie Pauli on 5th. 5 St di Ena Arrubia on 5th, 1 Tharros on 8th.

*Little Egret/Silkeshäger/Egretta garzetta*. Common seen everywhere in wetlands. Seen on a daily basis outside Bosa Marina and Bosa.

*Great Egret/Ägretthäger/Casmerodius albus*. 1 at St di Ena Arrubia on 5th.

*Grey Heron/Gråhäger/Ardea cinerea*. Only seen in Bosa Marina.

*Purple Heron/Purpurhäger/Ardea purpurea*. 1 St di Marie Pauli on 5th.

*Greater Flamingo/Flamingo/Phoenicopterus roseus*. Common in Stagno around Oristano.

*Eurasian Griffon Vulture/Gåsgam/Gyps fulvus*. Easy seen at the first colony from Bosa. At most 20 soaring together. Even seen from Bosa Marina.

*Osprey/Fiskgjuse/Pandion haliaetus*. 1 Sr di Mistras on 8th.

*Golden Eagle/Kungsörn/Aquila chrysaetos*. 2 ad and 1 2y soaring at Mt Sa Pittada on 10th.

*Black Kite/Brunglada/Milvus migrans*. 3 migrating NV Bosa Marina at dawn on 10th.

*Western Marsh Harrier/Brun kärrhök/Circus aeruginosus*. 15 migrating NV at dawn Bosa Marina on 10th. Common around wetlands.

*Common Buzzard/Ormvråk/Buteo buteo*. Common, seen everywhere.

*Northern Goshawk/Duvhök/Accipiter gentilis*. 1 St di Ena Arrubia on 8th.

*Eurasian Sparrowhawk/Sparvhök/Accipiter nisus*. 1 Mt Sa Pittada on 10th.

*Common Kestrel/Tornfalk/Falco tinnunculus*. Common, seen everywhere.

*Peregrin Falcon/Pilgrimsfalk/Falco peregrinus*. 1 St di Santa Giuosta on 5th. 2 Ahlgero – Bosa road on 7th.

*Common moorhen/Rörhöna/Gallinula chloropus*. 6 Bosa river, around Oristano in some wetlands.

*Eurasian Coot/Sothöna/Fulica atra*. Common, seen everywhere around Oristano

*Black-Winged Stilt/Styltlöpare/Himantopus himantopus*. 6 St di Santa Giuosta on 5th and on 8th, 10 St Ena Arrubia on 8th and 8 St Sale Porcus on 8th.

*Common sandpiper/Drillsnäppa/Actitis hypoleucos*. 2 Bosa on 4th.

*Spotted Redshank/Svartsnäppa/Tringa erythropus*. 5 St Ena Arrubia on 5th and 1 on 8th.

*Common Greenshank/Gluttsnäppa/Tringa nebularia*. 10 St Ena Arrubia on 5th and 2 on 8th.

*Eurasien Curlew/Storspov/Numenius arquata*. 1 St Ena Arrubia on 8th.

*Ruff/Brushane/Philomachus pugnax*. 1 St Ena Arrubia on 5th and 15 on 8th.

*Black-Headed Gull/Skrattmå/s/Chroicocephalus ridibundus*. Bosa Marina and St Ena Arrubia.

*Slender-Billed Gull/Långnäbbad mås/Chroicocephalus genei*. 5 Bosa Marina on 4th, about 40 St Ena Arrubia on 5th and on 8th.

*Mediterranean Gull/Svarthuvad mås/Larus melanocephalus*. 1 ad Bosa Marina on 4th – 7th. About 500 in the bay of Ahlgero on 7th.

*Yellow-legged Gull/Medelhavstrut/Larus michahellis*. Very common, seen everywhere, even in the high mountains. For example about 1000 in the bay of Ahlgero 7th.

*Audouin's Gull/Rödnäbbad trut/Larus audouinii*. 1ad migrating N Bosa Marina on 5th.

*Lesser Black-backed Gull/Silltrut/Larus fuscus fuscus*. 1 ad Bosa Marina on 5th – 7th.

*Tern/Kentsk tärna/Sterna sandvicensis Sandwich*. 1 St Ena Arrubia on 5th.

