

Menorca

Friday 21 – Friday 28 April 2006

Trip Report

Leaders:

John Muddeman

Ray Nowicki

Daily diary

Friday 21 April

Mild, broken low cloud, stiff S breeze.

After a typical flight out for the bulk of the group, a delay in baggage reception at Maó airport meant that John, who was arriving later from Madrid was able to meet the rest just before lunch at Matxani Gran almost as if he'd come on the same flight.

The drinks and our first taste of the great food we were to experience throughout the week and presented in fine style by our hosts Shaun, Jenny and June, set us in good stead for a wander round the grounds as an introduction to the area.

Rugged limestone rocks jutted up through the rather dry and already parched-looking fields, though plenty of either very small or bulbous plants were in flower, such as annual daisy, rosy garlic, purple viper's-bugloss, evax and summer and hollow-leaved asphodels, while galactites - the narrow-leaved milk thistle - was abundant with its 'soft' pinkish flower heads. A few sad remains of *Ophrys* (=bee) orchids stood up from the ground, but had clearly long passed their best, but looking along the edge of the field with a little more scrub cover a shade, a pleasant surprise in the form of a large Hermann's Tortoise was found. Indeed, it looked like it had been specially polished for the occasion!

Birds, despite generally being quiet were quite in evidence, with fine tawny pipit, woodchat shrike and greater short-toed and thekla larks well seen in the fields, plus a smart migrant whinchat and fly-over booted eagle, peregrine and common ravens. Walking to the far fields Ray's terrific eyesight picked out a tired but still identifiable mirror ophrys, while a single white pyramidal orchid in the opposite corner near a wild gladiolus were fine splashes of colour in the otherwise rather tired-looking dry field. The neighbour's ploughed and flower-filled field over the wall was fine to see, especially when Ray's eagle eyes again picked-out a hiding stone curlew, though this quickly took umbrage at our presence and flew off before all could see it. A dapper male stonechat was somewhat more obliging though.

A terrific start to the trip, only somewhat marred by the presence of a lamb trying to suckle from its dead mother, though after a good feed later on, the lamb looked as contented as any animal I've ever seen, lying calmly in Jenny's arms and behaving like a rather smug cat! "Jamie" it was named...*(yes thanks for that, Ed.)*

Even the call-over was interrupted when the calling green toad - a rare species in Spain found only in Menorca, Mallorca and Ibiza - decided to take a swim round the swimming pool! Dinner was excellent and we retired to bed to the sound of calling stone curlews.

Saturday 22 April

Fine & sunny until 1p.m., then thin high cloud. Stiff E/NE breeze.

A pre-breakfast jaunt for the early risers saw one minivan heading down to the coast in cool and dewy conditions. A couple of Turtle Doves were on wires as we went, though the roadsides of wild flowers caught our eyes, and a rough corner stuffed to the brim with pyramidal orchids was just a treat.

A walk down to a tiny headland allowed close views of a tawny pipit, with male northern wheatear and singing blue rock thrush on the rocks, a pair of Audouin's gulls (one colour-ringed) in the little cove below us and passing shags a little offshore. Other things zipping past were a number of large hawk-moths, presumably striped, though none stopped for even a few seconds to enable a possible ID. We walked back noting a scattered colony of a red broomrape species, which we also found to be common along the roadside as we returned.

After breakfast we headed towards the coastal marsh of Son Bou. After the 'dodgy' ducks, we soon enjoyed terrific views of Cory's shearwaters cruising gently along the coast in excellent light, though in the pools in the reedbeds behind, a fine Eurasian spoonbill was soon joined by another, and we also noted a couple of grey herons, several little and cattle egrets, moorhen, coot and purple swamp-hens, with a vicious attack on one of the latter by a yellow-legged gull only thwarted by a coot protecting its own nest! Black-winged stilts and a flying common snipe were only bettered by a pair of delightful Kentish plovers and a dapper greater ringed plover on the beach next to a pair of Audouin's gulls. A 'pop-up' purple heron kept us looking largely in vain, but the dune scrub held plenty of Sardinian and a few flitting Cetti's warblers, plus further along a small fall of northern wheatears. A little collection of shags on a rocky islet also kept us occupied. It was not all birds though, and in addition to a few flowers on the dunes, a few butterflies and blue-tailed damselflies kept us busy.

After a short drinks break, we went back into some pines beside the dunes for a very pleasant lunch. This was followed by a walk, now thankfully under thin cloud, along a track to contemplate another part of the marsh. Marsh harrier, zitting cisticola, scarlet darter and keeled skimmer dragonflies, plus the delightful dark-winged Mediterranean and banded demoiselle damselflies kept us wondering whether to look up or down, while a stripy-eyed Egyptian grasshopper, various plants including blue hound's-tongue and a smart purple heron eating a coot chick, kept us more than occupied!

Our return was via the Torre d'en Gaumes, a large Neolithic settlement, still partly under excavation. A quail sang from a nearby pasture as we arrived, and though birds were scarce in the ruins, despite Sardinian warbler, thekla lark and a passing red kite, the sheer size of the settlement and its complexity were a fine and thought-provoking sight.

Sunday 23 April

Cool, breezy & cloudy start. Fined-up 1:30 p.m. then warm p.m.

The day dawned with thick cloud after some light rain during the night. Things boded well with a lemony-fronted wood warbler from the car park, with another, half-heartedly singing and calling as we ambled down the lane. A dapper male pied flycatcher was the first of two along the walk as well, and it was clear that some migrants had been forced down overnight by the weather. *Allium arabicum* flowers were on display in one patch, though a fine purple broomrape by the car park was much better than some depauperate specimens we'd seen in the fields on the first afternoon.

We headed N, taking a loving winding back road through a mixture of arable and rough wooded hillsides, stopping briefly at a special spot for birds. "Depuradora" sounds so much better than sewage treatment works to the English-speaking ear!! Apart from a gaggle of rowdy yellow-legged gulls, the antics of a couple of pairs of little ringed plover, four common sandpipers and a very smart wood sandpiper were a pleasure to watch, while Susan briefly noted a smart white wagtail.

Our next destination was the Tirant marsh area, though arrival was somewhat delayed as John's bus stopped for a couple of great reed warblers thumping around on the edge of a bramble patch, and a few whinchats and other local birds being noted by Ray's. We finally arrived near where we wanted to park, only to have a wryneck fly up in front and along the track before we had even stopped! Fortunately this dropped down onto the gravel in full view, albeit briefly, before

hopping into the strip of vegetation beside the hedge. After getting out we eventually all managed fine views of this extraordinarily patterned bird as it fed in the grass on the verge.

Birds were otherwise actually rather scarce, despite noisy adjacent corn buntings and tawny pipits, plus shouting Cetti's warblers, but we strolled along the track looking as we went. A few distant black-winged stilts were accompanied by a few wood sandpipers but these hid behind the abundant emergent vegetation. Several marsh harriers were almost constantly on view however, and regularly flushed small numbers of birds. A high-pitched whistle signalled the presence of a penduline tit, though this remained out of sight until only the most persistent of the party remained, though these were well rewarded with a view of this little gem with its highwayman's mask, until it dived again into thick tamarisk cover.

We took a short drive back, the first bus being lucky to see a viperine snake cross the road, while as we stopped again, so a little group of kestrels hunting over a nearby hillside caught our eye... Indeed, 4 together was suspicious, and we were delighted to confirm 4 or perhaps 5 hunting lesser kestrels, rare migrants to the island, as they hovered continuously over the nearby slopes, swooping down to pounce on large insects hiding in the grass below.

