

# Wild Italy: Venice, the Dolomites, and Bologna Species List | May 18 – 29, 2025 with Naturalist Journeys



**Compiled by guide Peg Abbott with local guide Marco Valtriani. Our clients included Susan, Anthony, Lori, Brian, Nancy, Robert, Connie, Gary, Arden, Arlana, and Thomas.**

Spring in northern Italy is an incredibly beautiful time of year to visit, with life bursting from the seams. Landscapes and wildflowers were a big part of each day's enjoyment. We admired vast lagoons of the Venice areas, green hillsides under gleaming glaciers of the Dolomites, and finally a farm country mosaic with gypsum soil badlands near Bologna come to life. Our birding took place in three distinct segments, with two full days in the lagoons of the Po River Valley near Venice, five days in the Dolomite Mountains, and three more days from Bologna. The first two locations were the most productive and will form the core of next year's journey. Birding highlights included seeing a Black Woodpecker work the trunk of a tree for several minutes, probing deep into the hardwood. High on everyone's list was a family of White-throated Dipper in a cerulean-colored stream, with the young just fledged, loudly begging to busy parents that made multiple feeding trips to nourish them. We watched Short-toed Eagle and European Honey Buzzards over the fields, and had a glimpse of Red-footed Falcon threading its way through the trees. Both Crested and Long-toed Tits were favorite, busy and energetic – we worked to find them so it was a joy to have success. We saw Greater Flamingoes in huge number, over 500 at one site, and 800+ at another, and loved watching them fly, catching the light on those magenta polished wings. European Bee-eater and European Hoopoe were show-stoppers and on our final day we finally got really good looks at Common Cuckoo, which we heard on many days. The jaunty little Firecrest wowed everyone with its fancy headgear, and Little Owl was seen on two days, the second day Thomas spied one sitting on a phone wire! Marco Valtriani explained that birding in Italy always holds an element of surprise, finding a colony of Alpine Swift nesting under a highway bridge was a great example of this.

The eBird link below details the 139 species of birds our group observed during the tour. If you're new to eBird, be sure to click "Show All Details" on the right side of the list to expand the report and reveal where and when each of the birds were seen and how many.

[Wild Italy | May 18-29, 2025 | eBird Trip Report](#)

Following is a list of the birds, mammals, reptiles and amphibians we were fortunate to observe during the trip.

**BIRDS 139 species were recorded for the group, in 49 families. Details are included below.**

**Family or Species Common Name Scientific Name: — (# of species seen in the family)**

**DUCKS, GEESE, AND SWANS: Anatidae — (7)**

**Graylag Goose** *Anser anser* — (2) Seen on the second full day in the Venice Lagoons. They were present in large numbers at the private pond area we visited our final day, with broods of varied ages.

**Mute Swan** *Cygnus olor* — (3) A pair was present in almost every canal and lagoon visited during our time at Venice Lagoon.

**Common Shelduck** *Tadorna tadorna* — (3) A large and colorful duck, quite common in the Venice Lagoon area and a couple of pairs were present at the Po River Delta area we visited the final day

**Mallard** *Anas platyrhynchos* — (7) Common and widespread, from lagoons of the Venice region to mid-elevation mountain lakes in the Dolomites.

**Red-crested Pochard** *Netta rufina* — (2) A nice find in one of the lagoons at the Oasi Cave Di Gaggio reserve where a local guide showed us several nesting species and helped us to survey the series of ponds. We saw them again at a private pond the final day, with sunlight showing off the intense head and bill color. At stunning duck.

**Common Pochard** *Aythya ferina* — (2) Seen at Oasi Cave Di Gaggio, a lone individual in a group of Mallards. We found a pair again on the final day as we walked along a dike between a series of private ponds.

**Tufted Duck** *Aythya fuligula* — (1) A pair was resting quietly on a pretty mountain lake in the Dolomites, seen on one of our first stops there.

**PARTRIDGES, PHEASANTS, AND ALLIES: Phasianidae — (1)**

**Ring-necked Pheasant** *Phasianus colchicus* — (4) Gary had a good view of a male and Nancy had a female cross the road. We got swift views as we drove through the countryside, and heard them on several occasions as we walked rural areas.

