

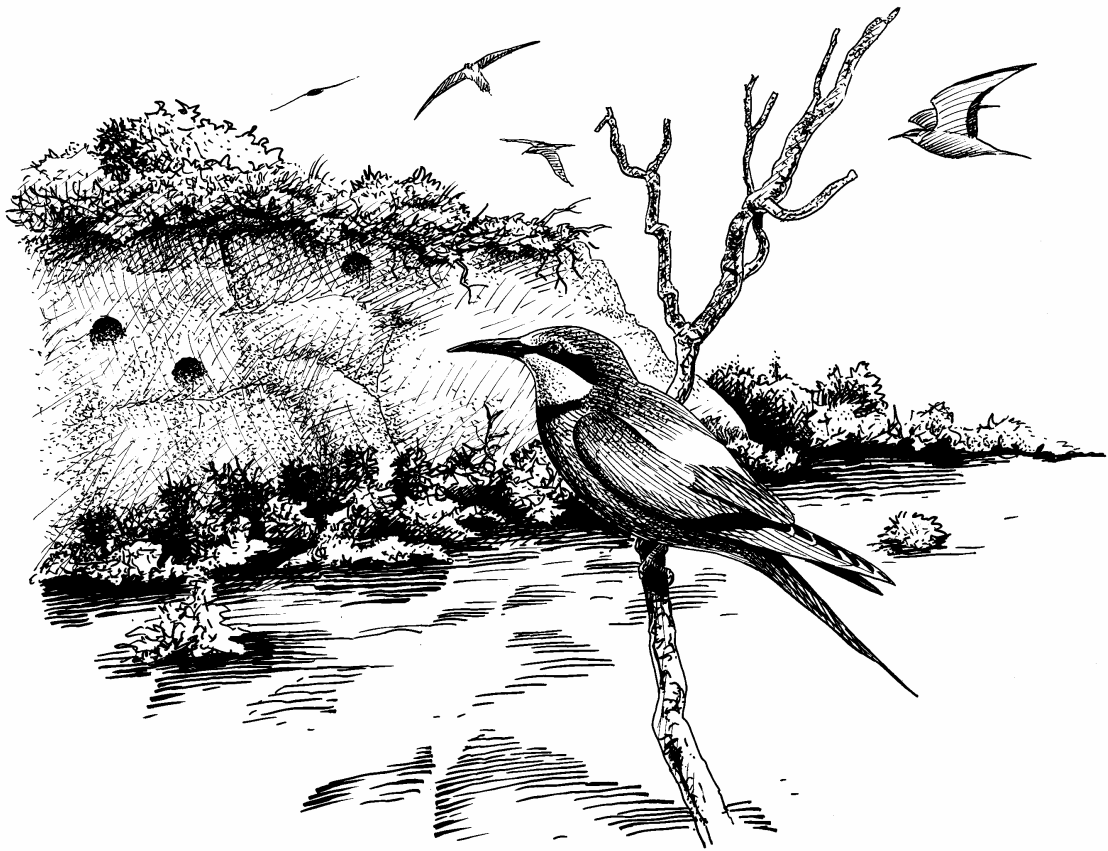
Honeyguide

WILDLIFE HOLIDAYS

36 Thunder Lane, Thorpe St Andrew, Norwich NR7 0PX

Telephone: 01603 300552

www.honeyguide.co.uk E-mail: chris@honeyguide.co.uk



Discovering Menorca
9 – 16 May 1994

DISCOVERING MENORCA
9-16 MAY 1994

List of participants

Frank and Joyce Dunn
Angela Turner
Ann Suckling
Michael and Doreen Pill
Betty Griffin
Margaret Houke
Anne Carr
Bill and Beryl Storey
Helen Smith
Manfred and Margaret Gorlin
Jill Bottomley
Ann Urmston

John Waldon)
Leigh Lock) leaders

Report written by John Waldon and Leigh Lock

Our hosts: Shaun & Jenny Murphy, Matchani Gran

Illustrations by Rob Hume. Cover: bee-eaters.

A thank-you letter from GOB for the Honeyguide donation (see page 4)
appears at the end of the scanned Menorca Plants 1996 PDF.

