

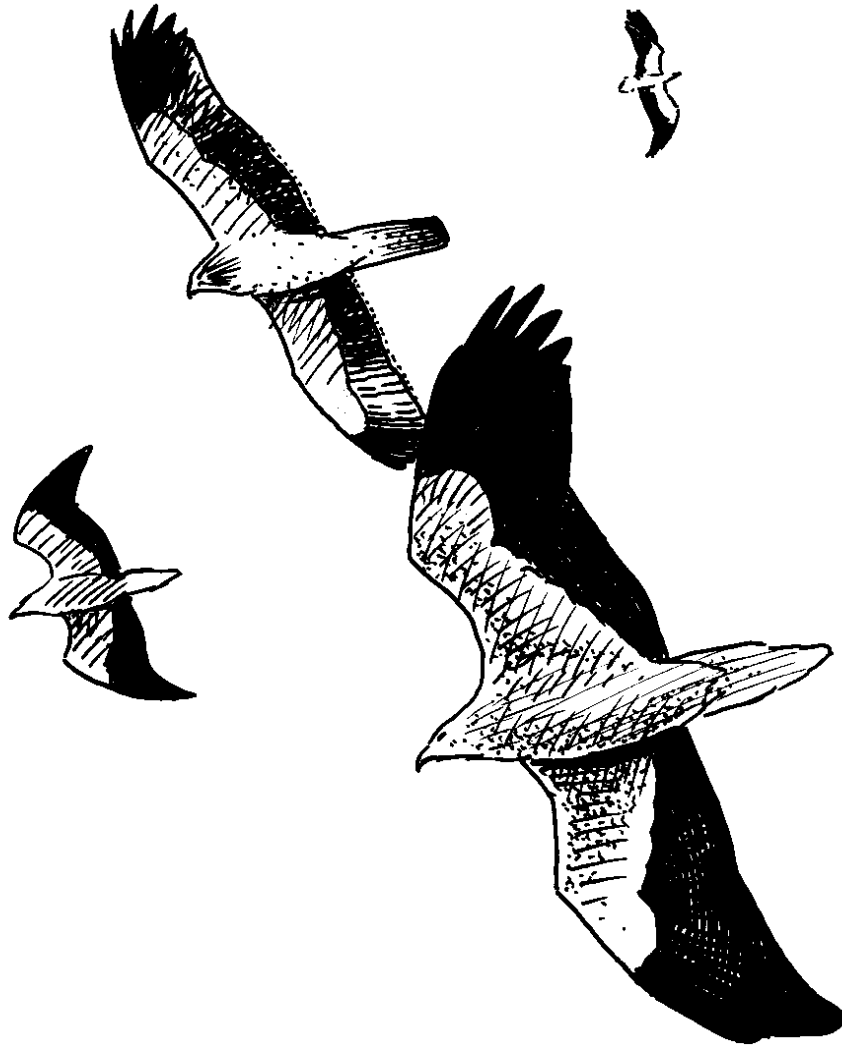
Honeyguide

WILDLIFE HOLIDAYS

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**Discovering Menorca
11 – 18 April 2008**

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Holiday participants

Juliet Prior
Margaret Palmer
Suzanne Hunter
Lesley Scott
Christine Willey
Janet Turner
Alan & Jan Tyne
David Nind and Shevaun Mendolsohn
Elaine Mills
Susan Welsh
Val Green and Gill Thackerary

Leaders

Robin and Rachel Hamilton

Our hosts at Matchani Gran

Shaun and Jenny Murphy

John Seymour, historian and Menorcan resident and Montse Bau i Puig from GOB (*Grup Balear d'Ornitologia i Defensa de la Naturalesa* - www.gobmenorca.com/english) joined the group during the week.

Conservation contribution

As with all Honeyguide holidays, £30 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 £30 per person was supplemented in two ways. Firstly, by gift aid through the Honeyguide Wildlife Charitable Trust. Secondly, by a donation of £250 from Roger Jordan and friends in the Wildlife Outreach Network based in Essex, leading to a total of £788 (€1040). This donation brings the total to £7,954 contributed to GOB by Honeyguide holidays in the Balearics.

The total conservation contributions from all Honeyguide holidays since 1991 was at £53,635 at September 2008.

This report was written by Robin and Rachel Hamilton.

Front cover: Egyptian vultures with pale-phase booted eagle by Rob Hume.

Monte Toro and olive wood gate by Will Woodrow.

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

Discovering Menorca 11 – 18 April 2008

Friday 11 April: Arrival and the surroundings of Matchani Gran

The sun was peeping through the clouds as we left Luton Airport but there was a distinctly chilly breeze and we were delighted to be greeted by bright warm sunshine at Mahon. Crown daisies and Italian sainfoin decorated the airport and there was a raven picking over the loose stones at the edge of the tarmac. Shaun Murphy, our host, met us and guided us to our minibuses and we set off on the short drive to Matchani Gran. We were looking out for signs of spring, catching sight of the first swallow and two large white butterflies, promises of treats to come.

Down the drive to Matchani Gran the sun was slanting through the avenue of ancient Aleppo pines. We met Shaun's wife, Jenny, and gathered in the bar for an introduction and a drink. There were goldfinches and greenfinches singing in the trees and a gecko in the bar. We were shown to our rooms and then assembled in the long dining room for lunch. Jenny's delicious quiches and salads, and Shaun's imaginative selection of ice creams and sorbets restored our energy and Jenny brought us a charming Hermann's tortoise that she had found exploring the garden.

There was high, fast-moving cloud, and promise of a pleasantly warm and breezy afternoon. We all felt like a leisurely walk so we set off to explore the fields and tracks around Matchani Gran. Jan found a beautiful little paper wasp's nest in the flowerbed beside the veranda, with two wasps in residence. As we examined it, a Cetti's warbler struck up its strident song from a bush nearby.

The stony meadows were bright with spring flowers, and the first to strike us were a surprise to our British eyes; the daisies are pink (*Bellis annua*, not *B perennis*, though apart from the colour, very similar) and the scarlet pimpernel is bright blue (differing from blue pimpernel in the presence of glands on the petals). Juliet and Lesley fell in love with a tiny silver rosette, cowering close to the ground: *Evax pygmaea*. We had hardly got through the gateway before we saw a swallowtail butterfly and a Sardinian warbler singing from the hedge – a song which was to become very familiar during the days to follow. There was a small dead snake on the track which we were able to look at closely, but it was not until later in the week that Gill found a picture and we could identify it as a false smooth snake.

The insects were out and about in the warm sunshine: clouded yellow, swallowtail, scarce swallowtail (*below, right*) and common blue butterflies were flying, Shevaun found an oil beetle; we all had a good look at this extraordinary bloated creature and Christine, the unofficial 'expedition photographer', took some excellent photographs. Splendid violet carpenter bees were buzzing about and visiting the masses of flowers. Up in the air, our first raptor was a pale-phase booted eagle, spectacularly sparring with a kestrel, and we saw a distant red kite. We were getting to know the 'locals'; there were corn buntings singing from the tips of the branches of the fig trees, a distant hoopoe was perched on a telegraph wire, groups of yellow-legged gulls drifted above us, a raven flew close by and we had a very good look at two Thekla larks perched on one of the beautiful dry stone walls. There were old friends around too: a distant blackbird was singing, several greenfinches were calling from songposts in the hedges and a flock of linnets passed by. There were some very encouraging signs of migration too. Margaret found us a nice female redstart and, above us, several swifts and a small flock of migrating swallows flew past.

We wandered among the asphodel, and observant eyes picked out some lovely plants in good flower. There were a lot of unusually large sawfly orchids, some stunning mirror orchids, delicate mauve-flowered milk thistles, excellent specimens of branched broomrape and a spectacular patch of purple viper's bugloss, much photographed. We found a dead baby gecko in the grass and Sue found a moulted snakeskin; we had a chance to observe its clear eye-scales.

