

# *Honeyguide*

**WILDLIFE HOLIDAYS**

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**Discovering Menorca**  
**13 – 20 April 2005**

## Discovering Menorca 13 – 20 April 2005

### Participants

Bob Harris	Norfolk
Pam Harris	
Peter Crook	Norfolk
Elonwy Crook	
Barbara Hughes	Cambridge
Geoff Firth	Bradford
Angela Shoulder	

### Leaders

Robin and Rachel Hamilton	Suffolk
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### Our hosts at Matchani Gran

Shaun and Jenny Murphy

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

As with all Honeyguide holidays, £25 of the price of the holiday was put towards a conservation project, in this case for GOB's work in Menorca.

The conservation contribution this year of £25 per person was supplemented in two ways. Firstly, by gift aid through the new Honeyguide Wildlife Charitable Trust. Secondly, by a donation of £200 from Roger Jordan and friends in the Wildlife Outreach Network based in Essex, leading to a total of €575 (£403).

This donation brings the total to £5653 contributed to GOB by Honeyguide holidays in the Balearics. A thank-you letter from GOB appears at the end of this report (*but not in this web version of the report*).

The conservation contributions from all Honeyguide holidays totalled £33,330 at the end of 2004 and will be in the region of £38,000 by the end of 2005.

This report was written by Robin and Rachel Hamilton.

*Front cover: osprey, little egret and black-winged stilt by Rob Hume.  
Black-winged stilts by Gary Wright. Other illustrations by Rob Hume.*

## ***Discovering Menorca, April 13-20th, 2005***

### ***Wednesday 13 April: Arrival and Matchani Gran***

It was drizzling and chilly at Luton Airport and the Mediterranean was very inviting! Encouragingly, the weather improved as we flew south and a warm, balmy breeze with clearing skies and wheeling yellow-legged gulls greeted us at Mahón Airport. Shaun and Jade were waiting to meet us, guide us to our minibuses and help with luggage, and ten minutes' drive took us to Matchani Gran. We had a welcoming complimentary drink at the bar, accompanied by the song of a nearby Cetti's warbler, and Shaun introduced us to Jenny, his wife, and to the delights of Matchani Gran. Lunch followed, a feast of salads and quiches, our first taste of Jenny's superb cooking.

The sun was shining after lunch and we began to explore the rich natural history of our immediate surroundings. The brilliant diversity of flowers that fill the rough pasture around the farmhouse is quite breathtaking: tall spikes of pink asphodel, bright patches of scarlet pimpernel – in both the scarlet and the blue forms, little pyramids of tassel hyacinth, tiny buttons of annual daisy, silver dots of *Evax pygmaea*, patches of soft pink starry clover and, in the shelter of the asphodel and mastic bushes, groups of toothed, mirror and sawfly orchids and the curious flowers of friar's cowl. We watched a little drama as three dung beetles attempted to roll a ball of dung the size of a golf ball. Sardinian warblers soon became familiar as they sang their characteristic scratchy song from among the asphodel. Greenfinches, goldfinches, corn buntings and linnets were everywhere and we were delighted to see a welcome pair of swallows and, hearing the distant call of a nightingale, to know that we were not too early for these migrants. We watched Thekla larks foraging among the stones and a family of young linnets being fed. Wheatears, tawny pipits and a whinchat showed themselves well on the stone walls.

Above us, the wheeling flight of the abundant yellow-legged gulls was soon familiar in all directions, ravens, in ones and twos, passed over from time to time and we were delighted when a group of raptors came into view: three black kites and a red. We watched them for a while in excellent light and had good views of their flight patterns and plumage. It was not long before we also had a good view of a dark-phase booted eagle and then, to our surprise, an Egyptian vulture flew over. Scanning the middle distance we were amazed and delighted by the remarkable sight of a flock of nine or ten lesser kestrels dipping and soaring, hawking for flying insects in the warm air. We watched them for many minutes as they exploited the air currents and food supply. Then they were joined by a pair of red kites before they all moved off. This was an exciting record for the island though they are seen there from time to time on migration.

The evening air began to cool so we met to discuss the afternoon's walk over a drink in the sitting room and then enjoyed the excellent fare of Matchani Gran before retiring for an early night, to the accompaniment of scops owls and stone-curlews.

### ***Thursday 14 April: Son Bou and Torre d'en Gaumes***

It was fine and clear as we set off for an early walk, with the promise of a bright, sunny day. A Cetti's warbler shouted from the bushes beside the house and a nightingale was in full song a little way up the drive. Further away we could hear the confusing medley of collared doves and a hoopoe calling together. Greenfinches were extremely abundant, singing from song-posts on bushes, asphodel stalks, walls, trees or wires and we watched a goldfinch winding threads of gossamer into the beginning of a nest, precariously poised at the tip of a pine branch. A brilliant flash of black and white attracted our attention to a smart male pied flycatcher feeding low among the trunks of the beautiful Aleppo pines that flank the drive to Matchani Gran.

At breakfast, a fine selection of fruit, fruit juices, yoghurts and local breads, we were brought a victim of the house moggy. It was a male wheatear, apparently only shaken, not damaged, and it soon recovered and flew off from the balcony.

The group gathered at the minibuses for Shaun to take our orders for dinner from the astonishingly varied and appetising menu - difficult decisions after so good a breakfast! Our first visit was to Son Bou, a large sand dune and coastal wetland complex on the south coast of the island, in sharp contrast to the landscape around Matchani Gran. Even *en route*, the birds were very visible: people caught sight of hoopoe, stonechat and tawny pipit and all along our route the tinkling scratch of corn bunting song came to us from male birds perched on telegraph wires beside the road.

We climbed through the sand dunes, bright with huge patches of the yellow-flowered sea medick and bird's foot trefoil (*Lotus creticus* and *Lotus cytisoides*) and bushes of mastic tree, Phoenician juniper

and tamarisk, ideal song perches for Sardinian warblers and stonechats. Emerging onto the beach we watched yellow-legged gulls strutting about and a separate group of gulls on a distant rock caught our eye. With telescopes we could easily distinguish the red bills of Audouin's gulls and soon their restless jostling brought them much closer and easy to see. Out at sea, we could see distant Cory's shearwaters casting elegantly backwards and forwards, low over the waves, but they refused to come close enough for a clear view. There were distant views of shags too, probably of the pale, rather cormorant-like Mediterranean race. We scrambled back through the dunes, admiring the strange 'sea balls', doormat-like remnants of *Posidonia* rhizomes, cast up on the strand-line, and noting the familiar sand dune plants – marram grass, sea holly and sea rocket – alongside the leaves of the late-summer flowering sand daffodil, *Pancratium*.

From the crest of the dunes there is a fine view across a large expanse of reed bed and network of brackish lagoons. There we watched mallard and coot, both with young. There were little egrets flying around and feeding and we saw several long fly-pasts of purple heron. A black-winged stilt was strutting about, feeding, near to a pair of shovelers and the appearance of a pair of marsh harriers struck alarm all round with mallard, teal, egrets and the stilt all taking to the air. We looked across at the cliffs and watched a distant booted eagle taking advantage of the thermals in the increasing temperature.

We enjoyed a drink in the sunshine at the beachside bar and then sat and picnicked under the pines, sharing crumbs with house sparrows and chaffinches and surrounded by spectacular clumps of tree mallow and giant fennel.

After lunch and a short drive, we reached one of Menorca's best-preserved archaeological sites, Torre d'en Gaumes. The stone monument is constructed on a hilltop with fine views over the island and exploring it takes the visitor on a gentle walk up and around the complex of Bronze Age stone mounds, roadways and excavations. The flowers among the stone walls are very attractive, with pale periwinkle, *Prasium majus* (deadnettle family), *Bellardia trixago* (foxglove family), various vetches, poppies and dog daisies making a colourful display. There were butterflies about too: the bright continental race of the speckled wood, a brimstone and soon after, obligingly for the contrast, both male and female Cleopatras. A few swallows were feeding above us and then suddenly the air was filled with a flock of swifts, passing through on migration. The high vantage point gave us some lovely views of raptors: four Egyptian vultures, a booted eagle (both pictured right) being mobbed by a yellow-legged gull and then a very close and leisurely red kite.



