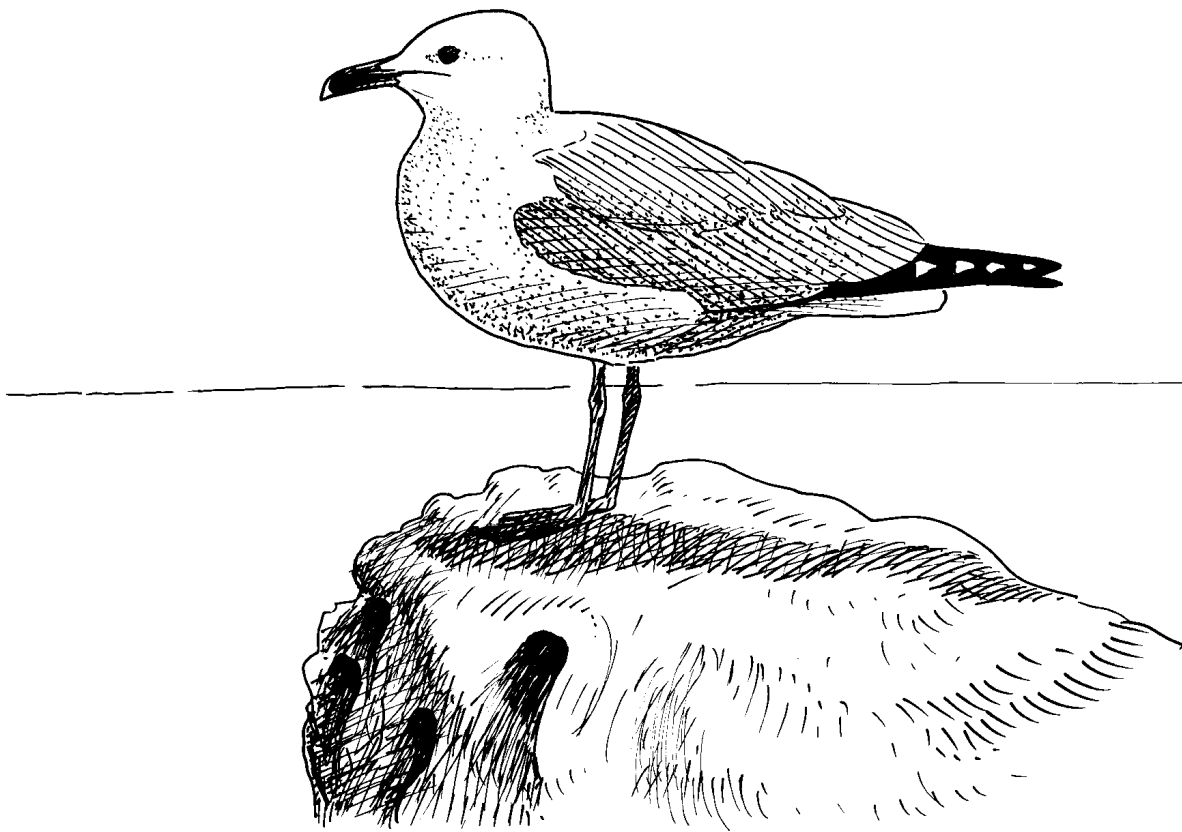


# Honeyguide

**WILDLIFE HOLIDAYS**

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**Discovering Menorca  
4 – 11 April 2006**

## Discovering Menorca 4 – 11 April 2006

### Participants

Keith Wallace

Christine Wallace

Bill Simmonds

Margaret Chilvers

Ian Codd

Fiona Codd

Derek Boughton

Neville Beeson

John Morris

Rene Lack

Bryan Lack

### Leaders

Robin and Rachel Hamilton

Norfolk

### Our hosts at Matchani Gran

Shaun and Jenny Murphy

John Seymour, historian and Menorcan resident and Santi Cachot from GOB (*Grup Balear d'Ornitologia i Defensa de la Naturalesa*) joined the group during the week.

As with all Honeyguide holidays, £25 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 £25 per person was supplemented in two 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, leading to a total of €775 (£554).

This donation brings the total to £6,207 contributed to GOB by Honeyguide holidays in the Balearics. A thank-you letter from GOB appears at the end of this report (*not on this web version of the holiday report*).

The total conservation contributions through Honeyguide since 1991 was at £42,235 (roughly €59,100) at the end of summer 2006.

This report was written by Robin and Rachel Hamilton.

*Front cover: Audouin's gull by Rob Hume.*

*Black-winged stilts by Gary Wright. Other illustrations by Rob Hume.*

Discovering Menorca  
4 – 11 April 2006

#### **Tuesday April 4: Arrival and the surroundings of Matchani Gran**

A chilly, damp April morning in Luton was not very appealing and it was a delight to arrive in Mahon in bright sunlight; the brilliant colours of the crown daisies and the Italian sainfoin that covered the airport took our breath away.

There, we were met by Shaun and June who welcomed us and helped with luggage, and on the short journey from the airport we managed to see two swallows, reinforcing the sense of advancing spring. The soft scent of the pines as we arrived at Matchani Gran added to this impression and the warm welcome we received from them all – Shaun, Jenny his wife, and June their assistant, completed the picture. We sat and chatted over complimentary drinks in the shady bar while Shaun told us about Matchani Gran and showed everyone to their rooms. It was hot and sunny, and the challenge that the year's first bather would be rewarded with a double brandy was quickly taken up – by two of the party! Then it was time for a delicious lunch of quiches and salads which we had overlooking the terrace and gardens, and the swimming pool. While we were having lunch, some sharp eyes spotted a couple of ravens (the only member of the crow family on the island) and the first booted eagle – a pale phase bird – flying low over the fields beyond the garden.

The first outing of the week took us on a walk to explore the meadows and rough pasture surrounding Matchani Gran. There is evidence of ancient cultures and cultivation all around: the stones have been tamed into walls, complex animal shelters, protection for the fig trees and winnowing platforms and the fields make a bewildering pattern around the old farm buildings. They are rich in wildlife: the first field, sparsely grazed, is spectacular with asphodel and *Galactites* – a pale mauve milk thistle. We found mirror and sawfly orchids and little colonies of the blue branched broomrape. A Sardinian warbler was singing persistently though we barely glimpsed him. We had good views of the familiar robin and of the much less familiar Thekla lark and a distant wheatear. A Cetti's warbler sang from a bush close beside us; there were linnets and greenfinches flying about, singing and calling and corn buntings singing from song posts all round us. A tawny pipit flew past and perched briefly, allowing an opportunity for us to familiarize ourselves with an unfamiliar bird and two red kites soared past. Fiona's sharp eyes spotted a very tiny, young Hermann's tortoise, creeping away to hide under a stone – a delightful opportunity for everyone to see it. The bushes and brambles were dotted with speckled wood butterflies – the more orange form found in southern Europe, and we had a good look at an Egyptian locust, perched on an asphodel stem – close enough and for long enough for us to see its striped eyes!

Back at Matchani Gran it was still warm enough for a swim. We reviewed our day over a drink on the terrace and then enjoyed the first of many of Jenny's delicious dinners. After supper, the night sounds of our surroundings – scops owls and stone-curlew - came to us through the warm night air as we retired early to bed.



#### **Wednesday April 5: Son Bou and Torre d'en Gaumes**

Wednesday dawned disappointingly dull with heavy cloud and an early walk up the drive yielded only the commonest of the small birds and poor views in the grey light. However, the weather quickly cleared and by the time we gathered at the minibuses ready for departure, the sun was already breaking through the cloud. Shaun took our orders for dinner from the awesome and appetizing menu, then we headed westwards for our first excursion.

Son Bou is a fine complex of sand dunes and lagoons on the south coast of the island, bravely holding at bay a sprawling holiday development. The site is now a nature reserve and valued as an asset by the holiday industry on its doorstep, but the richness of the wildlife there is a constant surprise. It is a perfect place for us to start our wildlife holiday, comfortable and relaxing – an ideal unwind – and by the time we arrived it was hot and sunny with high wispy cloud.

