

# Menorca

## Friday 25 April – Friday 2 May 2008

### Trip Report

#### Leaders:

Ray Nowicki

Mike Lockwood

A great trip that basked in the sun, revelled in the food and surroundings at the hotel and delighted in the wildlife we found. The avian highlight was probably the Red-footed Falcons overhead at the Tirant (Lluriac) marshes, although they were hard pushed by the sheer numbers and proximity of the Egyptian Vultures and Booted Eagles and the calling Stone Curlews and Scops Owls. Non-avian fauna included the Stripeless Tree-frog at the hotel, the Norfolk Hawkers in the woods and the Hermann's Tortoises. Flowerwise, there was nothing to rival the perfect the dragon's-mouth at Cap de Cavalleria, especially as most of the *Ophrys* orchids had gone over.

Perhaps, however, pride of place should go to the hotel and the staff who made us feel at home right from the start, and who provided us exquisite meals in the terrace as the Stone Curlews wailed in the background.

Ray and Mike are already looking forward to 2009 and more fish and cake!!

### Daily diary

#### Friday 25 April      Morvedra Nou

*Weather: Hot and sunny.*

After a typical flight out, the group met up with Mike at Maó airport and headed straight off for lunch at Morvedra Nou. From the road we had our first taste of the local birdlife – Booted Eagles, Red Kites, Cattle Egrets, Ravens and Spotless Starlings.

Lunch was taken on the terrace overlooking the pool and surrounding fields and after a first introduction to the wonderful local cuisine it was time for our first wander in the fields.

Fortunately, the hotel owns most of the fields to the south and so we could wander at our leisure through pastures extensively grazed by horses and cows.

Before even leaving the hotel grounds, we were already looking at a male Woodchat Shrike, as well as Booted Eagles and Egyptian Vultures overhead. These two raptors, along with the Red Kite, are all resident species here on Menorca. Other birds around included Greenfinch, House Sparrow and the first of many Corn Buntings.

By the wayside we identified Holly Blue and a single Brown Argus.

In our first stop to look for flowers we came across the abundant and attractive toadflax, *Linaria triphylla*, yellow and white with a violet spur, a proliferous pink *Petrorhagia verlutina*, the pink thistle galactites and the giant milk thistle, with its vicious bracts, star clover, rose garlic, bellardia, yellow bartsia, pitch trefoil - whose crumpled leaves smell of white spirit – and tassel hyacinth. In the more heavily grazed fields tall common asphodels dominated – elsewhere hollow-leaved asphodels grew in small clumps. Round the corner of one field we came across the first of many stands of field gladioli, Quaking grass, mallow-leaved bindweed and small-flowered catchfly.

We noted the fact that most of the scrub was formed by wild olive trees and were home to Nightingales and Cetti's Warblers – on Menorca they have occupied woodland niches because of the lack of many of the typical woodland birds such as tits, treecreepers and robins found on the mainland.

We stood and watched as a number of Common Swifts flew fast overhead and spotted a few Pallid Swifts in amongst them.

We proceeded to climb to the top of the small hill with a trig point, where we took in the view of Mallorca (not the mainland as we thought at first), more raptors and a hill-topping Common Swallowtail. On the way down at another stop in the shade Ray (but no one else) spotted a Red-rumped Swallow and then Mike spotted a single Sand Martin along with all the other hirundines.

Just as we got back to the hotel a Hoopoe flew across the fields behind the hotel.

Back at the hotel, we met up again at 8 for dinner and were treated to a chorus of Stone Curlews, Quails, Nightingales and Tree Frogs as we dined outside in the relative cool of the evening. However, the real surprise was the Scops Owl that started calling in the distance just as we were finishing our meal. It soon came a lot nearer and began to call from the trees next to the swimming pool. We had a brief glimpse of something moving in the tree before the call started to come from the other side of the hotel. We resolved to track it down and get better views some time later on in the week.

### **Saturday 26 April      Punta Nati - Naveta des Tudons**

*Weather: Hot and sunny.*

As we were getting ready to leave a smart adult Egyptian Vulture flew low over the hotel – a fine sight to begin the day.

Our first destination was the desolate headland of Punta Nati. Despite being so near the hotel, with its green pastures and hedgerows, Punta Nati has barely a plant above knee-height to its name. In part this is due to the lack of tree cover – to the south of Ciutadella wind-brakes of wild olives were left, whereas on Punta Nati all trees were cleared. Add to this too many sheep and you have the recipe for the soil erosion that is so prevalent at Punta Nati. Nevertheless, the birds like it!

First stop, though, was outside a large green warehouse where we viewed a couple of very obliging Spotless Starlings sitting on the roof. A Hoopoe flew across the fields on the other side of the road.

Beyond Ciutadella, we picked up the narrow road towards Punta Nati, stopping as a group of Cattle Egrets rose up from a stand of pines. In all Ray counted around 80 birds, seemingly at a roost.

Once at Punta Nati we parked about 500 m from the lighthouse and started to walk under a clear blue sky with a light northerly breeze. Our first sightings were Tawny Pipits, familiar from the day before, whose repetitive call was beginning to become quite recognisable. Next we caught up with a pair of Thekla larks, chasing around the dry stone walls and rocky fields: one was seen to catch a 'red-underwing' type moth. The third of the common passerines in the area was the Blue Rock Thrush, which, as we got closer to the lighthouse, began to reveal just how common it is in the area. In and around the lighthouse there were constantly three or more males on display, on the roof of the lighthouse itself, or on the dry stone walls or on the ground. And finally, we found a couple of Short-toed Larks, chestnut brown with a capped, rounded head and a small crest. We had views of a pair, the male with a fine black smudge on the sides of its chest.

Egyptian Vultures and Kestrels were permanently in the air, and eventually we tracked down a harrier heading north, which turned out to be a rather tatty young Marsh Harrier. As it crossed the coast, it was 'harried' by a Yellow-legged Gull. From the cliff-edge a couple of Cory's Shearwaters plied westwards not far from the coast.

Beyond the lighthouse and amongst the rocks there was little obviously in flower. However, on closer examination we found the first flowers of *Limonium minutum*, the smallest of the many *Limoniums* on the island. Equally insignificant were the small lilac flowers of *Senecio rodriguezii*, a Balearic endemic and *Silene sedoides*, a small succulent catchfly that was common in and amongst the rocks. Small Copper, Small Heath and Wall Brown were the only three butterflies in the area. Overhead amongst the Yellow-legged Gulls there was just a single Audouin's Gull. A Common Sandpiper flew up into the rocks. Down below in the sea there were scores of jellyfish and lots of fish.

We headed back to the vans, stopping only to try and see (in vain) the Bee-eaters that sharp-eared Ray had heard high up overhead. On the way home, the Cattle Egrets surprisingly were still in the same tree – so perhaps it wasn't a roost site after all.

After lunch under the olive trees with Spotted Flycatchers zipping around over our heads, we took the vans to the peculiar Naveta des Tudons, apparently the world's oldest two-storey building, and meaning literally the 'little ship of the wood pigeons'.

As we walked in, we were welcomed by 10+ Yellow Wagtails feeding at the feet of the sheep grazing on the poor pastures surrounding the *naveta*. A Quail called and a Woodchat Shrike sat on a bush. Two Ravens passed overhead and two Red Kites passed very low just 30 m away. Alongside the track we spotted a single bug orchid, all but in full flower. As we reached the *naveta* itself, Ray spotted a group of Bee-eaters sitting on a wire some distance away to the west. We approached the wall for a better view and enjoyed watching their antics for a full 20 minutes. Unfortunately, they were not to come any closer and in the harsh afternoon light we were not able to fully appreciate their wonderful colours.

