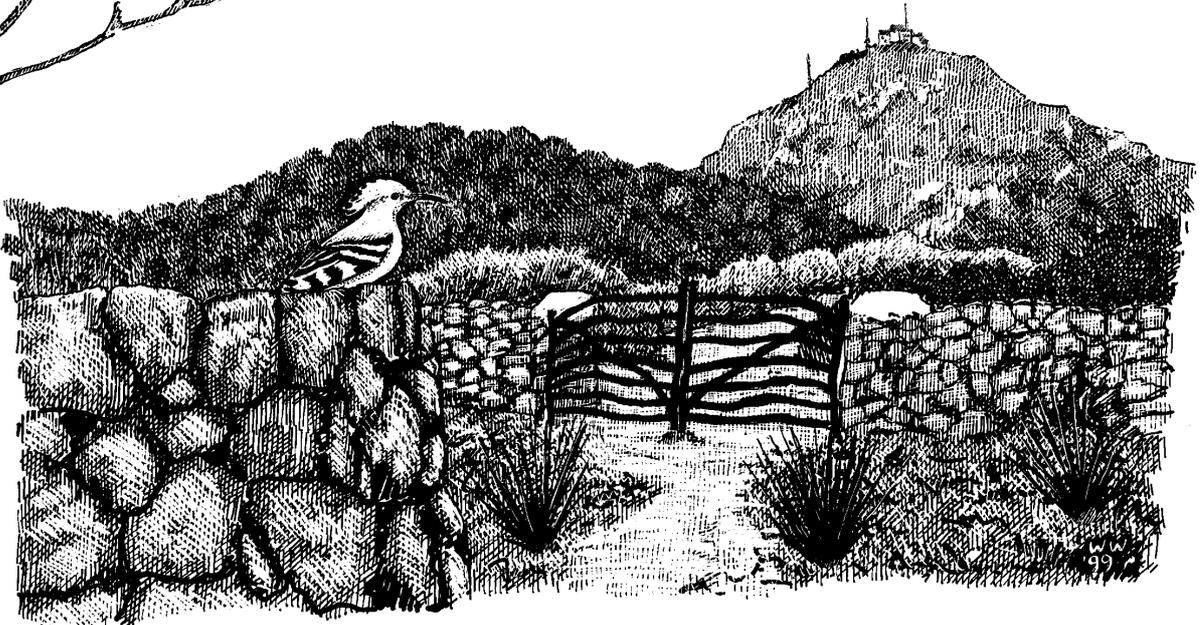


# *Honeyguide*

**WILDLIFE HOLIDAYS**

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



**Discovering Menorca**  
**Salisbury and District Natural History Society**  
**21-28 April 2001**

**Discovering Menorca**  
**Salisbury and District Natural History Society**  
**21-28 April 2001**

Participants

Rosemary and Gerald Nicholls

Jim and Brenda Wade

Donald and Rita Scarfe

Edward and Kate Sansby

June Hodgkinson  
Audrey Lovett

Margaret Pragnell  
Ailsa McKee

Grace Hickman  
Pamela James

Marigold Woolley  
Joan Tripp

Joan Cook  
Betty Robinson

Leaders

Chris Durdin  
Rob Macklin  
Kathy Archibald

Our hosts at Matchani Gran

Shaun and Jenny Murphy

The group was joined on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> April by John Seymour, historian and Menorcan resident, and by Santí Catchot from the Balearic Ornithological Group (GOB) on the same evening. Santí was there because, as with all Honeyguide holidays, £25 of the price of the holiday was put towards a conservation project, in this case for GOB's work in Menorca. The cheque for £450 given to GOB from this holiday brings the total to £4370 contributed to GOB by Honeyguide holidays in the Balearics. The total contributed to conservation projects in Europe from all Honeyguide holidays is now £22,805 (at the end of this holiday season). A thank-you letter from GOB appears at the end of this report.

The daily log in this report was written by Rob Macklin and plant notes by Kathy Archibald.

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

## **DISCOVERING MENORCA** **APRIL 21<sup>ST</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> 2001**

### **Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> April – Matchani Gran**

The cold and cloudy conditions we hoped to leave behind in Luton were also the order of the day as we arrived in Menorca. Shaun and Vivian met us at the airport where we collected the buses and we were soon on our way to Matchani Gran. Two Ravens and a Hoopoe greeted us as we drove into the entrance. Heavy downpours before lunch were replaced by brighter conditions in the afternoon and we spent a rewarding couple of hours exploring the local fields. We soon had our first views of Booted Eagles in the skies overhead and an adult Egyptian Vulture drifted slowly by. As another heavy shower broke out we had a brief view of our only Alpine Swift of the week and a group of 10 Ravens flew over. The bushes around the farm were alive with small birds particularly Sardinian Warblers and Goldfinches while a couple of Blackcaps sang, a Whitethroat was seen and two Thekla Larks delivered their song from overhead. As we moved through the fields a Tawny Pipit perched up briefly on the wall, a Hoopoe flew up and a Spotted Flycatcher was located in a fig tree; we then got excellent views of two Thekla Larks on the ground.

One particular field right behind the farm had escaped the attentions of the sheep and two donkeys and was consequently rich in wild flowers. Bellardia was particularly impressive here and Rosemary found several specimens of Branched broomrape. The orchids had just about gone over but there were still lots of goodies such as star clover, tassel hyacinth and white mignonette. After a good look around these fields we explored along the Aleppo Pine avenue at the front of the farm. A Booted Eagle was eating prey on the wing, a Woodchat Shrike was perched up on telephone wires and several of the group had a great view of a Hoopoe on the ground! Our walk was accompanied by the ever present song of nightingales and both Pallid and Common Swifts were on the wing. An open area of scrub and grass at the end of the drive turned up some excellent plants including masses of rosy garlic and Arabian star-of-Bethlehem. Our first butterfly of the trip, a painted lady, was found at Matchani Gran as we finished our walk. A fabulous evening meal set the scene for the week, during which we all put on rather a lot of weight! Further heavy rain overnight made us fear for the next day...