The wind had dropped as we got back to Matchani Gran and the sky was beginning to cloud over. Janet was the first of the group to take to the



swimming pool, but no one was intrepid enough to join her. We had a leisurely evening, after our early start, reviewing the day over a drink before dinner and we headed readily for bed, to listen out for the night sounds of the Mediterranean.

Saturday 12 April: Son Bou and Torre d'en Gaumes

It had rained quite heavily in the night and we were glad that we had decided against an early walk. From the breakfast table we had a lovely view of two hoopoes. We met at the minibuses for Shaun to take our dinner orders and were preparing to set off for the day when we discovered that Rachel's minibus was not going to start. The hire company was soon on hand to sort it out so we used the waiting time to explore the drive. There were not many birds about – just some very welcome swifts – but we looked at some of the other natural history: pheromone traps to confuse pine processionary moths, a large millipede, wild madder, 'maiden's bower' clematis and the magnificent Aleppo pines.

The car satisfactorily fixed, we set off towards the southwest coast of the island, to the wetland and sand dune reserve at Son Bou. A stonechat greeted us from the top of the brambles in the car park and a Cetti's warbler was shouting from deep in the tamarisk. We followed the boardwalk along towards the beach, pausing to watch the large party of coot and mallard in the pool at the outfall stream. There was a cool breeze by then and the clouds were clearing so we didn't mind too much taking off our shoes and socks to ford the stream. We followed the edge of the sea, at the top of an unusually high tide, picking up shells and 'sea balls', the rough tangle of fibres rounded by the sea from the rhizomes of sea grass *Posidonia*. An Audouin's gull, a Menorcan speciality, was strutting along the tide line too; it is a handsome bird and it made a lovely picture with waves breaking against the rocky islets behind.

We climbed up through the dunes among many familiar sand dune plants: marram grass, sea holly and sea spurge (the Menorcan name entertainingly translates as 'mad woman's milk'). Clumps of sand daffodil had dropped their shiny black seeds that glistened in the sand around them. As we got into the mature dunes, they were yellow with bird's foot trefoil and as we brushed through the low bushes, we were enveloped in the smell of wild rosemary.

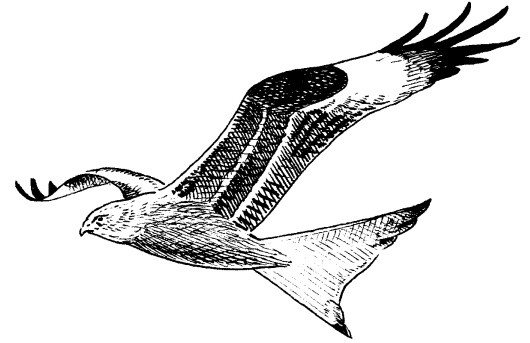
At the top of the dunes we could see the whole reserve spread before us – vast reedbeds and pools against the incongruous background of a modern holiday development, with magnificent limestone hills behind it. The establishment of the reserve at Son Bou was an important milestone in Menorcan planning history, a moment of realisation of the risk that development presented to the finest qualities of the island. We scanned the reeds; a purple heron emerged and flew gracefully past us. A female marsh harrier flew up, causing consternation among the mallard, teal and coot. We heard the call of a dabchick and watched a little egret feeding at the edge of the reeds in a distant pool and waves of migrating swallows and sand martins passed backwards and forwards over the reed beds and above our heads.

The botanists were enjoying the rich and fragrant flora of juniper, rosemary and mastic bushes with strange scrambling plants – madder, clematis and smilax. Juliet found the curious plant *Osyris alba*; rather broom-like, with sprawling green branches and inconspicuous yellow flowers, it is a member of the Sandalwood family. Pretty medicks and centaury struggled in the dry sand and we were occasionally rewarded with finds such as an exceptionally fine clump of yellow bee orchids beside the path. We turned back towards the minibuses and our picnic lunch, accompanied by stonechats and catching a glimpse of a startled green sandpiper on the way. A distant juvenile Egyptian vulture was being mobbed by a raven and two other ravens flew close by; we paused to examine a mole cricket that had inconveniently found its dry sandy habitat waterlogged by the unusually high tide.

We sat under the shade of Aleppo pines to relax and enjoy our picnic lunch and listened to the call of a collared dove from behind the villas across the lagoon. On the other side of the bay, we watched another Egyptian vulture soaring incongruously above the stark, modern hotel. A convenient café in the little town gave us an excellent coffee/loo-stop and we sat in the shade of the bar terrace and listened to the first nightingale of the week while watching two booted eagles and a kestrel patrolling the hillside.

Our next stop was a few miles away, at one of the many ancient stone monuments for which Menorca is famous. *Torre d'en Gaumes* is one of the most comprehensively studied and restored and yet we had the whole place to ourselves. We were able to explore the extensive stone structures and tracks and enjoy the distant view

out over the sea. Just as the site was strategically placed for its ancient inhabitants to command the surrounding countryside, so it is for us on the lookout for birds. There were more booted eagles and we had a good view of a red kite – a species now recovering from a very low level, thanks to the work of GOB, the Balearic ornithology organisation which Honeyguide supports. We could hear a quail calling, but it remained well hidden. While we were searching for it, we had an excellent view of the first turtle dove of the week and Gill and Margaret found two hoopoes. From time to time, big flocks of migrating swifts and swallows passed overhead. A tantalising silhouette perched conspicuously on one of the stone structures eventually showed itself to be a Thekla lark.



Among the stones and in the shade of the olive scrub, or in areas of more open grassland, a rich variety of wild flowers thrives. We found a fine clump of rough poppy, *Papaver hybridum*, a strikingly richer red than our common poppy, and a grassy bank scattered with several dozen pure white pyramidal orchids – a wonderful sight, much photographed. Lesley's eye for the subtle and delicate found us the pale lemon vetch, *Lathyrus ochrus* and pale periwinkle sprawled under the olives and *Prasium majus* – like an exotic looking deadnettle – poked up from among the rocks.

Back at Matchani Gran, it was time for a welcome cup of tea and a break, before we gathered in the late sunshine for a drink, a plate of Jenny's *tapas*, and the daily log. A leisurely and excellent dinner was served for us in the long dining room, in the old coach house, and we retired to bed to the sound of scops owls and stone-curlews.

Sunday 13 April: Tirant and Cap Cavallería

The weather was bright and promising when we set off for our early walk and straight away we could hear a hoopoe calling somewhere near the garden. There was a nightingale singing too, but they both eluded our binoculars. The Sardinian warblers were out and about and we had the best view so far of a nice male singing on a telegraph wire. We turned through the gate to follow an anti-clockwise route round Matchani Gran and at last had a decent view of two hoopoes, also on wires. The fig trees make excellent song-posts for greenfinches and corn buntings, we saw our first robin and Cetti's warblers kept our company from the bushes beside us. We stopped to admire a big clump of rue, sparkling in the dew, but soon breakfast called and we made our way through the back gate and into the garden to join the rest of the group.

Menorca is a small island and in a week it is possible to gain a good overall impression. Our visits take us to most parts of the island and, after a trip yesterday to the south coast, today we were heading north. Two roads run east-west along the spine of the island; one is fast and modern, the other, the Kane Road (built by, and named after a highly respected British Governor of the island), is charming, winding, pot-holed in places and much less busy. We wound our way through the back road from St Climent, adding two woodchat shrikes and several turtle doves to our tally, crossed the main road and turned west along the Kane Road. The change in vegetation is marked. The southern part of the island is largely limestone, with dry stone walls, small stony fields and extensive olive scrub: a dry, silver-grey landscape. As you approach the Kane Road, the dark green of pine and holm oak immediately becomes apparent and the more fertile soils and less free-draining rocks: sandstones and schists, of the north influence not only the agriculture but also the topography and, of course, the vegetation. So, as we flashed by we enjoyed quick glimpses of cistuses in flower under the shade of the holm oak, with tree heaths and arbutus, and clumps of wild gladioli. We would have a chance to explore these habitats later in the week.

