Menorca

Naturetrek Tour Report

4 - 11 April 2007









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Tour Report Menorca

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Day 1

Wednesday 4th April

Weather: Overcast & cold.

Arrived at Mahon on time. Shaun Murphy from the guesthouse was at the airport to meet us and we were soon on our way to Matchani Gran. After a rather fine lunch we had a look around the fields surrounding our guest house. The weather was rather cold and grey with spots of rain. Not a lot was seen; highlights were three booted eagles, two stone curlews, two woodchat shrikes and six hoopoes.

Orchids were in good numbers this year with lots of Sawfly and mirror plus a few Giant and Toothed varieties too. By evening rain had set in and after a fine evening meal the group retired early.

Day 2

Thursday 5th April

Weather: Cool until mid-morning with showers. Warm and sunny from then onwards.

Early morning walk around Matchani Gran produced Thekla Lark, Stone Curlew and Tawny Pipit. After breakfast we set off for Tirant Marsh and were surprised how big an area of flood water there was - after all the rain they have had this spring the marsh had doubled in size.

Birds were everywhere: 20+ Cattle Egrets, one Purple Heron, three Purple Gallinule, Pratincole, 30+ Blackwinged Stilts, four Night Herons, White Stork, 36 Garganey, Ospreys – to name but a few!

At the end of the road overlooking Cala Tirant there were three Audouin's Gulls on the beach.

A rough area of ground by the road produced more Sawfly and Mirror Orchids plus our first Tongue and Bumblebee Orchids. The sunshine brought out our first butterflies of the trip – Cleopatra, Green Hairstreak, Common Blue and Painted Lady were all seen.

Day 3

Friday 6th April

Weather: Sunny & warm.

Our pre-breakfast walk gave us the usual Tawny Pipit, Thekla Lark, and Hoopoe and also 70 Rock Doves. A trip to Son Bou was our first port of call today so after a short drive we were soon on the sand dunes overlooking the marsh and reed beds. Son Bou proved to be a bit disappointing for birds, with high water levels very little was seen. Brief views of a Purple Gallinule, Little Egrets and Shoveler were all that could be found.

On the beach Audouin's Gull gave good views and off shore Cory's and Balearic Shearwaters were feeding in small parties. After lunch on the beach we drove to the north coast and out to the lighthouse at Cap De Cavalleria. A couple of Audouin's Gulls flew by but little else could be seen on the sea. Four Blue Rock Thrushes were feeding and displaying around the cliffs. Black Redstarts and a couple of Marsh Harriers were also seen.

Several plants of Dragon Arum were found but none were in flower as yet. Senecio rodriguezii were plentiful, flowering all over the stony ground.

A short stop at Tirant Marsh on our way back to Matchani Gran produced a Purple Heron, two Wood Sandpipers, two Red Kites, five Booted Eagles, four Marsh Harriers and a Peregrine.

Day 4

Saturday 7th April

Weather: Dry with sunny periods.

Our pre-breakfast walk gave us three Hoopoes, Tawny Pipit, Marsh Harrier, three Stone Curlews and Booted Eagle. A morning walk through the woods at Cala Santa Galdana gave us very few birds but lots of flowers. Best of the birds were Hoopoes, Alpine Swifts, Booted Eagles and Egyptian Vulture.

Orchids were in good numbers with lots of Sawfly, Mirror, Bumblebee and Pyramidal with smaller batches of Yellow Bee, Brown Bumblebee and *Ophyrs balearica*.

We walked back to our van and drove the short distance around to the Gorge D'Algendar where we had lunch. The afternoon walk up the gorge gave us a few more plant species to our list. Nightingales sang as we moved up through the wooded gorge and Purple Heron, Woodchat, Shrike, Osprey, Booted Eagles and up to 20 Egyptian Vultures were seen.

Day 5

Sunday 8th April

Weather: Sunny and warm in the morning, hazy by the afternoon.

Passing Tirant Marsh en route to Punta Nati we stopped of for 15 minutes to check out the area. Still good number of Garganey, a Purple Heron, White Stork, Spoonbill, Little Ringed Plovers and Red-rumped Swallow were quickly found - then on the road out to Punta Nati lighthouse.