### **Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> April – Son Bou, Torre d'en Gaumés, Monte Toro**

Our fears were allayed as the morning dawned sunny, fine and warm. A Nightingale was singing and a Tree Pipit flew over as we boarded the buses for Son Bou, which boasts the only sizeable reedbed in Menorca.

Tree Pipits and hordes of Swifts were over the car park as we arrived and our first Cetti's Warbler sang from the surrounding scrub. As we made our way through the dunes and scrub we found lots of ribbed melilot, purple viper's bugloss and an apple of Sodom bush. Little Grebes and Water Rails could be heard calling from the depths of the reedbed and we had our first view of a Little Egret. We then came upon an area of open water and wet mud that hosted four species of waders including two stunning Black-winged Stilts, two Little Stints and a Little Ringed Plover. We crossed the channel and found several more waders on the beach getting good views of three Sanderlings but only distant views of a Greenshank. Several Cory's Shearwaters could just be identified way out to sea but a Shag was more obliging inshore. Climbing to the top of the dunes we were able to get a good view of an area of open water within the reedbed. This proved very attractive to a host of birds and we had excellent views of five male Garganeys, five Little Egrets, a Squacco Heron, Grey Heron and a male Shoveler – an amazing array of birds! Several of the group then found fragrant bug orchids and then bumped into a Naturetrek party looking for plants. Ailsa then found a Cretan mallow in flower and June turned up a patch of little robin. Joan then spotted another bird highlight in the shape of a Purple Heron flying languidly over the reedbed. We had our lunch under the pines by the car park being serenaded by Cetti's Warblers and a Hoopoe flew past us and into the village. We all agreed we had experienced a tremendous morning.

After lunch we headed off to an impressive prehistoric site at Torre d'en Gaumés dating back to c.1300 BC. Raptors here included a soaring Egyptian Vulture and two dark-phase Booted Eagles. New butterflies here were clouded yellow and red admiral and Gerald and Pam found a moorish gecko on the wall. A paper wasp's nest in gum mastic was rather impressive, as was a large green lizard that

posed obligingly for most of the group, and a Whimbrel flew over calling. New plants here included pale periwinkle and the mauve-tinged annual daisy. We finished off the day by taking tea at Monte Toro, giving us magnificent views over Menorca, and took the opportunity to have a look around the church and gift shop.

### **Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> April – Tirant, Fornells and Cap De Cavallería**

The pre-breakfast mist soon cleared and several of the group took the opportunity to have a look around the grounds before breakfast. An amazing flock of 24 Ravens flew over the farm towards the airport and at least two Nightingales were in full song. Gerald got a really good view of a Hoopoe, a solitary Whitethroat was found in the scrub and singing birds included Thekla Lark, Blackcap and Corn Bunting.

Our first stop of the day was at the Tirant wetland which looked in impressive condition with areas of open water and wet mud (what a comparison to 2000 when this area was bone dry). As we approached the area we were astounded to see four White Storks feeding unconcernedly in a roadside field. Tirant itself was absolutely amazing and stuffed full of wildlife. Wading birds were here in excellent numbers including five Black-winged Stilts, a minimum of 21 Wood Sandpipers, two Ruff, a Greenshank, a Redshank and five Little-Ringed Plovers. Raptors included the usual Booted Eagles and Kestrels plus two hunting female Marsh Harriers and an excellent close-up view of a Red Kite. Gerald found our first Wheatear on a wall, a stunning male Whinchat gave the group good views, three Turtle Doves flew into the shelter of an area of scrub and two Tree Pipits allowed us to get them right into the telescopes and fabulous views. We then drove on along the track finding two Cattle Egrets feeding among the legs of the cattle and a Woodchat Shrike in the scrub.

Our next stop was to look through a stunning field of yellow fonolassa where we located a good specimen of mirror bee-orchid. Nightingales were again in full song here and a Tawny Pipit performed its parachuting display flight. Another clouded yellow was seen and Pam spotted the first cleopatra. We drove right to the top of the road to a known Bee-eater colony but alas they were nowhere to be seen. Two Little Egrets were feeding on the river below us and the rocks were covered in very striking Hottentot Figs. As we drove back down the track we got brief views of an Iberian Yellow Wagtail among the cattle before retiring to Fornells for coffee.

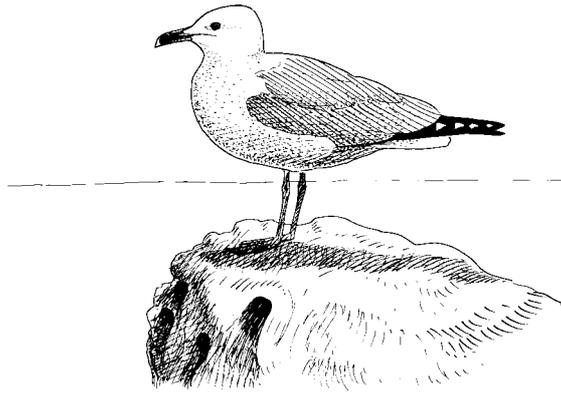
After coffee we headed off to Cap de Cavallería finding approximately 30 Little Egrets feeding among masses of Water Crowfoot. The wind was still fairly strong so we located a sheltered lunch spot in the bay near the Cap. This proved an inspired choice as our lunch was interrupted by a superb view of an Osprey fishing in the bay. Ted found several jellyfish right by the shore and Gerald located a stunning Blue Rock Thrush on an old ruined building. Another new butterfly here was small heath. After a somewhat hairy drive up from the shore we moved on to the lighthouse at Cap De Cavallería.

More Cory's Shearwaters were seen offshore and several of the group got reasonable views although this species can be hard to pin down. The highlight here was a Peregrine that attempted to snatch a wader out of the air but without success – a lucky escape for the fortunate bird! Two Shags on the sea proved easier to locate than the shearwaters and Kathy picked up calling Bee-eaters. This was to become the theme of the week as we unable to see any but occasionally heard them calling in the distance! A Subalpine warbler made a brief appearance but an Italian wall lizard was more obliging allowing many of the group to get photographs.