**PIGEONS AND DOVES: Columbidae — (4)**

**Rock Pigeon** *Columba livia* — (7) Frequently seen near towns and on travel days. At several hotels we had them roosting on our foyers, and had to watch that they did not come in when opening our big windows.

**Common Wood-Pigeon** *Columba palumbus* — (7) Highly common in the Jesolo area where we woke to their calls and cooing. They were widespread around all the towns and settlements, seen perched and in flight often. They were also common outside of Bologna and in the Po River Delta area.

**European Turtle-Dove** *Streptopelia turtur* — (5) A few were seen with the more abundant Eurasian Collared Dove around the Venice Lagoon area.

**Eurasian Collared-Dove** *Streptopelia decaocto* — (4) Common in the Venice Lagoon area and the community of Jesolo.

**CUCKOOS: Cuculidae — (1)**

**Common Cuckoo** *Cuculus canorus* — (5) Our first days we delighted in hearing them, but had to be content with quick flight views as they dashed across field and forest. Finally outside of Bologna in a farm area dotted with private ponds we watched several, including one perched prominently on a utility wire.

**SWIFTS: Apodidae — (2)**

**Alpine Swift** *Tachymarptis melba* — (2) Peg spotted one from the refugia we hiked to, keeping a watch on the high cliffs above the area we lounged in outdoor furniture after drinking nice strong coffee (and for a few the local Bombardino, a potent Italian winter cocktail with cognac and egg. Waiting to see hopeful Alpine Swifts, we enjoyed taking photos of each other in big swivel chairs just below the most amazing peaks - we titled these, "the essence of birding in Italy".

Thankfully the next day everyone got to catch up as we found a population using a nest cliff under the highway overpass! We made a U-turn to go back and see them, watching them go in and out of cracks in the massive rock - a good score! A few were also scattered in with Common Swift above the train station in Bolzano.

**Common Swift** *Apus apus* — (6) Seen early on in the trip over one of the canals we walked along and then again over the city of Bolzano and the river there. We then found them on several days, and they were numerous in Bologna and Venice, you could hear them chatter by opening up the room shutters – fun!

#### **RAILS, CRAKES AND ALLIES: Rallidae — (3)**

**Spotted Crane** *Porzana porzana* — (1) A few of our group got a quick view of one crossing a small channel in the marsh on the second full day at Venice Lagoon, a lucky find!

**Eurasian Moorhen** *Gallinula chloropus* — (2) Seen a couple of times, in small ponds and larger canals as we explored.

**Eurasian Coot** *Fulica atra* — (4) Seen in the lagoons around Venice, again in the mountain lakes of Dolomites, and in farm ponds around the Bologna area. Common.

#### **STILTS AND AVOCETS: Recurvirostridae — (2)**

**Black-winged Stilt** *Himantopus himantopus* — (3) Quite common in the saline areas of the Venice Lagoon area; seen on both days there. We found them again in the saline areas we stopped at in the Po River delta area retuning to Venice our final day.

**Pied Avocet** *Recurvirostra avosetta* — (2) Seen well in good number in the saline areas of Venice Lagoon.

#### **OYSTERCATCHERS: Haematopodidae — (1)**

**Eurasian Oystercatcher** *Haematopus ostralegus* — (3) A few individuals including two nesting seen while exploring the Venice Lagoon. They fed mainly in open mud lands and the nest was atop a piling not far from the road edge. We saw them again as we traveled into Venice, at a low tide that exposed lots of good feeding areas.

#### **PLOVERS AND LAPWINGS: Charadriidae — (3)**

**Black-bellied Plover** *Pluvialis squatarola* — (1) Peg spotted a beautiful breeding plumage adult seen feeding in the mudflat in one of the first Venice Lagoon areas we explored.

**Little Ringed Plover** *Charadrius dubius* — (1) Keen-eyed Thomas discovered this species as we stopped at a private land pond with exposed mudflats, feeding. We got good scope views at a distance.