Lots of Cory's Shearwaters with a few Balearic were seen on the sea, with a few Audouin's Gulls passing too. We saw plenty of Blue Rock Thrushes, Short-toed and Thekla Larks in the rocky area, and Booted Eagles and Egyptian Vultures overhead.

We then moved over to Naveta Des Tudons and had lunch. Very little was seen in this area, a couple of Quail calling in nearby fields, Red Kites and Booted Eagles being the best.

On our way back to base we drove to the top of Monte Toro, the highest hill on the island, and enjoyed fantastic views with a nice cup of tea in the warm afternoon sun.

Day 6

Monday 9th April

Weather: Overcast and dry until 1300 then rain.

A few migrants were seen around Matchani Gran first thing in the morning, i.e. Whinchat, Wheatear, Black and Common Redstart plus a couple of Yellow Wagtails. We then drove over to Son Parc, a marsh and small lake on the north coast. This area was quite good for birds with lots of Purple Gallinule's being seen also Shoveler, Gadwall, Red-crested Pochard and Ferruginous Ducks. The sky was full of Swallows and Martins with a few of the larger Alpine Swifts mixed in with the flocks.

The walk up through the wood and back around to the coast gave us yet again good numbers of orchids with *Ophrys balearica*, Sawfly, Bumblebee and Brown Bumblebee being fairly widespread.

Passing Tirant marsh on the way home we had a Red-rumped Swallow in with the hundreds of Swallows and Martins. A lot of the Black-winged Stilts had moved on with only two left and the Garganey had reduced in numbers to about 12.

Day 7

Tuesday 10th April

Weather: Overcast and dry until 1300 the showers.

A morning visit to the Montgofre Nou saltpans proved to be quite productive with plenty of waders and a few duck species. Black-winged Stilts, Greenshank, Spotted Redshank, Little Ringed Plovers, Wood Sandpipers and Garganey were feeding on the shoreline with two Ospreys, Booted Eagles and Egyptian Vultures overhead. A few orchids were seen i.e. Sawfly, Bumblebee and Mirror, also some Strawberry Tree and Myrtle.

We then drove out to Cap De Favaritx where we had our lunch by a small pool where Kentish and Little Ringed Plovers were showing well.

We then moved on to Albufera Lake for a short walk. The only birds on this rather barren lake were a Black-necked Grebe, Osprey and Marsh Harrier. Azure Lupins were in full flower and once again orchids were putting on a fine show with many Tongue, Sawfly, Mirror and Bumblebee.

Day 8

Wednesday 11th April

We had breakfast at the usual time, packed our bags, checked out and were away to the airport by 0930, arriving back in the UK on time.

Species Lists

Plants

Common name	Scientific name	Status
Aleppo Pine	Pinus Halepenis	
Phoenicean Juniper	Juniperus Phoenicea	
Joint Pine	Ephedra Fragilis	
Holm Oak	Quercus Ilex	
Cytinus	Cytinus Ruber	
Fig	Ficus Carica	
Pellitory Of The Wall	Parietaria Judaica	
Round-Leaved Birthwort	Aristolochia Rotunda	
Sea Beet	Beta Vulgaris Subsp. Martima	
Sea Samphire	Salicornia Europaea	
Perennial Glasswort	Arthrocnemun Perenne	
	Arthrocnemun Fruticosum	
Red Hottentot Fig	Carpobrotus Acinaciformis	
Hottentot Fig	Carpobrotus Edulis	
Ğ	Lampranthus Roseus	
Small-Flowered Catchfly	Silene Gallica	
Corncockle	Agrostemna Githago	
Virgin's Bower	Clematis Cirrhosa	
Buttercup	Ranunculus Macrophyllus	
Celery-Leaved Buttercup	Ranunculus Sceleratus	
Celandine	Ranunculus Ficaria	
Water Crowfoot	Ranunculus Aquatilis	
Bladder Campion	Silene Vulgaris	
Opium Poppy	Papaver Somniferum	
Common Poppy	Papaver Rhoeas	
Long-Headed Poppy	Papaver Dubium	
Ramping Fumitory	Fumaria Capreolata	
Hoary Stock	Matthiola Incana	
Hoary Cress	Cardaria Draba	
Sea Rocket	Cakile Martitima	
Wild Radish	Raphanus Raphanistrum	
White Mignonette	Reseda Alba	
Wild Mignonette	Reseda Lutea	
Sweet Alison	Lobularia Martimia	
Medlar	Crataegus Azarolus	
Blackthorn	Prunus Spinosa	
Thorny Broom	Calicontome Spinosa	
Spanish Broom	Spartium Junceum	
Azure Lupin	Lupinus Micranthus	
Pitch Trefoil	Psoralea Bituminosa	
Milk Vetch	Astragalus Balearicus	Endemic
Reddish Tufted Vetch	Vicia Benghalensis	
Vetchling	Lathyrus Annuus	
	Lathyrus Clymenum	
	Lathyrus Ochrus	
Large Yellow Restharrow	Ononis Crispa	Endemic
Small Melilot	Melilotus Indicus	
Lucerne	Medicago Sativa	
Large Disk Medick	Medicago Orbicularis	