Our last stop of the day was at the Depuradora where we found two Wood Sandpipers, two Common Sandpipers and two Little Ringed Plovers. A dark-phase Booted Eagle drifted past and a striking stripeless tree frog was found in a bush very close to a hungry looking chicken! Later in the evening 600 Swifts circled the fields by Matchani Gran and both Scops Owls and Stone curlews could be heard calling after dark.

### **Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> April – Mahón & Punta Prima**

A misty start soon gave way to sunny conditions and before breakfast a Tawny Pipit was singing from the local fields. After breakfast we headed off to Mahón to explore the town and have a look at the market. On the way out a Nightingale was seen well on the telephone wires and several of the group got a good view of a Hoopoe. The rest of the morning was spent in the town where several Pallid



Swifts hunted for insects over the centre and a male Blue Rock Thrush sang from buildings overlooking the harbour. Towards lunchtime we drove down to the harbour and managed to find two adult Audouin's Gulls on the water as well as a Black-headed Gull. The Audouin's Gulls were persuaded to come right up to the harbour edge by offering them free hand-outs of bread, though as this took a little time the harbour-side gin shop closed in the meantime. A Booted Eagle then flew overhead and it was time to head back to Matchani Gran for lunch on the terrace.

After lunch most of the group boarded the buses for the short trip to Punta Prima; a Marsh Harrier was seen quartering the fields on the way. Another Audouin's Gull was located immediately on arrival at the shore, at least 20 Cory's Shearwaters were gliding by offshore and a bold little egret gave us stunningly close views. Two Shags were perched up on offshore rocks, a solitary Oystercatcher flew along the shoreline, then Jim found a well camouflaged Kentish Plover on the rocks. A southern speckled wood was another new butterfly for the trip and on the way back to base Rosemary found another Woodchat Shrike. Back at base it was time for more swimming in the pool!

### **Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> April – Algendar Gorge, Naveta Des Tudons & Ciutadella**

The pre-breakfast walk turned up the first Cuckoo of the trip and Chris heard a calling Quail in the local fields. Two Hoopoes were calling and three Pied Flycatchers were found in the scrub. After breakfast we drove off to Cala Galdana to explore the gorge behind the town. On the way we stopped at a foxglove tree near Alaior for pictures where a pale-phase Booted Eagle drifted over and two Woodpigeons flew past. On the way at least five Hoopoes were seen from the buses as well as three Kestrels.

The Algendar Gorge gate was locked but this did not deter the Salisbury Group who deftly clambered over the wall and in! We bumped into a group of ramblers and let them march on up the gorge leaving us to the wildlife. The gorge is well known as the best breeding site for Egyptian Vultures on Menorca and we did not have long to wait as up to four birds drifted over throughout the morning, two probable breeding adults and two immature birds. Lots of Rock Doves seemed to be breeding on the cliffs at the entrance to the gorge and I think that these are as 'pure' as you can find on the island. Several Fan-tailed Warblers were singing here as well as the inevitable Cetti's Warbler. As we started our walk we found both grey & narrow-leaved cistus in flower and pitch trefoil smothered the banks all through the gorge. The shelter provided by the gorge brought several butterflies out including holly blue, several beautifully bright cleopatras and a pale clouded yellow. The scrub on the valley floor turned up at least six Whinchats, a Woodchat Shrike and a whole host of Goldfinches. A Purple Heron flew in and perched up in a tree, a Grey Heron flew past then Gerald almost trod on another Purple Heron on a dyke edge – I'm not sure who was more surprised!

The slopes of the gorge were covered in scrub and pines and we heard two singing Firecrests and just managed to see one briefly. We then heard a Great Tit, which was another new bird! As we moved along the gorge Ted found the nest of a funnel-web spider and we then noticed two clumps of bright flowers; a Cretan mullein, heroically identified by Chris and white arum, a species of lily. Margaret then found a devil's coach horse which we managed to contain in a specimen box before we let it go, several tongue orchids were located and Gerald saw an emperor dragonfly along the river. Before we turned back we were lucky enough to get great views of an adult Egyptian Vulture on the cliffs as well as a stunning male Kestrel. What really stuck in my mind about this site was the constant backdrop of singing Nightingales – absolutely stunning!! At lunch we shared a cake to celebrate Gerald and Rosemary's 20<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary.

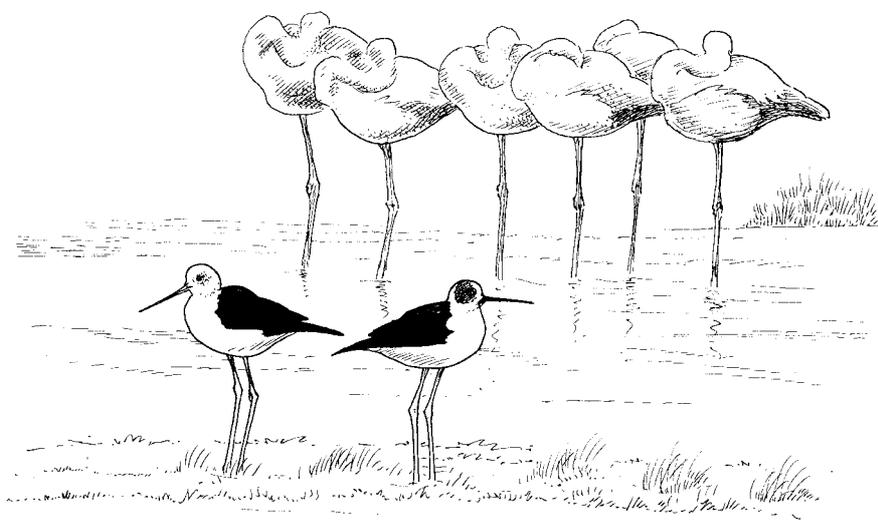
After lunch we looked at another prehistoric site at Naveta Des Tudons and, blow me, there were the ramblers again! This impressive site was also good for wildlife and the botanists were immediately enchanted by the three-leaved toadflax and wild gladiolus. We heard Quail singing on two occasions but were unable to see them which is quite usual. Three Egyptian Vultures and a Booted Eagle soared

overhead and another Woodchat Shrike was seen briefly. Another really good plant here was spiked star-of-Bethlehem.

