

Menorca

Friday 24 April – Friday 1 May 2009

Trip Report

Leader:

Ray Nowicki

Daily diary

Friday 24 April. UK to Morvedra Nou

Weather: Sunny and warm but with a cool breeze.

As the group left the UK from three different airports it was a case of let us meet up at Mahon airport and what a joy it was! We are soon on the road and heading towards Ciutadella and find numerous insect victims hitting the windscreen but worse comes with the premature death of a Thekla Lark. We manage to avoid further trouble and turn off the busy main road and head towards the hotel seeing our first Spotless Starlings at the usual place before turning into the car park. The hotel staff are very welcoming and sort us into our rooms and even manage to magic a spot of light lunch for us. During lunch we are interrupted by some good birds drifting past and so when the food is finished we pull on our boots and start to explore the nearby fields. We soon find *Ophrys vernixia*, *Anacamptis pyramidalis*, *Serapias lingua* and *Orobanche ramosa*. The birdlife has started to get busy and we see Stonechat, Whinchat, Sardinian Warbler, Thekla Lark, Northern Wheatear, Woodchat Shrike, Booted Eagle, Egyptian Vulture, Red Kite and Raven.

As we start to walk back a Stone-curlew flies from our field and away up the hill giving us prolonged views. A few of us continue to enjoy the warmth and carry on birding and manage to find Pied Flycatcher, Willow Warbler but can only hear not see a very close Quail calling in the nearby field! We then gather to enjoy a generous meal and as we leave hear at least 2 Scops Owl calling not too far away as we retire to a well earned sleep.

Saturday 25 April. Tirant Marsh & Cap de Cavalleria

Weather: Overcast, windy with light rain late afternoon.

We depart after a good breakfast and head for the Tirant marsh. We soon stop to study the colony of Spotless Starlings that we drive past twice a day and manage to observe a male in display; we also find several Cattle Egrets flying past plus a few Booted Eagles before moving on. We enter the Tirant area from the eastern side and park near a farm and then walk the short distance to a vantage point overlooking a wetland area. We soon hear Bee-eater but cannot find them high in the sky so we concentrate on finding Squacco and Grey Heron, Mallard, Gadwall, Shoveler, Moorhen and Zitting Cisticola. We then turn around to look at the birds behind us and have good views of Tawny Pipit before moving to another vantage point. Just as we emerge from the vehicle we hear and find the Bee-eaters, some flying past and some perched for us to enjoy via the telescope. In the scrub nearby we hear Grasshopper Warbler, Nightingale and Sardinian Warbler. As we search for other species we begin to find the first of many Booted Eagles that drift overhead, we also see Egyptian Vulture before moving to a much higher vantage point near a farm. We start to walk along the road and quickly see a Purple Heron flying briefly over the marsh and watch Little Egret fishing. At least four Purple Heron are located and then a Squacco Heron is found perched on a wall, we then gasp as an adult Purple Swamphen walks in full view at the edge of the marsh. It is nearly lunchtime so we drive the short distance to the café area at Cap de Cavalleria to find that it does not open until Friday next week so we drive up to the lighthouse area, admiring an Avocet in the bay en-route and then have our lunch. We emerge into a windswept landscape and explore the ground looking at the plants hoping to find Dragons-mouth and it is not long before we find several plants but most are not in flower or have finished