Scientific name Common name Status Spotted Medick Medicago Arabica Birdsfoot Lotus Tetraphyllus Endemic Lotus Cytisoides Southern Birdsfoot Trefoil Lotus Creticus Star Clover Trifolium Stellatum Wooly Trefoil Trifolium Tomentosium Rough Clover Trifolium Scabrum Mediterranean Kidney Vetch Anthyllis Vulneraria Sub. Sp. Praepropera Bladder Vetch Anthyllis Tetraphylla Anthyllis Hystrix Endemic Annual Scorpion Vetch Coronilla Scorpioides Italian Sainfoin Hedysarum Coronarium Bermuda Buttercup Oxalis Pes-Caprae **Doves Foot Cranesbill** Geranium Molle Round-Leaved Cranesbill Geranium Rotundifolium Small-Leaved Cranesbill Geranium Pusillum **Cut-Leaved Cranesbill** Geranium Dissectum Long-Stalked Cranesbill Geranium Columbinum Herb Robert Geranium Robertianum Common Storksbill Erodium Moschatum Pale Flax Linum Bienne Linum Maritimum Euphorbia Helioscopia Sun Spurge Petty Spurge Euphorbia Peplus Sea Spurge Euphorbia Paralias Tree Spurge Euphorbia Dendroides Fringed Rue Ruta Chalepensis Mastic Tree Pistacia Lentiscus Mediterranean Buckthorn Rhamnus Alaternus Malvella Malvella Sherardiana **Dwarf Mallow** Malva Neglecta Common Mallow Malva Sylvestris Cretan Mallow Lavatera Cretica Tree Mallow Lavatera Arborea Daphne Gnidium Fleshy-Leaved Thymelaea Thymmelaea Hirsuta Perforate St Johns Wort Hypericum Perforatum **Grey-Leaved Cistus** Cistus Albidus Sage-Leaved Cistus Cistus Salvifolius Narrow-Leaved Cistus Cistus Monspeliensis Spotted Rockrose Tuberaria Guttata Fumana Thymifolia Sea Heath Frankenia Laevis Squirting Cucumber Ecballium Elaterium Tamarisk Tamarix Gallica Lythrum Junceum Myrtle Myrtus Communis lvy Hedera Helix