We returned to Matchani Gran in time for a shower and a drink before an excellent talk by local historian John Seymour. He brought to life the extraordinary and dramatic history of this tiny island, setting the scene perfectly for our explorations, ranging as it did, in an amazingly succinct and lucid way, over everything from the nature and origins of the prehistoric stone monuments such as the one we had visited earlier in the day through to the evidence of recent invasions and colonisations, and the antics of the current wave of British 'ex-pats'.

#### **Friday 15 April: Es Mercadal Depuradora, Tirant and Cap de Cavalleria**

The before-breakfast party turned into the first stony field to watch the usual assemblage of local birds. Greenfinches predominated, with a few Sardinian warblers, Thekla larks and pipits. The birds were generally quiet though and breakfast was very inviting.

The second excursion of the week took us to the north side of the island, intending to give the group a good general idea of its geography as early in the week as possible. We followed the Kane Road, the eighteenth century road built originally by the first British governor of the island, Richard Kane. It is now a quiet, though pot-holed alternative to the new main road that connects the principal cities of Mahón the current capital, in the east, and the former capital Ciutadella, in the west. Much of the route runs close to the boundary of the two main geographical halves of the island: the arid limestone plateau in the south and the more complex and hillier north, where areas of fertile agricultural land and occasional acid woodland flank the road.

Our first stop was at a water treatment plant – *depuradora* – near to the little town of Es Mercadal. It has become known as a regular spot for waders and other migrants but this time it was undergoing some serious development with portakabins in evidence and diggers active. Nevertheless, a pair of little ringed plovers was steadfastly coping with the disturbance and seemed to be sitting on a nest and we had good views of wood sandpipers as well as common sandpipers scuttling among the stones at the water's edge. There was a very nice tawny pipit in repeated song-flights from the walls and bushes in the field behind us and a distant booted eagle enjoyed the thermals above the hill.

A little farther on, through winding lanes with steep banks of Spanish broom, Italian sainfoin and the attractive sulphur yellow daisy, *Urospermum dalechampii* we came in view of the expanse of wetland at Tirant. We immediately caught sight of grey herons and little egrets in the vast reed- and rush-beds but the narrow lane would not allow for stopping so we drove onto the track that intersects the area. Then it became clear that the area itself was uncharacteristically dry, with almost no open water; the few water birds were crammed into a small area in the centre. We watched coot and mallard perched in line on a stone wall with grey heron and little egret wading around them and foraging in pools among the tamarisk bushes. A nightingale was giving a high quality performance from a bush beside the track and after a while, many of the group managed a good view of him. Cetti's warblers were holding territory around us and the first woodchat shrike of the week exhibited himself obligingly in very good light on the bushes behind. In a clump of rushes beside the road we found no fewer than four of the strikingly garish green stripeless tree frogs.

To the north of Tirant, the coastline juts out into the sea in a long, rocky promontory, the Cap de Cavalleria, our next destination. We stopped briefly at the visitor centre and while some of the party took advantage of the facilities offered, others remained with the minibuses and scanned the surroundings for interesting birds. No one was quite prepared for the sight of a great spotted cuckoo apparently asleep in full view on the branch of a large willow tree. He waited motionless for everyone to see him well through the telescope: an unusual visitor, resting here on migration – definitely the sight of the week for some of us. The road passed close to the great spotted cuckoo's willow tree and there were some muddy pools where we watched a little egret prowling about looking for food, a night heron asleep and some of us had a good view of a redstart.

As you drive out along the promontory the landscape becomes more rocky and inhospitable, with evidence of the bleak conditions and the vulnerability to the *Tramuntana*, the cold, salt-laden northerly winds. The huge grass *Ampelodesmos mauritanicus* dominates large areas and it is surprising to see how many birds are able to take advantage of these conditions. We saw several pairs of stonechats and wheatears and were delighted by a number of blue rock thrushes, singing their charming song from song-perches on the rocks.

For our picnic, we selected a sunny and sheltered vantage point at the tip of the Cap, beneath the lighthouse. The blue rock thrushes continued to serenade us and from there we were able to look out to sea and watch the sea birds. Several Mediterranean shags were on the water beneath and well placed for us to distinguish their colour. Mediterranean (Balearic) shearwaters were moving backwards and forwards across the sea in front of us or landing in flotillas a little off shore. On the cliff across the little bay we were able to watch a colony of yellow-legged gulls with several birds sitting on their nests and others showing an enterprising interest in our picnic.

After lunch, we took a circuitous route back to the minibuses admiring the tenacity with which the vegetation endured the harsh conditions. In a sheltered corner we found a large specimen of the spectacular dragon arum, a Balearic endemic, with its huge greenish-purple spathe, and then a large number of smaller plants of it managing to survive in the shelter of some thorny shrubs. The Menorcan name for the highly adapted, prickly cushion-forming species that inhabit this environment, where they need to be resistant to water loss and to grazing, is *socarrells*. In addition, there were tiny sea lavenders, the fleshy, dwarf, pink-flowered daisy *Senecio rodriguezii* and the fine twisted leaves of *Romulea*.

Our return drive was rewarding from the bird point of view: four black kites, a booted eagle and a marsh harrier, and we arrived back at Matchani Gran in warm sunshine. There was time for a shower before we reviewed the day's sightings over a drink on the terrace by the bar and repaired upstairs for a very welcome and delicious dinner.

***Saturday April 16: Mahón and S'Albufera Es Grau***

The morning light was hazy, with the optimistic feel of a fine day ahead. Several people had heard scops owls calling during the night and as we stood in the drive we could hear two distant hoopoes calling in syncopation. We set off to stroll through the fields to the south of the house and picked up the song of a nightingale from some way off. A stone-curlew alerted us by its wild call and we watched while two more flew around over a neighbouring field, clearly disturbed by something. We watched for some time as a pied flycatcher fed around the low branches of a hawthorn bush and then were distracted by a pair of tawny pipits displaying on the stone walls nearby. An excellent view of three Thekla larks feeding among the stones brought us satisfactorily to breakfast time.

The elegant Georgian city and harbour of Mahón are worth exploring on any day, and there are various market stalls both in the open and in several of the special market halls. The group separated for everyone to follow their own particular interests but many of us drifted into the fish market which was in full swing with a mind-boggling array of Mediterranean sea food. After appropriate coffee-stops, photography and souvenir and postcard-buying, we convened at the minibuses and enjoyed the unlikely spectacle of a party of Audouin's gulls – one of Europe's rarest – coming down almost to the hand, for bread crumbs.

On our way back to Matchani Gran for another of Jenny's mouth-watering quiche lunches we stopped at a local pottery. A friend of Shaun's runs a shop that specialises in the typical brightly decorated terra cotta of the region. Some good trade in mementoes and holiday gifts ensued!

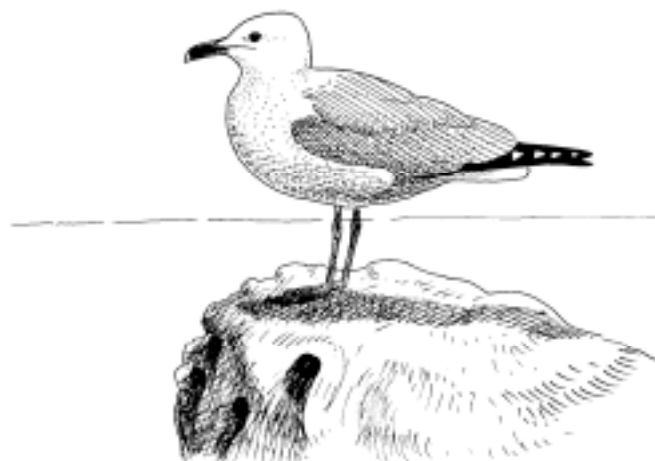
After lunch, in warm Mediterranean sunshine and with the sky full of swifts and swallows (and a solitary house martin), we headed in a new direction, towards the north east coast of the island. Here, there is a remarkable coastal nature reserve close to the holiday development of Shangri La. The reserve, S'Albufera Es Grau, the first on the island, was created to protect a beautiful coastal inlet with saltmarsh, lakes and woodland, from the advances of development. The development was halted in its tracks and some of the road network, laid out in the early stages, remains as a reminder that wisdom does sometimes prevail, if only at the last minute.

