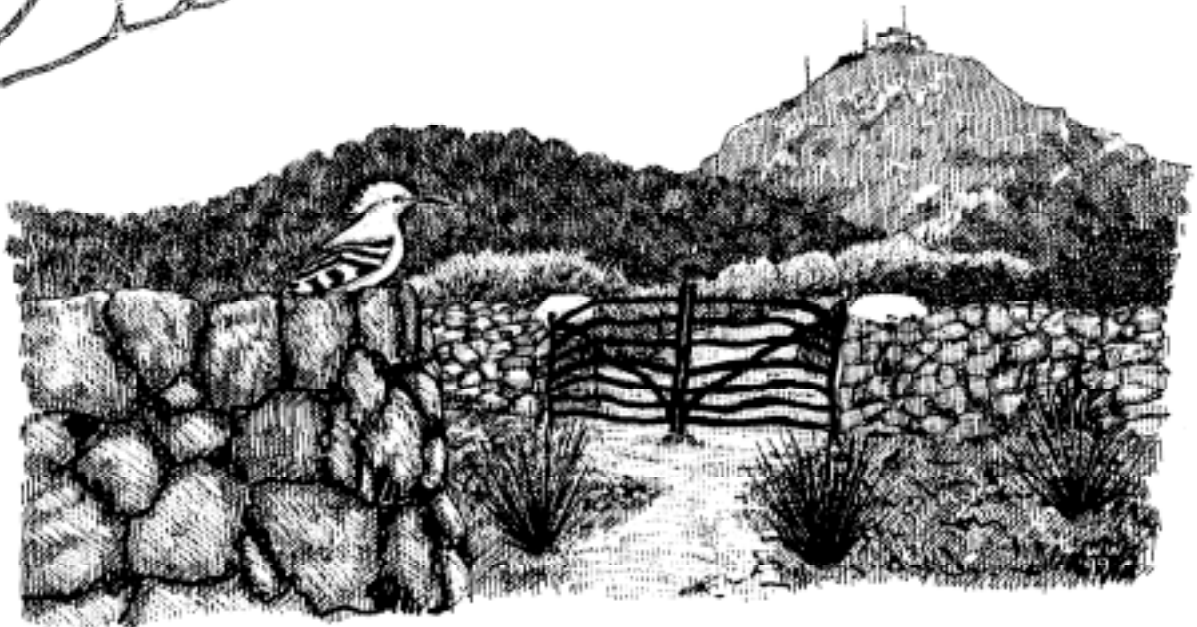


# *Honeyguide*

**WILDLIFE HOLIDAYS**

36 Thunder Lane Thorpe St Andrew Norwich NR7 0PX  
Telephone and Fax 01603 300552 Evenings and weekends



**Discovering Menorca**  
**6 – 13 April 2002**

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List of participants

Yvonne Griffiths Daphne Gilbert	Chingford Ilford
Geoff Pears Barbara Pears	Colchester
Sarah Rejman-Greene	Ipswich
Rosemary Fennell	Oxford
Jenny Loring	Newcastle
Sam Seager Sally Seager	Farnham, Surrey
Peter Robinson	S Woodford, London
Pat Phillips	Stockport

Leaders

Graham Hearl  
Chris Gibson

Our hosts at Matchani Gran

Shaun and Jenny Murphy

The group was joined by John Seymour, historian and Menorcan resident, and by Santí Catchot from the Balearic Ornithological Group (GOB) on the same evening. Santí was there because, 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 cheque for £275 given to GOB from this holiday brings the total to £4645 contributed to GOB by Honeyguide holidays in the Balearics. The total contributed to conservation projects in Europe from all Honeyguide holidays is now £25,700 (at the end of this holiday season). A thank-you letter from GOB appears at the end of this report.

This report was written by Chris Gibson.

*Front cover illustration by Will Woodrow. Other illustrations by Rob Hume.*

**DISCOVERING MENORCA  
6 - 13 April 2002**

### ***Saturday 6 April: Arrival & local walk***

Early morning at Luton Airport, we all met up, apart from Pat who was flying direct from Manchester. The air was clear and cool but we were looking forward to better weather than the torrential rain that had plagued the western Mediterranean area for the past two weeks. And we were not disappointed – hazy sunshine, albeit on the cool side, greeted our arrival at Mahón, along with Shaun, Sue and Viv, part of the host team from Matchani Gran.

Cases were soon loaded onto the minibuses, and we were off on the short drive to our base for the week. Matchani Gran is a lovely converted Menorquin farmhouse, approached down a long drive, flanked by Aleppo pines, all sculpted by strong northerly winds – the *tramuntana* – which can sweep over the island. First came the introductions all round, including the cats and dogs, then a welcome drink at the bar. Shaun made everyone feel at home with his list of house rules: Rule 1 - there are no rules. And that set the tone for a relaxing week, set amid glorious surroundings. Lunch then followed, taken outside despite the chilly breeze, and already the wildlife we had come to see was making an appearance. There were Sardinian warblers scratching in the bushes, Cetti's warblers exploding into song, greenfinches wheezing and goldfinches tinkling in the tree tops. A closer look at the finches showed them to be in sparkling plumage. Maybe it was the light, or perhaps they were bright island forms – or most likely a result of the clean, unpolluted air, a far cry from the grot-encrusted versions we are accustomed to.

Nevertheless, we were raring to get off and explore our surroundings. This part of the island, and indeed much of lowland Menorca, is a patchwork of tiny, stony, grazed fields, enveloped by magnificent dry-stone walls. Isolated fig trees, their trunks surrounded by local rocks for protection, proved to be perfect song posts for corn buntings and stonechats. But there were remarkably few other birds at first glance, so our sights turned groundwards, to the profusion of flowers underfoot.

Most of the fields are rather heavily grazed, with the result that the only plants to be found were spiny, poisonous, tiny or otherwise unpalatable: most obvious were the swathes of white asphodel, in places forming a mini-forest. But in the field by the house, Shaun and Jenny had kept the sheep off, a result of seeing the delight of past tour participants, and allowed the botanical splendours to develop unchecked. It was a riot of colour: crown daisy, with bicoloured yellow and white petals; *Galactites tomentosa*, a variegated thistle; lemon-yellow *Urospermum dalechampii*; blue meadow clary and tassel hyacinth; and purple patches of viper's-bugloss. Nestled amongst these were the orchids, mostly sawfly and mirror, but with a few yellow bee and tongue for added variety; a selection of parasitic plants, including branched broomrape, yellow bartsia and *Bellardia trixago*; and the fascinating, silvery cushions of *Evax pygmaea*.

Insects were rather few and far between, with just a scattering of common butterflies and silver Y and rush veneer moths flying around; on the ground though we found several industrious dung beetles rolling dung balls which were several times bigger than their bodies. An Egyptian locust flew from our feet, but plunged deep into impenetrable cover before we could get a good look at it. As the sun warmed the land, so butterfly activity started to increase: a clouded yellow flew past, and a Bath white was nectaring out of the wind. Also taking advantage of the sun, a few Italian wall lizards were basking, though very quick to scuttle for cover as we approached; however the single Hermann's tortoise we located seemed pretty settled into its torpor. Lifting eyes skyward for once, a booted eagle soared into view; the few other birds included a sprinkling of Thekla larks and an accommodating group of three short-toed larks. A pair of ravens – the multipurpose Balearic corvid – flew over noisily while a meadow pipit and a robin suggested that the winter visitors were still around. One of the few indications of summer migrant activity was a lone willow warbler amongst the asphodels, feeding either on nectar or on insects attracted to the nectar: no sign yet of any hirundines or swifts.