A short walk produced little new, though the whinnying little grebes were also seen, so as time was marching on we headed for a coffee break on Fornells. A large pool off to one side was full of birds though, so we were quickly out of the buses again and soon peering down over a pig-filled field to see what we could find. A smart purple heron was perched high in a tamarisk, soon copied by a marsh harrier, but pride of place among the numerous mallard, coots, little egrets and a couple of stilts were two fine squacco herons, one in warm breeding plumage, the other in its more dingy winter garb. A great comparison.

After a break in Fornells we decided to see if a coastal spot known to Susan and Don was interesting for lunch, though the cloudy and chilly conditions were not conducive at first sight for sitting out on the cliffs! However, as we arrived we noticed a feeding frenzy just offshore in the mouth of the inlet, with several dozen Cory's and Yelkouan shearwaters, shags and lots of gulls! In fact, as we hopped out, so the sun suddenly shone through and the sight of the milling birds was excellent recompense for the cool conditions. Indeed, we took the lunch up to a slightly more sheltered spot from where we could survey the sea in front and across to the northernmost point on the island, Cap de Cavalleria. The shearwaters were excellent, though moved further out to form a raft as the fish shoal suddenly disappeared.

The plants here were a treat too, with little hummocks of numerous species hugging the rather wind and salt-spray swept cliff top, including sea lavender, sea daisy and the lovely endemic *Senecio rodriguezii* amongst others.

The afternoon was spent in the pinewoods not far from Monte Toro. After parking on a track we walked up in increasingly hot conditions, with blackcaps and chaffinches singing from time to time, while various butterflies including green hairstreak and several impressive Norfolk hawk dragonflies were excellent to see. We concentrated on the flora though, and despite it being quite an advanced season found several small-flowered tongue orchids, various mirror orchids, including one with a pristine flower, some rather tired bumble bee orchids, but best of all, a small colony of the large violet limodore orchids, one of which was in excellent flower. A terrific haul, and added to by the abundant pink and white cistus flowers, and a single little clump of the peculiar root parasite, *Cytinus rubra*, with its striking red colour, erupting from the soil.

We were glad for the cooler air when back in the moving buses though the second bus stopped briefly for a large, though somewhat withered sawfly orchid as we descended. Another look at the Tirant pond produced nothing new, but after a perched roadside booted eagle with prey, at the depuradora, something flapping in the breeze on the ground turned out to be a huge silk moth, which when disturbed flipped into the air and then rather ponderously spiralled up and up before being rapidly carried away in the stiff breeze. A remarkable sight!

We finished with a walk around a little bay at Maó before eventually finding our way to a restaurant in the old city where we enjoyed a good meal out. An excellent end to the day.

Monday 24 April

Sunny, very warm, stiff E wind

No pre-breakfast walk, which given a strong wind was probably no great loss (?!), then we headed out to the Algendar gorge for the morning. Parking near the entrance gate single little egret and grey heron adorned a wet pool off to one side, but the wind blowing into the bottom of the gorge produced some excellent updrafts on the cliffs and the sky was continually dotted with birds. Several common kestrels from a colony on the cliffs played and displayed on the wind, several Egyptian vultures cruised over and round, including a very dark young bird, but another raptor moving in was a super Eleonora's falcon, which drifted rapidly over and then past us before disappearing over the pines on the opposite side, A terrific start! Several Alpine swifts way up in the blue were also clearly visible in the strong sunshine.

Barely passing the entrance gate we stopped again for some time, on this occasion for numerous butterflies and dragonflies making use of the hot conditions to warm up and feed among a display of wasteland plants. Red-veined darters were abundant and we noted the first of several Spanish brown argus butterflies, plus plenty of common blues and clouded yellows and the ubiquitous speckled woods.

The 'payment' for this was that given the breeze and the strong sunshine, the woods shortly ahead were rather quiet for birds, despite us continuously being in earshot of at least one nightingale, plus various Cetti's warblers and chaffinches. A firecrest sang rather unimpressively from a stand of wind-shaken oaks and we continued on to look for a better site.

Yellow seemed to be the order of the day, as emphasised by a couple of brightly coloured Cleopatra males and the enormous flowers of the impressive Cretan mullein, which formed an impressive stand at one point. Other flowers were rather more subdued, especially given the lack of spring rains, though nettle-leaved figwort was a 'catch-up' for those who'd missed it in the ruins 2 days before. Holm oaks, ivy, gum lentisc, reversed clover and pitch trefoil were all noted, along with some quite tall elms along the stream bank, fortunately here not affected by Dutch elm disease. An absence of the beetle vector perhaps?

A few booted eagles kept us entertained, and despite knowing it was an impossible task, we searched the trees on the opposite side of the gorge hard to find a scops owl which insisted in calling persistently in the heat of the day! A smart firecrest, only seen by some of the more adventurous who scrambled up the slopes in the scrub, sang heartily at length, though kept deep in cover.

We continued until reaching a little bridge over the stream in the bottom, which scarcely seemed significant enough to have carved out such a tremendous gorge, and having looked at the pomegranate bushes, the first for many in the groups, retraced our steps. A lovely walk in terrific surroundings and quite unlike what we'd seen before.

Lunch under pines on the dunes was enlivened by a horde of hungry sparrows and some rather less welcome yellow-legged gulls, though an impressive buprestid beetle on one of the picnic tables was a good find.

Heading west we went for a walk to and around the rather peculiar Naveta des Tudons, apparently the world's oldest two-storey building. The old-style agriculture in the surrounding fields meant that there was a wealth of wild flowers and grasses, including pheasant's-eye and numerous clovers, while on the limestone slopes nearby, a few small-flowered tongue orchids and some just-opening bug orchids, of the aptly coined spp. *fragrans* were a great find. A passing Eleonora's Falcon wasn't bad either!

We returned quite early with time for a snooze and our first real chance at a call-over to check off the plant species we'd seen.

Tuesday 25 April

Windy. Fine a.m. then clouding up later. 21C Maó then falling later.

No pre-breakfast walk again, though perhaps this was a mistake. Why? Well a willow warbler sang in the car park at breakfast, a male pied flycatcher was in the bushes just afterwards, a female golden oriole was flushed by the first bus as we left, and then to cap it all, a male

Montagu's harrier was also noted by the first bus as they walked into Maó city centre, where we all spent an entertaining hour and a half.

A boat ride round the world's second largest natural harbour from 11 a.m. didn't disappoint from a historical viewpoint, while a male blue rock thrush on wires and pair of peregrines on the Illa del Rei's 'cliffs' were the avian highlights. We even had time to walk up to the GOB (Balearic Ornithological Group) offices in a restored British-built C18th windmill and the make it back to Matxani Gran in time for a cooked lunch just after 1 pm.

The afternoon saw us taking a trip to the remarkable Albufera des Grau. Why remarkable? Well, the extraordinary sight of a large lake nestling among rough hills was a frankly peculiar sight, and there was a remarkable dearth of birdlife despite a fine pair of ospreys and two passing red-rumped swallows! The pinewoods were eerily silent. The walk back across the sand bar showed how critically important the Neptune grass is in preserving the beaches against the vagaries of winter storms, and Menorca fortunately doesn't try and 'clean them up' as they do on Mallorca.

The call-over was greatly enhanced by a scolding nightingale which came down to drink or bathe at Shaun's little pond, followed by a couple of nervous willow warblers, though obviously, none of us had our binoculars with us...