Our final visit was to the old capital of Ciutadella where we found Indian Bead trees in the square, Swifts flying overhead and a very welcome cup of coffee. There was a little mishap with the navigation as we left the town but our bus managed to find the right road first time and on the way back we had a Black Kite overhead. The evening was spent at a super restaurant in Es Castell but was somewhat marred by the grey bus getting a massive puncture as we arrived back at base.

#### **Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> April – Mongofre Nou, Cap de Favaritx & Albufera D'es Grau**

After last night's wheel damage we had a little delay while another bus was delivered but we were then soon on our way. Our first point of call – stopping on route for a Red Kite and a rabbit – was the private reserve at Mongofre Nou, managed in association with the Balearic Ornithological Group (GOB). The reserve looked absolutely superb and was heaving with wildlife. Waders on the pools took our full attention and we soon identified two Ruffs, two Ringed Plovers, four Wood Sandpipers, four Greenshank and four Kentish Plovers. A minimum of five Little Egrets were in the shallows and Black-winged Stilts numbered at least 40 – an amazing sight! Two male Garganeys and another male Shoveler were found on the pools and as we moved on four stunning Greater Flamingos came into view. A Turtle Dove then sang from thick cover and more waders included five Common Sandpipers, a Green Sandpiper and a Spotted Redshank in full summer plumage. After all this excitement Audrey almost trod on a Little Bittern which skulked in deep cover right in front of us before flying off across the water. This was a life-tick for Rob and Kathy, although not, of course, for many in the more well-travelled Salisbury group! More excitement then followed in the shape of a male Pied Flycatcher and an Osprey that flew over the lagoons before perching up in a tree on the surrounding slopes. All of the group were then able to get excellent views of this spectacular bird of prey in the telescope. We finished off the morning by identifying an emperor dragonfly and then the much scarcer lesser emperor before finding six Little Stints on the pools and two Shags perched up on distant rocks.



We had lunch in the sunshine at the entrance to the reserve and everyone agreed that Mongofre Nou was a very special place. Two Ravens and a Booted Eagle were over the surrounding cliffs and several butterflies included holly blues and cleopatras. Rosemary, Gerald and Joan then had a most fortunate sighting of a pine marten trotting across the road and disappearing into the undergrowth.

Our next stop was a brief look at Cap de Favaritx, a strange barren place which was a little disappointing, especially after such a interesting morning. Several Cory's Shearwaters were offshore, again rather a long way out, and a Shag was perched up on the rocks.

Our last destination of the day was at Albufera D'es Grau: the only designated reserve on Menorca. It does have a reputation for occasionally being disappointing but we were fortunate in immediately

having good views of a fishing Whiskered Tern over the lakes with its plumage flashing in the sun. A Night Heron then quickly disappeared into thick cover and three Purple Herons took to flight over the lakes. We also had very good views of three Black-winged Stilts and five Little Egrets before retiring to a local bar for teas and cold drinks. Back at the Matchani Gran bar and pool we were treated to yet another cake, this time to celebrate Chris's birthday - we all agreed he didn't look 60!!

Before dinner we enjoyed a magnificent potted history of Menorca from the incredible John Seymour, which left us all quite exhausted! Over dinner we were given an excellent insight into conservation problems and successes by Santí Catchot from the Balearic Ornithological Group (GOB). It is good to know that Honeyguide holidays have made such a useful contribution to their valuable efforts.

#### **Friday 27<sup>th</sup> April – Mosaics at San Climent & Son Bou**

Before dawn Kate was up and about and saw a Barn Owl around the hotel and later Pam and Grace had an excellent view of a Hoopoe on the wall. Unfortunately the morning brought periods of heavy rain so we decided to head off to the mosaics at San Climent which was under cover. A surprising male Blue-Rock Thrush was on telephone wires here, a Pheasant called from the surrounding fields and we had good views of two Thekla Larks and a male Kestrel. Next bad weather stop was the supermarket in Alaior.

As the rain eased off and the sun broke through we decided to pay another visit to the reedbeds at Son Bou. As we arrived at the resort we stopped for coffee and noticed Cory's Shearwaters offshore, plus a Wheatear on the roadside and many Swallows were coming in off the sea. As we wandered along the beach from the car park Ailsa found a Little Bittern that was showing well on the edge of the reeds. At least four Little Egrets were in the reeds and a Great Reed Warbler was singing well but would not show itself. Where the river runs out of the reedbed into the sea a large amount of mud was exposed and this was again full of waders. As well as the usual Sanderlings, Common Sandpipers and Little Stints we found two striking Curlew Sandpipers, both coming into summer plumage. After this we moved onto the higher ground to get views of the open water and immediately picked up two Purple Herons. We stayed here for some time and were finally rewarded by good views of two adult & two juvenile Purple Gallinules climbing through the reeds. We finished off the morning with excellent views of a Pallid Swift and a Willow Warbler busily taking insects from the scrub.

After lunch we made our way through the resort to the far end of Son Bou. Our first bird here was a Squacco Heron right out in the open in a nearby field followed by a singing Fan-tailed Warbler and at least two Hoopoes. Several banded demoiselles were on the vegetation along the lane here and Gerald continued his excellent gecko watching by finding two more, including one that stayed put for several minutes. As we moved along the path a Night Heron flew straight towards us before veering off, two Little Egrets were in the meadow and a Cattle Egret perched up on a stone wall. Yet another Booted Eagle soared overhead, a Hoopoe and two Turtle Doves flew past and two Wood Sandpipers and a Redshank were feeding in thick vegetation. As we moved back towards the buses three Yellow Wagtails flew in and a pale-phase Booted Eagle soared into view.