The pines near the car park were full of twittering goldfinches, a useful song to get to know; a Cetti's warbler shouted at us from the tamarisk and yellow-legged gulls wheeled above as we followed the path into the dunes. Our first view of the lagoon gave us families of both mallard and coot feeding at the edge of the reeds and on the edge of the sea, two Audouin's gulls were perched on some rocks. One of these birds carried a ring, (black letters on white: AHXB) probably part of the ringing programme organised from the *Estacion Biologica de Doñana* which is under way to study these rare gulls. There were shags on an islet off shore and we eventually got clear enough views of them to identify them as the paler, Mediterranean race. There was therapeutic paddling by some of the group at the edge of the sea and on the strandline we found the body of a young dolphin: sad but very interesting to observe at close quarters. We watched a migrating wheatear flying in over the sea and followed it back into the dunes where we climbed up to a good viewpoint for the lagoon and reed beds. We had frequent glimpses of little egrets, more Cetti's warblers were singing, and we had an excellent view of a male garganey. There was a family of moorhens on a pool and then we spotted first one and then another much larger dark bird creeping at the edge of the reeds: a pair of purple gallinules with their young. They were a real treat and we were able to watch them intermittently for quite some time. A flurry of activity – teal, mallard, tufted ducks and egrets flying about – heralded the appearance of a fine female marsh harrier which quartered the reed beds and unsettled the smaller birds for some time, and gave us an excellent display. We had a very good view, too, of a purple heron, carrying a large fish. Our attention turned to the dunes themselves: an amazing, fragrant tapestry of bright greens and yellows. Wild rosemary, mastic bushes and Phoenician juniper provided song posts for stonechats while sea medick and bird's foot trefoil (*Lotus creticus* and *Lotus cytisoides*) hummed with bees and butterflies (clouded yellow, wall brown, common blue and Lang's short-tailed blue). We admired the robust plants of sand

daffodil with their prolific seedpods and puzzled over the tracks of rats and lizards in the sand then sat under the Aleppo pines to eat our picnic and share some crumbs with the house sparrows, greenfinches and chaffinches.

After lunch, we drove a few miles up the hill to the famous and well-preserved Bronze Age monument: *Torre d'en Gaumes*. This magnificent stone complex is perched strategically, high above the sea and overlooking the south-facing coastline. It was still fine and sunny with a distant heat haze, and as we walked up the track it was the butterflies that first attracted our attention: a beautiful swallowtail, a bath white, a small copper and an excellent view of a brimstone. Further up the track, little shady corners sheltered groups of flowers: pale periwinkle, *Prasium majus* (deadnettle family), *Bellardia trixago* (foxglove family), various vetches, poppies and dog daisies. We watched an Italian wall lizard among the ancient rocks and then Rene and Bryan spotted a little gecko sunbathing on the wall. A big party of migrating hirundines filled the sky high above us, moving northwards off the sea and an Egyptian vulture worked the thermals. As we returned to the minibuses, Bill and Margaret spotted four swallows and two swifts wheeling low over the fields and as we watched them, a red kite flew in close beneath us and allowed us to admire the wonderful subtlety of its plumage.



We drove home to Matchani Gran, corn buntings singing from seemingly every telegraph wire. There was time for the intrepid (Fiona) to swim and for us to review our day's sightings over a drink on the terrace before our excellent dinner. It was another warm evening and we were intrigued by a high and persistent trilling sound coming from the region of the swimming pool. After numerous fruitless searches in the twilight, we eventually found a green toad *Bufo viridis* swimming in the shallow end of the pool, unable to climb out. We rescued it and removed it to the pond where there was plenty of shelter and apparently appropriate habitat for it. We went to bed, again to the accompaniment of the wild calls of stone-curlews all around.

#### **Thursday April 6: Es Mercadal Depuradora, Tirant and Cap de Cavalleria**

The early risers turned down the track through the gate in front of the house, with the scratchy song of corn buntings coming from several wires and bushes around and a Cetti's warbler singing from the edge of the wood. We could hear two or three distant hoopoes and the first tentative notes of a nightingale. Then we caught sight of a hoopoe flying across and landing on a telegraph wire: an excellent and unusual view, and the nightingale struck up again, closer but still very unsure of itself; perhaps it was an exhausted new arrival. A brief view of a woodchat shrike cued breakfast.

After breakfast, we set off towards the north west of the island. It was a very promising day, fine, with thin cloud which soon cleared. At our first destination, the *Depuradora* (water purification plant) at Es Mercadal, was worth a brief stop: yellow-legged gulls, several little ringed plovers scuttling about on the bank, a white wagtail and a common sandpiper calling.

We set off on the short journey to the famous Tirant wetland. We were amazed as always by the bright spectacle of road verges crimson and yellow with Italian sainfoin, bird's-foot trefoil, Spanish broom and crown daisies and the unmistakable call, heard through the windows of both buses, brought us to a halt to search for a fan-tailed warbler, difficult to pick out with its high, undulating song flight.

Looking across the marsh at Tirant over a sea of rushes and water crowfoot, we could see three little egrets, a greenshank and a wood sandpiper, feeding in the shallows, and a snipe among the spike-rush. A group of mallard perched incongruously in a row on a stone wall. Soon, the tranquil array of birds was upset by the arrival of a female marsh harrier and she, in turn, was disturbed by the arrival of a pale phase booted eagle; she soon saw that off. We had a much better view of a fan-tailed warbler and the first really good view of a singing male Sardinian warbler, at first using the frothy flowering branches of the tamarisk as a song post and then taking off in a spectacular song-flight. Derek's call of 'egrets coming over' alerted us all and we were just admiring their feet as they flew overhead when we realised that two of them lacked the characteristic yellow feet of little egrets and as the sun fell on them it was clear that they were in fact cattle egrets. Somewhat to our surprise, a blackbird sang from the hawthorn scrub behind us and then a nightingale began to sing from a nearby bush. Without doubt, the highlight of the morning (and of the week for some) followed Fiona's shout of 'bittern'. There it was, clearly in front of us, making its way across the marsh, delicately picking its way from bush to bush through the stands of rushes. It delighted us for a very long time, disappearing from time to time and then reappearing and enabling everyone to get an excellent view of a very elusive bird. We prepared to tear ourselves away; two ravens appeared against the hillside and a migrating party of house and sand martins passed over, swirling around and feeding over the marsh. As we drove away, one of the minibuses had a good view of a purple heron feeding in a pool beside the road.

We drove on northwards to the coast at a point where it juts out into the sea – Cap Cavalleria. We were too early in the season for the excellent little visitor centre to be open so we drove straight on across the ever more desolate and exposed landscape. Stonechats are happy here and there were several, the males much in evidence on the stalks of the spectacular grass, *Ampelodesmos mauritanicus*. We drove on to the tip of the promontory where a lighthouse commands the headland and we found a sheltered corner with good views for lunch. Two Egyptian vultures hung in the thermals at the cliff-edge and a pair of blue rock thrushes bobbed about, the male giving us snatches of his most musical, fluting song. There were several shags in

the sea below us and, we were able to get some very clear views of both Cory's and Balearic shearwaters flying about a little off shore, fishing and resting in little groups on the still sea surface. Then to our great surprise, we saw that the shearwaters had been joined by a gannet, a great flash of white plunging into the midst of the shearwater flotillas. It was in sub-adult plumage and a long way from its normal springtime beat in the Atlantic.

After our lunch on the cliff top, and our metaphorical feast of seabirds, we explored the inhospitable rocky headland for its surprisingly rich flora. The local name for this type of vegetation is *socarrell*, highly specialised to cope with the extreme conditions imposed by the *Tramuntana*, the cold northerly salt-laden wind characteristic of these islands and felt here at its most merciless. Many of the plants are tiny, extremely prickly and fleshy or hairy not only to deter grazing but also to minimise water loss caused by the drying winds. Many are very pretty: the little pink daisy, *Senecio rodriguezii*, tiny sea lavenders, cushions of a white-flowered *Dorycnium*, dwarf rosemary; some are spectacular: the amazing Menorcan endemic dragon arum, with a huge greenish-purple spathe smelling of rotten meat.

As we made our way back to the minibuses a tawny pipit perched for us very close on top of a stone wall and, in contrast, we watched a Thekla lark nearby on a rock. We had a very good view of a female wheatear, several more blue rock thrushes and both male and female stonechats, all species that are well adapted to make a living in this apparently inhospitable environment. As we were driving off the headland, a shout of 'egret' from the back of the leading minibus (Fiona again!) brought us all to a halt. A rocky cove is an unlikely spot for a little egret and sure enough, there was a fine great white egret feeding in the shallows of the bay below us. A three-egret day!

We got back to Matchani Gran in time for one or two people to enjoy a swim and to locate the green toad, back in the swimming pool and taking possession of one of the outfall pipes from which we could watch him inflate his throat as he chirruped at the swimmers. We were then joined by John Seymour, a local historian with a tremendous knowledge and insight into the complex and colourful history of Menorca. Over a drink on the terrace, he was able to paint for us a most detailed and vivid picture of the island, everything from the extraordinary range of stone monuments to the dramas of more recent invasions and colonisations.

#### **Friday April 7: Ciutadella, Naveta d'es Tudons, the Algendar Gorge**

We followed the path into the front field for our early walk. There were some more tentative notes from the nightingale but it was certainly not yet sounding very aggressively territorial. A great tit was calling and greenfinches, blackbirds and linnets were all in evidence. The resident Cetti's warbler sang from its usual station at the edge of the wood; we watched a kestrel hunting and a hoopoe calling from a fig tree. We were just remarking on the paucity of migrants when Bill joined us from the other side of the house and reported a good view of a male blackcap. At breakfast, Shaun arrived with the good news that the donkey, Isabella, had had a foal!

