



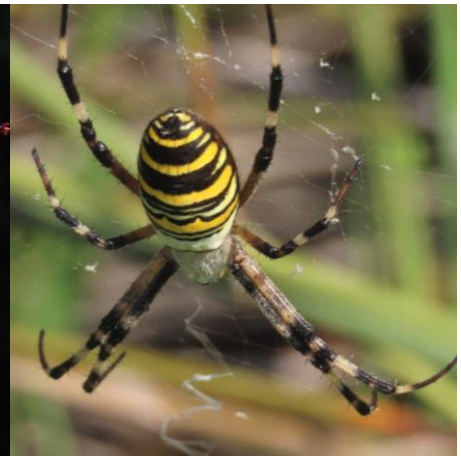
Honeyguide

WILDLIFE HOLIDAYS

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Menorca

4 – 11 October 2023

Holiday participants

John and Jan Croft
Tim and Phylida Wright
Jill Jordan

Ann Greenizan
Everard Daniel
Jude Gibson

Leader

Chris Gibson

Our base at Matchani Gran: <http://menorcacountryhouse.com>

Report by Chris and Jude Gibson

Photos by John Croft, Everard Daniel, Chris and Jude Gibson and Tim Wright, all taken during the holiday.

Cover: Cap de Cavalleria, swallowtail butterfly, Mediterranean tree-heath, wasp spider.

Below: the courtyard and pool at Matchani Gran and the group enjoying lunch in Algendar Gorge (all CG).



Joining the group during the week (see page 8) were guests from Grup Balear d'Ornitologia i Defensa de la Naturalesa – GOB Menorca, namely Carlos Coll, President of GOB and staff member Charlotte Hawthorne. For more about the organisation and their work see www.gobmenorca.com, or the English version at <https://english.gobmenorca.com>.

As on every Honeyguide wildlife holiday, we contributed to a conservation project, in this case the work of GOB Menorca. The conservation contribution of £40 per person, supplemented by gift aid through the Honeyguide Wildlife Charitable Trust, plus an additional donation, totalled £610. These two donations bring the total raised by Honeyguide for GOB to £13,038. The total for all conservation contributions through Honeyguide since 1991 is £149,797 (October 2023).

INTRODUCTION

We arrived in Menorca under clear blue skies, and essentially it remained that way for the whole week. It was remarkably hot and settled for the time of year, and with temperatures peaking at between 27 and 31 degrees C each day, with little in the way of freshening breezes even by the sea, it proved a little too hot for many of the group. This of course required some changes to the planned itinerary – less strenuous walks, actively seeking shadier places, and some shorter days to allow swimming and rehydration time. The settled conditions also meant autumn bird migration wasn't really happening, and those small birds that were on the island were mostly hiding deep in shady scrub. Only the waterbirds were standing out and proud.

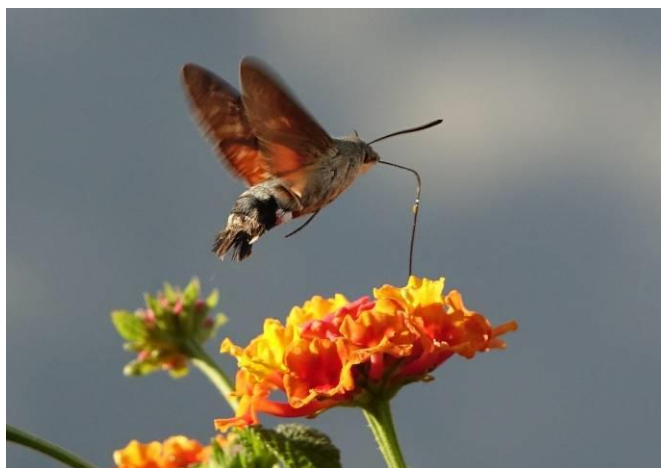
Likewise, the 'Second Spring' of autumn-flowering bulbs was at best sporadic, with a few patches of autumn daffodils, just the occasional spire of sea squill and a complete absence of merenderas. But the lingering summer meant that it was good for insects and other larger invertebrates, anything in flower being covered in a confetti of butterflies and much more, so our week was full of interest, as befits an island that has deservedly been a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve for the past 30 years, a designation which was only a month ago complemented by inscription of its outstanding archaeological landscape on the list of World Heritage Sites.

DAILY DIARY

Wednesday 4 October: arrival and local walks

An early flight from Gatwick brought us to the beautiful Balearic island of Menorca by 11am, so we picked up the hire vehicles – a minibus and car (driven by Everard) – and it was straight to our base for the week, Matchani Gran, to meet our host Yola and unpack. Then lunch, a sumptuous Spanish omelette that kicked off proceedings very satisfactorily. After lunch, we headed out into the gardens, where swallowtails, Lang's short-tailed blues, Cleopatras and hummingbird hawk-moths nectared at flowers both native and planted, *Lantana camara* being especially attractive. Cetti's warblers sang explosively from the surrounding scrub, a few Hermann's tortoises trundled into shade, and a couple of booted eagles, one dark and one pale, drifted over.

On a leisurely walk in the fields towards the airport, we were accompanied by the resident donkey, sheep and rescue horses which had grazed down the vegetation to bare earth and rock. But such was the heat there were no birds showing; only the twitterings, tinklings and chatterings of linnets, goldfinches and Sardinian warblers indicated there were any birds around. But did that matter when we were picking our way around the delightful autumn daffodils, and seeing red-winged grasshoppers at every footfall? Excitement levels grew when some of the fluttery 'white' moths landed and showed themselves to be crimson speckleds, a tutti-frutti ice-cream wonder that just kept on appearing, several dozen in total.



Hummingbird hawk-moth (TW) and crimson speckled moth (CG).