Our last evening at Matchani Gran passed with much hilarity; what with Shadows impersonations, Audrey in a rasta wig! – not to mention the tea-cosy – and sadness that the week had flown so quickly. Some of us went planet-gazing, with the aid of Chris's telescope, and were treated to several close-up views of a rather rattled Scop's owl who did not take kindly to Chris invading his territory!

#### **Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> April – Matchani Gran & Luton**

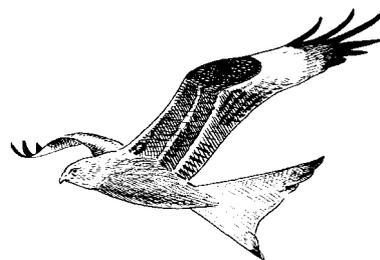
Another warm and sunny day and time to head for home. We had time for a last quick look around the fields and immediately found two Stone-curlews, had an excellent view of a Hoopoe and a Tawny Pipit sang in the air. The last bird of all was a Raven that flew over "cronking" mournfully.

Many thanks are due, once again, to the Salisbury Group for their tremendous good humour, which makes all our holidays together such good fun; to Chris for his excellent leadership and to Shaun, Jenny & Vivian for their warm hospitality and endless entertainments!

## Bird List

Species	Latin Name	Comments
Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>	Heard at Son Bou
Cory's Shearwater	<i>Calonectris diomedea</i>	Regular offshore; c.50 at Son Bou on 27 <sup>th</sup> .
Balearic Shearwater	<i>Puffinus mauretanicus</i>	Offshore at Son Bou & Cap de Cavallería
European Shag	<i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis</i>	Most coastal,sites
Little Bittern	<i>Ixobrychus minutus</i>	One at Mongofre Nou & Son Bou
Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>	Albufera & Son Bou
Squacco Heron	<i>Ardeola ralloides</i>	Son Bou
Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>	Tirant & Son Bou
Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	Common; peak of 30 at Tirant on 23 <sup>rd</sup> .
Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	Most wetland sites; 3 at Mongofre Nou.
Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>	Most wetland sites; 3 at Albufera.
White Stork	<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>	4 at Tirant.
Greater Flamingo	<i>Phoenicopterus ruber</i>	4 at Mongofre Nou on 26 <sup>th</sup> .
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	Common & widespread.
Garganey	<i>Anas querquedula</i>	5m at Son Bou & 2m at Mongofre Nou.
Northern Shoveler	<i>Anas clypeata</i>	Son Bou, Tirant & 2 at Mongofre Nou.
Black Kite	<i>Milvus migrans</i>	One near Ciutadella.
Red Kite	<i>Milvus milvus</i>	Matchani Gran, Tirant & Mongofre Nou
Egyptian Vulture	<i>Neophron percnopterus</i>	Peak of 4 at Algendar Gorge.
Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>	Two at Tirant; one on way to Punta Prima.
Booted Eagle	<i>Hieraetus pennatus</i>	Widespread & common.
Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	Cap de Cavallería & Mongofre Nou.
Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	Widepread & common.
Peregrine	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	One at Cap de Cavallería.
Red-legged Partridge	<i>Alectoris rufa</i>	Two on way to airport.
Pheasant	<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>	Heard at Mosaics at San Climent.
Quail	<i>Coturnix coturnix</i>	Heard at Matchani Gran & Naveta Des Tudons
Water Rail	<i>Rallus aquaticus</i>	Heard at Son Bou.
Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	Most freshwater sites.
Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>	Son Bou, Tirant & Mongofre Nou.
Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>	One at Punta Prima.
Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>	Peak of 43 at Mongofre Nou.
Stone-curlew	<i>Burhinus oediconemus</i>	Heard at Matchani Gran the 2 on 28 <sup>th</sup> .
Little Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>	7 at Tirant & six at Mongofre Nou.
Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>	2 at Mongofre Nou.
Kentish Plover	<i>Charadrius alexandrinus</i>	One at Punta Prima 7 4 at Mongofre Nou.
Grey Plover	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>	One at Punta Prima.
Sanderling	<i>Calidris alba</i>	Son Bou & Cap de Favaritx.
Little Stint	<i>Calidris minuta</i>	Peak of six at Mongofre Nou.
Curlew Sandpiper	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>	2 at Son Bou on 27 <sup>th</sup> .
Ruff	<i>Philomachus pugnax</i>	2 at Tirant & Mongofre Nou.
Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>	Heard at Torre Des Gaumés.
Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>	One at Tirant & Son Bou.
Spotted Redshank	<i>Tringa erythropus</i>	One at Mongofre Nou.
Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>	Peak of 4 at Mongofre Nou on 26 <sup>th</sup> .
Green Sandpiper	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>	One at Mongofre Nou on 26 <sup>th</sup> .
Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>	Peak of 17 at Tirant on 23 <sup>rd</sup> .
Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>	Peak of 6 at Mongofre Nou on 26 <sup>th</sup> .
Black-headed Gull	<i>Larus ridibundus</i>	One at Mahón on 24 <sup>th</sup> .
Yellow-legged Gull	<i>Larus cachinnans</i>	Widespread & common.
Audouin's Gull	<i>Larus audouinii</i>	Mahón & Punta Prima.
Whiskered Tern	<i>Chlidonias hybridus</i>	One at Albufera on 26 <sup>th</sup> .
Rock Dove	<i>Columba livia</i>	Widespread & common.
Woodpigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	Alaior & Mongofre Nou.