We rounded off with a barbecue dinner, thankfully held indoors given the strong chill wind outside, and as we headed to bed, light rain was beginning to fall...

Wednesday 26 April

Sunny & warm but chill breeze. Cloudier midday.

There are days when you have high expectations. Rightly or wrongly...

Thick black cloud lay just to the S and was heading offshore as we assembled for the pre-breakfast walk. The usual singing Sardinian and Cetti's warblers, nightingales and greenfinches did little to allay the leader's fears that nothing special might have happened. A smart pied flycatcher alongside a superb male whinchat boded well, though the rest of the entrance track was rather quiet... With a few minutes as we returned though, so we noted a series of willow warblers, one singing persistently, and at least two singing wood warblers. In the courtyard a short dry call made us look for a wren, but a male subalpine warbler hopped straight into view instead! What a find! Another pied flycatcher was also present briefly before we warmed up a little over breakfast.

The second bus saw a spotted flycatcher along the entrance road as we left, and things were looking promising. A few swifts, swallows and martins were visible along the route as we headed towards the Mongofre Nou salinas, and after noting a couple of red-legged partridge on the access track, we parked in bright sunshine and clear cool breezy conditions. Ravens, kestrels and booted eagles were already moving, and a few notes of blue rock thrush emanated from sculpted crags beside us, though we never did see it.

Just round the corner there was no breeze and a couple of fine long-tailed blues were buzzing round the broom bushes. A common buzzard suddenly appeared from behind, gliding gently down the valley, and our spirits were raised further by the sight of this very scarce migrant. What else would we see?

A couple of marsh harriers put in distant appearances, but the sight of birds on the salinas got us concentrating on the waders and ducks present. A couple of avocet, several greenshank and wood sandpipers and a common sandpiper were all quickly found, with a greater ringed plover later 'replaced' by several little ringed. Some ducks on a side pool included a strange pallid bird, which looked like a wigeon as it flew, though when this was joined by a smart male garganey, all attention rightly focussed on the latter! In fact, the wigeon was a very odd bird, and remained of uncertain species and origin since we only later got brief and hazy views. A pair of gadwall were a good find too, while a couple of fly-over yellow wagtails escaped being seen by the group! A singing water pipit though, seen repeatedly as it moved around the salinas, was a great find, while after a couple of Egyptian vultures and an osprey, three raptors moving low left were honey

buzzards, and rare migrants to the island. This was getting exciting! A distant peregrine took us to no less than 8 species of raptor by 11 a.m.!

Back to the waders, we suddenly noted a few 'peeps', including a small flock of three dunlin and two little stints, though more of the latter were also noted later and a dunlin or two were accompanying a small flock of curlew sandpipers, though sadly only part of one of these was actually visible behind some rocks!! A brief green sandpiper was noted as we returned, along with another osprey, making this a really fine assortment of birds.

With no chance of a nearby coffee break, we headed towards Cap de Favàritx, and this turned into one of the most exciting moments of the day. John's bus stopped a couple of times for bits and bobs, though lastly for a flock of bee-eaters adorning the wires and a nearby hillside, while Ray's bus ahead was out watching an astonishing collection of raptors circling overhead, also seen more distantly by John's bus until they finally drifted right overhead. Up to 20 birds were present at once, mostly marsh harriers, but also some five Montagu's harriers, but with occasional additions and other birds moving off, the total number was even higher! We finally met to watch the spectacle, eventually dragging ourselves away when the majority of the birds disappeared up into the low cloud patches blowing in from the sea.

Not believing our luck we headed out to the end of Cap de Favàritx, noting a few low marsh harriers as we went, though they were virtually absent while we at the point, where oddly, there was no cloud and only the slightest onshore breeze. That said, further to the W three female and one male Montagu's harrier went past out to sea along with a couple of marsh harriers and dozens of swifts, swallows and house martins. A pool also held single greater and little ringed plovers, plus two Kentish plovers, providing an excellent comparison.

After our picnic and a quick walk to the lighthouse, we headed back inland to see if we could repeat the spectacle. We were not disappointed, with a male marsh harrier feeding on a roadside rabbit casualty flying up in front, and shortly ahead we got out to see an almost constant procession of raptors rising above the surrounding hilltops to spiral up before drifting away. Marsh harriers were dominant, but a good number of Montagu's harriers, plenty of booted eagles and four red kites, our tenth raptor species for the day (!) were involved and kept us spellbound. The earlier bee-eaters were still present and gave us superb views as they hawked the hillsides in a little valley, even coming down to bathe in a little pool, with the raptor parade continuing around us and even a fine red-rumped swallow chirruping just overhead...

We eventually decided to see what was happening at Tirant, since this can always attract migrants, with four squacco and two purple herons and a pair of gadwall on the pool of most note, plus dozens of swallows and sand and house martins in front. Santi Catchot of GOB passed us again, en route to Cavalleria, and also had a great afternoon's birding...

We finished off with the tortuous drive up to top of Monte Toro, which, apart from a pair of stonechats and numerous house martins hawking off to one side, was completely dead! The views, despite increasing haze allowed us to see Cap de Favàritx, Maó and Matxani Gran (well, almost!) from the restaurant viewpoint and sea on three sides.

The day had been exceptional, testament to this being the extraordinary 80 species we'd seen, which had taken us to exactly 100 for the trip so far, and that not including the cockerels, bantams, turkeys, mute swan or grey goose which had also been seen!!!

Thursday 27 April

Largely overcast. Cool start, warming up, then rain p.m. and temp falling to 12C by 18:30.

Our last full day and after a dead still evening before, when Don had walked out after dinner and seen two scops owls in the car park lights, we again had high hopes. It was fairly still, especially so in the N of the island which we reached after an early breakfast. The depuradora was almost bird free, so we spent time cruising the back roads carefully checking the wires and fields as we went. A few marsh and several Montagu's harriers were very pleasant finds, a couple of males of the latter giving exceptional close views, especially when we got out at a slightly raised viewpoint to scan over a wide area. A couple of greater short-toed larks sang overhead, one lucky male apparently securing a mate, the couple then dropping onto a dry stone wall just yards away from us! Having climbed onto a high roadside bank, John then discovered the tail end of a ladder snake

poking out from under a field eryngo, though attempts to catch this safely (without the risk of being bitten) were unsuccessful and we let it slither off into a dry stone wall.

A short drive ahead we stopped again for the umpteenth time, but this time with three birds together on the wires, and our earlier hopes were founded. Two female and a young male red-footed falcon were resting quietly on the wires, ignoring us and dropping down occasionally to snatch insects either in flight or on the ground. A fourth, an adult male, sat slightly off to one side, making a superb collection, and we watched delighted for some time.

We headed N towards Cap de Cavalleria and after taking a walk along a track adjacent to the (closed!) ecotourism centre, where a brief whitethroat and even briefer female redstart were present, we (well, the non-drivers), walked the road out to the very end and the lighthouse. Despite a freshening chilly breeze and the threat of rain, we spent a short time looking at the peculiar hummock and other plants of the cape, including the extraordinary Dragon's Mouth, *Launaea cervicornis* and more *Senecio rodriguezii* and even had a few minutes for a spot of sea-watching, including a couple of Cory's, more Yelkouan and a single Balearic shearwater, though sadly the latter was leader-only.

The rain started in earnest as we headed back towards Tirant, so after another quick look from the vehicles at the red-foots, we ate lunch inside the vans overlooking part of the marsh. Very little was moving in the rain anyway, though it stopped afterwards and after Maurice had noted two quail sneaking through a cut hay meadow where a marsh harrier was settled, we drove down to 'wryneck track'.