Amongst the flowers, we found similar species to the day before, but with the addition of *Plantago afra*, similar to branched plantain, *Silene nocturna*, with the nerves of its calyx tube outlined in black, *Rumex bucephalophorus*, with its curious curved fruits, and the spiky *Sideritis romana*. We looked at the lentisc and Phoenician juniper bushes, two of the commonest Mediterranean shrubs, Branched Broomrape, *Evax pygmaea*, the leaves of sea-squill and *Prasium majus*, a white labiate that decorates the walls and shrubs of much of Menorca.

We walked along the track through the dry fields – rather too dry for the likes of the botanists – as far as a gate leading to a road. Here we examined a small patch of scrub and found our first small-flowered tongue orchids, as well as two rock roses, sage-leaved cistus and the much rarer *Cistus creticum* [= *C. incanus*], a 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. Ray pointed out a blackstonia not quite in flower.

On the way home we had a quick stop for an attractive clump of pyramidal orchids by the side of the road near the hotel. Here too we found perforate St. John's Wort.

At dinner we could hear the Quail, Scops Owl, Stone Curlew and Stripeless Tree Frogs.

### **Sunday 27 April Lluriac (Tirant) marshes – Cap de Cavalleria**

*Weather: Hot and sunny.*

On the early-morning walk we found some of the usual suspects – Woodchat Shrike, Corn Bunting, Thekla Lark and Sardinian Warbles all showing well. A Quail called from nearby but didn't show itself. However, we also had good views of three Whinchats and a fly-by by a Hoopoe. Excitement mounted as Ray spotted Bee-eaters on the wires near to the hotel. Mike ran back to inform the others, only to find them happily watching them too. A Red Kite at breakfast from the terrace was the first raptor of the day.

After breakfast we got in the vans and headed out along the usual road, pausing just briefly for the group's first Northern Wheatear on a wall by the side of the road.

Our destination today were the marshes at Lluriac (Tirant), an area of low-lying fields with permanent pools and reed and rush beds.

Once parked at the entrance to a farm, we walked slowly back along the road looking over the marshes, eyes and binoculars peeled. First sighting was a female Marsh Harrier over the marsh, followed by the first of many singing Zitting Cisticolas (Fan-tailed Warbler). In the marsh proper we spotted the snake-like heads of two then three Purple Herons, whilst on the small pools we could just see there were Mallards and a small group of Wood Sandpipers. Little Grebes called from the marshes and a Booted Eagle flew directly overhead with its landing lights showing well.

Other fauna included *Sympecma fusca*, the only European damselfly that overwinters as an adult, Common Blue-tailed Damselfly and a *Lestes* damselfly that Mike tentatively identified as *Lestes barbarus*. Flower-wise, we noted *Urospermum delachampii* and the escaped Bermuda buttercup by the wayside, and *Ranunculus macrophylla* and *R. aquatilis* in the damp meadows and marshes.

Things began to happen fast: both Water Rail and Stone Curlew began to call, although we were to see neither, then we found a Turtle Dove in a group of eucalyptus trees. But suddenly, Mike spotted a falcon that

definitely wasn't a Kestrel and Ray speedily identified it as a Red-footed Falcon. In the end we found a female and two males flashing their silver-grey upper primaries, one of which obliged by passing right overhead!!! An excellent find, and only the second time ever we've seen this species in the nine years we've run this trip.

Returning along the road we heard a strange trumpeting from the marsh, which we tentatively identified as a Purple Swamphen, and spotted both a Norfolk Hawker and a Scarlet Darter on the marsh, three Speckled Woods, a pair of mating Blue-tailed damselflies and a Little Egret.

We drove on to the other side of the marsh, but it was too dry and so we headed for another small pool that can only be viewed from the road. Whilst Mike waited with the vans (parked in front of a farm entrance), Ray and the group spotted Black-winged Stilt, Wood Sandpiper, Gadwall, Little Egret, Mallard, Grey Heron and Little Grebe.

Next stop was lunch and given the shortage of shade, we stopped in a lay-by and ate half in, half out of the vans. From here it was on to an ice-cream stop without ice-cream! Mike's promise of ice-cream was stymied by a bar that only had drinks and coffee. No tea! But, toilets!

Two Turtle Doves wandered around the woods next to this bar/Ecomuseum. Ray wandered off into the scrub and called us all down to see a mirror orchid, just still hanging on. Poking around in the scrub we also came across bladder vetch, a sawfly orchid just hanging on, as well as a number of the very small bumble-orchids barely recognisable as such, and a few pyramidal and small-flowered tongue orchids.

We drove on to the tip of Cap de Cavallaria, a rocky moonscape that is the northern-most tip of Menorca and the whole Balearic Islands. Here we found rapidly the obligatory Blue Rock Thrush sitting on the lighthouse wall, a Tawny Pipit and a mystery falcon that Ray spotted around the lighthouse. After walking up to the cliff edge and stopping to admire the view, Lynne called us over to look at a strange flower, which turned out to be two perfectly formed dragon's-mouths, the flower par excellence of the island and one of the classical Tyrrhenian – i.e. endemic to Corsica, Sardinia, and the Balearics, that is, the islands of the Tyrrhenian Sea - elements of the local flora.. A find to almost put the Red-footed Falcons in the shade! But then, Ray's falcon flew overhead and we all got good views of this Eleonora's Falcon as it disappeared away at a rate of knots over the cliff edge.

Breathless, we drove down a little way from the cape and stopped to visit for the first time one of 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-altitude 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 plants 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 here, just coming into flower, but we also found cushions of *Anthyllis hystrix*, endemic to Menorca and protected by the Berne Convention, with as yet no flowers.

Still thirsting for more, we got back into the vans and stopped off above a little inlet with mud, but alas no birds. With time and energy still at hand, we decided to return to Lluriac to see what the afternoon could bring.

We were well rewarded, for almost as soon as we arrived we were watching a couple of Marsh Harriers and a female Montagu's Harrier spotted by Ray. Elsewhere there was a distant group of at least eight Red-footed Falcons high up in the air catching insects, a group of 12 Cattle Egrets, a Peregrine plucking and eating something on a pylon and a White Stork mixed in with a load of gulls. Ray spotted a raptor "with something three feet long hanging out of its beak" and Mike had quick views of a male Montagu's Harrier. Indeed, the sky was full of birds – raptors (Kestrels, Booted Eagle, Egyptian Vulture), Swifts, Bee-eaters and more. It would have been a great place to finish the day if the sewage farm at Es Mercadal hadn't still been awaiting us!! We stopped here briefly and caught up with a couple of Little Ringed Plovers and a solitary Wood Sandpiper.

A great day, with on the way home a view of virgin's bower, a magnificent winter-flowering *Clematis cirrhosa*, which in this case was still just in flower, on a wall by the wayside near the hotel.

## **Monday 28 April Barranc d'Alendar – Sa Roca – Cap de Fornells**

*Weather: Hot and sunny.*

With the fine weather continuing we headed off on time to the south coast for a look at the best of the little gorges that cut through the limestone plateau on the south coast.

We parked up behind Cala Galdana and before we could even start walking Ray had spotted some high Alpine Swifts. Once over the gate there good views of a Red Kite quartering over the fields, a couple of Great Tits, a Zitting Cisticola, familiar from the day before, and a Little Egret in a muddy field. More elusive were the Nightingales we could hear almost everywhere, Cetti's Warblers and a Scops Owl calling from up in the trees.

By the trackside we found three-cornered leek, a common flower on the island, bladder vetch with its inflated fruits, pyramidal orchids and a couple of interesting shrubs, pomegranate (semi-wild) and tree mallow. A little further on we found urospermum, *Pallenis spinosa*, with its spiny bracts, white or cymbalaria-leaved veronica, *Lythrum junceum* in the damp meadows and cut-leaved crane's-bill.

