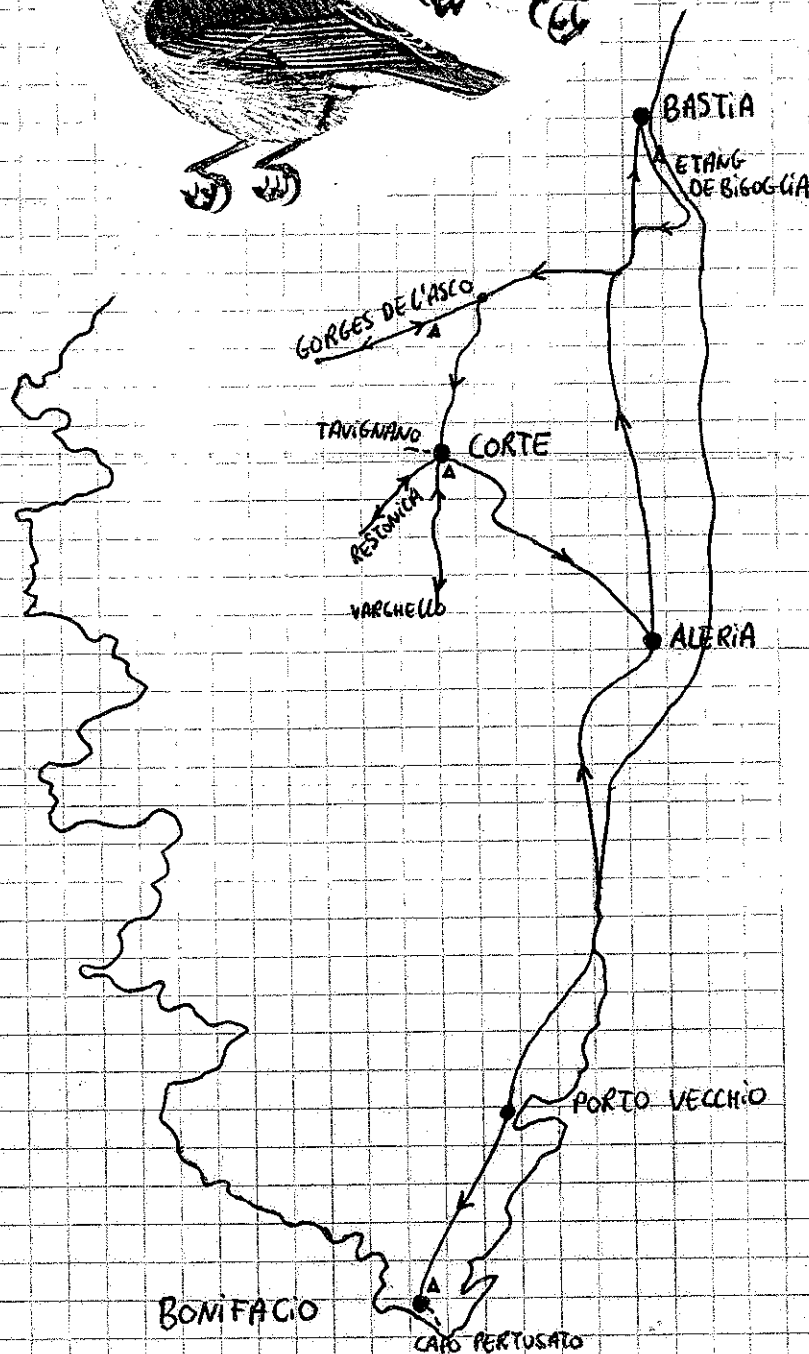
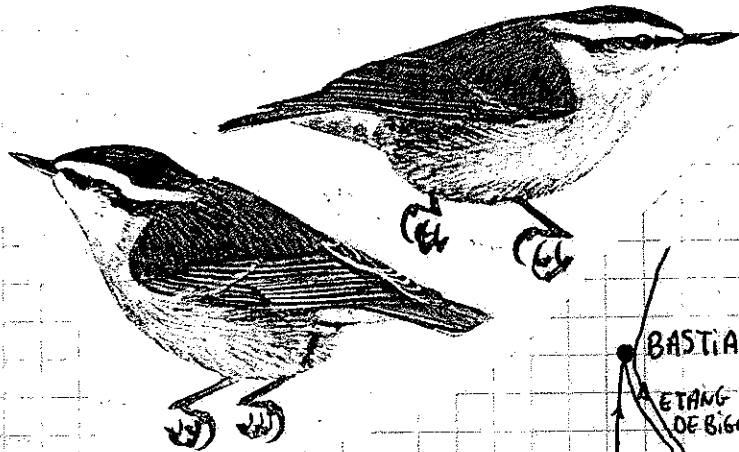


# A birdwatching holiday on the island of Corsica

3 may - 11 may 1991

by EricJan Alblas.



