

Menorca

Wednesday 11 – Wednesday 18 April 2007

Trip Report

Leaders:

Ray Nowicki
Mike Lockwood

Daily diary

Wednesday 1 April Matxani Gran

Weather: Low cloud, but dry and fairly still.

After a typical flight out, the group met up with Mike at Maó airport and headed straight of for lunch at Matxani Gran.

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

A warm winter interrupted by periods of drying winds and torrential rain had left the pastures around Matxani Gran full of shoulder-high common asphodel, although plenty of either very small or bulbous plants were also in flower. Our first sightings were of a number of smallish but still attractive orchids: Mirror, Sawfly and Bumble-bee orchids, which we were to come across in great abundance during the following week, and conical orchid. Other inhabitants of these rather unkempt pastures included *Echium parviflorum*, *Evax pygmae*, giant fennel, white mignonette, lots of tassled hyacinths, hollow-leaved asphodel (much smaller than the dominant white asphodel), field madder, both white asparagus and the vicious thorns of *Asparagus stipularis*, the leaves of friar's cowl hidden away under a number of bushes and the huge leaves of the autumn-flowering sea squill.

The sun brought out a single Brown Argus and had livened up the Hermann's Tortoises that inhabit the scrub of the area. Jill and John found one that seemed to be slightly injured; later on we found a number of young as well.

A Red Kite cruised overhead, whilst groups of Linnets adorned the walls, House Sparrows chirped from the roof of the house and Cetti's Warblers sang from the scrub.

Progressing slowly, we came across a tongue orchid, looking for all the world like *Serapias nurrica*, with a pale border to the lip. Sadly, no other similar *Serapias* were found during the rest of the week. Other plants recorded as we moved away from the house included two nettles, Roman and membranous nettle, the former with globe-shaped flower heads and a more powerful sting, the pink thistle galactites and the giant milk thistle, with its vicious bracts.

By now we were getting our eyes in with the birds, and we started to see a number of Common Kestrels, at least three Booted Eagles and in the old fig trees in the fields Woodchat Shrike, a male Common Redstart, a female Black Redstart and on the ground a Thekla Lark.

We reached a wall separating an asphodel-full field from a correctly grazed field, where we were able to watch at least 5 Northern Wheatears, a male Common Redstart and a Corn Bunting.

By now we were beginning to feel the pace of a long day and so we returned to the house. Some wanted more and so we continued down the pine-lined drive that runs up to the house for more excitement. Hoopoes and Pied Flycatchers kept us busy, whilst in the flowery meadows we had an excellent view of a fresh Common Swallowtail. From over the stone wall we identified a field of pheasant-eyes, a number of somewhat faded giant orchids and, along the side of the track, the white flowers of *Prasium major*, one of the many plants Menorca shares with Corsica and

Sardinia but not the mainland (except southern Andalusia), Alexander's and the omnipresent three-cornered leek. In a flowery corner at the end of the track we found small-flowered catchfly, a number of tall lilies that we identified later on in the week as Arabian garlic and *Lathyrus ochrus*.

Walking back a couple of Ravens flew over and a few caught sight of a single Alpine Swift mixed in with the other swifts overhead. Painted Ladies and a Red Admiral flew past to bring a conclusion to a long, but satisfactory day.

Thursday 12 April Es Canutells-Maó Harbour-La Mola-Es Grau

Weather: Dull and damp morning followed by warm humid afternoon.

A pre-breakfast jaunt for the early risers saw two minivans heading down to the coast at Es Canutells. The walk down to a tiny headland allowed relatively close views offshore of a group of bottle-nosed dolphins, although apart from a few Shags, things were otherwise fairly quiet. Yellow-legged gulls passed by and Ray found an Audouin's Gull on a roof that didn't stay long enough for all to see. On the way back to the vans, we finally caught up with an attractive singing male Blue Rock Thrush. The coastal scrub was home to more of the orchids from the day before, as well as large numbers of pyramidal orchids in all shades of white-pink and all sizes. A new orchid was dull ophrys, and we had our first view of *Senecio rodriguezii*, an attractive small pink ragwort that is endemic to the Mallorca and Menorca.

After breakfast we were disappointed to see that the weather was rather threatened and so we decided the glass-bottom boat trip around the world's second largest natural harbour was the best option for the morning. After first rushing to the GOB (Balearic Ornithological Group) offices in a restored British-built eighteenth windmill we set sail at 11 a.m. in fair weather with a brisk north-east wind to keep us company. Plenty of Audouin's gulls were cruising around the harbour, and as we turned towards the sea we had views of four Sandwich Terns, Shags and Great Cormorants, 5 Little Egrets and, best of all, 2 Stone Curlews and 2 Red-legged Partridges on dry land. After a fascinating trip, with more Blue Rock Thrushes and Booted Eagles, we decided to head for La Mola, the fortress to the north of the harbour and, more importantly, the place where we had seen the Stone Curlews.

Lunch was taken in the car-park at La Mola, watching as a pair of Audouin's Gulls dared to come down and take out picnic scraps. Other birds on the ground and in the bushes included Northern Wheatear, a male Whinchat, Woodchat Shrike and a Hoopoe. The sandy soil was covered in bright yellow patches of yellow sea aster, the large red flowers of *Hedysarum coronarium*, a showy plant that was introduced for fodder from the eastern Mediterranean, more tongue orchids, this time probably common tongue orchid, mirror orchid and the pale yellow flowers of *urospermum*.

After lunch had been finished we decided to walk along the track for better views –if possible- of the Stone Curlews. We were half disappointed and half frustrated, as three birds flew up when we were no more than 100 m along the track and we all had good flight views, but decided not to continue any further for fear of disturbing these extraordinary birds.

Next stop on this hectic day was the remarkable Albufera des Grau, a large lake nestling among rough hills with an apparent dearth of birdlife. Our route first took us through an area of salt pans covered in goosefoots and with a few Coot, Moorhens and a Grey Heron. Cetti's and a Sedge warbler were in voice, but there was little other bird life on the lagoon. A perfect description of a Golden Oriole's song gave us hope that this beautiful bird might put in an appearance.

The scrub was full of typical Mediterranean shrubs such as narrow-leaved cistus, spiny broom and lentisc. Once at the top of the *mirador* (vantage point), we were entertained by a few passing March Harriers and Booted Eagles, distant Great Crested Grebes, and 7 Black-winged Stilts on the lagoon below. More Mediterranean shrubs such as joint-pine, Phoenician juniper, common myrtle and a very unspectacular butcher's broom growing inside another bush, kept us busy, and to round things off we all viewed a dark Moorish gecko on a wall in a telescope, unfortunately with its feet covered in small red mites.

Back down from the *mirador*, the pinewoods were eerily silent: Great Tit and Sardinian and Cetti's Warblers, the latter happy to fill an empty niche in these relatively birdless woods. The walk back to the beach brought us both grey-leaved and sage-leaved cistus, and butcher's broom with its red fruit, and large spiky clumps of Sharp rush. The walk along the sand bar showed how critically important the Posidonia or 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.

Whilst most of the group were enjoying a sunlit drink, Ray went off to find those who had 'stayed behind', only to hear reports of excellent views of Night Heron.

Friday 13 April Lluriac (Tirant marshes)-Fornells- Torre d'en Gaumes

Weather: Cool, breezy & cloudy start. But rain after lunch.

The day dawned with threatening cloud after rain during the night and first thing we headed north, taking a lovely winding back road from the town of Es Mercadal 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 (but not to the Catalan-speaking ear!! [Mike] and here we had our first stop of the day, comfortably watching Wood, Green and Common Sandpipers from the roadside. A couple of Black-winged Stilts were found after a bit of searching, along with Common Moorhen and Coot.