We parked briefly at a little cove on the edge of the village where we were able to see a dense bed of *Posidonia*, the sea grass whose broken rhizomes had intrigued us on the first day. There was a black-winged stilt, unconcerned by the children playing at the water's edge, strutting about and feeding in the shallows. We soon moved off though, to park near the entrance to the reserve. It is well served by access and information – important for the protection of the fragile saltmarsh habitat. We followed a boardwalk that takes visitors deep into the marsh. There, familiar saltmarsh plants such as sea purslane, marsh samphire and sea wormwood are joined by their southern counterparts, often much larger and shrubbier species of the same genera. Dragonflies and damselflies were active over the marsh as we headed for a rocky hillock that gives good views over the rest of the reserve. The steep climb through fragrant thorny broom and cistus bushes took us to a viewpoint from which we watched a purple heron, the inevitable yellow-legged gulls, mallard, moorhen and coot, a small group of dabchicks and, in the distance against the rushes, a group of four black-necked grebes. After a further stretch of boardwalk we reached a sandy Aleppo pine wood, with the high-pitched calls of tits and firecrests and a young male pied flycatcher using a rotten tree as a perch, repeatedly foraging from it after insects. Out on the sunny hillside once more, we were surrounded by colour: three cistus species – pink and white, the bright citrus yellow of the tree spurge *Euphorbia dendroides*, golden yellow bird's foot trefoils and medicks, mirror, sawfly and bumblebee orchids and all punctuated with the blue of tassel hyacinths. The butterflies and other insects were active. The low-growing flowers were alive with bees and we had the chance of a good look at both Adonis and common blues and several southern speckled woods.

The evening was beginning to cool down so we took our drinks upstairs to review the day's sightings in the comfort of the sitting room and then enjoyed another excellent and leisurely dinner.

### ***Sunday April 17: Ciutadella, Naveta d'es Tudons, the Algendar Gorge and Es Castell***

Several of the early risers reported not only scops owl but also particularly noisy stone-curlews during the night and as we assembled at the end of the drive, the nightingale was in full song from the bushes



close by. While we were enjoying the concert, our attention was drawn to the white flash of a male pied flycatcher as it fed from the low pine branches. We walked through the gate into the bottom field and could hear stone-curlews calling ahead of us. As usual, greenfinches were singing from every vantage point and we could hear a distant hoopoe. There were more pied flycatchers to watch as we rounded the back of the farm buildings, this time a female and a young male, feeding around the low branches of a fig tree and we could hear the soft song of a wood warbler – a bird passing through on migration. As we returned to the house for breakfast, yet another male pied flycatcher showed itself.

Today it was the turn of the western end of the island for exploration. We set off in sunshine but with a rising wind and, passing two nice woodchat shrikes on the way, took the main road towards the old capital, Ciutadella. Here, we separated for an hour, for sight-seeing, coffee and a souvenir ‘opportunity’; some of the party returned having been watching Audouin’s gulls with young in the harbour.

Back on the main road we soon arrived at the spectacularly constructed stone monument, the Naveta d'es Tudons. This is shaped like an upturned boat, with a crawl-entrance at one end. It was a burial chamber and inside, there is an upper storey where bones were stored above the more recently dead below. Today, it is well restored and fully sanitised and it is interesting to crawl inside and marvel at the complex structure of the stone roof. Sheltering from the wind, with our backs to the Naveta, we watched Egyptian vultures and black kites and had a very good view of a tawny pipit. The monument is surrounded by arable fields and rocky outcrops and we enjoyed foraging for arable weeds: field poppies, corn marigolds, weasel’s snout, catchflies, clovers and vetches in the rough fields and for orchids: mirror, sawfly and bumblebee, among the rocks and the rosemary and cistus bushes.

We decided to head for the coast for lunch. It was still windy but the sun was very hot and a *mirador* or viewpoint above the resort of Cala Galdana provided a sheltered and sunny picnic spot, with a view over the sea to the hills of Mallorca in the distance. A pair of chaffinches seemed keen to share our lunch and yellow-legged gulls were never far away. The dwarfed cistus bushes on the cliff top beside us were attracting green hairstreak butterflies – near enough, still enough and plentiful enough for several people to photograph them. Vigilance was rewarded too, just before we packed up to go, by a very good sight of two alpine swifts, whirling around and above us feeding on the insects carried on the up-draughts from the cliff.

From the *mirador* we drove down the winding lane, between smart holiday villas, to one of the best examples of the limestone gorges, or *barrancas*, that are typical of the southern part of the island. They are carved by ancient streams deep into the limestone plateau and provide an environment that is sheltered and humid, quite unlike the arid landscape above.

At the entrance to the gorge, in a pool at the foot of the cliff, we watched two little egrets feeding at the edge of the water, the brightness of their plumage making them easy targets for our binoculars and telescopes. In contrast, among the rushes, a wood sandpiper proved tantalisingly difficult to see, though in the end everyone had at least a brief view of it. Over the water there was a constant swirling of hirundines, swallows, house martins and sand martins, and we kept a persistent but fruitless vigil for red-rumped swallows. Our walk took us along the bottom of the gorge, beside a small stream, a shadow of the watercourse that must have originally carved the ravine.



One of the first features that strikes a naturalist is the holm oak dominating the woodland slopes in contrast to the wild olive woods of the plateau. We could hear blackcaps singing and blue and great tits calling from the treetops. Firecrests were singing incessantly and we watched goldfinches flying high across the path above us. Beside the stream, from the willow scrub and reeds, we could hear nightingales and sedge and Cetti’s warblers. The fields beside the river were rich with butterflies. We had some good views of several Cleopatras (*left*), clouded yellows and large whites and there were many southern speckled woods about on the brambles and hazel. As

we walked up the valley the swallows and martins were joined by parties of swifts and the occasional alpine swift. From the cliffs above us, ravens called and we could watch their slightly lumbering flight across the strip of open sky. A red kite flew over and we watched for several minutes as a woodchat shrike made numerous attempts to catch insects from the low branch of an oak. We first heard, and then saw, a fine male blue rock thrush singing from a rocky outcrop high above us on the steep slope.

We were just watching a gecko on a rock when someone spotted a hoopoe perched on a ledge ahead. Through binoculars we could identify that it had its next meal – apparently a large lizard – in its beak, somewhat precariously held. We watched the struggle for a little and so, it seems, did a kestrel. The kestrel alighted on the ledge beside the hoopoe and unceremoniously stole its lizard. The hoopoe flew away but then quickly returned, standing a little way off. It looked crossly at the kestrel and we thought it was psyching itself up for a challenge. It evidently knew it wasn't a match for the kestrel though and eventually gave up and flew away in disgust. While we were absorbed in this little drama we realised that we had failed to notice a young Egyptian vulture perched on a rock a little farther away. The Algendar Gorge is one of the principal breeding areas for the species on the island. The vulture took off but as the wind was quite strong it was not altogether confident in flight. A parent bird appeared and followed protectively behind as the youngster kept trying to correct and then over-correct its balance and steering. It reminded us of an inexperienced tightrope walker and we almost expected it to tumble to earth in a flurry of flailing wings.



Some of the vegetation of the gorge is worthy of note as the woodland and cliff communities contrast sharply with those of the limestone plateau above. At the foot of the slope, the plants benefit from the moist shade and from the nutrients leaching down the slope, so brambles and nettles (*Urtica membranacea* not *U. dioica*) are abundant here, and spectacular specimens of Italian arum. Where the rock surfaces are exposed, ivy gains a hold and pellitory of the wall, navelwort and rock samphire are well established in crevices. On one cliff face we found a striking display of the purple hoary stock, *Matthiola incana* and beside the track, some beautiful bright carmine spikes of wild gladiolus.