INTRODUCTION

This was the first Honeyguide wildlife holiday to Menorca, the second largest of the Balearic Islands. The island is relatively small, a little over 45 km long and only 20 km at its widest point. However, the island offers a wide range of landscapes and distinctive geology, which in turn provide an array of habitats.

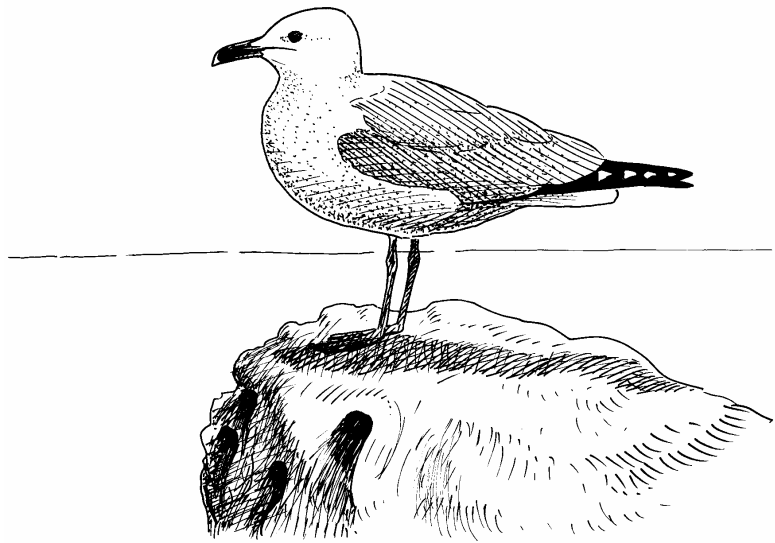
The holiday began early on Monday 9 May. The flight from Luton was on time, arriving a few minutes early at Mahón airport at 10.05 local time. Before landing, the 'plane flew directly south across the island providing those of us fortunate to have a window seat with a tantalising glimpse of turquoise seas, sandy coves and some of the places we were to visit over the following seven days. After clearing the airport we were greeted by Shaun Murphy, the proprietor of our hotel and a representative from DonCars (providers of the two minibuses and a car).

A short drive to our base revealed the first birds, including a red kite quartering the airfield and hoopoes on the drive. On arrival at Matchani Gran, a private Menorcan country house situated just outside of Sant Climent, Shaun and his wife Jenny introduced themselves, their two 'guard dogs' and their delightful house to us. While we waited to be shown to our rooms, telescopes and binoculars scanned the fields next to the building. Within minutes, Thekla larks, short-toed larks, Sardinian warblers and an obliging woodchat shrike appeared. Overhead two booted eagles were joined by migratory swallows and swifts. All were to become familiar to us as would be the daily dawn chorus of hoopoes. Over lunch we began to become acquainted with our group, including Jill who had travelled independently. From the start it was a friendly and enthusiastic group. This was our first opportunity to introduce ourselves to the group. While explaining our plans for the rest of the day and the week ahead, we were continually interrupted by a new bird call or a flock of birds passing overhead. Ann Urmston's flight arrived later in the day and by evening the group was complete.

The travelling arrangements were organised. The leaders were to drive the minibuses (capacity eight) and Margaret Gorlin the car. While we encouraged people to change vehicles during the week, this did not happen. Because everyone mixed at meal times and during those not so frequent periods set aside for relaxation, travelling in three vehicles did not cause any problems. As some of the roads were a little rough (!), it's difficult to say who had the most comfortable ride. While the minibuses were higher and allowed you to see over the stone walls, their suspension was a little harsh.

Access to the main birding sites was most often easy and free. There were two sites for which we needed to seek permission and, long before we left England, effort was made on our behalf by Julie Brahms and Bruce Laurie. However, right up to the last minute we did not know if we would be successful in gaining access to Montgofre Nou and La Val. Both are private estates and, as the owners had recently died, it was unclear who, if anyone, could give us permission. In the end we visited both. Permission to visit Montgofre Nou was given by Sara Casell, secretary to Fundació Rubio y Tuduri. This is a beautiful place with pools, woods and spectacular limestone cliffs. At La Val, the sand quarry was disappointing and the expected nesting bee-eaters were not to be found. However, a soaring red kite and hobby enlivened the visit, as did the confrontation with the guard. The walk to the private beach was well worth the effort, as one of the most beautiful scenes unveiled itself as we stepped out of the woods above the shore. A lone adult Audouin's gull

stood on the rocks surrounded by clear turquoise water. As we left, more and more visitors appeared; it is obviously well known to the locals and a favoured site for Sunday outings. We wondered what the future held for this beautiful estate.