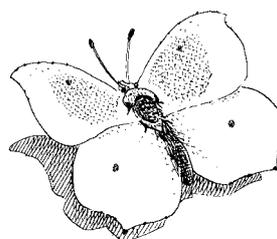
Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	Four sites inc. 2 at Matchani Gran.
Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>	Several seen inc. 3 at Tirant on 23 <sup>rd</sup> .
Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>	Heard at Matchani Gran.
Barn Owl	<i>Tyto alba</i>	One at Matchani Gran on 27 <sup>th</sup> .
Scops Owl	<i>Otus scops</i>	Seen & heard at Matchani Gran.
Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>	Widespread & common.
Pallid Swift	<i>Apus pallidus</i>	Peak of 5 at Mahón & 4 at Ciutadella.
Alpine Swift	<i>Apus melba</i>	One at Matchani Gran on 21 <sup>st</sup> .
Bee-eater	<i>Merops apiaster</i>	Heard at three locations.
Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>	Widespread & common.
Short-toed Lark	<i>Calandrella brachydactyla</i>	Singing male at Matchani Gran on 24 <sup>th</sup> .
Thekla Lark	<i>Gallerida theklae</i>	Common – good views at Matchani Gran.
Sand Martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>	Son Bou, Tirant & Mongofre Nou.
Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	Widespread & common.
House Martin	<i>Delichon urbica</i>	Common.
Tawny Pipit	<i>Anthus campestris</i>	Singing males at Matchani Gran & Tirant.
Tree Pipit	<i>Anthus trivialis</i>	Two at Tirant on 23 <sup>rd</sup> .
Spanish Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava iberiae</i>	3 at Son Bou on 27 <sup>th</sup> .
Nightingale	<i>Luscinia megarhynchos</i>	Widespread & common.
Whinchat	<i>Saxicola rubetra</i>	Peak of 7 at Algendar Gorge on 25 <sup>th</sup> .
Stonechat	<i>Saxicola torquata</i>	Widespread & common.
Northern Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>	One at Tirant & 2 at Son Bou.
Blue Rock Thrush	<i>Monticola solitarius</i>	Noted at several sites inc. Cap de Cavallería.
Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	Common.
Cetti's Warbler	<i>Cettia cetti</i>	Widespread & common.
Fan-tailed Warbler	<i>Cisticola juncidis</i>	Good views at Algendar Gorge.
Great Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus arundinaceus</i>	Heard at Son Bou.
Subalpine Warbler	<i>Sylvia cantillans</i>	Male at Cap de Cavallería.
Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia communis</i>	Matchani Gran & Tirant.
Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>	Matchani Gran most mornings.
Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>	Relatively common at wetland sites.
Willow Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>	One at Son Bou on 27 <sup>th</sup> .
Firecrest	<i>Regulus ignicapilla</i>	Two at Algendar Gorge on 25 <sup>th</sup> .
Spotted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>	Regular at Matchani Gran.
Pied Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula hypoleuca</i>	Peak of 4 at Matchani Gran on 25 <sup>th</sup> .
Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>	Algendar Gorge & Mongofre Nou.
Woodchat Shrike	<i>Lanius senator</i>	Several sites inc. 3 on 25 <sup>th</sup> .
Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>	Peak of 26 at Matchani Gran on 23 <sup>rd</sup> .
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	Widespread & common.
Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	Son Bou & Algendar Gorge
Greenfinch	<i>Carduelis chloris</i>	Widespread & common.
Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	Widespread & common.
Linnet	<i>Carduelis cannabina</i>	Widespread and fairly common.
Corn Bunting	<i>Miliaria calandra</i>	Widespread & fairly common.



red kite

## Butterflies

Large White	Small Heath
Small White	Speckled Wood
Clouded Yellow	Wall
Pale Clouded Yellow	Small Copper
Cleopatra	Holly Blue
Painted Lady	Geranium Bronze
Red Admiral	



*cleopatra*

## Mammals

Algerian Hedgehog  
Pine Marten  
Rabbit

## Reptiles & Amphibians

Marsh Frog	Italian Wall Lizard
Stripeless Tree Frog	Hermann's Tortoise
Moorish Gecko	Red-eared Terrapin

## Other Insects

Hummingbird Hawk-moth	Dung Beetle
Silver Y Moth	Stink Beetle
Mediterranean Demoiselle	Devil's Coach Horse
Blue-tailed Damselfly	Seven-spot Ladybird
Emperor Dragonfly	Egyptian Locust
Lesser Emperor Dragonfly	Tawny Mining Bee
Pine Processionary Moth – caterpillars	Paper Wasp
Violet Carpenter Bee	

## Discovering Menorca Plant checklist

Written & prepared by Kathy Archibald

In the lists which follow, the localities are identified by the following codes

MG - Matchani Gran	MN - Mongofre Nou
SB - Son Bou	CF - Cap de Favaritx
TG - Torre d'en Gaumés	F - Fornells
EM - Es Mercadel Depuradora	AG - Algendar Gorge
T - Tirant	NT - Naveta d'es Tudons
CC - Cap de Cavallería	PP - Punta Prima
MT - Monte Toro	EG - S'Albufera es Grau

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

### FERNS & ALLIES

<i>Equisetum telmateia</i>	great horsetail	SB
<i>Adiantum capillis-veneris</i>	maidenhair fern	SB AG

### CONIFERS & ALLIES

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

### FLOWERING PLANTS

#### Acanthaceae

<i>Acanthus mollis</i>	Bear's breech	SB
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#### Agavaceae

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

<i>Carpobrotus edulis</i>	Hottentot fig	CF F
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#### Amaryllidaceae

<i>Pancratium maritimum</i>	sand daffodil	SB CC EG
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#### Anacardiaceae

<i>Pistachia lentiscus</i>	lentisc (or mastic tree)	
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#### Apiaceae (umbellifers)

<i>Apium nodiflorum</i>	fool's watercress	SB
<i>Crithmun maritimum</i>	rock samphire	
<i>Daucus carota</i>	wild carrot	
<i>Eryngium campestre</i>	field eryngo	MG
<i>E. maritimum</i>	sea-holly	SB
<i>Ferula communis</i>	giant fennel	
<i>Foeniculum vulgare</i>	fennel	