Drifting down the long drive, we at least found some shade, along with Italian wall lizards, paper wasps, cage-web spiders, tidy spiders (our name for the *Cyclosa* species that lines its prey remains neatly down the midline of its orb-web, and proceeds to disguise itself as one of the dollops) and a perfectly formed potter wasp's nest.

Just as we sat down for dinner, Ann alerted us to an imminent flypast of the ISS, so we trooped out to see it before settling down to the first of a series of unfailingly good evening meals. Afterwards, it was such a still, mild night that we felt the urge to deploy the bat detector for the first time. Kuhl's and common pipistrelles and a serotine duly appeared, along with singing tree crickets and scop's owl. In fact, despite trying on several further nights, very little else came out to play subsequently, apart from occasional stone curlew wailings and the verandah geckos.

Thursday 5 October: Son Bou and Torre d'en Gaumes

The first of a week of good breakfasts followed – a sumptuous spread of local breads, cakes, jams and cheeses, and eggs to our own specification, the waitress coping admirably with our various requests in an unfamiliar language. And in a great improvement since my last visit, the new coffee machine was wonderfully simple to use...

Our first destination of the day was the south-coast resort of Son Bou. After negotiating the one-way system, we started round at the back of the marsh, and then walked the *Camí de Cavalls* for a couple of kilometres. The first section gives views over the flooded fields, with cattle egrets feeding around the cows, little egrets and grey heron by the pools and booted eagles and red kites overhead. The few waders included a couple of greenshanks, and a green sandpiper heard but not seen, and a couple of swallows moved south, remarkably our only hirundines of the week.

Mediterranean demoiselles were very active around the lower, damper reaches of the track; other Odonata included lesser emperor, scarlet darter, red-veined darter, keeled skimmer and small red damselfly. Several spurge hawk-moth caterpillars of various sizes trotted across the path, despite (or perhaps because of) the apparent absence nearby of any food-plant. Other insects included south-western speckled woods, mating vestals (distinctly non-virginal!), southern green shield-bug and lentisc bug while stink aster and Mediterranean stork's-bill were among the showier flowers.



Scarlet darter (ED); spurge hawk-moth and south-western speckled wood (JC).

Then it was round to the beach car park under the looming presence of the contentious hotels, via a welcome refreshment stop in the Kit Kat Bar. Given the weather the beach was very busy and there were none of the usual Audouin's gulls, but the dunes had a few flowering (and many fruiting) sand daffodils, along with sea knotgrass and *Lotus cytisoides*, and a zitting cisticola showed surprisingly well. Sharp rush tussocks were the perfect support for wasp spider webs, of which we must have found around a dozen. And hereby a confession, the wasp spiders were so large I overlooked the fact that some that we saw (including those at Son Bou) were in fact large 'ordinary' wasp spiders rather than large wasp spiders, with more complete white abdominal bands. It was only when we got home and I looked in detail at my photos that the presence of two species became clear!



Torre d'en Gaumes (CG).

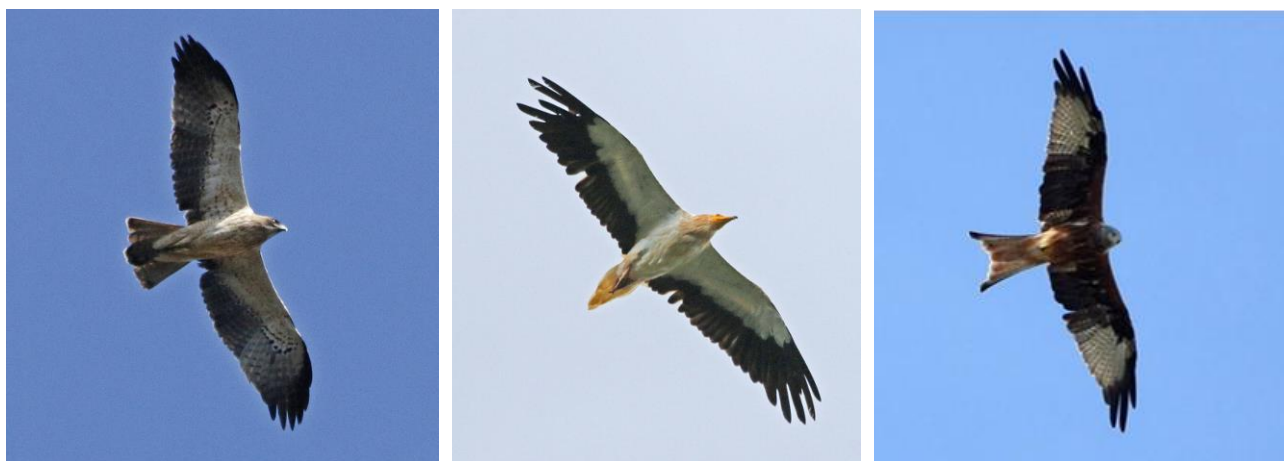
Time for a rather late lunch under the pine trees, and it was then off to one of the most important archaeological sites of the island – Torre d'en Gaumes. The primary reason for this visit was to see at first hand some of the amazing structures, thousands of years old, which contribute to Menorca's global archaeological significance. The panoramic views to the coast, and across to Mallorca, spoke volumes about the strategic significance of this location. But we certainly didn't ignore the wildlife which presented itself to us in spite of the fierce heat: Italian wall lizards basked everywhere, praying mantises stalked around, and butterflies included brown argus, wall brown and small heath. The wailing calls of stone curlews pierced the heat, and our last sighting of the afternoon was of Monte Toro in the heat-hazed distance.

Friday 6 October: Cala Galdana and Algendar Gorge

A short pre-breakfast stroll (sunrise was not until 07.40) revealed very little bird life of significance, with just robins, blackbirds and great tits in the soundscape. Migration really seemed to have ground to a halt in the heat.