The weather was generally very good, warm with light breezes during the day and cool at night. On one or two days cloud began to build but the anticipated rain never materialised apart from one heavy cloud-burst that accompanied thunder and lightning on Thursday evening. The good weather was responsible for a poor movement of migrants. The number of migrants was low and is reflected in a total of just over 80 species for the holiday. However, the resident birds performed well. All of the island's special birds were seen and seen well. Flocks of bee-eaters adorned roadside wires, booted eagles drifted overhead and stone-curlews called in the evenings.

During the week, Honeyguide had organised two talks. Both were in the evening at Matchani Gran. The first on Thursday was given by John Seymour. In one hour John attempted and succeeded to provide a potted history of the island: from pre-history and the times of the navetas and taulas (third century BC) to the complexities of Roman, English, Moorish, Catalanian and Spanish domination and to more recent times. The strategic importance of the natural harbour at Mao (Mahón) has long been the cause of disputes and battles, being first referred to as Portus Magonis by the Romans in 205 BC. The presentation helped us prepare for our visit to Santa Agueda and for those of us who managed to climb to the top, the tales of Moorish palaces and Roman castles seemed all the more real.

The following evening, Santí from the Grup Balear d'Ornitologia i Defensa de la Naturalesa (GOB) explained about the recent effort to understand the decline in numbers of red kites on the island. Menorca, only 10 or so years ago, had 120 pairs. Today only 25 pairs breed. Research conducted by GOB, including the colour ringing of young kites, suggests persecution as the most likely cause. However, the reasons are not clear. While kites decline, booted eagle numbers increase (now some 60 pairs) and Egyptian vulture numbers remain stable. He also confirmed that, in recent years, both the Marmora'a warbler and lesser kestrel have been lost as breeding species. During the talk, Honeyguide made a contribution of £400 to the research on red kites.

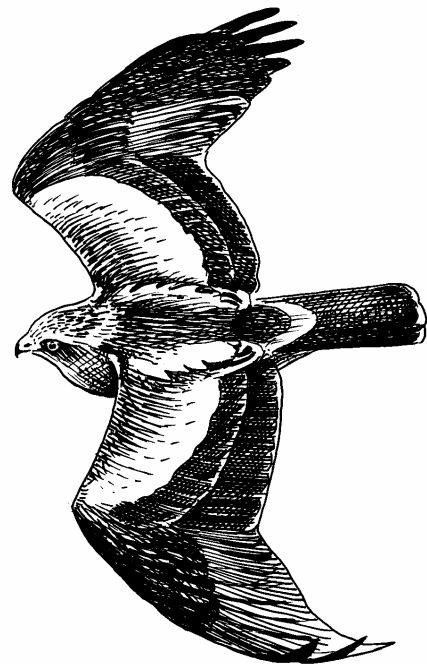
During the week almost all parts of the island were visited, from the moonscape of the far north-west at Punta Nati to the lush wetlands surrounding Sant Jaume (Son Bou). Throughout the island, fields full of flowers provided an image of what our own countryside may have looked like in the past. Bright poppies, corn marigolds and thistles produced fields of red, yellow and blue. On the hillsides the maquis was splendid, glowing orange, yellow and green as new growth covered shrubs and a range of flowers joined the riot of colour. Such splendour almost matched the colours of the bee-eaters, whose presence dominated the holiday.

Brief as this introduction to the holiday must be, it must include comment on the participants. The success of any holiday is dependent on the people involved. And this holiday was a success. The group mixed well and all without exception shamed the leaders with their enthusiasm and energy. It was a lively group apparently enjoying the range of visits and long hours. To call it a holiday may not be the best description, we offered time to relax but usually another option, a walk or visit, was preferred. Even the visit to Mahón was used by some to view pallid swift, Audouin's gull and osprey. Matchani Gran was an excellent base, quiet and offering excellent birding on the premises. Other wildlife could also be enjoyed at leisure here - geckos darting up and down walls, tortoises rustling through the vegetation, butterflies ranging from swallowtails to tiny Lang's short-tailed blues and bats hawking insects over the swimming pool at dusk.