Also catching our interesting were the many Speckled Woods, Common Blues and Brown Arguses (Argi? – with a spot on the forewing to separate them from the female Common Blue). A Moorish Gecko moved quickly and gave us half views of part of its body, and we finally caught glimpses of a Nightingale, Cetti's Warbler and Wood Warbler more or less at the same place.

As we moved on along the floor of the gorge (*barranc*), Booted Eagles, Ravens, Kestrels and groups of over 6 Egyptian Vultures cruised above the cliffs on either side of the *barranc*. We stopped awhile in an area of taller holm oaks to try and see the Firecrest that Ray had heard – just David saw it before this elusive little bird moved off. Ray then had a quick flash of a Golden Oriole over the woods on the far side of the gorge, but alas! no one else got a binocular on it. We noted the frog-like notes of the Nightingale's song and struggled with a mystery falcon that eventually turned into a Peregrine.

We had lunch half in the shade, half out, watching the vultures and eagles, and then turned homewards. Our return trip was quicker, although we did manage to see a Scarlet Darter in one of the flooded fields, an oil beetle, Mediterranean honeysuckle and a Lang's Short-tailed Blue through Mike's telescope. And at the end, just as we had started, Ray spotted a group of 3 Alpine Swifts cruising along the edge of the gorge.

Next stop was Sa Roca, an area of mixed pine and holm-oak woodland in the centre of the island. Here we debussed and entered into an area of woodland with all the typical Mediterranean shrubs: strawberry-tree, myrtle, rush-leaved scorpion vetch, tree heath, *Dorycnium hirsutum*, *D. pentaphyllum* and the cistuses, grey-leaved and sage-leaved cistus. We soon came across large stands of field gladioli and rose garlic, decorating the forest in pink, as well as clumps of one of the most interesting plants here, violet limodorum, an orchid with strange partially opened flowers. Alas there were only a few a small-flowered tongue orchids, but no *Ophrys*. We also found a small member of the mallow family, rough marsh-mallow, *Vicia bithynica*, a small bi-flowered vetch, and the weird and wonderful red-and-yellow rock-rose parasite, *Cytinus hypocytisus*.

Of the fauna David and a couple others had the great fortune to startle a European Nightjar that they easily identified with the aid of the bird book, while two Norfolk Hawkers chased butterflies in the clearings.

From Sa Roca we headed down to the north coast at Fornells, not before stopping just off the road to try and get a view over the small salt-pans just outside the town. We crammed ourselves and the vans into a very small parking place and had views of one Cattle Egret with some cows, one Little Egret, three Greater Flamingoes, four Black-winged Stilts and a number of waders, including one Common Sandpiper, two Kentish Plovers, one Greenshank and five Curlew Sandpipers in mixed plumages.

Given the rather precarious nature of the parking spot we pushed on to Cap de Fornells rather quicker than we would have liked, and soon were walking over the scrubby rocky limestone up to the lighthouse at Fornells. Here the ground was covered with yellow patches of *Anthemis maritima* and *Lotus cytisoides*, sea spurge and flowerless clumps of *Limonium minutum*. Offshore we viewed a couple of pairs of Audouin's Gulls, and onshore the obligatory Tawny Pipit and Blue Rock Thrush.

Walking back to the van we passed through an area dominated by the *socarell* communities with, unlike yesterday, the green, moss-like cushions of *Anthyllis hystrix* beginning to be decorated by its tiny yellow flower. Hiding behind these cushions there were invariably small clumps of felty germander. To finish we found the woolly bushes of *Thymelaea velutina*, endemic to Mallorca and Menorca, and then Mike and Lynne

spotted bushes of *Thymalaea hirsuta*, the joint-pine *Ephedra fragilis* and a horned poppy which Mike said was yellow horned-poppy, but with leaves that were not similar to the British version.

And on that note we got back into the vans and headed for home.

## **Tuesday 29 April      Son Bou – El Toro – Punta Nati**

*Weather: Hot and sunny.*

After a few rather hectic days, we decided that today in the afternoon we would have a chance to relax in the afternoon back at the hotel.

The first sighting was that of a Stripeless Tree Frog on the screen door of Mike's room.

We left for the marshes at Son Bou as punctual as always and after a Cuckoo from the road we arrived just gone 10 o'clock. Reading the information board, we noted that we should look out for Wild leaks and Beach madwoman milk! (*Allium commutatum* & sea spurge, respectively).

We started the walk along a roped-off board walk through the dunes, noting Sodom's apple in fruit, the black-centred composite, *Reichardii delachampii*, *Scabiosa atropurpurea*, the yellow flowers of blackstonia and *Centratus calcitrapa*. We had a quick burst of dragonflies – a Scarlet Darter, a few Common Blue-tailed Damselves and a Winter Damsel. Amongst the larger plants, we noted the Phoenician juniper (subsp. *turbinata*), lentisc, butcher's broom and sharp rush. An Italian Wall Lizard was our only reptile sighting.

Ray found a first migrant in the bushes – a Common Redstart – that turned into both a Redstart and a Quail as Ray went around behind the bush (to see the birds!). Elsewhere along the path we noted lots of Sardinian Warblers, Linnets, Tawny Pipits and Stonechats, we well as a pair of Northern Wheatears, a Woodchat Shrike and a Purple Heron over the marsh. Alas, nowhere did we get a good view over the marsh and so we returned along the beach, some paddling some dodging the waves Canute-style.

Offshore we noted the banks of Posidonia, a marine flowering plant, whose remnants are regularly washed upon shore. Birdwise, there were 16 Shags on a rock, a couple of Cory's Shearwaters, a few Balearic Shearwaters, and a group of dolphins that we enjoyed watching. Nearer at hand a couple of Audouin's Gulls posed well and a solitary Greater Ringed Plover sat on a rocky outcrop.

Back at the vans we decided upon a quick visit to the peak of Monte Toro, the high point of the island and a wonderful viewpoint overlooking the whole north coast of the island. On top we explored the café and toilets, before driving down a little way to admire 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! In the scrub nearby we found large Mediterranean spurge and a solitary mirror orchid still in flower.

We return home for lunch and in the shade of the olive trees we were joined by a male Common Redstart feeding on the ground in the hotel garden.

In the afternoon we split into two groups, one heading for a stroll (and ice-creams) in Ciutadella, and the others spending more time enjoying the gardens of the hotel.

We all met up again at 6.30 at the wide-open spaces of Punta Nati, where we hoped to get views of the Stone Curlews that seem so common on the island. All we heard were some calls in the distance and resolved that the sightings of this elusive crepuscular bird would have to wait another day.

Instead we were treated to excellent views of the Cattle Egrets at the usual site and 20 Audouin's Gulls as well as the passerines we had seen on the first morning – Thekla and Short-toed Larks, Blue Rock Thrush and Tawny Pipit – and a wealth of raptors. Aside from the now familiar Egyptian Vultures and Booted Eagles, we were rewarded with three female Marsh Harriers, a couple of Kestrels, a couple of distant Red-footed Falcons on top of the stone building we had named the 'Zigurat', at least one Peregrine and a Merlin. Along the wall Mike pointed out wild capers and a squirting cucumber plant.

We walked down to the lighthouse and sea-watched awhile, seeing a lot of Cory's Shearwaters close in, along with a couple of Balearic Shearwaters, the latter much smaller and faster over the water. And as the sun was just beginning to set we headed home for a much later dinner than usual.

## **Wednesday 30 April      Mao – La Mola – S'Albufera des Grau**

*Weather: Hot and sunny.*

After the thrills and spills of the evening before, we decided to have another quieter day and so chose to take the sight-seeing boat around Maó harbour. This meant leaving the hotel slightly earlier to make sure we were there for 10.30 to give Mike time as well to go the offices of the GOB (Grup Ornitològic Balear) to sort out the following day's activity and offer them a small donation from the Travelling Naturalist.