We assembled in the car park after breakfast under broken cloud and Shaun reported a forecast of deteriorating weather, with showers promised. To encourage us, a chiffchaff called from the garden. We set off westwards, along the main arterial road that runs the full length of the island to the former capital, Ciutadella.

When we arrived in Ciutadella the sky was full of swifts, wheeling and screaming above us. We parked for an hour or so for sightseeing, shopping – it was market day – and coffee, then we reassembled and headed back a few miles to stop at another famous archaeological site, the *Naveta d'es Tudons*.

A party of four ravens greeted us at the *Naveta* car park. We walked along the path, across an arable field full of flowers: corn marigolds and field poppies, clovers, vetches and catchflies. We searched fruitlessly for weasel's snout, a vain quest for Keith, but the rocky outcrops were rich with orchids: mirror, bumblebee and sawfly, and with cistuses and wild rosemary. As we arrived at the *Naveta* itself, a spectacular stone burial chamber, built in the form of an upturned boat, a red kite flew close past us and we could hear nightingales singing from two directions. We watched a pair of woodchat shrikes flying after insects from the tops of thorn bushes and a female marsh harrier came over. As we walked back to the buses, our attention was caught first by a painted lady – a perfect, fresh specimen – and then by some busy ant activity; we watched a stream of them raiding a chickweed plant and diligently carrying the chickweed seeds back to their nest.

The promised showers still had not appeared; in fact the weather was improving, so we took a winding route through an estate of expensive looking villas up to a *mirador* – a viewpoint – overlooking the picture postcard view of the bay of Cala Galdana. The sea was intensely blue and the mountains of Mallorca lost in the heat haze on the horizon. Yellow-legged gulls wheeled about the cliff edge and two Mediterranean shags were resting on rocks below us. The cloud had all but disappeared and, against the blue, we had a memorable encounter with a group of five alpine swifts. They whirled and dived around us, dipping below the cliff edge and swooping in close, so that everyone had an excellent opportunity to see their distinguishing features and, from time to time, hear them calling.

The afternoon looked thoroughly settled and we set off along the track up the Algendar Gorge, by now more interested in carrying water bottles than waterproofs. The limestone plateau which forms the southern part of Menorca is deeply incised by a number of these deep gorges, or *barrancas*, carved by ancient streams through the limestone. They provide a microclimate – sheltered, shady and humid – that is rare elsewhere on the island and they make a very rewarding venue for naturalists. The Algendar Gorge is probably the finest of these and despite its proximity to a significant resort it is largely unspoilt.

There is a pool at the foot of the cliff at the entrance to the gorge and both pool and cliff are generally worth a little scan. This time, we were rewarded by a group of five rock doves on the cliff, busily flying from one ledge or outcrop to another in their restless way. A little further on, our first blue rock thrush of the day appeared on a rock above us and a juvenile Egyptian vulture took to the air, struggling to master the complicated updraughts in the gorge. The flanks of the gorge are wooded, holm oaks predominating, and we could hear great tits, firecrests, blackcaps, chaffinches and a Bonelli's warbler as we walked along the track. At the edge of the path we admired the enormous Italian arum leaves and some fine spikes of wild gladiolus just coming into flower. Bramble and nettle (*Urtica membranacea* not *U. dioica*) benefit from the humidity and increased nutrients at the bottom of the slope and the insects in turn take advantage of these. We saw plenty of southern speckled woods, a fine Cleopatra, a beautiful little paper wasp's nest hanging from a grass stalk and an obliging Egyptian locust which perched on a bramble stem, and then made a dramatic spectacle when it took off and flew away. There were buzzards, booted eagles and several more Egyptian vultures; the head of the Algendar gorge holds one of the principal breeding colonies of Egyptian vultures on the island. There was a distant alpine swift but few hirundines. We had a lovely sight of a blue rock thrush singing in flight, and briefly, but surprisingly, heard the call of a scops owl. John, resting for a few moments behind the rest of the group, had a good view of a redstart fluttering up and down and feeding along the path.



The weather was still sunny and hot when we arrived back at Matchani Gran. Some of the party retired for a shower, others went to visit the donkey foal, others to the bar and the intrepid swimmers enjoyed the pool again. The green toad had returned to his lookout post at the entrance to the overflow, and again we were able to watch him inflate his throat and trill at the swimmers. Stone-curlews were calling after supper when we went to put an escape ramp in the pool for the toad, but no scops owls. It was a clear night with scattered clouds, not looking particularly promising for migrants on the before-breakfast walk tomorrow; when the visibility is good at night they tend not to bother to stop!

#### **Saturday April 8: Mahón and S'Albufera Es Grau**

In fact we woke to a mild morning with a heavily overcast sky. A hoopoe was sitting up in a fig tree, preening and occasionally calling and, as we watched, it was joined by first one and then a second woodchat shrike which displayed to each other, bowing and bobbing very charmingly before they all flew off into the bushes. We had distinct views of both a Thekla lark and a tawny pipit on a wall, then a brief glimpse of a blackcap raised our hopes that there might after all have been a fall of migrants during the unexpectedly cloudy night. We arrived promptly back for breakfast to surprise Ian with birthday greetings – even an inflatable birthday cake from Shaun.

Today a visit to Mahón, the current capital of Menorca at the eastern end of the island, was scheduled, with a mixture of sightseeing, souvenir hunting and wildlife. We drove on a circuitous route through the old part of the city to give everyone a flavour of the quaint streets and classic Georgian architecture. We parked near the harbour and began with a curious party-piece. Yellow-legged gulls are much in evidence around the busy quayside but they show little interest if bread is thrown to them. Instead, apparently materialising from nowhere, Audouin's gulls wheel in and, with great elegance and confidence, devour chunks of stale bread. It is an extraordinary way to get close to one of Europe's scarcest and most beautiful gulls. We had been unable to book a boat trip round the harbour because it was too early in the season, but while we were 'feeding the birds', a large group of British ramblers arrived for a trip they had chartered, and luckily we were able to 'tag along'. An extremely informative commentary explained the famous harbour, its history and some of the contemporary gossip surrounding its inhabitants, past and present. At the same time, we could enjoy the views and get close to some of the harbour birds: grey herons snoozing on the shore, shags drying their wings on the pier and a black-winged stilt strutting along a break-water.



We returned to Matchani Gran for another of Jenny's delicious lunches of homemade quiches and salads, then headed in a new direction, to S'Albufera Es Grau, on the north east coast. A nature reserve has been set up here in order to arrest some holiday development, as the islanders realised they were in danger of 'killing the goose that laid the golden egg'. The reserve consists of a charming little bay, saltmarsh, lakes and wooded hillsides with a complex suite of ecosystems of considerable wildlife importance.

We stopped first in the little bay where we can get close to a curious Mediterranean phenomenon; rafts of sea grass, *Posidonia oceanica*, cast up on the shore. In the shallow water where they grow, sea grasses form an extremely important habitat wherever they occur, for the ecosystem they support, their role in stabilizing the coast and as a natural filter. *Posidonia* is no exception and its abundance around the Menorcan coast is significant in the designation of the island as a Biosphere Reserve. We can see it here more easily than in sea grass beds and the origin of 'sea balls', the tumbled and eroded pieces of *Posidonia* rhizome found on beaches around the island, is made clear.

Back a little way along the road we entered the reserve proper along a track and boardwalk that crosses the marsh. A coot was sitting on its nest on the edge of the lagoon and a cormorant, showing the white head and neck feathers of the continental race (*sinensis*) was at first resting on a rock and then took to the water, swimming and diving for fish. We followed the boardwalk over magnificent

saltmarsh, generally familiar with species at least closely related to British saltmarsh species, but here and there, the less familiar: clumps of rose garlic, golden samphire or a highly fragrant sea wormwood. The boardwalk leads to a rocky hillside with steps up through fragrant thorny broom, rosemary and cistus bushes to a viewpoint from which we could scan the water. There were several grey herons standing sentinel here and there at the water's edge and a little egret fishing in the shallows. Searching the open water revealed two or three pairs of mallard, rafts of coot, a few dabchicks and a pair of great crested grebes. From time to time, flocks of swallows and sand martins came over, dipping low over the water to drink. We walked on, through the welcome shade of an Aleppo pinewood where we listened for tits and firecrests, and then out onto a sunny hillside humming with insects on the vetches, medicks and bird's-foot trefoils. There were three species of cistus here – two white and a pink, and spectacular bushes of tree spurge with its striking greenish-yellow flowers. A meadow with a blue haze of tassel hyacinths stretched down towards the water and we found a fine colony of bumblebee orchids.

We set off for home but were brought to an abrupt halt at a field of cattle near to a group of farm buildings where a party of five cattle egrets were behaving just as they are supposed to, feeding around the feet of the cattle and then flying up to rest and preen on the walls. Excellent views for everyone!

### ***Sunday April 9: Monte Toro, Fornells, Sa Roca and Es Castell***

Early risers reported a great deal of stone-curlew activity at first light and a calling scops owl. We walked up the drive and the nightingale was singing much more strongly. There were two woodchat shrikes together again, this time on a telegraph wire.