The Kane Road joins the main road at the little town of Es Mercadal and close to the town there is an extensive *Depuradora*, a water purification plant which is almost always a worthwhile spot to see at least a few waders. This time we had good views of both common and green sandpipers, as well as a red kite and a nice pale-phase booted eagle flew low above us.

We drove a few miles further north and, topping a rise, a great area of rushes, reeds and open water was spread ahead of us. As soon as we approached, we could see black-winged stilts picking their way among the rushes beside the narrow lane but we drove on to where a wide track cuts across the wetland and we could stop and

take in the enormous variety of bird- and plant-life. Giant fennel towered above us beside the track and the verge was crimson with Italian sainfoin; we had been admiring these statuesque plants from the minibuses but now was the time to get to know them at close quarters.

There were good wetland birds about too: three black-winged stilts poking about in the shallows and a more distant group of cattle egrets among the ducks and coots. A purple heron stalked through the reeds, showing itself intermittently, its neck and head held at peculiar angles and showing off the surprising colours of its plumage. Two fan-tailed warblers flitted and 'zitted' overhead and we heard a distant quail. Against the hillside, two booted eagles were flying together with a distant Egyptian vulture beyond and five ravens flew by, some way off. There were frequently swifts wheeling about overhead and we caught the soft call of a little flock of bee-eaters which we eventually found, flying high to the east. We drove on a little way, to see what else was about and were rewarded by a pair of little ringed plovers, quite close to the track and near enough for excellent views both with and without the telescopes. A flock of house martins came in low over the water as we headed back to the minibuses for the short drive to our next stop.

Towards the sea in the north, the landscape gradually changes from gently sloping fields with grazing cattle to wind-clipped bushes and trees and rugged rocky hillsides. Cap Cavallería extends as a narrow, rocky promontory jutting out from the north coast. It is a nature reserve, with a small information centre where we were glad to make a brief stop before heading on towards the lighthouse. Trees disappear; the giant grass, *Ampelodesmos mauritanicus* comes into its own, and provides food, shelter and song perches for stonechats, linnets and tawny pipits. Eventually, even *Ampelodesmos* gives up and leaves the rocky limestone scree to a collection of extraordinary plants, the *socarrells*, that have adopted a range of adaptations – vicious prickles, aromatic leaves, dense, tough growth forms, cushion shapes, thick fleshy leaves – to enable them to survive the extreme conditions and resist grazing.

We scrambled along the path to a viewpoint overlooking the sea, and found ourselves perched among the rocks for lunch. The sea-watching was a little disappointing. The inevitable yellow-legged gulls showed a natural interest in our picnic and there were shags down on the sea. A blue rock thrush performed beautifully for us, but silhouetted against the bright light, his blueness was unconvincing. After lunch, we had a rewarding time poking about among the rocks for some of the *socarrell* plants as well as the tiny sea lavenders and daisies, and prostrate rosemary, pressed against the surface of the rocks. Juliet discovered the narrow leaves of the spring bulb, *Romulea*, emerging from the fine soil between the rocks. We were also pleased to find some good flowering specimens of dragon arum, *Arum muscivorus*, a plant that had recently featured in a David Attenborough film. Recent researches have shown it to be associated with Lilford's lizard, a lizard which is endemic to one of the offshore islands. Apparently the lizard has recently developed a liking for the arum fruits and the arum population has increased rapidly. The dragon arum is doing very well on Cap Cavallería now too, though the lizards here are not Lilford's.

While we were looking at the plants we were keeping an eye out for birds too, and we could frequently hear the charming song of the blue rock thrush. Both the male and the female were about, as well as tawny pipits and linnets and on the sea there were still several shags, flying about and feeding in the turbulent water between the rocky islets. Some very threatening cloud was gathering and Alan's weather-forecaster was showing an ominous drop in air pressure so we decided that a return trip to the visitor centre was appropriate. A hobby flashed past us on our way back to the minibuses and while we were having a drink or an ice cream at the centre, we were treated to a fly-past by an alpine swift.

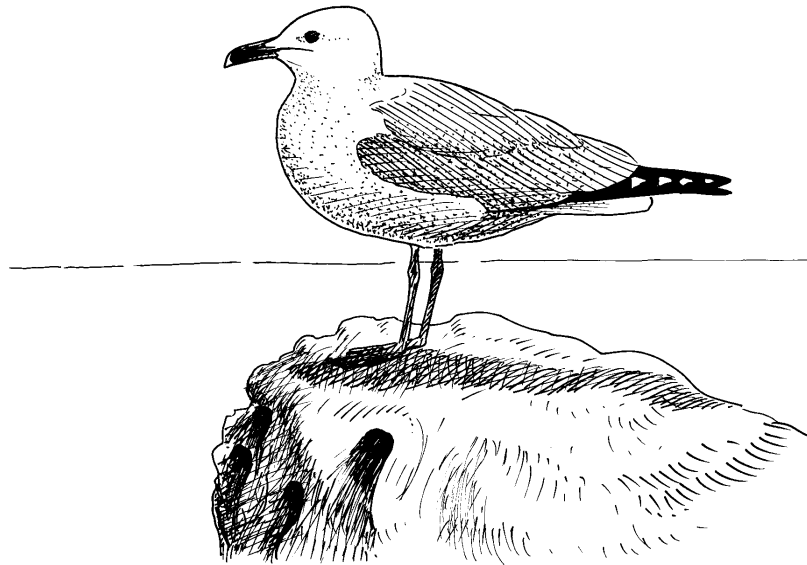
As we were leaving Cap Cavallería, Sue called out as a pair of red-legged partridges were feeding beside the road. A little later, we stopped to listen to a quail and while we were listening both a red kite and then a female marsh harrier appeared and circled low and very close to us in the field next to the road.

Rain was starting as we drove down the drive to Matchani Gran. It was not putting off the great tits; they were calling loudly from the bushes near the bar. We briefly reviewed our day's sightings and then headed into San Climent where we were expected for dinner at El Casino restaurant. It was an extremely enjoyable meal, with a wide range of local dishes, and a plentiful supply of wine. After supper the sky was clearing and we heard the wild call of stone-curlews as we arrived back at Matchani Gran.

Monday 14 April: Mahón Harbour and s'Albufera Es Grau

The early sky was overcast with clouds scudding by at high speed and the wind increasing from the north: ominous signs of the Tramuntana, a bitter and persistent wind characteristic of the Balearics. We could hear stone-curlews, but despite searches we could not catch sight of them, though we did have excellent views of both Thekla larks and tawny pipits.

We drove down to Mahón through tiny lanes and among fine Georgian terraces. We parked beside the harbour and had an hour or so to explore the town on foot, stock up with souvenirs and coffee, and meet again for our boat trip. The boatman was gloomy about the weather. Yes indeed, he declared, it was a Tramuntana, and we were destined for three days of cloud, rain and bitter northerlies! The party embarked as the sun came out and from the vantage point of the glass-bottomed boat, toured the beautiful harbour with a multilingual commentary on the historical interest of what we were seeing. There were birds to see too: herons, Audouin's and yellow-legged gulls, shags (very close), little egrets and blue rock thrushes. And as we reached the harbour mouth, the engines slowed and we were invited to go below and view the underwater spectacle of fishes swimming in the gently swirling *Posidonia* beds. Returning to the harbour, we indulged an unlikely passion that the Audouin's gulls have for stale white bread. The yellow-legged gulls ignored us, but the Audouin's gulls flew in from all directions dipping and hovering in front of us, catching the bread and performing attractive aerobatics for the cameras.