That done, our boat left the quay punctually at 11.00 and headed out into what is the largest natural harbour in the western Mediterranean and one of the best in the whole world.

Plenty of Audouin's Gulls were cruising around the harbour, and as we turned towards the sea we had views of Sandwich Terns and Shags. A little nearer the mouth of the harbour an Osprey showed well over the sea and then as we were riding the swell off the coasts, Mike spotted a Squacco Heron on the coastal rocks which provided reasonable views from a slightly unsteady boat. Those who chose to visit the glass bottom saw very little, just some of the jellyfish that were very much in evidence on the surface too.

Back in port after a fascinating tour around the harbour with its history of conquests and reconquests, we headed off to have lunch in the car-park at La Mola. As we lunched a group of Bee-eaters flew over and a Cuckoo flew into a nearby fig tree. The sun brought out a number of Common Blues, Clouded Yellows, Small Coppers and our first Bath White. 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 and the pale yellow flowers of urospermum. On a small rocky outcrop there was a fine show of red stonecrop *Sedum rubens*

After lunch had been finished we decided to walk through the scrub a little hoping to see some migrants. Instead we found a rabbit, Red-legged Partridge and a true find of note (and anything but a fast-flying cross-Mediterranean migrant) in the form of a Hermann's Tortoise, stationary in the scrub, found by Judy. A great find! Elsewhere we watched a few Painted Ladies, admired a joint-pine bush all but in flower and watched a pair of Peregrine pointed out by Ray.

Next stop 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 saltpans covered in goosefoots and with a few Coot and the obligatory bread-eating 'dodgy' ducks. Turtle Doves purred from the trees behind, but otherwise there was little other bird life on the lagoon. A small pool held couple of Common Sandpipers, a Wood Sandpiper and four Black-winged Stilts and Mike disturbed a crab.

The scrub was full of typical Mediterranean shrubs such as narrow-leaved cistus, spiny broom – smelling great - and lentisc. On the way up to the *mirador* (vantage point), we found another Hermann's Tortoise, this one much larger than the previous one. Once on top, we were entertained by a couple of Black-winged Stilts on the lagoon below, a few distant Booted Eagles, a Great Crested Grebes, up to 10 Little Grebes and a Cormorant next to a Shag showing the size difference. More Mediterranean shrubs such as joint-pine, Phoenician juniper, common myrtle and a patch of *Prasium major* decorated the *mirador* itself.

Back down from the *mirador*, the pinewoods were eerily silent: a Great Tit picked up moss from a twig for its nest and a Turtle Dove sat immediately above us in the pines. We got back in the vans and headed for the bar where we had a relaxing drink before returning to Morvedra Nou, our Hotel.

We reconvened after dinner for a Stone Curlew expedition, having been frustrated the evening before and, despite Mike having found one in the field next to the hotel as we returned from the day's outing, we only heard one calling in the distance.

#### **Thursday 1 May      Mongofre Vell – Cap de Favàritx**

*Weather: Hot and sunny.*

For our last day we started bright and early with a pre-breakfast stroll in the fields next to the hotel. We noted the usual suspects – Thekla Lark, Tawny Pipit, Greenfinch and Sardinian Warbler – fairly quickly and then a Stone Curlew took off from nearby and flew straight into the morning sun and out of sight almost immediately. Of the group, only Lynne had a quick view, unfortunately.

Once breakfasted we set off for 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, passing through an area of lush pastures.

Once we parked, we started to walk along the track leading to the salt-pans, amidst tall Spanish broom, myrtle, lentisc, Mediterranean heath and narrow leaved cistus. Our first spot was a Long-tailed Blue, which here almost certainly lays its eggs on the Spanish broom. Further along the track we paused awhile to listen to a nearby Nightingale, which gave us a fleeting flying view as it changed bushes.

Just as we arrived at the far end of the salt-pans our first views were of three Little Egrets and a Greenshank wading in the shallow pools. Further away we spotted two Shelduck, the first ever in the history of this trip. On a freshwater pool on our right we stopped for a good selection of waders: more Greenshank, 3 Little Stint, various Little Ringed and Greater Ringed Plovers, a group of almost 20 Curlew Sandpipers, a few Wood Sandpipers and a solitary Common Redshank.

Continuing along the track through the salt-pans David B. found another Hermann's Tortoise in the scrub at the side of the track, while a *Lestes viridis* damselfly showed off its attractive metallic green coloration.

Looking back at the same pool we realised that there were also a couple of Reeves in and amongst the waders. A Purple Heron leapt out of the vegetation and flew off with a frog in its bill and Ray spotted a solitary Sanderling on the far side of one of the final freshwater pools.

We turned off the path a little way and heard our first and only Great Reed Warbler caterwauling in the bushes at the back of the salt-pans, but it refused to show itself.

By this time hunger was getting the best of us and so we turned around and headed back to the vans. On the way we spotted a couple of Cleopatra butterflies and more or less the same birds as we had seen on our outward journey. We drove off to picnic in a slightly more open area near the road to Favàritx, where Booted Eagle, Marsh Harrier, a Speckled Wood and Egyptian Vultures kept us entertained. Mike nipped into a field to pick a sprig of reversed clover, with small pink upside-down flowers.

From here we pushed onto Cap de Favàritx, a moonscape of bare rocks and windblown cliffs. We parked next to a pool near the lighthouse and had views of two very close-up Curlew Sandpipers, as well as Kentish and Greater Ringed Plovers. The walk up to the lighthouse was short, but once there we realised that the light was bad for seawatching and only with the telescopes could we see anything. Ray and Mike spotted the odd Cory's Shearwater and a large raft of Balearic Shearwaters, but, seeing as everything was rather distant, we decided to call it a day and head for the cushion plants before finishing the day at the marshes at Lluriac.

We returned a little way along the road and had a quick stroll in amongst the cushion plants and found three species of *socarrel*: the familiar *Anthyllis hystrix* (only found in the Aegean and Tyrrhenian Seas and Menorca) and *Launea cerviformis* (endemic to Menorca and Mallorca), as well as *Astragalus balearicus* (endemic to Menorca and Mallorca) and *Anthyllis fulgurans* (endemic to Menorca), all in tight spiny cushions.

Lluriac was slightly drier than during the previous visit, and again we struggled slightly to find birds on the half-hidden pools. Ray walked along the road to view the pool behind the farm and reported back four Gadwall and a Squacco Heron. We parked further along the road and started to walk towards the more flooded area. Mike's Dragonfly-studying friend Esther turned up and we talked to her a bit about the dragonflies of the area. We also chatted to another group who seemed to have seen similar birds as us during the last week (as was to be expected).

On the marsh there were the same Purple Herons as last week and a number of female-type Marsh Harriers in the air. Bee-eaters were in the air, as were the obligatory Booted Eagles and Kestrels. Ray spotted a female Pied Flycatcher in the bushes.

We moved around to the other side of the marshes in the hope of something different: we looked at a fresh Red-veined Darter through Mike's telescope and Ray spotted a group of at least eight Red-footed Falcons in the air in the distance. And as a pleasant ending, an Osprey flew over with a fish in its talons.

## **Friday 2 May                      Home**

*Weather: Hot and sunny.*

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 bird order follows the new IOC 'Birds of the World' checklist (Gill & Wright).

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.

### *Grouse, Pheasants & allies - Phasianidae*

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

Seen several times near the Hotel and elsewhere on the island.

**Quail** *Coturnix coturnix*. (8/9)

Widespread and common in fields throughout, mainly heard but one was flushed at Son Bou.

### *Geese, Swans & Ducks - Anatidae*

**(Common) Shelduck** *Tadorna tadorna*. (1/2)

2 at Mongofre Nou on the 1<sup>st</sup> May.

**Gadwall** *Anas strepera* (2/4)

Seen near the Tirant Marsh on the 27<sup>th</sup> & 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Mallard** *Anas platyrhynchos*. (4/60+)

Usually found near any area of fresh water on the island.