flowering. As we start to walk back to the vehicle we manage to find a distant Blue Rock Thrush singing on a rock and then find a Dragons-mouth to beat the stunner we found here last year, as this years plant has 2 flowers open plus a bud! Flushed with success we drive back to the Café area, park and begin to explore the plants. We manage to find a few *Ophrys vernixia* & *Anacamptis pyramidalis* in good condition and then turn our cameras towards the Hermann's Tortoise waiting nearby. Suddenly an injection of excitement kicks in as a Peregrine is seen taking a Pigeon, but drops out of sight, so we wait and eventually it is seen flying off with a good meal safely in its talons. We start to wander back to the vehicle and then drive gently back towards the Tirant marsh and find our first Marsh Harrier hunting over the fields. As we move further along we stop briefly on a bridge and much to our great surprise find an adult Black-crowned Night-heron skulking in a ditch. Our last stop is at the sewage works near Es Mercadal and we do find a couple of new species for the day in the form of Common Sandpiper and Hoopoe. We then head back towards the hotel and only stop briefly to allow a cycle race to pass by safely. Once back at the hotel we all enjoy another fine meal and then decide to try and get to grips with the local Scops Owls and we are successful with at least 2 birds calling and then seen briefly flying around the hotel grounds before we retire after our busy day.

Sunday 26 April. Barranc d'Algendar, Sa Roca & Tirant Marsh

Weather: Windy A.M. then sunny and warm with light winds.

The strong winds dictate that we head towards Cala Galdana and park up near the entrance to the gorge before starting our walk in relatively calm conditions. We all manage to climb over the wall and head off along the track seeing Woodchat Shrike, Red Kite and Booted Eagle nearby. Butterflies are evident in good numbers as we find numerous Clouded Yellow, Speckled Wood and Painted Lady. Red-veined Darter and Blue-tailed Damselfly are also found close by. Smaller birds are very vocal and we manage to see or hear Cetti's Warbler, Nightingale and Blackcap. As we approach a typical Menorcan gate we decide to rest and let the wildlife come to us. Luck is with us and we finally get views of two Firecrest and a Spotted Flycatcher feeding in the trees above our heads. The airspace above supports a good number of raptors including Booted Eagle, Egyptian Vulture, Kestrel & Peregrine. Time is moving on and so do we as it is getting towards lunchtime and as we wander back we hear Scops Owl calling on the other side of the gorge and once back at the vehicle see a European Pond Terrapin hauled out on the bank. We then enjoy a brief period of rest with a drink and/or ice cream and also see 2 Great Tit near the Café.

We then waste little time in driving towards Sa Roca and having failed to find the turning as the sign has been removed, we find ourselves along a very narrow and getting narrower road. The only plus to this is that we have the bonus of seeing the most amazing flower meadows in such a riot of colour that is seldom seen in our natural 'habitats'. We do of course find our parking place in the woods and start our lunch with the company of a Goldfinch on nest nearby! We start to look for wildflowers after lunch and within minutes find several *Cytinus ruber* and then find a stand of *Limodorum abortivum* and further on see *Ophrys bombyliflora* and *tenthredinifera*. There is just time to visit the Tirant Marsh on our way home as the weather is superb and as we arrive it is clear that good numbers of birds have arrived at last. A small wetland area holds Little-ringed Plover, Wood Sandpiper, Snipe, Whinchat and Northern Wheatear. As we leave we once again check out the pool and find a Spotted Redshank, Little Grebe, Black-winged Stilt, Squacco Heron and a _ Red-crested Pochard with young! On the drive back to the hotel a Blue Tit flies in front of the vehicle but the significance of this is not noticed until we do the checklist when we find that it is a new species for the trip. After another wonderful evening meal we go to our rooms just as the Scops Owls start calling close by.

Monday 27 April. Mahon boat trip & S'Albufera des Grau.

Weather: Windy A.M. then sunny and warm with lighter winds.

Just after we leave the hotel we encounter a group of 20 Bee-eater sitting on the power lines close to the road and agree that it is the best way to start the day. The drive to the other end of the island takes about an