**Northern Lapwing** *Vanellus vanellus* — (2) Seen flying over agricultural fields in the Venice Lagoon area. There were several present on the farm ponds of the Bologna area.

#### **SANDPIPERS AND ALLIES: Scolopacidae — (2)**

**Common Redshank** *Tringa totanus* — (1) Several individuals were seen at one of the first canal areas we walked along while exploring the Venice Lagoons.

**Spotted Redshank** *Tringa erythropus* — (1) One individual observed at fairly close range in a muddy stretch of the back side of one of the Venice Lagoons.

#### **GULLS AND TERNS: Laridae — (8)**

**Slender-billed Gull** *Chroicocephalus genei* — (1) Seen only at the Po River Delta area, resting in flooded mudflats between flamingoes.

**Black-headed Gull** *Chroicocephalus ridibundus* — (3) Common in the wetland areas of Bologna and as we headed back into Venice. Social and noisy.

**Mediterranean Gull** *Ichthyaeetus melanocephalus* — (1) Seen in small breeding grounds on shrubby mounds within the Venice Lagoons area. Seen only the one day, at a nesting area.

**Yellow-legged Gull** *Larus michahellis* — (5) The very common gull of the Venice Lagoons area, seen also from the train

station at Bolzano flying along the verdant green cliffs. Seen again by the Po River Delta reserve.

**Little Tern** *Sternula albifrons* — (3) A pair was seen just off the roadway where it cut across one of the Venice Lagoon areas we visited. One fed the other as it rested on a mudflat, and once delivered it quickly went off to pursue more gift meals. We had them at other large wetland areas, and saw a colony off of one of the causeways on a shell and sand island as we approached Venice.

**Caspian Tern** *Hydroprogne caspia* — (1) One individual seen over farm fields and a canal on our final day as we drove to some private ponds to explore.

**Common Tern** xxx — (4) Numerous individuals seen at sea, off the beach at Jesolo outside of our hotel. Also seen flying over some of the larger wetland areas.

**Sandwich Tern** xxx — (1) Seen on our second day at the Venice Lagoons.

#### **FLAMINGOS: Phoenicopteridae — (1)**

**Greater Flamingo** *Phoenicopterus roseus* — (3) On the bucket list for several of our group to see, our high count was 522 in a huge distant group in the Venice Lagoons. Our first seen were almost right out of the bus, off a causeway that threaded through an extensive marsh where they were feeding. Also seen in flight – so elegant!

#### **GREBES: Podicipedidae — (2)**

**Little Grebe** *Tachybaptus ruficollis* — (3) Seen at the Oasi Cave Di Gaggio reserve, one pair with striped chicks swimming was among those seen.

**Great Crested Grebe** *Podiceps cristatus* — (2) Beautiful birds, we saw a half dozen or more pairs while at Oasi Cave Di Gaggio. Our last day we saw them at several locations but the highlight was seeing two striped chicks on the back of one at the private pond reserve. An elegant creature and fun to observe.

#### **STORKS: Ciconiidae — (1)**

**White Stork** *Ciconia ciconia* — (1) Seen out the window in farm fields by some of our group as we drove back into Venice.

#### **CORMORANTS: Phalacrocoracidae — (3)**

**Pygmy Cormorant** *Microcarbo pygmaeus* — (4) Seen feeding and roosting in trees lining the canals around Jesolo and later at the Po River Delta area.

**Great Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax carbo* — (5) Seen in the Jesolo and Venice Lagoon area. One seen flying up and down the river by our hotel in as we loaded up leave the Dolomites and head to Bologna.

**European Shag** *Gulosus aristotelis* — (1) Seen just off the coast by our hotel, a lone individual perched on rocks of a jetty.

#### **IBIS AND SPOONBILLS: Threskiornithidae — (3)**

**Glossy Ibis** *Plegadis falcinellus* — (1) A couple of individuals spotted our final day returning to Venice through a network of ponds and salt flats.

**Eurasian Spoonbill** *Platalea leucorodia* — (1) A nice find at a set of private ponds our final morning. We saw it in flight and feeding.