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Eryngium Maritimum

Crithmum Maritimum

Foeniculum Officinale

Kundmannia Sicula

Ferula Communis

Sea Holly

Fennel

Rock Samphire

Giant Fennel

Kundmannia

Common name	Scientific name	Status
Wild Carrot	Daucus Carota	
Strawberry Tree	Arbutus Unedo	
Tree Heath	Erica Arborea	
	Erica Multiflora	
Scarlet Pimpernel	Anagallis Arvensis	
Blue Pimpernel	Anagallis Foemina	
Dwarf-Sea Lavender	Limonium Minutum	
Yellow-Wort	Blackstonia Perfoliata	
Common Centaury	Centaurium Erythraea	
Yellow Centaury	Centaurium Maritimum	
Madder	Rubia Peregrina	
Common Dodder	Cuscuta Epithymum	
Olive	Olea Europea Subsp. Oleaster	
	Phillyrea Angustifolia	
	Phillyrea Latifolia	
Sea Bindweed	Calystegia Soldanella	
Mallow-Leaved Bindweed	Convolvlus Althaeoides	
Borage	Borago Officinalis	
Blue-Hounds Tongue	Cynoglossum Creticum	
Large Blue Anchusa	Anchusa Azurea	
Pale Bugloss	Echium Italicum	
Purple Vipers Bugloss	Echium Plantagineum	
	Echium Sabulicola	
Felty Germander	Teucrium Polium	
	Teucrium Marum Sub Species Spinescens	Endemic
Wild Clary	Salvia Verbenaca	
Rosemary	Rosmarinus Officinalis	
Apple Of Sodom	Solanum Sodomeum	
White Henbane	Hyoscyamus Albus	
	Verbascum Creticum	
Three-Leaved Toadflax	Linaria Triphylla	
Common Toadflax	Linaria Vulgaris	
Yellow Bartsia	Parentucellia Viscosa	
Bellardia	Bellardia Trixago	
Honeysuckle	Lonicera Implexa	
Dogs Figwort	Scrophularia Canina Sub Species Ramosissima	Endemic
Branched Broomrape	Orobanche Ramose	
Common Broomrape	Orobanche Minor	
Bear's Breech	Acanthus Mollis	
Plantain	Plantago Lagopus	
Spanish Valerian	Centranthus Calcitrapa	
Sweet Scabious	Scabiosa Atropurpurea	
Annual Daisy	Bellis Annua	
	Bellium Bellidiodes	
	Evax Pygmaea	
Everlasting	Helichrysum Ambiguum	Endemic
	Helichrysum Stoechas	
	Phagnalon Rupestre	
	Anthemis Maritimus	
Scented Mayweed	Matricaria Recutita	
Sea Aster	Asteriscus Maritimus	
Corn Marigold	Chrysanthenum Segetum	
Crown Daisy	Chrysanthenum Coronarium	

Scientific name Common name **Status** Caldenula Arvensis Field Marigold Cineraria Senecio Bicolor Senecio Rodriguezii Endemic Galactites Galactites Tomentosa Milk Thistle Silybum Marianum Urospermum Dalechampii Urospermum Picroides Reichardia Reicharda Tingitana Common Asphodel Ashpodelus Aestivus Hollow-Leaved Asphodel Asphodelus Fistulosus **Butchers Broom** Ruscus Aculeatus Common Smilax Smilax Aspera Rosy Garlic Allium Roseum Three-Cornered Leek Allium Triquetrum Asparagus Acutifolius Asparagus Stipularis Tassel Hyacinth Muscari Comosum Sea Daffodil Pancratium Maritimum Launaea Cervicornis Endemic Wild Gladiolus Gladiolus Illyricus Black Bryony Tamas Communis Flag Iris Iris Pseudacorus Friar's Cowl Arisarum Vulgare Italian Arum Arum Italicum Pyramidal Orchid Anacamptis Pyramidalis **Tongue Orchid** Serapis Lingua Bumble Bee Orchid Ophrys Bombyliflora Mirror Orchid Ophrys Vernixia Sawfly Orchid Ophrys Tenthredinifera Endemic Ophrys Balearica Large Quaking Grass Briza Maxima Giant Reed Arundo Donax Bithynian Vetch Vicia Bithynica Rough Poppy Papaver Hybridum Little Robin Geranium Purpureum Ornithogalum Arabicum **Upright Yellow Flax** Linum Strictum Shepherd's Needle Scandix Pecten-Veneris Buck's-Horn Plantain Plantago Coronopus Lesser Snapdragon Antirrhinum Orontium Verbascum Sinuatum Summer Snowflake Leucojum Aestivum Corn Chamomile Anthemis Arvensis Wild Leek Allium Ampeloprasum Anthemis Maritima Dragon Arum Dracunculus Muscivorus Yellow Ophrys Ophrys Lutea Ophrys Fusca Serapis Parviflora Serapis Nurrica Giant Orchid Barlia Robertiana **Toothed Orchid** Orchis Conica Polyanthus Narcissus Narcissus Tazetta

Common name Scientific name Status

Sand Crocus Romulea Assumptionis

Birds

Little Grebe Tachybaptus ruficollis
Cory's Shearwater Calonectris diomedea

Balearic Shearwater Puffinus yelkouan mauretanicus

Great Cormorant Phalacrocorax carbo
Shag Phalacrocorax aristotelis

Cattle Egret Bubulcus ibis Little Egret Egretta garzetta Grev Heron Ardea cinerea Purple Heron Ardea purpurea Mallard Anas platyrhynchos Gadwall Anas strepera Northern Shoveler Anas clypeata Eurasian Wigeon Anas penelpoe Garganey Anas querquedula Ferruginous Duck Aythya nyroca Milvus milvus Red Kite