Shaun and Jenny were perfect hosts and the food excellent, although the night of the paella and rhubarb tart will long be remembered.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the group for their enthusiasm, support and company throughout the week. We will remember the island for its birds, beauty and relaxing atmosphere and the holiday for its participants. I am sure we will all remember that almost continual chorus of nightingales and the tantalising glimpses as they flew across the drive or into bushes. We all shared the frustration of trying to get better views of this elusive bird. In the end we were all successful. Menorca lived up to its reputation as a friendly, relaxed island. Maybe some of its charm brushed off onto us all.

John Waldon and Leigh Lock



booted eagle

MONDAY 9 MAY - MATCHANI GRAN, MONT TORO, ES PRAT

We arrived at Mahón airport at mid-morning where red kite and hoopoe vied for the first bird of the trip. After a short drive we were soon settled in to Matchani Gran in its lovely setting of small fields with stone walls, patches of scrub and an abundance of colourful wild flowers. Good birds too - woodchat shrike, thekla lark, short-toed lark and Sardinian warbler all enjoyed by the eager group. After a light lunch we headed off to the highest point of the island - Mont Toro. Here we were not only able to enjoy the breathtaking views but were able to appreciate the topography and land use of the island - the mosaic of small fields with mixed cultivation and grazing and stands of scrub in the lowlands with extensive cork oak and pine forests on the hills. Although few birds were seen, attention turned to the ground where a number of beautiful wild flowers were admired.

We then drove down to the lowland fields of Es Prat where birds were everywhere. Pride of place went to a group of seven bee-eaters perched on wires close to the road, giving extensive views and delighting the group with their exotic plumage and evocative liquid calls. Other highlights included good views of a tawny pipit, a brief melodious warbler and two alpine swifts among a flock of swifts.

At the end of a very busy day, we returned to Matchani Gran where everyone consumed vast quantities of food and drink and reflected on their introduction to Menorca.



TUESDAY 10 MAY - MATCHANI GRAN, ALBUFERA, FORNELLS, ES PRAT, CAP DE CAVALLERIA

Hoopoes calling in Matchani Gran's grounds at dawn heralded the new day. An early morning walk in the fields behind Matchani Gran provided good views of hoopoes and woodchat shrike and a superb immature male Montagu's harrier. Nightingales sang loudly from surrounding bushes.

Following breakfast, we drove to Albufera Marshes - the largest freshwater lake in Menorca and fringed with pine woodland and Salicornia marsh. While the lake, most noted for its concentration of winter wildfowl, held little, a small pool provided us with an excellent selection of waders - curlew sandpipers, little stints, two little ringed plovers and one Temminck's stint. The Salicornia marsh was also flower rich with Serapias orchids, pink Alliums and yellow bartsia most eye-catching.

After a brief stop for refreshments and views of osprey at Fornells, the group headed out towards the Cap de Cavalleria.

En route, Es Prat produced bee-eaters as yesterday and an immature male red footed falcon. At the `Cap', the spectacular high cliffs, deep blue sea and almost lunar landscape of limestone exposures presented a stunning backdrop to the birds - blue rock thrushes, tawny pipits and another osprey - with good numbers of both Cory's and Mediterranean shearwaters moving offshore.

We then headed back to our Matchani Gran, where, as the sun was about to set, we were able to admire a partial eclipse.

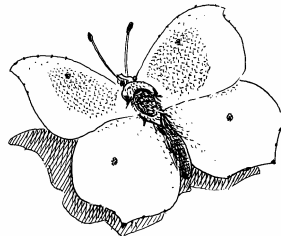
WEDNESDAY 11 MAY MONTGOFRE, CAP FAVARITX

For the morning session, we had arranged access to the private Montgofre estate where we hoped to see a variety of waders and water birds on a series of pools. We were not disappointed. The group was able to view Kentish plovers, black winged stilts and curlew sandpipers amongst others at very close range. Ruff, avocet, common sandpiper and Temminck's stint were also seen. The surrounding cliffs and crags also provided good views of booted eagle and peregrine at rest.