**African Sacred Ibis** *Threskiornis aethiopicus* — (3) This is an invasive species in Italy but we saw them with regularity. From a single pair breeding in 1989, in north-western Italy today the population is over 10,000 and the species is present year-round.

#### **HERONS AND EGRETS: Ardeidae — (7)**

**Black-crowned Night Heron** *Nycticorax nycticorax* — (3) We had good views of this species on several days, at times out in the open.

**Little Egret** *Egretta garzetta* — (5) A few were seen in fields around the Venice Lagoons and on the rookery area of the Oasi Cave Di Gaggio reserve, sporting their golden slippers. They were fairly common in farm fields on travel days and again when we returned to wetland habitats on our final day back to Venice.

**Squacco Heron** *Ardeola ralloides* — (3) Two individuals were seen at the Oasi Cave Di Gaggio reserve. They were spotted again the next day in wetland areas and on our final day at the reserve with private ponds in route back to Venice.

**Western Cattle-Egret** *Ardea ibis* — (5) Common and widespread, in agricultural areas.

**Great Egret** *Ardea alba* — (2) Seen in the larger, very productive wetland areas.

**Gray Heron** *Ardea cinerea* — (6) The most common heron we saw, often several individuals present in a good wetland feeding area.

**Purple Heron** *Ardea purpurea* — (4) We saw a few individuals in flight, coming out of wet agricultural fields, but the at Oasi Cave Di Gaggio we were thrilled at close range to observe an individual on her nest.

#### **HAWKS, KITES, AND EAGLES: Accipitridae — (7)**

**European Honey-buzzard** *Pernis apivorus* — (1) We spotted one at a distance in the areas we explored outside of Bologna, and Marco pointed out its wing-clicking behavior and distinctive small head.

**Short-toed Snake-Eagle** *Circaetus gallicus* — (2) We watched a medium sized raptor hovering above the road and realized it held a dangling snake, which it was gulping down in flight! We were so dazzled by the spectacle, it took some time to figure out what we had just seen, sadly by only one of the vehicles, the one in the rear as we drove up switchbacks of the Dolomites.

**Golden Eagle** *Aquila chrysaetos* — (2) A massive raptor seen on our hike up to the historic refugia (Malga – Fornella – Alm). It flew quickly into the distance but was unmistakable. A second individual was the most likely candidate for a huge raptor Peg spied from the Bolzano train station, over the distant peaks.

**Western Marsh Harrier** *Circus aeruginosus* — (3) We saw them when in wetland areas, and on our final day watched a male and female doing flight acrobatics while courting.

**Red Kite** *Milvus milvus* — (1) A couple of individuals were seen flying with numerous Hooded and Carrion Crows near a dump outside one of the Dolomite mountain villages.

**Black Kite** *Milvus migrans* — (2) Seen on several occasions in the Venice Lagoon area.

**Common Buzzard** *Buteo buteo* — (6) The most common raptor we saw on the trip, seen in flight and perched.

#### **OWLS: Strigidae — (2)**

**Eurasian Scops-Owl** *Otus scops* — (HO-1) Heard outside of our hotel in woodlots of Jesolo as we walked back to our hotel after dinner.

**Little Owl** *Athene noctua* — (2) Seen well on the second full day around the Venice Lagoon and then Thomas spotted another one our final day driving around farmlands, perched on a utility wire!

#### **HOOPOES: Upupidae — (1)**

**Eurasian Hoopoe** *Upupa epops* — (3) This species was a bucket list “hope to see” request and it obliged us well the first morning, almost the first species seen, sitting on a utility wire and calling loudly.

#### **BEE-EATERS: Meropidae — (1)**

**European Bee-eater** *Merops apiaster* — (4) Such a beauty, Marco called a quick stop as we threaded between lagoon areas near Venice, and we were able to watch several feeding on insects. Such lovely colors!

#### **KINGFISHERS: Alcedinidae — (1)**

**Common Kingfisher** *Alcedo atthis* — (1) Lucky Anthony spotted this little winged gem flying low across the water on our final day. Many of us were watching the spoonbill feeding and were just not fast enough to get on it. We tried to locate it on the back side of a reed island to no avail.