Things seemed quiet here too, though a brown head snaking along the back of the vegetation was a fine great bittern! Remarkably this then jumped up into the side of a small tamarisk bush to get out of the wetter vegetation and gave excellent views in the scopes. A terrific stroke of luck, but soon surpassed when another was noted flying in to the right, and after this couldn't be relocated, two more in different parts of the marsh, were also seen in flight, one springing up from right in front! An astonishing sight! Given the heads and necks of a grey and two purple herons also stalking about in the marsh, this was a wonderful spot.

We returned in time for Maurice to get his early flight back, and this coincided with the poor weather setting in, and plenty of rain fell in several 'pulses' before dinner. However, the skies suddenly cleared as the clouds went S, and we were left in still, sunny, and beautifully clear conditions.

After our final meal we even spent a little time outside listening and looking, with a little owl calling off to one side nearby, then a scops owl noted a couple of times in flight on the edge of the light from the car park security lamp. A terrific finale with odd snatches of nightingale song and the intermittent wails of stone-curlews.

Friday 28 April

Thin high cloud, mild, light breeze.

Apart from a female pied flycatcher and a singing willow warbler along the entrance track by those with a little time to wander before we left, nothing else was noted.

We gathered our belongings and after farewells to our truly fine hosts and their staff, we headed to the airport, where after the usual checks and time-killing the bulk of the group headed back on time to the UK, and John to Madrid.

We wish to express our thanks for making this such a fascinating trip and for getting into all aspects of the Menorcan wildlife. We were treated to some very special birds and perhaps more importantly, excellent views of them which made this such an enjoyable week. Indeed, this variety of sights, sounds and places meant it was a three-way tie for top moment of the week. The raptor passage and bee-eaters towards Cap de Favàritx and wryneck at Tirant tied in first place, with the mixture of habitats at Mongofre Nou, the nightingale at Matxani Gran, red-footed falcons towards Cap de Cavalleria and the bitterns at Tirant close behind. Eleonora's falcon, spoonbill and Montagu's harriers surely deserved more votes in third place, while a whole host of

other species and moments were the runners-up, showing how difficult it was to pick out a clear winner among so many choices! We look forward to seeing you again.

The details in brackets denote the number of days in which a particular species was recorded during the eight day trip followed by the combined number for that species on those days.

SPECIES LISTS

GREBES

Podicipediformes

Podicipedidae

Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis*. (3/13)

Recorded on 3 days with a maximum of 7 on the 25th.

SHEARWATERS & PETRELS

Procellariiformes

Procellariidae

Cory's Shearwater *Calonectris diomedea*. (5/70+)

Amazingly close feeding frenzy observed at Fornells on the 23rd.

Yelkouan Shearwater *Puffinus yelkouan*. (2/40+)

Amazingly close feeding frenzy observed at Fornells on the 23rd, otherwise distant.

CORMORANTS

Pelecaniformes

Phalacrocoracidae

Shag *Phalacrocorax aristotelis*, ssp. *desmarestii*. (5/67)

Seen on all coastal days with maximum of 25 on the 27th.

HERONS, EGRETS & BITTERNES

Ciconiiformes

Ardeidae

Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea*. (5/8)

Maximum of 3 on the 26th were seen at Mongofre Nou.

Purple Heron *Ardea purpurea*. (4/7)

One seen near Son Bou eating a coot chick.

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*. (6/42)

Highest numbers, 15 on 23rd, were always seen on the Tirant Marsh area.

Squacco Heron *Ardeola ralloides*. (2/6)

Two on the 23rd and 4 on the 26th at the Tirant Marsh.

Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis*. (1/5)

Five seen on the 22nd at the Son Bou reedbed pools.

Great Bittern *Botaurus stellaris*. (1/4)

Incredible views of 4 birds in a very small area of the Tirant Marsh on the 27th.

Spoonbill *Platalea leucorodia*. (1/2)

Two seen on the 22nd at the Son Bou reedbed pools.

SWANS, GEESE & DUCKS

Anseriformes

Anatidae

Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*. (6/46)

Recorded most days with a maximum of 30 on the 22nd.

Gadwall *Anas strepera*. (1/4)

Two pairs seen on the 26th, one pair at Mongofre Nou and the other at Tirant Marsh.

Garganey *Anas querquedula*. (1/1)

A very handsome and colourful male at Mongofre Nou on the 26th.

Wigeon *Anas penelope*. (1/1)

A very dull and washed out female at Mongofre Nou on the 26th.

OSPREY

Falconiformes

Pandionidae

Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*. (2/4)

One pair seen on the 25th and two individuals on the 26th.

HAWKS, EAGLES & KITES

Falconiformes

Accipitridae

Egyptian Vulture *Neophron percnopterus*. (6/26)

Recorded almost daily with a maximum of 9 on the 24th.

Booted Eagle *Hieraaetus pennatus*. (7/76)

Recorded every day with a maximum of 20 seen on the 23rd.

Red Kite *Milvus milvus*. (7/20)

Small numbers seen every day with a maximum of 7 on the 26th.

Western Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus*. (5/57+)

Observed in small numbers until the amazing passage of 35+ on the 26th.

Montagu's Harrier *Circus pygargus*. (3/20)

One male over Mahon on the 25th. Passage of 14+ on 26th & 5 on the 27th.

Common Buzzard *Buteo buteo*. (2/2)

Distant single on the 21st and another single closer on the 26th.

Honey Buzzard *Pernis apivorus*. (1/3)

Three drifting slowly over Mongofre Nou on the 26th was a superb sight.

FALCONS

Falconiformes

Falconidae

Eurasian Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus*. (7/72)

Recorded daily with 20+ seen on the 26th and 27th.

Lesser Kestrel *Falco naumanni*. (1/4)

Four individuals feeding on insects near the Tirant Marsh.

Red-footed Falcon *Falco vespertinus*. (1/4)

Two males and two females were the star birds for the day near the Tirant Marsh!

Eleonora's Falcon *Falco eleonora*. (2/3)

Singles seen at Algendar Gorge, Naveta des Tudons and Cap de Cavalleria.

Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus*. (4/6)

Various sightings include 2 on an island in Mahon harbour and one carrying prey.

PHEASANTS & PARTRIDGES

Galliformes

Phasianidae

Red-legged Partridge *Alectoris rufa*. (5/10)

Heard & seen on several days with a maximum of 4 on the 27th.

Quail *Coturnix coturnix*. (6/8+)

Heard most days but two were seen on the 27th running in a field.

RAILS, GALLINULES & COOTS

Gruiformes

Rallidae

Purple Swamphen *Porphyrio porphyrio*. (2/5)

Three adults & one chick on the 22nd and one heard on the 27th.

Common Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus*. (4/18)

More sightings this year perhaps due to higher water levels.

Eurasian Coot *Fulica atra*. (5/76)

Recorded on several days with a maximum of 50 on the 25th.

AVOCETS & STILTS

Charadriiformes

Recurvirostridae

Pied Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta*. (1/2)

Two were seen at Mongofre Nou on the 26th.

Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus*. (4/49)

The maximum number recorded was 30 at Mongofre Nou on the 26th.

THICK-KNEES

Charadriiformes

Burhinidae

Stone-curlew (Eurasian thick-knee) *Burhinus oedicephalus*. (7/7+)

Heard every night & sometimes during the day. One seen briefly on the 21st.