The afternoon had proved to be an excellent introduction to the staple fare of the next few days, and ultimately warm and sunny to boot. So pleasant in fact that many opted for a spot of sunbathing

– giving half a glance at the geranium bronze butterflies, an increasing horticultural pest in the area  
– before it was time for the daily log and then the first of Jenny’s gastronomic assaults on our waistlines. More than copiously fed and wined (it was really starting to feel like a holiday by now), the wildlife continued with a wood warbler seeking insects in the *ombu* outside the window.

### ***Sunday 7 April : Son Bou & Torre d’en Gaumes***

A mild, calm night was punctuated for the sleepless by the eerie calls of stone-curlews, seemingly from every direction, and that familiar feature of Mediterranean nightlife, the ‘*piu...piu...*’ of a scops owl made a brief appearance in the nocturnal soundscape before rain set in. Those who ventured out before breakfast caught up with two of the more obvious local birds, a hoopoe and a woodchat shrike.

After breakfast, it was cool and breezy as we headed out in the minibuses to Son Bou. The town itself is a typical recent, purpose-built holiday development, all high-rise hotels and sparkling villas, new roads penetrating ever deeper into the surrounding scrubland. And, as we drove through, even on a Sunday, deserted. Thankfully, the town was not our destination – we were headed for the large area of marshland, fronted by extensive sand dunes, to the west.

Around the car park, tree mallow and giant fennel were in statuesque flower, among bold splashes of colour in the form of red French honeysuckle (also known as Italian sainfoin, to my mind a more appropriately descriptive name) and Bermuda buttercup, another odd name, given that it’s not a buttercup, nor does it come from Bermuda! Its yellow flowers cannot even be said to be buttercup coloured; personally, I find it a most unwelcome visual intrusion with its screaming acid-yellow, or am I just biased, having seen elsewhere what a pest it can become? Much more welcome was tangible evidence in the form of a noticeboard, of a new conservation scheme for the area, spearheaded by GOB.

As we arrived, there was a chiffchaff feeding in the tamarisk bushes, and several little egrets drifted across the reeds, while on the little pool, a few coots and (dubiously wild) mallards fed without concern. A scan seaward produced several Cory’s shearwaters, with shags fishing closer in, giving the opportunity to see the more cormorant-like appearance of the Mediterranean race *desmarestii*. Single Sandwich and common terns flew offshore, and a swift overhead, but our intended walk westwards was thwarted by the depth of the outflow channel from the marsh. However, a short walk eastwards revealed several large sponges washed up on the tideline, amongst the many and varied remains of *Posidonia*, one of the few higher plants capable of living in salt water.

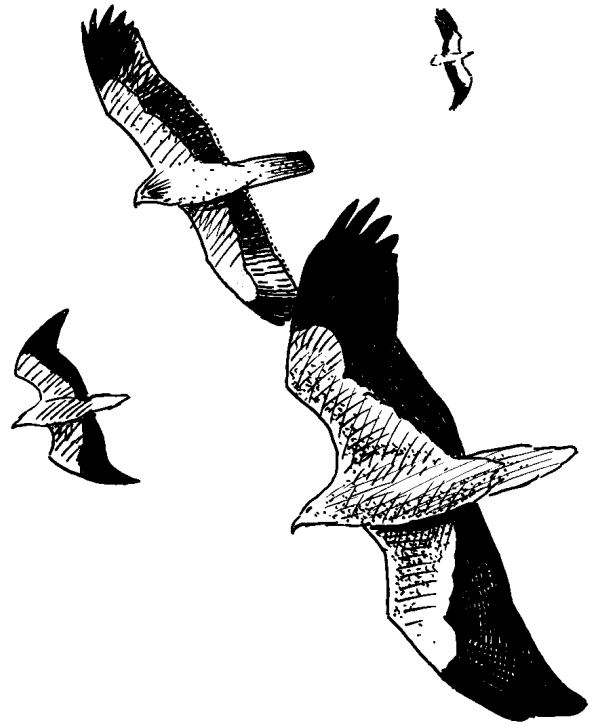
The distinctive plants of the dunes were mostly silvery, hairy or otherwise adapted to withstand drought. Bold splashes of yellow *Lotus cytisoides* and sea medick were the accompaniment to more familiar British plants like sea holly, sea rocket and marram grass, alongside large patches of sand daffodil; the last is one of the few plants in these parts to flower after mid-summer, when the intensely fragrant, white trumpets emerge. Now all that was visible were the strap-like leaves and a scattering of large, shiny, black seeds. In places, the dunes had become colonised by thickets of Phoenician juniper and *Pistachia lentiscus*, often coated with scrambling wild madder and with a few sprigs of butcher’s-broom poking through; such dense growth was clearly ideal for Sardinian warblers, often heard but rarely to be seen. A pair of stonechats was much more accommodating, giving wonderful views as they went about their daily business.

Given the foreshortened walk, it was time to regroup at a local coffee bar on the edge of town, where very conveniently across the road, there was a wonderful flowery meadow, with pyramidal orchids in a full range of colours from deep pink to white, interspersed with the dramatic crimson splashes of *Gladiolus italicus*.

A very short drive then brought us to the back of the marsh, and a pleasant walk along a farm track – sadly not as far as we had hoped, to the gorge, as the way was blocked by a locked gate and a ‘Private’ sign. Graham’s excellent little book is already out-of-date! A Cetti’s warbler gave an uncharacteristically showy performance, and fan-tailed warblers were everywhere, ‘zitting’ in flight and even sitting in full view for all to see. A tree frog croaked invisibly from the reeds, but a pond terrapin gave no such problems – it was dead and squashed on the track.

Views over the crowfoot-covered pools revealed nine cattle egrets and a single purple gallinule picking its way along a dry-stone wall across the marsh. A regular drift of swallows and martins hinted at migration under way, as did a splendid male redstart, and a lovely drake garganey flew in and landed in full view. Over the hills several booted eagles of both colour forms performed swooping display flights and a near-adult Egyptian vulture drifted past.

As the skies cleared a little, we got our first distant views of the cliffs of neighbouring Mallorca. But our eyes remained closer to home on the flowers at our feet. Friar’s cowl was flowering well in patches, and among the three species of asparagus, the wickedly-spiny *Asparagus horridus* certainly lived up to its name. Every daisy flower seemingly had its own black-spotted-with-white flower chafer *Oxythyrea funesta*, and on various plants and stone walls, we started to find numerous paper wasp nests, mostly from last year, but just a few with adult wasps in attendance. Back then to the car park and picnic site for lunch, to the accompaniment of chaffinches and Sardinian warblers, and a Moorish gecko proved a distraction for some as it basked on the walls of a small building.



Heading back after an already full day, we called in briefly to one of Menorca’s many archaeological sites, Torre d’en Gaumes. This one has most of the island’s special features, including a *talaiot* (a rocky mound) and a *taula* (a T-shaped standing stone arrangement). Something for those with a historical bent to explore, and the botany was equally fruitful, despite the evident herbicidal onslaught in places: pale periwinkle and *Prasium majus* were in full bloom on the rocks, and there were also fine examples of weasel’s-snout, *Linaria triphylla*, and *Scrophularia peregrina*, along with numerous vetches, and poppies of three species. Another autumn-flowering bulb, sea squill, was also obvious, with large leaves thrusting upwards from its huge, half-buried bulbs: they would be a tempting meal for a goat on a hot day if not for the fact that they are seriously poisonous. The only birds to be seen were the ubiquitous Sardinian warblers, here seen to advantage for the first time, and I was able to catch an Egyptian locust, so that everyone could see its distinguishing feature of vertically-striped eyes.

