Menorca

Naturetrek Tour Report

30 April - 7 May 2010













Report compiled by Ted Griffiths Images by Ian Nicholson



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Day 1 Friday 30th April

Weather - Hazy, warm and sunny

The group arrived at Mahon on time and were soon on the way to Matchani Gran. Everyone settled in and were soon tucking into a fine lunch. The afternoon was spent looking around the fields and lanes around Matchani Gran. The flora was well advanced this year with the orchids in this area long over. Birds seen during the afternoon included Red Kite, Booted Eagle, Pied and Spotted Flycatchers, Wood Warbler, Sardinian Warbler, Hoopoe Whinchat and Swift.

Day 2 Saturday 1st May

Weather - overcast with sunny spells. Thundery at times with the odd spot of rain

The early morning walk around Matchani Gran produced Thekla and Short-Toed Larks Tawny Pipit and Spotted Flycatchers. After a fine breakfast we drove to the Tirant Marsh area where we spent the day. The fields were a blaze of colour with Crown Daisies Poppies and Gladiolus. Highlights in the bird world were plenty of Bee Eaters, a Red-footed Falcon, Stone Curlew, Purple Gallinule, Golden Oriole, Hoopoe, Marsh Harrier and Booted Eagles. A couple of Hermann's Tortoises were found during the afternoon and at least one Scops Owl was seen well before everyone turned in for the night.

Day 3 Sunday 2nd May

Weather - after overnight rain the skies cleared to give us a fine sunny and warm day

Pre-breakfast walk gave us much the same as the previous day plus Stone Curlews, and Woodchat Shrike. We were on the road just after 9am and on our way to Cap Cavalleria. In this rocky area of the headland we had plenty of Dragon Arum, and *Senecio Rodriguezii* in flower. Several *Digitalis dubia* were found, but not in flower and off the Cape there was a steady passage of Cory's and Balearic Shearwaters, with a few Audouin's Gulls passing by. Also of note were many Swallows, House Martins and Swifts, moving north, plus a party of Bee Eaters. Blue Rock Thrushes and Tawny Pipits were among the rocks and Booted Eagles and Egyptian Vultures glided above. We then had a short drive to Binimel La Beach were we had lunch.

The afternoon walk along the beach and cliffs gave us more Audouin's Gulls, Little Ringed Plover, Marsh Harriers, Bee-eaters and thousands more hirundines going north. A few Mirror Orchids were found with small flowered Tongue Orchids and large clumps of Sea Knotgrass. A quick stop by Tirant Marsh on the way home produced Marsh Harrier, Purple Heron, Booted Eagle and thousands more Hirundines and a young pond Terrapin.

Day 4 Monday 3rd May

Weather Overcast and Warm. Rain by late afternoon

Early morning gave us 3 Stone Curlews, Hoopoes Woodchat Shrike, Tawny Pipit and the odd Flycatcher. After breakfast we drove to Cala Galdana and were soon having good views of both Pallid and Alpine Swifts from a view point overlooking the cliffs and the bay. A climb up to the top path gave us some nice flowers, ie a few Mirror Orchids, plenty of Pyramidal and *Ophrys balearica*. There were a few small flowered Tongue Orchids, but plenty of gone-over Bumble-Bee, Sawfly and Mirror Orchids. Birds were few but we did see Hoopoes, Woodchat Shrikes Egyptian Vultures, Nightingales and plenty of Sardinian Warblers.

After lunch we walked up the Algendor Gorge to the Egyptian Vulture breeding site and good views were had by most of the group. Other birds seen in the area were Red Kite, Booted Eagles, Little Egrets, Spotted Flycatchers and Wood Warblers. Woodchat Shrike was seen by a few and a Scops Owl was heard calling. By late afternoon rain had set in so we returned to base.

Day 5 Tuesday 4th May

Weather - cool and cloudy

After a violent storm overnight (the worst for twenty years) we woke to a very cool and damp morning. After our breakfast we motored north to the saltpans of Montgofre Nou. Strawberry Tree, Spanish Broom, Rosemary and Myrtle were soon on our plant list, and several bird species were also added. Highlights were Spoonbill, Black-winged Stilt, Temminck's and Little Stints, Red-crested Pochard, Black-crowned Night Heron, Red-rumped Swallow and Marsh Harrier. Hundreds of hirundines were also present.