PLOVERS & LAPWINGS

Charadriiformes

Charadriidae

Greater Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*. (3/7)

Four birds seen on the 27th was the highest count.

Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius*. (3/15)

Highest count was nine on the 26th.

Kentish (Snowy) Plover *Charadrius alexandrinus*. (2/5)

Delightful pair on the beach at Son Bou was seen courtship feeding.

SANDPIPERS

Charadriiformes

Scolopacidae

Common Snipe *Gallinago gallinago*. (2/2)

One on the 22nd and 27th were the only records.

Common Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*. (1/10)

All were found during our day at Mongofre Nou on the 26th.

Green Sandpiper *Tringa ochropus*. (1/1)

An elusive individual was recorded on the 26th.

Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola*. (2/25)

Five near the Tirant area on the 23rd and 20 on the 26th at Mongofre Nou.

Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*. (4/15)

Six was the maximum number recorded on the 22nd.

Little Stint *Calidris minuta*. (1/6)

Majority of these birds were still getting into summer plumage.

Dunlin *Calidris alpina*. (2/6)

Smart looking characters in full summer plumage at Mongofre Nou & Cap de Cavalleria.

Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea*. (1/2+)

At least two observed still in winter plumage at Mongofre Nou.

GULLS

Charadriiformes

Laridae

Audouin's Gull *Larus audouinii*. (3/33)

Twenty-five of these rare gulls were recorded during a boat trip around Mahon harbour.

Yellow-legged Gull *Larus cachinnans*. (7/100's)

Common and widespread throughout the island.

PIGEONS & DOVES

Columbiformes

Columbidae

Rock Dove/ Feral Pigeon *Columba livia*. (7/100's)

Very common and widespread throughout the island.

Common Woodpigeon *Columba palumbus*. (6/13+)

Recorded in small numbers during most days.

Eurasian Turtle Dove *Streptopelia turtur*. (6/22)

Their gentle call was heard most days with a maximum of 6 seen on 23rd & 26th.

Eurasian Collared Dove *Streptopelia decaocto*. (6/50+)

Recorded almost every day and present throughout the island.

OWLS

Strigiformes

Strigidae

Scops Owl *Otus scops*. (6/4)

Heard most nights at Matchani Gran & elsewhere during the day. Two seen on the 26th.

Little Owl *Athene noctua*. (1/1)

One heard near Matchani Gran on the 27th was a good record.

CUCKOOS

Cuculiformes

Cuculidae

Common (Eurasian) Cuckoo *Cuculus canorus*. (1/1)

A female of the rufous kind was recorded on the 23rd at the Tirant Marsh.

SWIFTS

Apodiformes

Apodidae

Alpine Swift *Apus melba*. (3/9)

Maximum numbers of 6 were seen near the Cala De Santa Galdana area on the 24th.

Common Swift *Apus apus*. (7/100's)

Observed every day with at least 50 around Mahon Square during the evening of the 23rd.

Pallid Swift *Apus pallidus*. (4/10's)

Small numbers identified during the week.

BEE-EATERS

Coraciiformes

Meropidae

European Bee-eater *Merops apiaster*. (3/53)

Thirty-five recorded on the 26th near Favaritx. Smaller numbers seen on 2 other days.

HOOPOES

Coraciiformes

Upupidae

Eurasian Hoopoe *Upupa epops*. (6/25)

Maximum count of 8 on the 23rd. Seen in an assortment of different habitats.

WOODPECKERS

Piciformes

Picidae

Wryneck *Jynx torquilla*. (1/1)

One flushed along a Tirant Marsh track was eventually enjoyed by all.

LARKS **Passeriformes** **Alaudidae****Greater Short-toed Lark** *Calandrella brachydactyla*. (3/8)Four seen at Matchani Gran on 21st, smaller numbers on 2 other days.**Thekla Lark** *Galerida theklae*. (6/15)Seen in small numbers throughout the island, maximum of 6 on the 21st.**SWALLOWS** **Passeriformes** **Hirundinidae****Sand Martin** (Bank swallow) *Riparia riparia*. (4/23+)At least 20 on the 23rd, with smaller numbers seen on other days.**Barn Swallow** *Hirundo rustica*. (7/100's)Seen every day with large numbers on passage on the 25th & 27th.**Red-rumped Swallow** *Hirundo daurica*. (2/5)

Perhaps under-recorded with a total of 5 seen mixed in with large flocks of Swallows.

House Martin *Delichon urbica*. (5/100's)25 seen on 23rd, then smaller numbers until the 26th when large numbers were seen.**WAGTAILS & PIPITS** **Passeriformes** **Motacillidae****Yellow Wagtail** *Motacilla flava*. Spanish race, *iberiae*. (4/19)

Six were seen but many more slipped by as heard only.

White Wagtail *Motacilla alba alba*. (1/1)A single bird was noted on the 23rd.**Tawny Pipit** *Anthus campestris*. (5/11)Recorded throughout the island with six seen on the 27th.**Water Pipit** *Anthus spinoletta*. (1/1)One dull coloured male singing at Mongofre Nou on the 26th.**KINGLETS** **Passeriformes** **Regulidae****Firecrest** *Regulus ignicapillus*. (1/2)

An individual was seen by the lucky few in the Algendar Gorge.

THRUSHES **Passeriformes** **Turdidae****Blue Rock-thrush** *Monticola solitarius*. (5/8)

Maximum of 2 seen on 3 dates. Found on cliffs and also rooftops in villages.

Eurasian Blackbird *Turdus merula*. (7/11)Recorded every day with five seen on the 24th.**CISTICOLAS** **Passeriformes** **Cisticolidae****Zitting Cisticola (Fan-tailed Warbler)** *Cisticola juncidis*. (4/15)Seen on four dates with a maximum of seven on the 23rd.**OLD WORLD WARBLERS** **Passeriformes** **Sylviidae****Cetti's Warbler** *Cettia cetti*. (7/8)Heard every day with two seen on the 22nd & one on the 23rd.**Sedge Warbler** *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*. (2/3)

Up to 3 birds were heard or seen at the Tirant Marsh on the 23rd and 27th.

Great Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus arundinaceus*. (2/4)

At least 3 birds were seen or heard singing at the Tirant Marsh on 23rd and one 27th.

Willow Warbler *Phylloscopus trochilus*. (4/8)

Several were found singing at Matchani Gran, maximum count of four on the 26th.

Wood Warbler *Phylloscopus sibilatrix*. (2/4)

Two were seen and/or singing on the 23rd and 26th.

Blackcap *Sylvia atricapilla*. (3/6)

Majority of birds were heard with a maximum count of 4 on the 23rd.

Greater Whitethroat *Sylvia communis*. ((1/2)

Male heard singing and female seen at Cap de Cavalleria on 27th.

Sardinian Warbler *Sylvia melanocephala*. (7/10's)

Common and widespread throughout the island and seen daily.

Subalpine Warbler *Sylvia cantillans*. (1/1)

A very pale male seen at Matchani Gran on the 26th.

OLD WORLD FLYCATCHERS

Passeriformes

Muscicapidae

Spotted Flycatcher *Muscicapa striata*. (2/3)

Passage started late in the week with two on the 26th & one on the 27th.

European Pied Flycatcher *Ficedula hypoleuca*. (4/8)

An even mix of males & females with a maximum count of 3 on the 23rd.

Common Nightingale *Luscinia megarhynchos*. (7/10)

Mainly heard but some were seen including one bathing in the pool at Matchani Gran.