Still there was time to spare, and as the weather had once again come good, we decided to visit another archaeological site, the Basilica de Fornes de Torello. Here, a beautifully preserved decorative mosaic floor can be viewed, protected from the elements by a substantial canopy. But the blue rock thrushes which regularly breed under the roof were nowhere to be seen; those with a birdy bent had to be content with excellent views of linnets collecting nesting material.

Back at Matchani Gran, there was plenty of time to shower, enjoy the afternoon sunshine, or even venture out for a spot more birding, before a drink in the bar with Moorish gecko looking on. After dinner, we attempted to connect with Scops owls and bats, but to no avail, as the wind had once again sprung up.

***Monday 8 April : Es Mercadal, Tirant, Fornells, Cap de Cavallería & Monte Toro***

It dawned cloudy and mild, but only a hardy few made it out before breakfast to see a hoopoe - the epitome of Mediterranean bird life - and (briefly) a pair of stone-curlews in the fields.

The mist was hanging low over the island as we set out after breakfast. First stop was the *depuradora* at Es Mercadal, a veritable oasis of standing water, a magnet to migrant birds. In the event, just four common and two green sandpipers and a little ringed plover was all we could muster in the way of waders, although a male ashy-headed wagtail was seen well. This is the central Mediterranean form of yellow wagtail, distinguished from other races by its white throat and absence of a white supercilium.

The natural wetland at Tirant was altogether more productive, with numerous birds in and around the crowfoot-clad pools. A female hen harrier flew across the marsh as we approached, and later at least two marsh harriers were hunting. Best of all, a large brown bird we flushed from the roadside turned out to be a bittern, a scarce migrant through these parts. It flew into a tamarisk bush no more than eight metres from the watching scopes, and pretended to be invisible; a few minutes later, it capped its performance with a slow fly-past. Seven cattle egrets were feeding among the grazing cows, while parties of shovelers flew over, and a pair of woodchat shrikes stood sentinel upon prominent perches. Giant fennel plants provided the botanical splendour, and a single bumblebee was a new orchid for the trip.

Then to Fornells for coffee on the waterfront, followed by a drive out to the Cap de Cavallería, the northernmost peninsula of the island. On the way we went back past Tirant and looked at a different pool. Here there were at least four black-winged stilts, with good views of three booted eagles overhead, followed by a superb whiskered tern feeding lazily on insects over the water.

Cavallería is one of those extreme, wind- and spray-swept areas which seem to attract endemic plants. The 'vegetable hedgehogs' (*socarrells*) made up the bulk of the vegetation, especially out towards the lighthouse - including at least three species, all Balearic endemics but none yet in flower. Other dwarf endemics, *Lotus tetraphyllus*, *Senecio rodriguezii* and *Romulea assumptionis*, were however in flower, if rather unobtrusively, under the protective mantle of the hedgehogs. The effect of extreme climate was especially apparent here: back at Matchani Gran, the asphodels were going over, whereas here the flower spikes were only just beginning to elongate.

An osprey flew low over the headland, part of one of the seven or so breeding pairs on Menorca, and gave excellent views as it headed towards sheltered waters in Fornells Bay for lunch. But lunch was far from our minds down on the beach, where the air was filled with the stench of rotting fish. Not to be deterred, we took a short walk and came upon what was, for me, the most dramatic plant of the week - *Dracunculus muscivorus* (a dragon arum, endemic to the Balearics) in full flower. Here we also spotted wall and painted lady butterflies. The bumpy track eventually brought us to the end of the island - the lighthouse - where the sea was very quiet in bird terms, but there was another (non-flowering) endemic plant *Limonium minutum* amongst lots more of the *socarrells*. Clearly, we could have done to come here a month or so later to see the plants in full glory - further support to my theory that holidays are simply too short.

Here was a good spot for lunch, in shelter and away from the smell, but soon we were off again, walking around the headland to savour the desolate views as the sun struggled out. The blasted landscape may be an acquired taste, but it is one that I have acquired easily enough, helped by the birds: blue rock thrushes and a wheatear performed to order, a pallid swift whistled past, and best of

all a pair of ravens disturbed a short-eared owl, which then attracted mobbing behaviour from two Egyptian vultures and eventually a peregrine. Little wonder the owl was last seen heading out to sea!

We had a little time to spare so we decided to call in to Monte Toro to get an overview of where we'd been and where we were going. The 'mountain', capped with the typical Mediterranean associates of monastery and telecommunications jungle, is just 358m high, visible from most of the island, and *vice versa* despite the lingering mist. But the temperature was falling; before long we were escaping from it, and relaxing over a welcome cuppa in the tea rooms.

Back at Matchani Gran, there were some signs of bird migration, with a male redstart in the *ombu*, and small parties of swifts passing at a considerable height. After dinner, Santí Cachot of GOB gave us a very interesting talk on the work of GOB and the many issues faced by birds on the island, before being presented with the cheque from Honeyguide, tangible proof of our commitment to green tourism.

### ***Tuesday 9 April : Mahón & Es Grau***

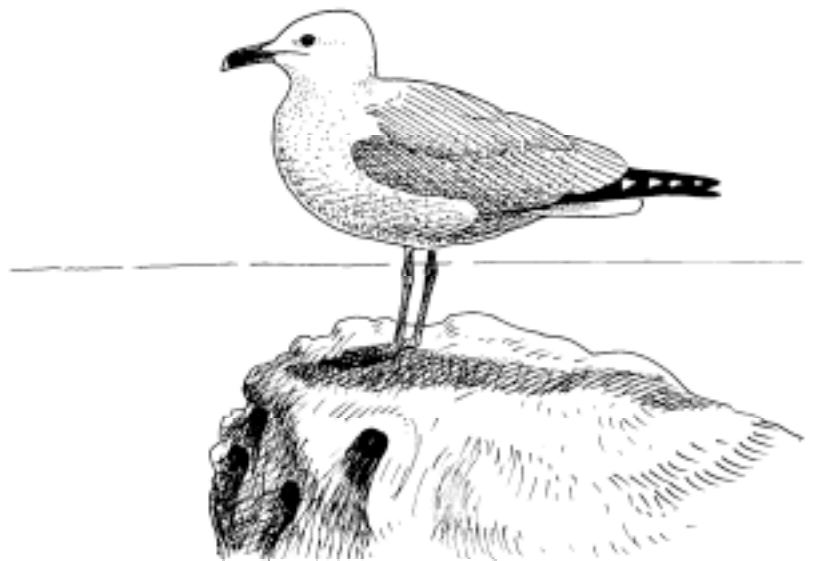
For the first time in the holiday, dawn was clear and sunny. Those who were enticed out of bed were treated to a group of 19 yellow wagtails (those which were seen well were all blue-headed) with the sheep, as well as views of tawny and meadow pipits, and Thekla and short-toed larks. But for today the stone curlews remained hidden.

Market day in Mahón: retail therapy followed by a long coffee break for some, a dash of culture in the museum for others, while the rest of us headed to the harbour with a bag of bread, and succeeded in attracting at least five Audouin's gulls, a Balearic speciality. On the way home, we called in at the ceramic centre on the outskirts of town, before returning to Matchani Gran for lunch.