We then moved into Cape De Favatrix for lunch and during early afternoon we looked around the headland and out to the lighthouse. Heavy seas were crashing onto the coast and many Cory's and Balearic Shearwaters were passing by. The odd Audouin's Gull was seen plus a few migrants like Wood Warbler, and both Spotted and Pied Flycatchers On our way back to Matchani Gran we stopped off the Albufera Reserve and in a small, rough grassy area we had Azure Lupin and three species of *serapis* (Tongue Orchids)

Day 6 Wednesday 5th May

Weather - cold and cloudy with showers and sunny spells

Due to the cold and wet conditions the early morning walk gave us nothing of note. First stop of the day was at Son Park on the north coast where a short walk brought us out by a freshwater lake with reed beds. Several species of bird were added to our list including Ferruginous Duck, Osprey, Squacco Heron and Hobby. Several Purple Gallinules, Marsh Harriers, Red-crested Pochard, Booted Eagles and Golden Orioles were also seen well.

Then we went onto the top of Mount Toro for a coffee break and had good views over the island, at least until the low cloud came down. We then drove down to the coast for lunch at Son Bou where a walk along a blustery beach was cut short due to rain moving along the coast. At least 200 Cory's Shearwaters were seen off shore, and a few Audouin's Gulls were feeding on the shoreline. We also found the only Yellow Wagtail of the tour. On the way back to base we stopped off at the Torralba Prehistoric Monument for the group to have a look around. Some of the birds seen around this area were Bee-eater, Hoopoe, Tawny Pipit, Marsh Harrier, Booted Eagle and Egyptian Vulture.

Day 7

Thursday 6th May

Weather cool and cloudy with rain at times - drier with sunny spells later

We went for a trip to the north west of the island today out to the headland of Punta Nati. It was dry but cool as we walked around this stony headland. Birds of note were Cattle Egret, Peregrine, Blue Rock Thrush, Marsh Harrier, Stone Curlew, Egyptian Vulture and a steady passage of Cory's and Balearic Shearwaters. The Cattle Egret numbers have increased since last year and many now breed in the clump of pines back towards Ciutadella. Plenty of plants of *Senecio rodriguezii* and Squirting Cucumber were found on the headland and along the roadside.

Next stop was at Naveta Des Tudons, a Prehistoric Burial Chamber where we had more Bee-eaters, Woodchat Shrike, Red Kite, Booted Eagles, and Egyptian Vultures. Plants of note here were Branched Broomrape, Tree-leaved Toadflax and Bug Orchids.

We then moved onto Tirant Marsh for lunch but then it started to rain and very little was seen. After lunch we moved across to the south coast out of the rain and had a walk around Cales Coves. Highlights here were Blue Rock Thrush, Audouin's Gull, Pallid Swift, Common Sandpiper and Woodchat Shrike. Back at Matchani Gran a short walk before the evening meal produced Hoopoe, Marsh Harrier, Golden Oriole and Stone Curlew.

Day 8 Friday 7th May

Weather cool cloudy sunny spells, warmer p.m

A morning walk before we packed our bags gave us the usual Hoopoes, Stone Curlews, Wood Warbler and Flycatchers. We left for the airport on time and departed Menorca at 13-30 arriving at Gatwick 30 minutes early!