hour and we manage to find a parking space not too far from the main harbour area and then walk back to our departure area. We all have some free time but agree a mutual time to all meet up prior to sailing, Ray walks up to the GOB office to find out about how we access the Mongofre Nou wetland area later this week as things have changed since last year. We all gather up and wait for departure but do have some good bird sightings including a male Peregrine hunting over the harbour area before it flies off to the NW to join its mate. Nearby Yellow-legged and Audouin's Gulls keep us amused before we leave the harbour. Numerous Swifts drift overhead and some fly lower and that allows us to pick out the odd Pallid Swift. Further along the harbour we manage to find a few Shag perched and a Little Egret. As we travel through the narrow channel adjacent to La Mola we see a 'Buzzard' sized raptor and a 'Falcon', in time they get closer and we are able to tell that we are looking at a Marsh Harrier and an Eleonora's Falcon, this helps to warm us up! We then move out into the open sea and turn into Es Clot to study the sea-life below the waterline via the glass bottom. Meanwhile on the deck some of us see a pair of Blue Rock Thrush, the male in song before we return to our voyage in the harbour. Our return trip means that we have a face wind into a strong breeze, F5-6 so the wind chill factor is noticeable. We tie up at the harbour and walk straight into the nearest Café and revive ourselves with the help of a tall glass of hot chocolate before driving and parking at S'Albufera des Grau. We start to walk into the reserve and find ourselves followed by the ducks but we manage to leave them behind and soon find a single Redshank standing on a low wall. As we progress along the walkway we find 2 Black-winged Stilt at the back of a small pool. During our climb up to the vantage point we see a colourful adult Italian Wall Lizard. At the top we locate a Peregrine mobbing a Booted Eagle and watch a drifting White Stork before walking back down. We take the woodland walk back to the vehicle and see very little of note but discover that mosquito are around and hungry. Singing Turtle Doves welcome us back to the car park and we feed Yellow-legged and Audouin's Gulls with bread to maximize our chances of getting some good photos. Soon after we set off for an ice-cream stop we brake unexpectedly and turn around to drive back to the Osprey with fish perched close to the road that we had passed by in our haste but the bird plus fish fly off together. There is a happy ending as we do stop for ice-creams and then return to the hotel.

Tuesday 28 April. Pre breakfast walk, Mongofre Nou, Cap d Favàritx, Monte Toro.

Weather: Calm A.M. then sunny and warm with light winds.

We walk through a typical Menorcan gate next to the hotel and start to check the field for birds, we soon find Stonechat, Sardinian Warbler, Greenfinch, Goldfinch, Woodchat Shrike, Bee-eater and then watch a Stone Curlew take off and eventually drop out of sight a good distance away. A Tawny Pipit flies up and begins its simple but attractive song before returning to the ground and then we turn our attention to a Thekla Lark going about its business. The next alert is a harsh call which turns out to be 2 Peregrines having a disagreement before going their separate ways. The time has gone far too quickly and we have to return to the hotel and start our breakfast. After collecting our supplies for the day we set off for Mongofre Nou and once there stop near the entrance to the reserve to check out the raptors that are drifting around; several Booted Eagles, Marsh Harrier, Red Kite and the odd Kestrel. Then we drive carefully along the uneven track until we reach the parking area and see a Raven overhead as we leave the vehicle. We are now on a completely new track for this reserve and slowly make our way along as it is obvious that it has rained quite heavily in recent days. Nightingale and Cetti's Warbler sing from deep cover along with the odd Blackcap. We soon reach a good vantage point and start to study the waders, 10+ Black-winged Stilt, Avocet, 6+ (Common) Ringed Plover and 6 Little Ringed Plover, 3 or 4 Kentish Plover, 2 Common Redshank, 2 Common Greenshank, 6 Wood Sandpiper, 2 Curlew Sandpiper and single Common Sandpiper and Sanderling. Our eyes then move skyward as two Eleonora's Falcon interact overhead before drifting away. The next move takes us back to the vehicle and we start to study the rock-face opposite us and sure enough a Blue Rock Thrush is found and we also find at least another 2 birds. We now move to Cap de Favàritx, a rather surreal place to have our lunch. We walk towards the lighthouse and find an Avocet perched on a small rocky island in the sea just offshore and locate 2 (Common) Ringed Plover near a wet area close to the car park. Lunch is taken near the lighthouse where we have the company of a female Pied Flycatcher in a large bush next to our lunch station. After this we move to get a comfortable place so that we can do a little bit of sea watching but we find very few Cory's or Balearic Shearwaters and we move on to visit Monte Toro. The road up to the top is steep and narrow but the view of the island from the top is well worth the visit. We all enjoy some sort of refreshment and do a little bit of birding and have close views of Spotted Flycatcher, Sardinian Warbler and a male Blackcap before we head back to the hotel.