Our afternoon trip took us to s'Albufera Es Grau, the only official nature reserve on Menorca. A large, brackish lagoon is the result of the blocking of a drowned river valley by coastal sand dunes, such that only an occasional storm channel connects the sea with the lagoon. Some years ago its future was far from assured, as the holiday development 'Shangri-la' started to appear on the surrounding hills: fortunately, as a result of conservation pressure, that has been stopped, and the area will be allowed to revert to its more natural state.

The marshes at the eastern end of the lagoon clearly show the influence of salt water – the salt marsh vegetation is almost identical to that round British shores. Succulent glasswort (or marsh samphire), silvery sea-purslane, and golden samphire, its crushed leaves with an aroma of shoe polish – just three typical salt marsh plants, each with their own way of tolerating a life surrounded by saline water. Several cormorants, lingerers from winter, were loafing around the pools and little egrets feeding in the shallows, while a few black-headed gulls added to the week's bird list. A lesser emperor dragonfly was quartering the marshes, showing its single sky-blue abdominal segment and large green eyes.

The surroundings were largely clad in Aleppo pines, with bold orange/lime splashes of tree spurge to brighten up the picture, and lots of pink and white *Cistus* bushes of three species, intermingled with



large patches of joint-pine. Between the shrubs, the stony ground was rather bare, apart from a few legumes, like the evil-smelling pitch trefoil, and yellow centaury, weasel's-snout and sawfly orchid. The flowers were attracting the attentions of various butterflies, including most strikingly a male cleopatra.

Soon we were plunged deep into a jungle of *Ampelodesmus mauritanicus*, a giant tussock-forming grass which is such a feature of many Balearic hillsides. Plenty of insects were taking advantage of the dense growth, including the fearsome-looking (but docile?) carpenter bee, but few plants were able to cope with the competition: just a few spindly tree heaths and holm oaks were forcing their way through.

And then we emerged into a series of small open pastures, each a different world. One was a shimmering carpet of tassel hyacinth, the next yellow with *Lotus cytisoides*, then pink with *Convolvulus althaeoides* and Italian sainfoin. Plenty of orchids, too – mirror, bumblebee, sawfly, tongue and pyramidal, the last predominantly of a pale pink to pure white form. Some discussion ensued as to whether it was a genetic trait, or environmentally induced: several other species of plant seemed to be rather oddly coloured, suggesting, perhaps, there was something unusual in the soil. Those bare patches did look rather odd, reminiscent of serpentine, a rock full of heavy metals which are known to affect plant development (as well as acting as a strong selective influence for genetic differentiation, so the argument is by no means resolved...).

Moving onto the dunes, the skeletal forest of dead holm oaks, presumably killed by saline intrusion, looked especially stark with their branches festooned with beard lichens. Patches of scrambling *Clematis recta* were soon confirmed as such, even without flowers, by the lingering, fiercely peppery taste of its leaves. But the pines were almost devoid of birds, apart from the ever-present Sardinian warblers.

The beach itself was hardly visible when we reached it - it was covered in a natural mulch of decaying *Posidonia* leaves, rhizomes and sea balls, the matted, rounded fibrous lumps meshed together through incessant agitation under wave action. To us, the beach was an invertebrate paradise, with all sorts of creatures feeding or hiding in or on the natural litter. But to the holidaymaker, it is pollution, almost as undesirable as a beach covered in oil; hence the bulldozed piles amid glittering sand farther down towards the hotels.

After dinner, those still capable of moving after another wonderful meal headed out for an exploration of the Matchani Gran nightlife. As darkness fell, stone-curlews were calling eerily all around, and one was even seen flying over, illuminated by the security light. Scops owls were in good voice, and by means of the leaders' whistles one was attracted close enough to be seen, both in flight and at rest in the pine trees. More distant field crickets and tree frogs added a backdrop to the soundscape. Then with the aid of a telescope the clear skies revealed their cosmic glories: Venus sinking brightly into the western horizon, Mars glowing dull red, Saturn showing at least the shape of its rings, and Jupiter with its array of moons, while to cap a wonderful session, a shooting star briefly lit up the heavens.

#### ***Wednesday 10 April: Mongofre Nou, Cap de Favaritx, Fornells, Tirant and Sa Roca***

Before breakfast, several of the group were lured out by the clear, mild weather. A tree pipit calling as it flew over and a male blackcap both attested to ongoing migration, and at least two nightingales were coaxed into song. Whether these were new arrivals, or established birds encouraged by the weather we shall never know. And finally a male marsh harrier hunting around the olive groves proved that expecting the unexpected is a good strategy at this time of the year.

Heading north once again, our first stop, only a little way off the main road, was by a couple of unprepossessing-looking meadows. Graham's local knowledge paid off however when several quails started wetting their lips; although seemingly very close, they remained stubbornly out of sight. Not



so a group of seven cattle egrets, though, nor the small flocks of genuine rock doves flying around, and our pleasure was complete when a red kite drifted into view and performed well for all to see. Sadly, this was to be our only sighting of this species, which until relatively recently was the most abundant raptor on Menorca. Then a little further along the road, a brief unscheduled stop was made to examine a squashed viperine snake.

Pressing on, a long bumpy approach track took us through a dramatic, eroded sandstone gorge with outcrops standing proud like natural sculptures, to the gate at Mongofre Nou, a private estate to which access is controlled by GOB. Almost immediately another road casualty was found, a stripeless tree frog ('that's croaked' said Peter!), like a blob of discarded green chewing gum. The mudflats of the inlet and salt pans held numerous black-winged stilts (several engaged in courtship display) and little ringed plovers, several Kentish plovers, common and green sandpipers, ruff and little stints, and single dunlin, greenshank, redshank and spotted redshank. The poolside bushes held a good number of hungry migrant willow warblers, and a sedge warbler (a good record for the island) was in song from one tamarisk. There were also a few new plants - Spanish broom, two species of *Dorycnium* and the hedgehog endemic *Astragalus balearicus* in flower - and two species of dragonfly were seen, lesser emperor again and red-veined darter, the latter resting in full view on the track.

We then settled in for lunch by the car park, in the company of a large, black, blobby oil-beetle, before heading out to the rocky headland of Cap de Favaritx; the stark, skeletal landscape of slaty rocks lit up by glorious sunshine. To all intents and purposes, it was a natural slag-heap, softened only by the creeping menace of Hottentot fig. There were still the various endemic plants seen previously at Cavalleria together with *Euphorbia maresii*, gaining protection by growing through the hedgehogs, and hairy sea-heath in full flower. Looking out from the lighthouse, several Cory's shearwaters flew past, their lazy, looping flight in sharp contrast to the more urgent fluttering of small groups of Balearic shearwaters, and a superb male black redstart, showing the pale wing panel of the Iberian race, fed around the pool. But perhaps the most exciting find was literally underfoot, the slaty rocks adorned with trace fossils, the prehistoric trails of worms and molluscs. One can only wonder at the natural calamity which must have befallen the area and led to the fossilisation of such ephemeral natural features.

This being Shaun and Jenny's night off, we sought sustenance in Es Castell, at the Bar España. Before eating, we found time to squeeze in a bit more botany by looking at the street trees, including Indian bead-tree and false acacia, and spectacular views across the harbour, while large groups of swifts, including a few pallid, screamed overhead. The only drawback was the rather poor quality of the meal, at least in comparison with those we had enjoyed at Matchani Gran.

#### **Thursday 11 April: Algendar Gorge, Ciutadella & Naveta d'es Tudons**

Another misty, murky dawn revealed little new in the way of birds, apart from a small overnight fall of blackcaps. After breakfast, our longest drive of the week (even this less than an hour, such is the compact nature of Menorca) took us to the Algendar Gorge, a deep limestone *barranco* incised into the countryside inland of Cala Galdana, one of the more popular tourist resorts on the island. Once over the wall and into the gorge, the first large raptors came into view, mostly booted eagles with just a few Egyptian vultures.