We then drove to the low rocky headland - the Cap Favaritz. Unfortunately, in the very hot midday sunshine there was little bird activity - but we were able to see our first Audouin's gull of the trip.

We then made a brief visit to the archaeological site of Torre d'en Gaumes, situated on a beautiful scrub covered hill top with commanding views of the surrounding countryside. Birds here included red kite and tawny pipit but most attention was focused on the butterflies - notably beautiful swallowtails and cleopatras (*below*).

The evening meal was at Roma's on the waterfront in Mahón.



THURSDAY 12 MAY - SON BOU, PUNTA PRIMA

The morning was spent birdwatching around the marshes of Son Bou - the principal wetland site on Menorca with its dense stands of reeds and fringing marsh and sand dune habitats. On arrival at the southern end of the site the lucky few within the group glimpsed a night heron before it disappeared into the dense reeds. We were however all able to watch Cory's shearwaters offshore, and admire the beautiful flowers of the dunes with their clouds of painted ladies and other butterflies. Unfortunately, reedbed birds being what they are, many remained elusive. A moustached warbler was glimpsed, a great reed warbler was heard but there was little else to see. We then explored the northern side of the marsh and walked along a path running away from the village. This proved to be outstanding. Great white egret, purple heron and squacco heron were all seen at distance in flight over the marsh with two cattle egrets giving excellent views amongst cattle. Pride of place though must go to a pair of fan-tailed warblers - at best glimpsed by most of the group until then, giving stunning views beside the path. Our lunch was eaten on the

scrubby, rocky slopes above Son Bou and we then returned to Matchani Gran for a `siesta`.

Our brief afternoon visit was to Punta Prima in the south east corner of the island. The sea breeze was beautifully refreshing as we strolled along the coast with its rocky shore and inland slopes covered in maquis. Two adult Audouin's gulls drifted past and shags swam offshore. We returned to Matchani Gran for our evening meal.

FRIDAY 13 MAY - PUNTA NATI, CIUTADELLA, SANTA AGUEDA

We set off early for our longest drive to Ciutadella in the north west corner of the island. On reaching the town we headed north towards the Punta Nati in search of the town's rubbish tip. Not the most beautiful of birding locations but a superb birdwatching spectacle. In addition to flocks of ravens, we were treated to excellent views of several red and two black kites with a juvenile Egyptian vulture observed feeding on the ground. The barren stony fields to the north of the tip produced blue rock thrush and wheatear with two incredibly elusive stone-curlews often motionless and perfectly camouflaged amongst the rocks. The botanists in the group also appreciated the beautiful flowering caper plants amongst the rocks.

We returned to Ciutadella where we were able to explore this historical town before heading back eastwards. En route we stopped at Santa Agueda, a wooded hillside with an ancient hill fort on its summit. The ascent through the woodland and scrub along the ancient trackway is the sunny afternoon was very pleasant but produced few birds. A young ladder snake was seen at the bottom of the hill and numerous butterflies adorned the flowers of the meadows and path edges.

The drive back via the Es Prat area produced flocks of bee-eaters on roadside wires and a large adult ladder snake was seen crossing the road.

SATURDAY 14 MAY - SON BOU, MAHON, CALA MESQUIDA

The group made an early morning start and set off for Son Bou. Overnight rain cleared and the morning was beautifully clear and fresh. The birds failed to perform as we would have wished but the path along the northern edge, so productive two days ago, again produced lots of birds. Fantastic views of an adult Egyptian vulture was the highlight - then good views of woodchat shrike and redstart along with two squacco herons in a flooded field. The shopping trip to Mahón followed, but even this produced good birds - groups of pallid swifts screaming over the rooftops of the town and at least four adult Audouin's gulls and an osprey in Mahón harbour.

After a welcome rest by the pool, the group went out in search of Dartford warblers at Cala Mesquida. This proved to be a beautiful spot on the coast - sandy and rocky coasts with scrub covered slopes. The Dartford warblers proved elusive - providing only fleeting views after a lengthy search. The beachside tamarisks and small valleys were found to be full of migrants with flycatchers, whinchat, redstart, a brief golden oriole and bee-eaters arriving in off the sea. A fine end to a fine day.