### **WOODPECKERS: Picidae — (3)**

**Great Spotted Woodpecker** *Dendrocopos major* — (3) Seen outside of Jesolo on one of our walks, then we got very good views after one of our flower-focused walks in the Dolomites. That one we heard calling and drumming and followed the sound, getting very good scope views. It was the most common woodpecker encountered and several other times we saw it in flight.

**Eurasian Green Woodpecker** *Picus viridis* — (2) Seen in flight on our first afternoon walk. Then again, the second full day of exploring the Venice Lagoon area.

**Black Woodpecker** *Dryocopus martius* — (1) One of the highlights of the trip, walking along a roadside birding when we first got to the Dolomites, we found an individual very happy with its feeding area, and it stayed put for us to get scopes on it, and finally we were the ones to walk away. Marco was able to digiscope some video – it was on intent feeder reaching that powerful bill way down into the heart wood.

### **FALCONS AND CARACARAS: Falconidae — (3)**

**Eurasian Kestrel** *Falco tinnunculus* — (6) Seen at several areas we walked, and also from the bus windows as we traveled. We could spy them hovering above fields and even at a distance recognize this behavior.

**Red-footed Falcon** *Falco tinnunculus* — (1) We had a brief look at this species as we walked in the light rain through a pine and mixed conifer woodland. It was one of our best flower areas so several were looking down when Peg

**Eurasian Hobby** *Falco subbuteo* — (1) Seen on the second day we explored the wetland areas of the Venice Lagoons.

### **OLD WORLD ORIOLES: Oriolidae — (1)**

**Eurasian Golden Oriole** *Oriolus oriolus* — (HO-3) Heard only, we would have loved to see this beautiful species but our best chance was catching it fly tree to tree and they stayed in deep cover, while calling.

### **SHRIKES: Laniidae — (1)**

**Red-backed Shrike** *Lanius collurio* — (3) This was one of our more cooperative species, we found it several times and were able to get close enough for good views and photographs.

### **CROWS AND JAYS: Corvidae — (9)**

**Eurasian Jay** *Garrulus glandarius* — (6) Colorful and often signaling us to its presence by calling, we were all pleased when Sarah from Scape, our operator, spotted one for the group. They were around our hotel in the big Umbrella Pines of Jesolo, then in most woodland and mountain areas we saw them, at least in flight.

**Eurasian Magpie** *Pica pica* — (7) One of the first spotted and most often seen birds of our trip.

**Northern Nutcracker** *Nucifraga caryocatactes* — (2) We saw them in our two higher elevation areas of the Dolomites, and on the walk up to the memorable refugia that served coffee and cognac, they were so engrossed in harvesting stored nuts that we got very close, to watch behavior and photograph. One of the highlights of the trip.

**Yellow-billed Cough** *Pyrrhocorax graculus* — (3) This bird almost looked fake with its bright colored beak and legs. Nancy made friends with one begging outside a coffee shop, then we saw its wilder cousins in big flocks in the mountains, feeding on the ground, then springing into the air to go to another side, calling to each other as they traveled.

**Eurasian Jackdaw** *Coloeus monedula* — (1) Seen atop the castle we visited, in good light and with a Rook, for both species the only sighting of the trip.

**Rook** *Corvus frugilegus* — (1) Scope views atop the castle tower we visited, as we walked the grounds of the Messner Mountain Museum, owned by Italy's famous rock climber who loved the Dolomites and established this site.

**Carrion Crow** *Corvus corone* — (5) Fairly common and widespread.

**Hooded Crow** *Corvus cornix* — (6) Very common and widespread, one of the most abundant of number of individuals of the species we saw.

**Common Raven** *Corvus corax* — (1) Seen only at the trailhead of our walk to the delightful mountain refugia where we were rewarded with awesome views and good cakes and coffees, a most agreeable combination!

#### **TITS AND CHICKADEES: Paridae — (5)**

**Coal Tit** *Pariparus ater* — (5) Quite common, and a species we got very good looks at. We had one on a hike that was carrying food to its young, posing right by the trail but urging us to move on so it could keep up its important work of parenting.