Egyptian Vulture Neophron percnopterus Marsh Harrier Circus aeruginosus **Booted Eagle** Hieraaetus pennatus Osprey Pandion haliaetus Kestrel Falco tinnunculus Peregrine Falco peregrinus Red-legged Partridge Alectoris graeca Quail Coturnix coturnix Moorhen Gallinula chloropus

Coot Fulica atra

Purple Gallinule Porphyrio porphyrio
Stone Curlew Burhinus oedicnemus
Black-winged Stilt Himantopus himantopus
Ringed Plover Charadrius hiaticula
Little Ringed Plover Charadrius dubius
Kentish Plover Charadrius alexandrinus

Redshank Tringa totanus Greenshank Tringa nebularia Wood Sandpiper Tringa glareola Common Sandpiper Actitis hypoleucos Green Sandpiper Tringa ochropus Snipe Gallinago gallinago Audouin's Gull Larus audouinii Yellow-legged Gull Larus cachinnans Whiskered Tern Chlidonias hybridus Wood Pigeon Columba palumbus Rock Dove Columba livia Feral Pigeon Columba livia (feral) Collared Dove Streptopelia decaocto **Turtle Dove** Streptopelia turtur Cuckoo Cuculus canorus

Otus scops

Apus apus

Apus pallidus

Scops Owl

Pallid Swift

Swift

Common name Scientific name Status

Alpine Swift Apus melba
Hoopoe Upupa epops
Thekla Lark Galerida theklae

Short-toed Lark Calandrella brachydactyla

Sand Martin Riparia riparia
Swallow Hirundo rustica
Red-rumped Swallow Hirundo daurica
House Martin Delichon urbica
Tawny Pipit Anthus campestris
Meadow Pipit Anthus pratensis

Tree Pipit trivialis

White Wagtail Motacilla alba Blue-headed (Yellow) Wagtail Motacilla flava flava Nightingale Luscinia megarhynchos Redstart Phoenicurus phoenicurus Black Redstart Phoenicurus ochruros Stonechat Saxicola torquata Whinchat Saxicola rubetra Northern Wheatear Oenanthe oenanthe Blue Rock Thrush Monticola solitarius Song Thrush Turdus philomelos Blackbird Turdus merula Fan-tailed Warbler Cisticola juncidis Cetti's Warbler Cettia cetti Subalpine Warbler Sylvia cantillans Whitethroat Sylvia communis

Blackcap Sylvia atricapilla
Sardinian Warbler Sylvia melanocephala
Willow Warbler Phylloscopus trochilus
Firecrest Regulus ignicapillus
Pied Flycatcher Ficedula hypoleuca

Great Tit Parus major

Balearic Woodchat Shrike Lanius senator badius

Raven Corvus corax House Sparrow Passer domesticus Chaffinch Fringilla coelebs Greenfinch Carduelis chloris Goldfinch Carduelis carduelis Serin Serinus serinus Linnet Acanthis cannabina Corn Bunting Miliaria calandra

Additions to bird list

Black Necked Grebe Podiceps Nigricollis Spoonbill Platalea Leucorodia Red Crested Pochard Netta Rufina Pochard Aythya Ferina Shelduck Tadorna Tadorna Pratincole Glareola Pratincola White Stork Ciconia Ciconia Night Heron Nycticorax Nycticorax

Common name Scientific name Status

Butterflies

Swallowtail Papilio machaon Large White Pieris brassicae Small White Pieris rapae Clouded Yellow Colias crocea Gonepteryx rhamni Brimstone Cleopatra Gonepteryx cleopatra Wood White Leptidea sinapis Green Hairstreak Callophrys rubi **Small Copper** Lycaena phlaeas Brown Argus Aricia agestis Common Blue Polyommatus icarus Red Admiral Vanessa atalanta Painted Lady Cynthia cardui Meadow Brown Maniola jurtina

Small Heath Coenonympha pamphilus

Speckled Wood Pararge aegeria
Wall Brown Lasiommata megera

Reptiles & Amphibians

Stripeless Tree Frog Hyla meridionalis
Rabbit Oryctolagus cuniculus
Italian Wall Lizard Podarcis sicula
Green Toad Bufo viridis