After breakfast, we headed westwards to the resort of Cala Galdana. A couple of lofty look-out spots provided stunning views of the bay below, a 'chocolate-box' panorama, complete with deep blue water with beds of Neptune-weed clearly visible, and a couple of Audouin's gulls on rocks across the cove. Looking seaward, nothing but yellow-legged gulls were visible until a brief alpine swift flew around, surprisingly our only swift of the whole trip.

Algendar Gorge, which reaches the sea at Cala Galdana, is one of the major topographic features of Menorca, the deepest and longest gorge on the island. Sadly, there is no continuous path down the gorge, although that is arguably a blessing for the Egyptian vultures that breed on the higher cliffs. Rather than walk up the lower section, we headed to the top of the gorge near Ferreries. Around the car park, large wasp spiders were laying lethal traps for the local grasshoppers.



Pale phase booted eagle and Egyptian vulture (JC); red kite (TW).

Walking down the main gorge, flowering ivy bushes were buzzing with insect life, including batman hoverflies and a thread-waisted wasp *Sceliphron spirifex*, along of course with hummingbird hawk-moths. Eyes upwards, we soon started to see Egyptian vultures circling above the cliffs, and a male blue rock thrush put on a brief show, while those with sights set lower found maidenhair ferns and several examples of the endemic Balearic scorpion together with a squash bug called *Centrocoris variegatus*, although it rapidly acquired the name 'nightjar bug' from its colour pattern.

Lunchtime was approaching and we were all looking forward to what turned out to be a highlight of the holiday, although before reaching our destination we were delayed by Ann's discovery of willow emerald egg-laying scars and Jude's discovery of the caterpillar to end them all, a fully grown convolvulus hawk-moth feeding on morning glory.



Convolvulus hawk-moth (ED).

Yola's husband Llorenç's father has a fruit farm at the top of the gorge, and a BBQ lunch there had been suggested – needless to say, we were happy to oblige! We arrived at the farm to be met by a smiling Llorenç and a huge table, adorned with bowls and plates of the wonderful food. More and more dishes of every sort were brought out to us, including apples and persimmons freshly picked from the farm – he had catered for all, including the vegetarian, vegans and non-pepper-eater amongst us with the utmost generosity. We ate and drank, enjoyed the sunshine, the views, the vultures (as many as seven at once), and each others' company for some considerable time.

A short walk afterwards through the fruit farm gave us more (large but regular) wasp spiders and lots of pine marten scats, and then back at the car park a fennel with two types of shield-bug, including the distinctive red-and-black-striped Millwall bug. But the heat and humidity had shot up over the course of the afternoon, so we opted for a quick spin out to one of the coves near Matchani Gran, Binidali. Welcome breaths of wind rejuvenated our nature-spotting, with a couple of distant hobbies, cliff-edge rock samphire and the endemic sea lavender *Limonium minutum*, still just in flower. Then almost home along the long drive, we came to a rapid stop with a tortoise in the way: Jude expertly relocated it to a safer part of the garden.

Saturday 7 October: Es Grau and Cala Mesquida

The largest wetland in Menorca is Es Grau, and this was our destination for most of today – it is such a large site, with good access around it that we could have spent much longer, although the morning in the scrub slopes that had been destined to become Shangri-là (until the regional government thankfully recognised the folly of following the Mallorcan and Ibiza road to overdevelopment for mass tourism) suffered from a dearth of shade.

We moved between the hides and screens overlooking the lagoon, linked by a further stretch of the *Camí de Cavalls*. The most numerous waterbirds were coot, mallard and pochard, and careful searching soon revealed a few shovelers, gadwalls and teals. Cormorants and both little and great white egrets rested and fed along the shore, along with single common sandpiper and snipe. In the first hide, most of us managed to get on to a water rail slinking through the reedy margin, and Jill took the prize for spotting a kingfisher, out in the open for several minutes. Egyptian locusts flew/leapt away from us at every turn, Cleopatras were especially abundant, not surprising given the abundance of their foodplant Mediterranean buckthorn, and a final treat was a group of cage fungi, albeit rather collapsing in from their fresh, spherical state. Also, on return home, a rather blue-bellied female darter we photographed seems to have all the key features of the southern darter, which if verified may well constitute the first record from the Balearics.



Cleopatra and cage fungus (CG).



Into the excellent Es Grau visitor centre, a fairly new building with interesting interpretation of the surrounding wildlife, leaflets in abundance and clean 'facilities' ... and shade! The garden contained planted example of the various endemic plants, including the 'vegetable hedgehogs' or *socarrels*, which are so characteristic of the windswept rocky peninsulas of Menorca, and a single spike of sea squill, in full flower with strikingly green pollen, springing from its huge, protruding, poisonous bulb. And Jude spotted the only Bath white of our trip.

Heading into Es Grau village, the car park was unexpectedly full (seems there was a film crew with lots of vehicles in town), but we managed to squeeze in nearby and settled down for lunch before heading around the eastern end of the lagoon. At the sluice, numerous large grey mullet were feeding, with common and red-veined darters and blue-tailed damselflies around the fringes. A young grey heron posed for numerous photos, and there were great crested and little grebes out on the water, while a female marsh harrier drifted over. Interesting plants included joint-pine and, on the saltmarsh, golden samphire, attracting the attentions of numerous leaf-cutter bees, always running the gauntlet of the waiting wasp spiders.

Wandering on through the Aleppo pine woods, there were goldfinches and greenfinches in small groups. Several Hermann's tortoises showed well, including one feasting on the red berries of butcher's-broom, a common understorey plant here. And a walk back along the shore took us past more dune flora and a very close, noisy pair of Audouin's gulls to the beach café ... closed!. On a hot Saturday! Fortunately the nearby supermarket was open for ice creams and cold drinks.