### *Shearwaters & Petrels - Procellariidae*

**Cory's Shearwater** *Calonectris diomedea*. (3/100+)

Seen off Punta Nati and Cap de Favàritx.

**Balearic Shearwater** *Puffinus mauretanicus*. (2/100+)

Recorded at Son Bou and Cap de Favàritx.

### *Grebes - Podicipedidae*

**Little Grebe** *Tachybaptus ruficollis*. (3/11)

Highest count was at Es Grau on the 30<sup>th</sup>.

**Great Crested Grebe** *Podiceps cristatus* (1/1)

Single at Es Grau on the 30<sup>th</sup>.

### *Flamingos - Phoenicopteridae*

**Greater Flamingo** *Phoenicopterus ruber*. (2/3)

3 seen at Fornells on the 28<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup>.

### *Storks - Ciconiidae*

**White Stork** *Ciconia ciconia*. (1/1)

One over the Tirant Marsh on the 27<sup>th</sup>.

### *Hérons & Bitterns - Ardeidae*

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

1 at La Mola on the 30<sup>th</sup> and 1 near the Tirant Marsh on the 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Cattle Egret** *Bubulcus ibis* (5/175)

Roost of 80+ seen near Punta Nati on the 26<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup>.

**Grey Heron** *Ardea cinerea* (2/2)

Singles found on the 27<sup>th</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup>.

**Purple Heron** *Ardea purpurea*. (3/5)

4 on the Tirant Marsh on the 27<sup>th</sup> & 1<sup>st</sup>.

1 at Son Bou on the 29<sup>th</sup>.

**Little Egret** *Egretta garzetta*. (4/12)

Maximum count of 6 on the 1<sup>st</sup>.

### *Cormorants - Phalacrocoracidae*

**Great Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax carbo* (1/1)

1 at Es Grau on the 30<sup>th</sup>.

**Shag** *Phalacrocorax aristotelis* (5/38)

Common along the coast.

**Falcons & allies - Falconidae**

**Eurasian Kestrel** *Falco tinnunculus* (8/100+)  
Common & widespread throughout the island.

**Red-footed Falcon** *Falco vespertinus*. (3/18)  
8 at the Tirant Marsh on the 27<sup>th</sup> & 1<sup>st</sup>.  
2 at Punta Nati on the 29<sup>th</sup>.

**Eleonora's Falcon** *Falco eleonora*. (1/1)  
One at Cap de Cavalleria on the 27<sup>th</sup>.

**Merlin** *Falco columbarius*. (1/1)  
Male at Punta Nati on the 29<sup>th</sup>.

**Peregrine Falcon** *Falco peregrinus*. (4/6)  
Seen inland and at coastal sites.

**Osprey - Pandionidae**

**Osprey** *Pandion haliaetus*. (2/2)  
1 at La Mola on the 30<sup>th</sup> and one with fish at the Tirant Marsh on the 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Hawks, Eagles & allies - Accipitridae**

**Red Kite** *Milvus milvus*. (7/31)  
Widespread throughout the island.

**Egyptian Vulture** *Neophron percnopterus*. (7/40)  
Highest count was 10 on the 25<sup>th</sup> near the Hotel.

**Western Marsh Harrier** *Circus aeruginosus*. (4/11)  
Maximum daily count of 5 on the 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Montagu's Harrier** *Circus pygargus*. (2/2)  
Females over the Tirant Marsh on the 27<sup>th</sup> & 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Booted Eagle** *Hieraetus pennatus* (7/55)  
Widespread throughout the island.

**Rails, Crakes & Coots - Rallidae**

**Water Rail** *Rallus aquaticus*. (1/1)  
One heard on the Tirant Marsh on the 27<sup>th</sup>.

**Purple Swamphen** *Porphyrio porphyrio*. (2/2)  
Heard only at the Tirant Marsh on the 27<sup>th</sup> & 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Common Moorhen** *Gallinula chloropus* (2/2)  
Singles near the Tirant Marsh on the 27<sup>th</sup> & 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Eurasian Coot** *Fulica atra*. (5/60)  
Common in suitable habitat.

**Stone-Curlews/Thick-Knees - Burhinidae**

**European Stone-curlew** *Burhinus oediconemus*. (5/6)  
Heard several times near the Hotel with one seen briefly on the 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Stilts & Avocets - Recurvirostridae**

**Black-winged Stilt** *Himantopus himantopus*. (4/21)  
Found in saline and freshwater habitats.

**Plovers & Lapwings - Charadriidae**

**Common Ringed Plover** *Charadrius hiaticula*. (3/8)  
Found in saline and freshwater habitats in small numbers.

**Little Ringed Plover** *Charadrius dubius*. (2/12)  
2 at the sewage works near the Tirant Marsh on the 27<sup>th</sup> and 10 at Mongofre Nou on the 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Kentish (Snowy) Plover** *Charadrius alexandrinus*. (3/4)

2 at Fornells on the 28<sup>th</sup>, 1 at Son Bou on the 29<sup>th</sup> and 1 at Mongofre Nou on the 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Sandpipers, Snipes & allies - Scolopacidae**

**Common Redshank** *Tringa totanus*. (1/1)

Single at Mongofre Nou on the 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Common Greenshank** *Tringa nebularia* (2/4)

1 at Fornells on the 28<sup>th</sup> & 3 at Mongofre Nou on the 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Wood Sandpiper** *Tringa glareola*. (3/44)

Recorded on three dates with a max of 30+ on the 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Common Sandpiper** *Actitis hypoleucos*. (4/12)

Maximum of 6 on the 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Sanderling** *Calidris alba*. (1/1)

Single at Mongofre Nou on the 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Little Stint** *Calidris minuta*. (1/4)

Four at Mongofre Nou on the 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Curlew Sandpiper** *Calidris ferruginea* (2/28)

5 at Fornells on the 28<sup>th</sup> plus 23 at Mongofre Nou on the 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Dunlin** *Calidris alpina*. (1/5)

5 at Fornells on the 28<sup>th</sup>.

**Ruff** *Philomachus pugnax*. (1/8)

6 at Mongofre Nou and 2 at Tirant Marsh on the 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Gulls, Terns & Skimmers - Laridae**

**Audouin's Gull** *Larus audouinii*. (4/47)

Maximum day count of 32 on the 29<sup>th</sup>.

**Yellow-legged Gull** *Larus cachinnans*. (7/250+)

Common and widespread over the island.

**Black-headed Gull** *Larus ridibundus*. (1/1)

Single at Es Grau on the 30<sup>th</sup>.

**Sandwich Tern** *Sterna sandvicensis*. (1/2)

Two in Mahón harbour on the 30<sup>th</sup>.

**Pigeons & Doves - Columbidae**

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

Common and widespread throughout the island.

**Common Woodpigeon** *Columba palumbus* (7/100)

Common and widespread throughout the island.

**Turtle Dove** *Streptopelia turtur* (5/18)

Maximum day counts of 6 on the 30<sup>th</sup> and 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Eurasian Collared Dove** *Streptopelia decaocto* (7/100)

Common and widespread throughout the island.

**Cuckoos - Cuculidae**

**Common (Eurasian) Cuckoo** *Cuculus canorus*. (4/4)

Single birds on 4 days only.

**Owls - Strigidae**

**European Scops Owl** *Otus Scops* (5/11)

2 heard & 1 seen briefly on the 25<sup>th</sup> at the hotel.

3 heard on the 26<sup>th</sup> at the Hotel.

3 heard at the Algendar Gorge during the day on the 28<sup>th</sup>.

1 heard at the Hotel on the 29<sup>th</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup>.