<i>Kundmannia sicula</i>		
<i>Scandix pecten-veneris</i>	shepherd's-needle	MG
<i>Torilis nodosa</i>	knotted hedge-parsley	
<b>Apocynaceae</b>		
<i>Vinca difformis</i>	pale periwinkle	TG
<b>Araceae</b>		
<i>Aristolochia sempervirens</i>	birthwort	
<i>Arum italicum</i>	Italian lords-and-ladies	AG
<i>Dracunculus muscivorus</i>	dragon arum	CC
<b>Araliaceae</b>		
<i>Hedera helix</i>	ivy	AG
<b>Asteraceae (composites)</b>		
<i>Bellis annua</i>	annual daisy	MG
<i>Calendula arvensis</i>	field marigold	
<i>Chrysanthemum coronarium</i>	crown daisy	
<i>Evax pygmaea</i>		MG CC
<i>Galactites tomentosa</i>	field thistle	
<i>Helichrysum stoechas</i>	curry plant	
<i>Hyoseris radiata</i>	(looks like a sowthistle)	
<i>Pallenis spinosa</i>		MG PP
<i>Reichardia tingitana</i>		SB
<i>Santolina chamaecyparissus</i>	lavender-cotton	CC
<i>Senecio rodriguezii</i>		CC CF PP
<i>Silybum marianum</i>	milk-thistle	
<i>Taraxacum officinale</i>	dandelion	
<i>Urospermum dalechampii</i>		
<b>Boraginaceae</b>		
<i>Borago officinalis</i>	borage	
<i>Cynoglossum creticum</i>	blue hound's-tongue	MG SB
<i>Echium italicum</i>	pale bugloss	
<i>E. plantagineum</i>	purple viper's-bugloss	MG SB
<b>Brassicaceae (crucifers)</b>		
<i>Brassica napus</i>	rape	
<i>Cakile maritima</i>	sea-rocket	SB
<i>Cardaria draba</i>	hoary cress	
<i>Lobularia maritima</i>	sweet alison	SB
<i>Rorippa nasturtium-aquaticum</i>	watercress	SB
<b>Cactaceae</b>		
<i>Opuntia ficus-indica</i>	prickly-pear	MG T
<b>Caprifoliaceae</b>		
<i>Lonicera implexa</i>	honeysuckle	AG PP
<i>L. etrusca</i>		
<b>Caryophyllaceae (pinks)</b>		
<i>Silene gallica</i>	small-flowered catchfly	CC EG PP
<i>S. vulgaris</i>	bladder campion	
<i>S. cretica</i>	Cretan catchfly	MG
<i>S. conica</i>	sand catchfly	
<b>Chenopodiaceae</b>		
<i>Beta vulgaris</i> ssp. <i>maritima</i>	sea beet	SB
<i>Sarcocornia perennis</i>	perennial glasswort	EG MN

<b>Cistaceae</b>		
<i>Cistus albidus</i>	grey-leaved cistus	
<i>C. monspeliensis</i>	narrow-leaved cistus	EG
<i>C. salvifolius</i>	sage-leaved cistus	
<b>Convolvulaceae</b>		
<i>Calystegia soldanella</i>	sea bindweed	SB
<i>Convolvulus althaeoides</i>	mallow-leaved bindweed	
<b>Crassulaceae</b>		
<i>Umbilicus rupestris</i>	navelwort	
<b>Cuscutaceae</b>		
<i>Cuscuta epithimum</i>	dodder	CC
<b>Cyperaceae</b>		
<i>Scirpus maritimus</i>	sea club-rush	T
<b>Dipsacaceae</b>		
<i>Scabiosa atropurpurea</i>		SB
<i>S. maritima</i>		SB
<b>Ericaceae</b>		
<i>Erica arborea</i>	tree-heath	EG
<b>Euphorbiaceae</b>		
<i>Euphorbia dendroides</i>	tree spurge	EG PP
<i>E. helioscopia</i>	sun spurge	
<i>Ricinis communis</i>	castor oil plant	SB
<b>Fagaceae</b>		
<i>Quercus ilex</i>	holm oak	
<b>Gentianaceae</b>		
<i>Blackstonia perfoliata</i>	yellow-wort	SB
<i>Centaurium pulchellum</i>	lesser centaury	EG
<b>Geraniaceae</b>		
<i>Erodium malacoides</i>	mallow-leaved stork's-bill	
<i>Geranium columbinum</i>	long-stalked crane's-bill	
<i>G. dissectum</i>	cut-leaved crane's-bill	
<i>G. molle</i>	dove's-foot crane's-bill	
<i>G. purpureum</i>	little-robin	
<i>G. rotundifolium</i>	round-leaved crane's-bill	
<b>Iridaceae</b>		
<i>Gladiolus italicus</i>	wild gladiolus	MG PP
<b>Juncaceae</b>		
<i>Juncus acutus</i>	sharp rush	MG T EG MN
<b>Lamiaceae (labiates)</b>		
<i>Mentha suaveolens</i>	apple-scented mint	SB
<i>M. aquatica</i>	water mint	AG
<i>Prasium majus</i>	Spanish nettle tree	MG TG
<i>Rosmarinus officinalis</i>	rosemary	
<i>Salvia verbenaca</i>	meadow clary	
<i>Teucrium marum</i>		

