

A BRIEF VISIT TO LIPARI ISLAND

The Eolie Islands, seven in all are situated off the North Sicilian coast. Lipari with an area of 37,6 sq. km. is the largest island. Its high and sloping coasts are nearly everywhere surrounded with huge rocks. Its numerous reefs reach the maximum height of 603 m. In the middle of the island there is Piano Conte, a high plane cultivated mainly with vineyards, as in all parts of the island where farming is possible. The spontaneous vegetation is represented, as in all the Archipelago, with typical elements of Mediterranean woodland. Around the inhabited areas and in the most sheltered zones one also finds tall trees among which various imported species.

Lipari was visited for only two days, 21st and 22nd April 1973, and though birds were not the reason for the visit, the following species were recorded:

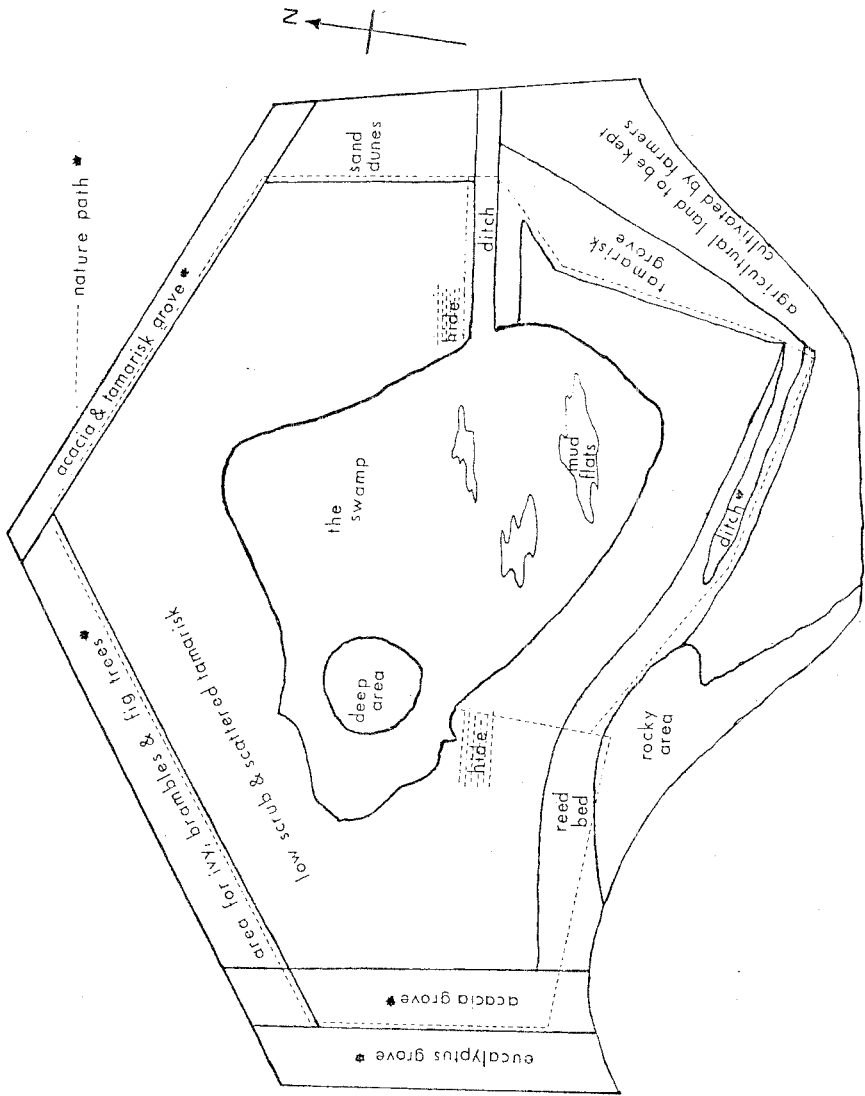
Black Kite 2, Kestrel 2, Turtle Dove 6, Herring Gull 15+, Barn Owl 1, Swift 3, Alpine Swift 2, Sand Martin 2, Swallow 7, House Martin 4, Wren 3, Blackcap 20+, Whitethroat 7, Sardinian Warbler 30+, Subalpine Warbler 20+, Spectacled Warbler 1, Willow Warbler 2, Wood Warbler 1, Pied Flycatcher 1, Black-eared Wheatear 1, Blue Rock Thrush 4, Redstart 1, Song Thrush 1, Goldfinch 30+, Linnet 3, Tree Sparrow 20+, Sparrow sp. 35+, Raven 20+.

Following is a list of species met with during the voyage:

Cory's Shearwater — 1 on 20th off Vulcano I and 10+ between Sicily and Malta on 24th; Gannet — 1 on 24th between Sicily and Malta; Kestrel — 1 on 23rd at Catania; Ruff — 1 at Augusta on 24th; Common Sandpiper — same as Ruff; Black-headed Gull — 1 on 20th at Milazzo and 2 on 24th at Syracuse; Herring Gull — 6 on 20th off Milazzo; Black Tern — 2 on 24th at Syracuse; Turtle Dove — 1 leaving Sicily in a south direction (?) on 20th Swift — 2 on 23rd at Catania and 3 on 24th at Syracuse; Swallow — 8 on 23rd at Catania; Yellow Wagtail — 1 seen between Sicily and Malta (north direction) on 24th; Woodchat Shrike — 1 on 23rd at Catania; Greenfinch — 2 on 24th at Syracuse; Linnet — same as Greenfinch; Serin — 20+ on 24th at Syracuse.

S. Borg

Note: The description of Lipari was taken from Gli Uccelli delle Isole Eolie — E. Moltoni & S. Frugis Riv. It. Orn. (37) 9:91-226).



Plan for the proposed educational field centre and bird reserve at Ghadixa as suggested by M.O.S. (only those marked with an asterisk (*) have to be created). One of the nearby barracks would have to be used as a library, nature discovery room and laboratory.