Tonight, it was Shaun and Jenny's night off so we headed for Es Castell and the Bar España, a small and relaxed local restaurant. We left Matchani Gran in good time so that on the way we could explore the area around Punta Prima at the southeast corner of the island. A considerable amount of holiday development is happening there but we still encountered a hoopoe in very good view on a rooftop and paused near the shore to look across at one of the offshore islands, home to the Balearic lizard, *Podarcis lilfordi*, a Balearic endemic. The meal was delicious, with good local produce to tempt everyone. Back at Matchani Gran, both scops owls and stone-curlews were to be heard, their eerie night calls echoing across the fields.

### **Monday April 18: Montgofre Nou and Cap de Favàritx**

We woke to another fine and sunny morning and yesterday's wind had died away. We strolled down the drive, all the regular performers in full view: greenfinches and goldfinches, Sardinian warblers and nightingales. As we got closer to the nightingale we were amazed to see it singing, in full view, high on the top of a bush. We watched it, its beak opening and closing and the feathers on its throat trembling with the intensity of its song. It was undaunted by our presence: an exceptional exhibitionist. Other, less regular birds showed themselves too. We saw both chiffchaff and willow warbler, enabling a rather unscientific colour comparison. Two ravens flew over together and we had a clear view of the heavy bill and characteristic outline of the tail, and both a male redstart and a male pied flycatcher were feeding in the bushes beside the drive. As we returned to the house for breakfast we looked over the wall into the edge of the wood and there, trotting along, was a hedgehog. He was lively enough for us to see the characteristics of the Algerian hedgehog: his legs were longer so that he was taller off the ground than the hedgehogs in Britain, and his spines were distinctly blonder.

We headed north again today to visit Montgofre Nou, a large private nature reserve consisting of a series of abandoned saltpans at the head of an inlet on the north east coast. An expanse of rich meadowland with ditches and well developed hedges caught our eye on the way and we stopped, listening to quail calling from deep in the grasses, to a fan-tailed warbler (zitting cisticola) in its song flight – surprisingly, the first of the week, and to see both stonechat and whinchat about their business in the hedgerow. The clear white of a distant woodchat shrike stood out on the hillside beyond the meadow. We drove on, down the extremely rough sandy track that leads to Montgofre Nou. One of the minibuses came upon a ladder snake basking in the sunshine on the track. Nightingales were singing as we passed and as we drove in among the spectacular and complex sandstone, shale and



limestone hills of this side of the island, we began to hear and to see blue rock thrushes proclaiming their territory from high on their rocky songposts.

We were greeted at the entrance to the reserve by a male pied flycatcher – always attracting favourable attention from the group – and we paused to inspect the nest of pine processionary moths hanging from the branch of a rather worse-for-wear pine tree. As we walked along the track we could hear a whitethroat singing away, not a common bird on Menorca, and chaffinches singing and calling. As we rounded a bend and the first open water came into view we were amazed to see black-winged stilts everywhere. There were groups in all the pools and lagoons, feeding, preening, courting, squabbling or flying around calling. There were plenty of other waders too: two little ringed plovers scuttling about on the far bank, a greenshank towering over them. Three more greenshanks appeared later and we watched two wood sandpipers and a reeve, all working the shallows and the stony shore. Among the distant ducks we were surprised to see a pair of shelducks and we enjoyed the elegant flight of a pair of whiskered terns that flew close past us as we watched the activity around. A shout of ‘big bird of prey’ brought everyone’s attention to an osprey making a leisurely pass over the largest lake and then, to our delight, it came in more purposefully and we watched it catch a fish. It was joined by a second and later, while we were having our lunch by the track, by a third. Returning to the minibuses, our focus turned from the birds a little to enjoy the flowers: cistus, shrubby glasswort, Spanish broom, two species of *Dorycnium* and a lovely patch of sawfly orchids. Among the cistus were several green hairstreak butterflies and a stripeless tree frog.



We returned down the track and *en route* the leading minibus saw a swallowtail butterfly, an Egyptian locust and, crossing the track ahead of them, another ladder snake. When we reached the road, we continued along it to the startlingly bleak headland, Cap de Favàritx. The slates and shales that comprise the geology here make for conditions that are, if anything, harsher than at Cap de Cavalleria and the vegetation is even sparser. Large areas of scree are dominated by the Hottentot fig which comes in pink and yellow forms and was just coming into flower. It is not native here and can be very invasive but the conditions are so harsh that it is hard to imagine it becoming a problem. Among the native plants, we found tiny cushions of the diminutive sea lavender in the crevices and patches of sea heath growing flat on the surface of the amazingly fossiliferous shale.

We could see distant shearwaters in considerable numbers and while we were struggling to sort them out, a fine peregrine passed over us and circled round obligingly so that we could all have a good view. We scrambled over the rocks to a point where we could look out to sea and were rewarded by some very good views of the shearwaters, much closer in. There were groups of both Cory’s and Balearic, both flying and in flotillas on the water and the distinctions between the two were easy to establish. A small group of Mediterranean shags was swimming below us too. As we returned to the minibuses, we stopped to look at a small lagoon that has formed at a low point behind the headland where some tiny waders were running about and feeding at the water’s edge. They turned out to be a solitary little ringed plover and a pair of Kentish plovers, one of which soon gave up feeding and returned to her nest.

When we got back, Matchani Gran was still bathed in sunshine so we showered and then met on the bar terrace to go over the day’s records with a drink, before climbing the stairs for another of Jenny’s wonderful meals.

### ***Tuesday April 19: Monte Toro, Fornells and Sa Roca***

It was fine and clear for our morning stroll down the drive. There didn’t seem to be any migrants about except a single swift, but a Thekla lark performed well for us, posing first on a rock and then on

one of the wires. We watched a raven receiving very unwelcome attention from a kestrel: a prolonged mobbing of persistent dives from above and swoops from below. The goldfinches' nest that we had seen being started was apparently complete, the birds tucking in the last stray threads of gossamer as we watched and we noticed a strange white blob that had appeared on the trunk of one of the pines. A slime mould, looking like half a white egg pressed to the tree. We would return to inspect it again later!

Monte Toro (more correctly, simply *Toro*, hill), some 358m high, is the only substantial hill on Menorca. It rises, a symmetrical pimple, above the plateau that surrounds it, a landmark visible from every part of the island, drawing the eye and helping to orientate the traveller. So, conversely, it is an unsurpassed viewpoint from which to enjoy the view of the island – provided the visibility is good. Today, it was perfect, and made a grand beginning to our final day. We could identify almost all the places we had visited, the landmarks we had noticed and the routes we had taken, and we could point out our two final destinations. There is a good gift shop at the top, they make excellent coffee in the restaurant and the monastery chapel is a beautiful and serene building, well worth a visit. From the ramparts, we could look down on the wildlife. Swifts and swallows were flying below us, a blue rock thrush was feeding and occasionally singing among the scrub and rocks on the slope below, a swallowtail butterfly enjoyed itself among the flowers in the monastery garden and we were treated to a prolonged and spectacular flying display by a booted eagle, easy and comfortable to watch against the dark background of the woods below us.

We then drove north towards the peninsula of Fornells, our first stop being in sight of a series of abandoned salt pans at the edge of Fornells bay. It is not possible to get very close but with the aid of telescopes and binoculars we managed some good views of redshank, common sandpiper and Kentish plover all feeding at the edge of the salt pans, a shag perching on the end of a rocky promontory and a great white egret, a new bird for the week and a new species for many, wading through the shallows just offshore. We could hear stone-curlews and a nightingale behind us and a black kite flew by. Surprisingly, red kites had outnumbered black during the week, a sign perhaps that the careful and diplomatic conservation work that has been going on on the island on behalf of the red kite may be having an effect.

Our next stop was the far end of the Fornells peninsula, close to the Moorish tower. This is another very exposed place and, like Cap de Cavalleria, it consists of extremely permeable limestone. Already, some of the vegetation was drying up and, by the summer, little that was green would survive. Nevertheless, many dwarf, prickly, hairy or tiny-leaved plants do thrive there and the sea heath in particular was looking very pretty. We were there as much for the view and the landscape as for the birds but we did see a few Cory's shearwaters flying by, fairly close in. The inevitable, but always welcome, blue rock thrush was singing his charming little song and tawny pipits and Thekla larks were about.