As we walked up the bottom of the gorge, conditions became increasingly sheltered, and should have been ideal for insects if it were not for the rain that was starting to fall. Nevertheless, speckled wood, painted lady and small copper butterflies were all seen well, along with another oil-beetle, this one with a strong purple iridescence. As far as plants were concerned, most spectacular were several spikes of *Verbascum creticum*, large yellow flowers with purple hairy filaments, but more interesting perhaps was rock samphire on the gorge walls, at least two kilometres inland. Maybe this suggests that the floor of the gorge once formed part of the tidal inlet of Cala Galdana, and the walls were thus sea cliffs which is the usual habitat of the plant.

The path up the gorge took us through wonderful scenery, improving at every turn, and increasingly enhanced with Egyptian vultures, up to four in the air at one time, competing for our attention with a pair of peregrines which we watched going through their full range of behaviour, including one marvellous food-pass. 'Real' rock doves, as opposed to lookalike feral pigeons, exploded out of caves and clefts, which they shared with more 'back-to-their-roots' refugees from urban life, a thriving colony of house sparrows. Summer snowflake was in flower, and there was also a good array of arums - *Arum italicum* in fruit, friar's-cowl in flower, and even a patch of the white-flowered garden escape, *Zantedeschia aethiopica*. A great tit was singing, together with numerous blackcaps and firecrests, the latter seen albeit briefly in the holm oaks. As we headed back for lunch, an alpine swift powered its way up the gorge, and as we enjoyed our sandwiches, Geoff and Graham managed a close but brief view of a male orphean warbler.

With a little time to spare, we thought a look at Ciutadella was in order, passing a group of three Egyptian vultures sheltering in a tree by the main road. It is a lovely, historic city, but in the early afternoon, most of the attractions were closed, so our visit was little more than an extended coffee-stop.

Next, we headed to the Naveta d'es Tudons, a (controversially) restored archaeological site consisting of a two storey building in the shape of an upturned boat. We duly joined the throngs of other visitors, but soon our attention was being drawn away from the stones to the diverse botanical delights of the surrounding grassland, like branched plantain, broad-leaved cudweed and three-leaved toadflax, all to the accompaniment of still-invisible quails. The more rocky areas held a few orchids, including one rather poor specimen of toothed orchid, and the Naveta itself supported a few plants of *Campanula erinus* and *Cyclamen balearicum*. As we headed back to the vehicles, a tawny pipit alighted just in front of us, showing well its rather wagtail-like demeanour.

Back at base, a male pied flycatcher was seen well along the drive, before the rain really set in and signalled the end of the day's natural history activities. However, we were joined at dinner by John Seymour, a local historian, who brought vividly to life the often turbulent history, both ancient and modern, of Menorca.

#### **Friday 12 April: Tirant, Fornells & Sa Roca**

It was crisp and clear at very first light, but within fifteen minutes a thick fog bank had rolled in, and that set the tone for the day - bad weather, as if preparing us for our impending return home. Given that Tirant was so good a few days earlier, we felt that a return visit may be worthwhile. At the *depuradora*, there were fewer birds, perhaps related to the fact that since our last visit the lagoons had been surrounded by a red and white chain-link fence. However, a male whinchat was a new bird for the trip, and then a little way further on, we pulled up the vans to watch a superb hoopoe perched above us on the hillside. With considerable serendipity, this turned out to be a very good stop, with three cattle egrets among a herd of cows, yet another calling quail, and a sudden deluge of hirundines, including at least five very obliging red-rumped swallows.



At Tirant itself, a male Spanish wagtail dodged the feet of still more cows, and a lapwing sat disconsolately among the clumps of rushes. But while looking at this, Jenny noticed a movement further back, and this soon resolved itself into a stone-curlew, watching us watching it through the scopes. Three purple herons appeared on the skyline, and one of these performed a magnificent fly-

past, followed by two marsh harriers. But by now the fog was lifting, to reveal looming clouds, threatening serious rain, and a judicious retreat to the coffee-shop in Fornells seemed a good idea.

It did rain, and continued to do so for much of the day. Nevertheless, we were prepared for it, and we headed up to the hills at Sa Roca, where we took lunch, among holm oak and Aleppo pine forest, over an understorey of tree-heath and strawberry-tree. Not wishing to lose our last afternoon, we donned waterproofs and set out up the hill. Draped from the pines, the nests of pine processionary moth caterpillars were obvious, as they so often are in Mediterranean pine forests, and at our feet, the liberal sprinkling of pine marten droppings seemed to indicate a healthy population in these parts. Given the inclement weather, there were no birds to speak of, but of course the plants posed no such problems. Almost immediately we found the first emerging spikes of violet bird's-nest orchids, although most were still in tight bud, then as we approached the crest of the hill, we found a wonderful grouping of *Ophrys bertolonii*, of the endemic Balearic form often called *Ophrys balearica*. Fortunately, a brief respite in the weather enabled photos to be taken, and also revealed a splendid view up into the clouds to the top of Monte Toro. The next few minutes then produced two of the best sightings of the holiday. At the base of a pine tree, an example of the bright red cage-fungus *Clathrus ruber* was found, just a couple of metres away from the equally red eruptions of a parasitic plant *Cytinus*. This is a relative of the tropical *Rafflesias*, in which the plant exists almost wholly within the tissues of its host: just the flowers are visible, emerging around the base of its host. I assumed it would be *Cytinus hypocistis*, which has yellow flowers and grows on white *Cistus* species, and which is widespread (though scarce) on Menorca. But these were associated with pink *Cistus*, and those flowers which were opening were pinky-white. Quite clearly, it was in fact *Cytinus ruber*, a remarkable record given that according to books I have, this species is not known from Menorca!

Flushed with success, and dripping wet, we decided to head back a little early, with just a final stop at the end of the Matchani Ghan drive to view the large and dramatic flowers, which were just opening, of Arabian star-of-Bethlehem, right next to our final orchid of the trip, a single spike of the giant orchid, an early-flowering species which was now completely dead.

A couple of hours to dry off, have a last walk around the fields, and pack, followed by a trip to Sant Climent for the supermarket and especially the local cheese shop (what a wonderful smell!), and then it was time for a round up of the week, which revealed a very respectable total of more than a hundred species of bird. All that, and an array of flowers, insects, geology and other natural delights to linger long in the memory, along with the warmth and generosity of our reception at Matchani Gran. Finally it was dinnertime - a last, but welcome, assault on our waistlines as the rain continued, culminating at bedtime in a few cracks of thunder.

### ***Saturday 13 April: Home***

Following more storms overnight, it was wet, windy and cold as we packed the vans and headed to the airport for a mid-morning flight. Not that the weather affected us, other than to make us realise just how lucky we had been for most of the week. Little did I realise just how lucky we were - on the flight home, I started to feel some discomfort, which over the next couple of days developed into a very nasty dose of shingles, the effects of which are still very much with me as I write this four weeks later...!