On all our trips we had seen the figure of Monte Toro – or more correctly, simply *Toro*, hill – standing 358m high above the middle of the island and in clear visibility the view from the top is inevitably very extensive. It was a bright, hot day, but even with some distant haze the view was spectacular and we were able to pick out many of our familiar places and get an excellent overview of the landscape. There were not many birds about. A female blue rock thrush turned leaves over in the manner of a blackbird. We peered intently at every yellow-legged gull. A group of buzzards appeared and played the thermals for a while and then headed away northwards – the direction in which we were due to follow them, up the Fornells peninsular.

Our first stop was near to the abandoned Fornells salt pans. Telescopes and binoculars are needed as the nearest view is across a field but even so we added avocet, Kentish plover and blue-headed wagtail to our bird list for the week and could watch them all for some time. There was a tawny pipit perched on a wall and a painted lady flew past us.

We drove through Fornells village, still in a pre-season slumber with few shops or restaurants open, and on to the far end of the peninsular, below the Moorish tower. Our buzzards from Monte Toro had reached there before us and we watched them riding the updraughts over the cliffs. A beautiful blue rock thrush sang on a rock; we had a lovely view, the sunlight falling on its blue head silhouetted against the exactly matching blue of the sea. Cory's shearwaters cast characteristically to and fro over the waves off the point.

One of the most striking features of Fornells, resulting from a combination of the exposure and the extremely permeable limestone, is the vegetation, and Christine and Keith especially had a particularly enjoyable time searching out the treasures that survive this inhospitable environment. Tiny sea lavenders and mats of sea heath were pretty with their deep pink flowers; white mignonette, yellow Cretan bird's foot trefoil, tiny grasses and chickweeds all paid for searching out. It was summer-hot, without a cloud in the sky, so we decided that we would seek the shade of woodland for our lunch-stop.

The area around Sa Roca contrasts sharply with the arid, limestone plateau and wild olive trees of the southern part of the island. Here it is hilly and wooded, with woods dominated by holm oak and Aleppo pines and many of the soils sandy and acid. There is an understory of strawberry tree (*Arbutus*), cistus and tree heaths and a rich ground flora. The bird fauna is largely familiar. We heard a great tit and a firecrest during lunch, which we ate sitting in the shade of pines and trying to avoid treading on the orchids at our feet. After lunch, we took the track that leads upwards through the wood. Blackcaps and stonechats sang and Neville drew our attention to a distant cuckoo. The path was flanked by tree heath, scorpion vetch and stink aster. There were the three species of cistus: *Cistus albidus* (with large, pinkish mauve flowers), *C. monspeliensis* (with small white flowers) and *C. salvifolius* (with sage-like leaves and white flowers). Under many of the plants of *Cistus albidus* we found little eruptions of a surprising parasitic plant, *Cytinus ruber*, attractive red and pink clusters of fleshy flowers, related to the giant tropical parasitic flower, *Rafflesia*. There were violet limodore, mirror, sawfly and bumblebee orchids, and a lovely specimen of the Balearic endemic *Ophrys balearica*, as well as a curious brownish-flowered orchid, probably a hybrid, that defied satisfactory identification.

We returned to Matchani Gran by the *Cami d'en Kane* or Kane Road, the old road that runs from end to end of the island and is named in honour of its builder, a much respected former British Governor of the island. It is a much better route for taking natural history into account and the decision was justified when we suddenly noticed a number of large birds wheeling in the sky ahead of us. We stopped and pulled out the binoculars; there were several black kites, buzzards and Egyptian vultures all together and apparently whirling above some point of attraction, perhaps a rubbish tip. The explanation remained unresolved but it was an excellent sight.

Shaun and Jenny had a well-deserved evening off so we had a table booked at a nearby restaurant, the *Bar España*, in the little town of Es Castell. As we gathered, ready to set off, a flock of 22 ravens and a red kite were sighted from the car park. In Es Castell, we had a pleasant walk around the town, looked out across the harbour and we were entertained by huge parties of

screaming swifts (identifying one or two pallid swifts among them). Then we were welcomed at the *Bar España* for an excellent meal and a chance for a few people to exercise their Spanish.

**Monday April 10: Montgofre Nou, Cap de Favàritx**

We went through the gate and along the track to the south for our early walk, where the nightingale was singing with much more confidence from a dense bush near to the path, but we were quite unable to track it down. We watched the two woodchat shrikes on a fig tree in the meadow, and had a fine view of two hoopoes as they flew across in front of us. The little donkey was very sturdy, at three days old, but still under the watchful protection of both her parents.

Our destination for today was the private nature reserve on the north of the island, Montgofre Nou. The way to Montgofre takes us across the northeast corner of Menorca. The limestone plateau of the south gives way to shale and sandstone hills and fields with deep fertile soils, and extraordinary rocky outcrops of honeycombed sandstone. There is extensive pasture here, where the cattle, so important to the island economy, are abundant. On cue, we encountered a little group of cattle egrets almost invisible in the lush grass. Along the rough winding track down to the reserve, one of the minibuses had a good view of a hobby and both buses caught sight of a peregrine, shooting across the valley ahead of us. We parked by the gate and set off down the track through the reserve. There was a dead tortoise on the track, apparently hit by a car; it was likely to have been a Hermann's tortoise but definite identification was impossible because of damage to the shell. A few moments later, we just avoided treading on a tiny terrapin, struggling along the dusty road. We quickly looked at him and then returned him to the stream where he swam off. Did we imagine his relief?

Beside the track, cistus, tree heath, shrubby glasswort, Spanish broom, *Dorycnium* and tamarisk make a very pretty foreground to a fine view. The reserve is a series of abandoned saltpans and lagoons set in a fold of hills and on this bright, sunny day, the whole landscape was magnificent. Our first real ornithological encounter was with surprising numbers of black-winged stilts. They breed here and seem entirely at home, but one stilt is a splendid sight – with the numbers of them here, strutting about, feeding, flying around and squabbling – it is amazing.



There were little ringed plovers running about in the mud in front of us and, further off, around some of the islands in the lagoon, there were several other species of waders to take our attention. We found greenshank, common and green sandpipers. Two wood sandpipers flew across and then came in very close so that we could all see the scaly pattern on their backs. Then Neville found a little pool with all three sandpipers close together – an excellent comparison. There were little egrets on the far bank, one of the islets had both cormorant and shag and, swimming and feeding on the water on the far side were a pair of gadwall and a male garganey. Christine alerted us to two blue-headed wagtails as they flew in across the water and we had a good view of a tawny pipit feeding on the track ahead of us.

We settled down by the track for lunch, near to a lovely patch of sawfly orchids, so that we could still have a good view of the reserve. A red kite flew along the far hillside, shortly followed by three Egyptian vultures, a buzzard and several booted eagles.

After lunch, we drove back to the road and then turned east to the headland of Cap Favàritx. This was even more exposed and desolate than Cap Cavalleria, not limestone this time, but grey slates and shale. The extensive prairie of the grass *Ampelodesmos mauritanicus* petered out and, nearing the point, the only obvious vegetation was sheets of Hottentot fig – both pink- and yellow-flowered forms. Though it is an invader here, and doesn't strictly belong to the Menorcan flora, it does form a very stylish spectacle against the dark grey of the shale. We climbed over the rocks, looking out to sea for shearwaters and other sea birds and admiring the





patterns of fossilised tracks left by marine worms in the shales, and the tenacious clumps of flowering sea heath in the crevices. There is only one sizeable bush on the headland, planted beside a little hut. We noticed a small bird sheltering in it and flitting elusively about deep among the twigs and dead leaves. Some patient observation from the shadow of the hut followed and the mystery bird turned out to be a Dartford warbler.

We were reluctant to end our last day in the field and took a detour on the way back to the main road. We came through a very pretty landscape of hilly pasture and rocky outcrops and had an excellent view of a marsh harrier quartering some meadows close to the road.

There was still time for a swim and a shower before drinks on the terrace and a review of the day's sightings. This evening, we were joined by Santi Cachot from GOB, (*Grup Balear d'Ornitologia i Defensa de la Naturalesa*), the organisation that benefits from donations from the Honeyguide Menorcan holidays and it was extremely interesting and encouraging to hear of their work and some of the problems and successes that they have experienced.

It was sad to feel that our week on this beautiful island was coming to an end but as usual, Shaun, Jenny and June's hospitality made the last evening a very enjoyable and festive one. There was a special prize awarded by Shaun and Jenny for the biggest bar bill and a commendation for the group because nobody had ever declined a pudding! We finished with reminiscences from everyone of their most special moments:

**Bill:** The Sardinian warblers everywhere; feeding the Audouin's gulls!

**Bryan:** Sa Roca; the bittern; the friendliness of the group and the welcome at Matchani Gran contributing to the overall holiday experience.