Once at the hotel we all do our own thing and someone was lured out of their room due to Bee-eater calling nearby but that is just the start as a large number of Swift pass overhead including 2 or more Alpine Swift. After another great meal we retire to catch up on some sleep with the distant call of Scop's Owls in the distance.

Wednesday 29 April. Son Bou, Torre d'en Gaumes, Cap de Fornells and Tirant.

Weather: Calm, sunny and warm with light winds.

Just before we depart from the hotel we locate at least 3 Moorish Gecko that live in the car park walls. We then set off towards Son Bou and turn off the main road; soon after this we notice a very flat snake in the road that is un-identified. We carry on into the car park near the beach and start to explore the dune area, we do encounter a minor obstacle in that there is a small outflow of water from the marsh into the sea and we have to jump across the water, this does provide some harmless fun and we soon dry off. The dune area contains a healthy population of Stonechat and we stand and watch an adult male chasing and eventually catching a Darter which is promptly taken back to the nest. As we walk further along we find that the Sharp Rush plants live up to their name and blood is drawn, but we soldier on and find Linnet, Northern Wheatear and Sardinian Warbler. It soon becomes obvious that there are not that many birds around so we waste little time and turn towards the beach and walk back to the vehicle. However, we do manage to see several Cory's Shearwater gliding past offshore and then enjoy very close views of 2 Audouin's Gulls on the beach. Just before we leave an Eleonora's Falcon flies overhead and away out to sea. A short drive to the local café is next on our list and we have hot drinks in the shade. Then we drive a short distance and park on the edge of the village and begin to walk along a farm track. We hear Nightingale and Cetti's Warbler singing close to the track and then stop at a small bridge and look at numerous Copper Demoiselle, most of which are female. Further along we see a _ Broad Scarlet and _ Red-veined Darter. Some of the nearby fields look stunning as they are covered in a multitude of wild flowers. Birds of note include Woodchat Shrike & Booted Eagle with several wetland species seen in the far corner of the field which include: Mallard, Coot, Moorhen and best of all, Purple Heron. We have now walked to the end of this road and so we return to the vehicle and move to Torre d'en Gaumes to have our lunch in the shade of the trees. After lunch we drive to Fornells and park near the salt-pans to check out any waders that might be lurking. Several Common Sandpipers are found along with 2 pairs of Kentish Plover but the star bird is the Greater Flamingo standing with Grey Heron, Little Egret and Redshank. Our next and final stop for the day is at the Tirant Marsh and we stop near the farm and chance upon a female Montagu's Harrier and then check out the pool to find _ Red-crested Pochard, Little Grebe & 2 Squacco Heron whilst 16 Yellow Wagtails fly past. We then move to the marsh itself and find Marsh Harrier, Stone Curlew (calling), Bee-eater, Booted Eagle and Zitting Cisticola before returning to the hotel for another great meal.

Thursday 30 April. Punta Nati & Naveta des Tudons

Weather: Calm, sunny and warm with light winds.