Chris Gibson



## LISTS, MENORCA 6-13 APRIL 2002

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

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

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

### LICHENS

<i>Cladonia foliacea</i>		MG SB CC
<i>Usnea</i> sp.		EG SR

### FUNGI

<i>Clathrus ruber</i>	cake-fungus	SR
<i>Coprinus lagopus</i>		SR

### FERNS & ALLIES

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

### CONIFERS & ALLIES

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

### FLOWERING PLANTS

#### Acanthaceae

<i>Acanthus mollis</i>	bear's-breeches	SB
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#### Agavaceae

<i>Agave americana</i>	century plant	[planted]
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#### Aizoaceae

<i>Carpobrotus edulis</i>	Hottentot fig	CF EG SB MT CC
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#### Amaryllidaceae

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

#### Anacardiaceae

<i>Pistachia lentiscus</i>	lentisc	
<i>P. terebinthus</i>		SB[planted]

#### Apiaceae

<i>Apium nodiflorum</i>	fool's watercress	SB
<i>Crithmum maritimum</i>	rock samphire	AG SB
<i>Daucus carota</i>	wild carrot	
<i>Eryngium campestre</i>	field eryngo	MG EG
<i>E. maritimum</i>	sea-holly	SB EG
<i>Ferula communis</i>	giant fennel	
<i>Foeniculum vulgare</i>	fennel	
<i>Ridolfia segetum</i>		AG
<i>Scandix pecten-veneris</i>	shepherd's-needle	MG NT

<i>Smyrniolum olusatrum</i>	alexanders	
<b>Apocynaceae</b>		
<i>Vinca difformis</i>	pale periwinkle	TG
<b>Araceae</b>		
<i>Arisarum vulgare</i>	friar's-cowl	MG AG SB
<i>Arum italicum</i>	Italian lords-and-ladies	AG CC SB
<i>A. pictum</i>		MG CC
<i>Dracunculus muscivorus</i>	dragon arum	CC
<i>Zantedeschia aethiopica</i>		AG
<b>Araliaceae</b>		
<i>Hedera helix</i>	ivy	AG
<b>Asteraceae</b>		
<i>Aetheorhiza bulbosa</i>		SB
<i>Artemisia gallica</i>		EG
<i>Bellis annua</i>	annual daisy	MG
<i>B. sylvestris</i>		MG
<i>Bellium bellidioides</i>		MG
<i>Calendula arvensis</i>	field marigold	
<i>Carlina corymbosa</i>		CF
<i>Carthamus lanatus</i>		
<i>Chrysanthemum coronarium</i>	crown daisy	
<i>Cichorium intybus</i>	chicory	T
<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>	spear thistle	SR
<i>Evax pygmaea</i>		MG CC CF NT
<i>Filago pyramidata</i>	broad-leaved cudweed	NT
<i>Galactites tomentosa</i>		
<i>Helichrysum stoechas</i>		CC
<i>Hyoseris radiata</i>		
<i>H. scabra</i>		MG
<i>Hypochaeris achyrophorus</i>		
<i>Inula crithmoides</i>	golden-samphire	EG
<i>I. viscosa</i>	stink aster	T SR
<i>Launaea cervicornis</i>		CC CF
<i>Pallenis spinosa</i>		MG
<i>Phagnalon saxatile</i>		EG
<i>P. rupestre</i>		
<i>Reichardia tingitana</i>		
<i>Santolina chamaecyparissus</i>	lavender-cotton	CC CF
<i>Senecio rodriguezii</i>		CC CF
<i>Silybum marianum</i>	milk-thistle	
<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	
<i>Urospermum dalechampii</i>		MG SB MN
<b>Boraginaceae</b>		
<i>Borago officinalis</i>	borage	
<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	MG SB CC
<i>Lithospermum arvense</i>	corn gromwell	TG NT
<i>Symphytum tuberosum</i>	tuberous comfrey	AG
<b>Brassicaceae</b>		
<i>Brassica napus</i>	rape	
<i>Cakile maritima</i>	sea-rocket	SB EG
<i>Capsella bursa-pastoris</i>	shepherd's-purse	
<i>Cardaria draba</i>	hoary cress	AG
<i>Lobularia maritima</i>	sweet alison	SB EG CC
<i>Matthiola incana</i>	hoary stock	EC SB AG
<i>Raphanus raphanistrum</i>	radish	
<i>Rorippa nasturtium-aquaticum</i>	watercress	SB

<i>Sinapis arvensis</i>	charlock	
<i>Sisymbrium officinale</i>	hedge mustard	
<b>Cactaceae</b>		
<i>Opuntia ficus-indica</i>	prickly-pear	MG EG
<b>Campanulaceae</b>		
<i>Campanula erinus</i>		NT
<b>Capparaceae</b>		
<i>Capparis spinosa</i>	spiny caper	MT
<b>Caprifoliaceae</b>		
<i>Lonicera implexa</i>		AG EG
<b>Caryophyllaceae</b>		
<i>Polycarpon alsinifolium</i>		MG AG
<i>Silene gallica</i>	small-flowered catchfly	CC EG MG AG NT
<i>S. secundiflora</i>		NT
<i>S. vulgaris</i>	bladder campion	
<b>Chenopodiaceae</b>		
<i>Arthrocnemum macrostachyum</i>		EG MN T
<i>Atriplex halimus</i>	shrubby orache	SB
<i>A. portulacoides</i>	sea-purslane	EG MN
<i>Beta vulgaris</i> ssp. <i>maritima</i>	sea beet	SB
<i>Salicornia ramosissima</i>	glasswort	EG MN
<i>Sarcocornia fruticosa</i>	shrubby glasswort	EG MN
<b>Cistaceae</b>		
<i>Helianthemum salicifolium</i>		NT
<i>Cistus albidus</i>	grey-leaved cistus	EG SR AG MN
<i>C. monspeliensis</i>	narrow-leaved cistus	EG SR MN AG SR
<i>C. salvifolius</i>	sage-leaved cistus	EG MN NT SR
<b>Convolvulaceae</b>		
<i>Calystegia sepium</i>	hedge bindweed	SB
<i>C. soldanella</i>	sea bindweed	SB
<i>Convolvulus althaeoides</i>		MG SB EG
<b>Crassulaceae</b>		
<i>Umbilicus rupestris</i>	navelwort	MG NT TG AG
<b>Cyperaceae</b>		
<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>S. maritimus</i>	sea club-rush	T
<b>Dioscoreaceae</b>		
<i>Tamus communis</i>	black bryony	AG
<b>Dipsacaceae</b>		
<i>Scabiosa atropurpurea</i>		AG
<b>Ericaceae</b>		
<i>Arbutus unedo</i>	strawberry-tree	SR MN
<i>Erica arborea</i>	tree-heath	EG SR MN
<b>Euphorbiaceae</b>		
<i>Euphorbia characias</i>	large Mediterranean spurge	EG
<i>E. dendroides</i>	tree spurge	EG MN CF AG
<i>E. helioscopia</i>	sun spurge	
<i>E. maresii</i>		CF
<i>E. paralias</i>	sea spurge	SB EG