## Contents:

- Itinerary
- Used reports/map
- Observed birds
- Site-map for:

Corsican Nuthatch  
Moustached Warbler  
Marmora's Warbler  
and Citril Finch.

## ITINERARY

- 3-5 Morningflight from Amsterdam to Nice and a connecting flight to Bastia. Arrived Bastia 12.45 h. Hired a car at the Budget-office and drove directly to the Asco-valley. Citril Finches on the road near Asco. Despite the rain a male Corsican Nuthatch was easily seen with the use of a tape at Haut-Asco. In the evening drove back and stayed on a camping near Capannacce. Heard a Scops Owl calling near the campsite.
- 4-5 From Capannacce to Corte (Camping U Sognu). Birdwatched at the Gorges du Tavignano. Again two Citril Finches and at least 8 males of Marmora's Warbler well seen. Because of the heavy winds it was dry most of the day. In the evening two Scops Owls were calling near the campsite.
- 5-5 Gorges de la Restonica, looking for Alpine Chough and Alpine Accentor at the top. Walked track upwards but had to return because of the increasing bad weather (snow/rain). Despite bad weather saw Alpine Chough. Stayed rest of the day at the campsite as it was raining.
- 6-5 Sun at last. Decided to go to look for Alpine Accentor one more time at the top of the Gorges de la Restonica. Climbed up all the way to the Lac de Melo, and searched at the end of the road near the huts but without any sign of this elusive bird. Later on went to the Parc de Verghello between Vivario and Venaco (Subalpine Warbler) until it started to rain again, and returned to Corte.
- 7-5 From Corte to Bonifacio (170 km) took a three hours drive because of the winding roads. Arrived Bonifacio at noon and checked in at Camping L'Araquina. Walked to the Capo Pertusato. Few birds seen due to the heavy winds. Shearwaters at sea included numerous 'yelkouans'. First Woodchat Shrike of the race badius seen.
- 8-5 Beautiful day, walked from Bonifacio to the Capo Pertusato. Birdwatched all day and saw lots of birds which included 20 Tawny Pipits. In the afternoon many shearwaters at sea.
- 9-5 Drove from Bonifacio to Etang de Biguglia in the pouring rain, which lingered on all day. Checked in at a camping called San Damiano on the east-side of the lake for two nights. Some birdwatching in the afternoon from the car-window produced Audouin's Gull, one singing Savi's Warbler and a very wet first summer Red-footed Falcon.

- 10-5 Beautiful morning. Birdwatched all day along the north-, east- and south side of the Etang de Biguglia. The Red-footed falcon was still present. Many migrating Turtle Doves and warblers. Warblers included one Moustached at the entrance of the Ile de San Damiano after hours of searching. Several additions to the trip-list this day to a total of 98 observed species, including 6 new ones.
- 11-5 Left camping around 10 am and visited the spot of the Moustached Warbler but without seeing it a second time. The Red-footed Falcon was still present on the usual spot. Again many migrating Turtle Doves, Swallows and Warblers but nothing special. Brought the car back to the airport and waited for the F27-Friendship to take me to Nice. Connecting flight to Amsterdam left in time from Nice and arrived Amsterdam 20.25 h.

#### USED REPORTS AND MAP

Boon, Leo.	1990	Corsica 13 june - 04 july 1990
Michelin map nr. 90	1988	Corse 1:200.000
Whitehouse, Steve.	undated	The Corsican Compilation

For questions or remarks write to:

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## LIST OF OBSERVED BIRDS

1. GREAT CRESTED GREBE - *Podiceps cristatus*  
9-5 20 Etang de Biguglia  
10-5 20 Etang de Biguglia
2. CORY'S SHEARWATER - *Calonectris diomedea*  
7-5 30 Bonifacio - Capo Pertusato  
8-5 50 Bonifacio - Capo Pertusato
3. YELKOUAN SHEARWATER - *Puffinus y. yelkouan*  
7-5 80 Bonifacio - Capo Pertusato  
8-5 300 Bonifacio - Capo Pertusato, migrating east
4. CORMORANT - *Phalacrocorax carbo*  
9-5 2 Etang de Biguglia, first summer birds  
10-5 3 Etang de Biguglia, first summer birds
5. SHAG - *Phalacrocorax aristotelis desmaresti*  
7-5 30 Bonifacio - Capo Pertusato  
8-5 8 Bonifacio - Capo Pertusato
6. GREY HERON - *Ardea cinerea*  
9-5 2 Etang de Biguglia  
10-5 10 Etang de Biguglia
7. PURPLE HERON - *Ardea purpurea*  
10-5 1 Etang de Biguglia
8. LITTLE EGRET - *Egretta garzetta*  
3-5 1 Etang de Biguglia  
9-5 4 Etang de Biguglia  
10-5 15 Etang de Biguglia
9. MALLARD - *Anas platyrhynchos*  
10-5 6 Etang de Biguglia, males
10. RED KITE - *Milvus milvus*  
3-5 1 Asco  
4-5 1 Corte
11. BUZZARD - *Buteo buteo arrigonii*  
3-5 1 Asco  
5-5 1 Corte  
6-5 1 Gorges de la Restonica  
2 Parc de Verghello  
9-5 1 Etang de Biguglia  
10-5 4 Etang de Biguglia  
11-5 1 Etang de Biguglia
12. SPARROWHAWK - *Accipiter nisus wolterstorffii*  
7-5 1 Bonifacio, female

13. MARSH HARRIER - *Circus aeruginosus*  
     8-5      2 Capo Pertusato  
     9-5      1 Etang de Biguglia  
     10-5     2 Etang de Biguglia
14. KESTREL - *Falco tinnunculus*  
     7-5      1 Aleria  
     9-5      1 Etang de Biguglia  
     10-5     6 Etang de Biguglia  
     11-5     1 Etang de Biguglia
15. RED-FOOTED FALCON - *Falco vespertinus*  
     9-5      1 Etang de Biguglia, first summer  
     10-5     1 Etang de Biguglia, first summer  
     11-5     1 Etang de Biguglia, first summer
16. COOT - *Fulica atra*  
     9-5      Etang de Biguglia, common  
     10-5     Etang de Biguglia, common
17. WOOD SANDPIPER - *Tringa glareola*  
     10-5     1 Etang de Biguglia
18. COMMON SANDPIPER - *Actitis hypoleucos*  
     10-5     2 Etang de Biguglia
19. RINGED PLOVER - *Charadrius hiaticula*  
     10-5     1 Etang de Biguglia
20. BAR-TAILED GODWIT - *Limosa lapponica*  
     10-5     1 Etang de Biguglia
21. BLACK-HEADED GULL - *Larus ridibundus*  
     9-5      40 Etang de Biguglia  
     10-5     300 Etang de Biguglia
22. MEDITERRANEAN GULL - *Larus melanocephalus*  
     9-5      1 Etang de Biguglia, first summer
23. AUDOUIN'S GULL - *Larus audouinii*  
     9-5      1 Etang de Biguglia, adult
24. YELLOW-LEGGED GULL - *Larus cachinnans michahellis*  
     common along coastline, hundreds Etang de Biguglia
25. COMMON TERN - *Sterna hirundo*  
     10-5     1 Etang de Biguglia
26. BLACK TERN - *Chlidonias niger*  
     9-5      1 Etang de Biguglia  
     10-5     6 Etang de Biguglia
27. ROCK DOVE - *Columba livia*  
     5-5      3 Gorges de la Restonica

28. COLLARED DOVE - *Streptopelia decaocto*  
 4-5 1 Corte  
 5-5 2 Corte
29. TURTLE DOVE - *Streptopelia turtur*  
 8-5 1 Capo Pertusato  
 10-5 300 Etang de Biguglia, migrating north in groups  
 11-5 10 Campsite Etang de Biguglia
30. WOODPIGEON - *Columba palumbus*  
 4-5 3 Corte  
 6-5 2 Corte
31. CUCKOO - *Cuculus canorus kleinschmidtii*  
 8-5 1 Bonifacio, heard  
 9-5 1 10 km north of Aleria  
 1 Etang de Biguglia  
 10-5 3 Etang de Biguglia
32. SCOPS OWL - *Otus scops*  
 3-5 1 Campsite Capannacce (Asco-valley), heard  
 4-5 2 Campsite Corte, heard  
 5-5 2 Campsite Corte, heard  
 6-5 1 Campsite Corte, heard  
 7-5 3 Campsite Bonifacio, heard  
 8-5 2 Campsite Bonifacio, heard
33. NIGHTJAR - *Caprimulgus europaeus*  
 7-5 1 Campsite Bonifacio, heard and shortly seen  
 8-5 1 Campsite Bonifacio, heard
34. SWIFT - *Apus apus*  
 common on the whole island
35. PALLID SWIFT - *Apus pallidus brehmorum*  
 several at Bonifacio on 7-5 with common swifts
36. ALPINE SWIFT - *Apus melba*  
 7-5 20 Bonifacio
37. BEE-EATER - *Merops apiaster*  
 7-5 8 Aleria  
 8-5 18 Capo Pertusato  
 10-5 20 Etang de Biguglia
38. HOOPOE - *Upupa epops*  
 3-5 2 Asco  
 4-5 2 Gorges du Tavignano  
 7-5 1 Aleria  
 2 Bonifacio - Capo Pertusato  
 8-5 6 Bonifacio - Capo Pertusato  
 10-5 3 Etang de Biguglia, heard