Common Redstart *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*. (2/2)

One male on the 21st and a female on the 27th, were the only records.

Whinchat *Saxicola rubetra*. (6/32)

Common and widespread over the island with a maximum count of 15 on the 27th.

Common Stonechat *Saxicola torquata*. (7/39)

Common and recorded over the island with a maximum count of 15 on the 27th.

Northern Wheatear *Oenanthe oenanthe*. (3/14)

Majority of birds were found on Son Bou beach with a few birds found inland.

CHICKADEES & TITS

Passeriformes

Paridae

Great Tit *Parus major*. (6/13)

The majority of sightings appear to be of birds in pairs.

Penduline Tit *Remiz pendulinus*. (1/1)

An individual heard and then seen by a few lucky people at Tirant Marsh on the 23rd.

SHRIKES

Passeriformes

Laniidae

Woodchat Shrike *Lanius senator*. (7/17)

Seen daily throughout the island with a maximum of 6 on the 22nd.

CROWS & JAYS

Passeriformes

Corvidae

Common Raven *Corvus corax*. (7/23)

Seen every day with a maximum of nine on the 24th.

STARLINGS

Passeriformes

Sturnidae

Spotless Starling *Sturnus unicolor*. (1/2)

Two birds seen flying across the PM-710 as we travelled north on the 26th.

ORIOLES

Passeriformes

Oriolidae

Eurasian Golden Oriole *Oriolus oriolus*. (1/1)

A female seen very briefly along the track leading from Matchani Gran on the 25th.

OLD WORLD SPARROWS

Passeriformes

Passeridae

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*. (7/10's)

Common and widespread throughout the island and seen daily.

FINCHES

Passeriformes

Fringillidae

Chaffinch *Fringilla coelebs*. (2/2)

The only records relate to a few birds seen & heard on the 23rd and 24th.

European Greenfinch *Carduelis chloris*. (7/10's)

Common and widespread throughout the island and seen daily.

European Goldfinch *Carduelis carduelis*. (7/10's)

Common and widespread throughout the island and seen daily.

Eurasian Linnet *Carduelis cannabina*. (5/10's)

Common and widespread throughout the island and seen most days.

BUNTINGS & SEEDEATERS

Passeriformes

Emberizidae

Corn Bunting *Emberiza calandra*. (7/10's)

Common and widespread throughout the island and seen daily.

MAMMALS

RABBITS & HARES

Lagomorpha

Leporidae

European Rabbit *Oryctolagus cuniculus*.

Seen on three dates.

MICE, RATS, VOLES & GERBILS

Rodentia

Muridae

Black Rat *Rattus rattus*.

Evidence found throughout the island.

Algerian Mouse *musculus domesticus*

One seen on the 25th.

WEASELS & PINE MARTEN

Carnivora

Mustelidae

Pine Marten *Martes martes*.

Evidence found on the 24th.

HEDGEHOGS

Lipotyphla

Erinaceidae

Algerian Hedgehog *Atelerix algirus*.

Road kill.

AMPHIBIANS

Green Toad *Bufo viridis*.

Stripeless Tree Frog *Hyla meridionalis*.

REPTILES

Moorish Gecko *Tarentola mauretanic*a.

Italian Wall Lizard *Podarcis sicula*.

Hermann's Tortoise *Testudo hermanni*.

European Pond Terrapin *Emys orbicularis*.

Ladder Snake *Elaphe scalaris*.

Viperine Snake *Natrix maura*.

BUTTERFLIES

Swallowtail *Papilio machaon*.

Large White *Pieris brassicae*.

Small White *Arlogeia rapae*.

Western Bath White *Pontia daplidice*.

Clouded Yellow *Colias crocea*.

Cleopatra *Gonepteryx Cleopatra*.

Brown Argus *Aricia agestis*.

Common Blue *Polyommatus icarus*.

Long-tailed Blue *Lampides boeticus*

Red Admiral *Vanessa atalanta*.

Painted Lady *Vanessa cardui*.

Speckled Wood *Pararge aegeria*.

Wall Brown *Lasiommata megera*.

Green Hairstreak *Callophrys rubi*.

Small Copper *Lycaena phlaeas*.

Geranium Bronze *Cacyreus marshalli*.

Small Heath *Coenonympha pamphilus*.

OTHER INSECTS

Pine Processionary Moth *Thaumetopoea pityocampa*.

Striped Hawk Moth *Hyles lineata livornica*

Yellow Belle *Aspitates ochrearia*

Red-veined Darter *Sympetrum fonscolombi*.

Mediterranean Demoiselle *Calopteryx haemorrhoidalis*.

Banded Demoiselle *Calopteryx splendens*.

Blue-tailed Damselfly *Ischnura elegans*.

Scarlet Darter *Crocothemis erythraea*.

Keeled Skimmer *Orthetrum coerulescens*.

Norfolk Hawker *Anaciaeschna isosceles*.

Emperor *Anax imperator*.

Egyptian Grasshopper *Anacridium aegyptium*.

Violet Carpenter Bee *Xylocopa violacea*.

Tawny Mining Bee *Andrena fulva*.

Honey Bee *Apis mellifera*.

Dung Beetle *Scarabaeus semipunctatus*.

Tiger Beetle *Cicindela*.

Rhino Beetle *Copris lunaris*.

Shield Beetle

Buprestid Beetle *Chalcophora mariana*.

Stick Insect *Bacillidae sp.*

Paper Wasp *Polistes gallicus*.

Pollen Beetle *Oxythyrea funestra*.

Scorpion *Buthus occitanus*.

Violet Ground Beetle *Carabus violaceus*.

Oil Beetle *Meloe sp.*

Ladybird-2spot.

Whirlygig Beetle sp.

OTHER TAXA

Jellyfish sp.

Cone Snails.

MENORCA PLANT LIST

Largely compiled on previous trips, this however is a list of the species we saw, including a few corrections made afterwards, especially using Flora Iberica and the Balearic Virtual Herbarium (<http://herbarivirtual.uib.es/>). New species or corrections for the TN cumulative list are shown with a *. (Order as in "Mediterranean Wild Flowers" Blamey and Gray-Wilson)

E – Endemic; SB Son Bou, TG Torre den Gaumes, EM Es Mercadal, Depuradora, MG - Matxani Gran, T Tirant, CC Cap de Cavallaria, MT Monte Toro, MN Mongofre Nou, CF Cap de Favàritx, F Fornells, SR Sa Roca, AG Algendar Gorge, NT Naveta des Tudons, EG Albufera Es Grau

Gymnosperms (Conifers)

Pinus halepensis (Aleppo Pine) - most common tree

Juniperus phoenicea (Phoenician Juniper) - adapted for life on dunes and widespread

Ephedra fragilis (Joint Pine) - erect shrub with brittle stems CC EG

Angiosperms (Flowering Plants)

Dicotyledons

Fagaceae (Oak family)

Quercus ilex (Holm Oak) – quite common

Rafflesiaceae (Rafflesia family)

Cytinus hypocystis (Cytinus) – toothy bulbous parasitic perennial; SR

Ulmaceae (Elm family)

Ulmus minor (Small-leaved Elm) – a fine line of them AG

Moraceae (Mulberry family)

**Morus alba* (White Mulberry) – planted; host plant for the silk moth

Ficus carica (Fig) - mainly planted and surrounded by circular stone walls MG

Urticaceae (Nettle family)

Urtica membranacea (Membranous Nettle) - common e.g. MG and waste ground

Parietaria judaica (Pellitory-of-the-wall) Towns and villages, AG

Polygonaceae (Dock family)