The final destination of the week was a habitat that was new to the group, the Aleppo pine and holm oak woodland characteristic of the acid sandstone and shale soils. Sa Roca is part of the extensive tract of this woodland that extends northwards and eastwards from the slopes of Monte Toro. We had lunch first, under the shade of the pines and carefully avoiding treading on the orchids around us. The birds were not, perhaps, the primary interest here but the treetops were full of firecrests (some of the group getting a good view) and blackcap and nightingale were in full song. Pine processionary moth nests hung from many of the pine branches and from time to time, with sudden movement and noisy clattering, an Egyptian locust brought itself to our attention. One stayed still enough and close enough for us to look into its stripy eyes!

The open pine and oak woodland is very picturesque, particularly against a clear blue sky! We were drawn up the track, among tree heath and strawberry tree, scorpion vetch and stink aster. Three species of cistus were all in full flower, arousing envy in the gardeners among us: *Cistus albidus* (with large, pinkish mauve flowers), *C. monspeliensis* (with small white flowers) and *C. salvifolius* (with sage-like leaves and white flowers). The orchids were plentiful and diverse, too. There were fine and photogenic clumps of sawfly, mirror and bumblebee orchids and of small-flowered tongue orchids. The larger, more spectacular violet limodore was not yet out but its potential was clear from the scale of the spikes. At the top of the track we were delighted to add a new species of *Ophrys* to our tally for the week, the exciting and beautiful Balearic endemic, *Ophrys balearica*. Under many of the plants of the mauve Cistus we found little eruptions of the surprising parasitic plant, *Cytinus ruber*, attractive red and pink clusters of fleshy flowers, related to the giant tropical parasitic flower, *Rafflesia*.

For the final review of the week we took our drinks upstairs and then welcomed Santi Cachot from GOB, (*Grup Balear d'Ornitologia i Defensa de la Naturalesa*). GOB is the recipient of the support for local conservation work which is a characteristic of Honeyguide holidays and it was fascinating and encouraging to hear from Santi the range of work that they are able to undertake and also to hear of

some of the successes that they have achieved. But there was plenty of food for thought when considering some of the issues that continue to need to be addressed in the island from which we had gained so much delight during our week's holiday.

With mixed feelings, we gathered for the last evening meal of the week and, as usual with Honeyguide holidays, we had asked the group to identify some of the highlights that had done most to make the week personally memorable. We relaxed after the last of Jenny's delicious meals was finally cleared away and, over the last of our wine, we enjoyed the memories:

Angela: The meadows around Matchani Gran; the abundance and diversity of raptors wherever we went; the slime mould.

Barbara: That nightingale singing in full view from the willow bush; the grace of the ospreys, and especially the fishing moment; the young Egyptian vulture learning his flying technique.

Bob: All the Egyptian vultures; the ladder snake; the Balearic orchid.

Elonwy: The dramas in the Algendar Gorge: the encounter between the hoopoe and the kestrel over the lizard and the young Egyptian vulture's flying lesson.

Geoff: The air teeming with swallows and martins at the beginning of the Algendar Gorge; the views of the alpine swifts; the wild gladiolus.

Pam: The brilliant blue of the Adonis blue butterfly and the vivid green of the tree frogs; the spectacular view of the osprey fishing at Montgofre Nou.

Peter: The best views of woodchat shrike ever; the Matchani Gran nightingales, larks and stone-curlews; so many corn buntings singing everywhere we went; the giant fennel.

Rachel: The ballet of lesser kestrels on the first afternoon; the *Ophrys balearica*; that nightingale on the bush; the view of the Aleppo pines along the Matchani Gran drive in the evening sunshine.

Robin: That great spotted cuckoo; that nightingale singing out in the open; the display of lesser kestrels.

### ***Wednesday April 20: Home***

It was bright though a little overcast but most of the familiar birds were about for our last morning walk. A distant hoopoe and several stone-curlews were calling and the sky was full of swifts. A nightingale and Sardinian warblers were singing and two nice Thekla larks and a tawny pipit showed themselves. Then we had a good view of a couple of stone-curlews above the trees and finally, a hoopoe flapped across the drive ahead of us. The slime mould had disappeared without trace.

We bade Jenny and Jade (not forgetting Seamus and Rosie, the dogs) a reluctant farewell at Matchani Gran, grateful for wonderful hospitality, great comfort, considerable laughter and delicious food, and Shaun led the convoy back to the airport where, without hitch, we parted with our minibuses and boarded our flight to Luton at the end of a wonderful week. Menorca had worked its magic once again.

Robin & Rachel

<b>Birds</b>	<b>Latin name</b>	<b>Notes</b>
Black-necked Grebe	<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>	Four at Es Grau
Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>	Several at Es Grau
Cory's Shearwater	<i>Calonectris diomedea</i>	Seen out at sea at Son Bou and Fornells, and closer inshore a Cap de Favàritx
Balearic Shearwater	<i>Puffinus mauretanicus</i>	Seen close inshore at Cap de Cavalleria and Cap de Favàritx
Shag	<i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis desmarestii</i>	Individual birds at coastal sites
Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>	An immature bird near Cap de Cavalleria
Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	Small numbers at Son Bou, Cap de Cavalleria, Algendar Gorge, Es Grau and Montgofre Nou
Great White Egret	<i>Egretta alba</i>	One near Fornells

Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	Individual birds at Son Bou, Cap de Cavallería, Algendar Gorge and Montgofre Nou
Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>	One or two at Son Bou, Es Grau and Algendar Gorge
Shelduck	<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>	A pair at Montgofre Nou
Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>	A few at Son Bou
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	Wherever fresh water was present
Shoveler	<i>Anas clypeata</i>	Several at Son Bou
Black Kite	<i>Milvus migrans</i>	Individuals seen on most days
Red Kite	<i>Milvus milvus</i>	Individuals seen almost every day. More abundant than last y
Egyptian Vulture	<i>Neophron percnopterus</i>	Individuals at most sites. Several birds at Algendar Gorge
Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>	Individuals at Son Bou and Tirant
Booted Eagle	<i>Hieraaetus pennatus</i>	Numerous sightings every day
Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	Three at Montgofre Nou
Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	Seen every day
Lesser Kestrel	<i>Falco naumanni</i>	A migrating flock of nine or ten seen from Matchani Gran
Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	One seen very close at Cap de Favàritx
Quail	<i>Coturnix coturnix</i>	One heard near Montgofre Nou
Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	At fresh water; Son Bou, Es Grau and Algendar Gorge
Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>	Son Bou, Tirant, Es Grau and Algendar Gorge
Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>	Small numbers at Son Bou and Es Grau, many at Montgofre.
Stone-curlew	<i>Burhinus oedicephalus</i>	Several seen and heard around Matchani Gran on most days
Little Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>	Small numbers at Son Bou, Es Mercadal, Montgofre Nou, Fornells and Cap Favàritx
Kentish Plover	<i>Charadrius alexandrinus</i>	A pair nesting at Cap Favàritx; two individuals at Fornells
Ruff	<i>Philomachus pugnax</i>	A reeve at Montgofre Nou
Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>	Two near Fornells
Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>	Three or four at Montgofre Nou
Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>	Ones and twos at Es Mercadal, Algendar Gorge & Montgofre
Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>	Odd individuals at Es Mercadal, Es Grau, Montgofre Nou and Fornells
Audouin's Gull	<i>Larus audouinii</i>	A few at Son Bou and Cap de Cavallería. Several at Mahón Harbour. A pair with young at Ciutadella
Yellow-legged Gull	<i>Larus cachinnans</i>	Seen at all coastal sites and frequently inland
Whiskered Tern	<i>Chlidonias hybridus</i>	A pair at Montgofre Nou
Rock Dove	<i>Columba livia</i>	Apparently wild birds at Montgofre Nou and numerous feral birds throughout the island
Woodpigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	Individuals at Es Grau and Sa Roca
Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	Widespread and plentiful near villages
Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>	One at Matchani Gran
Great Spotted Cuckoo	<i>Clamator glandarius</i>	One seen well at Cap de Cavallería
Scops Owl	<i>Otus scops</i>	Heard from Matchani Gran
Long-eared Owl	<i>Asio otus</i>	One at Matchani Gran
Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>	Seen every day throughout the island
Alpine Swift	<i>Apus melba</i>	Seen with common swifts, one at Cala Galdana and several at Algendar Gorge

Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>	Individuals seen nearly every day
Thekla Lark	<i>Gallerida theklae</i>	Individuals seen most days
Sand Martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>	A few at Algendar Gorge
Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	Seen throughout the island in small numbers
House Martin	<i>Delichon urbica</i>	Small numbers at Es Mercadal and Algendar Gorge
Tawny Pipit	<i>Anthus campestris</i>	Several at Matchani Gran. Ones at Es Mercadal & Fornells
Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava</i>	One or two at Tirant
Nightingale	<i>Luscinia megarhynchos</i>	Heard frequently throughout the week; glimpsed at Tirant and seen well in full song at Matchani Gran on Thursday
Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>	A few migrating birds near Cap de Cavallería and one at Matchani Gran
Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>	Migrating individuals near Cap de Cavallería and Fornells. One caught by the cat at Matchani Gran & released unharmed
Whinchat	<i>Saxicola rubetra</i>	One at Matchani Gran
Stonechat	<i>Saxicola torquata</i>	Individuals seen on most days
Blue Rock Thrush	<i>Monticola solitarius</i>	Widespread in rocky places, mostly in the north of the island
Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	Widespread
Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>	A pair at Algendar Gorge. Heard singing at Sa Roca
Sardinian Warbler	<i>Sylvia melanocephala</i>	Widespread and plentiful
Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia communis</i>	One heard at Montgofre Nou
Fan-tailed Warbler	<i>Cisticola juncidis</i>	One near Montgofre Nou
Cetti's Warbler	<i>Cettia cetti</i>	Frequently heard in wet places
Willow Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>	A migrating individual at Matchani Gran
Wood Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus sibilatrix</i>	A migrating individual at Matchani Gran
Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>	Migrating individuals at Matchani Gran
Firecrest	<i>Regulus ignicapillus</i>	Heard singing at Algendar Gorge & Es Grau; seen at Sa Roca
Pied Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula hypoleuca</i>	Several migrating individuals seen at Matchani Gran, Cap de Cavallería and Es Grau
Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>	Seen at several wooded localities
Woodchat Shrike	<i>Lanius senator</i>	Seen all over the island, especially later in the week.
Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>	Small numbers seen all over the island
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	Near houses all over the island
Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	One or two at Cala Galdana and Montgofre Nou
Greenfinch	<i>Carduelis chloris</i>	Widespread and abundant
Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	Widespread and abundant
Linnet	<i>Carduelis cannabina</i>	Widespread and abundant
Corn Bunting	<i>Miliaria calandra</i>	Seen and heard all over the island

#### Butterflies and Other Insects

Large White	<i>Pieris brassicae</i>	Matchani Gran, Algendar Gorge
Clouded Yellow	<i>Colias crocea</i>	Algendar Gorge
Brimstone	<i>Gonepteryx rhamni</i>	Torre d'en Gaumes, Es Mercadal
Cleopatra	<i>Gonepteryx cleopatra</i>	Torre d'en Gaumes, Algendar Gorge, Sa Roca

Swallowtail	<i>Papilio machaon</i>	Montgofre Nou, Monte Toro
Red Admiral	<i>Vanessa atalanta</i>	Matchani Gran, Es Grau, Montgofre Nou
Speckled Wood	<i>Pararge aegeria</i>	Torre d'en Gaumes, Algendar Gorge, Es Grau
Green Hairstreak	<i>Callophrys rubi</i>	Cala Galdana, Montgofre Nou, Sa Roca
Wall Brown	<i>Lasiommata megera</i>	Torre d'en Gaumes
Adonis Blue	<i>Lysandra bellargus</i>	Es Grau
Common Blue	<i>Polyommatus icarus</i>	Es Grau
Pine Processionary Moth	<i>Thaumetopoea pityocampa</i>	Es Grau, Sa Roca
Lesser Emperor Dragonfly	<i>Anax parthenope</i>	Es Grau
Violet Carpenter Bee	<i>Xylocopa violacea</i>	Matchani Gran
Oil Beetle	<i>Meloe proscarabaeus</i>	Algendar Gorge, Montgofre Nou
Flower Chafer	<i>Oxythyrea funesta</i>	Matchani Gran, Torre d'en Gaumes
Dung Beetle	<i>Scarabaeus sp</i>	Matchani Gran
Egyptian Locust	<i>Anacridium aegyptium</i>	Es Grau, Montgofre Nou, Sa Roca
Violet ground Beetle	<i>Carabus violaceus</i>	Sa Roca
Seven-spot Ladybird	<i>Coccinella 7-punctata</i>	Algendar Gorge

### Reptiles & Amphibians

Stripeless Tree Frog	<i>Hyla meridionalis</i>	Tirant
Marsh Frog	<i>Rana ridibunda</i>	Algendar Gorge, Montgofre Nou
Moorish Gecko	<i>Tarentola mauretanic</i>	Torre d'en Gaumes, Algendar Gorge
Italian Wall Lizard	<i>Podarcis sicula</i>	Matchani Gran, Es Grau, Algendar Gorge
Hermann's Tortoise	<i>Testudo hermanni</i>	Matchani Gran
Ladder Snake	<i>Elaphe scalaris</i>	Montgofre Nou

### Mammals

Algerian Hedgehog	<i>Erinaceus algirus</i>	Matchani Gran
Rabbit	<i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i>	Matchani Gran

### Plant List 2005

#### Based on the list from Chris Gibson of Honeyguide

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

P – Planted; found in gardens or as a garden escape

AG – Algendar Gorge

CC – Cap de Cavalleria

CF – Cap de Favàritx

EC – Es Castell

EG – S'Albufera Es Grau

EM – Es Mercadal *Depuradora*

F – Fornells

M – Mahón

MG – Matchani Gran	SR – Sa Roca
MN – Montgofre Nou	T – Tirant
MT – Monte Toro	TG – Torre d'en Gaumes
NT – Naveta d'es Tudons	W – Waste ground, road verges etc
SB – Son Bou	WS – Widespread throughout the island in suitable habitat

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

#### NON-FLOWERING PLANTS

Lichens	<i>Cladonia foliacea</i>		CC SB MG
	<i>Usnea sp</i>		EG SR
Fungi	<i>Clathrus ruber</i>	clay fungus	SR
	<i>Coprinus lagopus</i>		SR
		puff ball	SR
Slime Mould			MG
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	SB
Conifers & Allies	<i>Ephedra fragilis</i>	joint-pine	CC CF EG MN
	<i>Juniperus phoenicea</i>	Phoenician juniper	WS
	<i>Pinus halepensis</i>	Aleppo pine	WS

#### FLOWERING PLANTS

Acanthaceae	<i>Acanthus mollis</i>	bear's breeches	SB
Agavaceae	<i>Agave americana</i>	century plant	P
Aizoidaceae	<i>Carpobrotus edulis</i>	Hottentot fig	CC CF EG MT SB
Amaryllidaceae	<i>Leucojum aestivum</i>	summer snowflake	AG
	<i>Pancreatum maritimum</i>	sand daffodil	EG SB
Anacardiaceae	<i>Pistachia lentiscus</i>	lentisc, mastic tree	WS
	<i>P. terebinthus</i>	terebinth	P SB
Apiaceae	<i>Apium nodiflorum</i>	fool's watercress	AG SB
	<i>Crithmum maritimum</i>	rock samphire	AG F SB
	<i>Daucus carota</i>	wild carrot	WS
	<i>Eryngium campestre</i>	field eryngo	EG MG NT
	<i>E. maritimum</i>	sea-holly	CF EG SB
	<i>Ferula communis</i>	giant fennel	WS
	<i>Foeniculum vulgare</i>	fennel	AG EG MG SB
	<i>Ridolfia segetum</i>		AG
	<i>Scandix pecten-veneris</i>	shepherd's-needle	MG NT
	<i>Smyrniolum olusatrum</i>	alexanders	WS
Apocynaceae	<i>Vinca difformis</i>	pale periwinkle	TG W
Araceae	<i>Arisarum vulgare</i>	friar's-cowl	AG MG SB SR TG
	<i>Arum italicum</i>	Italian lords-and-ladies	CC AG SB MN