*Common Tern/Fisktärna/Sterna hirundo*. 5 St Ena Arrubia on 5th.

Tamduva/klippduva

*Common Wood Pigeon/Ringduva/Columba palumbus*. Common.

*Eurasian Collared Dove/Turkduva/Streptopelia decaocto*. Very common.

*European Turtle Dove/Turturduva/Streptopelia turtur*. 50 migrating N outside Oristano 5th.

*Common Cuckoo/Gök/Cuculus canorus*. 1 St Sale Porcus 8th.

*Alpine Swift/Alpseglare/Apus melba*. Common seen almost every day, probably many migrating N.

*Common Swift/Tornseglare/Apus apus*. Very common.

*Pallid Swift/Blek tornseglare/Apus pallidus*. 1 on photo St Ena Arrubia 5th. Several over Bosa 9th and 10th.

*Common Kingfisher/Kungsfiskare/Alcedo atthis*. 1 Fiume Themo, Bosa on 4th, 6th, 8th and 9th.

*Eurasian Hoopoe/Härfågel/Upupa epops*. 2 heard at Sindia on 5th and 1 Mt Sa Pittada on 6th and 1 outside Nuoro on 9th.



*Dartford Warbler/Provencesångare/Sylvia undata*. 2 Ahlgero-Bosa road on 4th and 1 on 7th.

*Marmora's Warbler/Sardinsk sångare/Sylvia sarda*. 1 male singing south of Orgosolo on 9th.

*Sedge Warbler/Sävsångare/Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*. 1 St di Santa Giuosta on 8th.

*Zitting Cisticola/Grässångare/Cisticola juncidis*. Common.

*Cetti's Warbler/Cettisångare/Cettia cetti*. Common.

*European Reed Warbler/Rörsångare/Acrocephalus scirpaecus*. 1 Bosa Marina on 8th.

*Willow Warbler/Lövsångare/Phylloscopus trochilus*. 15 Mt Sa Pittada on 6th.

*Common Chiffchaff/Gransångare/Phylloscopus collybita*. 1 singing at St Ena Arrubia on 8th.

*Winter Wren/Gärdsmyg/Troglodytes troglodytes*. 1 singing south Orgosolo on 9th.

*Great Tit/Talgoxe/Parus major*. Common

*Coal Tit/Svartmes/Periparus ater*. 1 south of Orgosolo on 9th.

*European Blue Tit/Blåmes/Cyanistes caeruleus*. Common.

*Common Magpie/Skata/Pica pica*. 1 south Stintino on 7th.

*Eurasian Jay/Nötskrika/Garrulus glandarius ichnusae*.

*Western Jackdaw/Kaja/Corvus monedula*. Common.

*Hooded Crow/Gråkråka/Corvus cornix*. Common.

*Common Raven/Korp/Corvus corax*.

*Spotless Starling/Svartstare/Sturnus unicolor*. Very common.

*Spanich Sparrow/Spansk sparv/Passer hispaniolensis*. Very common.

*Eurasian Tree Sparrow/Pilfink/Passer montanus*. 3 in Bosa Marina.

*Common Rock Sparrow/Stensparv/Petronia petronia*. 3 Mt Sa Pittada on 6th.

*Common Chaffinch/Bofink/Fringilla coelebs sarda*. Common.

*Common Linnet/Hämpling/Carduelis cannabina*. Common.

*European Goldfinch/Steglits/Carduelis carduelis*. Very common.

*European Greenfinch/Grönfink/Chloris chloris*. Common.

*Coriscan Finch/Korsikansk siska/Carduelis corsicana*. About 50 south Orgosolo on 9th. Several singing males and a good habitat for the birds in the area.

*European Serin/Gulhämpling/Serinus serinus*. 6 singing males Bosa Marina and Bosa.

*Hawfinch/Stenknäck/Coccothraustes coccothraustes*. 8 west Nuoro on 9th.

*Cirl Bunting/Häcksparv/Emberiza cirlus*. Very common.

*Corn Bunting/Kornsparv/Miliaria calandra*. Very common.