

Honeyguide

WILDLIFE HOLIDAYS

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DISCOVERING MENORCA

17 – 24 April 2009

Menorca

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Holiday participants

Sue and Peter Burge
Helen and Malcolm Crowder
Kate Dalziel
Helen Kiff

Julia Maynard
Gill Page
Alison Wilson
Tom Wiseman

Leaders

Chris Gibson
Ivan Nethercoat

Our hosts at Matchani Gran: Shaun and Jenny Murphy <http://menorcacountryhouse.com>
Also joining the group during the week were John Seymour, historian and Menorcan resident, and Montse Bau i Puig from GOB (*Grup Balear d'Ornitologia i Defensa de la Naturalesa*) www.gobmenorca.co./english

Report by Chris Gibson and Ivan Nethercoat

All photos in this report were taken during the week, those edged in green by Chris Gibson, in blue by Ivan Nethercoat, and the bumblebee orchid on page 23 by Helen Crowder

Front cover: Audouin's gulls at Son Bou
Below: Matchani Gran



As with all Honeyguide holidays, part of the price of the holiday was put towards a conservation project, in this case for GOB's work in Menorca. The conservation contribution this year of £35 per person was supplemented in three ways: firstly, by gift aid through the Honeyguide Wildlife Charitable Trust; secondly, by a donation of £200 from Roger Jordan and friends in the Wildlife Outreach Network based in Essex; and thirdly by an individual contribution of £50 from a regular Honeyguide; leading to a total of £708 given to the Grup Balear d'Ornitologia i Defensa de la Naturalesa (GOB Menorca).

To date, this brings the sum of our donations to GOB to £8,662. The total conservation contributions from all Honeyguide holidays since 1991 is currently £60,166 (June 2009).

Menorca 17 - 24 April 2009

Day 1 – 17 April: arrival and orientation around Matchani Gran

It is perhaps unfortunate to residents of the town that Luton and rain seem so well suited. Thus it was that we left the very wet runway and headed off to what could only be better weather. And so it proved as we disembarked at Mahón in glorious sunshine and a stiff breeze that was transporting swallows and booted eagles across the airport skies.

Shaun was there to meet us and guide us to our transport – two brand new buses that would test the spatial awareness of the drivers over the week, especially down the inviting driveway to our base at Matchani Gran.

First on the agenda was a drink in the bar, as our first swifts of the year flew overhead (the very first being an obliging pallid) as did red kite, booted eagle and kestrel. Then to our rooms, and swathes of nightingale and Cetti's warbler song from the dense bushes in the 'Wild Wood' next to the house to accompany our unpacking.

There is a tradition at Matchani Gran that a free brandy is awarded to the first person in the pool for the year. As we were the first guests and it was warm, then the challenge was set and while Ivan felt it was an easy win this year he was a little surprised that he was beaten to it by Alison – and all within half an hour of arriving.

After a delightful lunch of freshly-made quiche and salad, prepared by Jenny, Shaun's wife and excellent cook and rearer of sheep, it was time to explore the fields surrounding our base. As we assembled another booted eagle drifted over to the annoyance of the local kestrel, soon to be followed by another red kite – this was one busy kestrel! Chris had been out hunting and before our jaunt into the fields he produced a very smart and very large Egyptian locust in a bug box so we could all examine the distinctive striped eyes that help separate this species from the swarming variety.

The most startling feature of the fields is the asphodels (*right*) which are slowly taking over, especially apparent to the leaders, neither of whom had been here for six years. These spectacular plants grow to nearly 2 metres, and while impressive, they do tend to suppress other plants coming through, as well as being indicative of over-grazing. However, the sheep had been excluded from the first field since early spring, and the result was a fine show of tassel hyacinth; sawfly, mirror and tongue orchids; annual daisy; and masses of blue scarlet pimpernel – all within 20 metres of the gate. Further into the field, numerous other plants



were flowering including the much-admired rose garlic, friar's cowl and *Bellardia*, and a Hermann's tortoise revealed itself when one of the many rocks got up and walked away.

Sardinian warblers, greenfinch and goldfinch were all singing away and in the distance the nightingales and hoopoes kept up their chorus as we moved from one field to the next. A hoopoe was flushed as we approached the gate but came back down on the far side of the next field. Approaching carefully we waited atop a large raised circular platform from where we could look down into the vegetation. The hoopoe remained elusive but a flock of short-toed larks came and landed close by with their Thekla lark cousins calling but not offering good views. A woodchat shrike was much more obliging and turned out to

be one of a local pair, the lack of white primary patches indicating they were of the Balearic race *badius*. On and off over the next couple of hours they put on a superb show, feeding, singing and even mating. A peregrine sailed overhead, one of three seen this afternoon, adding nicely to the tally of raptors for the day. Ground-level activity was also taking place in the grazed fields, with numerous dung-beetles persistently rolling large dung balls towards their nest holes, and a scattering of painted ladies. This proved to be the most frequently seen butterfly during the holiday, and perhaps gives us hope that we may see some of their descendants back home later in the summer.

A stroll down the drive to overlook the adjoining fields ended a lovely afternoon, and here the signs of migration were still evident with pied flycatcher and redstart feeding alongside recently tilled patches of soil, and a small party of bee-eaters flying high overhead. A lucky sight for the stragglers was a large pine marten walking on the top of a wall, pausing long enough for good views before disappearing into the scrub. Plants too were excellent here, with crown daisies in both colour forms, along with giant orchid (some still in flower) and a delightful patch of Arabian star-of-Bethlehem (right).



Back to base to relax as the sun went down on a glorious warm evening, before a review of the day and plans for tomorrow. Then a superlative evening meal, followed by Peter's bat detector picking out pipistrelle, serotine and horseshoe-bats above our rooms, intermingled with the audible chirps of free-tailed bats, and the distant wailing of stone-curlews.

Day 2 – 18 April: Son Bou and Torre d'en Gaumes

A pre-breakfast walk for a few of us was rewarded with scope-filling views of hoopoe, distant calls of stone-curlew and just the wonderfully dynamic world of birds early in the day - quite unlike any other time and especially pleasant when they are charging around fields of Mediterranean flowers. Turtle doves were purring on the wires, where yesterday there were none, suggesting that despite the unfavourable winds some migration was underway.

A sumptuous breakfast of local breads, cereals and eggs, while a female redstart flitted around the swimming pool, set us up well for the day ahead which was to be the beach at Son Bou. This is a popular holiday centre in high season with a marsh and dune system saved from the developers by the actions of GOB. Our season is somewhat earlier however and today the town was very quiet as we drifted down to the car park behind the beach.



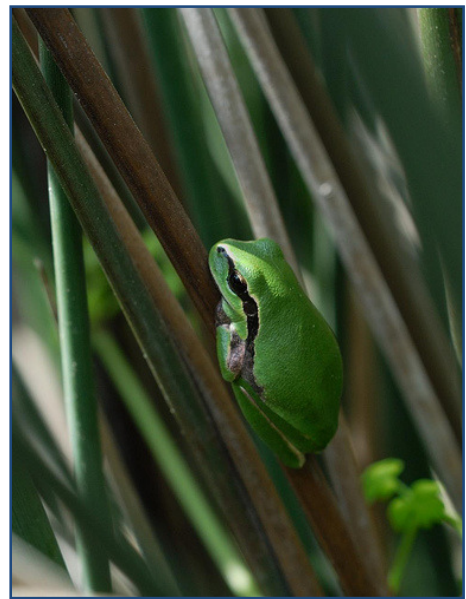
From here our route took us across the sand to well laid-out paths across the dunes, roped and 'boardwalked' to minimise disturbance to fragile plant communities. And the evidence is that this management technique is working, as to either side the dunes was a riot of colour, with bird's-foot-trefoil, sea medick (left), purple viper's-bugloss and a host of other flowers, including a few yellow bee-orchids.