	<i>Arum pictum</i>	autumn arum	CC MG W
	<i>Dracunculus muscivorus</i>	dragon arum	CC
	<i>Zantedeschia aethiopica</i>	arum lily	AG
Araliaceae	<i>Hedera helix</i>	ivy	AG W
Asteraceae	<i>Aetheorhiza bulbosa</i>		SB
	<i>Artemisia gallica</i>		EG
	<i>Bellis annua</i>	annual daisy	AG EG MG TG
	<i>B. sylvestris</i>		EG MG
	<i>Bellium bellidioides</i>		MG
	<i>Calendula arvensis</i>	field marigold	MG NT TG
	<i>Carlina corymbosa</i>		CF
	<i>Chrysanthemum coronarium</i>	crown daisy	WS
	<i>Cichorium intybus</i>	chicory	T
	<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>	spear thistle	NT SR W
	<i>Evax pygmaea</i>		CC CF MG NT
	<i>Filago pyramidata</i>	broad-leaved cudweed	NT
	<i>Galactites tomentosa</i>		WS
	<i>Helichrysum stoechas</i>		CC
	<i>Hyoseris radiata</i>		CC NT TG
	<i>H. scabra</i>		F MG SR
	<i>Hypochaeris achyrophorus</i>	golden-samphire	EG
	<i>Inula viscosa</i>	stink aster	SR T
	<i>Launaea cervicornis</i>		CC CF
	<i>Pallenis spinosa</i>		MG
	<i>Phagnalon saxatile</i>		EG
	<i>Santolina chamaecyparissus</i>	lavender-cotton	CC CF
	<i>Senecio rodriguezii</i>		CC CF
	<i>Seriphidium maririmum</i>		EG
	<i>Silybum marianum</i>	milk-thistle	MG
	<i>Sonchus asper</i>	prickly sow-thistle	SB
	<i>S. oleraceus</i>	smooth sow-thistle	T
	<i>S. tenerrimus</i>		SB
	<i>Taraxacum officinale</i>	dandelion	W
	<i>Urospermum dalechampii</i>		MG MN SB W
Boraginaceae	<i>Borago officinalis</i>	borage	AG TG W
	<i>Cynoglossum creticum</i>	blue hound's-tongue	AG SB
	<i>Echium parviflorum</i>	small-flowered bugloss	MG TG
	<i>E. plantagineum</i>	purple viper's bugloss	CC MG SB
	<i>Lithospermum arvense</i>	corn gromwell	NT TG
	<i>Symphytum tuberosum</i>	tuberous comfrey	AG
Brassicaceae	<i>Brassica napus</i>	rape	AG
	<i>Cakile maritima</i>	sea-rocket	EG SB
	<i>Capsella bursa-pastoris</i>	shepherd's-purse	W
	<i>Cardaria draba</i>	hoary cress	AG
	<i>Lobularia maritima</i>	sweet alison	CC EG SB
	<i>Matthiola incana</i>	hoary stock	AG EC SB



	<i>Raphanus raphanistrum</i>	radish	NT
	<i>Rorippa nasturtium-aquaticum</i>	watercress	SB
	<i>Sinapis arvensis</i>	charlock	W
	<i>Sisymbrium officinale</i>	hedge mustard	W
Cactaceae	<i>Opuntia ficus-indica</i>	prickly-pear	P EG MG SB TG
Campanulaceae	<i>Campanula erinus</i>		NT
Capparaceae	<i>Capparis spinosa</i>	spiny caper	MT
Caprifoliaceae	<i>Lonicera implexa</i>		AG EG
	<i>L. periclymenum</i>	Honeysuckle	CC SR
Caryophyllaceae	<i>Polycarpon alsinifolium</i>		AG MG
	<i>Silene gallica</i>	small-flowered catchfly	AG CC EG MG NT
	<i>S. secundiflora</i>		NT
	<i>S. vulgaris</i>	bladder campion	EG MG MN NT T TG
Chenopodiaceae	<i>Arthrocnemum macrostachyum</i>		EG
	<i>Atriplex halimus</i>	shrubby orache	EG SB
	<i>A. portulacoides</i>	sea-purslane	EG MN
	<i>Beta vulgaris</i> ssp. <i>maritima</i>	sea beet	EG F SB
	<i>Salicornia europea</i>	annual glasswort	EG
	<i>S. ramosissima</i>	glasswort	EG MN
	<i>Sarcocornia fruticosa</i>	shrubby glasswort	EG MN
Cistaceae	<i>Helianthemum salicifolium</i>		NT
	<i>Cistus albidus</i>	grey-leaved cistus	AG EG MN SR
	<i>C. monspeliensis</i>	narrow-leaved cistus	AG EG MN SR
	<i>C. salvifolius</i>	sage-leaved cistus	EG MN NT SR
	<i>Fumana thymifolia</i>	thyme-leaved fumana	NT
Convolvulaceae	<i>Calystegia sepium</i>	hedge bindweed	SB
	<i>C. soldanella</i>	sea bindweed	SB
	<i>Convolvulus althaeoides</i>	mallow-leaved bindweed	CC EG MG SB
Crassulaceae	<i>Sedum acre</i>	biting stonecrop	CC
	<i>Umbilicus rupestris</i>	navelwort	AG F MG NT TG
Cyperaceae	<i>Carex extensa</i>	long-bracted sedge	AG
	<i>C. flacca</i>	glaucous sedge	SR
	<i>Eleocharis palustris</i>	common spike-rush	T
	<i>Schoenus nigricans</i>	black bog-rush	CC EG
	<i>Scirpus holoschoenus</i>	round-headed club-rush	AG
	<i>Scirpus maritimus</i>	sea club-rush	MN T
Dioscoreaceae	<i>Tamus communis</i>	black bryony	AG MN TG
Dipsacaceae	<i>Scabiosa atropurpurea</i>		AG
Ericaceae	<i>Arbutus unedo</i>	strawberry-tree	MN SR
	<i>Erica arborea</i>	tree-heath	EG MN SR
Euphorbiaceae	<i>Euphorbia characias</i>	large Mediterranean spurge	EG
	<i>E. dendroides</i>	tree spurge	AG CF EG MN
	<i>E. helioscopia</i>	sun spurge	WS
	<i>E. maresii</i>		CF F
	<i>E. paralias</i>	sea spurge	EG SB
	<i>E. pithyusa</i>		CC