**Crested Tit** *Lophophanes cristatus* — (1) Peg and Arlana would not give up on hopes of seeing this very cute species, and patiently drew them in, calling the group back so all got to enjoy their patterned crests and feeding antics. Tits around the world are curious and they proved to be no exception.

**Marsh Tit** *Poecile palustris* — (1) Fairly similar to Coal Tit, we got good views of this species on one day while in the Dolomites to compare them.

**Eurasian Blue Tit** *Cyanistes caeruleus* — (2) We saw this species on two lower elevation sites, in deciduous trees by streams.

**Great Tit** *Parus major* — (7) Highly vocal, we learned its call and many times were able to connect with seeing this common species.

#### **LARKS: Alaudidae — (2)**

**Wood Lark** *Lullula arborea* — (1) We heard, and a few of the group saw one burst from the ground into flight to sing, at Sasso di San Zanobi, a high point for us in the Apennine Mountains.

**Eurasian Skylark** *Alauda arvensis* — (2) Seen flight singing when we were in high open areas of alpine vegetation in the Dolomites.

#### **CISTICOLAS AND ALLIES: Cisticolidae — (1)**

**Zitting Cisticola** *Cisticola juncidis* — (5) We got good views of this species on our first afternoon walk in Jesolo, leaping skyward from reeds and grasses to sing skyward. We found them on all days in the Venice Lagoon area, and then in other lush sites when we dropped down in elevation from the Dolomites.

#### **REED WARBLERS: Acrocephalidae — (4)**

**Melodious Warbler** *Hippolais polyglotta* — (HO-1) Heard only but loudly at Parco dei Gessi Bolognasi.

**Marsh Warbler** *Acrocephalus palustris* — (2) Seen and heard at the beginning and end of our trip in wetland areas. Best seen flying reed to reed with our calling, at Strada Bastia Ponente Ponds.

**Common Reed Warbler** *Acrocephalus scirpaceus* — (HO-2) Heard at several stops, on both days exploring the wetlands of the Venice Lagoon area.

**Great Reed Warbler** *Acrocephalus arundinaceus* — (1) Seen at Strada Bastia Ponente Ponds where it and Marsh Warbler were more cooperative than at other locations.

#### **SWALLOWS AND MARTINS: Hirundinidae — (4)**

**Bank Swallow** *Riparia riparia* — (1) Peg spied a few of this species circling agricultural fields on our final day, coming and going to lunch and the walk at the private pond reserve.

**Eurasian Crag-Martin** *Ptyonoprogne rupestris* — (3) First seen above the city streets of Cortina, we saw them regularly then while in the Dolomites.

**Barn Swallow** *Hirundo rustica* — (8) Common and widespread in a variety of habitats, including urban spaces.

**Western House-Martin** *Delichon urbicum* — (6) Common and widespread.

#### **LEAF WARBLERS: Phylloscopidae — (2)**

**Western Bonelli's Warbler** *Phylloscopus bonelli* — (1) Seen very well, perched up and singing, after lunch at Pederü in a

lovely mountain setting, where we also saw wild Chamois high on the cliffs above.

**Common Chiffchaff** *Phylloscopus collybita* — (5) Heard often, and then on a few occasions we got to watch them feed and study them a bit. Arden was patient and finally dialed in for a good photo of one.

#### **BUSH WARBLERS: Scotocercidae — (1)**

**Cetti's Warbler** *Cettia cetti* — (3) This species was LOUD, with a call like a bullet, it stayed hidden from us, singing away a few feet away. A few got glimpses, especially that second day from Jesolo exploring various lagoon areas, but most memorable is its strong call.

#### **BUSHTITS: Aegithalidae — (1)**

**Long-tailed Tit** *Aegithalos caudatus* — (1) This species was on Ardana's wish list and following Nancy who had found activity up a quiet rural road, we were lucky when a group came through, landing on prominent branches before crossing the road so we could get views.

#### **SYLVIID WARBLERS: Sylviidae — (5)**

**Eurasian Blackcap** *Sylvia atricapilla* — (8) Very common and widespread, we heard them at numerous stops on eight days, but had only glimpses, and a couple of the group got rare full bird views.