Audouin's gulls were among the first birds we saw, drinking and bathing in the freshwater outflow across the beach (*photo on front cover*). Now a relatively common sight, these beautiful gulls were once a rare breeding bird – and are still a Mediterranean speciality. One bird, bearing a colour ring marked with 'AHZD', was subsequently found to have been ringed as a chick on 24 June 2004 at a small colony close to Punta Nati in Ciutadella. Out to sea the local shags were feeding alongside yellow-legged gulls, while Cory's shearwaters drifted past close inshore with their smaller and faster Balearic relatives a little more distant. The beach was covered in the

remains of Neptune-weed, the 'nun's farts' (*above*) ranging in size from modest little fartlets to Mother Superiors nearly 10cm in diameter, or - as Kate put it - 'habit lifters'! Stonechats stood proud on *Pistachia* bushes while Cetti's warblers scolded our presence and purple herons appeared briefly before disappearing into the cover of the reeds.

On our return the bushes near the car park provided a site for a couple of stripeless tree-frogs to announce their presence to each other and any nearby females. Presumably the females have far less trouble finding them than we did but after some perseverance everyone saw a fantastic male deep inside a clump of rush (*right*).



Lunch was taken on a track leading through the back of the marsh that allows a view over open water. Cattle egrets were feeding among cattle and a paper wasp was starting a nest for the summer, while a very low-flying Egyptian vulture provided early excitement after we had set off up the track. Whinchats and more Sardinian warblers were making use of the dry-stone walls, and inland there was a storm that brought down numerous swallows to the marsh and a few stray raindrops on us. At this point, Tom took a tumble on the stony track, so we hardly noticed the rain as he was patched up, and then carried on regardless in his own inimitable style. Mallards, coots and moorhens were busy on the open water and a purple heron surprised us by trying the egret's way of life by feeding out in the open in a field with cattle. After much searching a distinctive red leg and blue body was seen moving behind some rushes, a purple gallinule, prized eating of Romans and prized tick of birdwatchers, not easy to see on Menorca. The field margins along the trackside were ablaze with colour, with red poppies, mallow-leaved bindweed, large blue alkanet, Cretan hound's-tongue and the beautiful *Linaria triphylla* all vying for our attention

Back at the buses a small party of bee-eaters flew low overhead but sadly disappeared from view very quickly. However, a small detour to the archaeological site of Torre d'en Gaumes on the route home was interrupted by ten or more bee-eaters sitting on the wires and feeding over fields beside the road. The birds kept up the display for some time while behind them the storms continued with lightning and rain in the distance. The combination of bee-eaters in full sun with a wonderful stormy grey backcloth was quite magical, one of the lasting memories of the trip, and it also impressed a couple of local people who stopped to see what we were doing.

The archaeological site exposes the remains of a settlement dating back to 1300BC, strategically placed on a hill overlooking fields down to the coast allowing panoramic views across the open countryside. The rocky remains of buildings and walls are home to many interesting plants such as pale periwinkle, and *Prasium majus*, and a good place for scanning the skies for raptors – red kite, peregrine, and kestrel in the time we were there but the star birds were the booted eagles riding the thermals: a pair with a third bird were in full display flight consisting of closing the wings and falling into an enormous and very fast dive before sweeping up and back again. Tom found some fascinating bumblebees on the way back to the buses. Black and orange with orange legs they were busy taking moisture from the soil after the rain. Officially, tawny mining bees, but Tom's bees will be how they are remembered.

Back to Matchani Gran where the weather had been much more severe, with hail and severe rain, for the evening log and dinner. Afterwards an exploration of the gardens with bat detectors allowed us to hear four species of bat including Daubenton's, common and Kuhl's pipistrelle, and a species of horseshoe-bat, while in the distance a lone scops owl called, another migrant bird here for the summer.

Day 3 – 19 April: Tirant and Cap de Cavalleria



This morning the turtle doves were even louder but the atmosphere was completely different, with flat calm and clear skies allowing the sun to appear as early as possible but through a dense ground mist, causing sunbeams to cross our path as we took a stroll down the lane to the hoopoes declaring territory. A fleeting moment of atmospheric magic as a prelude to a day of unbroken blue skies. Approaching the pig field we surprised two or three stone-curlews that gave the briefest of views but called indignantly through the bushes for all to hear if not see.

The drive to Tirant took us past a small *depuradora*, a water treatment plant near Es Mercadal, with several pools often attractive to waders and wagtails. Today the banks of the pools were nearly empty, with just a

couple of common sandpipers and a little ringed plover, although a cuckoo gave a very close fly-past.

A similar lack of waders was also the situation at Tirant. This seasonal wetland had plenty of water, wet grassland and pools after a wet autumn but there were few species here. Plenty of booted eagles drifted over and marsh harriers hunted across the water but no waders. Giant fennel was a conspicuous member of the flora here, and *Phillyrea* bushes, glistening in the sunlight, were found to be festooned with silken caterpillar webs. After research with Martin Honey from the Natural History Museum, we have concluded that these were very small pine processionary-moth larvae – common enough, indeed too common for many on account of their defoliating habits and irritant hairs, but on a very unusual host plant.

One of the sights of the day was found on the road by Julia – a tiny Hermann's tortoise, not a lot bigger than a £2 coin and despite being cold-blooded a creature of immense warmth and character. He spent a good proportion of his new life several feet in the air as he was passed around the group and photographed by everyone with a camera.

Moving on, Chris took his bus ahead and spotted a night heron out in the open beside a small ditch. As people came to watch, it moved under the cover of some dense trees nearby and it became clear the bird was badly injured on the right wing – possibly through a collision with wires. However, while tracking the bird through the tamarisks we also saw a female pied flycatcher and willow warblers feeding among the trees. As we were about to go a lone stone-curlew started to walk out from behind the trees and whilst initially very elusive it soon took off, allowing us all to have some very good flight views of this secretive bird.

And so on to a very different habitat. The Cap de Cavalleria is a very exposed rocky promontory a few kilometres away. Almost like a moonscape in places, it is a site of a few Balearic endemic plant species and can be good for migrant birds. Having spent several minutes scoping an osprey perched on an electricity pylon near the approach road, alas the birds were very quiet at the lighthouse except for a wonderful tawny pipit bathing a few feet from the bus in a pool resulting from yesterday's storm. But the plants were still there, including mauve *Senecio rodriguezii* nestling in the rocky crevices and prickly cushions of several 'vegetable hedgehogs', especially *Launaea cervicornis*, albeit not yet in flower. The vegetable hedgehogs, or *socarrells*, are a group of unrelated but convergently-evolved plants which grow as spiny cushions, adapted to withstand extreme exposure and intense grazing. The identity of the postman's discarded green elastic bands on the dried up beds of ephemeral pools was revealed when we found starry white flowers of the sand crocus among the curled leaves.

On the way back we stopped at the narrow portion of the peninsula and had a look out to the bay where both Balearic and Cory's shearwaters put on a great show accompanied by displaying Audouin's gulls – by now we were really learning the tricks of the trade – Audouin's gulls by sound!. The botanists took a track to the opposite bay and were delighted to find the Balearic dragon arum in full flower (*right*) like an upturned dustbin.