<i>E. pithyusa</i>		CC
<i>E. terracina</i>		CF
<i>Ricinus communis</i>	castor-oil plant	SB [planted]
<b>Fagaceae</b>		
<i>Quercus ilex</i>	holm oak	EG MN AG
<b>Frankeniaceae</b>		
<i>Frankenia hirsuta</i>	hairy sea-heath	CF
<b>Gentianaceae</b>		
<i>Blackstonia perfoliata</i>	yellow-wort	EG SR
<i>Centaurium maritimum</i>	yellow century	EG CF
<b>Geraniaceae</b>		
<i>Erodium malacoides</i>	mallow-leaved stork's-bill	
<i>E. moschatum</i>	musk stork's-bill	SB
<i>Geranium columbinum</i>	long-stalked crane's-bill	
<i>G. dissectum</i>	cut-leaved crane's-bill	
<i>G. molle</i>	dove's-foot crane's-bill	
<i>G. purpureum</i>	little-robin	MG AG
<i>G. rotundifolium</i>	round-leaved crane's-bill	
<b>Iridaceae</b>		
<i>Gladiolus illyricus</i>	wild gladiolus	EG SR
<i>G. italicus</i>		SB MG TG
<i>Iris pseudacorus</i>	yellow flag	SB
<i>Romulea assumptionis</i>		CC CF
<b>Juncaceae</b>		
<i>Juncus acutus</i>	sharp rush	T EG MN EG
<i>J. maritimus</i>	sea rush	EG MN CF
<b>Lamiaceae</b>		
<i>Mentha aquatica</i>	water mint	AG
<i>M. suaveolens</i>	apple-scented mint	SB
<i>Phlomis italica</i>		MT
<i>Prasium majus</i>		MG TG NT
<i>Rosmarinus officinalis</i>	rosemary	CC EG SR
<i>Salvia verbenaca</i>	meadow clary	
<i>Sideritis romana</i>		MG
<i>Teucrium subspinosum</i>		CC
<b>Liliaceae</b>		
<i>Allium ampeloprasum</i>	wild leek	SB
<i>A. roseum</i>	rose garlic	
<i>A. triquetrum</i>	three-cornered leek	
<i>Asparagus acutifolius</i>		
<i>A. albus</i>		
<i>A. horridus</i>		MG SB
<i>Asphodelus aestivus</i>		
<i>A. fistulosus</i>		
<i>Muscari comosum</i>	tassel hyacinth	
<i>Ornithogalum arabicum</i>	Arabian star-of-Bethlehem	MG
<i>Ruscus aculeatus</i>	butcher's-broom	SB EG MN
<i>Urginea maritima</i>	sea squill	MG EG 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>L. cretica</i>	smaller tree-mallow	
<i>Malva neglecta</i>	dwarf mallow	
<i>M. sylvestris</i>	common mallow	

<b>Meliaceae</b>		
<i>Melia azedarach</i>	Indian bead-tree	EC [planted]
<b>Moraceae</b>		
<i>Ficus carica</i>	fig	
<b>Myoporaceae</b>		
<i>Myoporum laetum</i>		MG[planted]
<b>Oleaceae</b>		
<i>Phillyrea angustifolia</i>		EG SR
<i>P. latifolia</i>		EG
<i>P. latifolia</i> var. <i>rodriguezii</i>		CF EG
<i>Olea europaea</i>	olive	
<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 bertolonii</i>		SR
<i>O. bombyliflora</i>	bumblebee orchid	NT T EG
<i>O. lutea</i>	yellow bee-orchid	MG NT SR
<i>O. speculum</i>	mirror orchid	MG EG NT AG SR
<i>O. tenthredinifera</i>	sawfly orchid	MG EG NT AG MN SR
<i>Orchis tridentata</i>	toothed orchid	NT
<i>Serapias parviflora</i>	small-flowered tongue-orchid	MG EG SR MN
<b>Oxalidaceae</b>		
<i>Oxalis corniculata</i>	yellow sorrel	MG
<i>O. pes-caprae</i>	Bermuda buttercup	
<b>Papaveraceae</b>		
<i>Chelidonium majus</i>	greater celandine	AG
<i>Fumaria capreolata</i>	white ramping-fumitory	MG TG AG
<i>F. officinalis</i>	common fumitory	NT
<i>Papaver hybridum</i>	rough poppy	SB TG NT
<i>P. rhoeas</i>	common poppy	
<i>P. somniferum</i>	opium poppy	TG
<b>Papilionaceae</b>		
<i>Anthyllis hystrix</i>		CC CF
<i>A. vulneraria</i> ssp. <i>font-querii</i>		NT
<i>Astragalus balearicus</i>		MN CF
<i>Calicotome spinosa</i>	spiny broom	
<i>Coronilla juncea</i>		SR AG
<i>Dorycnium fulgurans</i>		CC CF
<i>D. hirsutum</i>		MN SR
<i>D. pentaphyllum</i>		MN SR
<i>Hedysarum coronarium</i>	Italian sainfoin	
<i>Lathyrus annuus</i>		EG
<i>L. clymenum</i>		EG
<i>L. ochrus</i>		TG
<i>L. sphaericus</i>		EG NT
<i>Lotus cytisoides</i>		
<i>L. ornithopodioides</i>		AG
<i>L. subbiflorus</i>	hairy bird's-foot-trefoil	EG
<i>L. tetraphyllus</i>		CC SR
<i>Medicago littoralis</i>		SB
<i>M. marina</i>	sea medick	SB EG
<i>Melilotus sulcata</i>		T EM AG
<i>Psoralea bituminosa</i>	pitch trefoil	EG AG
<i>Robinia pseudoacacia</i>	false acacia	EC[planted]
<i>Scorpiurus muricatus</i>		MG SR



<i>Spartium junceum</i>	Spanish broom	MN
<i>Trifolium campestre</i>	hop trefoil	EG
<i>T. nigrescens</i>		NT MG
<i>T. scabrum</i>	rough clover	TG
<i>T. stellatum</i>	starry clover	
<i>Vicia benghalensis</i>		NT AG
<i>V. sativa</i>	common vetch	NT
<i>V. tetrasperma</i>	smooth tare	SB
<i>V. villosa</i>	fodder vetch	EG
<b>Phytolaccaceae</b>		
<i>Phytolacca arborea</i>	ombu	MG[planted]
<b>Plantaginaceae</b>		
<i>Plantago afra</i>	branched plantain	NT
<i>P. bellardii</i>		MG
<i>P. coronopus</i>	buck's-horn plantain	
<i>P. crassifolia</i>		SB EG
<i>P. lagopus</i>		
<i>P. lanceolata</i>	ribwort plantain	
<i>P. major</i>	great plantain	SB
<b>Plumbaginaceae</b>		
<i>Limonium echioides</i>		CC CF
<i>L. minutum</i>		CC CF
<b>Poaceae</b>		
<i>Ammophila arenaria</i>	marram grass	SB EG
<i>Ampelodesmus mauritanicus</i>		
<i>Arundo donax</i>	giant reed	AG SB EG
<i>Briza maxima</i>	large quaking-grass	NT
<i>Desmazeria marina</i>	sea fern-grass	
<i>D. rigida</i>	fern-grass	
<i>Elymus farctus</i>	sea couch-grass	SB EG
<i>Hyparrhenia hirta</i>		
<i>Lagurus ovatus</i>	hare's-foot grass	
<i>Melica ciliata</i>		EG
<i>Phragmites australis</i>	common reed	SB
<i>Poa annua</i>	annual meadow-grass	
<i>Sporobolus pungens</i>		SB
<b>Polygonaceae</b>		
<i>Emex spinosa</i>		SB
<i>Rumex bucephalophorus</i>		
<i>R. conglomeratus</i>	clustered dock	
<i>R. crispus</i>	curled dock	
<b>Posidoniaceae</b>		
<i>Posidonia oceanica</i>		EG SB
<b>Primulaceae</b>		
<i>Anagallis arvensis</i>	scarlet pimpernel (red and blue varieties)	
<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>Clematis cirrhosa</i>	maiden's-bower	MG TG SB AG
<i>C. flammula</i>		MG EG
<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	
<i>R. luteola</i>	weld	EG
<b>Rhamnaceae</b>		
<i>Rhamnus alaternus</i>	Mediterranean buckthorn	EG AG MN
<i>R. ludovici-salvatorius</i>		EG
<b>Rosaceae</b>		
<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	hawthorn	SB
<i>Malus (sylvestris?)</i>	crab apple	AG
<i>Potentilla reptans</i>	creeping cinquefoil	AG
<i>Prunus spinosa</i>	blackthorn	
<i>Rosa sempervirens</i>		EM
<i>Rubus ulmifolius</i>	bramble	
<i>Sanguisorba minor</i>	salad burnet	T AG
<b>Rubiaceae</b>		
<i>Crucianella maritima</i>		SB
<i>Galium aparine</i>	cleavers	
<i>Rubia peregrina</i>	wild madder	
<i>Sherardia arvensis</i>	field madder	
<i>Valantia muralis</i>		CC NT SR
<b>Rutaceae</b>		
<i>Ruta chalepensis</i>		MG NT
<b>Salicaceae</b>		
<i>Populus alba</i>	white poplar	AG
<b>Scrophulariaceae</b>		
<i>Bellardia trixago</i>		
<i>Linaria triphylla</i>	three-leaved toadflax	NT TG
<i>Misopates orontium</i>	weasel's-snout	TG NT
<i>Parentucellia latifolia</i>		NT
<i>P. viscosa</i>	yellow bartsia	MG NT
<i>Scrophularia auriculata</i>	water figwort	AG
<i>S. peregrina</i>		TG
<i>Verbascum creticum</i>		AG
<i>V. sinuatum</i>		
<i>Veronica cymbalaria</i>		AG
<b>Smilacaceae</b>		
<i>Smilax aspera</i>		MG
<i>S. aspera</i> var. <i>balearica</i>		CC
<b>Solanaceae</b>		
<i>Solanum nigrum</i>	black nightshade	SR
<b>Tamaricaceae</b>		
<i>Tamarix africana</i>		SB
<i>T. boveana</i>		SB AG
<i>T. gallica</i>	tamarisk	EG
<b>Thymelaeaceae</b>		
<i>Thymelaea hirsuta</i>		SB
<b>Typhaceae</b>		
<i>Typha angustifolia</i>	lesser reedmace	SB EM
<i>T. latifolia</i>	greater reedmace	SB
<b>Ulmaceae</b>		
<i>Ulmus minor</i>	small-leaved elm	AG