**Rumex bucephalophorus* (a small dock)

Chenopodiaceae (Fat-hen family)

Beta vulgaris ssp. *maritima* (Sea Beet) – host to a cracking moth (unknown sp.) caterpillar! SB
Halimione portulacoides (Sea Purslane) – common in salinas MN
Arthrocnemum fruticosum [= *Salicornia fruticosa*] - shrubby type of Glasswort. SB, EG
Salicornia ramosissima (Glasswort) SB EG
Phytolaccaceae (Pokeweed family)
Phytolacca arborea (Ombu) - intriguing S. American bush/tree at MG
Aizoaceae
Carpobrotus edulis - (Hottentot Fig) - an introduction known locally as ‘patatas fritas’ because of the leaf shape
Caryophyllaceae (Pink family)
Silene gallica (Small-flowered catchfly) CC EG
S. vulgaris (Bladder campion)
Ranunculaceae (Buttercup family)
Clematis flammula (Fragrant Clematis) – on walls
C. cirrhosa (Virgin's Bower) - usually blooms in winter
Adonis annua (Pheasant's Eye) – NT
Ranunculus macrophyllus - large-leaved plant seen in wet area of T
R. peltatus (Pond Water-Crowfoot) – T
R. sceleratus (Celery-leaved crowfoot)
Papaveraceae (Poppy family)
Papaver somniferum (Opium Poppy)
P. rhoeas (Common Poppy)
**P. dubium* ssp. *lecoqii* (Long-headed Poppy)
**P. pinnatifidum* – with very long slender seed pods.
P. hybridum (Rough Poppy) MG AG
**Glaucium flavum* (Yellow Horned-poppy) Fornells
Fumariaceae (Fumitory family)
Fumaria capreolata (Ramping Fumitory) – white/cream flowers, tipped with red
F. officinalis (Common Fumitory)
Cruciferae (Cress family)
Sisymbrium officinale (Hedge Mustard)
Matthiola incana (Hoary Stock) - mauve or white with sweet scent
Lobularia maritima [= *Alyssum maritimum*] (Sweet Alison) – common; our annual bedding plant at home SB
Cakile maritima (Sea Rocket) SB
Raphanus raphanistrum (Wild Radish)
Resedaceae (Mignonette family)
Reseda alba (White Mignonette) - common roadside and field weed but pretty
Crassulaceae (Stonecrop family)
Umbilicus rupestris (Navelwort or Wall Pennywort) AG, TG
Rosaceae (Rose family)
Poterium verrucosum [= *Sanguisorba minor* subsp. *magnolii*] (Mediterranean Salad Burnet)
Rubus ulmifolius (Bramble)
Leguminosae (Pea family)
Calicotome infesta [= *C. spinosa*] (Thorny Broom) - Widespread with yellow gorse-like flowers MN
Psoralea bituminosa (Pitch Trefoil) -attractive plant with blue pea-flowers, leaves smelling of pitch AG EG
Vicia benghalensis - a handsome fodder vetch with red flowers – everywhere
V. bithynica (Bithynian Vetch) - bi-coloured pea-flower in dry, stony places
Lathyrus ochrus - cream pea-flower with enlarged leaf stalks. TG
Melilotus indicus (Small melilot) –
Medicago marina (Sea Medick) - golden pea-flowers with silky grey leaves on dunes
Trifolium nigrescens - the white clover seen in fields
T. resupinatum (Reversed Clover) - pretty pink flower with reversed flowers. Punta Prima & T
T. tomentosum (Woolly Trefoil)- pale pink clover with woolly fruiting heads
T. stellatum (Starry Clover) - pink clover with starry fruiting heads
Dorycnium hirsutum - hairy shrublet with pale pea-flowers. Open places
D. pentaphyllum - more slender and seen with the above at Montgofre Nou
Lotus cytisoides - dunes yellow with this pea-flower SB
L. creticus (Southern Bird's foot Trefoil)
A. tetraphylla (Bladder Vetch) - creamy flowers with inflated fruits AG
Hedysarum coronarium (Italian Sainfoin) - unforgettable. Striking red pea-flowers
Oxalidaceae (Sorrel family)
Oxalis pes-caprae (Bermuda Buttercup) - many fields over-run with this yellow S. African plant

Geraniaceae (Geranium family)

Geranium dissectum (Cut-leaved Crane's-bill)

Erodium malacoides (Mallow-leaved Stork's-bill) - common in fields and road-sides

E. cicutarium (Common Stork's Bill)

Linaceae (Flax family)

Linum bienne (Pale Flax) - dainty plant with delicate blue flowers

L. trigynum - dainty plant with delicate yellow flowers

Euphorbiaceae (Spurge family) - many species seen but difficult to identify

Euphorbia dendroides (Tree Spurge) - common hill-side shrub in open situations EG

E. helioscopia (Sun Spurge)

E. myrsinites (Broad-leaved Glaucous / Garrigue Spurge) CF

Anacardiaceae (Pistacio family)

Pistachia lentiscus (Gum Mastic) - widespread shrub. Once much used for its resin

Rhamnaceae (Buckthorn family)

Rhamnus alaternus (Mediterranean Buckthorn) - common evergreen shrub

Malvaceae (Mallow family)

Lavatera cretica (Cretan Mallow)

L. arborea (Tree Mallow) SB TG

Daphne Family (Thymelaeaceae)

Thymelaea hirsuta - a characteristic low shrub with pendulous stems; dry, stony places

Cistaceae (Rockrose family)

Tuberaria guttata (Spotted Rockrose) SR/MN

Cistus albidus (Grey-leaved Cistus) - large pink flowers

C. monspeliensis (Narrow-leaved Cistus) - small white flowers and sticky leaves

C. salvifolius (Sage-leaved Cistus) - large white flowers

Frankeniaceae (Sea Heath family)

**Frankenia laevis* (Sea Heath)

Tamaricaceae (Tamarisk family)

Tamarisk - probably several species

Cactaceae (Cactus family)

Opuntia ficus-carica (PricklyPear) - introduced. Occasionally seen with fruit

Araliaceae (Ivy family)

Hedera helix (Ivy)

Punicaceae (Pomegranate family)

**Punica granatum* (Pomegranate) - AG

Umbelliferae (Carrot family)

Eryngium campestre (Field Eryngo) - MG

Crithmum maritimum (Rock Samphire)

**Kundmannia sicula* (Kundmannia) - a common fennel-like plant

Foeniculum vulgare (Fennel) MN

Ferula communis (Giant Fennel) - impressive umbellifer

Torilis nodosa (Knotted Bur-parsley) - cliffs at Canutells & elsewhere

Daucus carota (Wild Carrot) - widespread

Ericaceae (Heath family)

Arbutus unedo (Strawberry Tree) - evergreen tree often with flowers and fruits together SR MN

Erica arborea (Tree Heath) - MN SR

Primulaceae (Primrose family)

Anagallis arvensis - (Scarlet Pimpernel) - mainly in its blue flowered form

Plumbaginaceae (Thrift family)

Limonium spp - (Sea Lavenders) - several species found but mostly not flowering, including (probably!)