We were forgetting about the receding threat of a Tramuntana and returned to Matchani Gran for drinks in the bar and a lovely lunch of salads and quiches, and then we set off to the northeast for the wetland coastal reserve at Es Grau. We piled out at the beach car park to have a quick look at the *Posidonia* in the bay. Back along the main road we parked in a lay-by and followed the track across the marsh. A common sandpiper was feeding at the edge of the pool and we were mesmerised by the bizarre behaviour of a large dark coloured fish, jumping repeatedly clear of the water. There were groups of coot and mallard scattered on the main lake and through the telescopes we could make out a few black-necked grebes. Elaine spotted two black-winged stilts and we watched them sunning themselves and preening on a bank. We followed the boardwalk across the mature saltmarsh, recognising some familiar saltmarsh species – sea purslane, sea wormwood, samphire – and some surprises – Bermuda buttercup, three-cornered leek and rose garlic. Up a steep, rocky pathway, where the vetches scrambled through the cistuses and the fragrant spiny broom, we reached the viewpoint. We set up the telescopes to scan the lakes and added several dabchicks and a great crested grebe to our list. The sky was clear by now and we were enjoying the bright sunshine, but we had to press on. Walking along the boardwalk again, we found a large Hermann's tortoise crawling about among the saltmarsh plants; there was plenty of lush vegetation for him to browse. A chiffchaff was singing on the edge of the wood and we caught some glimpses of it flitting about in the trees. Several southern speckled wood butterflies were sparkling on the brambles and Shevaun spotted a beautiful male pied flycatcher up on a branch ahead of us. Some patient watching eventually gave everybody excellent views of it. We went through one of Menorca's beautiful olive-wood gates, out onto the sunny hillside and found a nice woodchat shrike ahead of us perched on the top of a bush. Bees and butterflies: skippers, clouded yellows and blues, flew up from the ground as we trudged up the hill, the air in turn tangy with pitch trefoil and fragrant with bird's foot trefoil and rosemary, and we paused to admire patches

of mirror and bumblebee orchids. At the top, we flopped on the sandy turf, among the tassel hyacinths (*right*), and admired the glorious view: tree spurge, golden in the bright sunshine and the light sparkling on the lake. There was a pleasant breeze, very different from the Tramuntana. No one (particularly not Shevaun) wanted to go back.

When the time came, the cup of tea at Matchani Gran was very welcome and then we met again for drinks and the log, and dinner in the barn. The evening weather was quiet and promising and both a scops owl and stone-curlews were to be heard as we went off to bed.

Tuesday 15: El Toro, Fornells Salt Lagoons, Fornells Point and Sa Roca

There was a distinct change in the air. Alan's portable weather-forecaster was very encouraging and many more birds were about when we went for our early walk. A hoopoe and a collared dove were singing a duet; we couldn't track them down at first but we did find a turtle dove perched on a wire and we were able to get it in the telescopes, its colours showing brightly in the morning light. The nightingale song was getting better: more confident and diverse though, as ever, impossible to locate in the dense olive bushes. David found us a male pied flycatcher and we could hear a distant quail calling. A strident territorial great tit was calling from a pine tree and, just as we had decided it was breakfast time, we found, much to Janet's entertainment, two lovely hoopoes preening themselves and generally getting ready for the day ahead, in very good light, not far away on a wire.

The air was fairly clear and the weather promising so we decided that today was the day for *El Toro*, the hill in the centre of the island whose distinctive form can be spotted almost wherever you go. The converse is obviously true too, so on a clear day it can be an excellent viewpoint. So we set off along the winding lane, the 'short cut' from San Climent across to the Kane Road, enjoying the corn buntings and turtle doves on the wires as we passed. The weather held for us and there were clear views in all directions from the top of El Toro. We spread the maps and located the places we had visited and tracked our route for the rest of the week. Matchani Gran is just out of view but we could make out San Climent, almost directly into the sun. We had some lovely views of swifts whirling around us and a blackcap mooched in some bushes, occasionally providing a scrap of song. The day had not really warmed up though, so there were no thermals for the raptors and despite some optimistic shouts, none was confirmed. We had a swift cup of coffee, a fruitful session in the tourist shop, and then escaped before the coach parties began to arrive.

Due north of El Toro, two rocky promontories jut out northwards and between them enclose the pretty sheltered harbour and tourist village of Fornells, famous for its association with the 'stars' and the Spanish aristocracy. On the edge of the bay there is still evidence of a harsher way of life: abandoned salt lagoons edge the water, their walls now tumbled down and the little hut derelict. It is not possible to get close but it is often worth a brief stop by the road and this time the rewards were easy to see: three flamingos were strutting about and feeding in the shallow water. We scanned the salt pans unsuccessfully for other waders, but had a lucky view of an alpine swift swooping low over the road and around our heads.

We drove on, following a circuitous route to explore the village a little and then parked at the tip of the headland, below the Moorish Tower. Diverse interests were then followed. The botanically inclined wandered about over the sparsely vegetated, weathered scree, poking about looking at the tiny plants which were able to hold their own in this exposed environment: sea lavender (*Limonium minutum*) and sea heath, rock samphire, chamomile and helichrysum. The bird watchers set up their telescopes to search the sea and were rewarded with Audouin's gulls and a few Balearic shearwaters flying to and fro and bobbing about in the mouth of the bay. We all enjoyed the sight and sound of a blue rock thrush perched on the lighthouse and Val strode up the path to the Moorish Tower and several people enjoyed the historical tour inside.

After a rather full morning, lunch was calling, so we retraced our route inland to the wooded slopes to the northeast of El Toro and the pine and holm oak woods of Sa Roca. We settled down to a comfortable picnic under the pines and listened to chaffinches and great tit singing. After lunch we followed the stony path up the hill through the wood. Only a year ago, the scrubby understorey had been cleared as a fire prevention measure but the recovery was astonishing: healthy young strawberry trees, cistus and tree heath bushes were flourishing as well as the less attractive, but aptly named stink aster. We were pleased to find again the strange parasitic *Cytinus ruber* flowering beneath the cistus bushes. There were glades dotted with wild gladioli and fine clumps



of orchids, including some enormous spikes of the parasitic violet limodore. A pretty snatch of birdsong caught our attention and it turned out to be a woodchat shrike singing from a branch of a pine tree above the path.



We returned home along the Kane Road again and through the winding lane to San Climent. The Menorcan olive-wood gates had gained a lot of admirers during the week so we had several stops to capture particularly photogenic ones, Alan obligingly jumping in and out of the minibus with a selection of cameras.

We had enjoyed El Casino in San Climent so we decided to eat there again, and again had a rich and varied Menorquin menu to choose from, and charming service. We paused in the car park when we arrived home to see what night sounds could be heard. Perhaps it was still not balmy enough for the nightingales to have reached full song but the wild calls of stone-curlews were all round us.

Wednesday 16: Ciutadella, Naveta d'es Tudons and Alendar Gorge

Hoopoes were much in evidence on our early walk and we were amused to see a pink-dyed pigeon, a participant in a Menorquin traditional sport involving a certain amount of gambling on whose dyed pigeon will be the first to liaise with a particular female in the chosen pigeon loft. The precise rules are unclear! Several turtle doves were singing, so was a nightingale, very close, and we had superb views of a male pied flycatcher. After breakfast, as we gathered in the car park, a chiffchaff was flitting about and feeding in the pine branches above us.

We decided on the direct route westwards today, along the main road to the far end of the island and the original capital, Ciutadella. As usual, keen eyes on the journey picked out some good birds: a stonechat, a group of cattle egrets and several woodchat shrikes. We parked in the central square of Ciutadella where clouds of newly arrived swifts were screaming overhead. We dispersed for an hour or so to explore, shop and drink coffee and then returned along the main road for a few kilometres to visit another of the famous prehistoric stone monuments, the *Naveta d'es Tudons*.