**Lesser Whitethroat** *Curruca curruca* — (2) Good views, on two days at multiple locations in the Dolomites.

**Sardinian Warbler** *Curruca melanocephala* — (HO-1) Just one chance at this species, heard only at one of our two stops on the Via Pideura.

**Eastern Subalpine Warbler** *Curruca cantillans* — (HO-1) Heard only. Identification by bird guide Marco. Complicated multi note song. Dense shrubs, near irrigation ditch and lagoon.

**Greater Whitethroat** *Curruca communis* — (2) Encountered at several locations in two days around the Apennine Mountains that we drove to from Bologna. Best views in an area of lovely views atop the ridge of Sasso di San Zanobi.

#### **KINGLETS: Regulidae — (2)**

**Goldcrest** *Regulus regulus* — (1) Seen only one day, a pair at Lago di Misurina, a beautiful natural lake of the dolomites with a commanding historic hotel at one end of it.

**Common Firecrest** *Regulus ignicapilla* — (3) Seen on three days, one location each day, we all in time got good views of this little dynamo, displaying its crown colors in the dense foliage of conifer trees.

#### **NUTHATCHES: Sittidae — (1)**

**Eurasian Nuthatch** *Sitta europaea* — (1) Seen as we finished our walk at stunning Lago di Braies in the Dolomites, looking for crumbs by the picnic tables of the park restaurant.

#### **TREECREEPERS: Certhiidae — (1)**

**Short-toed Treecreeper** *Certhia brachydactyla* — (1) Heard and seen by a few at two locations on the 28<sup>th</sup>, this species works the bark of trees much like our Brown Creeper back home.

#### **WRENS: Troglodytidae — (1)**

**Eurasian Wren** *Troglodytes troglodytes* — (3) Heard on two days, finally on the third as we walked at one of the incredibly scenic lakes of the Dolomites, one showed itself well on a brush pile.

#### **DIPPERS: Cinclidae — (1)**

**White-throated Dipper** *Cinclus cinclus* — (3) We found a family group on a rushing stream our first full day in the Dolomites and were delighted to watch the busy parents feed begging chicks, navigating the rocks and rushing water. We had two that were not with us that day so made a quick stop back and were delighted to find the family still there,

more distant but still good in the scope. Marco then had a quick glimpse at one in another rushing stream as we started to bird one chilly morning on our last full day in the Dolomites.

#### **STARLINGS AND MYNAS: Sturnidae — (1)**

**European Starling** *Sturnus vulgaris* — (5) Seen along roadsides and in parks at lower elevations on both ends of our journey.

#### **THRUSHES: Turdidae — (5)**

**Mistle Thrush** *Turdus viscivorus* — (3) Seen at three locations, a large and visible thrush, with best views at Lago di Misurina.

**Song Thrush** *Turdus philomelos* — (4) Often confiding, this was our most common and widespread species of the thrush clan (other than blackbird) observed.

**Eurasian Blackbird** *Turdus merula* — (10) Common, vocal and widespread.

**Fieldfare** *Turdus pilaris* — (3) We worked hard for this species and then in the right habitat and elevation it was common.

**Ring Ouzel** *Turdus torquatus* — (4) First seen where we stopped our two vehicles for a fine view of distant peaks including Monte Pizzoc. It perched up in roadside trees below us as we viewed from a ridge. We saw them well on our walks in higher areas with good tree and edge habitat, as they were often feeding on the ground as well as perched up for views.

#### **OLD WORLD FLYCATCHERS AND CHATS: Muscicapidae — (7)**

**European Robin** *Erithacus rubecula* — (4) Furtive, we got chances to try to catch a glimpse on four days, often on our walks. The final day when four stayed on to bird in the gardens at Bologna, one was less shy and posed for some photos.

**Common Nightingale** *Luscinia megarhynchos* — (5) We heard this species and then as predicted, saw it fly from tree to tree cluster. Fairly common but somewhat tricky to observe despite it blaring out its lovely call.