SUNDAY 15 MAY - LA VAL, FORNELLS, S'ALGAR

The group made the long trip to La Val, a private estate, where we hoped to visit a bee-eater colony. Unfortunately, while our arrival was greeted

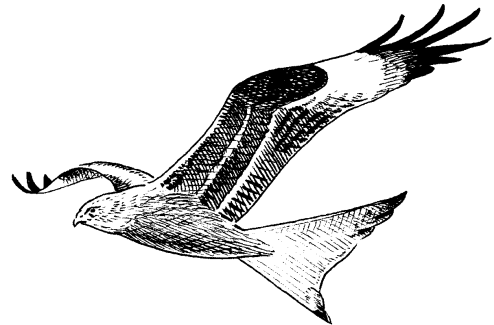
with the sight and sounds of bee-eaters catching bees over sand quarries within woodland clearings, we could not locate the nest site. A walk to the nearby beach produced few birds except a lone Audouin's gull but was worth it for the breathtaking views. Hobby, woodchat shrike, tawny pipit and red kite were all seen well within this area.

We drove to Fornells for a refreshment stop - where the group was promised that the osprey would be fishing at 3pm. At 3pm on the dot, the osprey dutifully appeared - flapping heavily as it carried an enormous fish to its nearby nest site.

A siesta at Matchani Gran was followed by an evening visit to S'Algar - where we hoped to hear Scops owl and nightjar. A rocky valley with scrub dominated slopes provided the setting for our evening visit. A distant scops owl called and the evocative calling of stone-curlews reached fever pitch as the evening wore on but the nightjars remained silent and the call of our final evening meal won.

MONDAY 16 MAY - MATCHANI GRAN

The hoopoe awoke the group at dawn for the final time on our holiday. Outside, the nightingales delivered their beautiful song and Sardinian warblers called from low bushes. As the sun rose in the sky and the day began to warm, a long red kite drifted lazily over Matchani Gran. With these now familiar sights and sounds all around us, we packed and boarded the minibuses for the last time for our trip to the airport and reflected upon all the events of the past week.



SPECIES LIST

Cory's shearwater: small number (c10) seen inshore from Cap de Cavalleria pm 10th. About 10 seen inshore from Son Bou on the 12th.

Mediterranean shearwater: ones and twos, close inshore at Cap de Cavalleria on the 10th.

Shag: between one and five seen on most visits to the coast. Pale juveniles observed at Cap de Cavalleria and near Punta Prima.

Little bittern: single female glimpsed by John Waldon at Son Bou on 14th.

Night heron: single adult flew low over reeds and landed in dead tree before disappearing into reeds on the 12th at Son Bou.

Squacco heron: one seen briefly on the 12th at Son Bou, with two birds seen in wet fields to west of marsh on 14th.

Cattle egret: two sub adults with cattle in fields to west of Son Bou on the 12th and 14th. Accompanied cattle into farmstead.

Little egret: at least four at S'Albufera d'es Grau on 10th, three at Montgofre on 11th and two seen at Son Bou (12th and 14th).

Great white heron: one seen flying towards sea at Son Bou on 12th. Although distant views, size and shape clearly noted.

Grey heron: between one and three individuals seen at Son Bou, Montgofre and S'Albufera d'es Grau.

Purple heron: three at Son Bou on the 12th.

Mallard: the only duck seen during the week. Pair and small groups (<5) seen at S'Albufera d'es Grau, Montgofre and Son Bou.

Black kite: two at the rubbish dump on the road to Punta Nati on the 13th.

Red kite: maximum daily total of four birds. Four seen at rubbish dump at Punta Nati on the 13th. Best view of soaring bird at La Val on the 15th, regularly seen east of the town of Sant Climent. Wing tagged (yellow) first year birds at Torre d'en Gaumes on the 11th, Punta Nati 13th. (GOB - reported c25 pairs on island).

Egyptian vulture: daily maximum of six birds. One juvenile glimpsed north of El Toro on 9th. Most seen in the north and west. Six, including one juvenile, feeding on the ground seen at Punta Nati rubbish dump on the 13th. Seen occasionally from Matchani Gran.