We had to make a 'no botanising' rule on the path to the Naveta or we should never have reached it, so sparkling with wild flowers are the rough arable fields and rocky outcrops on the way. Sue found us a woodchat shrike and we all had an excellent view of it, watching it for some time making flying sorties to catch insects and returning to its perch. The *Naveta* itself is a simple structure, supposed to represent an upturned boat and used in prehistoric times as a charnel house and ossuary. There is much to admire in the extraordinary stonework but our attention was soon drawn to the sky. There were several Egyptian vultures in the air, an adult and a juvenile soaring together and another juvenile on a pylon keeping an eye on the action. We felt sure that there must be a carcass not far away but finding it would have been impossible in the dense scrub and in any case, would have caused undue disturbance to the feast. Botanising was 'allowed' on the return walk to the minibuses and we poked about, finding little groups of orchids: mirror, bumblebee, sawfly and yellow bee among the rocks and the cistus and rosemary bushes. The arable fields were rich with 'weeds': tiny poppies, weasel's snout, yellow bartsia, branched broomrape, clovers and medicks. Just admiring the spotted rockrose seemed to cause the fragile petals to drop to the ground and while we were enjoying this pretty plant, Margaret found us the first spotted flycatcher of the week, which enchanted us for some time, flying after food.

The picnic spot was at a viewpoint, a *mirador*, set on the cliff-top above the renowned holiday resort and cove of Cala Galdana. Perched on the cliff, we felt quite apart from the lavish villas behind us and we ate our lunch accompanied by alpine swifts soaring overhead and yellow-legged gulls and shags on the rocks below us.

A brief coffee/loo-stop was called for, down in the village, and then it was time to explore the Algendar Gorge, following the little river that enters the sea at the Galdana cove. As we set off, a nightingale was singing for us, a Cetti's warbler called loudly from a dense stand of giant reed and curious sounds from the reeds turned out to be a stripeless tree frog. The Algendar Gorge is probably the best known of Menorca's famous gorges, or *barrancas*, cut deep into the limestone and draining the south side of the island. They provide a more constant and humid microclimate than the limestone plateau and so a very different fauna and flora thrive there. At the start of the gorge, the valley is wide and open, and the fertile valley floor is 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 arum, giant fennel and luxuriant grasses.

There was a lot of bird activity. Margaret and Christine quickly called our attention to two woodchat shrikes and a little further along, there were three chiffchaffs in the overhanging tree. A 'fall' of migrants was confirmed when we found three more chiffchaffs with a whitethroat together with a woodchat shrike, all on the same bush. As we walked along we lost count of the chiffchaffs perching in bushes and feeding in the marsh vegetation, especially on the dock stems. There was great excitement when Suzanne found an Egyptian locust. It was very obliging and allowed itself to be picked up and examined and everyone could see its distinctive striped eyes.

A patch of Cretan mullein was in perfect flower, with many young plants developing well and we found and examined both species of wild gladiolus. Soon after that we found an area of neglected pasture where wild narcissi were still in flower. Beside the stream, a magnificent stand of arum lilies, a curiously 'at home'-looking garden escape, was also in full flower.

As we walked deeper into the gorge, the cliffs closed in around us and we walked under the overhanging branches of holm oak. A firecrest was singing but elusive among the high branches; Suzanne, Margaret and Robin lingered and eventually their patience and persistence were rewarded as it came close enough for them to see it well. Red kite circled overhead and we heard a scops owl calling across the valley – even though it was mid-afternoon. We were seeing increasing numbers of Egyptian vultures, a few perching on rocks but mostly birds soaring above the cliffs on either side. Alan walked further up the gorge than the rest of the group and reported seeing several birds, with their tousled orange heads, standing around on rocky pinnacles in their breeding area, but time was running out for us and we decided to turn back and enjoy the gorge in the other direction. Christine found us a robin – not nearly such a frequent sight as at home – and a woodchat shrike was singing from the top of a bush. We heard another scops owl calling from the cliff opposite the entrance as we arrived back at the minibuses, but despite batteries of binoculars and telescopes, we couldn't track it down.

John Seymour, a great friend of Shaun and Jenny's, is a historian who has made his home in Menorca for many years. He has a finger in many of the island's pies: cricket and golf, several columns in the English language newspapers and so on. He also knows more about the islands prehistory, history and political history than anyone. So we had asked him to come and throw light on some of the very evident elements that we had been seeing. We had a fascinating and informative talk on the prehistoric monuments, the Georgian period, Governor Kane, the island's agricultural, industrial and naval history and the Spanish civil war, all without notes! John then joined us for supper, where more questions were fired at him. Eventually, we all headed for our beds, again with the magical call of stone-curlews serenading us.

Thursday 17: Montgofre Nou and Cap de Favàritx

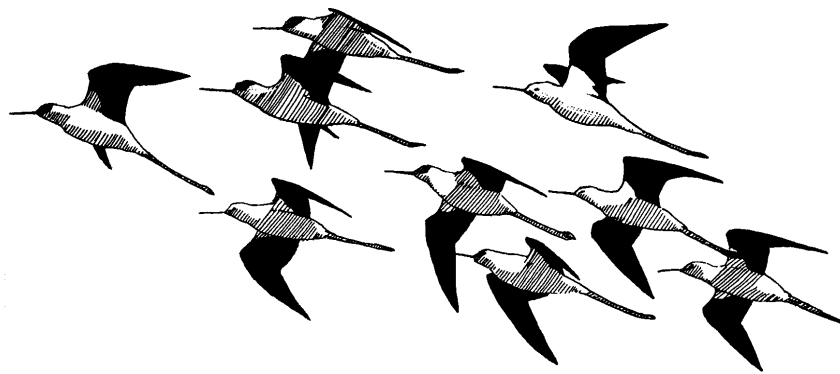
We rendezvoused for our early walk with the feeling that spring had really arrived: many of us had been listening to the nightingales singing well during the night. The sky was clouded over but it was thin cloud and we felt that good weather was ahead. A hoopoe was singing on a wire and bowing his head modestly, with each *hoo-poo-poo*. We had a good view of a Thekla lark, also singing from wire, and it was briefly joined by a pair of hoopoes, one of which charmingly presented his mate with a piece of food. We had a brief glimpse of a stone-curlew flying up from the next field, and then David spotted another one on the ground, creeping away into cover. To round off a very fruitful walk, we found a newly-arrived spotted flycatcher and watched its beautiful



movements as it flew up again and again, catching flies. We were quite reluctant to go in for breakfast but when we assembled after breakfast, again we were joined in the car park by a welcome spring arrival, this time a willow warbler.

Our last day's visits were to be to the north east of the island. We drove north, past the edge of Mahón and on towards the north coast, through rich agricultural land and low rocky hills. We paused first in a wide lush plain and were quickly rewarded with the call of a quail. Two red-legged partridges appeared out of the long grass and strutted rather curiously along a dry stone wall. Bramble bushes proved to be good song perches for stonechats and periodically, a nice tawny pipit appeared silhouetted on the top of a wall. In the distance we could see and hear a hoopoe and a startling white blob on a distant bush turned out to be a woodchat shrike. As we were about to get back into the minibuses, a car drew up and Montse (Montserrat Bau i Puig) our contact from GOB, (*Grup Balear d'Ornitologia i Defensa de la Naturalesa*) introduced herself. She was on her way to check that the gates were open for us for our next destination and had guessed who we were from our strange behaviour!