As we left a hobby whizzed past the bus and we headed back to Tirant for another quick look before returning home. Tirant was similar to earlier, although in the evening the atmosphere was very different, and to make our return worthwhile three waders decided to show – two green sandpipers and one wood sandpiper. Back at the ranch, we witnessed a huge arrival of common swifts and heard tales of yet another hail storm.

Our evening meal was taken in San Climent at the Casino restaurant, where we were treated to an excellent selection of *tapas* and local food.

Day 4 – 20 April: Algendar Gorge, Cala Galdana, Ciutadella and (nearly!) Naveta d'es Tudons

A change in the weather overnight and this time no gently rising mist at dawn but instead a cool northerly breeze with clear skies. This morning we had a challenge – to find the stone-curlews in among the bushes in the pig field. No more surprising the birds – this time it was fieldcraft – well, a lot of quiet searching of gaps in the foliage. We were however successful with everyone catching a clear but brief view without disturbing the birds.

The Algendar Gorge was our key destination today. The gorge is probably the best known of Menorca's famous gorges, or *barrancos*, cut deep into the limestone and draining the south side of the island. On the drive here the weather remained cool and cloud was building up but in the gorge the air was calm and warm, and when the sun appeared it soon became very warm.

The plants and birds also appreciate this shelter and warmth. As we disembarked, a spotted flycatcher put on an amazing show, one extended feeding foray of nearly half a minute in which it caught at least seven flies. At the start of the gorge the valley is wide and open and the fertile valley floor roughly cultivated. The sloping valley sides are clothed in holm oak and pines and the track is lined with lush vegetation; brambles, nettles, huge leaves of Italian lords-and-ladies, giant fennel and luxuriant grasses. A rosette of leaves of the autumn-flowering sea squill was found to be home to at least three tree-frogs, and we soon became immersed in olfactory botany, 'savouring' the scents of stink aster and pitch trefoil. On some rocky outcrops by the track, we found rock samphire (another addition to the foliar scentscape). Surprisingly far inland, these plants may well be relicts from the time the valley floor was

tidal before the development of the nearby tourist resort. Three-cornered leek formed dense colonies in places, while there were some showy stands of both yellow bartsia and *Verbascum creticum*.

As at Tirant, the effects of a wet autumn are evident here with more water than on any previous year with Honeyguide. A very wet field at the start of the walk provided a hunting site for grey and squacco herons, while alongside the path were pools and standing water for purple heron, little egret and moorhen. A shuffle of feathers caught Chris's eye to reveal a night heron perched in a tree close enough to the path to provide scope-filling views.

The damp theme was interrupted in spectacular style by Egyptian vultures tumbling into the gorge and flying low overhead or perching on cliffs to show off their wonderful plumage, enhanced by the colour of the rocks they were nesting on. All along the path nightingales filled the air with song and speckled wood butterflies (of the south-western tawny-speckled form) danced amongst the vegetation.

The gorge kept our interest longer than expected and a late lunch was taken above Cala Galdana, the classic holiday brochure view of the island. The sheltered *mirador* gave us warmth, a sea view, an obliging male Italian wall lizard and alpine swifts to accompany the picnic, while all around was the evidence of nocturnal rodent activity – pine cones nibbled in squirrel-fashion. In these squirrel-free islands, black rats have adopted their feeding niche.

Then onward to Ciutadella, the original capital of Menorca until the British moved it to Mahón. This is still the religious capital however and there is a fine cathedral housed amongst its ancient streets. This was a brief coffee stop and chance to recharge after the morning's walk but the sharp-eyed saw a peregrine and the sharp-eared heard the song of serin high in the trees around the square.

The archaeological site of Naveta d'es Tudons was our next stop but unfortunately the site was closed due to it being a Monday; quite why Monday was chosen remains a mystery, especially as it was not a day off but just early closing (15.30, so we missed out by half an hour). However we potted around the edges of the car park and had the surprise bird of the day when a spoonbill flew across a distant hillside, apparently a long way from any water but perhaps a result of the storms that were brewing over the sea. Booted eagles came down low above us and also put on another show of display flight.

So back to Matchani Gran for a meal and the daily log and review, where Alison also produced a star beetle found in the grounds – a magnificent rhinoceros beetle.

Day 5 – 21 April: Mahón and Es Grau

In keeping with the ever-changing mood of the pre-breakfast stroll, this morning was heavy rain but calm. Undeterred, and spurred on by the leaders' assertion that 'bad weather = good birds', a few hardy souls donned wet-weather gear and headed off across the fields – but in vain as very little was showing (apart from fly-over greenshank and yellow wagtail) until three of us went back to the stone-curlew field where once again the birds were elusive but visible enough – just.



As breakfast started the rain eased and by the time we set off it had stopped and we had no more for the day. Just past Matchani Gran on the main road a very white bird caught our eye, as it had both yesterday and briefly the day before. Today we had a better view and it was also singing which helped as this was an albino bird – something seldom seen in the wild as they tend to get eaten rather quickly. This one was a corn bunting (*left*), singing from the wires in the hope of attracting a mate and keeping territory – which it seemed to be doing quite successfully despite its apparent oddity.

On to Mahón, where we were due to catch a boat for a tour of the harbour, some history and a few birds – and fish, as this was a catamaran with windows built into the sides of the two hulls. The wind was still blustery as we set off but the sun was strengthening as we got further out into the harbour. Audouin's gull, booted eagle and peregrine flew by and, as we stopped for the underwater viewing, several blue rock thrushes were on the cliffs. On each beach we visited the Neptune-weed was very evident washed up along the shore as tideline litter and nun's farts, but from the underwater viewing area of the boat one can see it as a living plant providing a habitat for numerous fish species.

An hour later we were back in dock, time for a quick coffee before heading to Es Grau and lunch. The sun was now back to full strength but the wind remained as we set off across the marsh of the only nature reserve on Menorca. A squacco heron and pair of black-winged stilts found shelter against the sides of the pools while the lake housed numerous coots and mallards but no sign this year of black-necked grebes. The salt-marsh vegetation contained a number of British species, along with an abundance of rose garlic in a form bearing more bulbils than flowers, perhaps an adaptation to salt stress which may inhibit the germination of seeds. Booted eagle, marsh harrier and red kite all flew over before we headed into the woods to be greeted by a wood warbler feeding in a sheltered and sunny corner. Among the trees, greenfinches seemed to be keeping a close eye on a pair of woodchat shrikes while a spotted flycatcher carried on regardless. At the end of the wood is a lovely sandy field leading up to banks of spiny broom, tree spurge and everywhere *Cistus*. Pyramidal orchids, mostly of the white form, were nestled amongst Italian sainfoin, while the open grassland had carpets of mirror, yellow bee, tongue and bumblebee orchids, and a couple of tortoises were found amongst the undergrowth.

A walk back to the bus along the shore of the bay finished the day off well and then back Matchani Gran for the log, a talk from local historian John Seymour and dinner.

Day 6 – 21 April: Tirant, Fornells, Sa Roca, Monte Toro and Binidali Cove

How much variation on a theme can you have in a week? This morning was windy but dry, after a night of heavy rain. For a change we took the bus to the coast just down the road from Matchani Gran. This is a windswept area of bare rock and coastal heath, albeit bearing the signs of rapid urbanization, but often good for migrant birds. Cala de Binidali is a south-facing valley full of low scrub – seemingly perfect for migrants thwarted by the overnight rain. Except for today when there were only Sardinian warblers to be seen. A few swallows came in off the sea but apart from that the potential was not realised. Hey ho, worth a try!