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Species Lists

Birds (H = heard only)

				April/May							
	Common Name	Scientific Name	30	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
1	Little Grebe	Tachybaptus ruficollis		1				10+			
2	Cory's Shearwater	Calonectris diomedea			25+		✓	✓	✓		
3	Balearic Shearwater	Puffinus yelkouan			30+		✓		✓		
4	Shag	Phalacrocorax aristotelis			3	1	2	2	1		
5	Night Heron	Nycticorax nycticorax					1				
6	Squacco Heron	Ardeola ralloides						1			
7	Cattle Egret	Bubulcus ibis		6					40+		
8	Little Egret	Egretta garzetta		20+	с8	1	6	5	1		
9	Grey Heron	Ardea cinerea		1	2	2	2	1	1		
10	Purple Heron	Ardea purpurea		4	2			1	1		
11	Spoonbill	Platalea leucorodia					1				
12	Mallard	Anas platyrhynchos		30+	4		✓	✓	4		
13	Gadwall	Anas strepera		3		3					
14	Shelduck	Tandorna tandorna					15+				
15	Red-crested Pochard	Netta rufina					3	4			
16	Pochard	Aythya ferina						2			
17	Ferruginous Duck	Aythya nyroca						4			
18	Black Kite	Milvus migrans		1							
19	Red Kite	Milvus milvus	1	1		1		2	2		
20	Egyptian Vulture	Neophron percnopterus		1	3	6+		2	7		
21	Marsh Harrier	Circus aeruginosus		1	2		1	5	6		
22	Booted Eagle	Hieraaetus pennatus	2	20+	20+	6	6+	8	10+	1	
23	Osprey	Pandion haliaetus						1			
24	Kestrel	Falco tinnunculus	2	4	10+	4	4	6	6	1	
25	Hobby	Falco subbuteo						1			
26	Red-footed Falcon	Falco verspertinus		1					1		
27	Peregrine	Falco peregrinus		1	1				2		
28	Red-legged Partridge	Alectoris rufa				2	2	2	2		
29	Quail	Coturnix coturnix		1(H)	1(H)						
30	Moorhen	Gallinula chloropus		2	, ,	1	✓	1			
31	Coot	Fulica atra		4			30+	10+			
32	Purple Gallinule	Porphyrio porphyrio		2				2			
33	Stone Curlew	Burhinus oedicnemus		1	3	4		1	3		
34	Black-winged Stilt	Himantopus himantopus					50+				
35	Ringed Plover	Charadrius hiaticula					40+				
36	Little Ringed Plover	Charadrius dubius		4	2		6				
37	Sanderling	Calidris alba						3			
38	Curlew Sandpiper	Calidris ferruginea					1				
39	Dunlin	Calidris alpina					1				
40	Little Stint	Calidris minuta					3				
41	Temminck's Stint	Calidris temminckii					2				
42	Ruff	Philomachus pugnax					c10				
43	Redshank	Tringa totanus					6				
44	Spotted Redshank	Tringa erythropus					1				
45	Greenshank	Tringa nebularia					1				
46	Wood Sandpiper	Tringa glareola		1			30+				
47	Common Sandpiper	Actitis hypoleucos		<u> </u>			3		2		