**Christine:** The amazing views of birds; meadows that were so packed with flowers that it was impossible to take a step without treading on them.

**Derek:** The brilliant colours – the reds and yellows – in the meadows everywhere; the bittern.

**Fiona:** A new side of Menorca; the purple gallinule; the seeing and sharing that went on within the group.

**Ian:** Seeing Menorca from new angles; a group willing to share and support a beginner; having a chance to look in detail at the wildlife; a very memorable birthday.

**John:** Finding his 'very own' redstart; the bittern; the company of such a patient and caring group.

**Keith:** The fascinating plants (the pleasure not unduly diminished by the failure to find weasel's snout); the introduction that Santi gave to the work of GOB.

**Margaret:** The Cory's shearwaters – in brilliant conditions; actually seeing the bittern and the Dartford warblers.

**Neville:** The wonderful views of shearwaters.

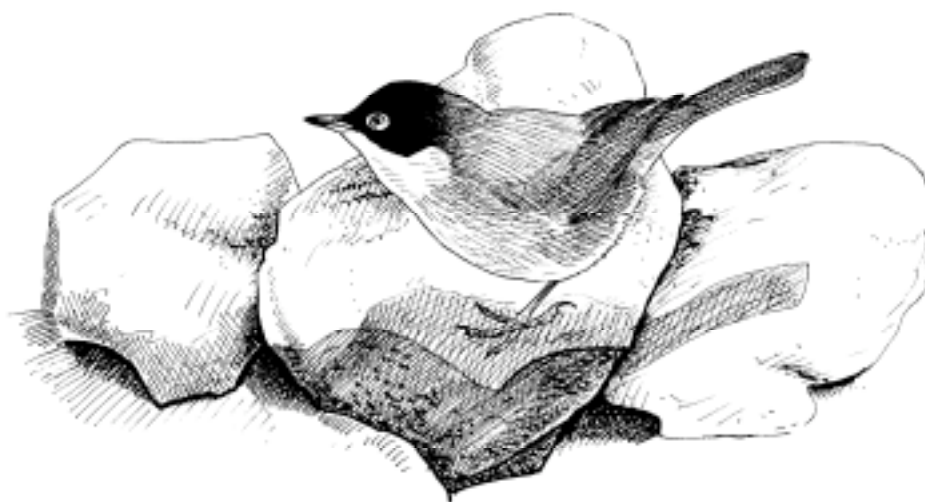
**Rene:** Son Bou; the friendliness of the group.

### ***Tuesday April 11: Home***

We took our favourite walk up the pine-flanked drive before breakfast. There was a high wind and it was overcast so we were willing to convince ourselves that it wasn't going to turn into a beautiful day after we had left. Several people had heard an early blackcap singing outside their bedroom windows but it was silent now. A single swift and a single swallow flew over reminding us that it might be some time before they reached Britain and spring there caught up. The regulars were all around: goldfinches, greenfinches, linnets, corn buntings, a Sardinian warbler, and a brief sight of a hoopoe perched on a rock.

It was soon time for us to head for the airport and leave Matchani Gran and our hosts to prepare for their next group (arriving on our incoming flight). We said our grateful 'goodbyes' to them all and were soon on our way after another delightful and memorable week.

Robin & Rachel



<b>Birds</b>	<b>Latin Name</b>	<b>Notes</b>
Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>	Several at Tirant and Es Grau
Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>	A pair at Es Grau
Cory's Shearwater	<i>Calonectris diomedea</i>	Seen close inshore at Cap de Cavalleria and at Fornells
Balearic Shearwater	<i>Puffinus mauretanicus</i>	Seen close inshore at Cap de Cavalleria
Gannet	<i>Morus bassanus</i>	One diving offshore at Cap de Cavalleria
Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo sinensis</i>	One at Es Grau
Shag	<i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis desmarestii</i>	Individual birds at coastal sites
Bittern	<i>Botaurus stellaris</i>	One seen well at Tirant
Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>	Two at Tirant, a few near Mahón and Montgofre
Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	Small numbers at Son Bou, Tirant, Es Grau and Montgofre Nou
Great White Egret	<i>Egretta alba</i>	One near Cap de Cavalleria
Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	Individual birds at Mahón, Es Grau and Montgofre Nou
Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>	One each at Son Bou and Tirant
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	Wherever fresh water was present
Gadwall	<i>Anas strepera</i>	A pair at Montgofre Nou
Bahama Pintail	<i>Anas bahamensis</i>	One feral bird at Montgofre Nou
Garganey	<i>Anas querquedula</i>	A drake at Son Bou and at Montgofre Nou
Black Kite	<i>Milvus migrans</i>	Individuals at Matchani Gran and Es Grau; several near the Kane Road
Red Kite	<i>Milvus milvus</i>	Individuals seen almost every day. More abundant than last year
Egyptian Vulture	<i>Neophron percnopterus</i>	Individuals at most sites. Several birds at Algendar Gorge
Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>	Individuals at Son Bou, Tirant, Naveta d'es Tudons and Montgofre Nou
Common Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>	Individuals at Algendar Gorge and Montgofre Nou; a pair at Monte Toro and Fornells
Booted Eagle	<i>Hieraaetus pennatus</i>	Numerous sightings every day
Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	Seen every day
Hobby	<i>Falco subbuteo</i>	One at Montgofre Nou

Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	One at Montgofre Nou
Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	At fresh water; Son Bou, Es Grau, Algendar Gorge and Montgofre Nou
Purple Gallinule	<i>Porphyrio porphyrio</i>	A pair with a young bird at Son Bou
Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>	Son Bou, Tirant, Es Grau and Montgofre Nou
Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>	One at Mahón Harbour and many at Montgofre Nou
Avocet	<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>	One at Fornells saltpans
Stone-curlew	<i>Burhinus oedicephalus</i>	Heard around Matchani Gran on most days
Little Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>	Small numbers at Es Mercadal, Montgofre Nou and Cap Favàritx
Kentish Plover	<i>Charadrius alexandrinus</i>	Two at Fornells
Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>	One at Tirant
Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>	Individuals at Tirant and Montgofre Nou
Green Sandpiper	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>	Several at Montgofre Nou
Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>	One at Tirant and several at Montgofre Nou
Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>	Odd individuals at Es Mercadal and Montgofre Nou
Audouin's Gull	<i>Larus audouinii</i>	A few at Son Bou and several at Mahón Harbour
Yellow-legged Gull	<i>Larus cachinnans</i>	Seen at all coastal sites and frequently inland
Rock Dove	<i>Columba livia</i>	Apparently wild birds at Algendar Gorge and Montgofre Nou; numerous feral birds throughout the island
Woodpigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	Individuals at Matchani Gran, Cala Galdana and Es Grau
Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	Widespread and plentiful near villages
Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>	One heard at Sa Roca
Scops Owl	<i>Otus scops</i>	Heard at Algendar Gorge and most days from Matchani Gran
Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>	Seen frequently throughout the island
Pallid Swift	<i>Apus pallidus</i>	One or two at Es Castell
Alpine Swift	<i>Apus melba</i>	Five at Cala Galdana and one at Algendar Gorge
Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>	Individuals seen nearly every day, mostly at Matchani Gran
Thekla Lark	<i>Gallerida theklae</i>	Individuals seen most days
Sand Martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>	A few at Tirant and Es Grau
Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	Seen throughout the island in small numbers
House Martin	<i>Delichon urbica</i>	A few at Tirant
Tawny Pipit	<i>Anthus campestris</i>	Several at Matchani Gran. Individuals at Cap de Cavallería, Fornells and Montgofre Nou
Blue-headed Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava</i>	One at Fornells salt pans and two at Montgofre Nou
White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba alba</i>	One at Es Mercadal
Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>	One seen at Matchani Gran and one heard at Es Grau
Nightingale	<i>Luscinia megarhynchos</i>	Heard frequently throughout the week
Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>	One at Algendar Gorge
Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>	Migrating individuals at Matchani Gran, Son Bou and Cap de Cavallería
Stonechat	<i>Saxicola torquata</i>	Individuals seen on most days
Blue Rock Thrush	<i>Monticola solitarius</i>	Frequently seen in rocky places, mostly in the north of the island
Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>	One heard at Matchani Gran
Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	Seen frequently at Matchani Gran, and at Algendar Gorge, Es Grau and Montgofre Nou

Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>	Individuals at Matchani Gran, Algendar Gorge, Es Grau and Sa Roca
Sardinian Warbler	<i>Sylvia melanocephala</i>	Widespread and plentiful
Fan-tailed Warbler	<i>Cisticola juncidis</i>	Two near Tirant
Cetti's Warbler	<i>Cettia cetti</i>	Frequently heard in wet and scrubby places
Bonelli's Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus bonelli</i>	One heard at Algendar Gorge
Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>	A migrating individual at Matchani Gran
Firecrest	<i>Regulus ignicapillus</i>	Heard singing at Algendar Gorge, Es Grau and Sa Roca
Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>	Seen at Matchani Gran, Algendar Gorge and Sa Roca
Woodchat Shrike	<i>Lanius senator</i>	Seen all over the island throughout the week.
Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>	Small numbers seen all over the island, and a remarkable flock of 22 flying over Matchani Gran
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	Near houses all over the island
Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	Individuals at Algendar Gorge and Sa Roca
Greenfinch	<i>Carduelis chloris</i>	Widespread and abundant
Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	Widespread and abundant
Linnet	<i>Carduelis cannabina</i>	Widespread and abundant
Corn Bunting	<i>Miliaria calandra</i>	Seen and heard all over the island