After breakfast, the wind was still very strong from the north and our destination was Fornells, a town on the north coast. A detour *en route* to explore the lake and marshes at Tirant would hopefully give time for the coast to become warmer and maybe even less windy.

One of the lakes at Tirant is only viewable from the raised portion of road on the 'main' road but it is also one of the best with an excellent field in front often frequented by pipits and wagtails. Here we finally saw yellow wagtails up close, new migrants just arrived on the island, and in three forms – Spanish, blue-headed and grey-headed, destined for Iberia, central Europe and Scandinavia respectively. With the feral geese was a lone bean goose, although its origins must remain a matter of conjecture. On the lake were lots of mallards as usual but also a pair of gadwalls and a female red-crested pochard with a brood of newly hatched chicks. We later learned from the Societat Ornitològica de Menorca that this represents the first breeding record for the island! Just one example of the ways in which wildlife holidays like ours can benefit local conservation efforts. Behind us an osprey soared by, as quails called from the long grass of adjoining fields. A marsh harrier drifted past low over the crops and a booted eagle circled in the distance.

As this was a good start with a few migrants in we then drove back down the track toward Tirant. A nice group of wood sandpipers and ruff, with a single green sandpiper, were feeding in the pools with little ringed plover and several more yellow wagtails. Further down the track a stone-curlew again took off from behind the trees as a pied flycatcher flitted amongst the branches. In the distance a lone white stork

battled against the northerly wind and an immature Egyptian vulture crossed the marsh. A very productive time, especially as it was a filler, waiting for the weather to improve.

On then to the point at Fornells where the wind had not eased but the sun had come out to warm the air. Birds were keeping very low down and out of view with only tawny pipit and tree pipits showing. The plants, landscape and view were spectacular however, particularly the yellow broomrape (*below left*). *Limonium minutum*, sea heath, sea chamomile and *Helichrysum* adorned the harsh rocks below the Moorish tower, but the wind (however invigorating) eventually drew us back to the vans and inland to lunch.



Sa Roca is a delightful area of pine and holm oak forest inland, to the north-east of El Toro, Menorca's largest hill. The woodland gave us shelter from the wind and lunch was most pleasant, sitting among sawfly and mirror orchids alongside the quiet road. Chris then set a challenge, to find three botanical specialities. And the group responded magnificently! Within a few metres, Kate triumphantly claimed her free drink by locating *Cytinus ruber* (*above right*), a parasitic plant which attacks pink *Cistus* species, here *Cistus albidus*. In all we found almost twenty specimens of this often elusive plant, which is easily missed on account of the fact that all that shows outside the tissues of its host are the golf-ball sized flower clusters. And again Honeyguide can take credit for having recorded this plant as new to the island at this very spot in 2002. A little more searching then produced the other two targets – several spikes of violet bird's-nest orchid, some in good flower, and finally good numbers of the endemic *Ophrys balearica* (see *orchid photos in plant list*).

Our return home was via the summit of El Toro. Unfortunately the wind made staying outside impossible, and indeed the haze meant the views of almost the whole of the island were not as dramatic as they can be. But the café was open with a sheltered balcony where we took coffee and watched a spotted flycatcher at work in the shelter of the monastery walls.

For a change we took the delightful but slower Kane road back to Mahón and then a quick visit back to Cala de Binidali. Again it was very quiet for birds so it was back to Matchani Gran where we met Montse from GOB Menorca, recipients of the Honeyguide cheque to help with their conservation work on the island which she was able to tell us about over dinner.

Day 7 – 22 April: Montgofre Nou and Cap Favàritx

Back to a bright sunny morning with a more gentle wind than previously. An increased take-up for the last pre-breakfast stroll and the usual suspects were there to greet us – the stone-curlews as elusive as ever, the goldfinches apparently singing louder and more clearly than in the UK, the greenfinches that appear larger and brighter than at home.

After breakfast we prepared for sun and set off to Montgofre Nou. As we drove along the main road a

small group of raptors was circling on a thermal and as we tried to identify them 'white stork' was heard in Ivan's van – trying to think how to explain that the colour was similar but these were booted eagles at the same time as driving, the moment was gone and we had passed on. It then became clear that the 'white stork' referred to a bird in the field! Both drivers had missed it whilst checking out the sky but presumably this was the same stork we saw battling the winds yesterday at Tirant.

Off the main road our route took us along a straight road lined with farm fields that appear not to have too much of the intensive side of farming applied to them. A wheatear was seen on the bare earth near a farm and kestrels, red kites and booted eagles did their stuff over the fields.

The approach to Montgofre Nou is via a narrow track consisting of holes with a small amount of surface in between. Speed is therefore somewhat reduced, allowing plenty of time for the branches of bushes and stems of grasses to enter the vehicles through open windows on their tactile journey along the paintwork.

This track took us alongside fantastic weathered rock faces (*right*) with deep holes and overhangs providing a home to kestrels and a sunning spot for ravens before ending at the entrance to Montgofre. Here we disembarked and watched a Moorish gecko, Italian wall lizard and juvenile tortoise all on or below the wall alongside the vans. Then we set off down the private road that affords the best view of this wetland area of abandoned salt pans, which we reached eventually after some complex negotiations with the local Natural Park wardens who had apparently not been expecting us...



Black-winged stilts, wood sandpipers and little ringed plovers (*lrp below*) were all around in good numbers and excellent light, but among them were also three greenshanks and three spotted redshanks, one of the latter in fresh spring plumage. Green sandpipers hid themselves under the bank, only dashing out as we got level with them and then immediately disappearing across the water. Common sandpipers too



were sticking to the edges but when disturbed they had the courtesy to sit alongside their 'wood' relatives to allow easy comparison. As the morning progressed, so the stilts seemed to get more active but more confiding, and the sight of several dozen of these elegant (if somewhat ungainly) waders in the water, feeding, flying and generally bickering was unforgettable and indeed much committed to 'film', at least in the digital sense.

Red kite, booted eagle and peregrine all appeared overhead at various times but the best raptor views were of a marvellous

osprey which passed low over our heads. Willow warblers sang from the tamarisks and loads of yellow wagtails were feeding on the edges of the salt pans or on the thick blanket-weed. We were also apparently in the middle of a major dragonfly emergence, with huge numbers of fresh common darters, and a few slightly more mature red-veined darters, flying around and clinging to the emergent wetland plants.

Lunch was taken back at the vehicles before heading to Cap Favàritx (*below, showing 'waves' of *Launea cervicornis**) at the extreme north-east of the island and only a short distance from the track to Montgofre. The habitat could not be more different here with lush vegetation slowly giving way to open areas of shale and an almost barren landscape with a few specialised plants being enveloped by the South African Hottentot fig. The walk out to the end of the point took us past a wonderful geological story, including trace fossils of burrowing marine worms which presumably ended up in that state as a result of some geo-environmental cataclysm.



Our last stop of the day and of the holiday, just inland of the point where vegetation starts to thicken brought us a few good plant species, including *Astragalus balearicus*, another vegetable hedgehog, but this time in flower, and *Silene sedoides* and *S. secundiflora*. Birds were few and far between, until Ivan charged up his iPod and played the song of spectacled warbler. Almost immediately a male bird appeared, if fleetingly, along with some confused Sardinians. A great end to a fabulous day.