As the weather is still looking good we waste little time and head straight down to Punta Nati and find that there are plenty of birds around and see the Cattle Egret roost tree still has a few birds sitting in the tree tops. We travel further along and then park at the usual place before getting out and scanning this huge vista before us. We soon find Thekla Lark & Blue Rock Thrush perched on walls and then our eyes look upward to see a mass of Swifts and mixed raptors flying in all corners of the sky: Egyptian Vulture, Booted Eagle, Kestrel, Red Kite and the odd Peregrine. We continue along the road and hear Tawny pipit singing and stop to look at 2 Greater Short-toed Lark very close to the road. We manage to find _ Marsh Harrier hunting and this succeeds in flushing 2 Stone Curlew from the ground sending them in our direction, well done that bird! As we near the lighthouse a Northern Wheatear is found along with more Blue Rock Thrush. All of us step over the wall and now head for the cliffs. Once there we get comfortable and scan our surroundings, most of the Swifts seem to have moved on and all we are left with is Blue Rock Thrush singing nearby. A lone Cormorant sits perched on the rocks below us and a few Yellow-Legged and Audouin's Gulls are seen flying past. Small numbers of Cory's Shearwater drift effortlessly over the sea but we cannot find any Dolphins! We pose for the group photo shoot and start to walk back towards the road. We all clear the wall safely once more and then head for the vehicle. A Common (Eurasian) Buzzard and 2 Alpine Swifts give us a boost as we walk back and get in the minibus. Our next stop is at Naveta des Tudons, the

site of the “oldest” two-storey building in the world. We have our lunch here and just as we are about to start our walk we admire an Eleonora’s Falcon flying quite low over us giving great views. Luckily a group of school children are just leaving the site and so we have the place to ourselves. The ground is very dry but the plants look good with a great deal of Branched Broomrape in evidence. A Swallowtail lands on the ground near the “House” and some of us manage to get a picture before it flies off. As if from nowhere another Eleonora’s Falcon stoops out of the sky at an unknown target but misses. We continue our searching and find Woodchat Shrike, 2 Tawny Pipits, a singing Nightingale plus, Red Kite and Booted Eagle. We all feel the need for ice-cream so we travel into Ciutadella and enjoy a Magnum or whatever before returning to the hotel. We have an earlier start tomorrow and so we need some time to get our cases packed and ready for the airport run.

Friday 1 May. Hotel to Airport to Tirant Marsh to Airport to Es Canutells to Airport.

Weather: Heavy thunderstorms in the night but dry by mid-day.

Most of us are rudely awakened by an incredible display of thunder and lightning, but it eventually subsides and stops just as we get up and are ready for the day. Due to there being more than one flight we decide to load up with everything on board and depart straight after breakfast and head to the airport for the first drop off. That achieved we drive to the Tirant Marsh and wonder what we might find after the nights weather. The increase in water level helps us to find at least 3 Purple Swamphen and 2 Squacco Heron. Elsewhere on the marsh we hear Quail and Stone Curlew calling. Bee-eaters are found sitting on power lines and we find the odd Sand Martin, Turtle Dove, Zitting Cisticola and Booted Eagle fly past. We then drive to the airport once more for the second drop off and then the remaining team head back into the field and stop at Es Canutells. Large puddles of water are everywhere and the ground feels very soft underfoot as if you were sinking as we walk towards the cliff. We notice that a good number of Pyramidal Orchids are still in flower but the most interesting plant, Red Broomrape is in abundance, other Orchids like Giant and Bee are found but are well past their best. As we near the cliffs we find a Blue Rock Thrush close by, in the bushy scrub we locate Willow Warbler, Sardinian Warbler and a Common Whitethroat. Over the sea below us there are Cormorant, Cory’s Shearwater and Yellow-legged Gull. We then turn around and walk back to the vehicle but stop briefly to listen to a Scops Owl calling from a tree close by. It is now our turn to drive to the airport and after dropping off the remainder of the group the vehicle is re-fuelled and left in the Hire car area. We then re-group, check-in and go through security. We manage to find some food before flying back to Gatwick. The terminal is undergoing massive reconstruction and it looks very messy but we all manage to reach baggage reclaim and meet up again, collect our luggage and say our goodbyes.

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.