### Butterflies and other insects

Large White	<i>Pieris brassicae</i>	Matchani Gran, Algendar Gorge
Bath White	<i>Pontia daplidice</i>	Torre d'en Gaumes
Clouded Yellow	<i>Colias crocea</i>	Torre d'en Gaumes, Algendar Gorge
Brimstone	<i>Gonepteryx rhamni</i>	Torre d'en Gaumes
Cleopatra	<i>Gonepteryx cleopatra</i>	Algendar Gorge, Sa Roca, Es Grau
Swallowtail	<i>Papilio machaon</i>	Matchani Gran, Torre d'en Gaumes
Red Admiral	<i>Vanessa atalanta</i>	Matchani Gran
Painted Lady	<i>Cynthia cardui</i>	Naveta d'es Tudons, Montgofre Nou and Fornells
Speckled Wood	<i>Pararge aegeria</i>	Matchani Gran, Torre d'en Gaumes, Algendar Gorge, Es Grau
Green Hairstreak	<i>Callophrys rubi</i>	Es Grau, Sa Roca
Wall Brown	<i>Lasiommata megera</i>	Matchani Gran, Son Bou, Naveta d'es Tudons
Small Copper	<i>Lycaena phlaeas</i>	Torre d'en Gaumes, Algendar Gorge, Sa Roca
Common Blue	<i>Polyommatus icarus</i>	Matchani Gran, Son Bou, Es Grau
Pine Processionary Moth	<i>Thaumetopoea pityocampa</i>	Matchani Gran, Sa Roca
Hummingbird Hawk Moth	<i>Macroglossum stellatarum</i>	Matchani Gran
Silver Y Moth	<i>Autographa gamma</i>	Matchani Gran
Violet Carpenter Bee	<i>Xylocopa violacea</i>	Algendar Gorge
Paper Wasp	<i>Polistes sp</i>	Algendar Gorge, Montgofre Nou
Flower Chafer	<i>Oxythyrea funesta</i>	Algendar Gorge
Dung Beetle	<i>Scarabaeus sp</i>	Matchani Gran
Egyptian Locust	<i>Anacridium aegyptium</i>	Matchani Gran, Algendar Gorge, Sa Roca
Violet ground Beetle	<i>Carabus violaceus</i>	Naveta d'es Tudons
Rhinoceros Beetle	<i>Copris lunaris</i>	Matchani Gran

### Reptiles & Amphibians

Green Toad	<i>Bufo viridis</i>	Matchani Gran
Marsh Frog	<i>Rana ridibunda</i>	Algendar Gorge, Montgofre Nou
Moorish Gecko	<i>Tarentola mauretunica</i>	Torre d'en Gaumes
Italian Wall Lizard	<i>Podarcis sicula</i>	Matchani Gran, Torre d'en Gaumes, Naveta d'es Tudons, Montgofre Nou
Hermann's Tortoise	<i>Testudo hermanni</i>	Matchani Gran, Montgofre Nou
European Pond Terrapin	<i>Emys orbicularis</i>	Montgofre Nou

### Mammals

Algerian Hedgehog	<i>Atelerix algirus</i>	Occasional road casualties
Rabbit	<i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i>	Matchani Gran
Dolphin sp	[unidentifiable]	Partially decomposed juvenile at Son Bou

**Based on the list from Chris Gibson of Honeyguide, compiled in April 2002**

In the lists that follow, the distribution and / or localities are identified by the following codes:

- P – Planted; found in gardens or as a garden escape
- AG – Alendar Gorge
- CC – Cap de Cavallería
- CF – Cap de Favàritx
- EC – Es Castell
- EG – S'Albufera Es Grau
- EM – Es Mercadal *Depuradora*
- F – Fornells
- M – Mahón
- MG – Matchani Gran
- MN – Montgofre Nou
- MT – Monte Toro
- NT – Naveta d'es Tudons
- SB – Son Bou
- SR – Sa Roca
- T – Tirant
- TG – Torre d'en Gaumes
- W – Waste ground, road verges etc
- WS – Widespread throughout the island in suitable habitat

For some of the more widespread species, no attempt has been made to list all the localities and the code WS, widespread, indicates that a given species was more or less ubiquitous in the right habitats. We 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, and covered only the most obvious of difficult groups such as grasses. English names are given where there is one used in the books, or one can justifiably be coined but not otherwise.

**NON-FLOWERING PLANTS**

Lichens	<i>Cladonia foliacea</i>		CC SB MG
	<i>Usnea sp</i>		EG SR
Fungi	<i>Clathrus ruber</i>	clay fungus	SR
	<i>Coprinus lagopus</i>	puff ball	SR
Slime Mould			SR
Ferns & Allies	<i>Adiantum capillus-veneris</i>	maidenhair fern	MG
	<i>Equisetum ramosissimum</i>		AG C
	<i>E. telmateia</i>	great horsetail	SB
	<i>Pteridium aquilinum</i>	bracken	AG
Conifers & Allies	<i>Ephedra fragilis</i>	joint-pine	SB
	<i>Juniperus phoenicea</i>	Phoenician juniper	CC CF EG MN
	<i>Pinus halepensis</i>	Aleppo pine	WS
			WS

**FLOWERING PLANTS**

Acanthaceae	<i>Acanthus mollis</i>	bear's breeches	SB
Agavaceae	<i>Agave americana</i>	century plant	P
Aizoidaceae	<i>Carpobrotus edulis</i>	Hottentot fig	CC CF EG MT SB
Amaryllidaceae	<i>Leucojum aestivum</i>	summer snowflake	AG
	<i>Pancratium maritimum</i>	sand daffodil	EG SB
Anacardiaceae	<i>Pistachia lentiscus</i>	lentisc, mastic tree	WS
	<i>P. terebinthus</i>	terebinth	P SB
Apiaceae	<i>Apium nodiflorum</i>	fool's watercress	AG SB
	<i>Crithmum maritimum</i>	rock samphire	AG F SB
	<i>Daucus carota</i>	wild carrot	WS
	<i>Eryngium campestre</i>	field eryngo	EG MG NT
	<i>E. maritimum</i>	sea-holly	CF EG SB
	<i>Ferula communis</i>	giant fennel	WS
	<i>Foeniculum vulgare</i>	fennel	WS
	<i>Ridolfia segetum</i>		AG