To round off the afternoon, on the way home we diverted to Cala Mesquidas, to revisit the place of Tim and Phylida's long-past visit. It was somewhere I had never seen before, but looks lovely and certainly has potential, especially as a site for migrant birds. And interestingly, we had some new fellow guests in Matchani Gran, quite by chance including John Waldon, a former colleague of Chris D., who had helped set up and run one of the first Honeyguide tours here back in 1994. When I looked back through the archived reports from those early years, I discovered that Cala Mesquidas had indeed been one of the destinations then! This time, we didn't have time to explore, but we did spot the tamarisk bracket fungus.



Hermann's tortoise feasting on butcher's broom berries (CG).

Sunday 8 October: Tirant, Cap de Cavalleria and Binimel-là

Up at the north coast, first stop was at Tirant. Only the first seasonal pool to the west of the track held water, but this was helping to feed numerous egrets (a few little, and a total of perhaps 80 cattle) and a few snipes. A couple of stonechats popped up on tamarisk tops, a small flock of starlings flew around and the trackside was alive with red-veined and scarlet darters.

Then to Cap de Cavalleria; as we progressed along the long approach road we could see the increasing effect of salt spray and wind on the plant life, the bushes becoming more sculpted and the plants smaller and spinier. At the end we were among the vegetable hedgehogs, and a short walk to the lighthouse and cliff edge enabled us to see some of them, albeit mostly now finished flowering, with the exception of the locally endemic form of rosemary. The sea and the cliffs were pretty much devoid of birds, aside for twittering linnets and a pair of distant thekla larks.

Then it was into the beach car park for lunch, under the welcome shade of Aleppo pines, generously shared by the Formentera-based German occupants, which led to lots of interesting chat, and sharing of the photos of a huge death's-head hawk-moth caterpillar from their home garden. Continuing along the coast to Binimel-là, we found ourselves among the crowds, and the car park was almost full – it was a Sunday and the weather was remarkably hot for the time of year. Nevertheless, the walk down to the beach produced our best views of Audouin's gull of the week, and a kingfisher that Tim patiently stalked before obtaining some outstanding action photos. A field of stink asters hosted numerous long-tailed blues, scarce bordered straw moth, with several large wasp spiders, one of which had managed to trap and wrap an Egyptian locust. Sand daffodil was abundant on the dunes, again mostly in seed, and other dune flowers included yellow horned-poppy and sea stock.



Kingfisher in action (TW).

As we headed back to the vehicles, a large table at the busy beach bar was (surprisingly) free, so it was only right that we took advantage of the shade and some cooling drinks!

Monday 9 October: Addaia Lagoons and Rafalet Cove

Everard earned his stripes on hoopoe-watch at breakfast: for once, most of us got out to see the action on time. Not one but two hoopoes in the tree beyond the pool, flying around, displaying, and being roundly harried by hordes of sparrows for several minutes.

Back at the north of the island, all was going well on the narrow track down to Addaia lagoons; it seemed there may have been a bit of a small bird arrival, with several song thrushes flicking across in front of us along with lots of robins and blackbirds. And then, a full-sized bus heading towards us. He was not going to give way, so both our vehicles were forced to reverse for 200m or so, with the bus driver really pushing us hard. Both drivers needed a breather overlooking the impressive, the dramatic sandstone cliffs showing millions of years of wind erosion, exposing shades of pink, grey, brown, with seams of yellow harder rock. So delightful we quite forgot the fact that the bus driver would have had to reverse for only 40m or so to let us past...

A stroll along the *Cami de Cavalls* towards Addaia then took us past the 'Giraffe Rocks', pigmented and patterned just like the hide of a giraffe, to the lagoons. Little and great white egrets were around the edges, with a couple of grey herons and then a splendid purple heron that performed a couple of fly-pasts, and then landed on the path we had just walked along. But best of all, more than 40 greater flamingos out in the water (many times the number I have ever seen here before), with half-a-dozen barely fledged grey young: surely these must be now breeding here? At one point, flushed by the noisy walking party that had been deposited by the bus, most of the adults flew around in a wide arc, but fortunately came back down again. Four black-winged stilts, an apparent family party, also poked around in the shallows.

Large wasp spiders again were abundant, and we also found several impressive cage webs in which the distinctive females with white horn-like projections from the body were in plain sight. Flower-wise, strawberry-trees were blooming (and fruiting at the same time) and the trackside (as well as road-verges in the vicinity) had flowering shoot of the garlic-like honeybells, a relatively recent and rapidly spreading arrival on the island.

After lunch (with rather too many biters in attendance) back at the vehicles, we then headed back down the track without a repeat of the morning's congestion. I was aware that the road to our previous second destination this day, Favàritx, has now been blocked some 2.5km from the end, and was not intending to drag the group that distance there and back along a shade-free road, but I decided to at least have a look at the car park provision. It was full, so we headed straight back, seeing a couple of Egyptian vultures on the way.

So we headed for one of my favourite localities on the island, the bijou Rafalet cove, accessed along yet another stretch of the *Camí de Cavalls*. Turning into the rocky, mossy gorge, we entered a magical grove of holm oaks, the sparse shrub layer consisting largely of butcher's broom. But sadly, we didn't all make it to the cove itself as Jan took a tumble, missing her footing in the dappled shade. It looked dramatic and painful, but thanks to first aid and care from Ann and Tim, and a very efficient medical examination the following morning, it seems no lasting harm done. Understandably it was a rather subdued drive home, through the twist and turns of the almost empty *urbanizacions* of the south-east corner of the island, again revisiting the past for some of the group, John and Jan having stayed there many years ago.

Before our evening meal was one of the events of each Honeyguide holiday which makes it a truly unique experience – a visit from the recipient of the conservation contribution which is part of everyone's holiday cost. Menorca is very fortunate to have GOB (*Grup Balear d'Ornitologia i Defensa de la Naturalesa*) working there – safeguarding the landscape by being alert to potential destructive development, offering rehabilitation to injured wildlife and educating school children in the wonders of their own island and defending the marine environment among a host of other activities. Such breadth of activity encompasses part of the role of several different UK organizations and manages to achieve considerable success on a shoestring, with the support of only a small membership base and just a handful paid staff.