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

<b>Moraceae</b>	<i>Ficus carica</i>	fig	P MG	
<b>Myoporaceae</b>	<i>Myoporum laetum</i>		MG	
<b>Oleaceae</b>	<i>Phillyrea angustifolia</i>		AG EG MN SR	
	<i>P. latifolia</i>		EG MN	
	<i>P. latifolia</i> var. <i>rodriguezii</i>		CF EG	
	<i>Olea europaea</i>	olive	P WS	
<b>Orobanchaceae</b>	<i>Orobanche crenata</i>		SR	
	<i>O. ramosa</i>	branched broomrape	MG	
<b>Orchidaceae</b>	<i>Anacamptis pyramidalis</i>	pyramidal orchid	EG SB	
	<i>Barlia robertiana</i>	giant orchid	MG	
	<i>Limodorum abortivum</i>	violet bird's-nest orchid	SR	
	<i>Ophrys balearica</i>		SR	
	<i>O. bertolonii</i>		SR	
	<i>O. bombyliflora</i>	bumblebee orchid	EG NT T	
	<i>O. lutea</i>	yellow bee-orchid	MG NT SR	
	<i>O. speculum</i>	mirror orchid	AG EG MG NT SR	
	<i>O. tenthredinifera</i>	sawfly orchid	AG EG MG MN NT S	
	<i>Orchis tridentata</i>	toothed orchid	MG NT	
	<i>Serapias parviflora</i>	small-flowered tongue-orchid	EG MG MN SR	
	<b>Oxalidaceae</b>	<i>Oxalis corniculata</i>	yellow sorrel	MG
		<i>O. pes-caprae</i>	Bermuda buttercup	EG MG SB
<b>Papaveraceae</b>	<i>Chelidonium majus</i>	greater celandine	AG	
	<i>Fumaria capreolata</i>	white ramping-fumitory	AG MG TG	
	<i>F. officinalis</i>	common fumitory	NT SR	
	<i>Papaver hybridum</i>	rough poppy	NT SB SR TG	
	<i>P. rhoeas</i>	common poppy	W	
	<i>P. somniferum</i>	opium poppy	NT TG	
<b>Papilionaceae</b>	<i>Anthyllis hystrix</i>		CC CF	
	<i>A. vulneraria</i> ssp. <i>font-querii</i>		NT	
	<i>Astragalus balearicus</i>		CF MN	
	<i>Calicotome spinosa</i>	spiny broom	EG MN	
	<i>Coronilla juncea</i>	rush-like scorpion vetch	AG SR	
	<i>Dorycnium fulgurans</i>		CC CF	
	<i>D. hirsutum</i>		MN SR	
	<i>D. pentaphyllum</i>		MN SR	
	<i>Hedysarum coronarium</i>	Italian sainfoin	W	
	<i>Lathyrus annuus</i>		EG	
	<i>L. clymenum</i>		EG	
	<i>L. ochrus</i>		TG	
	<i>L. odoratus</i>	sweet pea	P W	
	<i>L. sphaericus</i>	brown vetch	EG NT	
	<i>Lotus creticus</i>	southern bird's-foot trefoil	EG F SB SR	
	<i>L. cytisoides</i>		EG SB	
	<i>L. ornithopodioides</i>		AG	
<i>L. subbiflorus</i>	hairy bird's-foot-trefoil	EG		
<i>L. tetraphyllum</i>		CC SR		

	<i>Medicago littoralis</i>		SB
	<i>M. marina</i>	sea medick	EG MG SB
	<i>Melilotus sulcata</i>		AG EM T
	<i>Psoralea bituminosa</i>	pitch trefoil	AG EG NT
	<i>Robinia pseudoacacia</i>	false acacia	P EC
	<i>Scorpiurus muricatus</i>		MG SR
	<i>Spartium junceum</i>	Spanish broom	MN
	<i>Trifolium campestre</i>	hop trefoil	EG
	<i>T. nigrescens</i>		MG NT
	<i>T. scabrum</i>	rough clover	TG
	<i>T. stellatum</i>	starry clover	MG NT
	<i>Vicia benghalensis</i>		AG NT
	<i>V. sativa</i>	common vetch	NT TG
	<i>V. tetrasperma</i>	smooth tare	SB
	<i>V. villosa</i>	fodder vetch	EG
<b>Phytolaccaceae</b>	<i>Phytolacca arborea</i>	ombu	P MG
<b>Plantaginaceae</b>	<i>Plantago afra</i>	branched plantain	NT
	<i>P. bellardii</i>		MG
	<i>P. coronopus</i>	buck's-horn plantain	WS
	<i>P. crassifolia</i>		EG SB
	<i>P. lanceolata</i>	ribwort plantain	W
	<i>P. major</i>	great plantain	SB
<b>Plumbaginaceae</b>	<i>Limonium echiioides</i>		CC CF F
	<i>L. minutum</i>	dwarf sea lavender	CC CF F
<b>Poaceae</b>	<i>Ammophila arenaria</i>	marram grass	EG SB
	<i>Ampelodesmos mauritanicus</i>		CC CF SR
	<i>Arundo donax</i>	giant reed	AG EG SB
	<i>Briza maxima</i>	large quaking-grass	EG NT SR
	<i>Desmazeria marina</i>	sea fern-grass	F
	<i>Elymus farctus</i>	sea couch-grass	EG SB
	<i>Lagurus ovatus</i>	hare's-foot grass	CC EG MG SR
	<i>Melica ciliata</i>		EG
	<i>Phragmites australis</i>	common reed	AC EG SB T
	<i>Poa annua</i>	annual meadow-grass	MG
	<i>Sporobolus pungens</i>		SB
<b>Polygonaceae</b>	<i>Emex spinosa</i>		SB
	<i>Rumex bucephalophorus</i>		EG NT
	<i>R. conglomeratus</i>	clustered dock	W
	<i>R. crispus</i>	curled dock	W
<b>Posidoniaceae</b>	<i>Posidonia oceanica</i>		EG M SB
<b>Primulaceae</b>	<i>Anagallis arvensis</i>	scarlet pimpernel (red and blue varieties)	EG MG NT SR
	<i>A. foemina</i>	blue pimpernel	CC
<b>Punicaceae</b>	<i>Punica granatum</i>	pomegranate	AG
<b>Rafflesiaceae</b>	<i>Cytinus ruber</i>		SR
<b>Ranunculaceae</b>	<i>Adonis annua</i>	pheasant's eye	NT
	<i>Clematis cirrhosa</i>	maiden's-bower	AG MG SB TG

	<i>C. flammula</i>		EG MG
	<i>Ranunculus aquatilis</i>	common water-crowfoot	SB T
	<i>R. macrophyllus</i>		MN
	<i>R. muricatus</i>		SB
	<i>R. sceleratus</i>	celery-leaved buttercup	AG
<b>Resedaceae</b>	<i>Reseda alba</i>	white mignonette	F NT
	<i>R. luteola</i>	weld	EG
<b>Rhamnaceae</b>	<i>Rhamnus alaternus</i>	Mediterranean buckthorn	AG EG MN
	<i>R. ludovici-salvatorius</i>		EG
<b>Rosaceae</b>	<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	hawthorn	SB WS
	<i>Malus (sylvestris?)</i>	crab apple	AG SR
	<i>Potentilla reptans</i>	creeping cinquefoil	AG
	<i>Prunus spinosa</i>	blackthorn	WS
	<i>Rosa sempervirens</i>		EM
	<i>Rubus ulmifolius</i>	bramble	WS
	<i>Sanguisorba minor</i>	salad burnet	AG SR T
<b>Rubiaceae</b>	<i>Crucianella maritima</i>		SB
	<i>Galium aparine</i>	cleavers	W
	<i>Rubia peregrina</i>	wild madder	AG EG SR
	<i>Sherardia arvensis</i>	field madder	NT
	<i>Valantia muralis</i>		CC NT SR
<b>Rutaceae</b>	<i>Ruta chalepensis</i>	fringed rue	MG NT
<b>Salicaceae</b>	<i>Populus alba</i>	white poplar	AG
<b>Scrophulariaceae</b>	<i>Bellardia trixago</i>		NT TG
	<i>Linaria triphylla</i>	three-leaved toadflax	NT TG
	<i>Misopates orontium</i>	weasel's-snout	NT TG
	<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 MG NT
	<i>V. sinuatum</i>		AG
	<i>Veronica cymbalaria</i>		W
<b>Smilacaceae</b>	<i>Smilax aspera</i>	common smilax	AG EG MG SR TG
	<i>S. aspera</i> var. <i>balearica</i>		CC
<b>Solanaceae</b>	<i>Solanum nigrum</i>	black nightshade	SR
	<i>S. sodomium</i>	sodom apple	CC
<b>Tamaricaceae</b>	<i>Tamarix africana</i>		AG EG F SB
	<i>T. boveana</i>		AG SB
	<i>T. gallica</i>	tamarisk	EG SB
<b>Typhaceae</b>	<i>Typha angustifolia</i>	lesser reedmace	EM SB
	<i>T. latifolia</i>	greater reedmace	SB
<b>Ulmaceae</b>	<i>Ulmus minor</i>	small-leaved elm	AG
<b>Urticaceae</b>	<i>Parietaria judaica</i>	pellitory-of-the-wall	AG NT
	<i>Urtica membranacea</i>		AG F MG SR WS
	<i>U. urens</i>	annual nettle	MG

**Valerianaceae**

*Centranthus calcitrapae*

Spanish valerian

EG NT SB SR

*Valerianella discoidea*

AG