**Nightjars - Caprimulgidae**

**(European) Nightjar** *Caprimulgus europaeus* (1/1)  
1 flushed in woodland near Sa Roca on the 28<sup>th</sup>.

**Swifts - Apodidae**

**Alpine Swift** *Apus melba* (1/3)  
3 over the Algendar Gorge on the 28<sup>th</sup>.

**Common Swift** *Apus apus*. (7/100's)  
Common and widespread throughout the island.

**Pallid Swift** *Apus pallidus* (5/10's)  
Smaller numbers seen throughout the island

**Bee-eaters - Meropidae**

**European Bee-eater** *Merops apiaster* (6/150+)  
Seen throughout the island in good numbers but many more were heard only.

**Hoopoes - Upupidae**

**Eurasian Hoopoe** *Upupa epops* (7/13+)  
Recorded throughout the island in small numbers.

**Shrikes - Laniidae**

**Woodchat Shrike** *Lanius senator* (7/33)  
Observed in small numbers, widespread with a day max of 10 on the 27<sup>th</sup>.

**Crows, Jays & Magpies - Corvidae**

**Common Raven** *Corvus corax* (7/51)  
Recorded throughout the island in small numbers.

**Tits & Chickadees - Paridae**

**Great Tit** *Parus major* (5/10)  
One heard at the Tirant Marsh on the 27<sup>th</sup>.  
6+ at Algendar Gorge on the 28<sup>th</sup>.  
Singles on 3 other days.

**Swallows & Martins - Hirundinidae**

**Sand Martin** (Bank swallow) *Riparia riparia* (4/7)  
Singles on 3 dates and a max of 5 on the 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Barn Swallow** *Hirundo rustica* (7/100's)  
Seen throughout the island in good numbers.

**House Martin** *Delichon urbica*. (7/100's)  
Recorded throughout the island in good numbers.

**Larks - Alaudidae**

**Greater Short-toed Lark** *Calandrella brachydactyla* (2/11)  
5 in total over several sites on the 26<sup>th</sup>.  
6 in total recorded on the 29<sup>th</sup>.

**Thekla Lark** *Galerida theklae* (5/28)  
Highest count of 10 on the 26<sup>th</sup>.

**Cisticolas & allies - Cisticolidae**

**Zitting Cisticola (Fan-tailed Warbler)** *Cisticola juncidis* (3/15)  
10+ on the 27<sup>th</sup>.  
1 on the 28<sup>th</sup>.  
4+ on the 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Old World Warblers - Sylviidae**

**Cetti's Warbler** *Cettia cetti* (7/16)

At least 16 recorded, some seen but mainly heard in suitable habitat.

**Great Reed Warbler** *Acrocephalus arundinaceus* (1/1)

One singing at Mongofre Nou on the 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Willow Warbler** *Phylloscopus trochilus* (3/3)

Single heard near the Hotel on the 26<sup>th</sup>.

One singing at Son Bou on the 29<sup>th</sup>.

One seen on the 1<sup>st</sup> at Mongofre Nou.

**Chiffchaff** *Phylloscopus collybita* (1/1)

1 on the 27<sup>th</sup> at the Tirant Marsh.

**Wood Warbler** *Phylloscopus sibilatrix* (1/1).

1 on the 28<sup>th</sup> at the Algendar Gorge.

**Blackcap** *Sylvia atricapilla* (1/2)

2 on the 28<sup>th</sup> at the Algendar Gorge.

**Sardinian Warbler** *Sylvia melanocephala* (7/38+)

**Firecrest** *Regulus ignicapillus* (1/3)

1 seen and 2 heard on the 28<sup>th</sup> at the Algendar Gorge.

**Starlings - Sturnidae**

**Spotless Starling** *Sturnus unicolor* (7/22+)

Seen regularly at one site with others seen elsewhere on the island.

**Thrushes - Turdidae**

**Eurasian Blackbird** *Turdus merula* (7/20)

Recorded throughout the island in small numbers.

**Old World Chats & Flycatchers - Muscicapidae**

**Common Nightingale** *Luscinia megarhynchos* (7/25)

Many more heard than seen but some were friendly enough to show themselves.

**Common Redstart** *Phoenicurus phoenicurus* (1/3)

1 male at Son Bou & 2 males at the Hotel on the 29<sup>th</sup>.

**Whinchat** *Saxicola rubetra* (5/17)

Male having a shower (under a leaking bowser) at Naveta des Tudons on the 26<sup>th</sup>.

An obvious 'fall' as 10+ seen on the 27<sup>th</sup>.

3 males on the 29<sup>th</sup> and single on 30<sup>th</sup>. 2 recorded on the 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Common Stonechat** *Saxicola torquata* (5/17)

Common and widespread over the island, under-recorded.

**Northern Wheatear** *Oenanthe oenanthe* (3/12)

Singles on 2 dates. 10+ on the 29<sup>th</sup> at Son Bou.

**Blue Rock-thrush** *Monticola solitarius* (6/24)

At least 10 seen at Punta Nati on the 26<sup>th</sup>.

Smaller numbers recorded on 5 other days.

**Spotted Flycatcher** *Muscicapa striata*. (6/12)

Pair breeding at the hotel. Small numbers located on 5 other days.

**European Pied Flycatcher** *Ficedula hypoleuca* (1/1)

Female found at the Tirant Marsh on the 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Old World Sparrows & allies - Passeridae**

**House Sparrow** *Passer domesticus* (8/100's)

Common and seen daily throughout the island.

**Wagtails & Pipits - Motacillidae**

**Yellow Wagtail** *Motacilla flava* (2/14)

12+ at Naveta des Tudons on the 26<sup>th</sup>.  
2 on the 27<sup>th</sup> at the Tirant Marsh.

**Tawny Pipit** *Anthus campestris* (6/18)  
Widespread and quite frequent in suitable habitat.

**Finches & allies - Fringillidae**

**Chaffinch** *Fringilla coelebs* (2/7)  
6+ on the 28<sup>th</sup> at the Algendar Gorge.  
Single seen on the 29<sup>th</sup>.

**European Greenfinch** *Carduelis chloris* (7/40+)  
Common and widespread over the island.

**European Goldfinch** *Carduelis carduelis* (7/50+)  
Common and frequent throughout the island.

**Eurasian Linnet** *Carduelis cannabina* (5/29)  
Common and widespread throughout the island.

**Buntings, New World Sparrows & allies - Emberizidae**

**Corn Bunting** *Emberiza calandra* (8/100+)  
Common and seen daily throughout the island.

**MAMMALS**

**European Rabbit** *Oryctolagus cuniculus*.  
**Dormouse** sp. ??  
**Algerian Hedgehog** *Atelerix algirus*. (Dead)  
**Bottle-nosed Dolphin** *Tursiops truncatus*

**AMPHIBIANS**

**Stripeless Tree Frog** *Hyla meridionalis*.

**REPTILES**

**Moorish Gecko** *Tarentola mauretanicus*.  
**Italian Wall Lizard** *Podarcis sicula*.

**Hermann's Tortoise** *Testudo hermanni*.  
**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*  
**Small Copper** *Lycaena phlaeas*  
**Brown Argus** *Aricia agestis*.  
**Common Blue** *Polyommatus icarus*.  
**Long-tailed Blue** *Lampides boeticus*  
**Lang's Short-tailed Blue** *Laptotes pirithous*  
**Holly Blue** *Celastrina argiolus*  
**Red Admiral** *Vanessa atalanta*.  
**Painted Lady** *Vanessa cardui*.  
**Meadow Brown** *Maniola jurtina*  
**Speckled Wood** *Pararge aegeria*.  
**Wall Brown** *Lasiommata megera*.  
**Small Heath** *Coenonympha pamphilius*.

**OTHER INSECTS**

**Pine Processionary Moth** *Thaumetopoea pityocampa* (nest).  
**Red-veined Darter** *Sympetrum fonscolombeii*.  
**Blue-tailed Damselfly** *Ischnura elegans*.  
**Green-eyed Hawker** *Aeshna isocetes*.