GOB President Carlos Coll set the scene, and a relatively new member of staff, Charlotte Hawthorne, spoke about her work, in particular focusing upon the forward-thinking Land Stewardship Scheme. This is a pilot scheme to develop and restore environmentally sustainable farming practices, and to seek to ensure that produce from those farms attracts a favourable price. Very laudable and thus far attracting a lot of interest, including from other parts of Spain; it is pleasing that our holiday conservation contribution is going to such a worthy cause. Sadly, Honeyguide is still the only tour company which has ever made any donation to GOB Menorca and their essential work.

Tuesday 10 October: Fornells, Sa Roca and Cales Coves

Little change for the pre-breakfast walk although the 'song' of red-legged partridge was added to the dawn chorus!

Heading once again north, we went out first to Fornells Point, another windswept location of special plants. And just a few birds – a male blue rock thrush was singing from a rock on the cliff edge and a peregrine was heard, presumably scattering the rock doves to the four winds, while some of the group opted for a cultural moment looking inside the defensive tower, a reminder of the strategic military importance of Menorca throughout history. On the way back down to the car park, there were several showy red-veined darters, and Jude managed to conjure a European dwarf mantis *Ameles spallanziana* out of what looked to all intents and purposes to be a bunch of withered leaves.



A passion for pashas (JG).

After a brief jaunt to Es Mercadal for fuel, we headed into the pine-clad hills around Sa Roca. Not just pine, but also strawberry-tree as a major understorey plant. And therein lies the attraction, as this is the sole food plant for one of the most desirable European butterflies, two-tailed pasha. Lo and behold, five minutes after parking I found a caterpillar, a dragon-headed wonder, soon followed by a second. And then lots of eggs, laid individually on the leaves, at first green but developing a dark ring when about to hatch. And then an adult sweeping majestically along the road before resting up for several minutes on the edge of the canopy above our heads, followed as we sat having lunch by probably a second adult. Peak pasha for me! Yes, I know I have a passion for pashas, but so do many others: see this lovely film that Jude found on YouTube [\(3\) The Two tailed Pasha \(Charaxes jasius\) – YouTube!](#)



Two-tailed pasha caterpillar and adult (ED).

In other news, there were some good flowering stands of blooming Mediterranean tree-heath, strawberry tree in both flower and fruit and the lovely jumping-spider *Carrhotus xanthogramma*, while Jude's outstanding near vision (ie myopia) came up with another mini-delight, the wonderfully spiny cistus hedgehog beetles feeding and mating on the leaves of *Cistus albidus*.

And so to our final site of the week, a special and serene place – the necropolis of Cales Coves, a small bay with ancient burial chambers cut into the rocks: the perfect opportunity for a few moments of quiet contemplation – accompanied only by a robin's soliloquy, the gentle splashing of waves and a yellow snowstorm of Cleopatras around the bougainvillea in a garden. Sadly the hoped-for botanical delight of swathes of merenderas has not (yet?) materialized this year, but if nothing else the walk back sent us on our way with the luscious, lingering scent of smilax in our noses.

Wednesday 11 October: the way home ...

With a scheduled departure for the airport just after breakfast, not much time for nature-watching today, but we could not ignore the Balearic green toad that lumbered its way across our route to the last breakfast sitting of the week, rather a surprise given the absence of any rainfall for the previous week. And then all too soon, goodbye to Matchani Gran, so long Menorca and before we knew it back into the relative chill of a British autumn.

THE BEST BITS

As per Honeyguide tradition, each member of the group was asked for their best bits of the week during our final evening meal together. The two-tailed pasha in its various forms of egg, caterpillar and butterfly were on everyone's favourite list (apart from sadly Jan and John who had missed that morning's outing due to the clinic appointment). Tim particularly was taken with Chris's utter delight when he discovered that first caterpillar! Other invertebrates rated highly, with Ann and Jude loving the sheer number of butterflies everywhere. Everard was particularly impressed with the large hawkmoth larva, as was Ann, while Chris's favourite lepidopteran was that crimson speckled!

John was taken with the range of spiders' webs everywhere, some with 'mummified' prey, while the fantastic array of wasp spiders were mentioned by both Ann and Jan. Jude liked the so-called tidy spiders on their fascinating webs, together with their little fuzzy orange egg sacs. Chris enjoyed seeing the various types of jumping spiders on the island and Ann's final choice was the mantises which had appeared at several locations during the week. Phylida had been thrilled when she first saw one of the exquisite little potter wasp's pot on the wall along the drive at Matchani Gran.

Birds of course proved to be the highlights for several of the group – John and Jan loved seeing all the flying flamingos, and Jill, Tim and John all mentioned kingfishers in their top three. Other birds that were particularly hits with the group included booted eagles (Jill), purple heron (Everard), Egyptian vulture (Jan) and Tim was pleased to see the number of raptors in general.

Showing that these holidays have a broad appeal, flowers also featured as 'favourites' – Phylida mentioned the sand daffodil, autumn daffodil and large daisy on her list – and last, but by no means least, John made special mention of GOB, and all the marvellous things that they do to help make Menorca the wonderful, relatively unspoilt island that we all got to love this week.

For more photos of an outstanding week, see this blog on my website

<https://www.chrisgibsonwildlife.co.uk/autumn-in-menorca-with-honeyguide-wildlife-holidays-part-1-introduction/> with four other themed blogs linked from it.

LISTS

KEY TO LOCALITIES: given only when seen at one or a very few locations.