Red-legged Partridge	<i>Alectoris rufa.</i>	(4/6) Seen several times near the Hotel and elsewhere on the island.
Quail	<i>Coturnix coturnix.</i>	(8/8) Widespread and common in fields throughout, heard only.
(Common) Shelduck	<i>Tadorna tadorna.</i>	(1/3) 3 at Mongofre Nou on the 28 th April.
Gadwall	<i>Anas strepera</i>	(1/1) _ on the Tirant Marsh on the 25th.
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	(6/60+) Usually found near any area of fresh water.
Northern Shoveler	<i>Anas clypeata</i>	(1/2) _ on the Tirant marsh.
Red-crested Pochard	<i>Netta rufina</i>	(3/1) _ with young on the Tirant Marsh.
Cory's Shearwater	<i>Calonectris diomedea</i>	(3/100+) Seen off Favàritx, Son Bou and Punta Nati.
Balearic Shearwater	<i>Puffinus mauretanicus.</i>	(2/100+) Recorded at Cap de Favàritx &

Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis.</i>	Es Canutells. (3/3) Recorded at the Tirant Marsh and Son Bou.
Greater Flamingo	<i>Phoenicopterus rubur.</i>	(1/1) One seen at Fornells on the 29 th .
White Stork	<i>Ciconia ciconia.</i>	(1/1) One over S'Albufera des Grau on the 27 th .
Black-crowned Night-heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>	(1/1) One near the Tirant Marsh on the 25 th .
Squacco Heron	<i>Ardeola ralloides</i>	(4/7) All recorded near the Tirant Marsh.
Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>	(5/95) Roost near Punta Nati others seen with cattle.
Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	(5/8) Singles found on 4 dates plus 4 on the 29 th .
Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea.</i>	(3/6) 4 on the Tirant Marsh on the 25 th . 1 at the Tirant Marsh on the 26 th . 1 at Son Bou on the 29 th .
Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta.</i>	(6/53) Seen most days with a max of 15 on the 27 th .
Great Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>	(4/6) Seen in small numbers on the coast.
Shag	<i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis</i>	(4/35) Common along the coast.
Eurasian Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	(8/100+) Common & widespread throughout the island.
Eleonora's Falcon	<i>Falco eleonora.</i>	(4/7) Good numbers and good views of this exciting raptor.
Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus.</i>	(5/8) Seen inland and at coastal sites.
Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus.</i>	(2/3) Single on the 25 th & 2 on the 27 th .
Red Kite	<i>Milvus milvus</i>	(8/30+) Widespread throughout the island.
Egyptian Vulture	<i>Neophron percnopterus.</i>	(7/38) Highest count was 10 on the 30 th near Punta Nati.
Western Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus.</i>	(5/8) Seen in smaller numbers this year.
Montagu's Harrier	<i>Circus pygargus</i>	(1/1) Single Female over the Tirant Marsh on the 29 th .
Common (Eurasian) Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>	(1/1) Single over Punta Nati on the 30 th .
Booted Eagle	<i>Hieraetus pennatus</i>	(8/61) Widespread throughout the island.
Purple Swamphen	<i>Porphyrio porphyrio.</i>	(2/4) Seen well at the Tirant Marsh on the 25 th & 1 st .
Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	(4/6) Small numbers on 4 days.
Eurasian Coot	<i>Fulica atra.</i>	(6/60+) Common in suitable habitat.
European Stone-curlew	<i>Burhinus oediconemus.</i>	(5/8) Good flight views on 3 days, heard on 2 other days.
Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus.</i>	(3/13) Found in saline and freshwater habitats.
Pied Avocet	<i>Recurvirostra avocetta</i>	(2/3) Single on the 25 th and 2 on the 28 th .
Common Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula.</i>	(1/6+) Found in saline and freshwater habitats in small numbers.
Little Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius dubius.</i>	(2/9+) Three on the 26 th and 6+ on the 28 th .
Kentish (Snowy) Plover	<i>Charadrius alexandrinus.</i>	(2/8+) Four birds on the 28 th and 2prs at Fornells on the 29 th .
Common Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago.</i>	(1/1) Single on the Tirant Marsh on the 26 th .
Spotted Redshank	<i>Tringa erythropus</i>	(1/1) Single on the Tirant Marsh on the 26 th .
Common Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus.</i>	(3/5) Recorded on 3 days at suitable habitat.
Common Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>	(1/2) Two at Mongofre Nou on the 28 th .
Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola.</i>	(2/18+) Recorded at the Tirant Marsh and Mongofre Nou.
Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos.</i>	(3/12) Maximum of 8 on the 29 th .
Sanderling	<i>Calidris alba.</i>	(1/1) Single at Mongofre Nou on the 28 th .