Our next destination was the Tirant marsh area, though arrival was somewhat delayed as Mike's bus stopped for a group of delightful Blue-headed Wagtails in a field with cattle and Cattle Egrets in attendance. Ray's bus stopped for a few warblers and Corn Buntings. We finally arrived at the marshes of Lluriac (Tirant marches), well full of water after the previous week's rain. We parked and walked back along the road to the sound of a Great Reed, Fan-tailed (Zitting Cisticola) and a Sedge Warbler, the latter only a passage migrant here. A large group of hirundines quartered over the water: a few Sand Martins began to appear and then we had the joy of a single Red-rumped Swallow cruising over water just a few metres in front of us. Elsewhere Cattle Egrets, a brief female Montagu's Harrier and two partially Purple Gallinules appeared out of the thick vegetation.

We moved on to a second viewing point off a large dirt track. Here we heard our first Nightingales and were pleased to see an Osprey cruising over our heads. Indeed there was no shortage of raptors: Booted Eagles and Marsh Harriers wherever we looked. Pride of place, however, must go to the fine 6 male Garganey that allowed themselves to be viewed well on the far side of the marsh.

Once lunch was over it started to rain and so we headed off to another viewpoint overlooking a rather more hidden pool. Here, despite the rain we set up the 'scopes on the narrow road and had views of both male and female Red-crested Pochards, as well as Wigeon, Shoveler, Gadwall, more Garganey and a Little Egret. Elsewhere, a small group of Lesser Kestrels hunted over a distant hillside, a Peregrine passed over and a Quail and Red-legged Partridge called.

We decided to risk the rain and head for the most northerly point of the island, Cap de Cavallaria. Mike's bus watched a Tawny Pipit in the rain on a sign before catching up with Ray at lighthouse at the tip of the peninsula. Here, those who didn't seawatch, hunted for dragon's-mouth, one of the classical Tyrrhenian –i.e. endemic to Corsica, Sardinia, and the Balearics, that is, the islands of the Tyrrhenian Sea- element of the local flora. Alas, all we found were an abundance of leaves, but no signs of any of these highly dramatic flowers. The seawatchers came up with Cory's Shearwaters, Shags and a Blue Rock Thrush.

With the rain showing no sign of letting up, we decided to adjourn to Fornells for light refreshment – the first of our two hot chocolate *Cacaolat* © stops. An Osprey flew low over the bay as we watched from the bar.

After our restorative stop, we headed back south via the Torre d'en Gaumes, a large Neolithic settlement, still partly under excavation whose sheer size and complexity were a fine and thought-provoking sight. Our best find here was close-up Wood Warbler, as well as Blackbird, Song Thrush (migrant), Thekla Lark and calling Stone Curlews.

Saturday 14 April Barranc d'Algendar-Son Bou-Matxani Gran-Cap de Favàritx

Very wet until mid afternoon allowed for a few rain-free moments

Our wet day!!, which started wet but ended well as the rain eased and allowed us to visit the dramatic moonscape of Cap de Favàritx.

Before breakfast, the rain held off and a gentle stroll through the fields behind the house brought Thekla Lark, Marsh Harrier, Whinchat, hirundines and a couple of overflying Yellow Wagtails.

Despite the heavy overnight rain, we set out as planned for Barranc d'Algendar on the south coast. However, once there we realised that the rain had totally flooded the entrance to the gorge and would have meant an ankle-deep wade to start the walk. Despite attempts to get the minibus near the gate, which created an impressive bow wave, we decided that we didn't want to get any wetter than we already were. The Osprey in the trees high up over the other side of the gorge and the Night Heron that appeared from the lagoon next to the track were little compensation. [Mike: *I went back on the following Friday and, although the track was passable, there were obvious signs that the whole valley floor had been flooded. Even if we had got over the first obstacle, I don't think we would have got much further! The only flowers of any interest we might have seen were bladder vetch and the striking mullein, Verbascum creticum*]

Our next valiant effort to make a silk purse out of a sow's ear were the marshes at Son Bou, also on the south coast. Here we were immediately faced with the problem of crossing the stream that flows out of the marshes into the sea. At this point half the group went off with Ray to try and explore the 'backside' of the marsh, whilst the other group continued with Mike across the stream and into the dunes.

Mike's group got a bit wet and didn't have much to show for their endeavours other than a fine stand of yellow bee orchids next to the path. So after a short wander they headed off to the bar, where they found Ray with his intrepid birders sipping hot chocolate *Cacaolat* ©. So we joined them.

Discretion being the better part of valour, we decided to head back to base to eat our lunches and to see what the weather was going to do. After a change of clothing and a rest, the rain finally eased in mid-afternoon and so we all jumped into the vans and drove off to the spectacular Cap de Favàritx, a slatey wind-torn promontory on the north-east coast of the island. We were rewarded from our efforts with lots of Marsh Harriers and two smart male Montagu's Harriers in the lush fields on the approach to the cape. We stopped for Yellow Wagtails and Whinchats before parking just short of the tip of the peninsula for a period of intense seawatching. Both Cory's and Yelkouan Shearwaters were in range of our scopes, although the most impressive sight of all was the raging sea crashing onto the cliffs below. Elsewhere on the point we found Robin, Common and Black Redstarts and Blackcap. Ray spotted a solitary Lesser Kestrel over the hill behind us.

This was the first place we came to grips with the fascinating *socarell* – or literally, 'deep-rooted' - plant communities. The rugged north coast of Menorca is an inhospitable place at the best of times and to thrive there most plants have had to evolve survival strategies in face of the strong persistent northerly winds that sweep down off the Gulf of Lion. The commonest technique is to adapt a cushion shape, much as many high altitudes plants do. This is the case, above all, of *Phillyrea latifolia*, which on this coastline survives as large green cushions and is given the name *var. rodriguezii*, after the eminent nineteenth century Menorcan botanist. The other main adaptation is the reduction of leaf-size to avoid water loss by evapotranspiration during periods of strong wind. Remarkably, five small bushes have all chosen a path of convergent evolution that has led them to grow as low spiny bushes, with small flowers and a mass of spines. The commonest is *Launea cerviformis*, which we found in numerous places. However, on Cap de Favàritx we also found *Astragalus balearicus*, another plant endemic to Mallorca and Menorca and the only one of the *socarells* we found in flower. It grows some 200 m behind the coastline, leaving just a few plants such as the sea-lavenders to bear the full brunt of the northerly winds. Other plants here included sea-heath and vast amounts of the horrible invasive Hottentot Fig.

After this lesson in evolution, we headed home in the rain for a good evening meal.

Sunday 15 April Naveta des Tudons-Son Bou-El Toro

Weather: cloudy, but NOT raining

After heavy overnight rain, our worst fears, for once, were not justified and the rain kept away and we enjoyed a long wildlife-full day in the field.

Nevertheless, being suspicious by nature, we first decided to be cautious and head for the western part of the island, which we thought might be somewhat sheltered from the north and north-easterly winds of the preceding days. On the way to our first stop, the peculiar Naveta des Tudons, apparently the world's oldest two-storey building, we had a quick flash of a Purple Heron in a field and then spotted an Egyptian Vulture in a field not too far from the road. We managed to find a place to stop and walked up to the brow of a hill to get the view of said bird through the scopes. At this stop we also found an attractive toadflax, *Linaria triphylla*.

Once we reached the car-park at Es Naveta des Tudons (the 'little ship of the wood pigeons', to be literal), the two leaders had a quick flash of a male golden oriole flying across the field ahead. But, alas! No one else managed to get it in their sights.

In the poor soils of the fields surrounding the *naveta* there was a wealth of wild flowers and grasses, including branched orobanche, star clover, rose garlic, meadow clary, *Centranthus calcitrapa*, and mirror and Small-flowered Tongue orchids. Birdwise, we found Woodchat Shrike on a wall, Pallid Swifts in the air above us and a smattering of raptors such as Peregrine, the ever-present Marsh Harriers and Booted Eagle, and circling Egyptian Vultures. Other finds as the morning wore on included migrating Tree Pipits, calling as they went, Raven, Quail calling and a Thekla Lark.