AG – Algendar Gorge
AL – Addaia Lagoons
B – Binidali Cove
BL – Binimel-là
CC – Cales Coves
CdC – Cap de Cavalleria
CG – Cala Galdana
CM - Cala Mesquida

EG – Es Grau
F - Fornells
MG – Matchani Gran
R – Rafalet Cove
SB – Son Bou
SR – Sa Roca
T – Tirant
TG – Torre d'en Gaumes

BIRDS

Dabchick	AL EG
Great crested grebe	EG
Cormorant	EG AL
Mediterranean shag	CdC F
Spoonbill	EG
Cattle egret	T SB
Little egret	EG SB AL T
Great white egret	EG AL
Grey heron	SB AL EG
Purple heron	AL
Greater flamingo	EG
Teal	SB EG AL
Gadwall	SB EG AL
Mallard	
Shoveler	EG
Pochard	EG
Red-crested pochard	EG
Red kite	
Egyptian vulture	
Marsh harrier	EG
Booted eagle	
Common kestrel	
Hobby	BC
Peregrine	F
Red-legged partridge	MG
Water rail	EG T
Moorhen	SB EG AL BL
Coot	SB EG AL
Stone-curlew	MG TG
Black-winged stilt	AL
Redshank	SB
Greenshank	SB AL
Common sandpiper	EG AL
Green sandpiper	SB AL
Snipe	T EG
Audouin's gull	EG CG CdC F
Black-headed gull	AL
Yellow-legged gull	

Rock dove	R AL AG CC
Feral pigeon	
Woodpigeon	
Turtle dove	AG
Collared dove	
Alpine swift	CG
Scops owl	MG
Kingfisher	EG BL AL
Hoopoe	MG
Thekla lark	Widespread in very small numbers; seems scarcer than in the past
Swallow	SB
Grey wagtail	AG
Robin	
Stonechat	T AL
Blue rock thrush	AG F
Blackbird	
Song thrush	AL
Zitting cisticola	EG T
Cetti's warbler	
Sardinian warbler	
Blackcap	R AL CC
Chiffchaff	MG
Goldcrest	SR
Great tit	
Raven	
Starling	T
House sparrow	
Chaffinch	SR T
Greenfinch	
Goldfinch	
Linnet	MG CdC
Corn bunting	Occasional while driving, seemingly much reduced in last few years

PLANTS IN FLOWER		
<i>Ampelodesmus mauritanicus</i>		
<i>Arbutus unedo</i>	Strawberry-tree	SR AL
<i>Artemisia caerulescens</i>		EG
<i>Artemisia gallica</i>		B
<i>Arundo donax</i>	Giant reed	
<i>Asparagus acutifolius</i>		
<i>Asparagus albus</i>		
<i>Aster tripolium</i> ssp. <i>pannonicus</i>	Sea aster	EG
<i>Atriplex portulacoides</i>	Sea-purslane	SB AL EG
<i>Bellis sylvestris</i>	Large daisy	
<i>Cakile maritima</i>	Sea-rocket	EG
<i>Calamintha sylvatica ascendens</i>	Catmint	AG
<i>Calendula arvensis</i>	Field marigold	
<i>Calicotome spinosa</i>	Spiny broom	EG
<i>Centaurea aspera</i>	Rough star-thistle	BL
<i>Chelidonium majus</i>	Greater celandine	AG
<i>Clematis flammula</i>		BL
<i>Crithmum maritimum</i>	Rock samphire	
<i>Dittrichia graveolens</i>		
<i>Dittrichia viscosa</i>	Stink aster	
<i>Ecballium elaterium</i>	Squirting cucumber	MG
<i>Erica multiflora</i>	Mediterranean tree-heath	
<i>Erodium malacoides</i>	Mediterranean stork's-bill	SB
<i>Euphorbia paralias</i>	Sea spurge	BL EG
<i>Glaucium flavum</i>	Yellow horned-poppy	BL
<i>Hedera helix</i>	Ivy	AG
<i>Heliotropium europaeum</i>		MG TG
<i>Hyoseris radiata</i>		CdC
<i>Inula crithmoides</i>	Golden samphire	SB AL EG CC
<i>Juncus acutus</i>	Sharp rush	SB AL EG
<i>Lagurus ovatus</i>	Hare's-foot grass	SB EG
<i>Leontodon tuberosus</i>		
<i>Limonium ferulaceum</i>		SB EG
<i>Limonium minutum</i>		CdC B
<i>Lobularia maritima</i>	Sweet Alison	
<i>Lonicera implexa</i>		EG
<i>Lotus cytisoides</i>		SB
<i>Matthiola sinuata</i>	Sea stock	BL
<i>Narcissus obsoletus</i>	Autumn daffodil	MG B EG CC
<i>Nothoscordium borbonicum</i>	Honeybells	AL
<i>Pancratium maritimum</i>	Sand daffodil	SB EG BL
<i>Phytolacca americana</i>	Pokeweed	AG
<i>Plantago crassifolia</i>		AL
<i>Plantago lagopus</i>		
<i>Polygonum maritimum</i>	Sea knotgrass	SB
<i>Reichardia tingitanus</i>		
<i>Rosmarinus officinalis</i>	Rosemary	SR
<i>Rosmarinus officinalis</i> var. <i>palaui</i>	Menorcan rosemary	CdC
<i>Ruscus aculeatus</i>	Butcher's-broom	R EG
<i>Salsola kali</i>	Prickly saltwort	EG
<i>Salvia verbenaca</i>	Wild clary	BL
<i>Scabiosa maritima</i>		SB BL AL
<i>Scirpus maritimus</i>	Sea club-rush	EG
<i>Smilax aspera</i>		
<i>Solanum bonariense</i>		CC
<i>Sonchus tenerrimus</i>	Mediterranean sow-thistle	
<i>Spergularia media</i>	Greater sea-spurrey	AL
<i>Typha domingensis</i>	Lesser reedmace	SB
<i>Urginea maritima</i>	Sea squill	EG MG
<i>Verbascum sinuatum</i>	Wavyleaf mullein	MG