Marsh harrier: adult female hunting close to main road to Es Grau near Shangri-La 10th, adult female seen at Es Prat 13th.

Montagu's harrier: sub adult male quartering over farmland near airport/Matchani Gran on the 10th.

Booted eagle: one of the most frequently seen raptors. Daily maximum nine. Pale and dark phase seen from Matchani Gran. Pair at nest on the road to Montgofre. (GOB c60 pairs).

Osprey: one carrying fish at Fornells, two together at the same site later in the day, one fishing in cove north of Cap de Cavalleria (all on the 10th). Single seen fishing in Mahón harbour on the 14th and single at Fornells on the 15th. (GOB reported c6 pairs).

Kestrel: seen every day and throughout the island. Female at nest in electricity sub station on 10th had two eggs. No birds or eggs on 14th. Commonest raptor.

Hobby: one seen over farmland near airport morning of 10th, one watched clearly at La Val on 15th.

Peregrine: one male on rock face near Montgofre and later flying towards coast on the 11th, two including adult female flying over Son Bou on 12th.

Red footed falcon: small dark falcon seen hawking for insects with large flock of swifts and swallows at Es Prat on the 10th may have been this species.

Red-legged partridge: one bird at Cap de Cavalleria 10th. Single at Punta Nati.

Quail: heard calling from many places including Es Prat, farmland around Matchani Gran and near Es Grau throughout week.

Water rail: heard calling at Son Bou on 12th.

Moorhen: singles at Son Bou 12th and 14th.

Coot: groups at S'Albufera d'es Grau (<20) and Son Bou (<5).

Black winged stilt: 16 at Montgofre on 11th.

Avocet: one at Montgofre on 11th.

Stone-curlew: heard calling around Matchani Gran and during visit to Raco d'es Rafalet 15th. One seen well at Punta Nati 13th. One flushed from fields near Matchani Gran by John Waldon on 12th.

Little ringed plover: one on pool near pinewoods at Es Grau on 10th. Three at Montgofre on 11th and two on the pool at Es Grau on 12th.

Ringed plover: small flock (c10) at Es Grau pool and at Montgofre (10th and 11th respectively). Two on Es Grau pool on 15th. One seen at Son Bou on 12th.

Kentish plover: up to 12 at Montgofre, including breeding pairs on 11th.

Little stint: eight at Es Grau pool on the 10th, small flock (c8) at Montgofre (possibly same flock) on 11th, six at Es Prat on the 13th, one at Es Grau on the 15th.

Temminck's stint: one on Es Grau pool on the 10th. One at Montgofre on the 11th (possibly same bird).

Ruff: one at Montgofre on the 11th.

Common sandpiper: two at Es Grau end of S'Albufera d'es Grau on 15th, one at Montgofre on 11th.

Curlew sandpiper: ten on pools at Es Grau on the 10th, including birds in full summer plumage. Similar flock at Montgofre on the 11th. One at Es Grau pool on the 15th.

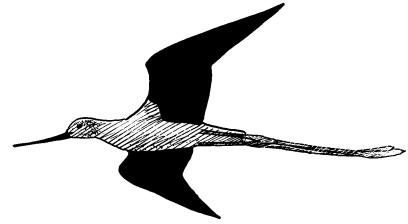
Audouin's gull: seen in Mahón harbour (three), Punta Prima (three), Cap de Favaritz o de Capifort (three). La Val beach (one). At least four at Mahón, all adults.

Yellow-legged gull: abundant throughout island, especially in harbour and at rubbish dump.

Rock dove: ones and twos seen at rock faces and cliffs including on the road to Montgofre and Cap de Cavalleria.

Woodpigeon: singles flew across the road near woodland in the northern area of the island. Four at La Val was the highest total (15th).

Turtle dove: small group of up to 10 birds seen throughout the island, passage near Matchani Gran on 14th. Injured bird (caught by cat) greeted us on arrival at Matchani Gran. Heard calling in pine woods at La Val (15th) and at Es Grau.



Scops owl: dead on road from Alaior to Son Bou. One heard at S'Algar on the evening of 15th.

Swift: passage on most days. Common especially over Mahón and Cuitadella and on headlands. Large flock c100 noted at Es Prat on 10th.