39. GREAT SPOTTED WOODPECKER - *Dendrocopus major parrotii*  
 3-5 1 Asco  
 5-5 1 Gorges de la Restonica  
 6-5 1 Gorges de la Restonica  
 1 Parc de Verghello
40. WOODLARK - *Lullula arborea pallida*  
 4-5 4 Gorges du Tavignano
41. CRAG MARTIN - *Ptyonoprogne rupestris*  
 3-5 1 Asco  
 4-5 2 Gorges du Tavignano  
 5-5 4 Gorges de la Restonica  
 3 Corte  
 6-5 3 Parc de Verghello  
 20 Corte  
 7-5 3 Capo Pertusato
42. SWALLOW - *Hirundo rustica*  
 7-5 8 Bonifacio - Capo Pertusato  
 8-5 4 Bonifacio - Capo Pertusato  
 9-5 300 Etang de Biguglia  
 10-5 800 Etang de Biguglia, migrating north  
 11-5 200 Etang de Biguglia, migrating north
43. HOUSE MARTIN - *Delichon urbica meridionalis*  
 7-5 4 Bonifacio - Capo Pertusato  
 8-5 40 Bonifacio, breeding  
 9-5 7 Etang de Biguglia  
 10-5 80 Etang de Biguglia, migrating north
44. SAND MARTIN - *Riparia riparia*  
 10-5 3 Etang de Biguglia
45. TAWNY PIPIT - *Anthus campestris*  
 8-5 20 Bonifacio - Capo Pertusato  
 10-5 3 Etang de Biguglia
46. WATER PIPIT - *Anthus s. spinoletta*  
 4-5 40 Gorges du Tavignano  
 6-5 5 Gorges de la Restonica (top)
47. GREY WAGTAIL - *Motacilla cinerea*  
 3-5 1 Asco, male  
 4-5 1 Corte  
 5-5 4 Gorges de la Restonica  
 2 Corte
48. WHITE WAGTAIL - *Motacilla a. alba*  
 5-5 2 Corte  
 6-5 1 Parc de Verghello  
 7-5 1 Corte  
 10-5 3 Etang de Biguglia

49. YELLOW WAGTAIL - *Motacilla flava*  
 10-5 17 Etang de Biguglia
50. RED-BACKED SHRIKE - *Lanius collurio*  
 7-5 1 Bonifacio - Capo Pertusato, male  
 8-5 3 Bonifacio - Capo Pertusato, males  
 9-5 5 between Bonifacio and Bastia en route  
 1 Etang de Biguglia, male
51. WOODCHAT SHRIKE - *Lanius senator badius*  
 7-5 1 Bonifacio - Capo Pertusato  
 8-5 4 Bonifacio - Capo Pertusato  
 9-5 12 Etang de Biguglia  
 10-5 20 Etang de Biguglia  
 11-5 7 Campsite Etang de Biguglia
52. SAVI'S WARBLER - *Locustella luscinioides*  
 9-5 1 Etang de Biguglia, heard singing
53. REED WARBLER - *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*  
 9-5 1 Etang de Biguglia, heard singing  
 10-5 40 Etang de Biguglia, about 20 seen
54. MOUSTACHED WARBLER - *Lusciniola melanopogon*  
 10-5 1 Etang de Biguglia, adult
55. GREAT REED WARBLER - *Acrocephalus arundinaceus*  
 10-5 1 Etang de Biguglia, singing
56. FAN-TAILED WARBLER - *Cisticola juncidis*  
 10-5 12 Etang de Biguglia  
 11-5 4 Etang de Biguglia
57. CETTI'S WARBLER - *Cettia cetti*  
 7-5 1 Etang de Palo, heard  
 9-5 2 Etang de Biguglia, heard  
 10-5 30 Etang de Biguglia, heard
58. WHITETHROAT - *Sylvia communis*  
 10-5 1 Etang de Biguglia, male
59. BLACKCAP - *Sylvia atricapilla pauluccii*  
 7-5 4 Bonifacio, singing  
 8-5 4 Bonifacio  
 10-5 6 Etang de Biguglia
60. SARDINIAN WARBLER - *Sylvia melanocephala*  
 common on the whole island, many males seen
61. SUBALPINE WARBLER - *Sylvia cantillans*  
 6-5 3 Parc de Verghello, singing  
 7-5 1 Bonifacio - Capo Pertusato, heard