PLANTS IN FRUIT		
<i>Arbutus unedo</i>	Strawberry-tree	SR AL
<i>Arum italicum</i>	Large cuckoo-pint	AG
<i>Asphodelus aestivus</i>	White asphodel	
<i>Asparagus acutifolius</i>		
<i>Asparagus albus</i>		
<i>Carlina corymbosa</i>		
<i>Clematis flammula</i>		EG
<i>Daucus hispanica</i>		
<i>Ephedra fragilis</i>	Joint-pine	EG BL
<i>Eryngium maritimum</i>	Sea-holly	SB EG BL
<i>Ferula communis</i>	Giant fennel	
<i>Ficus carica</i>	Fig	
<i>Foeniculum vulgare</i>	Fennel	
<i>Juniperus phoenicea</i>	Phoenician juniper	
<i>Olea europaea</i>	Olive	
<i>Pancratium maritimum</i>	Sand daffodil	SB EG BL
<i>Phillyrea angustifolia</i>		
<i>Phillyrea latifolia</i>		
<i>Phillyrea media</i> var. <i>rodriguezii</i>		CdC
<i>Phytolacca americana</i>	Pokeweed	AG
<i>Pinus halepensis</i>	Aleppo pine	
<i>Pinus pinea</i>	Umbrella pine	B
<i>Pistacia lentiscus</i>	Lentisc	
<i>Punica granatum</i>	Pomegranate	B
<i>Quercus ilex</i>	Holm oak	
<i>Rhamnus alaternus</i>	Mediterranean buckthorn	
<i>Rubia peregrina</i>	Wild madder	
<i>Ruscus aculeatus</i>	Butcher's-broom	MG R
<i>Smilax aspera</i>		
<i>Teucrium subspinosum</i>		
<i>Xanthium strumarium</i>	Cocklebur	EG

OTHER INTERESTING PLANTS		
<i>Adiantum capillus-veneris</i>	Maidenhair fern	AG
<i>Arthrocnemum macrostachyum</i>		
<i>Arisarum vulgare</i>	Friar's cowl	
<i>Asparagus acutifolius</i>		
<i>Asparagus albus</i>		
<i>Asparagus horridus</i>		
<i>Asplenium onopteris</i>	Western black spleenwort	AG
<i>Asplenium sagittata</i>	Mediterranean hart's-tongue fern	AG
<i>Astragalus balearicus</i>		CdC CF
<i>Calystegia soldanella</i>	Sea bindweed	EG
<i>Capparis spinosa</i>	Caper	
<i>Cistus albidus</i>		
<i>Cistus monspeliensis</i>		
<i>Cistus salvifolius</i>		
<i>Clematis cirrhosa</i>	Maiden's bower	
<i>Crucianella maritima</i>		SB
<i>Digitalis dubia</i>	Dwarf foxglove	CdC
<i>Dorycnium fulgurans</i>		CdC CF
<i>Equisetum telmateia</i>	Great horsetail	
<i>Euphorbia dendroides</i>	Tree spurge	EG
<i>Launaea cervicornis</i>	Hedgehog lettuce	CdC CF
<i>Polypodium cambricum</i>	Southern polypody	CC
<i>Posidonia oceanica</i>	Neptune-weed	
<i>Pteridium aquilinum</i>	Bracken	SR AG
<i>Salicornia ramossisimum</i>	Glasswort	SB AL EG CF
<i>Sarcocornia fruticosa</i>	Shrubby glasswort	SB AL EG
<i>Sarcocornia perennis</i>	Perennial glasswort	SB AL EG
<i>Suaeda vera</i>	Shrubby sea-blite	EG AL

NOTABLE CULTIVATED PLANT SPECIES (INCOMPLETE)		
<i>Agave americana</i>	<i>Aptenia cordifolia</i>	<i>Bougainvillea spectabilis</i>
<i>Hibiscus rosa-sinensis</i>	<i>Ipomoea indica</i>	<i>Lantana camara</i>
<i>Nerium oleander</i>	<i>Phytolacca arborea</i>	<i>Plumbago auriculata</i>
<i>Tecomaria capensis</i>		
LIVERWORTS		
<i>Lunularia cruciata</i>		AG
LICHENS		
<i>Cladonia foliacea</i>	<i>Evernia prunastri</i>	
<i>Ramalina siliquosa</i> Sea ivory	<i>Xanthoria parietina</i> Starburst lichen	
FUNGI		
<i>Clathrus ruber</i>	Cage fungus	EG
<i>Fomitopsis pinicola</i>	Pine bracket	MG
<i>Inocutis tamaricis</i>	Tamarisk bracket	CM EG

LEPIDOPTERA		
Butterflies		
Swallowtail		
Large white		
Small white		
Bath white		EG
Clouded yellow		
Cleopatra		
Wall brown incl form <i>paramegera</i>		
Speckled wood form <i>aegeria</i>		
Small heath		AG TG
Red admiral		
Painted lady		
Two-tailed pasha		SR
Lang's short-tailed blue		
Long-tailed blue		BL
Common blue		
Southern brown argus		
Holly blue		
Small copper		
Macromoths		
Vestal		
Small dusty wave		MG
Dark fern		MG
Ruddy carpet		MG
Coppery taupe		MG
Spurge hawk-moth	caterpillar	SB
Convolvulus hawk-moth	caterpillar	AG
Hummingbird hawk-moth		
Crimson speckled		
Pygmy footman		MG
Silver Y		
Dark dagger	caterpillar	AG
Cream drab		AL
Scarce bordered straw		MG BL
<i>Zebeeba falsalis</i>		MG
Micromoths		
<i>Acalyptis minimella</i>	mines on lentisc	
<i>Agdistis neglecta</i>		MG
<i>Choreutis nemorana</i>	Fig-leaf skeletonizer mines on fig	MG
<i>Spoladea recurvalis</i>	Beet webworm	MG
<i>Dolicharthria bruguieralis</i>		MG
<i>Oegoconia</i> sp.		MG
<i>Pyrallis farinalis</i>	Meal moth	MG
<i>Duponchelia fovealis</i>		MG