	<i>Scandix pecten-veneris</i>	shepherd's-needle	MG NT
	<i>Smyrniium olusatrum</i>	alexanders	WS
Apocynaceae	<i>Vinca difformis</i>	pale periwinkle	TG W
Araceae	<i>Arisarum vulgare</i>	friar's-cowl	AG MG SB SR TG
	<i>Arum italicum</i>	Italian lords-and-ladies	CC AG SB MN
	<i>Arum pictum</i>	autumn arum	AG CC MG W
	<i>Dracunculus muscivorus</i>	dragon arum	CC
	<i>Zantedeschia aethiopica</i>	arum lily	AG
Araliaceae	<i>Hedera helix</i>	ivy	AG W
Asteraceae	<i>Aetheorhiza bulbosa</i>		SB
	<i>Artemisia gallica</i>		EG
	<i>Bellis annua</i>	annual daisy	AG EG MG NT TG
	<i>B. sylvestris</i>		EG MG
	<i>Bellium bellidioides</i>		MG
	<i>Calendula arvensis</i>	field marigold	MG NT TG
	<i>Carlina corymbosa</i>		CF
	<i>Chrysanthemum coronarium</i>	crown daisy	WS
	<i>Cichorium intybus</i>	chicory	T
	<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>	spear thistle	MG NT SR W
	<i>Evax pygmaea</i>		CC CF MG NT
	<i>Filago pyramidata</i>	broad-leaved cudweed	NT
	<i>Galactites tomentosa</i>		WS
	<i>Helichrysum stoechas</i>		CC CF F
	<i>Hyoseris radiata</i>		CC NT TG
	<i>H. scabra</i>		F MG SR
	<i>Hypochaeris achyrophorus</i>	golden-samphire	EG
	<i>Inula viscosa</i>	stink aster	CF SR T
	<i>Launaea cervicornis</i>		CC CF
	<i>Pallenis spinosa</i>		MG
	<i>Phagnalon saxatile</i>		EG
	<i>Santolina chamaecyparissus</i>	lavender-cotton	CC CF F
	<i>Senecio rodriguezii</i>		CC CF
	<i>Seriphidium maritimum</i>		EG
	<i>Silybum marianum</i>	milk-thistle	MG
	<i>Sonchus asper</i>	prickly sow-thistle	SB
	<i>S. oleraceus</i>	smooth sow-thistle	T
	<i>S. tenerrimus</i>		SB
	<i>Taraxacum officinale</i>	dandelion	W
	<i>Urospermum dalechampii</i>		MG MN SB W
Boraginaceae	<i>Borago officinalis</i>	borage	AG TG W
	<i>Cynoglossum creticum</i>	blue hound's-tongue	AG SB
	<i>Echium parviflorum</i>	small-flowered bugloss	MG TG
	<i>E. plantagineum</i>	purple viper's bugloss	CC MG SB
	<i>Lithospermum arvense</i>	corn gromwell	NT TG
	<i>Symphytum tuberosum</i>	tuberous comfrey	AG
Brassicaceae	<i>Brassica napus</i>	rape	AG
	<i>Cakile maritima</i>	sea-rocket	EG SB
	<i>Capsella bursa-pastoris</i>	shepherd's-purse	TG W
	<i>Cardaria draba</i>	hoary cress	AG
	<i>Lobularia maritima</i>	sweet alison	CC EG SB
	<i>Matthiola incana</i>	hoary stock	AG EC SB
	<i>Raphanus raphanistrum</i>	radish	MG NT
	<i>Rorippa nasturtium-aquaticum</i>	watercress	SB
	<i>Sinapis arvensis</i>	charlock	W
	<i>Sisymbrium officinale</i>	hedge mustard	W
Cactaceae	<i>Opuntia ficus-indica</i>	prickly-pear	WS
Campanulaceae	<i>Campanula erinus</i>		NT
Capparaceae	<i>Capparis spinosa</i>	spiny caper	MT
Caprifoliaceae	<i>Lonicera implexa</i>		AG EG
	<i>L. periclymenum</i>	Honeysuckle	CC SR
Caryophyllaceae	<i>Polycarpon alsinifolium</i>		AG MG
	<i>Silene gallica</i>	small-flowered catchfly	AG CC EG MG NT
	<i>S. secundiflora</i>		NT
	<i>S. vulgaris</i>	bladder campion	EG MG MN NT T TG
Chenopodiaceae	<i>Arthrocnemum macrostachyum</i>		EG
	<i>Atriplex halimus</i>	shrubby orache	EG SB
	<i>A. portulacoides</i>	sea-purslane	EG MN
	<i>Beta vulgaris</i> ssp. <i>maritima</i>	sea beet	EG F SB
	<i>Salicornia europea</i>	annual glasswort	EG
	<i>S. ramosissima</i>	glasswort	EG MN

	<i>Sarcocornia fruticosa</i>	shrubby glasswort	EG MN
Cistaceae	<i>Helianthemum salicifolium</i>		NT
	<i>Cistus albidus</i>	grey-leaved cistus	AG EG MN SR
	<i>C. monspeliensis</i>	narrow-leaved cistus	AG EG MN SR
	<i>C. salvifolius</i>	sage-leaved cistus	EG MN NT SR
Convolvulaceae	<i>Fumana thymifolia</i>	thyme-leaved fumana	NT
	<i>Calystegia sepium</i>	hedge bindweed	SB
	<i>C. soldanella</i>	sea bindweed	SB
	<i>Convolvulus althaeoides</i>	mallow-leaved bindweed	CC EG MG SB
Crassulaceae	<i>Sedum acre</i>	biting stonecrop	CC
	<i>Umbilicus rupestris</i>	navelwort	AG F MG NT TG
Cyperaceae	<i>Carex extensa</i>	long-bracted sedge	AG
	<i>C. flacca</i>	glaucous sedge	SR
	<i>Eleocharis palustris</i>	common spike-rush	T
	<i>Schoenus nigricans</i>	black bog-rush	CC EG
	<i>Scirpus holoschoenus</i>	round-headed club-rush	AG
	<i>Scirpus maritimus</i>	sea club-rush	F MN T
Dioscoreaceae	<i>Tamus communis</i>	black bryony	AG MN TG
Dipsacaceae	<i>Scabiosa atropurpurea</i>		AG
Ericaceae	<i>Arbutus unedo</i>	strawberry-tree	MN SR
	<i>Erica arborea</i>	tree-heath	EG MN SR
Euphorbiaceae	<i>Euphorbia characias</i>	large Mediterranean spurge	EG
	<i>E. dendroides</i>	tree spurge	AG CF EG MN
	<i>E. helioscopia</i>	sun spurge	WS
	<i>E. maresii</i>		CF F
	<i>E. paralias</i>	sea spurge	EG SB
	<i>E. pithyusa</i>		CC
	<i>E. terracina</i>		CF
	<i>Ricinus communis</i>	castor-oil plant	P SB
Fagaceae	<i>Quercus ilex</i>	holm oak	WS
Frankeniaceae	<i>Frankenia laevis</i>	sea-heath	CC CF F
Gentianaceae	<i>Blackstonia perfoliata</i>	yellow-wort	AG EG SR
	<i>Centaurium maritimum</i>	yellow century	CF EG
	<i>C. pulchellum</i>	lesser centaury	SB
Geraniaceae	<i>Erodium cicutarium</i>	Common stalk's-bill	W
	<i>E. malacoides</i>	mallow-leaved stork's-bill	W
	<i>E. moschatum</i>	musk stork's-bill	SB
	<i>Geranium columbinum</i>	long-stalked crane's-bill	W
	<i>G. dissectum</i>	cut-leaved crane's-bill	MN
	<i>G. molle</i>	dove's-foot crane's-bill	CC EG MG NT
	<i>G. purpureum</i>	little-robin	AG EG MG NT TG
	<i>G. rotundifolium</i>	round-leaved crane's-bill	W
Iridaceae	<i>Gladiolus illyricus</i>	wild gladiolus	AG EG MN SR T
	<i>G. italicus</i>		MG SB TG
	<i>Iris pseudacorus</i>	yellow flag	WS
	<i>Romulea assumptionis</i>		CC CF SB
Juncaceae	<i>Juncus acutus</i>	sharp rush	EG MN T
	<i>J. maritimus</i>	sea rush	CF EG MN SB
Lamiaceae	<i>Mentha aquatica</i>	water mint	AG
	<i>M. suaveolens</i>	apple-scented mint	AG SB
	<i>Phlomis italica</i>		MT
	<i>Prasium majus</i>		EG MG NT TG
	<i>Rosmarinus officinalis</i>	rosemary	AG CC EG MN NT SB SR
	<i>Salvia verbenaca</i>	meadow clary	WS
	<i>Sideritis romana</i>		MG
	<i>Teucrium subspinosum</i>		CC
Liliaceae	<i>Allium ampeloprasum</i>	wild leek	F SB
	<i>A. roseum</i>	rose garlic	AG EG F MG NT SB SR
	<i>A. triquetrum</i>	three-cornered leek	AG EG TG W
	<i>Asparagus acutifolius</i>		MG TG
	<i>A. albus</i>		MG
	<i>A. horridus</i>		MG SB
	<i>Asphodelus aestivus</i>	common asphodel	WS
	<i>A. fistulosus</i>	hollow-leaved asphodel	WS
	<i>Muscari comosum</i>	tassel hyacinth	EG MG NT SB SR TG
	<i>Ornithogalum arabicum</i>	Arabian star-of-Bethlehem	MG
	<i>Ruscus aculeatus</i>	butcher's-broom	EG MN SB
	<i>Urginea maritima</i>	sea squill	CC CF EG MG MN SR TG
<b>Linaceae</b>	<i>Linum usitatissimum</i>	common flax	MN
<b>Malvaceae</b>	<i>Althaea hirsuta</i>	hairy mallow	SR