**Urticaceae**

*Parietaria judaica*  
*Urtica membranacea*  
*U. urens*

pellitory-of-the-wall  
annual nettle

**Valerianaceae**

*Centranthus calcitrapae*  
*Valerianella discoidea*

SB NT  
AG

**BUTTERFLIES**

large white		small heath	EG
small white		meadow brown	MN
Bath white	MG	wall	AG
clouded yellow	MG CC	speckled wood	SB EG AG
cleopatra	EG CF	common blue	MG SB
swallowtail	MG	brown argus	MG
red admiral	MG	small copper	AG CC EG
painted lady	MG AG CC	geranium bronze	MG

**MOTHS**

silver Y	MG	yellow belle	MG
shuttle-shaped dart	MG	<i>Stigmella aurella</i> [mines]	AG
pine processionary moth	MG SR EG [nests]	<i>Epiblema cynosbatella</i>	MG
false mocha	MG	rusty-dot pearl	MG
netted pug	MG	rush veneer	MG SB
small dusty wave	MG	<i>Emmelina monodactyla</i>	MG

**OTHER INSECTS**

red-veined darter		<i>Sympetrum fonscolombei</i>	MN
lesser emperor		<i>Anax parthenope</i>	MN EG
field cricket		<i>Gryllus campestris</i>	MG
Egyptian locust		<i>Anacridium aegyptium</i>	MG TG
a paper wasp		<i>Polistes gallicus</i>	SB
violet carpenter bee		<i>Xylocopa violacea</i>	MG EG
tawny mining bee		<i>Andrena fulva</i>	MG CC EG
dung beetle		<i>Scarabaeus laticollis</i>	MG
rhinoceros beetle		<i>Copris lunaris</i>	MG
a flower chafer		<i>Oxythyrea funesta</i>	
churchyard beetle		<i>Blaps mucronatus</i>	MG EG AG
oil-beetle		<i>Meloe proscarabaeus</i>	AG MN
a ground beetle		<i>Carabus nemoralis</i>	MG
7-spot ladybird		<i>Coccinella septempunctata</i>	
a water beetle		<i>Cybister laterimarginalis</i>	SB

**AMPHIBIANS**

marsh frog	SB T
stripeless tree frog	MG MN EM SB

**REPTILES**

Italian wall lizard	
Moorish gecko	MG SB TG
viperine snake	MN[dead]
Hermann's tortoise	MG EG
European pond terrapin	SB[dead]

**MAMMALS**

Algerian hedgehog	[dead on roads]
European free-tailed bat	MG
pipistrelle sp.	MG
pine marten	SR AG[droppings]
rabbit	MG

## BIRDS

little grebe	T	short-eared owl	CC
Cory's shearwater	SB CF	cuckoo	MG
Balearic shearwater	CF	swift	
cormorant	EG	pallid swift	CC EC
shag	SB CC CF F	alpine swift	AG
bittern	T	monk parakeet	near EG
cattle egret	T SB MN EG	hoopoe	
little egret	SB T EG MN CF	short-toed lark	MG CF CC
	AG	Thekla lark	
grey heron	T EG MN AG	sand martin	MN SB T
purple heron	T	swallow	
mallard	SB T MN AG EG	red-rumped swallow	T
teal	T MN	house martin	SB MN
garganey	SB	tawny pipit	MG MN NT
shoveler	T	tree pipit	MG
red kite	MN	meadow pipit	MG
Egyptian vulture	SB CC AG NT	blue-headed wagtail	MG MN
marsh harrier	MG SB T EG MN	Spanish wagtail	T
	CC	ashy-headed wagtail	EM
hen harrier	T	white wagtail	EM EG
booted eagle		robin	MG MN SR AG
osprey	CC	nightingale	
kestrel		redstart	MG SB MN
peregrine	AG CC	black redstart	CF
red-legged partridge	CC MN SR	stonechat	
quail	MG T NT MN	whinchat	MG EM
purple gallinule	SB	northern wheatear	MG CC CF
moorhen	SB T EG MN AG	blue rock thrush	CC MN CF
coot	SB T EG MN	blackbird	
black-winged stilt	MN T	Cetti's warbler	
stone-curlew	MG T	fan-tailed warbler	SB T MN AG
little ringed plover	T MN CF EM EG	sedge warbler	MN
Kentish plover	MN CF	reed warbler	T
lapwing	T	subalpine warbler	CC
little stint	MN	Sardinian warbler	
ruff	T MN	whitethroat	MG MN
dunlin	MN	lesser whitethroat	MG
redshank	MN T	Orphean warbler	AG
spotted redshank	MN	blackcap	MG MN AG
greenshank	MN	chiffchaff	
green sandpiper	MN T EM	willow warbler	
wood sandpiper	T MN	wood warbler	MG T
common sandpiper	EM MN T	firecrest	SR AG
black-headed gull	EG	pie flycatcher	MG
Audouin's gull	M	great tit	AG
yellow-legged gull		woodchat shrike	
whiskered tern	T	raven	
Sandwich tern	SB F	starling	SB
common tern	SB	house sparrow	
rock dove	MN AG	chaffinch	SB NT SR
feral pigeon		serin	near MG
collared dove		greenfinch	
Barbary dove	near MG	goldfinch	
woodpigeon		linnet	
scops owl	MG AG	corn bunting	