OTHER INVERTEBRATES	
Dragonflies & Damselflies	
Lesser emperor	<i>Anax parthenope</i>
Migrant hawk	<i>Aeshna mixta</i>
Southern migrant hawk	<i>Aeshna affinis</i>
Scarlet darter	<i>Crocothemis erythraea</i>
Red-veined darter	<i>Sympetrum fonscolombei</i>
Common darter	<i>Sympetrum striolatum</i>
Southern darter	<i>Sympetrum meridionale</i>
Keeled skimmer	<i>Orthetrum coerulescens</i>
Mediterranean demoiselle	<i>Calopteryx haemorrhoidalis</i>
Blue-tailed damselfly	<i>Ischnura elegans</i>
Scarce blue-tailed damselfly	<i>Ischnura pumilio</i>
Western willow emerald	<i>Lestes viridis</i>
Small red damselfly	<i>Ceriagrion tenellum</i>
Grasshoppers & Crickets	
Egyptian locust	<i>Anacridium aegyptiacum</i>
Striped grasshopper	<i>Calliptamus barbarus</i>
Red-winged grasshopper	<i>Oedipoda miniata</i>
Southern sickle-bearer	<i>Phaneroptera nana</i>
Tree-cricket	<i>Oecanthus pellucens</i>
Field cricket	<i>Gryllus campestris</i>
Wood cricket	<i>Nemobius sylvestis</i>
Mantises	
European dwarf mantis	<i>Ameles spallanzania</i>
Praying mantis	<i>Mantis religiosa</i>
True Bugs	
<i>Carpocoris fuscispinus</i>	A brown shield-bug
<i>Nezara viridula</i>	Southern green shield-bug
<i>Graphosoma italicum</i>	Millwall bug
<i>Acrosternum heegeri</i>	A green shield-bug
<i>Codophila varia</i>	A greyish shield-bug
<i>Eysarcoris ventralis</i>	White-spotted shield-bug
<i>Plinachtus imitator</i>	Pistachia bug
<i>Centrocoris variegatus</i>	Nightjar bug
<i>Spilostethus pandurus</i>	A red-and-black ground bug
<i>Pyrrhocoris apterus</i>	Fire-bug
<i>Cicidius</i> sp.	A lacehopper
<i>Aploneura lentisci</i>	Aphid bean gall on <i>Pistacia</i>
<i>Forda marginata</i>	Aphid twisted leaf gall on <i>Pistacia</i>
<i>Eriosomatinae</i>	Woolly aphid on <i>Phillyrea</i>
<i>Ceroplastes</i> sp.	Pink wax scale-insect
<i>Dactylopius coccus</i>	Prickly-pear scale-insect
<i>Icerya purchasi</i>	Cottony cushion-scale
<i>Coccus hesperidum</i>	Brown soft-scale
Beetles	
<i>Coniocleonus nigrosuturatus</i>	A big weevil with chevrons
<i>Blaps gigas</i>	Large churchyard beetle
<i>Coccinella septempunctata</i>	7-spot ladybird
<i>Diadisa testacea</i>	Cistus hedgehog-beetle
<i>Timarcha balearica</i>	Balearic bloody-nosed beetle
<i>Protaetia cuprea</i>	Coppery chafer (not recorded for Balearics in <i>Fauna Europaea</i>)
Flies	
<i>Dryomyia lichtensteinii</i>	A gall on holm oak leaves
<i>Machimus</i> cf. <i>rusticus</i>	A robber-fly
<i>Villa hottentota</i>	A bee-fly

Bees, Wasps & an Ant	
<i>Xylocopa violacea</i>	Violet carpenter-bee
<i>Sceliphron spirifex</i>	Thread-waisted wasp
<i>Bombus lucorum</i>	White-tailed bumblebee
<i>Polistes gallicus</i>	Paper wasp
<i>Ectemnius continuus</i>	Square-headed wasp
<i>Eumenes coarctatus</i>	A potter wasp (nest)
<i>Apis mellifera</i>	Honeybee
<i>Colletes halophilus</i>	Aster mining-bee
<i>Amegilla quadrifasciata</i>	White-banded mining-bee
<i>Megachile centuncularis</i>	Common leaf-cutter (excisions)
<i>Megachile</i> sp.	A leaf-cutter, visiting flowers of golden samphire
<i>Messor barbarus</i>	A black, seed-eating ant



Potter wasp nest (ED) and Balearic green toad (CG).

Arachnids	
<i>Euscorpius balearicus</i>	Balearic scorpion
<i>Araneus diadematus</i>	Garden spider
<i>Araneus angulatum</i>	Humped spider
<i>Cyrtophora citricola</i>	Cage-web spider
<i>Cyclosa</i> sp.	Tidy spider
<i>Argiope trifasciata</i>	Large wasp spider
<i>Argiope bruennichi</i>	Wasp spider
<i>Carrhotus xanthogramma</i>	A jumping spider
<i>Menemerus semilimbatus</i>	Muppet spider
Centipedes	
<i>Scutigera coleoptrata</i>	A long-legged centipede
Molluscs	
<i>Clausilia</i> sp.	
MAMMALS	
Rabbit	
Pine marten	Scats only
Algerian hedgehog	Road casualties
Common pipistrelle	MG
Kuhl's pipistrelle	MG
Serotine	MG
REPTILES	
Hermann's tortoise	
European pond terrapin	EG
Italian wall lizard	
Moorish gecko	
Turkish gecko	
AMPHIBIANS	
Balearic green toad	MG
Stripeless tree-frog(heard)	EG AL
FISH	
Thick-lipped grey mullet	EG AL