Scarlet Darter *Crocothemis erythraea*.  
 Willow Emerald Damselfly *Lestes viridis*.  
 Winter Damselfly *Sympecma fusca*.  
 Egyptian Grasshopper *Anacridium aegyptium*.  
 Violet Carpenter Bee *Xylocopa violacea*.  
 Tawny mining bee *Andrena fulva*.  
 Paper Wasp *Polistes gallicus*.  
 Pollen Beetle *Oxythyrea funestra*.  
 Scorpion *Buthus occitanus*.  
 Violet Ground Beetle *Carabus violaceus*.  
 Oil Beetle *Meloe* sp.  
 Ladybird-2spot *Adalia bipunctata*.  
 Ladybird-7 spot *Coccinella 7-punctata*.

OTHER TAXA

Jellyfish sp.  
 Millipede sp.  
 Red-headed Carpenter Bee.  
 Tiger Beetle sp.  
 2 Spot Carpenter Bee.  
 Mullet sp.  
 Crab sp.  
 Sea Urchin sp.  
 Red Underwing Moth sp.

Ray Nowicki & Mike Lockwood, April/May 2008

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**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.

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.

SB: Son Bou; TG: Torre d'en Gaumes; EM: Es Mercadal, Depuradora; T: Lluriac (Tirant) marshes; CC: Cap de Cavallaria; MT: Monte Toro; MN: Mongofre Nou; CFa: Cap de Favàritx; CFo: Cap de Fornells; F: Fornells; PN: Punta Nati; SR: Sa Roca; AG: Algendar Gorge; NT: Naveta des Tudons; EG: S'Albufera d'Es Grau; LM: La Mola; HMN: Hotel, Morvedra Nou.

Latin name	English name	Comments
<b>GYMNOSPERMS – Conifers</b>		
<b>Pinaceae Pine family</b>		
<i>Pinus halepensis</i>	Aleppo Pine	The only native pine
<b>Cupressaceae Cypress family</b>		
<i>Juniperus phoenicea</i> subsp. <i>turbinata</i>	Phoenicean Juniper	Adapted for life on dunes and widespread.
<b>Ephedraceae family Joint-pine family</b>		
<i>Ephedra fragilis</i>	Joint Pine	Erect shrub with brittle stems EG, CC, EG

<b>ANGIOSPERMS - Flowering Plants</b>		
<b>Dicotyledons</b>		
<b>Fagaceae Oak family</b>		
<i>Quercus ilex</i>	Holm Oak	Quite common
<b>Rafflesiaceae Rafflesia family</b>		
<i>Cytinus hypocystis</i>	Cytinus	toothy bulbous parasitic perennial; SR
<b>Ulmaceae Elm family</b>		
* <i>Ulmus minor</i>	Small-leaved Elm	A fine line of them AG
<b>Moraceae Mulberry family</b>		
<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
<b>Santalaceae Sandalwood family</b>		
<i>Osyris alba</i>	Osyris	SR
<b>Urticaceae Nettle family</b>		
<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
<b>Polygonaceae Dock family</b>		
<i>Rumex bucephalophorus</i>		A small dock with fruit on curved stalks. Widespread
<b>Chenopodiaceae Fat-hen family</b>		
<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
<b>Phytolaccaceae Pokeweed family</b>		
<i>Phytolacca arborea</i>	Ombu	Intriguing S. American bush/tree at MG
<b>Aizoaceae</b>		
<i>Carpobrotus edulis</i>	Hottentot Fig	A garden escape known locally as 'patatas fritas' because of the leaf shape.
<b>Caryophyllaceae Pink family</b>		
<i>Silene gallica</i>	Small-flowered catchfly	HMN CC EG
<i>S. vulgaris</i>	Bladder Campion	MG
<i>S. sedoides</i>		Fleshy leaved, found in rocky coastal areas PN, Cfo
<i>Kohlruschia</i>	Kohlruschia	NT
[= <i>Petrorhagia</i> ] <i>verlutina</i>		
<b>Ranunculaceae Buttercup family</b>		
<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	
<b>Caper family <i>Capparaceae</i></b>		
<i>Capparis spinosa</i>	Caper	On the walls a Punta Nati PN
<b>Papaveraceae Poppy family</b>		
<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
<b>Fumariaceae Fumitory family</b>		
<i>Fumaria capreolata</i>	Ramping Fumitory	White/cream flowers, tipped with red
<i>F. officinalis</i>	Common Fumitory	
<b>Cruciferae Cress family</b>		
* <i>Sisymbrium officinale</i>	Hedge Mustard	
* <i>Matthiola incana</i>	Hoary Stock	Mauve or white with sweet scent
<i>Lobularia maritima</i> [= <i>Alyssum maritimum</i> ]	Sweet Alison	Common; our annual bedding plant at home HMN SB
<i>Cakile maritima</i>	Sea Rocket	SB
* <i>Raphanus raphanistrum</i>	Wild Radish	
<b>Resedaceae Mignonette family</b>		
<i>Reseda alba</i>	White Mignonette	Common roadside and field weed but pretty
<b>Crassulaceae Stonecrop family</b>		
<i>Umbilicus rupestris</i>	Navelwort or Wall Pennywort	AG, TG
<i>Sedum rubens</i>	Red stonecrop	LM
<i>Sedum sediforme</i>		Leaves at MN
<b>Rosaceae Rose family</b>		
<i>Poterium verrucosum</i> [= <i>Sanguisorba minor</i> subsp. <i>magnolii</i> ]	Mediterranean Salad Burnet	MG
<i>Rubus ulmifolius</i>	Bramble	
<b>Leguminosae Pea family</b>		
<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> EBal		In flower at Favàritx. The only <i>socarrell</i> in flower
<i>Anthyllis hystrix</i> EMen		With <i>L. cerviformis</i> & <i>T. polium</i> at CF.
<i>Anthyllis fulgurans</i> EBal		Another <i>socarrell</i> at Favàritx CFa
<i>Psoralea bituminosa</i>	Pitch Trefoil	Attractive plant with blue pea-flowers, leaves smelling of pitch HMN 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
<i>Lathyrus annuus</i>		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>Coronilla juncea</i>	Rush-leaved scorpion vetch	In flower at Sa Roca SR

<i>Lotus cytisoides</i>		Dunes yellow with this pea-flower SB
<i>L. creticus</i>	Southern Bird's foot Trefoil	Common
<i>Anthyllis tetraphylla</i>	Bladder Vetch	Creamy flowers with inflated fruits AG
<i>Hedysarum coronarium</i>	Italian Sainfoin	Unforgettable. Striking red pea-flowers. Road verges.
<b>Oxalidaceae Sorrel family</b>		
<i>Oxalis pes-caprae</i> -	Bermuda Buttercup	Many fields over-run with this yellow S. African plant
<b>Geraniaceae Geranium family</b>		
<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>Erodium molle</i>	Dove's-foot crane'sbill	
<i>E. cicutarium</i>	Common Stork's Bill	
<b>Linaceae Flax family</b>		
<i>Linum bienne</i>	Pale Flax	Dainty plant with delicate blue flowers MN
* <i>L. trigynum</i>		Dainty plant with delicate yellow flowers
<b>Euphorbiaceae Spurge family</b>		
<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 MT
<i>E. myrsinites</i>	Broad-leaved Glauous / Garrigue Spurge	CF
<b>Anacardiaceae Pistacio family</b>		
<i>Pistachia lentiscus</i>	Lentisc/Gum Mastic	Widespread shrub. Once much used for its resin
<b>Rhamnaceae Buckthorn family</b>		
<i>Rhamnus alaternus</i>	Mediterranean Buckthorn	Common evergreen shrub
<b>Malvaceae Mallow family</b>		
* <i>Lavatera cretica</i>	Cretan Mallow	
<i>L. arborea</i>	Tree Mallow	SB TG
<b>Thymelaeaceae Daphne Family</b>		
<i>Thymelaea hirsuta</i>		A characteristic low shrub with pendulous stems; dry, stony places. EC
<i>Thymelaea velutina</i>		Con. Endemic to Mallorca and Menorca
<b>Guttiferae St. John's Wort family</b>		
<i>Hypericum perforatum</i>	Perforate St. John's Wort	HMN
<b>Cistaceae Rockrose family</b>		
<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. creticum</i>		Smallish pink flowers and reticulate leaves
<i>C. salvifolius</i>	Sage-leaved Cistus	Large white flowers
<b>Frankeniaceae Sea Heath family</b>		
<i>Frankenia laevis</i>	Sea Heath	CF
<b>Tamaricaceae Tamarisk family</b>		
Tamarisk		Probably several species
<b>Cucurbitaceae Cucumber family</b>		
<i>Ecballium elaterium</i>	Squirting cucumber	PN
<b>Cactaceae Cactus family</b>		
<i>Opuntia ficus-carica</i>	PricklyPear	Introduced. Occasionally seen with fruit