The limestone flora continued in the shape of bellardia, yellow bartsia, pitch trefoil whose crumpled leaves smell of turps, spotted rock-rose, the dark-centred composite, reichardia, solitary flowers of both Friar's cowl and large cuckoo pint, and Hare's Tail (a grass). Once at the far end of the track, those who 'stayed behind' found *Cistus creticus* [= *C. incanus*], another pink-flowered species of rock-rose that is common in north Africa and the eastern Mediterranean and turns up here and there in the Balears (new species for Mike).

We strolled back to van, happy with the morning's work and headed off for lunch at Son Bou, one of our frustrated destinations from the day before.

We lunched next to the vans, interrupted only by a passing Vagrant Emperor. Our post-prandial stroll took us down a track and into the meadows overlooking the flooded fields of Son Bou. Our first stop was a small stream next to the track where we found a number of male and female Mediterranean Demoiselles: the former showed more blue than their more normal purple coloration and resembled the more familiar Beautiful Demoiselles. They all turned out, however, to be Mediterranean Demoiselles [Mike: *I went back the following week and the dark metal-blue males were definitely all Mediterranean Demoiselle, despite appearances*]. Other dragonflies included a small tailed blue and a still immature male Keeled Skimmer.

There was plenty to see birdwise on the marshes: Shoveler, Grey Heron, Teal, more Garganey, Cattle Egret, Black-winged Stilt and our first Ruff and Redshanks. A Red-rumped Swallow provided Judith with excellent views to make up for the one she missed at Lluriac. Further along the track we looked down over the marshes and had excellent views in a farmyard of Blue-tailed Wagtails, our first White Wagtail, Northern Wheatears, a stunning male Whinchat and Woodchat Shrike. Further away on the edge of the marshes, a Water Pipit appeared briefly on a wall. Once the track began to move away from the marshes we stopped and scanned the two rocky cliffs that lay ahead: distant Alpine Swifts were seen and then suddenly Ray found an Eleanor's Falcon, that headed high over the woods up to our right. Most of us got some kind of view and some idea of a falcon, reminiscent of mixture of Peregrine and Hobby: powerful like the former, but with the longer wings and tail of the latter.

The botanists examined the wayside weeds and came up with Blue Hound's-tongue, rough poppy and yellow flag away in the marshes. A few butterflies appeared – Wall Brown and Speckled Wood.

The day's final destination was the peak of Monte Toro, the high point of the island. On top some chose to botanise, others explored the café and toilets. Few birds were around and the flora was not that advanced. The cliff walls did, however, support *Hyoseris radiata*, a composite with overlapping arrow-shaped leaves, the leaves of wall flower and, lower down, the distinctive grey leaves and small yellow flowers of *Helichrysum ambiguum*, found only in the north of Mallorca and on Monte Toro in the whole world!

Monday 16 April Es Canutells-Lluriac-Sa Roca-Cap de Fornells

Weather: sun!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

We started the day with a return trip to the cliffs at Es Canutells, but failed to find any birds other than those from our previous expedition. The botanists rooting around in the scrub identified *Dorycnium pentaphyllum*, a white-flowered Mediterranean shrub, *Helichrysum stoechas*, a much commoner relative of yesterday's plant from Mont Toro, the leaves of *Launea cervicornis*, rock samphire and a dragon's mouth, sadly not in flower.

We decided to return to Lluriac, the Tirant marsh, to see if anything new had turned up after the rain. We drove right past the sewage works – Sorry! *Depuradora* – at Es Mercadal and found the marsh with even more water than during our previous visit.

We stopped first to work the track running along the east side of the marsh and immediately Ray spotted a group of 9 Bee-eaters sitting on a wire far on the other side of the marsh. Otherwise we saw many of the same birds as on our previous visit: striking male Garganey, Black-winged Stilt, Coot, Moorhen, Little Egret, many Booted Eagles, Marsh Harriers, a Red Kite ...

New sightings included a Cuckoo, a couple of Spotless Starlings, a Wood Warbler in the tamarix and groups of waders on one of the furthest pools. Here we found Wood, Green and Common Sandpiper, Common Redshank, while some of the more advanced people in the party had good views of a Purple Heron's neck in the field next to the road. A Penduline Tit called briefly and disappeared.

Non-avian creatures of interest included a large Egyptian grasshopper on the track, a Swallowtail butterfly taking the sun and the croak of Stripeless Tree-frogs.

Towards the end of the morning a male Montagu's Harrier was spotted and a female 'ringtail' was tentatively also identified as a Montagu's. We also returned to the roadside viewing point for a look over the 'duck' pool: fewer ducks than the previous visit, with only Garganey, Common Pochard, Shoveler and Mallard.

Our next stop was lunch in the pinewoods not far from Monte Toro. After parking for lunch on a track, we walked into the woods in search of parasitic plants. First we found a small colony of the large violet limodore orchids in the pines, none of which was quite in flower. Soon afterwards we came across a number of clumps of the peculiar parasite of the roots of *Cistus* spp., *Cytinus rubra*, with its striking red colour, erupting from the soil. Strangely enough, despite looking like *C. ruber*, the local floras all talk about *C. hypocistis* and the judges are still out on this one. Other orchids included plenty of Bumble bee, sawfly and mirrors, as well as the small-flowered tongue orchid. We also had fun with more Mediterranean shrub species: *Dorycnium hirsutum*, myrtle, tree heath, Strawberry-tree and the member of the Sandelwood family, *Osyris alba*. Birdwise, we could hear a Firecrest, but bird-song was dominated by Cetti's and Sardinian Warblers and little else.

From here we decided to head back to the headland at Fornells for another coastal experience, although not before stopping at the road side to examine a flowerless cliff-face. By the roadside here, though, we were treated to a fine display of large Mediterranean spurge.

At Fornells we drove past our hot chocolate *Cacaolat* © bar and onto the furthest point of the road, from where we walked up to the lighthouse at the tip of the point. The flowers of the low scrub were just beginning to stir: a few flowers of the common composite *Anthemis maritima*, more *Senecio rodriguezii*, reichardia, the greyish leaves of *Artemisia gallica*, large numbers of the basal roots of *Limonium* spp. and glorious yellow swathes of *Lotus cytisoides*. Most interesting of all, however, were the *socarell* communities. We found *Launea cervicornis* as usual, but this time

infallibly associated with another similar *socarell*, which turned out to be *Anthyllis hystrix*, endemic to Menorca and protected by the Berne Convention, and small clumps of felty germander.

The birders found little of interest out to sea – more Audouin's Gulls – and concentrated more on the cliffs. Peregrine, Blue Rock Thrush and Shag appeared close by, with Egyptian Vultures and Marsh Harriers in evidence on the neighbouring headland. Walking back down the track we were well entertained by more Blue Rock Thrushes, Northern Wheatear, Pied Flycatcher, Tawny Pipit and Thekla Lark. A Small Heath was a new butterfly for the trip.

That night we dined in St. Clement : excellent views of Stone Curlew from the vans just as we were entering the village.

Tuesday 17 April Mongofre Nou-Cap de Favàritx

Weather: more sun and warmth!!

On the final day we finally got to the salt-pans and marshes at Mongofre Nou, a beautiful valley to which access is controlled by our friends at the GOB.

We picked up the road to Favàritx, and then turned off on a dirt track riddle with pot-holes and puddles passing through an area of lush pastures. First stop was for a couple of raptors sitting on the crags up to the left: Ray got his scope on a Black and a Red Kite sitting side-by-side, but which turned into 2 Black Kites and 2 Red Kites on closer inspection. Also on the crags we noted a couple of male Blue Rock Thrushes.