**Common Redstart** *Phoenicurus phoenicurus* — (4) Seen at several locations, and not shy, sometimes around restaurants or coffee shops in the mountains, posing on rooftops.

**Black Redstart** *Phoenicurus ochruros* — (4) First seen in the wetland areas of Venice Lagoons, we also had it at a few lower elevation spots in the Dolomites.

**Whinchat** *Saxicola rubetra* — (1) A pair was seen along one of our hikes in the Dolomites and with a few calls the male came up for a good view.

**European Stonechat** *Saxicola rubicola* — (2) Pairs were seen at two very different elevations, one in the Venice Lagoons area and the other on a scenic ridge of the Apennine Mountains at Sasso di San Zanobi.

**Northern Wheatear** *Oenanthe oenanthe* — (1) Seen in a grassy open area of Monte Pizzoc where we stopped for a view.

#### **ACCENTORS: Prunellidae — (1)**

**Dunnock** *Prunella modularis* — (1) We had an individual singing and perched up in a gully filled with a deciduous shrub, probably willows, on one of our mountain hikes.

#### **OLD WORLD SPARROWS: Passeridae — (1)**

**Italian Sparrow** *Passer italiae* — (8) This endemic to Italy was very common, widespread and easy to see, often in rural areas and towns.

**Eurasian Tree Sparrow** *Passer montanus* — (2) Our best views were by a roadside caravan park but we also found them in towns and cities.

#### **PIPITS AND WAGTAILS: Motacillidae — (4)**

**Gray Wagtail** *Motacilla cinerea* — (2) We saw this species along lovely streams at two locations.

**White Wagtail** *Motacilla alba* — (6) Very common along moving water, widespread.

**Tree Pipit** *Anthus trivialis* — (1) Seen only in open grassland high habitat at the viewpoint for Monte Pizzoc, along with Northern Wheatear.

**Water Pipit** *Anthus spinoletta* — (2) Seen in the Dolomites, at two locations, first at Passo Sella.

#### **FINCHES AND EUPHONIAS: Fringillidae — (7)**

**Common Chaffinch** *Fringilla coelebs* — (6) Common and widespread.

**Eurasian Bullfinch** *Pyrrhula pyrrhula* — (2) We first encountered this species by the castle and graveyard we visited at the property of the famous Italian climber. We then had good views on a mountain hike up the lovely refugia we had coffees at to celebrate the fine birds, wildflowers and scenery.

**Eurasian Linnet** *Linaria cannabina* — (2) Seen in flocks, in conifer trees on two days.

**Redpoll** *Acanthis flammea* — (1) Noisy, confiding, seen in a flock on one of our mountain walks.

**Red Crossbill** *Loxia curvirostra* — (2) Flocks in conifer trees on several mountain walks.

**European Goldfinch** *Carduelis carduelis* — (6) Common and widespread, one of our most regularly encountered species.

**European Serin** *Serinus serinus* — (3) We got views of this species by a car caravan park

#### **OLD WORLD BUNTINGS: Emberizidae — (2)**

**Corn Bunting** *Emberiza calandra* — (1) Bold, singing and perched up Sasso di San Zanobi.

**Cirl Bunting** *Emberiza cirlus* — (3) Seen on either end of our journey, in edge habitat with trees and shrubs by fields.

#### **MAMMALS: — (8)**

**Eurasian Red Squirrel** *Sciurus vulgaris* — (1)

**European Hare** *Lepus europaeus* — (1)

**European Rabbit** *Oryctolagus cuniculus* — (1)

**Alpine Marmot** *Marmota marmota* — (1)

**Pyrenean Chamois** *Rupicapra pyrenaica* — (2)

**Corsican Red Deer** *Cervus elaphus* — (1)

**Roe Deer** *Capreolus capreolus* — (1)

**Nutria** *Myocastor coypus* — (2) An introduced species to wetland areas.

#### **REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS: — (5)**

**European Pond Turtle**

**Red-eared Slider**

**Green Lizard**

**Wall Lizard**

**Green Whip Snake**

*Numerous Wildflowers and Butterflies were photographed, identification pending from photographs.*