		April/N						Мау				
	Common Name	Scientific Name	30	1	2	3	4	5	6	7		
48	Audouin's Gull	Larus audouinii		1	5		1	4	2			
49	Yellow-legged Gull	Larus cachinnans	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
50	Wood Pigeon	Columba palumbus	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
51	Rock Dove	Columba livia	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
52	Collared Dove	Streptopelia decaocto	2	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
53	Turtle Dove	Streptopelia turtur	2	10+	10+	6	4	6	с8	2		
54	Cuckoo	Cuculus canorus						2				
55	Scops Owl	Otus scops	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		
56	Pallid Swift	Apus pallidus			2	20+						
57	Swift	Apus apus	√	✓	✓	√	✓	√	✓	✓		
58	Alpine Swift	Apus melba				10+						
59	Bee Eater	Merops apiaster		40+	100+		√	√	√			
60	Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>	2	4	4	3	1	4	5	1		
61	Thekla Lark	Galerida theklae	1	2	1	2			3	ا		
62	Short-toed Lark	Calandrella brachydactyla	1	1	'	1			2			
63	Sand Martin	Riparia riparia	<u>'</u>	'	1	30+	✓	✓	_ <u>∠</u>	_		
64	Swallow	Hirundo rustica	✓	✓		√	· /	· ✓	· /	✓		
65	Red-rumped Swallow	Hirundo daurica		,		,	1	•		<u> </u>		
66	House Martin	Delichon urbica		1	✓	✓		✓	√	✓		
				2	2	2		2	3	\ <u> </u>		
67	Tawny Pipit	Anthus campestris					1		<u> </u>	-		
68	Blue-headed Wagtail	Motacilla flava flava	✓	✓	✓	✓	√	1	√	✓		
69	Nightingale	Luscinia megarhynchos	V				V		✓	-		
70	Stonechat	Saxicola torquata		1	6	1		6	V	-		
71	Whinchat	Saxicola rubetra	1	2	4			4		-		
72	Northern Wheatear	Oenanthe oenanthe		1	1		1	1	3	-		
73	Blue Rock Thrush	Monticola solitarius			4		2		6	_		
74	Song Thrush	Turdus philomelos										
75	Blackbird	Turdus merula	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
76	Fan-tailed Warbler	Cisticola juncidis		c6	✓				1			
77	Cetti's Warbler	Cettia cetti	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
78	Blackcap	Sylvia atricapilla				c6						
79	Sardinian Warbler	Sylvia melanocephala	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
80	Wood Warbler	Phylloscopus sibilatrix	4	1	1	2	1	1				
81	Willow Warbler	Phylloscopus trochilus	1	1					1			
82	Chiffchaff	Phylloscopus collybita				1						
83	Spotted Flycatcher	Muscicapa striata	8+	4	1	10+	8	12+	6	2		
84	Pied Flycatcher	Ficedula hypoleuca	1	1			5	1				
85	Great Tit	Parus major	1	1	1	2	1	1	2	1		
86	Woodchat Shrike	Lanius senator badius		2	4	3	2	3	4			
87	Starling	Sturnus vulgaris		2								
88	Spotless Starling	Sturnus unicolor		2								
89	Golden Oriole	Oriolus oriolus		1				4	1			
90	Raven	Corvus corax	2	6	6	2	2	2	с8			
91	House Sparrow	Passer domesticus	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
92	Chaffinch	Fringilla coelebs			1	1						
93	Greenfinch	Carduelis chloris	√	✓	✓	√	√	√	✓	✓		
94	Goldfinch	Carduelis carduelis	✓	✓	✓	✓	√	✓	√	√		
95	Linnet	Acanthis cannabina	4	6	✓	✓	√	✓	√	✓		
96	Corn Bunting	Miliaria calandra	4	10+	20+	10+	6	✓	√	✓		

Butterflies

Swallowtail Papilio Macharon 2 Large White Pieris Brassicae 3 Small White Pieris Rapae 4 Clouded Yellow Colias Crocea 5 Holly Blue Celastrina Argiolus 6 **Small Copper** Lycaena Phlaeas 7 Common Blue Polyommatus Icarus 8 Painted Lady Cynthia Cardui

9 Small Heath Coenonympha Pamphilus

Speckled Wood
 Wall Brown
 Pararge Aegeria
 Lasiommata Megera

Other taxa

Herman's Tortoise Testudo Hermanni
 Migratory Locust Lousta Migratoria
 European Pond Emysorbicularis
 Moorish Gecko Tarentola Mauritanica

Plants

Pinus Halepenis
 Ephedra Fragilis
 Quercus Ilex
 Cytinos Ruber
 Ficus Carica
 Aleppo Pine
 Joint Pine
 Holm Oak
 Cytinus
 Fig

6 Parietaria Judaica Pellitory of the wall

7 Digitalis Dubia Foxglove
8 Bita Vulgaris Sea Samphire
9 Arthrocnemun Perennial Glasswort
10 Carpobrotus Red Hottentot Fig

11 Carpobrotus Hottentot

12 Silene Vulgaris Bladder Campion

13 Silene Sedoides

14 Silene Gallica Small Flowered Catchfly

15 Clematis Cirrhosa
 Vincetoxicum
 Vincetoxicum
 Swallowort
 Ranunculus
 Buttercup

18 Ranunculus Celery Leaved Buttercup

19 Ranunculus Water Crowfort
 20 Papaver Rhoeas Common Poppy
 21 Galucium Flavum Yellow Horned Poppy

22 Hypecoum

23 Nigella Damascena Love in the mist 24 Fumaria Capreolata Ramping Fumitory 25 Matthiola Incana Hoary Stock Cardaria Draba 26 **Hoary Cress** 27 Reseda Lutea Wild Mignonette 28 Reseda Alba White Mignonette 29 Sweet Alisom Lobularia Martimia