Once we parked, we started to walk along the track leading to the salt-pans, amidst tall Spanish and spiny brooms and lower not-quite-in-flower narrow leaved cistus. Just as we arrived at the far end of the salt-pans we had views of an Osprey flying off, which we sadly saw no more of. Around the edges of the open water there were a number of Black-winged Stilts, but few other waders since the water levels after all the rain were high. A couple of male Garganeys 'clicking' as they flew from one pool to another were one of the highlights of the morning, until we found a Wryneck. As per usual, it skulked in a bush next to the path, before flying up to a tree on the right of the track. Most of us had views of it half-hidden behind a branch. It flew briefly down on to the ground before disappearing like all self-respecting Wrynecks do. Other birds around included our first Common Buzzard, a Dunlin, Little Ring Plover and a Greenshank.

The sunshine brought out a number of butterflies: lots of Green hairstreaks seemingly about to lay eggs on the *Cistus*, and a number of Lang's Short-tailed Blues examining the *Dorycnium* sps. for the same reason. We found a few Small Blue-tailed Damselflies at the marsh edges and watched briefly a couple of Lesser Emperors skimming over the open water on our right. On the far side of one of the pools a European Pond Terrapin bathed in the pleasant sunshine. A large green Italian Wall Lizard ran across the path and allowed itself to be photographed.

Flower-wise, we identified pale flax, *Pallenis spinosa* and the leaves of both *Sedum sediforme* and the broad, strap-like leave of summer snowflake.

We retraced our steps back to the van and drove off to picnic in a slightly more open area near the road to Favàritx. Our roadside weeds here included cut-leaved geranium, *Ranunculus macrophyllus*, *Lathyrus annuus* and reversed clover with its small pink upside-down flowers.

From here we returned back to the point at Favàritx for a final spot of sea-watching. However, just as we were arriving at the small parking spot, we were entertained for a while by two Little Ringed Plovers in a pool to the right of the road, and then even more entertained by 2 Kentish Plovers on the far-side of the larger pool on the left of the road. At the tip, the seawatchers had the fortune to find a feeding frenzy of shearwaters off the point, with both Cory's and Yelkouan Shearwaters involved, and then, after much studying, it became apparent that there were also a few Bottle-nosed Dolphins out there somewhere feeding probably on the same shoal of fish.

And from here it was home again to pack and a quick visit to Maó to buy a few souvenirs. At call-over time, Ray & Mike thanked the group for their excellent humour despite the damp days in the middle. We managed to do most of what we wanted to do despite the floods at the Algendar Gorge and saw almost everything we had on our mental lists. Nothing dramatic turned

up, but we had good views of almost everything that we saw. Highlights must include the sheer numbers of Booted Eagles, harriers and Egyptian Vultures, the Garganey, the profusion of orchids, the *socarell* communities and the unspoilt beauty of much of the island.

Wednesday 18 April

We gathered our belongings and after farewells to our hosts, 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 Mike back to Maó.

SPECIES LISTS

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.

GREBES	Podicipediformes	Podicipedidae
Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis.</i>	(5/13) Highest count of 9 on the 12th
Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>	(1/2) Only the second time these have been recorded since the tours here started.
SHEARWATERS & PETRELS	Procellariiformes	Procellariidae
Cory's Shearwater	<i>Calonectris diomedea.</i>	(3/100+) Regular around the coast, sometimes close in.
Yelkouan Shearwater	<i>Puffinus yelkouan.</i>	(4/100+) Regular around the coast, sometimes close in.
CORMORANTS	Pelecaniformes	Phalacrocoracidae
Great Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>	(3/6) Four in Mahon harbour were a nice surprise.
Shag	<i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis</i> ssp.	(5/30) Seen frequently offshore and in harbours.
HERONS, EGRETS & BITTERNs	Ciconiiformes	Ardeidae
Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	(6/20) Common and widespread throughout the island.
Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>	(2/3) Seen at the Tirant Marsh & Son Bou areas.
Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta.</i>	(6/20) Maximum count of 15 on the 12 th .
Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>	(5/20) Maximum count of 15 on the 15 th .
(Black-crowned) Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>	(2/2) Singles seen on the 12 th & 14 th .
SWANS, GEESE & DUCKS	Anseriformes	Anatidae
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos.</i>	(6/30) Recorded throughout the island.
Gadwall	<i>Anas strepera</i>	(1/2) A pair on the 13 th being the only record.
Garganey	<i>Anas querquedula</i>	(4/33) A good year for this attractive duck.
Wigeon	<i>Anas Penelope</i>	(1/1) A single male seen on the 13 th .
Common Teal	<i>Anas crecca.</i>	Three females near Son Bou on the 15 th .
Northern Shoveler	<i>Anas clypeata</i>	(3/6) Seen at the Tirant Marsh & Son Bou areas.
Red-crested Pochard	<i>Netta rufina.</i>	(1/2) A pair near the Tirant Marsh on the 13 th .
Common Pochard	<i>Netta farina</i>	(1/2) A pair near the Tirant Marsh on the 16 th .
OSPREY	Falconiformes	Pandionidae
Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	(3/4) All were seen in the northern part of the island.

HAWKS, EAGLES & KITES	Falconiformes
Egyptian Vulture	<i>Neophron percnopterus.</i>
Booted Eagle	<i>Hieraaetus pennatus</i>
Black Kite	<i>Milvus migrans</i>
Red Kite	<i>Milvus milvus</i>
Western Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus.</i>
Montagu's Harrier	<i>Circus pygargus</i>
Common Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>
Goshawk	<i>Accipiter gentiles</i>
FALCONS & CARACARAS	Falconiformes
Eurasian Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>
Lesser Kestrel	<i>Falco naumanni</i>
Eleonora's Falcon	<i>Falco eleonora.</i>
Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus.</i>
PHEASANTS & PARTRIDGES	Galliformes
Red-legged Partridge	<i>Alectoris rufa.</i>
Quail	<i>Coturnix coturnix.</i>
RAILS, GALLINULES & COOTS	Gruiformes
Purple Swamphen	<i>Porphyrio porphyrio.</i>
Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>
Eurasian Coot	<i>Fulica atra.</i>
AVOCETS & STILTS	Charadriiformes
Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus.</i>
THICK-KNEES	Charadriiformes
European Stone-curlew	<i>Burhinus oediconemus.</i>
.PLOVERS & LAPWINGS	Charadriiformes
Greater Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula.</i>
Little Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius dubius.</i>
Kentish (Snowy) Plover	<i>Charadrius alexandrinus.</i>
SANDPIPERS	Charadriiformes
Common Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago.</i>
Common Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>
Green Sandpiper	<i>Tringa ochropus.</i>
Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola.</i>
Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>
Dunlin	<i>Calidris alpina.</i>
Ruff	<i>Philomachus pugnax.</i>

Accipitridae
 (3/5) Our best day was the 15th when we saw at least 3.
 (7/11) Widespread throughout the island.
 (1/2) Two seen on the 17th sitting with 2 Red Kites.
 (6/13) Recorded most days even in the rain.
 (7/14) Majority seen were female.
 (4/7) Mostly seen in the northern part of the island.
 (1/2) At least 2 seen at Mongofre Nou on 17th.
 Female high over Naveta des Tudons was an interesting record and a new species for this tour on the 15th.

Falconidae
 (7/8) Seen regularly but in small numbers.
 (3/9) Largest flock of five seen on the 16th.
 (1/1) One record of a bird dashing in off the sea near Son Bou on the 15th.
 (5/6) Regularly recorded during the week with two on the 16th.

Phasianidae
 (4/6) Maximum count of three on the 12th.
 (5/5+) Often heard but rarely seen.

Rallidae
 (2/3) All records from Tirant Marsh.
 (5/6) Always under-recorded due to their secretive habits.
 (6/15)) Regularly recorded during the week.

Recurvirostridae
 (6/42) Maximum of 20 on the 17th.

Burhinidae
 (6/13+) Good numbers were seen this year with a maximum of 4 on 2 days.

Charadriidae
 (1/1) Single at Cap de Favaritx.
 (2/10) 5prs recorded from 2 locations.
 (1/2) Pair at Cap de Favaritx.