Our evening meal was taken at the Casino again and a fine job they did. Wonderful *tapas* to start were almost a meal on their own but the main courses were also excellent. A mixed fish grill for two would have fed most of the table and Malcolm's special dish came literally signed by the chef.

Day 8 – 24 April: Homeward bound...

Another fine, bright and calm morning and our last chance to take in the sights, sounds and scents of the Mediterranean. Shaun and Jenny wished us farewell as they prepared to meet the next wildlife group arriving on the same plane we would depart on. The flight left on time and, for those on the left-hand side of the plane with a window, allowed a last look at some of the wonderful places we had experienced.

The Best Bits

On the last night, everyone was allowed two choices – the best bird, and the best of the rest. And this is what they had to say:

Alison – black-winged stilts at Montgofre Nou; all responsible for making it a welcoming and caring holiday.

Gill – tawny pipit bathing at Cavallería; the welcome and generosity of Shaun and Jenny.

Helen C. – booted eagles; masses of mirror orchids.

Helen K. – the bee-eaters against a thundercloud; the overall profusion of wonderful flowers.

Julia – ospreys; the baby tortoise.

Kate – those bee-eaters again; rose garlic.

Malcolm – the display stoop of booted eagle; pine marten.

Peter – woodchat shrikes; baby tortoise again.

Sue – a third mention for the bee-eaters; flowering Balearic dragon arum.

Tom – Audouin's gull; the food at Matchani Gran.

And finally...

Chris – the ever-present Matchani Gran hoopoes; Balearic dragon arum.

Ivan – bee-eaters in a storm; the tree frogs.

...to which we must both add the group of 2009 who helped make the holiday the success it was!



Menorcan olive-wood gates

BIRDS

Little Grebe	Tirant
Cory's Shearwater	Very good views at Son Bou and Cap de Cavallería; one close offshore at Cap Favàritx
Balearic Shearwater	A few past at Fornells Point, small raft at Cap Favàritx, a large group of 50 or more at Cap de Cavallería and several passing Son Bou
Mediterranean Shag	Small numbers at all coastal sites
Night Heron	One with injured wing at Tirant, feeding but unable to fly. One at Algendar Gorge.
Squacco Heron	Single birds at Tirant, Algendar Gorge and Es Grau
Cattle Egret	A small group at Son Bou; seven landed after storm on wall near Torre d'en Gaumes; one at Tirant
Little Egret	Small numbers at most wetland sites
Grey Heron	Montgofre Nou, Algendar Gorge & Es Grau
Purple Heron	Two or three at Son Bou and one seen well at both Tirant and Algendar Gorge
White Stork	One flying high over Tirant and another (same?) next day in fields just outside Mahón
Spoonbill	One flying low along small valley at Naveta d'es Tudons
Shelduck	Pair at Montgofre Nou
Gadwall	A pair at both Tirant and Montgofre Nou
Red-crested Pochard	A female with young at Tirant
Mallard	Wherever fresh water was present
Honey Buzzard	A distant bird circling inland of Son Bou
Red Kite	Individuals seen almost every day; seemingly rather numerous, more so than on previous trips
Egyptian Vulture	Seen often across the island - one at Tirant; one very close at Son Bou, several in Algendar Gorge, one at Montgofre Nou
Marsh Harrier	One at Son Bou and one at Tirant. One from the road near San Climent on migration.
Booted Eagle	Numerous sightings every day
Osprey	Singles at Tirant and on the approach to Cap de Cavallería, two at Montgofre Nou
Kestrel	Seen every day, apparently defending territory at Matchani Gran; breeding at Montgofre Nou and Algendar Gorge
Hobby	One at Cap de Cavallería and one at Algendar Gorge
Peregrine Falcon	Seen most days, including over both Mahón and Ciutadella. At least three birds at Matchani Gran
Red-legged Partridge	Heard at Es Grau
Quail	Heard calling at Tirant and Montgofre Nou
Water Rail	Heard calling at Son Bou
Moorhen	At fresh water; Son Bou, Tirant and Montgofre Nou
Purple Gallinule	One at Son Bou
Coot	One or two at Son Bou and Tirant; several at Es Grau and Montgofre Nou
Black-winged Stilt	Several at Tirant, two at Es Grau and many at Montgofre Nou
Stone-curlew	Heard around Matchani Gran on most nights; seen most mornings in pig field. Single seen twice at Tirant, possibly breeding
Little Ringed Plover	Small numbers at Tirant, more at Montgofre Nou
Ruff	Several at Tirant
Snipe	One at Montgofre Nou
Redshank	One at Montgofre Nou

Spotted Redshank	Three at Montgofre Nou
Greenshank	Three at Montgofre Nou; heard pre-breakfast at Matchani Gran
Green Sandpiper	Two at Tirant and Montgofre Nou and one at Es Grau
Wood Sandpiper	Several at Montgofre Nou and Tirant
Common Sandpiper	Individuals at Es Mercadal <i>depuradora</i> and Montgofre Nou
Audouin's Gull	A pair at Son Bou, and several at Mahón Harbour. Seen regularly at most coastal sites
Yellow-legged Gull	Seen at all coastal sites and frequently inland
Sandwich Tern	One at Cap Favàritx
Rock Dove	Apparently wild birds at Cap de Cavallería, Algendar Gorge, Cap Favàritx and Montgofre Nou. Numerous feral birds near buildings throughout the island
Wood Pigeon	Single birds and small groups at Matchani Gran and elsewhere inland on most days
Collared Dove	Widespread and plentiful near villages
Barbary Dove	One near San Climent
Turtle Dove	Small numbers on several mornings at Matchani Gran; occasional elsewhere
Cuckoo	Heard at several sites; one seen at Es Mercadal <i>depuradora</i>
Scops Owl	Heard at Matchani Gran on most evenings and in Algendar Gorge by day
Swift	Seen frequently throughout the island; some notable arrivals
Pallid Swift	One over Matchani Gran
Alpine Swift	Several at Cala Galdana, one over road to Torre d'en Gaumes
Bee-eater	Migrating flocks at Matchani Gran, Son Bou, Montgofre Nou & Tirant. Ten-plus birds ahead of a storm perched on wires alongside Torre d'en Gaumes road
Hoopoe	Individuals seen nearly every day, especially at Matchani Gran
Short-toed Lark	Common in the fields around Matchani Gran
Thekla Lark	Individuals seen most days, often at Matchani Gran and also at Cap Cavallería and Torre d'en Gaumes
Swallow	Migrating flocks seen every day
House Martin	Migrating flocks at Tirant; around buildings in Es Mercadal and Sta Galdana
Tawny Pipit	One or two at Matchani Gran and Cap de Cavallería
Tree Pipit	Flying over at Matchani Gran, Tirant and Es Grau; grounded at Fornells
White Wagtail	One at Matchani Gran, Es Grau, Tirant and Montgofre Nou
Yellow Wagtail	Grey-headed, blue-headed and Spanish at Tirant and Montgofre Nou. Fly-overs at Matchani Gran and Cap de Cavallería not racially identifiable
Wren	One at Sa Roca
Robin	Algendar Gorge
Nightingale	Heard frequently at all inland sites throughout the week
Redstart	A single migrating female at Matchani Gran, often by the swimming pool at breakfast
Wheatear	A migrating individual alongside the road to Cap Favàritx
Whinchat	One at Son Bou
Stonechat	Pairs or individuals seen on several days
Blue Rock Thrush	Frequently seen in many rocky places
Blackbird	Seen frequently at Matchani Gran, occasionally elsewhere inland
Song Thrush	One in gardens at Matchani Gran all week
Cetti's Warbler	Frequently heard in wet and scrubby places
Zitting Cisticola	Frequent and widespread, in small numbers apart from at Tirant
Blackcap	Several at Algendar Gorge and Matchani Gran