30 Crataegus Azarolus Medler

31 Calicontome Thorny Broom
 32 Spartium Junceum Spanish Broom
 33 Lupinus Micranthus Azure Lupin

34	Psoralea Biutuminosa	Pitch Trefoil
35	Vicia Benghalensis	Reddish Tufted Vetch
36	Lathyrus Annuus	Vetchling
37	Lathyrus Clymenum	Veterining
38	Lathyrus Ochrus	
39	Ononis Crispa	Large Yellow Restharrow
40	Melilotus Indicus	Small Melilot
41	Vicia Bithynica	Bithynian Vetch
42	Medicago Orbicularis	Large Disk Medick
43	Medicago Arabica	Spotted Medick
44	Lotus Tetraphyllus	Birdsfoot
45	Lotus Cytisoides	BirdSiGOt
46	Lotus Creticus	Southern Birdsfoot Trefoil
47	Trifolium Stellatum	Star Clover
48	Trifolium Tomentosium	Wooly Trefoil
49	Trifolium Scabrum	Rough Clover
50	Trifolium Angustifolium	Narrow leaved crimson clover
51	Anthyllis Vulneraria	Mediterranean Kidney Vetch
52	Anthyllis Tetraphylla	Bladder Vetch
53	Dorycnium	Diadder Veton
54	Dorycnium	
55	Hedysarum Coronarium	Italian Sainfoin
56	Oxalis Pes-Caprae	Bermuda Buttercup
57	Geranium Molle	Doves Foot Cranesbill
57 58	Geranium Rotundifolium	Round Leaved Cranesbill
59	Geranium Pusillum	Small Leaved Cranesbill
60 61	Geranium Dissectum Geranium Columbinum	Cut Leaved Cranesbill
_		Long Stalked Cranesbill Herb Robert
62	Geranium Robertianum	
63	Geranium Purpureum Erodium Moschatum	Little Robin
64 65	Linum Bienne	Common Storksbill Pale Flax
65 66		Pale Flax
66 67	Linum Trigynum	Sun Spurge
67	Euphorbia Helioscopia	Sun Spurge
68	Euphorbia Peplus	Petty Spurge
69 70	Euphorbia Paralias	Sea Spurge
70	Euphorbia Dendroides	Tree Spurge
71	Pistacia Lentiscus	Mastic Tree
72	Malva Neglecta	Dwarf Mallow
73	Malva Sylvestris	Common Mallow
74 75	Lavatera Cretica	Cretan Mallow
75 70	Lavatera Arborea	Tree Mallow
76	Daphne Gnidium	D (. 0.11 W .
77	Hypericum Perforatum	Perforate St Johns Wort
78	Cistus Albidus	Grey leaved cistus
79	Cistus Salvifolius	Sage leaved cistus
80	Cistus Monspeliensis	Narrow leaved cistus
81	Tuberaria Guttata	Spotted Rockrose
82	Fumana Thymifolia	Osa Haad
83	Frankenia Laevis	Sea Heath
84	Ecballium Eltaerium	Squirting Cucumber
85	Tamarix Gallica	Tamarisk
86	Lythrum Junceum	.
87	Punica Granatum	Pomegranate
88	Myrtus Communis	Myrtle