Scolopacidae
 (1/2) Two seen at Tirant Marsh on the 13th.
 . (2/3) Two on the 15th & 1 on the 17th.
 (4/20) Six were seen on 3 days.
 (4/16) Good numbers of this attractive little wader were recorded this year.
 (4/15) Seen on 5 days with a max of 4 on the 16th.
 (1/1) Just a single seen on the 17th.
 (2/5) Four on the 15th & one on the 16th.

GULLS Audouin's Gull	Charadriiformes <i>Larus audouinii</i> .	Laridae (4/10) Superb views and photos taken of birds at La Mola on the 12 th . (7/20+) Recorded every day.
Yellow-legged Gull	<i>Larus cachinnans</i> .	
TERNs Sandwich Tern	SternaSternidae <i>Sterna sandvicensis</i> .	(2/5) Four in Mahon harbour on the 12 th and one at Cap de Favaritx on the 14 th .
PIGEONS & DOVES Rock Dove/ Feral Pigeon	Columbiformes <i>Columba livia</i>	Columbidae (7/40+) Common, widespread and seen daily.
Common Woodpigeon Eurasian Collared Dove	<i>Columba palumbus</i> . <i>Streptopelia decaocto</i> .	(4/5) Only seen in small numbers. (7/15+) Common, widespread and seen daily.
CUCKOOS Common (Eurasian) Cuckoo	Cuculiformes <i>Cuculus canorus</i> .	Cuculiformes (1/2) Just 2 seen on the 16 th .
SWIFTS Alpine Swift	Apodiformes <i>Apus melba</i>	Apodidae (3/4) Few were seen, with a max of 2 on the 15 th .
Common Swift Pallid Swift	<i>Apus apus</i> <i>Apus pallidus</i>	(7/40) Recorded throughout the island. (1/3) Only 3 were identified at Naveta des Tudons.
BEE-EATERS Meropidae European Bee-eater	Coraciiformes <i>Merops apiaster</i>	(1/10) Nine sitting on power lines at the Tirant Marsh & one over Fornells on the 16 th .
HOOPOES Eurasian Hoopoe	Coraciiformes <i>Upupa epops</i>	Upupidae (7/20) Fairly common and seen most days with max counts of 6 on 2 dates
WOODPECKERS Wryneck	Piciformes <i>Jynx torquilla</i>	Picidae (1/1) An individual flushed at Mongofre Nou on the 17 th was seen in a tree and on the ground.
LARKS Thekla Lark	Passeriformes <i>Galerida theklae</i>	Alaudidae (6/12) Highest count of 4 on the 16 th .
SWALLOWS Sand Martin(Bank swallow) Barn Swallow	Passeriformes <i>Riparia riparia</i> <i>Hirundo rustica</i>	Hirundinidae (5/20+) Not seen in large numbers. (7/100's) Recorded daily over much of the island.
Red-rumped Swallow	<i>Hirundo daurica</i>	(2/2) Single birds recorded on two dates.
House Martin	<i>Delichon urbica</i>	(7/50+) Common & widespread on the island.
WAGTAILS & PIPITS Yellow Wagtail	Passeriformes <i>Motacilla flava</i>	Motacillidae Spanish race, <i>iberiae</i> . (4/43) Highest count was 30+ on the 14 th .
White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba alba</i>	(1/1) Single on the 15 th being the only record.
Tawny Pipit Water Pipit	<i>Anthus campestris</i> <i>Anthus spinoletta</i>	(6/9) Max counts of 2 on 3 days only. (1/2) Two birds near Son Bou on the 15 th .
THRUSHES Blue Rock-thrush Eurasian Blackbird Song Thrush Robin	Passeriformes <i>Monticola solitarius</i> <i>Turdus merula</i> <i>Turdus philomelos</i> <i>Erithachus rubecul</i>	Turdidae (5/20) Max counts of 6 on two days. (7/9) Seen daily throughout the island. (2/2) Singles on two days only. (5/5) Single birds seen or heard.
CISTICOLAS Zitting Cisticola (Fan-tailed Warbler)	Passeriformes <i>Cisticola juncidis</i>	Cisticolidae (5/14) Minimum of 6 seen on the 13 th .

OLD WORLD WARBLERS

Cetti's Warbler

Passeriformes

Cettia cetti

Sedge Warbler

Acrocephalus schoenobaenus

Great Reed Warbler

Acrocephalus arundinaceus

Willow Warbler

Phylloscopus trochilus

Chiffchaff

Phylloscopus collybita

Wood Warbler

Phylloscopus sibilatrix

Blackcap

Sylvia atricapilla

Greater Whitethroat

Sylvia communis

Sardinian Warbler

Sylvia melanocephala

Firecrest

Regulus ignicapillus

OLD WORLD FLYCATCHERS

Passeriformes

European Pied Flycatcher

Ficedula hypoleuca

Common Nightingale

Luscinia megarhynchos

Black Redstart

Phoenicurus ochruro

Common Redstart

Phoenicurus phoenicurus

Whinchat

Saxicola rubetra

Common Stonechat

Saxicola torquata

Northern Wheatear

Oenanthe oenanthe

CHICKADEES & TITS

Passeriformes

Great Tit

Parus major

Penduline Tit

Remiz pendulinus

SHRIKES

Passeriformes

Woodchat Shrike

Lanius senator

CROWS & JAYS

Passeriformes

Common Raven

Corvus corax

STARLINGS

Passeriformes

Spotless Starling

Sturnus unicolor

ORIOLES

Passeriformes

Eurasian Golden Oriole

Oriolus oriolus

OLD WORLD SPARROWS

Passeriformes

Passeridae

House Sparrow

Passer domesticus

FINCHES

Passeriformes

Chaffinch

Fringilla coelebs

European Greenfinch

Carduelis chloris

European Goldfinch

Carduelis carduelis

Eurasian Linnet

Carduelis cannabina

BUNTINGS & SEEDEATERS

Passeriformes

Corn Bunting

Emberiza calandra

Sylviidae

(7/7) A few were seen, the rest were heard only.

(3/3) Two seen on Tirant Marsh.

(3/4) Two seen on the 17th.

(4/4) Singles recorded on four days.

(5/5) Singles recorded on five days only.

(3/5) Max count of 3 on the 17th.

(6/8) Small numbers seen on most days.

(1/1) Female on the 17th at Tirant.

(7/20) Two or three seen most days.

(1/1) Heard only at Sa Roca on the 16th.

Muscicapidae

(5/17) Max count of 4 on 2 days.

(4/4) Heard only on 4 days.

(2/3) Pair on the 11th & _ on the 14th.

(5/10) Max count of 4 on the 11th.

(6/9) Max count of 4 on the 17th.

(6/10) Seen throughout the island.

(7/16) Max count of 6 on the 11th.

Paridae

(7/8) Seen daily in small numbers.

(1/1) One heard at Tirant Marsh on the 16th.

Laniidae

(6/7) Max count of 2 on the 15th.

Corvidae

(7/26) Max count of 6 on three days.

Sturnidae

(1/8) Seen on Tirant Marsh on the 16th.

Oriolidae

(1/1) One heard singing on the 12th.

(7/40+) Common and seen daily.

Fringillidae

(2/2) Singles seen on the 12th and 13th.

(7/8) Common and seen most days.

(7/15) Common and seen daily.

(5/10's) Common and seen every day.

Emberizidae

(7/15) Common and seen most days.

MAMMALS

European Rabbit *Oryctolagus cuniculus*.
Black Rat *Rattus rattus*. (Dead)
Algerian Mouse *Mus spretus*
Pine Marten *Martes martes*.
Algerian Hedgehog *Atelerix algirus*. (Dead)
Bottle-nosed Dolphin *Tursiops truncatus*
Common Pipistrelle *Pipistrellus pipistrellus*

AMPHIBIANS

Green Toad *Bufo viridis*.
Stripeless Tree Frog *Hyla meridionalis*.