	<i>Lavatera arborea</i>	tree mallow	SB
	<i>Malva neglecta</i>	dwarf mallow	W
	<i>M. sylvestris</i>	common mallow	W
<b>Meliaceae</b>	<i>Melia azedarach</i>	Indian bead-tree	P EC
<b>Moraceae</b>	<i>Ficus carica</i>	fig	P MG
<b>Myoporaceae</b>	<i>Myoporum laetum</i>		MG
<b>Oleaceae</b>	<i>Phillyrea angustifolia</i>		AG EG MN SR
	<i>P. latifolia</i>		EG MN
	<i>P. latifolia</i> var. <i>rodriguezii</i>		CF EG
	<i>Olea europaea</i>	olive	P WS
<b>Orobanchaceae</b>	<i>Orobanche crenata</i>		SR
	<i>O. ramosa</i>	branched broomrape	MG
<b>Orchidaceae</b>	<i>Anacamptis pyramidalis</i>	pyramidal orchid	EG SB
	<i>Barlia robertiana</i>	giant orchid	MG
	<i>Limodorum abortivum</i>	violet bird's-nest orchid	SR
	<i>Ophrys balearica</i>		SR
	<i>O. bertolonii</i>		SR
	<i>O. bombyliflora</i>	bumblebee orchid	EG NT T
	<i>O. lutea</i>	yellow bee-orchid	MG NT SR
	<i>O. speculum</i>	mirror orchid	AG EG MG NT SR
	<i>O. tenthredinifera</i>	sawfly orchid	AG EG MG MN NT SR
	<i>Orchis tridentata</i>	toothed orchid	MG NT
	<i>Serapias parviflora</i>	small-flowered tongue-orchid	EG MG MN SR
<b>Oxalidaceae</b>	<i>Oxalis corniculata</i>	yellow sorrel	MG
	<i>O. pes-caprae</i>	Bermuda buttercup	EG MG NT SB TG
<b>Papaveraceae</b>	<i>Chelidonium majus</i>	greater celandine	AG
	<i>Fumaria capreolata</i>	white ramping-fumitory	AG MG TG
	<i>F. officinalis</i>	common fumitory	NT SR TG
	<i>Papaver hybridum</i>	rough poppy	NT SB SR TG
	<i>P. rhoeas</i>	common poppy	NT TG W
	<i>P. somniferum</i>	opium poppy	NT TG
<b>Papilionaceae</b>	<i>Anthyllis hystrix</i>		CC CF
	<i>A. vulneraria</i> ssp. <i>font-querii</i>		NT
	<i>Astragalus balearicus</i>		CF MN
	<i>Calicotome spinosa</i>	spiny broom	EG MN
	<i>Coronilla juncea</i>	rush-like scorpion vetch	AG SR
	<i>Dorycnium fulgurans</i>		CC CF
	<i>D. hirsutum</i>		MN SR
	<i>D. pentaphyllum</i>		MN SR
	<i>Hedysarum coronarium</i>	Italian sainfoin	W
	<i>Lathyrus annuus</i>		EG
	<i>L. clymenum</i>		EG
	<i>L. ochrus</i>		TG
	<i>L. odoratus</i>	sweet pea	P W
	<i>L. sphaericus</i>	brown vetch	EG NT
	<i>Lotus creticus</i>	southern bird's-foot trefoil	EG F SB SR W
	<i>L. cytisoides</i>		EG SB
	<i>L. ornithopodioides</i>		AG
	<i>L. subbiflorus</i>	hairy bird's-foot-trefoil	EG
	<i>L. tetraphyllum</i>		CC SR
	<i>Medicago littoralis</i>		SB
	<i>M. marina</i>	sea medick	EG MG SB
	<i>Melilotus sulcata</i>		AG EM T
	<i>Psoralea bituminosa</i>	pitch trefoil	AG EG NT
	<i>Robinia pseudoacacia</i>	false acacia	P EC
	<i>Scorpiurus muricatus</i>		MG SR
	<i>Spartium junceum</i>	Spanish broom	MN
	<i>Trifolium campestre</i>	hop trefoil	EG
	<i>T. nigrescens</i>		MG NT
	<i>T. scabrum</i>	rough clover	TG
	<i>T. stellatum</i>	starry clover	MG NT
	<i>Vicia benghalensis</i>		AG NT
	<i>V. sativa</i>	common vetch	NT TG
	<i>V. tetrasperma</i>	smooth tare	SB
	<i>V. villosa</i>	fodder vetch	EG
<b>Phytolaccaceae</b>	<i>Phytolacca arborea</i>	ombu	P MG
<b>Plantaginaceae</b>	<i>Plantago afra</i>	branched plantain	NT
	<i>P. bellardii</i>		MG
	<i>P. coronopus</i>	buck's-horn plantain	AG
	<i>P. crassifolia</i>		EG SB

	<i>P. lanceolata</i>	ribwort plantain	AG W
	<i>P. major</i>	great plantain	SB
<b>Plumbaginaceae</b>	<i>Limonium echioides</i>		CC CF F
	<i>L. minutum</i>	dwarf sea lavender	CC CF F
<b>Poaceae</b>	<i>Ammophila arenaria</i>	marram grass	EG SB
	<i>Ampelodesmos mauritanicus</i>		CC CF SR W
	<i>Arundo donax</i>	giant reed	AG EG SB
	<i>Briza maxima</i>	large quaking-grass	EG NT SR
	<i>Desmazeria marina</i>	sea fern-grass	F
	<i>Elymus farctus</i>	sea couch-grass	EG SB
	<i>Lagurus ovatus</i>	hare's-foot grass	CC EG MG SR
	<i>Melica ciliata</i>		EG
	<i>Phragmites australis</i>	common reed	AC EG SB T
	<i>Poa annua</i>	annual meadow-grass	MG
	<i>Sporobolus pungens</i>		SB
<b>Polygonaceae</b>	<i>Emex spinosa</i>		SB
	<i>Rumex bucephalophorus</i>		EG NT
	<i>R. conglomeratus</i>	clustered dock	W
	<i>R. crispus</i>	curled dock	W
<b>Posidoniaceae</b>	<i>Posidonia oceanica</i>		EG M SB
<b>Primulaceae</b>	<i>Anagallis arvensis</i>	scarlet pimpernel (red and blue varieties)	EG MG NT SB SR TG
	<i>A. foemina</i>	blue pimpernel	CC
<b>Punicaceae</b>	<i>Punica granatum</i>	pomegranate	AG
<b>Rafflesiaceae</b>	<i>Cytinus ruber</i>		SR
<b>Ranunculaceae</b>	<i>Adonis annua</i>	pheasant's eye	NT
	<i>Clematis cirrhosa</i>	maiden's-bower	AG EG MG SB TG
	<i>C. flammula</i>		EG MG SB TG
	<i>Ranunculus aquatilis</i>	common water-crowfoot	SB T
	<i>R. macrophyllus</i>		MN
	<i>R. muricatus</i>		SB
	<i>R. sceleratus</i>	celery-leaved buttercup	AG
<b>Resedaceae</b>	<i>Reseda alba</i>	white mignonette	F NT TG W
	<i>R. luteola</i>	weld	EG
<b>Rhamnaceae</b>	<i>Rhamnus alaternus</i>	Mediterranean buckthorn	AG EG MN
	<i>R. ludovici-salvatorius</i>		EG
<b>Rosaceae</b>	<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	hawthorn	AG SB WS
	<i>Malus (sylvestris?)</i>	crab apple	AG EG SR
	<i>Potentilla reptans</i>	creeping cinquefoil	AG
	<i>Prunus spinosa</i>	blackthorn	WS
	<i>Rosa sempervirens</i>		EM
	<i>Rubus ulmifolius</i>	bramble	WS
	<i>Sanguisorba minor</i>	salad burnet	AG SR T
<b>Rubiaceae</b>	<i>Crucianella maritima</i>		SB
	<i>Galium aparine</i>	cleavers	W
	<i>Rubia peregrina</i>	wild madder	AG EG NT SB SR TG
	<i>Sherardia arvensis</i>	field madder	NT
	<i>Valantia muralis</i>		CC NT SR
<b>Rutaceae</b>	<i>Ruta chalepensis</i>	fringed rue	MG NT
<b>Salicaceae</b>	<i>Populus alba</i>	white poplar	AG
<b>Scrophulariaceae</b>	<i>Bellardia trixago</i>		NT TG
	<i>Cymbalaria muralis</i>	ivy-leaved toadflax	C
	<i>Linaria triphylla</i>	three-leaved toadflax	NT TG
	<i>Parentucellia latifolia</i>		NT
	<i>P. viscosa</i>	yellow bartisia	MG NT
	<i>Scrophularia auriculata</i>	water figwort	AG
	<i>S. peregrina</i>		AG TG
	<i>Verbascum creticum</i>		AG MG NT
	<i>V. sinuatum</i>		AG
	<i>Veronica cymbalaria</i>		W
<b>Smilacaceae</b>	<i>Smilax aspera</i>	common smilax	AG EG MG SR TG
	<i>S. aspera</i> var. <i>balearica</i>		CC
<b>Solanaceae</b>	<i>Solanum nigrum</i>	black nightshade	SR
	<i>S. sodomium</i>	sodom apple	CC
<b>Tamaricaceae</b>	<i>Tamarix africana</i>		AG EG F SB
	<i>T. boveana</i>		AG SB
	<i>T. gallica</i>	tamarisk	EG SB
<b>Typhaceae</b>	<i>Typha angustifolia</i>	lesser reedmace	EM SB
	<i>T. latifolia</i>	greater reedmace	SB
<b>Ulmaceae</b>	<i>Ulmus minor</i>	small-leaved elm	AG
<b>Urticaceae</b>	<i>Parietaria judaica</i>	pellitory-of-the-wall	AG NT

<b>Valerianaceae</b>	<i>Urtica membranacea</i>		WS
	<i>U. urens</i>	annual nettle	MG
	<i>Centranthus calcitrapae</i>	Spanish valerian	EG NT SB SR
	<i>Valerianella discoidea</i>		AG SB