89	Hedera Helix	lvy
90	Eryngium Maritimum	Sea Holly
91	Crithmum Maritimum	Rock Samphire
92	Oenanthe Globulosa	Mediterranean Water Dropwort
93	Ferula Communis	Giant Fennel
94	Foeniculum	Fennel
95	Kundmannia	Kundmannia
96	Daucus Carota	Wild Carrot
97	Turdylium Apulum	Tordylium
98	Arbutus Unedo	Strawberry Tree
99	Erica Arborea	Tree Heath
100	Anagallis Arvensis	Scarlet Pimpernel
101	Cyclamen Valearicum	Cyclamen
102	Limonium Minutum	Dwarf Sea Lavender
103	Blackstonia	Yellow Wort
104	Centaurium	Common Centaury
105	Centaurium	Lesser Centaury
106	Centaurium	Yellow Centaury
107	Rubia Peregrina	Madder
108	Olea Europea	Olive
109	Calystegia Soldanella	Sea Bindweed
110	Iponoea Indica	Morning Glory
111	Echium Italicum	Pale Bugloss
112	Echium Plantagineum	Purple Vipers Bugloss
113	Borago Officinalis	Borage
114	Cynoglossum	Blue Hounds Tongue
115	Prasium Majus	Prasium
116	Lavandula Stoechas	French Lavender
117	Teucrium Polium	Felty Germander
118	Teucrium Marum	Totty Communicati
119	Salvia Verbenaca	Wild Clary
120	Rosmarinus	Rosemary
121	Solanum Sodomeum	Apple of Sodum
122	Vervascum Creticum	Apple of Coddin
123	Linaria Triphylla	Three Leaved Toadflax
124	Misopates Orontium	Lesser Snapdragon
125	Parentucellia	Yellow Bartsia
126	Bellardia Trixago	Bellardia
127	Lonicera Implexa	Honeysuckle
128	Scrophularia Ramosissima	Dogs Figwort
129	Orobanche Ramose	Branched Broomrape
130	Orobanche Minor	Common Broomrape
131	Acanthus Mollis	Bears Breech
132	Plantago Lagopus	Plantain
133	Centrenthus	Spanish Valerian
134	Scabiosa Atropurpurea	Sweet Scabious
135	Bellis Annua	Annual Daisy
136	Bellis Sylvestris	Daisy
137	Evax Pygmaea	Daisy
138	Helichrysum	
139	Helichrysum	
140	Phagnalon Rupestre	
141	Pallenis Spinosa	
142	Anthemis Maritimus	
1.10	A AA	V II 0 A 1

Yellow Sea Aster

143 Asteriscus Maritimus

144	Matricaria Recutita	Scented Mayweed
145	Caldenula Arvensis	Field Marigold
146	Chrysanthenum	Crown Daisy
147	Senecio Bicolor	Cineraria
147	Senecio Bicoloi Senecio Rodriquezii	Cilierana
149	Galactites Tomentosa	Galactites
150		Milk Thistle
150	Silybum Marianum	wiik miste
151	Urospermum Cichorium Intubus	Chicary
152	Cichorium Intybus	Chicory Reicharda
153	Reicharda Tingitana	
155	Ashpodelus	Common Asphodel
156	Ashpodelus Ruscus Aculeatus	Hollow Leaved Ahphodel Butchers Broom
156		
	Smilax Aspera	Common Smilax
158	Allium Roseum	Rosy Garlic
159 160	Allium Triquetrum	Tree Cornered Leek
161	Asparagus Stipuloria	
162	Asparagus Stipularis	Tagasi Uyasinth
	Muscari Comosum	Tassel Hyacinth Sea Daffodil
163 164	Pancratium	Sea Dallouii
_	Launaea Cervicornis	
165	Ornithogalum	
166 167	Ornithogalum	Summer Snowflake
	Galanthus Aestivum	Wild Gladiolus
168 169	Gladiolus Llyricus Tamas Communis	
		Black Bryony
170	Iris Pseudacorus	Flag Iris
171 172	Arisarum Vulgare	Friars Cowl
	Dracunculus	Dragon Arum
173	Anacamptis	Pyramidal Orchid
174	Ophrys Vernixia	Mirror Orchid
175	Ophrys Bombyliflora	Bumble Bee Orchid
176	Ophrys Tenthredinifera	Sawfly Orchid
177	Ophrys Balearica	O
178	Serapias Parviflora	Small Flowered Tongue Orchid
179	Serapias Lingua	Tongue Orchid
180	Serapias Cordigera	Heart Flowered Orchid
181	Barlia Robertiana	Giant Orchid
182	Briza Maxima	Large Quaking Grass
183	Rundo Donax	Giant Reed