Sardinian Warbler	Widespread and plentiful
Spectacled Warbler	Singing male at Cap Favàritx
Wood Warbler	One at Es Grau and Matchani Gran
Willow Warbler	Occasional individuals, 10 + at Montgofre Nou
Chiffchaff	A few at Es Grau, Algendar Gorge, Matchani Gran and Montgofre Nou. All singing birds were Common Chiffchaffs
Firecrest	Heard in Algendar Gorge
Spotted Flycatcher	Migrating individuals at Matchani Gran, Algendar Gorge, Tirant and Monte Toro
Pied Flycatcher	Tirant, Matchani Gran, Montgofre Nou
Great Tit	Seen or heard most days
Woodchat Shrike	Pair at Matchani Gran and seen all over the island during the week; all that were seen well were of the Balearic form
Raven	Seen at Son Bou, Tirant, Montgofre Nou and almost daily at Matchani Gran
House Sparrow	Near houses all over the island
Chaffinch	Singing birds at Sa Roca and Algendar Gorge
Serin	Heard at Matchani Gran and Ciutadella
Greenfinch	Widespread and abundant
Goldfinch	Widespread and abundant
Linnet	Widespread and abundant
Corn Bunting	Seen and heard all over the island. One almost pure albino bird singing from wires on road to San Climent
TOTAL:	96 species

OTHER ANIMALS

Butterflies

Large White	
Small White	
Clouded Yellow	
Cleopatra	Algendar Gorge
Red Admiral	
Painted Lady	The commonest butterfly
Speckled Wood	South-western form
Small Heath	Cap de Cavalleria
Small Copper	
Common Blue	
Green Hairstreak	Montgofre Nou

Moths

Pine Processionary-moth	Tents with small larvae, especially on <i>Phillyrea</i>
Silver-y	
Rush Veneer <i>Nomophila noctuella</i>	

Odonata

Red-veined Darter	Montgofre Nou
Common Darter	Montgofre Nou
Southern Emperor	
Blue tailed Damselfly	Montgofre Nou and Son Bou

Other insects

Violet Carpenter-bee *Xylocopa violacea*

Tawny Mining Bee *Andrena fulva*

Paper Wasp *Polistes* sp.

Rhinoceros Beetle *Copris lunaris*

Bloody-nosed Beetle *Timarcha tenebricosa*

Churchyard Beetle *Blaps mucronata*

7-spot Ladybird *Coccinella septempunctata*

Flower Chafer *Oxythyrea funesta*

A dung beetle *Scarabaeus laticollis*

A ground beetle *Macrothorax morbillis balearicus*

Egyptian Locust *Anacridium aegyptiacum*

Matchani Gran

Cap de Cavallería

Matchani Gran

Fornells Point

Amphibians

Stripeless Tree Frog

Iberian Water Frog

Son Bou and Algendar Gorge

Algendar Gorge, Torre d'en Gaumes

Reptiles

Italian Wall Lizard

Moorish Gecko

Hermann's Tortoise

Algendar Gorge, Montgofre Nou

Matchani Gran, Es Grau, Tirant, Algendar Gorge,

Son Bou

Mammals

Algerian Hedgehog

Rabbit

Black Rat

House Mouse

Pine Marten

European Free-tailed Bat

Serotine

Kuhl's Pipistrelle

Common Pipistrelle

Daubenton's Bat

Horseshoe-bat sp.

Road casualties

Eaten pine cones

Matchani Gran (dead)

Matchani Gran

Matchani Gran

Matchani Gran

Matchani Gran

Matchani Gran

Matchani Gran

Matchani Gran



Paper wasps' nest

PLANTS

In the lists that follow, the localities are identified by the following codes:

MG	Matchani Gran	MN	Montgofre Nou
SB	Son Bou	CF	Cap Favàritx
TG	Torre d'en Gaumes	F	Fornells
EM	Es Mercadal <i>Depuradora</i>	SR	Sa Roca
T	Tirant	AG	Algendar Gorge
CC	Cap de Cavallería	NT	Naveta d'es Tudons
MT	Monte Toro	M	Mahón
EG	s'Albufera Es Grau	B	Binidali

For many of the more widespread species, no attempt has been made to list all the localities. Indeed, in many cases, no localities at all are given as the species was ubiquitous in the right habitats. I have tried to be as comprehensive as possible in the species listings, although some are more complete than others. For example, the plant list has ignored many species not in flower, together with difficult groups such as grasses. English names are given only where there is one used in the books, or one can justifiably be coined.

After the scientific name, an indication is given for those species or forms considered to be endemic to the region, i.e. to be found in the wild there and only there. The scale of the endemism is taken from the *Flowers of Menorca* (GOB):

- EM** – endemic to Menorca
- EG** – endemic to Menorca and Mallorca
- EB** – endemic to the Balearic Islands
- ET** – endemic to the western Mediterranean island area

LICHENS

<i>Cladonia foliacea</i>		MG	MN	CC
<i>Usnea</i> sp.		EG	SR	
<i>Xanthoria parietina</i>	sunburst lichen			

FUNGI

<i>Coprinus comatus</i>	shaggy ink-cap	MG
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FERNS & ALLIES

<i>Adiantum capillus-veneris</i>	maidenhair fern	AG
<i>Equisetum ramosissimum</i>		SB
<i>E. telmateia</i>	great horsetail	AG
<i>Pteridium aquilinum</i>	bracken	SR

CONIFERS & ALLIES

<i>Ephedra fragilis</i>	joint-pine	EG	CF
<i>Juniperus phoenicea</i>	Phoenician juniper	SB	EG
<i>Pinus halepensis</i>	Aleppo pine		

FLOWERING PLANTS

Aizoaceae

<i>Carpobrotus edulis</i>	Hottentot fig	CF
In previous years this was more widespread, so eradication attempts seem to be succeeding		

Amaryllidaceae

<i>Leucojum aestivum</i>	summer snowflake	AG
<i>Pancratium maritimum</i>	sand daffodil	SB CC EG CF

Anacardiaceae

<i>Pistachia lentiscus</i>	lentisc	
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Apiaceae

<i>Crithmum maritimum</i>	rock samphire	AG B
<i>Daucus carota</i>	wild carrot	
<i>Eryngium campestre</i>	field eryngo	MG EG
<i>E. maritimum</i>	sea-holly	SB EG
<i>Ferula communis</i>	giant fennel	
<i>Foeniculum vulgare</i>	fennel	
<i>Smyrniolus olusatrum</i>	alexanders	

Apocynaceae

<i>Vinca difformis</i>	pale periwinkle	TG MG SB
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Araceae

<i>Arisarum vulgare</i>	friar's-cowl	MG AG SR
<i>Arum italicum</i>	Italian lords-and-ladies	AG CC SB
<i>A. pictum (ET)</i>		MG CC
<i>Dracunculus muscivorus (ET)</i>	Balearic dragon arum	CC SR
<i>Zantedeschia aethiopica</i>		AG

Araliaceae

<i>Hedera helix</i>	ivy	AG
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Asteraceae