Curlew Sandpiper Ruff	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i> <i>Philomachus pugnax.</i>	(1/2) 2 at Mongofre Nou on the 28 th . (1/8) 6 at Mongofre Nou and 2 at Tirant Marsh on the 1 st . (4/27+) Maximum day count of 20 on the 27 th . (8/150+) Common and widespread over the island. (8/100's) Common and widespread throughout the island.
Audouin's Gull	<i>Larus audouinii.</i>	(5/20+) Common and widespread throughout the island.
Yellow-legged Gull	<i>Larus cachinnans.</i>	(6/30) Maximum day count of 10 on the 29 th .
Rock Dove/ Feral Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>	(8/100) Common and widespread throughout the island.
Common Woodpigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	(2/2) Female on the 24 th and a male on the 29 th .
Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>	(6/12) Up to 3 heard at the hotel during the week, plus others elsewhere in daytime.
Eurasian Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	(2/4) Two on the 28 th and 30 th . (8/100's) Common and widespread throughout the island.
Common (Eurasian) Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus.</i>	(3/10's) Smaller numbers seen throughout the island.
European Scops Owl	<i>Otus Scops</i>	(8/150+) Seen throughout the island in good numbers but many more were heard only.
Alpine Swift Common Swift	<i>Apus melba</i> <i>Apus apus.</i>	(5/10+) Recorded throughout the island in small numbers.
Pallid Swift	<i>Apus pallidus</i>	(8/30+) Observed in small numbers, widespread with a day max of 6 on the 29 th .
European Bee-eater	<i>Merops apiaster</i>	(1/1) Female at the Algendar Gorge on the 26 th .
Eurasian Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>	(8/40+) Recorded throughout the island in small numbers.
Woodchat Shrike	<i>Lanius senator</i>	(5/6+) Seen and heard in suitable habitat.
(Eurasian) Golden Oriole	<i>Oriolus oriolus</i>	(1/1) Single flying past the windscreen on the 26 th . New species for the trip!
Common Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>	(3/10+) Seen in small numbers during The week.
Great Tit Blue Tit	<i>Parus major</i> <i>Parus caeruleus</i>	(7/10's) Seen throughout the island in good numbers.
Sand Martin (Bank swallow)	<i>Riparia riparia</i>	(6/10's) Recorded throughout the island In good numbers.
Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	(1/2) Two at Punta Nati on the 30 th . (6/13) Highest count of 4 on the 24 th .
House Martin	<i>Delichon urbica.</i>	(6/24) Max count of 10 on the 25 th .
Greater Short-toed Lark Thekla Lark Zitting Cisticola (Fan-tailed Warbler)	<i>Calandrella brachydactyla</i> <i>Galerida theklae</i> <i>Cisticola juncidis</i>	(8/9) At least 9 recorded, some seen but mainly heard in suitable habitat.
Cetti's Warbler	<i>Cettia cetti</i>	(2/4) Three at the hotel on the 24 th . Single on the 1 st .
Willow Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>	(4/13) Small numbers seen in woodland habitat.
Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>	(2/2) Two males being the only records.
Common Whitethroat Sardinian Warbler Firecrest	<i>Sylvia communis</i> <i>Sylvia melanocephala</i> <i>Regulus ignicapillus</i>	(8/28+)
Spotless Starling	<i>Sturnus unicolor</i>	(1/3) Two seen on the 26 th at the Algendar Gorge. (8/48) Seen regularly at one site with others seen elsewhere on the island.