REPTILES

Moorish Gecko *Tarentola mauretanic*.
Italian Wall Lizard *Podarcis sicula*.
Hermann's Tortoise *Testudo hermanni*.
European Pond Terrapin *Emys orbicularis*.

BUTTERFLIES

Swallowtail *Papilio machaon*.
Large White *Pieris brassicae*.
Small White *Arlogeia rapae*.
Clouded Yellow *Colias crocea*.
Brown Argus *Aricia agestis*.
Common Blue *Polyommatus icarus*.
Long-tailed Blue *Lampides boeticus*
Lang's Short-tailed Blue *Laptotes pirithous*
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*.
Wall Brown *Lasiommata megera*
Brimstone *Gonepteryx rhamni*
Small Tortoiseshell *Aglais urticae*

OTHER INSECTS

Pine Processionary Moth *Thaumetopoea pityocampa*.
Red-veined Darter *Sympetrum fonscolombei*.
Mediterranean Demoiselle *Calopteryx haemorrhoidalis*.
Blue-tailed Damselfly *Ischnura elegans*.
Keeled Skimmer *Orthetrum coerulescens*.
Blue-tailed Damselfly *Ischnura elegans*
Vagrant Emperor *Anax ephippiger*
Egyptian Grasshopper *Anacridium aegyptium*.
Violet Carpenter Bee *Xylocopa violacea*.
Honey Bee *Apidae sp.*
Rhino Beetle *Copris lunaris*.
Paper Wasp *Polistes gallicus*.
Pollen Beetle *Oxythyrea funestra*.
Scorpion *Buthus occitanus*.
Violet Ground Beetle *Carabus violaceus*.
Oil Beetle *Meloe sp.*
Ladybird-2spot.

OTHER TAXA - Jellyfish sp & Millipede sp.

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 dels Països Catalans, the Balearic Virtual Herbarium (<http://herbarivirtual.uib.es/>) and the knowledge of Miquel Truyal, one of the authors of the Catalogue of the Flora of Menorca we used during the trip.

Latin names of new species or corrections for the TN cumulative list **in bold**. An asterisk indicates that it was not seen in 2007.

Order and English names as in *Mediterranean Wild Flowers* M. Blamey and C. Gray-Wilson. HarperCollins, 1993.

EMen – Endemic to Menorca; EBal – Endemic to Balearic Islands; ETyrr – Endemic to islands of Tyrrhenian Sea.

ES: Es Canutells; SB: Son Bou, TG: Torre d'en Gaumes, EM: Es Mercadal, Depuradora, MG: Matxani Gran, T: Tirant, CC: Cap de Cavallaria, MT: Monte Toro, MN: Mongofre Nou, CF: Cap de Favàritx, CF: Cap de Fornells, F: Fornells, SR: Sa Roca, AG: Algendar Gorge, NT: Naveta des Tudons, EG: S'Albufera d'Es Grau; LM: La Mola.

Latin name	English name	Comments
GYMNOSPERMS - Conifers		
Pinaceae Pine family		
<i>Pinus halepensis</i>	Aleppo Pine	Most common tree
Cupressaceae Cypress family		
<i>Juniperus phoenicea</i>	Phoenicean Juniper	Adapted for life on dunes and widespread
Ephedraceae family Joint-pine family		
<i>Ephedra fragilis</i>	Joint Pine	Erect shrub with brittle stems EG, CC, EG
ANGIOSPERMS - Flowering Plants		
Dicotyledons		
Fagaceae Oak family		
<i>Quercus ilex</i>	Holm Oak	Quite common
Rafflesiaceae Rafflesia family		
<i>Cytinus hypocystis</i>	Cytinus	toothy bulbous parasitic perennial; SR
Ulmaceae Elm family		
* <i>Ulmus minor</i>	Small-leaved Elm	A fine line of them AG
Moraceae Mulberry family		
<i>Morus alba</i>	White Mulberry	Planted; host plant for the silk moth
<i>Ficus carica</i>	Fig	Mainly planted and surrounded by circular stone walls MG
Santalaceae Sandalwood family		
<i>Osyris alba</i>	Osyris	SR
Urticaceae Nettle family		
<i>Urtica pilulifera</i>	Roman nettle	Very powerful sting MG
<i>Urtica membranacea</i> -	Membranous Nettle	Common e.g. MG and waste ground
<i>Parietaria judaica</i>	Pellitory-of-the-wall	Towns and villages, AG
Polygonaceae Dock family		
<i>Rumex bucephalophorus</i>		A small dock with fruit on curved stalks
Chenopodiaceae Fat-hen family		
<i>Halimione portulacoides</i> –	Sea Purslane	Common in salinas MN
<i>Arthrocnemum fruticosum</i>		Shrubby type of Glasswort. SB, EG
[= <i>Salicornia fruticosa</i>] -		
<i>Salicornia ramosissima</i>	Glasswort	SB EG

Phytolaccaceae Pokeweed family		
<i>Phytolacca arborea</i>	Ombu	Intriguing S. American bush/tree at MG
Aizoaceae		
<i>Carpobrotus edulis</i>	Hottentot Fig	A garden escape known locally as 'patatas fritas' because of the leaf shape.
Caryophyllaceae Pink family		
<i>Silene gallica</i>	Small-flowered catchfly	CC EG
<i>S. vulgaris</i>	Bladder Cmpion	MG
Ranunculaceae Buttercup family		
<i>Clematis flammula</i>	Fragrant Clematis	On walls
<i>C. cirrhosa</i>	Virgin's Bower	Usually blooms in winter and so not in flower
<i>Adonis annua</i>	Pheasant's Eye	NT, MG
<i>Ranunculus macrophyllus</i>		Large-leaved plant seen in wet area of T, MN
<i>R. peltatus</i>	Pond Water-Crowfoot	T
* <i>R. sceleratus</i>	Celery-leaved crowfoot	
Papaveraceae Poppy family		
<i>Papaver somniferum</i>	Opium Poppy	Pale purple. SB
<i>P. rhoeas</i>	Common Poppy	
* <i>P. dubium</i> ssp. <i>lecoqii</i>	Long-headed Poppy	
* <i>P. pinnatifidum</i>		with very long slender seed pods.
<i>P. hybridum</i>	Rough Poppy	MG AG
<i>Glaucium flavum</i>	Yellow Horned-poppy	Fornells
Fumariaceae Fumitory family		
<i>Fumaria capreolata</i>	Ramping Fumitory	White/cream flowers, tipped with red
<i>F. officinalis</i>	Common Fumitory	
Cruciferae Cress family		
* <i>Sisymbrium officinale</i>	Hedge Mustard	
* <i>Matthiola incana</i>	Hoary Stock	Mauve or white with sweet scent
<i>Lobularia maritima</i>	Sweet Alison	Common; our annual bedding plant at home SB
[= <i>Alyssum maritimum</i>]		
<i>Cakile maritima</i>	Sea Rocket	SB
* <i>Raphanus raphanistrum</i>	Wild Radish	
Resedaceae Mignonette family		
<i>Reseda alba</i>	White Mignonette	Common roadside and field weed but pretty
Crassulaceae Stonecrop family		
<i>Umbilicus rupestris</i>	Navelwort or Wall Pennywort	AG, TG
<i>Sedum sediforme</i>		Leaves at MN
Rosaceae Rose family		
<i>Poterium verrucosum</i>	Mediterranean Salad	MG
[= <i>Sanguisorba minor</i> subsp. <i>magnolii</i>]	Burnet	
<i>Rubus ulmifolius</i>	Bramble	
Leguminoseae Pea family		
<i>Spartium junceum</i>	Spanish broom	MN
<i>Calicotome infesta</i> [= <i>C. spinosa</i>]	Thorny Broom	Widespread with yellow gorse-like flowers MN
<i>Astragalus balearicus</i>		In flower at Favàritx. The only <i>socarell</i> in flower
EBal		
<i>Anthyllis hystrix</i>		With <i>L. cerviformis</i> & <i>T. polium</i> at CF.
<i>Psoralea bituminosa</i>	Pitch Trefoil	Attractive plant with blue pea-flowers, leaves smelling of pitch AG EG
<i>Vicia benghalensis</i>		A handsome fodder vetch with red flowers – everywhere
<i>V. bithynica</i>	Bithynian Vetch	Bi-coloured pea-flower in dry, stony places
Lathyrus annuus		Yellow-flowered MN
<i>Lathyrus ochrus</i>		Cream pea-flower with enlarged leaf stalks. TG