Montgofre Nou is a private nature reserve based on a beautiful valley enclosed in extraordinary sandstone rock formations. A stream runs through the valley and then it opens up into a string of abandoned salt lagoons. As well as the scenery, the wildlife: birds, reptiles, amphibians and insects and also the flowers, are wonderful. We are immediately caught up in it as the reserve is approached by an almost impassable track over a kilometre long, full of potholes and with branches lashing at the windows! As we drove along the track we listened out for the song of blue rock thrushes and convinced ourselves that a speck on a rock was one. Just as we arrived, we saw a peregrine flying over the hillside, an Egyptian vulture on a cliff top and a booted eagle soaring above the valley.



There is room to park two or three cars by the gate and Montse joined us for the beginning of our walk. As soon as the water came into view, plenty of birds appeared. There were black-winged stilts in every direction, flying, preening, feeding, noisily squabbling; it was all rather surprising behaviour for such supremely elegant creatures. To our surprise, there was a solitary shelduck swimming out on the water with a flock of mallard; this was a new record for Honeyguide on Menorca. A greenshank was searching for food at the base of the vegetation around one of the little islands and on the mud two ringed plovers and one little ringed plover were running about together, making the comparison very easy to observe. Further off, we could clearly make out the startling whiteness of a little egret with a grey heron, a giant by comparison. A little further along the roadway, in a small pool on our right, we came upon an astonishing assemblage of waders: a black-winged stilt, a ruff, a dunlin, a wood sandpiper, two little ringed plovers, a Temminck's stint, a common sandpiper and two ringed plovers. At one point it was possible to get them all in the binoculars at the same time! The setting, with rushes behind them, the sun on the water and the reedy shore of a little rocky outcrop, was perfect and some lovely photographs resulted. It was also a wonderful lesson in wader ID.

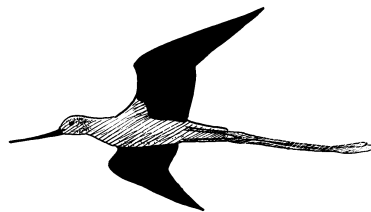
We were enjoying ourselves so much that instead of turning back, some noble volunteers headed back to the buses to collect our lunch and we turned our attention to some of the flowers that dominated the hillsides and lined the track. The cistuses were flowering, especially the white-flowered *Cistus monspeliensis*. There were some gaudy flowers too; the Spanish broom was fully out and bright yellow and the Italian sainfoin, a surprising deep crimson. Delicate spikes of wild gladiolus were dotted about in little groups among the tree heath, strawberry tree and *Dorycnium* tussocks and beautiful vetches and madder scrambled through the other vegetation. Some of the plants more characteristic of exposed environments were scattered about, in particular the spiny cushions of *Astragalus balearicus*.

After lunch we strolled back to the minibuses and on the way encountered a tiny tortoise, venturing dangerously into the open. We sent it into the cover of the roadside vegetation and then set off for our last destination of the week. The extreme northeast point of the island is Cap Favàritx, a rocky headland bleaker and more barren and exposed even than Cap Cavallería. The rock is slaty and grey and readily turns to loose scree. The one plant which seems to thrive there is the South African Hottentot Fig, *Carpobrotus*, which clothes the slopes in both its pink-flowered and cream-flowered forms. In a little lagoon, two Kentish plovers and two little ringed plovers were apparently settling down to breed and a little further on we found a windswept woodchat shrike. We scrambled out over the slaty shale and admired the extensive fossilised tracks of worms that become exposed as the shale delaminates through weathering. Tiny clumps of sea lavender and cushions of sea heath bravely struggle here, with surprising success. Towards the cliff top we disturbed an oystercatcher, the first of the week, and David persistently scanned the sea and eventually triumphed: the week's first Cory's shearwater.

Montse came before dinner to give us a brief but very fascinating and informative talk on the work of GOB and we were able to present her with a cheque from Honeyguide to go towards the excellent projects that they have initiated on the island. We lingered over our last meal at Matchani Gran and went off to bed again to the now familiar call of the stone-curlews

Friday 18: Home

We had to be prepared for an early start for the airport so we had a brief stroll down the pine-flanked drive before making our farewells and grateful thanks to Jenny and Shaun. It is always particularly sad when there is the promise of a glorious day to leave behind. Shaun transported our luggage and waved us off at the airport for a short and uneventful return to lovely Luton.



Highlights

Alan	The sheer unbridled joyfulness of this group; the geology; vultures with red wigs on.
Christine	Being woken by a nightingale alarm clock; hoopoes every day; the scops owl.
David	Menorca itself; the dragon arum story; good views of pied flycatchers.
Elaine	Divinely elegant black-winged stilts.
Gill	<i>Senecio rodriguezii</i> ; the Egyptian vulture at Montgofre.
Jan	Sa Roca, especially <i>Cytinus ruber</i> ; the Egyptian vulture at Montgofre; the hoopoes' courtship feeding.
Janet	Fields of asphodel; hoopoes washing under their armpits.
Juliet	Tirant: the sun out with water crowfoot in the foreground and black-winged stilts in the background; lunch on Wednesday: "have you seen that misty island out there? That's Mallorca".
Lesley	Crown daisies and thistles seen from the minibus; the Egyptian locust
Margaret	The firecrest; the Egyptian vulture at Montgofre; tortoises.
Rachel	Discovering that Sa Roca had completely recovered from last year's heavy-handed scrub clearance.
Robin	The assemblage of waders at Montgofre Nou.
Shevaun	The beautiful Menorcan gate, leading to the meadow at s'Albufera Es Grau; the hilltop there at 16.35 on 14.04.08 when it was too perfect leave.
Sue	The meadow at s'Albufera Es Grau; Italian sainfoin; pitch trefoil and dung beetles.
Suzanne	The firecrest; the orchids; tortoises.
Val	The walk through the woods at s'Albufera Es Grau; the flowers at the Naveta; Balearic shearwaters at Fornells.

Birds	Latin Name	Notes
Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>	Heard at Son Bou and Tirant; several seen at Es Grau
Black-necked Grebe		Four at Es Grau
Great Crested Grebe		One at Es Grau
Cory's Shearwater	<i>Calonectris diomedea</i>	Distant views at Son Bou; one close offshore at Cap Favàritx
Balearic Shearwater	<i>Puffinus mauretanicus</i>	A few close inshore at Fornells point
Shag	<i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis desmarestii</i>	Small numbers at all coastal sites
Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>	A small group at Tirant; a few by the main road to Ciutadella
Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	Small numbers at most wetland sites
Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	A few at Montgofre Nou
Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>	Two at Son Bou and one seen well at Tirant
Greater Flamingo	<i>Phoenicopterus ruber</i>	Three at Fornells salt pans
Shelduck	<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>	One at Montgofre Nou
Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>	A small flock at Son Bou
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	Wherever fresh water was present
Red Kite	<i>Milvus milvus</i>	Individuals seen almost every day
Egyptian Vulture	<i>Neophron percnopterus</i>	Two at Son Bou; one at Tirant; several birds at the Naveta d'es Tudons; one seen well at Montgofre Nou; several in Algendar Gorge
Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>	One at Son Bou and one on the road back from Cap Cavallería
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 Cap Cavallería and one by Mahon Harbour
Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	One in Montgofre Nou
Red-legged Partridge	<i>Alectoris rufa</i>	Two at Cap Cavallería and two on the way to Montgofre Nou
Quail	<i>Coturnix coturnix</i>	Heard calling at Torre d'en Gaumes, Tirant and Montgofre Nou
Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	At fresh water; Son Bou, Tirant and Montgofre Nou
Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>	One or two at Son Bou and Tirant; several at Es Grau and Montgofre Nou
Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>	Three at Tirant, two at Es Grau and many at Montgofre Nou
Stone-curlew	<i>Burhinus oedicephalus</i>	Heard around Matchani Gran on most nights; two seen one morning
Little Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>	Small numbers at Tirant, Montgofre Nou and Cap Favàritx
Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>	Two pairs at Montgofre Nou
Kentish Plover	<i>Charadrius alexandrinus</i>	Two at Cap Favàritx
Temminck's Stint	<i>Calidris temminckii</i>	One at Montgofre Nou
Dunlin	<i>Calidris alpina</i>	One at Montgofre Nou
Ruff	<i>Philomachus pugnax</i>	One at Montgofre Nou
Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>	A few at Montgofre Nou
Green Sandpiper	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>	One at Son Bou and one at Es Mercadal
Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>	One at Montgofre Nou
Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>	Individuals at Es Mercadal, Es Grau and Montgofre Nou
Audouin's Gull	<i>Larus audouinii</i>	A few at Son Bou, Cala Galdana and Fornells 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 Cap Cavallería, Algendar Gorge, Cap Favàritx and Montgofre Nou. Numerous feral birds near buildings throughout the island
Wood Pigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	Single birds at Matchani Gran and elsewhere inland on most days
Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	Widespread and plentiful near villages
Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>	Small numbers seen at Torre d'en Gaumes and on several mornings at Matchani Gran
Scops Owl	<i>Otus scops</i>	Heard at Matchani Gran on most evenings and in Algendar Gorge
Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>	Seen frequently throughout the island
Alpine Swift	<i>Apus melba</i>	Several at Cap Cavallería, Fornells and Cala Galdana
Bee-eater	<i>Merops apiaster</i>	A migrating flock at Tirant
Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>	Individuals seen nearly every day, mostly at Matchani Gran, but also at Torre d'en Gaumes and Montgofre Nou
Thekla Lark	<i>Gallerida theklae</i>	Individuals seen most days, often at Matchani Gran and also at Cap Cavallería and Torre d'en Gaumes
Sand Martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>	A few at Son Bou and Naveta d'es Tudons
Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	Migrating flocks seen every day
House Martin	<i>Delichon urbica</i>	Migrating flocks at Tirant and Naveta d'es Tudons
Tawny Pipit	<i>Anthus campestris</i>	One or two at Matchani Gran and Cap Cavallería
White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava</i>	One at Matchani Gran
Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	One in Algendar Gorge

Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>	Individuals at Matchani Gran and in Algendar Gorge
Nightingale	<i>Luscinia megarhynchos</i>	Heard frequently at all inland sites throughout the week
Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>	A single migrating female at Matchani Gran
Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>	A migrating individual near St Climent
Stonechat	<i>Saxicola torquata</i>	Pairs or individuals seen on several days
Blue Rock Thrush	<i>Monticola solitarius</i>	Frequently seen in rocky places
Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	Seen frequently at Matchani Gran occasionally elsewhere inland
Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia communis</i>	A few in Algendar Gorge
Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>	One at Monte Toro
Sardinian Warbler	<i>Sylvia melanocephala</i>	Widespread and plentiful
Fan-tailed Warbler	<i>Cisticola juncidis</i>	Seen and heard in many places, mostly near damp grassland
Cetti's Warbler	<i>Cettia cetti</i>	Frequently heard in wet and scrubby places
Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>	Heard at Son Bou
Willow Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>	Occasional individuals, mostly at Matchani Gran
Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>	A few single birds at Es Grau, Algendar Gorge and Montgofre Nou
Firecrest	<i>Regulus ignicapillus</i>	Heard and seen in Algendar Gorge
Spotted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>	Migrating individuals at Matchani Gran and Naveta d'es Tudons
Pied Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa hypoleuca</i>	Individual males at Es Grau and twice at Matchani Gran
Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>	Seen at Matchani Gran and Sa Roca
Woodchat Shrike	<i>Lanius senator</i>	Seen all over the island during the second half of the week.
Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>	Seen at Son Bou, Tirant, Montgofre Nou and almost daily at Matchani Gran
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	Near houses all over the island
Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	Singing birds at Sa Roca, Cala Galdana and Algendar Gorge
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>
Bath White	<i>Pieris daplidice</i>
Clouded Yellow	<i>Colias crocea</i>
Swallowtail	<i>Papilio machaon</i>
Red Admiral	<i>Vanessa atalanta</i>
Painted Lady	<i>Cynthia cardui</i>
Speckled Wood	<i>Pararge aegeria</i>
Small Copper	<i>Lycaena phlaeas</i>
Common Blue	<i>Polyommatus icarus</i>
Holly Blue	<i>Celastrina argiolus</i>
Pine Processionary Moth (tents)	<i>Thaumetopoea pityocampa</i>
Red-veined Darter	<i>Sympetrum fonscolombei</i>
Mole Cricket	<i>Gryllotalpa gryllotalpa</i>
Bush Cricket	(<i>Tettigonidae</i>)
Violet Carpenter Bee	<i>Xylocopa violacea</i>
Tawny Mining Bee	<i>Adrena fulva</i>
Paper Wasp	<i>Polistes gallicus</i>
Rhinoceros beetle	<i>Copris ?lunaris</i>
Oil Beetle	<i>Meloe sp</i>
Flower Chafer	<i>Oxythyrea funesta</i>
Dung Beetle	<i>Scarabaeus sp</i>
Violet Ground Beetle	<i>Carabus violaceus</i>
7-spot Ladybird	<i>Coccinella 7-punctata</i>
Egyptian Locust	<i>Anacridium aegyptium</i>

Fish

Banded Bream	<i>Diplodus vulgaris</i>
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Amphibians

Stripeless Tree Frog	<i>Hyla meridionalis</i>
Green Toad	<i>Bufo viridis</i>

Reptiles

Italian Wall Lizard
Moorish Gecko
Hermann's Tortoise
False Smooth Snake

Podarcis sicula
Tarentola mauretanica
Testudo hermanni
Macrotodon cucullatus

Mammals

Algerian Hedgehog (dead on road)
Rabbit (dead)
Black Rat (eaten pine cones)

Erinaceus algirus
Oryctolagus cuniculus
Rattus rattus

Discovering Menorca Plant List 2008

In the list that follows, the distribution and / or localities are identified by the following codes:

P – Planted; found in gardens or as a garden escape
AG – Algendar 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 – El Toro
NT – Naveta d'es Tudons
SB – Son Bou
SR – Sa Roca
T – Tirant
TG – Torre d'en Gaumes
W – Waysides, road verges, waste ground 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, sedges and rushes. English names are given where there is one used in the books, or where one can justifiably be coined, but not otherwise.