Pallid swift: flocks were seen well at Es Castell and Mahón with one single bird at Son Bou on 14th.

Alpine swift: one at Es Prat on the 9th, two there on the 10th.

Bee-eater: seen on every day of the holiday. Breeding and migratory birds noted. Concentrations at Es Prat on the 9th and 10th, especially along back road from Es Mercadal. Small flock c10 noted at Montgofre, Es Grau, La Val beach. Larger (c20) numbers on potential breeding sites at La Val. Migrating flock seen at Montgofre and Cala Mesquida.

Hoopoe: seen every day, especially around Matchani Gran. Dawn chorus of up to three males at Matchani Gran. Up to five on the drive. Several seen carrying food.

Short-toed lark: common on farmland, especially in dry rocky fields around Matchani Gran.

Thekla lark: common around Matchani Gran. Male frequently sang from the roof.

Swallow: pair nesting at Matchani Gran. Flocks seen along north coast especially at Es Prat, c100.

House martin: small number accompanying swallows. Mostly singles with one flock of c10.

Tawny pipit: singles recorded at airport, La Val, Punta Nati, Es Grau, Son Bou and Es Prat.

Yellow wagtail: flock of c20 on road to Cap de Cavalleria on 10th included several races. Flock of 10 at Son Bou on the 14th. Singles heard or seen at Son Bou, Es Grau and Matchani Gran.

Nightingale: heard throughout island. Birds singing from all dense clumps of scrub. Four or five on Matchani Gran drive occasionally glimpsed, especially on early morning walks near Matchani Gran.

Redstart: single bird seen in scrub near Matchani Gran on 9th, 11th and 14th. Also on the 14th, female at Cala de Sa Mesquida.

Whinchat: single at Cala de Sa Mesquida on the 14th.

Stonechat

Abundant throughout island. Males noticeably black and white. Daily estimate 20 on the 9th.

Wheatear: singles seen at Matchani Gran on the 13th, Punta Nati 13th.

Blue rock thrush: best views obtained at Punta Nati on the 13th (c6). Distant views of birds at Cap de Cavalleria on 10th, Montgofre 11th and Cala de Sa Mesquida on 14th.

Blackbird: singles heard and seen most days from all parts of the island.

Cetti's warbler: heard more often than seen, including from dry scrub near Matchani Gran. Good views of singing male at Son Bou on 12th and 14th.

Fan-tailed warbler: heard singing over fields and wet areas throughout the island. Seen well at Shangri La on 10th and pair perched close to us all at Son Bou on 12th.

Moustached warbler: one glimpsed at Son Bou on the 12th.

Great reed warbler: heard at Son Bou on the 12th, one flew low over the reedbed on the 14th.

Melodious warbler?: a bird seen briefly by Leigh Lock at Es Prat on the 9th was probably this species.

Dartford warbler: after considerable effort, several birds (c4) including two females seen at Cala de Sa Mesquida on the 14th.

Sardinian warbler abundant throughout the island. Family party at Matchani Gran on the 14th.

Whitethroat: single near Matchani Gran on the 11th and one at Son Bou on 14th.

Blackcap: male singing at Son Bou on the 12 and 14th.

Willow warbler: singles seen at Es Grau and Son Bou (14th).

Spotted flycatcher: migrants in the pines along drive to Matchani Gran. One to four most mornings. One at Cala de Sa Mesquida. Singles seen at other headlands.

Pied flycatcher: four at Matchani Gran on the 9th. Single at Cala de Sa Mesquida on the 14th.

Great tit: one seen at Es Grau pine wood on the 10th.

Golden oriole: one female seen at Cala de Sa Mesquida. Suspected at La Val on the 15th.

Woodchat shrike: seen throughout the island. Twelve on the 9th. Pair close to Matchani Gran throughout week.

Raven: seen throughout the island. Concentration at Punta Nati on the 13th (c50).

Starling: one at airport on the 9th.

House sparrow: common throughout the island.

Chaffinch: common in pine woods especially at La Val.

Greenfinch: seen every day - common.

Goldfinch: seen every day - common including juveniles.

Linnet: seen in open countryside. Small parties c5 or pairs.

Corn bunting: abundant in open farmland. Common around Matchani Gran. A common sight sitting on wires and the tops of bushes.