<i>*Melilotus indicus</i>	Small melilot	
<i>Medicago marina</i>	Sea Medick	Golden pea-flowers with silky grey leaves on dunes
<i>Trifolium nigrescens</i>		The white clover seen in fields
<i>T. resupinatum</i>	Reversed Clover	Attractive pink flower with reversed flowers. Punta Prima, T, MN
<i>*T. tomentosum</i>	Woolly Trefoil	Pale pink clover with woolly fruiting heads
<i>T. stellatum</i>	Starry Clover	Pink clover with starry fruiting heads
<i>Dorycnium hirsutum</i>		Hairy shrublet with pale pea-flowers. Open places
<i>D. pentaphyllum</i>		More slender and seen with the above at Montgofre Nou
<i>Lotus cytisoides</i>		Dunes yellow with this pea-flower SB
<i>L. creticus</i>	Southern Bird's foot Trefoil	Common
<i>*A. tetraphylla</i>	Bladder Vetch	Creamy flowers with inflated fruits AG
<i>Hedysarum coronarium</i>	Italian Sainfoin	Unforgettable. Striking red pea-flowers
Oxalidaceae Sorrel family		
<i>Oxalis pes-caprae</i> -	Bermuda Buttercup	Many fields over-run with this yellow S. African plant
Geraniaceae Geranium family		
<i>Geranium dissectum</i>	Cut-leaved Crane's-bill	MN
<i>Erodium malacoides</i> -	Mallow-leaved Stork's-bill	Common in fields and road-sides
<i>E. cicutarium</i>	Common Stork's Bill	
Linaceae Flax family		
<i>Linum bienne</i>	Pale Flax	Dainty plant with delicate blue flowers MN
<i>*L. trigynum</i>		Dainty plant with delicate yellow flowers
Euphorbiaceae Spurge family		
<i>Euphorbia dendroides</i>	Tree Spurge	common hill-side shrub in open situations EG
<i>E. paralias</i>	Sea spurge	Beaches SB
<i>*E. helioscopia</i>	Sun Spurge	
<i>E. characias</i>	Large Mediterranean Spurge	SR
<i>E. myrsinites</i>	Broad-leaved Glaucous / Garrigue Spurge	CF
Anacardiaceae Pistacio family		
<i>Pistachia lentiscus</i>	Lentisc/Gum Mastic	Widespread shrub. Once much used for its resin
Rhamnaceae Buckthorn family		
<i>Rhamnus alaternus</i>	Mediterranean Buckthorn	Common evergreen shrub
Malvaceae Mallow family		
<i>*Lavatera cretica</i>	Cretan Mallow	
<i>L. arborea</i>	Tree Mallow	SB TG
Daphne Family Thymelaeaceae		
<i>Thymelaea hirsuta</i>		A characteristic low shrub with pendulous stems; dry, stony places. EC
Cistaceae Rockrose family		
<i>Tuberaria guttata</i>	Spotted Rockrose	SR/MN
<i>Cistus albidus</i>	Grey-leaved Cistus -	Large pink flowers
<i>C. monspeliensis</i>	Narrow-leaved Cistus	Small white flowers and sticky leaves
<i>C. creticus</i>		Smallish pink flowers and reticulate leaves
<i>C. salvifolius</i>	Sage-leaved Cistus	Large white flowers
Frankeniaceae Sea Heath family		
<i>Frankenia laevis</i>	Sea Heath	CF
Tamaricaceae Tamarisk family		
Tamarisk		Probably several species

Cactaceae Cactus family		
<i>Opuntia ficus-carica</i>	PricklyPear	Introduced. Occasionally seen with fruit
Araliaceae Ivy family		
<i>Hedera helix</i>	Ivy	
Punicaceae Pomegranate family		
* <i>Punica granatum</i>	Pomegranate	AG
Umbelliferae Carrot family		
* <i>Eryngium campestre</i>	Field Eryngo	MG
<i>Crithmum maritimum</i>	Rock Samphire	CF
* <i>Kundmannia sicula</i> -	Kundmannia	A common fennel-like plant
<i>Foeniculum vulgare</i>	Fennel	MN
<i>Ferula communis</i>	Giant Fennel	Impressive umbellifer
* <i>Torilis nodosa</i>	Knotted Bur-parsley	Cliffs at Canutells & elsewhere
<i>Daucus carota</i>	Wild Carrot	widespread
Ericaceae Heath family		
<i>Arbutus unedo</i>	Strawberry Tree	Evergreen tree often with flowers and fruits together SR MN
<i>Erica arborea</i>	Tree Heath	MN SR
Primulaceae Primrose family		
<i>Anagallis arvensis</i>	Scarlet Pimpernel	Mainly in its blue flowered form
Plumbaginaceae Thrift family		
<i>Limonium</i> spp.	Sea Lavenders	Several species found but mostly not flowering, including probably! <i>L. companyonis</i> , <i>L. echioides</i> definitely, <i>L. ferulaceum</i> definitely, <i>L. gymnesicum</i> , <i>L. minutum</i> definitely.
Oleaceae Olive family		
<i>Phillyrea media</i> var.		Wind-blown cushions on north coast
<i>rodriguezii</i> EMen		
<i>Olea europaea</i>	Olive	usually planted but wild trees frequent F
Gentianaceae Gentian family		
<i>Blackstonia perfoliata</i>	Yellow-wort	Leaves at SR
<i>Centaurium erythraea</i>	Common Centaury	
<i>Centaurium maritimum</i>	Yellow Centaury	CC rocky coasts
Apocynaceae Oleander family		
<i>Vinca difformis</i>	Intermediate Periwinkle	Some colonies with pale blue flowers
Rubiaceae Bedstraw family		
<i>Galium aparine</i>	Goose-grass	
* <i>G. verrucosum</i>	Warty-fruited Goose-grass	
<i>Sherardia arvensis</i>	Field madder	Small pink flowers MG
<i>Rubia peregrina</i> -	Wild madder	Scrambling plant with hooked bristles EG
Convovulaceae Bindweed family		
* <i>Calystegia soldanella</i>	Sea Bindweed	In dunes at EG
<i>Convolvulus althaeoides</i>	Mallow-leaved Bindweed	Common in fields
Boraginaceae Borage family		
<i>Echium parviflorum</i>		MG
<i>Echium plantagineum</i>	Purple Viper's Bugloss	Frequent and colourful SB
* <i>E. sabulicola</i>		A semi-prostrate Viper's Bugloss – a frequent 'weed'
<i>Borago officinalis</i>	Borage	SB
<i>Cynoglossum creticum</i>	Blue Hound's-tongue	Softly hairy with veined blue flower
Labiatae Mint family		
<i>Teucrium capitatum</i> [= <i>T. polium</i>]	Felty germander	Clusters of tight pink occasionally white flower-heads hiding behind <i>socarells</i> CF, CC
<i>Prasium majus</i>		Attractive shrub with lipped flowers MG TG
<i>Micromeria microphylla</i>		Tiny slender plant with tiny red flowers MG+
<i>Phlomis italica</i> EBal		Leaves on MT