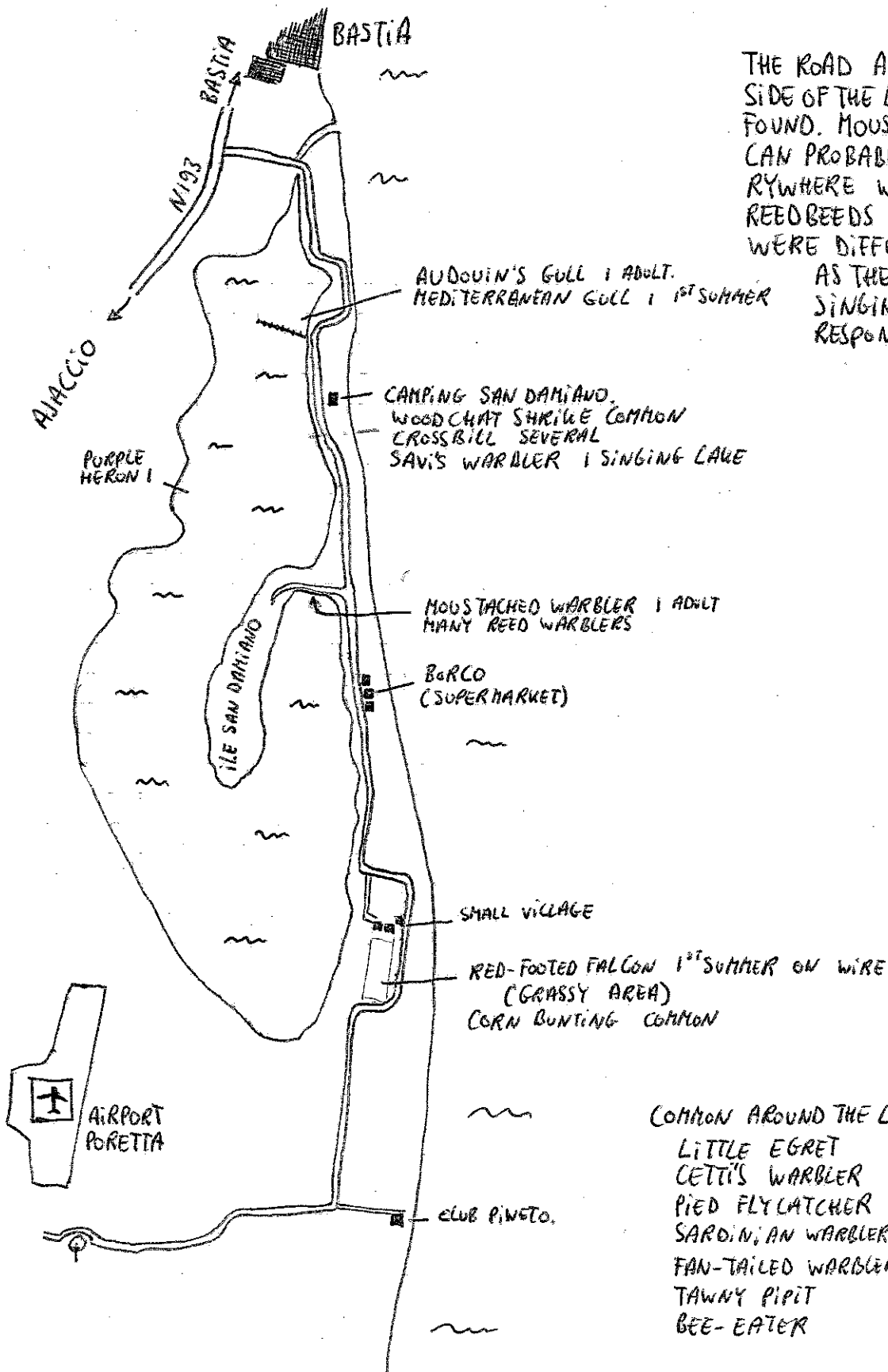


62. MARMORA'S WARBLER - *Sylvia s. sarda*  
 4-5 8 Gorges du Tavignano, males seen  
 7-5 1 Bonifacio - Capo Pertusato, heard
63. WOOD WARBLER - *Phylloscopus trochilus*  
 9-5 3 Etang de Biguglia  
 10-5 16 Etang de Biguglia  
 11-5 7 Etang de Biguglia
64. GOLDCREST - *Regulus regulus interni*  
 3-5 5 Haut-Asco  
 4-5 3 Gorges de la Restonica  
 5-5 1 Gorges de la Restonica
65. PIED FLYCATCHER - *Ficedula hypoleuca*  
 9-5 4 Etang de Biguglia, 3 males and 1 female  
 10-5 6 Etang de Biguglia
66. SPOTTED FLYCATCHER - *Muscicapa striata tyrrhenica*  
 10-5 4 Etang de Biguglia
67. WHINCHAT - *Saxicola rubetra*  
 7-5 1 Bonifacio - Capo Pertusato, male  
 8-5 8 Bonifacio - Capo Pertusato  
 10-5 2 Etang de Biguglia, males
68. STONECHAT - *Saxicola torquata*  
 8-5 4 Bonifacio - Capo Pertusato
69. BLUE ROCK THRUSH - *Monticola solitarius*  
 8-5 3 Bonifacio, 2 males and 1 female
70. WHEATEAR - *Oenanthe oenanthe*  
 8-5 20 Bonifacio - Capo Pertusato  
 9-5 2 Etang de Biguglia  
 10-5 15 Etang de Biguglia
71. REDSTART - *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*  
 9-5 2 Etang de Biguglia, females
72. ROBIN - *Erithacus rubecula sardus*  
 3-5 4 Haut-Asco  
 6 Campsite Capannacce (Asco-valley)  
 6-5 2 Gorges de la Restonica
73. NIGHTINGALE - *Luscinia megarhynchos*  
 common on the whole island, many heard and several seen
74. BLACKBIRD - *Turdus merula aterrinus*  
 common on the whole island
75. LONG-TAILED TIT - *Aegithalos caudatus irbii*  
 3-5 5 Asco