<i>Anthemis maritima</i>	sea chamomile	F
<i>Artemisia gallica</i>		EG
<i>Bellis annua</i>	annual daisy	MG
<i>B. sylvestris</i>		AG
<i>Calendula arvensis</i>	field marigold	
<i>Chrysanthemum coronarium</i>	crown daisy	
<i>Evax pygmaea</i>		MG CC CF
<i>Galactites tomentosa</i>		
<i>Helichrysum stoechas</i>		CC CF
<i>Hyoseris radiata</i>		
<i>H. scabra</i>		MG
<i>Hypochaeris achyrophorus</i>		
<i>Inula crithmoides</i>	golden-samphire	EG
<i>I. viscosa</i>	stink aster	AG T SR
<i>Launaea cervicornis (EG)</i>	hedgehog lettuce	CC CF
<i>Pallenis spinosa</i>		MG
<i>Phagnalon saxatile</i>		EG
<i>P. rupestre</i>		
<i>Reichardia tingitana</i>		
<i>Santolina chamaecyparissus</i> var. <i>magonica (EM)</i>	lavender-cotton	CC CF
<i>Senecio rodriguezii (EG)</i>		CC CF
<i>Silybum marianum</i>	milk-thistle	
<i>Sonchus tenerrimus</i>		MG SB
<i>Taraxacum officinale</i>	dandelion	
<i>Urospermum dalechampii</i>		MG SB MN T

Boraginaceae

<i>Anchusa azurea</i>	large blue alkanet	SB
<i>Borago officinalis</i>	borage	
<i>Cynoglossum creticum</i>	blue hound's-tongue	AG SB

<i>Echium parviflorum</i>	small-flowered bugloss	MG
<i>E. plantagineum</i>	purple viper's-bugloss	MG SB CC
Brassicaceae		
<i>Brassica napus</i>	rape	
<i>Cakile maritima</i>	sea-rocket	SB EG
<i>Capsella bursa-pastoris</i>	shepherd's-purse	
<i>Cardaria draba</i>	hoary cress	AG
<i>Lobularia maritima</i>	sweet alison	MG SB EG CC
<i>Matthiola incana</i>	hoary stock	AG
<i>Raphanus raphanistrum</i>	radish	
<i>Rapistrum rugosum</i>	bastard cabbage	
Cactaceae		
<i>Opuntia ficus-indica</i>	prickly-pear	MG EG
Caprifoliaceae		
<i>Lonicera implexa</i>		AG EG B
Caryophyllaceae		
<i>Silene gallica</i>	small-flowered catchfly	EG T
<i>S. secundiflora</i>		CF
<i>S. sedoides</i>		F CF
<i>S. vulgaris</i>	bladder campion	
<i>Spergularia rubra</i>	sand spurrey	EG
Chenopodiaceae		
<i>Arthrocnemum macrostachyum</i>		EG MN T
<i>Atriplex portulacoides</i>	sea-purslane	EG MN
<i>Beta vulgaris</i> ssp. <i>maritima</i>	sea beet	SB
<i>Salicornia ramosissima</i>	glasswort	EG MN
<i>Sarcocornia fruticosa</i>	shrubby glasswort	EG MN
Cistaceae		
<i>Cistus albidus</i>	grey-leaved cistus	EG SR AG MN T
<i>C. monspeliensis</i>	narrow-leaved cistus	EG SR MN AG SR
<i>C. salvifolius</i>	sage-leaved cistus	EG MN NT SR
Convolvulaceae		
<i>Calystegia sepium</i>	hedge bindweed	SB
<i>C. soldanella</i>	sea bindweed	SB EG
<i>Convolvulus althaeoides</i>	mallow-leaved bindweed	
<i>C. arvensis</i>	field bindweed	
Crassulaceae		
<i>Sedum rubens</i>		CF
<i>Umbilicus rupestris</i>	navelwort	MG TG AG
Cuscutaceae		
<i>Cuscuta europaea</i>	dodder	CC
Cyperaceae		
<i>Carex otrubae</i>	false fox sedge	AG
<i>Schoenus nigricans</i>	black bog-rush	CC EG
<i>Scirpus holoschoenus</i>	round-headed club-rush	AG
<i>S. maritimus</i>	sea club-rush	T MN
Dioscoreaceae		
<i>Tamus communis</i>	black bryony	AG

Dipsacaceae

Scabiosa atropurpurea SB

Ericaceae

Arbutus unedo strawberry-tree SR MN

Erica arborea tree-heath SR MN

Euphorbiaceae

Euphorbia characias large Mediterranean spurge EG
E. dendroides tree spurge EG MN CF AG
E. helioscopia sun spurge
E. paralias sea spurge SB EG
E. pithyusa CC F
E. terracina CF

Fabaceae

Anthyllis hystrix (EM) CC CF

A. vulneraria ssp. *font-querii* SR

Astragalus balearicus (EG) hedgehog milk-vetch MN CF

Calicotome spinosa spiny broom

Coronilla juncea SR AG

Dorycnium fulgurans (EG) CC CF

D. hirsutum MN SR

D. pentaphyllum MN SR

Hedysarum coronarium Italian sainfoin

Lathyrus clymenum EG

L. ochrus TG

L. sphaericus EG MG

Lotus cytisoides

L. ornithopodioides AG

L. subbiflorus hairy bird's-foot-trefoil EG

L. tetraphyllus (EG) CC

Medicago arborea tree medick B

M. littoralis SB

M. marina sea medick SB EG

M. minima bur medick SB

M. murex

M. orbicularis SB

M. polymorpha toothed medick

M. praecox

M. turbinata

Melilotus sulcata AG

Ononis reclinata EG

Psoralea bituminosa pitch trefoil EG AG

Scorpiurus muricatus EG

Spartium junceum Spanish broom MN

Trifolium campestre hop trefoil EG

T. nigrescens

T. scabrum rough clover MG

T. resupinatum reversed clover T

T. stellatum starry clover

Tripodion tetraphyllum AG

Vicia benghalensis EG

V. parviflora

V. sativa common vetch

V. villosa fodder vetch EG

Fagaceae

Quercus ilex holm oak EG MN AG

Frankeniaceae

Frankenia hirsuta
F. laevis

hairy sea-heath F CC CF
 sea-heath CF

Fumariaceae

Fumaria capreolata
F. officinalis

ramping fumitory SB
 common fumitory TG

Gentianaceae

Blackstonia perfoliata
Centaurium maritimum

yellow-wort EG SR TG
 yellow century CF

Geraniaceae

Erodium malacoides
E. moschatum
Geranium columbinum
G. molle
G. purpureum
G. rotundifolium

mallow-leaved stork's-bill
 musk stork's-bill SB
 long-stalked crane's-bill
 dove's-foot crane's-bill
 little-robin MG AG
 round-leaved crane's-bill

Iridaceae

Gladiolus illyricus
G. italicus
Iris pseudacorus
Romulea assumptionis (EG)

wild gladiolus SR
 SB MG TG
 yellow flag SB
 sand crocus CC CF

Juncaceae

Juncus acutus
J. maritimus

sharp rush T EG MN SB
 sea rush EG MN CF

Lamiaceae

Mentha aquatica
M. suaveolens
Prasium majus
Rosmarinus officinalis
R. officinalis var. *palau* (EG)
Salvia verbenaca
Sideritis romana
Teucrium subspinosum (EG)

water mint AG
 apple-scented mint SB
 MG TG AG
 rosemary EG SR
 CC
 meadow clary
 MG
 CC CF