**L. companyonis*, *L. echioides* (definitely), **L. ferulaceum* (definitely), **L. gymnesicum*, **L. minutum* (definitely)

Oleaceae (Olive family)

Olea europaea (Olive) - usually planted but wild trees frequent F

Gentianaceae (Gentian family)

Blackstonia perfoliata (Yellow-wort)

**Centaurium erythraea* (Common Centaury)

Centaurium maritimum (Yellow Centaury) - CC rocky coasts

Apocynaceae (Oleander family)

Vinca difformis (Intermediate Periwinkle) - some colonies with pale blue flowers

Rubiaceae (Bedstraw family)

Galium aparine (Goose-grass)

**G. verrucosum* (Warty-fruited Goose-grass)

Rubia peregrina (Wild Madder) - scrambling plant with hooked bristles EG
Convovulaceae (Bindweed family)
Calystegia soldanella (Sea Bindweed) - in dunes at EG
Convolvulus althaeoides ((Mallow-leaved Bindweed) – common in fields
Boraginaceae (Borage family)
Echium plantagineum (Purple Viper's Bugloss) - frequent and colourful SB
**E. sabulicola* (a semi-prostrate Viper's Bugloss) – a frequent ‘weed’
Borago officinalis (Borage) SB
Cynoglossum creticum (Blue Hound's-tongue) - softly hairy with veined blue flower
Labiatae (Mint family)
Teucrium capitatum - clusters of tight pink (occasionally white) flower-heads CC
Prasium majus - attractive shrub with lipped flowers MG TG
**Micromeria microphylla* – tiny slender plant with tiny red flowers MG+
**Mentha suaveolens* (Apple Mint) AG
Rosmarinus officinalis (Rosemary)- prostrate in harsh habitats SR
Salvia verbenaca (Meadow Clary) MG
Scrophulariaceae (Figwort family)
**Verbascum sinuatum* - a mullein with crinkly leaf edges
V. creticum - a lovely tall Mullein with large yellow flowers AG
Scrophularia peregrina (Nettle-leaved Figwort) - saw-toothed leaves with brown flowers: TG & AG
Misopates orontium (Weasel's Snout or Lesser Snapdragon) – agricultural weed
Linaria triphylla (Three-leaved Toadflax) - common field weed. Yellow toadflax with violet spur.
**L. pelisseriana* (Jersey Toadflax) - a purple-flowered field ‘weed’ at NT
Veronica cymbalaria (White Speedwell) AG
Parentucellia viscosa (Yellow Bartsia), - damp places AG MG
Bellardia trixago (Bellardia) - attractive spike of pink and white flowers. MG and elsewhere
Orobanchaceae (Broomrape family)
Orobanche ramosa (Branched Broomrape) – blue flower MG+
O. minor (Common Broomrape) MG+
**O. crinita* (the red broomrape on *Lotus creticus*) – Es Canutells+
Plantaginaceae (Plantago family)
Plantago coronopus (Buck's-horn Plantain)
P. maritima ssp *crassifolia* - fleshy-leaved coastal plant
Caprifoliaceae (Honeysuckle family)
Lonicera implexa (Honeysuckle)
Valerianaceae (Valerian family)
Centranthus calcitrapa - pink flowerlets, variable and in most habitats
Dipsacaceae (Scabious family)
Scabiosa maritima (Mournful Widow) - a dune Scabious. SB
Compositae (Daisy family)
Bellis annua (Annual Daisy) - similar to our lawn daisy but in shades of pink to lilac
Evax pygmaea (Evax) - cute silvery stemless rosettes. MG CC
Pallenis spinosa - frequent. Yellow daisy-type flower with green starry bracts
**Santolina chamaecyparissus* ssp. *magonica* (Lavender Cotton)
Anthemis maritimus - fleshy leaved coastal plant with daisy flowers
Chrysanthemum coronarium - Everywhere. Bright yellow or bi-coloured daisy flowers
Senecio cineraria (Silver Ragwort) - our silver-leaved garden plant
S. rodriguezii - lovely pink daisy found in harsh coastal areas CC E
Calendula arvensis (Field Marigold) - very common field weed. MG
Galactites tomentosa - a pretty thistle but many fields over-run with it
Silybum marianum (Milk Thistle) - a handsome thistle with white-veined leaves. MG
Hyoseris radiata - a common yellow composite with stepped pinnate leaves
Urospermum dalechampii - a large soft yellow composite with dark centres. Lovely
Reichardia tingitana - a glabrous yellow daisy with a dark centre. Son Bou
Launaea cervicornis - spiny shrublet on exposed rocky coasts E
Posidonia oceanica (Neptune Grass) - fibrous 'sea-balls' from this on beach

Monocotyledons

Liliaceae (Lily family)
Asphodelus aestivus - common taller Asphodel. Attractive but a serious weed
A. fistulosus - shorter, with rounded hollow leaves. An equal pest. MG
Urginea maritima (Sea Squill) - large leafy bulb which flowers late summer
Ornithogalum arabicum (Arabian Garlic) MG

O. narbonense (Spiked Star of Bethlehem) NT
Muscari comosum (Tassel Hyacinth) - mainly blue flowers with a tassel' atop the spike. MG
Asparagus albus (White Asparagus) - white stems with sharp spines beside leaf-like tufts, MG
A. stipularis - spiny looking asparagus - everywhere
Ruscus aculeatus (Butcher's Broom) - a stiff plant with tough flattened shoots AG
Smilax aspera (Common Smilax) - climbing prickly plant with heart-shaped leaves
Allium roseum (Rosy Garlic) - everywhere in varying shades of pink
A. triquetrum (Three-cornered Leek) - a common weed but attractively so
A. cupanii EG
Amaryllidaceae (Daffodil family)
Pancratium maritimum (Sea Daffodil) - leaves in plenty on sandy shores
Iridaceae (Iris family)
Gladiolus italicus - the common field weed gladiolus
G. illyricus - an attractive, rather dainty and dark-flowered gladiolus
Romulea columnae (Sand Crocus) - in seed MG
Araceae (Arum family)
Dracunculus muscivorus (Dragon's Mouth) - one of the most memorable plants of the week! CC
Arum italicum (Italian Arum) - a shade-lover. Several hooded flowers seen CC
**Zantedeschia aethiopica* (Calla Lily sp.)
Orchidaceae (Orchid family)
Limodorum abortivum (Violet Limodore) - SR
**Orchis conica* [NB *O. lactea* is not now considered to be present in Spain] (Milky Orchid sp)
**O. coriophora* ssp. *fragrans* (Bug Orchid) NT
Ophrys speculum (Mirror Orchid) MG
O. tenthredinifera (Sawfly Orchid) - in great numbers MG
O. bombyliflora (Bumble-bee Orchid) MG
Barlia robertiana (Giant Orchid) MG
Anacamptis pyramidalis (Pyramidal Orchid) - white to deep pink - abundant
Serapias parviflora (Small-flowered Tongue Orchid) - also albino form SB MG
Gramineae (Grass family)
**Lamarkia aurea* (Golden Dog's-tail) MG
**Briza major* (Large Quaking Grass)
Hordeum murinum (Wall Barley) MG
**Aegilops* sp. (barley-like grass) NT
Lagurus ovatus (Hare's Tail) MG
Ammophila arenaria -(Marram Grass) - common dune-fixing grass EG
Avena sterilis (Winter Wild Oat)
Ampelodesmus mauretanicus - a green robust plant with striking flower heads up to 3m. tall CC
Arundo donax (Giant Reed) AG
Phragmites australis (Common Reed) SB
Juncaceae (Rush family)
Juncus acutus (Sharp Rush) - with very sharp spines SB
Pteridophytes (Ferns and Horsetails)
Adiantum capillis-veneris (Maidenhair Fern) MAO

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