Eurasian Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	(7/20) Recorded throughout the island in small numbers.
Common Nightingale	<i>Luscinia megarhynchos</i>	(8/20) Many more heard than seen but some were friendly enough to show themselves.
Common Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>	(1/1) One record only on the 24 th .
Whinchat	<i>Saxicola rubetra</i>	(3/5) Recorded in small numbers on 3 dates.
Common Stonechat	<i>Saxicola torquata</i>	(8/45) Common and widespread over the island, under-recorded.
Northern Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>	(5/10) Small numbers seen on 5 dates.
Blue Rock-thrush	<i>Monticola solitarius</i>	(5/13) Small numbers recorded on 5 days.
Spotted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>	(8/20) Pair breeding at the hotel. Small numbers seen most days.
European Pied Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula hypoleuca</i>	(2/2) Singles found on the 24 th and 28 th .
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	(8/100's) Common and seen daily throughout the island.
Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava</i>	(2/22) Just 2 groups flying through.
Tawny Pipit	<i>Anthus campestris</i>	(6/21) Widespread and quite frequent in suitable habitat.
Meadow Pipit	<i>Anthus pratensis</i>	(1/2) At the Tirant Marsh on the 1 st .
Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	(4/4) Single seen on 4 days.
European Greenfinch	<i>Carduelis chloris</i>	(7/30+) Common and widespread over the island.
European Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	(8/50+) Common and frequent throughout the island.
Eurasian Linnet	<i>Carduelis cannabina</i>	(7/30+) Common and widespread throughout the island.
Corn Bunting	<i>Emberiza calandra</i>	(8/100+) Common and seen daily throughout the island.

MAMMALS

European Rabbit	<i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i>
Algerian Hedgehog	<i>Atelerix algirus</i> . (Dead)
Pine Marten	<i>Martes martes</i> (Scats)

AMPHIBIANS

Stripeless Tree Frog	<i>Hyla meridionalis</i>	Heard on 4 dates.
Iberian Water (Spanish Pond) Frog	<i>Rana perezi</i>	Heard on one date.

REPTILES

Moorish Gecko	<i>Tarentola mauretanicus</i>
Italian Wall Lizard	<i>Podarcis sicula</i>
Hermann's Tortoise	<i>Testudo hermanni</i>
European Pond Terrapin	<i>Emys orbicularis</i>

BUTTERFLIES

Swallowtail	<i>Papilio machaon</i>
Large White	<i>Pieris brassicae</i>
Small White	<i>Arlogeia rapae</i>

Clouded Yellow	<i>Colias crocea.</i>
Brown argus	<i>Aricia agestis</i>
Common Blue	<i>Polyommatus icarus</i>
Painted Lady	<i>Vanessa cardui.</i>
Speckled Wood	<i>Pararge aegeria.</i>
Small Heath	<i>Coenonympha pamphilius.</i>

OTHER INSECTS

Red-veined Darter	<i>Sympetrum fonscolombei.</i>
Copper Demoiselle	<i>Calopteryx haemorrhoidalis.</i>
Blue-tailed Damselfly	<i>Ischnura elegans.</i>
Lesser Emperor	<i>Anax parthenope</i>
Broad Scarlet	<i>Crocothemis erythraea</i>
Orange Underwing	type moth
Spider-hunting wasp	<i>Scolia sp.</i>
Egyptian Grasshopper	<i>Anacridium aegyptium.</i>
Violet Carpenter Bee	<i>Xylocopa violacea.</i>
Honey Bee	<i>Apidae sp.</i>
Rhinoceros Beetle	<i>Copris lunaris.</i>
Paper Wasp	<i>Polistes gallicus.</i>
Ladybird-7spot.	

Ray Nowicki, April/May 2009
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