<b>Liliaceae</b>		
<i>Allium ampeloprasum</i>	wild leek	PP
<i>A. roseum</i>	rose garlic	
<i>A. triquetrum</i>	three-cornered leek	
<i>A. subvillosum</i>		MN
<i>Asparagus horridus</i>		
<i>Asphodelus aestivus</i>		
<i>A. fistulosus</i>		
<i>Muscari comosum</i>	tassel hyacinth	
<i>Ornithogalum arabicum</i>	Arabian star-of-Bethlehem	MG
<i>O. pyrenaicum</i>	spiked star-of-Bethlehem	NT
<i>Ruscus aculeatus</i>	butcher's broom	SB
<i>Urginea maritima</i>	sea squill	
<b>Linaceae</b>		
<i>Linum usitatissimum</i>	common flax	AG PP
<i>L. bienne</i>	pale flax	
<i>L. trigynum</i>		
<b>Lythraceae</b>		
<i>Lythrum junceum</i>		AG
<b>Malvaceae</b>		
<i>Lavatera cretica</i>	smaller tree-mallow	
<i>L. arborea</i>	tree mallow	
<i>Malva neglecta</i>	dwarf mallow	
<i>M. sylvestris</i>	common mallow	
<b>Meliaceae</b>		
<i>Melia azedarach</i>	Indian bead-tree	[planted]
<b>Moraceae</b>		
<i>Ficus carica</i>	fig	
<b>Myoporaceae</b>		
<i>Myoporum laetum</i>		[planted]
<b>Oleaceae</b>		
<i>Olea europaea</i>	olive	[planted]
<b>Orobanchaceae</b>		
<i>Orobanche minor</i>	lesser broomrape	PP
<i>O. ramosa</i>	branched broomrape	MG
<i>O. sanguinea</i>		
<b>Orchidaceae</b>		
<i>Orchis coriophora</i> subsp. <i>fragrans</i>	bug orchid	SB
<i>Ophrys speculum</i>	mirror orchid	
<i>Serapias parviflora</i>	small-flowered tongue-orchid	
<b>Oxalidaceae</b>		
<i>Oxalis pes-caprae</i>	Bermuda buttercup	
<b>Papaveraceae</b>		
<i>Fumaria capreolata</i>	white ramping-fumitory	SB
<i>Papaver hybridum</i>	rough poppy	MG
<i>P. rhoeas</i>	common poppy	
<i>P. dubium</i>	long-headed poppy	
<i>P. somniferum</i>	opium poppy	

<i>P. argemone</i>	prickly poppy	
<b>Papilionaceae (peas)</b>		
<i>Ceratonia siliqua</i>	carob (planted)	
<i>Anthyllis vulneraria</i>	Mediterranean kidney vetch	SB
<i>Astragalus boeoticus</i>		
<i>Calicotome spinosa</i>	spiny broom	MN MN
<i>Dorycnium hirsutum</i>		
<i>D. pentaphyllum</i>		
<i>Hedysarum coronarium</i>	Italian sainfoin	SB SB EG
<i>Lathyrus annua</i>		
<i>L. ochrus</i>		
<i>L. sphaericus</i>		
<i>Lotus corniculatus</i>	marsh bird's foot trefoil	SB SB
<i>L. ornithopodioides</i>		
<i>Medicago orbicularis</i>	large disc medick	
<i>Melilotus officinalis</i>	ribbed melilot	SB
<i>Psoralea bituminosa</i>	pitch trefoil	
<i>Robinia pseudacacia</i>	false acacia (planted)	
<i>Spartium junceum</i>	Spanish broom	MN
<i>Trifolium campestre</i>	hop trefoil	EG
<i>T. stellatum</i>	starry clover	SB AG
<i>Vicia benghalensis</i>		
<i>V. tetrasperma</i>	smooth tare	
<i>V. lutea</i>	yellow vetch	
<b>Phytolaccaceae</b>		
<i>Phytolacca arborea</i>	ombu	MG [planted]
<b>Plantaginaceae</b>		
<i>Plantago coronopus</i>	buck's-horn plantain	
<b>Plumbaginaceae</b>		
<i>Limonium minutum</i>		CC CF F PP
<b>Poaceae (grasses)</b>		
<i>Briza maxima</i>	quaking grass	SB
<i>Hodeum murinum</i>	wall barley	
<i>Ammophila arenaria</i>	marram grass	SB EG
<i>Ampelodesmus mauritanicus</i>		
<i>Arundo donax</i>	giant reed	AG
<i>Lagurus ovatus</i>	hare's-foot grass	
<b>Polygonaceae</b>		
<i>Rumex crispus</i>	curled dock	
<b>Posidoniaceae</b>		
<i>Posidonia oceanica</i>		SB
<b>Primulaceae</b>		
<i>Anagallis arvensis</i>	scarlet pimpernel (red & blue varieties)	
<b>Punicaceae</b>		
<i>Punica granatum</i>	pomegranate	AG
<b>Ranunculaceae</b>		
<i>Clematis cirrhosa</i>	maiden's-bower	MG MG SB EG
<i>C. flammula</i>		
<i>Ranunculus aquatilis</i>	common water-crowfoot	SB T
<i>R. macrophyllus</i>	large-leaved buttercup	T MN

*R. arvensis*

**Resedaceae**

*Reseda alba*

white mignonette

*R. odorata*

mignonette

**Rhamnaceae**

*Rhamnus alaternus*

Mediterranean buckthorn EG AG

**Rosaceae**

*Crataegus monogyna*

hawthorn

*Malus (sylvestris?)*

crab apple

AG

*Prunus dulcis*

almond (planted)

EM

*Rosa sempervirens*

*Rubus ulmifolius*

bramble

*Eriobotria japonica*

Japanese loquat

AG

*Sanguisorba minor*

salad burnet

T MN

**Rubiaceae**

*Galium aparine*

cleavers

*Rubia peregrina*

wild madder

*Sherardia arvensis*

field madder

**Rutaceae**

*Ruta chalepensis*

fringed rue

MG

**Salicaceae**

*Populus alba*

white poplar

AG

**Scrophulariaceae**

*Paulownia tomentosa*

foxglove tree (planted)

*Bellardia trixago*

*Linaria triphylla*

three-leaved toadflax

NT

*Misopates orontium*

weasel's snout

MG NT

*Parentucellia viscosa*

yellow bartsia

MG AG

*Scrophularia peregrina*

nettle-leaved figwort

AG

*Verbascum creticum*

AG

*V. sinuatum*

**Smilacaceae**

*Smilax aspera* var. *balearica*

EM

**Solanaceae**

*Solanum sodomaeum*

apple-of-Sodom

SB

**Tamaricaceae**

*Tamarix boveana*

SB

*T. gallica*

tamarisk

**Urticaceae**

*Parietaria judaica*

pellitory-of-the-wall

*Urtica membranacea*

membranous nettle

**Valerianaceae**

*Centranthus calcitrapae*

SB