NON-FLOWERING PLANTS

Ferns & Allies	<i>Adiantum capillus-veneris</i>	maidenhair fern	AG C
	<i>Equisetum ramosissimum</i>		SB
	<i>E. telmateia</i>	great horsetail	AG
	<i>Pteridium aquilinum</i>	bracken	SB
Conifers & Allies	<i>Ephedra fragilis</i>	joint-pine	CC CF EG MN
	<i>Juniperus phoenicea</i>	Phoenician juniper	WS
	<i>Pinus halepensis</i>	Aleppo pine	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>Narcissus tazetta</i>	wild narcissus	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 EG F SB
	<i>Daucus carota</i>	wild carrot	WS
	<i>Eryngium campestre</i>	field eryngo	EG MG NT
	<i>E. maritimum</i>	sea-holly	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>Smyrniolum 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>Artemisia caerulescans ssp gallica</i>		EG MN
	<i>Bellis annua</i>	annual daisy	AG EG MG NT TG
	<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>		AG CC NT TG
	<i>H. scabra</i>		F MG SR
	<i>Hypochaeris achyrophorus</i>	golden-samphire	EG
	<i>Inula viscosa</i>	stink aster	AG CF MN 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>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>Mathiola 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 SR
	<i>L. periclymenum</i>	Honeysuckle	CC EG SR
Caryophyllaceae	<i>Polycarpon alsinifolium</i>		AG MG
	<i>Silene gallica</i>	small-flowered catchfly	AG CC EG MG MN NT
	<i>S. secundiflora</i>		NT
	<i>S. vulgaris</i>	bladder campion	EG MG MN NT T TG
Chenopodiaceae	<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	AG 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
	<i>S. macrostachyum</i>	shrubby glasswort	EG
Cistaceae	<i>Helianthemum salicifolium</i>	willow-leaved rockrose	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
	<i>Fumana thymifolia</i>	thyme-leaved fumana	NT
	<i>Tuberaria guttata</i>	spotted rockrose	NT
Convolvulaceae	<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 W
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 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>Ricinus communis</i>	castor-oil plant	P
Fagaceae	<i>Quercus ilex</i>	holm oak	WS
Frankeniaceae	<i>Frankenia spp</i>	sea-heath	CC CF F
Gentianaceae	<i>C. pulchellum</i>	lesser centaury	SB
	<i>Blackstonia perfoliate</i>	Yellow-wort	AG MN
Geraniaceae	<i>Erodium cicutarium</i>	Common stalk's-bill	MG W
	<i>E. malacoides</i>	mallow-leaved stork's-bill	MG SB 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>		AG 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>Prasium majus</i>		EG MG NT TG
	<i>Rosmarinus officinalis</i>	rosemary	AG CC EG MN NT SB
	<i>Salvia verbenaca</i>	meadow clary	SR
	<i>Teucrium subspinosum</i>		WS
Liliaceae	<i>Allium ampeloprasum</i>	wild leek	CC
	<i>A. roseum</i>	rose garlic	F SB
	<i>A. triquetrum</i>	three-cornered leek	AG EG F MG NT SB SR
	<i>Asparagus acutifolius</i>		W
	<i>A. albus</i>		AG EG SB TG W
	<i>A. horridus</i>		MG TG
	<i>Asphodelus aestivus</i>	common asphodel	MG
	<i>A. fistulosus</i>	hollow-leaved asphodel	MG SB
	<i>Muscari comosum</i>	tassel hyacinth	WS
	<i>Ornithogalum arabicum</i>	Arabian star-of-Bethlehem	WS
	<i>Ruscus aculeatus</i>	butcher's-broom	EG MG NT SB SR TG
	<i>Urginea maritima</i>	sea squill	MG W
Linaceae	<i>Linum usitatissimum</i>	common flax	AG EG MN SB
			AG CC CF EG MG MN SR TG
			MN

Lythraceae	<i>Lythrum junceum</i>		AG
Malvaceae	<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
Moraceae	<i>Ficus carica</i>	fig	P MG WS
Oleaceae	<i>Phillyrea angustifolia</i>		AG EG MN SR
	<i>P. latifolia</i>		MG EG MN
	<i>P. latifolia</i> var. <i>rodriguezii</i>		CF EG
	<i>Olea europaea</i>	wild olive	MG WS
Orobanchaceae	<i>O. ramosa</i>	branched broomrape	MG
Orchidaceae	<i>Anacamptis pyramidalis</i>	pyramidal orchid	EG SB
	<i>Limodorum abortivum</i>	violet bird's-nest orchid	SR
	<i>Ophrys bombyliflora</i>	bumblebee orchid	EG NT T
	<i>O. lutea</i>	yellow bee-orchid	MG NT SB 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 coriophora</i> ssp. <i>fragrans</i>	bug orchid	NT
	<i>Serapias parviflora</i>	small-flowered tongue-orchid	EG MG MN SR
Oxalidaceae	<i>Oxalis corniculata</i>	yellow sorrel	MG
	<i>O. pes-caprae</i>	Bermuda buttercup	AG EG MG NT SB TG
Papaveraceae	<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
Papilionaceae	<i>Anthyllis hystrix</i>		CC CF
	<i>Astragalus balearicus</i>		CF MN
	<i>Calicotome spinosa</i>	spiny broom	EG MN WS
	<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 WS
	<i>Lathyrus annuus</i>		AG EG
	<i>L. clymenum</i>		TG EG MN
	<i>L. ochrus</i>		TG
	<i>L. odoratus</i>	sweet pea	P W
	<i>L. sphaericus</i>	brown vetch	AG EG NT
	<i>Lotus creticus</i>	southern bird's-foot trefoil	EG F SB SR W
	<i>L. cytisoides</i>		AG EG SB
	<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	Ag 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
	<i>Spartium junceum</i>	Spanish broom	MN
	<i>Trifolium campestre</i>	hop trefoil	EG
	<i>T. nigrescens</i>		AG 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
Phytolaccaceae	<i>Phytolacca arborea</i>	ombu	P MG
Plantaginaceae	<i>Plantago afra</i>	branched plantain	NT
	<i>P. bellardii</i>		MG
	<i>P. coronopus</i>	buck's-horn plantain	AG
	<i>P. lanceolata</i>	ribwort plantain	AG W
	<i>P. major</i>	great plantain	SB
Plumbaginaceae	<i>Limonium echioides</i>		CC CF F
	<i>L. minutum</i>	dwarf sea lavender	CC CF F
Poaceae	<i>Ammophila arenaria</i>	marram grass	EG SB
	<i>Ampelodesmos mauritanicus</i>		AG CC CF MN SR W
	<i>Arundo donax</i>	giant reed	AG EG SB
	<i>Brachypodium sylvaticum</i>	wood soft grass	AG
	<i>Briza maxima</i>	large quaking-grass	AG EG NT SR
	<i>Desmazeria marina</i>	sea fern-grass	F
	<i>Elytigia atherica</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
Polygonaceae	<i>Emex spinosa</i>		SB
	<i>Rumex bucephalophorus</i>		CC EG NT
	<i>R. conglomeratus</i>	clustered dock	W
	<i>R. crispus</i>	curled dock	W
Posidoniaceae	<i>Posidonia oceanica</i>		EG M SB
Primulaceae	<i>Anagallis arvensis</i>	scarlet pimpernel (red and blue varieties)	EG MG NT SB SR TG
Ranunculaceae	<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	AG SB T
	<i>R. macrophyllus</i>		MN
	<i>R. muricatus</i>		SB
	<i>R. sceleratus</i>	celery-leaved buttercup	AG
Resedaceae	<i>Reseda alba</i>	white mignonette	MG F NT TG W
	<i>R. luteola</i>	weld	EG
Rhamnaceae	<i>Rhamnus alaternus</i>	Mediterranean buckthorn	AG EG MN
Rosaceae	<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
Rubiaceae	<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	MG NT
	<i>Valantia muralis</i>		CC NT SR
Rutaceae	<i>Ruta chalepensis</i>	fringed rue	MG NT

Salicaceae	<i>Populus alba</i>	white poplar	AG
Santalaceae	<i>Osyris alba</i>	osyris	SB
Scrophulariaceae	<i>Bellardia trixago</i>		AG MG 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 bartsia	AG 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
Smilacaceae	<i>Smilax aspera</i>	common smilax	AG EG MG SR TG
	<i>S. aspera</i> var. <i>balearica</i>		CC
Solanaceae	<i>Solanum nigrum</i>	black nightshade	SR
	<i>S. sodomium</i>	sodom apple	CC
Tamaricaceae	<i>Tamarix africana</i>		AG EG F SB
	<i>T. boveana</i>		AG SB
	<i>T. gallica</i>	tamarisk	EG SB
Typhaceae	<i>Typha angustifolia</i>	lesser reedmace	EM SB
	<i>T. latifolia</i>	greater reedmace	SB
Ulmaceae	<i>Ulmus minor</i>	small-leaved elm	AG
Urticaceae	<i>Parietaria judaica</i>	pellitory-of-the-wall	AG NT
	<i>Urtica membranacea</i>		WS
Valerianaceae	<i>U. urens</i>	annual nettle	MG
	<i>Centranthus calcitrapae</i>	Spanish valerian	EG NT SB SR
	<i>Valerianella discoidea</i>		MG AG SB



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06/05/2008

Dear colleagues,

We would like to thank you for your generous donation, 1040 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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