76. COAL TIT - *Parus ater sardus*  
common in the Gorges de L'Asco and around Corte
77. BLUE TIT - *Parus caeruleus ogliastrae*  
common on the whole island
78. GREAT TIT - *Parus major corsus*  
less common than Blue Tit, but seen at most places
79. CORSICAN NUTHATCH - *Sitta whiteheadi*  
3-5      1 Haut-Asco, male
80. WALLCREEPER - *Tichodroma muraria*  
6-5      1 Gorges de la Restonica - Lac de Melo, singing
81. WREN - *Troglodytes troglodytes koenigi*  
5-5      6 Gorges de la Restonica  
6-5      5 Gorges de la Restonica  
8-5      3 Bonifacio - Capo Pertusato
82. CORN BUNTING - *Miliaria calandra*  
9-5      8 Etang de Biguglia  
10-5     6 Etang de Biguglia  
11-5     3 Etang de Biguglia
83. CIRC BUNTING - *Emberiza cirrus nigrostriata*  
4-5      1 Gorges du Tavignano  
5-5      2 Corte  
6-5      1 Corte  
7-5      2 Bonifacio - Capo Pertusato  
8-5      6 Bonifacio - Capo Pertusato  
          2 Campsite Bonifacio  
11-5     1 Etang de Biguglia
84. CHAFFINCH - *Fringilla coelebs sarda*  
common on the whole island
85. SERIN - *Serinus serinus*  
on all visited places seen or heard
86. CITRIL FINCH - *Serinus citrinella corsicana*  
3-5      2 Asco, drinking along the road-side  
4-5      2 Gorges du Tavignano  
6-5      4 Corte
87. GREENFINCH - *Carduelis chloris aurantiiventris*  
7-5      8 Bonifacio - Capo Pertusato  
8-5      20 Bonifacio - Capo Pertusato  
9-5      10 Etang de Biguglia  
10-5     3 Etang de Biguglia
88. GOLDFINCH - *Carduelis carduelis tschusii*  
common on the whole island