<i>*Mentha suaveolens</i>	Apple Mint	AG
<i>Rosmarinus officinalis</i>	Rosemary	Prostrate in harsh habitats SR
<i>Salvia verbenaca</i>	Meadow Clary	MG
Scrophulariaceae Figwort family		
<i>*Verbascum sinuatum</i>		A mullein with crinkly leaf edges
<i>*V. creticum</i>		A lovely tall Mullein with large yellow flowers AG
<i>*Scrophularia peregrina</i> -	Nettle-leaved Figwort	Saw-toothed leaves with brown flowers: TG & AG
<i>Misopates orontium</i>	Weasel's Snout or Lesser Snapdragon	Agricultural weed NT
<i>Linaria triphylla</i> -	Three-leaved Toadflax	Common field weed. Yellow toadflax with violet spur. NT
<i>*L. pelisseriana</i>	Jersey Toadflax	A purple-flowered field 'weed' at NT
<i>Veronica cymbalaria</i>	White Speedwell	AG
<i>Parentucellia viscosa</i>	Yellow Bartsia	Damp places AG MG NT
<i>Bellardia trixago</i>	Bellardia	Attractive spike of pink and white flowers. MG, NT and elsewhere
Orobanchaceae Broomrape family		
<i>Orobanche ramosa</i>	Branched Broomrape	Blue flower MG, NT
<i>O. minor</i>	Common Broomrape	MG+
<i>*O. crinita</i> the		Red broomrape on <i>Lotus creticus</i> – Es Canutells
Plantaginaceae Plantago family		
<i>Plantago coronopus</i>	Buck's-horn Plantain	Underfoot at numerous sites
<i>P. maritima</i> ssp <i>crassifolia</i>		Fleshy-leaved coastal plant
Caprifoliaceae Honeysuckle family		
<i>Lonicera implexa</i>	Mediterranean Honeysuckle	SR, EG
Valerianaceae Valerian family		
<i>Centranthus calcitrapa</i> -		Pink flowerlets, variable and in most habitats NT
Dipsacaceae Scabious family		
<i>Scabiosa maritima</i>	Mournful Widow	A dune Scabious. SB
Compositae Daisy family		
<i>Bellis annua</i>	Annual Daisy	Similar to our lawn daisy but in shades of pink to lilac
<i>Evax pygmaea</i>	Evax	Cute silvery stemless rosettes. MG CC
<i>Pallenis spinosa</i>		Frequent. Yellow daisy-type flower with green starry bracts MN
<i>Santolina</i>	Lavender Cotton	CF
<i>chamaecyparissus</i> ssp. <i>magonica</i>		
<i>Anthemis maritimus</i>		Fleshy leaved coastal plant with daisy flowers CF
<i>Chrysanthemum</i> <i>coronarium</i>		Everywhere. Bright yellow or bi-coloured daisy flowers
<i>Senecio cineraria</i>	Silver Ragwort	Our silver-leaved garden plant
<i>S. rodriguezii</i> EBal		Lovely pink daisy found in harsh coastal areas CC E
<i>Calendula arvensis</i>	Field Marigold	Very common field weed. MG
<i>Galactites tomentosa</i>	Galactites	A pretty thistle but many fields over-run with it
<i>Silybum marianum</i>	Milk Thistle	A handsome but vicious thistle with white-veined leaves. MG
<i>Hyoseris radiata</i>		A common yellow composite with stepped pinnate leaves MT
<i>Asteriscus maritimus</i>	Yellow sea aster	LM
<i>Urospermum dalechampii</i>	Urospermum	A large soft yellow composite with dark centres

<i>Reichardia tingitana</i>	Reichardia	A glabrous yellow daisy with a dark centre. SB, NT
<i>Launaea cervicornis</i> EBal		One of the so-called <i>socarells</i> - spiny shrublet on exposed rocky coasts E EC
<i>Posidonia oceanica</i>	Neptune Grass	Fibrous 'sea-balls' from this on beach
MONOCOTYLEDONS		
Liliaceae Lily family		
<i>Asphodelus aestivus</i>	Common asphodel	Common taller asphodel. Attractive but a serious weed
<i>A. fistulosus</i>	Hollow-leaved asphodel	Shorter, with rounded hollow leaves. An equal pest. MG
<i>Urginea maritima</i>	Sea Squill	large leafy bulb which flowers late summer
<i>Ornithogalum arabicum</i>	Arabian Garlic	MG
<i>O. narbonense</i>	Spiked Star of Bethlehem	NT
<i>Muscari comosum</i>	Tassel Hyacinth	Mainly blue flowers with a tassel' atop the spike. MG
<i>Asparagus albus</i>	White Asparagus	White stems with sharp spines beside leaf-like tufts, MG
<i>A. stipularis</i>		Spiny looking asparagus - everywhere
<i>Ruscus aculeatus</i>	Butcher's Broom	A stiff plant with tough flattened shoots AG, EG
<i>Smilax aspera</i>	Common Smilax	Climbing prickly plant with heart-shaped leaves
<i>Allium roseum</i>	Rosy Garlic	Common
<i>A. triquetrum</i>	Three-cornered Leek	a common weed but attractively so
* <i>A. cupanii</i>		EG
Amaryllidaceae Daffodil family		
<i>Leucojum aestivum</i>	Summer Sowflake	MN
<i>Pancratium maritimum</i>	Sea Daffodil	Leaves in plenty on sandy shores
Iridaceae Iris family		
<i>Gladiolus italicus</i>	Field Gadiolus	The common field weed gladiolus
* <i>G. illyricus</i>		An attractive, rather dainty and dark-flowered gladiolus
<i>Romulea columnae</i>	Sand Crocus	In seed MG
Araceae Arum family		
<i>Dracunculus muscivorus</i>	Dragon's Mouth	Leaves only at Cap de Cavalleria and Es Canutells
ETyrr		
<i>Arisarum vulgare</i>	Friar's Cowl	Common
<i>Arum italicum</i>	Large Cuckoo Pnt /Italian Arum	A shade-lover. Several hooded flowers seen CC
<i>Zantedeschia aethiopica</i>	Calla Lily sp.	
Orchidaceae Orchid family		
<i>Limodorum abortivum</i> -	Violet Limodore	SR
<i>Orchis conica</i>	Conical Orchid	<i>O. lactea</i> is not now considered to be present in Spain
* <i>O. coriophora</i> ssp. <i>fragrans</i>	Bug Orchid	
<i>Ophrys speculum</i>	Mirror Orchid	MG Also known as <i>O. vernixia</i>
<i>O. tenthredinifera</i>	Sawfly Orchid	In great numbers MG
<i>O. bombyliflora</i>	Bumble-bee Orchid	MG
<i>O. lutea</i>	Yellow bee Orchid	SB
<i>O. fusca</i>	Dull ophrys	ES
<i>Barlia robertiana</i>	Giant Orchid	MG
<i>Anacamptis pyramidalis</i>	Pyramidal Orchid	White to deep pink - abundant
<i>Serapias parviflora</i>	Small-flowered Tongue Orchid	SB MG

Gramineae Grass family		
<i>*Lamarkia aurea</i>	Golden Dog's-tail	MG
<i>*Briza major</i>	Large Quaking Grass	
<i>*Hordeum murinum</i>	Wall Barley	MG
<i>*Aegilops</i> sp.		Barley-like grass NT
<i>Catapodium loliaceum</i>		CF
<i>Lagurus ovatus</i>	Hare's Tail	MG
<i>Ammophila arenaria</i>	Marram Grass	Common dune-fixing grass EG
<i>Avena sterilis</i>	Winter Wild Oat	
<i>Ampelodesmus</i>		A robust plant with striking flower heads up to 3m. tall CC
<i>mauretanica</i>		
<i>Arundo donax</i>	Giant Reed	AG
<i>Phragmites australis</i>	Common Reed	SB
Juncaceae Rush family		
<i>Juncus acutus</i>	Sharp Rush	With very sharp spines SB

Ray Nowicki & Mike Lockwood, April 2007
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