<b>Lythraceae Loosestrife family</b>		
<i>Lythrum junceum</i>		Damp meadows BA
<b>Myrtaceae Myrtle family</b>		
<i>Myrtus communis</i>	Common myrtle	Common shrub SR
<b>Araliaceae Ivy family</b>		
<i>Hedera helix</i>	Ivy	
<b>Punicaceae Pomengranate family</b>		
* <i>Punica granatum</i>	Pomegranate	AG
<b>Umbelliferae Carrot family</b>		
* <i>Eryngium campestre</i>	Field Eryngo	HMN 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
<b>Ericaceae Heath family</b>		
<i>Arbutus unedo</i>	Strawberry Tree	Evergreen tree often with flowers and fruits together SR MN
<i>Erica arborea</i>	Tree Heath	MN SR
<b>Primulaceae Primrose family</b>		
<i>Anagallis arvensis</i>	Scarlet Pimpernel	Mainly in its blue flowered form
<b>Plumbaginaceae Thrift family</b>		
<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.
<b>Oleaceae Olive family</b>		
<i>Phillyrea media</i> var. <i>rodriguezii</i> EMen		Wind-blown cushions on north coast
<i>Olea europaea</i>	Olive	usually planted but wild trees frequent HMN F
<b>Gentianaceae Gentian family</b>		
<i>Blackstonia perfoliata</i>	Yellow-wort	Leaves at SR, SB
<i>Centaurium erythraea</i>	Common Centaury	
<i>Centaurium maritimum</i>	Yellow Centaury	CC rocky coasts
<b>Apocynaceae Oleander family</b>		
<i>Vinca difformis</i>	Intermediate Periwinkle	Some colonies with pale blue flowers
<b>Rubiaceae Bedstraw family</b>		
<i>Galium aparine</i>	Goose-grass	
* <i>G. verrucosum</i>	Warty-fruited Goose-grass	
<i>Sherardia arvensis</i>	Field madder	Small pink flowers MHN MG
<i>Rubia peregrina</i> -	Wild madder	Scrambling plant with hooked bristles EG
<b>Convolvulaceae Bindweed family</b>		
* <i>Calystegia soldanella</i>	Sea Bindweed	In dunes at EG
<i>Convolvulus althaeoides</i>	Mallow-leaved Bindweed	Common in fields HMN
<b>Boraginaceae Borage family</b>		
<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 HMN
<i>Cynoglossum creticum</i>	Blue Hound's-tongue	Softly hairy with veined blue flower HMN
<b>Labiatae Mint family</b>		
<i>Teucrium capitatum</i> [=T.	Felty germander	Clusters of tight pink occasionally white

<i>polium]</i>		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>Sideritis romana</i>		NT
<i>Rosmarinus officinalis</i>	Rosemary	Prostrate in harsh habitats SR
<i>Salvia verbenaca</i>	Meadow Clary	MG
<b>Scrophulariaceae Figwort family</b>		
* <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 HMN
* <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	Open areas AG MG NT HMN
<i>Bellardia trixago</i>	Bellardia	Attractive spike of pink and white flowers. HMN MG, NT and elsewhere
<b>Orobanchaceae Broomrape family</b>		
<i>Orobanche ramosa</i>	Branched Broomrape	Blue flower MG, NT
<i>O. minor</i>	Common Broomrape	MG+
* <i>O. crinita</i>		Red broomrape on <i>Lotus creticus</i> – Es Canutells
<b>Plantaginaceae Plantago family</b>		
<i>Plantago coronopus</i>	Buck's-horn Plantain	Underfoot at numerous sites
<i>P. maritima</i> ssp <i>crassifolia</i>		Fleshy-leaved coastal plant
<i>P. afra</i>		Much branched plantain. NT
<b>Caprifoliaceae Honeysuckle family</b>		
<i>Lonicera implexa</i>	Mediterranean Honeysuckle	SR, EG
<b>Valerianaceae Valerian family</b>		
<i>Centranthus calcitrapa</i>		Pink flowerlets, variable and in most habitats NT
<b>Dipsacaceae Scabious family</b>		
<i>Scabiosa maritima</i> [= <i>S. atropurpurea</i> ]	Mournful Widow	A dune scabious. SB
<b>Compositae Daisy family</b>		
<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 chamaecyparissus</i> ssp. <i>magonica</i>	Lavender Cotton	CF
<i>Anthemis maritimus</i>		Fleshy leaved coastal plant with daisy flowers CF
<i>Chrysanthemum</i>		Everywhere. Bright yellow or bi-coloured

<i>coronarium</i>		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. HMN 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
<b>MONOCOTYLEDONS</b>		
<b>Liliaceae Lily family</b>		
<i>Asphodelus aestivus</i>	Common asphodel	Common taller asphodel. Attractive but a serious weed HMN
<i>A. fistulosus</i>	Hollow-leaved asphodel	Shorter, with rounded hollow leaves. An equal pest. MG HMN
<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 HMN
<i>Asparagus albus</i>	White Asparagus	White stems with sharp spines beside leaf-like tufts, MG HMN
<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 HMN
<i>A. triquetrum</i>	Three-cornered Leek	a common weed but attractively so
<i>*A. cupanii</i>		EG
<b>Amaryllidaceae Daffodil family</b>		
<i>Leucojum aestivum</i>	Summer Sowflake	MN
<i>Pancratium maritimum</i>	Sea Daffodil	Leaves aplenty on sandy shores
<b>Iridaceae Iris family</b>		
<i>Gladiolus italicus</i>	Field Gadiolus	The common field weed gladiolus HMN
<i>*G. illyricus</i>		An attractive, rather dainty and dark-flowered gladiolus
<i>Romulea columnae</i>	Sand Crocus	In seed MG
<b>Araceae Arum family</b>		
<i>Dracunculus muscivorus</i>	Dragon's Mouth	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.	

<b>Orchidaceae Orchid family</b>		
<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	NT
<i>Ophrys speculum</i>	Mirror Orchid	MG MT CCAAlso 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 HMN
<i>Serapias parviflora</i>	Small-flowered Tongue Orchid	SB MG NT
<b>Gramineae Grass family</b>		
* <i>Lamarkia aurea</i>	Golden Dog's-tail	MG
* <i>Briza major</i>	Large Quaking Grass	HMN
* <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 mauretanica</i>		A robust plant with striking flower heads up to 3m. tall CC
<i>Arundo donax</i>	Giant Reed	AG
<i>Phragmites australis</i>	Common Reed	SB
<b>Juncaceae Rush family</b>		
<i>Juncus acutus</i>	Sharp Rush	With very sharp spines SB