89. LINNET - *Carduelis cannabina*  
 7-5 4 Bonifacio - Capo Pertusato  
 8-5 7 Bonifacio - Capo Pertusato
90. CROSSBILL - *Loxia curvirostra corsicana*  
 6-5 1 Campsite Corte  
 6 Parc de Verghello  
 10-5 1 Campsite Etang de Biguglia
91. ITALIAN SPARROW - *Passer domesticus italiae*  
 common, especially on the south of the island
92. TREE SPARROW - *Passer montanus*  
 10-5 1 Etang de Biguglia
93. SPOTLESS STARLING - *Sturnus unicolor*  
 4-5 5 Corte  
 7-5 20 Aleria  
 12 Bonifacio - Capo Pertusato  
 8-5 80 Bonifacio - Capo Pertusato  
 10-5 30 Etang de Biguglia
94. GOLDEN ORIOLE - *Oriolus oriolus*  
 10-5 3 Etang de Biguglia, heard
95. JAY - *Garrulus glandarius corsicanus*  
 3-5 2 Campsite Capannacce (Asco-valley)  
 6-5 2 Gorges de la Restonica  
 7-5 2 between Corte and Aleria  
 10-5 4 Etang de Biguglia
96. ALPINE CHOUGH - *Pyrrhocorax graculus*  
 5-5 30 Gorges de la Restonica - Lac de Melo  
 6-5 8 Lac de Melo (Restonica-valley)
97. HOODED CROW - *Corvus corone sardonius*  
 seen at all visited places in small numbers
98. RAVEN - *Corvus corax*  
 7-5 6 Bonifacio - Capo Pertusato  
 8-5 4 Bonifacio - Capo Pertusato  
 10-5 6 Etang de Biguglia

ETANG DE BIGUGLIA - MOUSTACHED WARBLER.

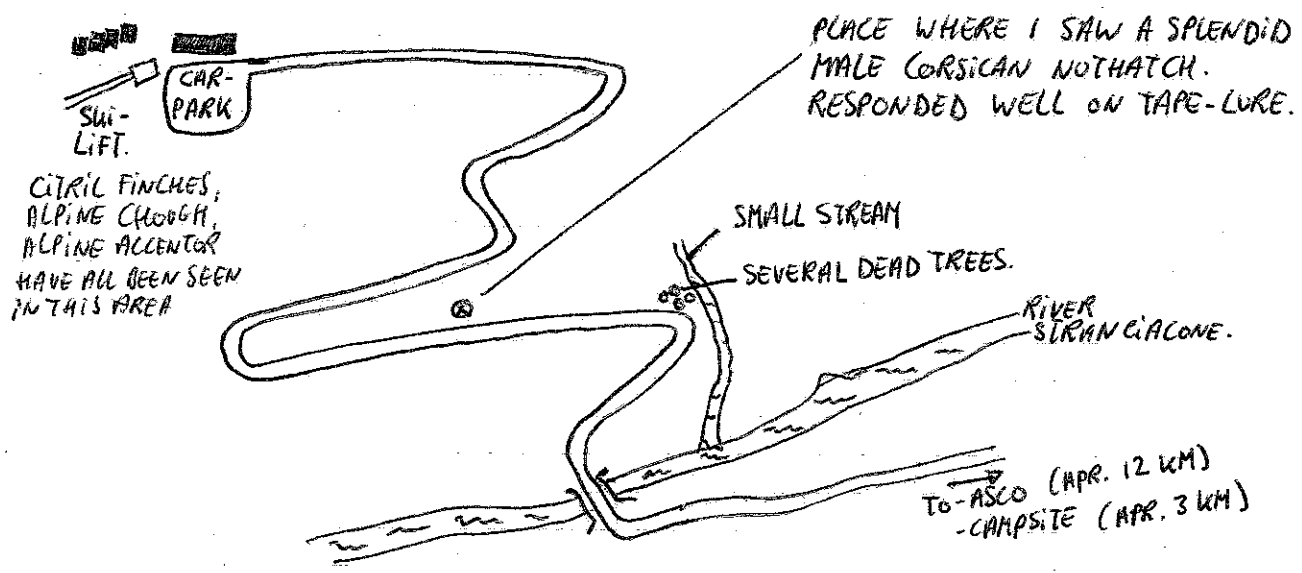


THE ROAD AROUND THE EAST-SIDE OF THE LAKE IS EASILY FOUND. MOUSTACHED WARBLER CAN PROBABLY BE FOUND EVERYWHERE WHERE SUITABLE REEDBEDS OCCUR. THEY WERE DIFFICULT TO FIND AS THEY WERE NOT SINGING AND DIDN'T RESPOND TO TAPE-LURES.

COMMON AROUND THE LAKE:

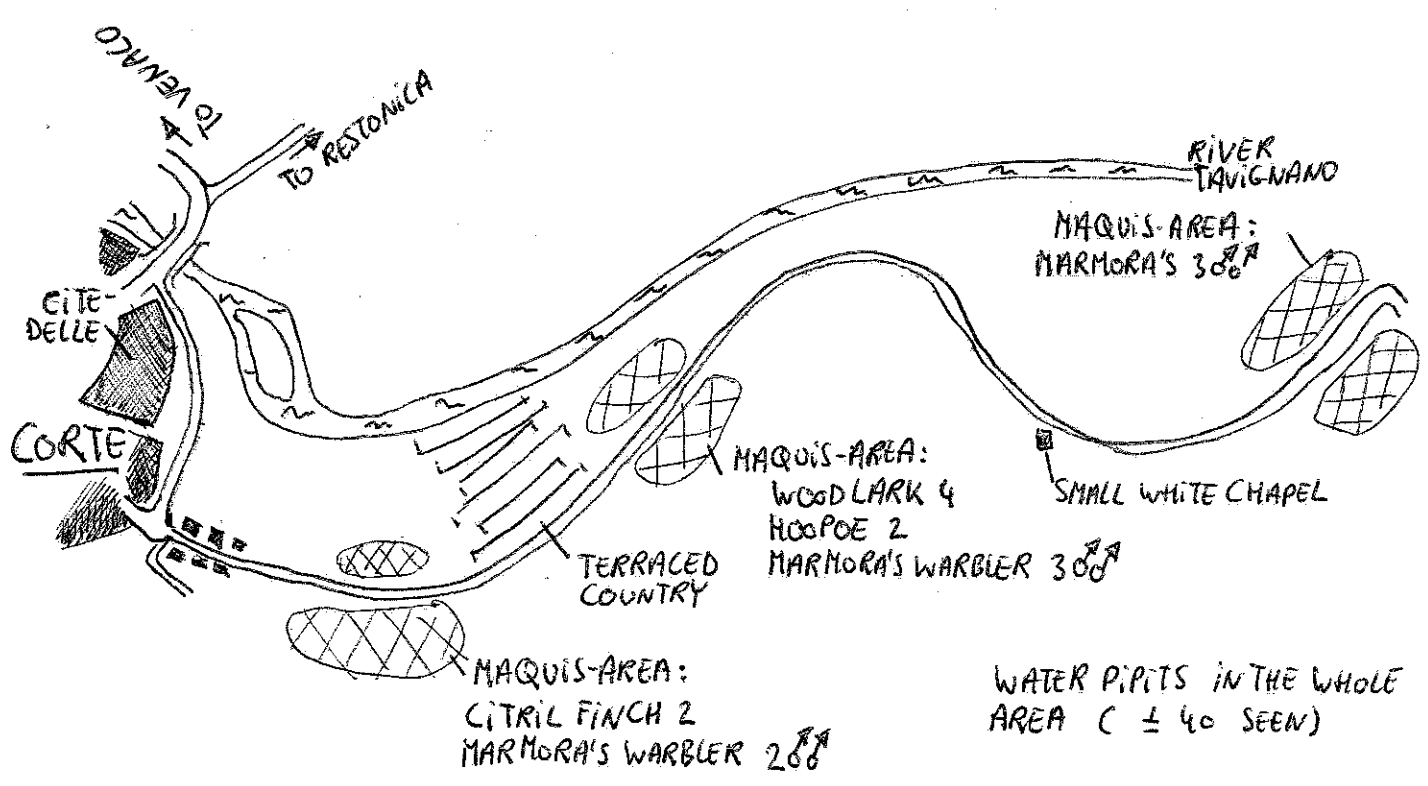
- LITTLE EGRET
- CETTI'S WARBLER
- PIED FLYCATCHER
- SARDINIAN WARBLER
- FAN-TAILED WARBLER
- TAWNY PIPIT
- BEE-EATER

HAUT-ASCO - CORSICAN NUTHATCH.



FROM ASCO DRIVE TO HAUT-ASCO. AFTER 12-15 KM THERE IS A BRIDGE ACROSS THE RIVER STRANCIACONE. THE ROAD FIRST BENDS SLOWLY TO THE LEFT, THEN TO THE RIGHT. AT THE SECOND LEFT-HAND BEND THERE ARE SEVERAL DEAD TREES, AND BEYOND A SMALL STREAM. THE WHOLE AREA IS COVERED BY PINETREES. I SAW A MALE C.N. APR. 300M. UPHILL NEXT TO THE ROAD, ATTRACUED BY A TAPE-LURE.

GORGES DU TAVIGNANO (CORTE) - CITRIL FINCH + MARMORA'S WARB.



IN CORTE FIND BRIDGE OVER THE RIVER TAVIGNANO OR THE CITE DELLE. THE TRACK THAT LEADS INTO THE GORGES DU TAVIGNANO IS INDICATED BY SIGNS. WALK THE TRACK UPHILL AND AFTER APR. 15 MIN. THERE IS A MAQUIS-AREA ON BOTH SIDES OF THE TRACK. THIS HOLDS MARMORA'S WARBLERS. ALSO ALL OTHER MAQUIS-AREAS HAD MARMORA'S. THEY RESPONDED WELL ON TAPE-LURING AND WERE BEAUTIFULLY SEEN.