Liliaceae

Allium ampeloprasum
A. roseum
A. triquetrum
Asparagus acutifolius
A. albus
A. horridus
Asphodelus aestivus
A. fistulosus
Muscari comosum
Ornithogalum arabicum
Ruscus aculeatus
Urginea maritima

wild leek B
 rose garlic
 three-cornered leek
 MG SB F
 white asphodel
 hollow-stemmed asphodel
 tassel hyacinth
 Arabian star-of-Bethlehem MG
 butcher's-broom SB EG MN
 sea squill MG EG AG CC

Linaceae

Linum trigynum
L. usitatissimum

common flax SR

Lythraceae*Lythrum junceum*

AG

Malvaceae*Lavatera arborea*

tree mallow

AG

L. cretica

smaller tree-mallow

SB

Malva neglecta

dwarf mallow

M. sylvestris

common mallow

Moraceae*Ficus carica*

fig

Myoporaceae*Myoporum laetum*

MG [planted]

Oleaceae*Phillyrea angustifolia*

EG SR

P. latifolia

EG T MN

P. latifolia var. *rodriguezii* (**EM**)

CF

Olea europaea

olive

Orobanchaceae*Orobanche clausonis*

F

O. crenata

bean broomrape

SR

O. loricata

F

O. sanguinea

F EG B

O. ramosa

branched broomrape

MG

Orchidaceae*Anacamptis pyramidalis*

pyramidal orchid

EG B

Barlia robertiana

giant orchid

MG

Limodorum abortivum

violet bird's-nest orchid

SR

Ophrys balearica (**EB**)

SR

O. bombyliflora

bumblebee orchid

MG EG

O. lutea

yellow bee-orchid

MG EG SB

O. speculum

mirror orchid

MG EG SR

O. tenthredinifera

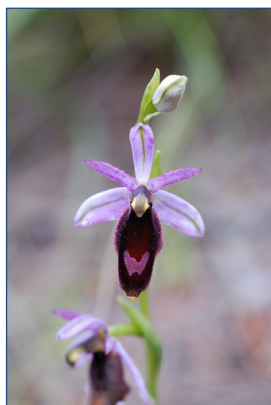
sawfly orchid

MG EG SR

Serapias parviflora

small-flowered tongue-orchid

MG EG

*Ophrys balearica**Ophrys bombyliflora**Ophrys tenthredinifera**Ophrys speculum***Oxalidaceae***Oxalis corniculata*

yellow sorrel

MG

O. pes-caprae

Bermuda buttercup

Papaveraceae

Papaver hybridum
P. rhoeas
P. somniferum

rough poppy TG
common poppy
opium poppy TG

Plantaginaceae

Plantago bellardii
P. coronopus
P. crassifolia
P. lagopus
P. lanceolata
P. major

buck's-horn plantain MG
SB EG
ribwort plantain
great plantain SB

Plumbaginaceae

Limonium echioides
L. minutum (EB)

CC CF
CC CF

Poaceae

Ammophila arenaria
Ampelodesmus mauritanicus
Arundo donax
Briza minor
Desmazeria marina
Elymus farctus
Hyparrhenia hirta
Lagurus ovatus
Phragmites australis
Sporobolus pungens

marram grass SB EG
MN CC
giant reed AG EG
small quaking-grass
sea fern-grass
sea couch-grass SB EG
hare's-foot grass
common reed SB
SB

Polygonaceae

Rumex bucephalophorus

Posidoniaceae

Posidonia oceanica

Neptune-weed

Primulaceae

Anagallis arvensis

scarlet pimpernel (red and blue varieties)

Punicaceae

Punica granatum

pomegranate AG

Rafflesiaceae

Cytinus ruber

SR

Ranunculaceae

Clematis cirrhosa
C. flammula
Ranunculus aquatilis
R. macrophyllus
R. muricatus
R. sceleratus

maiden's-bower MG TG AG
MG EG
common water-crowfoot SB T
MN
SB
celery-leaved buttercup AG

Resedaceae

Reseda alba

white mignonette

Rhamnaceae

Rhamnus alaternus

Mediterranean buckthorn EG AG MN

Rosaceae		
<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	hawthorn	SB
<i>Prunus spinosa</i>	blackthorn	
<i>Rubus ulmifolius</i>	bramble	
<i>Sanguisorba minor</i>	salad burnet	T AG
Rubiaceae		
<i>Crucianella maritima</i>		SB
<i>Galium aparine</i>	cleavers	
<i>Rubia peregrina</i>	wild madder	
<i>Sherardia arvensis</i>	field madder	
<i>Valantia muralis</i>		CC B
Rutaceae		
<i>Ruta chalepensis</i>		MG B
Salicaceae		
<i>Populus alba</i>	white poplar	AG
Scrophulariaceae		
<i>Bellardia trixago</i>		
<i>Linaria triphylla</i>	three-leaved toadflax	SB
<i>Misopates orontium</i>	weasel's-snout	TG T
<i>Parentucellia viscosa</i>	yellow bartsia	MG AG
<i>Scrophularia peregrina</i>		MG
<i>Verbascum creticum</i>		AG
<i>V. sinuatum</i>		
<i>Veronica cymbalaria</i>		AG
Smilacaceae		
<i>Smilax aspera</i>		MG MN
<i>S. aspera</i> var. <i>balearica</i> (EG)		CC
Solanaceae		
<i>Solanum nigrum</i>	black nightshade	SR
<i>S. sodomaeum</i>	apple-of-Sodom	SB
Tamaricaceae		
<i>Tamarix africana</i>		SB
<i>T. boveana</i>		SB AG
<i>T. gallica</i>	tamarisk	EG
Thymelaeaceae		
<i>Thymelaea hirsuta</i>		B
Typhaceae		
<i>Typha angustifolia</i>	lesser reedmace	SB EM
<i>T. latifolia</i>	greater reedmace	SB
Urticaceae		
<i>Parietaria judaica</i>	pellitory-of-the-wall	
<i>Urtica membranacea</i>		
<i>U. urens</i>	annual nettle	
Valerianaceae		
<i>Centranthus calcitrapae</i>		SB AG
<i>Valerianella discoidea</i>		AG



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Dear colleagues,

We would like to thank you for your generous donation, 750 Euros, to GOB Menorca. We are extremely grateful for the effort you did and we hope you felt welcomed to Menorca during your trip here.

As an environmental NGO we do believe that actions as yours have multiple benefits for the environment. Firstly, we will be able to go on working on nature's conservation, and moreover, we feel that people like yourselves will also contribute the environmental awareness to other collectives.

GOB Menorca is running several projects related to nature's protection and environmental awareness that your generous donation may contribute to.

- Study and protection of wild fauna and flora, especially endangered species: evaluation of the impact of electric towers on birds, the Centre for the recovery of injured wild animals, a reserve of tortoises that have been in captivity, campaigns against use of poisons and furtive hunters, Vivarium of autochthonous plants...
- Defence of natural areas from destructive activities: proposal of alternatives for the urbanistic planification, detection and reporting of illegal building operations, publication of the problems and possible solutions related to natural landscapes, regeneration of degraded zones and promotion of Marine Reserves...
- Popularization of the environment: conferences, meetings, exhibitions, excursions, edition of posters, brochures and reports, edition of books, education on environment for children and adults, summer camps for children, bird watching excursions, Nature Centre...

Thanks again for your great contribution; we hope to see you soon in Menorca.

Best regards;

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