

Mallorca - Birdwatching for Beginners

Naturetrek Tour Report

27 April - 4 May 2013



Sheltering from the rain at Cases Velles



Black Winged Stilts at S'Albufera



2013 Naturetrek Group Photo – posing at the Son Bosc Deck



One of the many Spotted Flycatchers seen

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Day 1

Saturday 27th April

Arrival at Palma airport, Mallorca; Transfer to hotel; walk to Torrent de S'Albufereta, returning via hotel grounds and hide overlooking the adjacent S'Albufereta Marsh.

Weather: Cloudy and grey with showers off and on all day. Heavy rain late afternoon, then drizzle afterwards. Max temp-15 deg C

With some members of the group meeting at Palma airport and others arriving in Mallorca on four different regional flights it was a welcome relief that the party managed to finally assemble for the transfer to the hotel. Dave and Alan had been in Mallorca the previous week leading a Naturetrek tour so were well versed in the potential sightings that lay ahead. The initial plan was to picnic somewhere between the airport and the hotel but the weather was bad so we decided to drive to the hotel and picnic there. Arriving at the hotel just after lunch time we were able to check everyone into their rooms and then meet on the Triton Bar patio where we would consume a mini-picnic under cover while making our introductions and waiting for the inclement weather to subside.

Fortunately the rain had ceased by 1500 hours so the decision was made to head towards the nearby Torrent de S'Albufereta, returning back through the hotel grounds to the hide that overlooks the S'Albufereta Marsh. At the Torrent both Little Ringed and Kentish Plovers were present, ideal species to describe plumage differences between birds of the same general family. With drizzle now beginning to fall we took a steady walk back towards the hotel grounds, encountering Stonechat, Corn Bunting, House Sparrow and numerous Serin on the way. The heavens opened when we were in 'no mans' land, so the shelter of a pine was adopted but despite our wet weather gear, some got soaked!

As the rain abated we quickly marched to the hotel hide arriving just in time to witness the splendour of 2 Ospreys and 4 Marsh Harriers hunting over the adjacent marsh. Good numbers of Swifts, Martins and Swallows were also 'hawking' the area for suitable insect food and our first Cetti's Warbler sang out from the hide-side scrub. The heron family came to the fore here providing excellent views of Grey Heron, Purple Heron, Little and Cattle Egrets and 2 splendid Great White Egrets, all good birds when describing the differences in colour, shape, size, feeding techniques, flight jizz etc to newcomers in the bird-watching world. Not surprising a group of stunning Black Winged Stilts stole the show at this location before we retired to our rooms to unpack.

At the evening meeting Dave highlighted the species seen during the afternoon, explained the workings of the hotel and described the proposed itinerary for the week, indicating that with the weather set to be unsettled until mid-week at least that outings would be tailored to suit the weather conditions. Alan also took the time to ask the group what their expectations were for the week and then distributed the first of the daily quizzes, designed to stimulate the grey matter during the week. Afterwards a splendid evening meal was enjoyed by all, the atmosphere buzzing in anticipation of the week to come.

Day 2

Sunday 28th April

Pre-breakfast birding from the hotel hide, a drive along the Formentor Peninsular taking in the Lighthouse at Cap Formentor, the fig tree plantations at Cases Velles, returning to the hide for any late afternoon passage.

Weather: Rain overnight, showers until mid afternoon. Strong Easterly winds throughout the day, tending to ease by late afternoon. Max temp 12 deg C am, 16 deg C pm.

Our first pre-breakfast gathering in the hotel hide overlooking S'Albufereta Marsh took place despite the inclement weather, the combination of heavy rain and strong winds being known locally as 'The Levante'. Despite this, a small but cheerful gathering was delighted to get to grips again with the ever present Cetti's Warbler and their first snatch of Nightingale song. Marsh Harriers were still in good attendance with 5 individuals dotted around the area.

A decision was made to delay setting off until 10am so that the forecasted lull in the storm would have time to reach us. After breakfast Alan and Dave drove to the supermarket for the picnic ingredients so that no further delay would be encountered. The decision to have a delayed start proved to be an inspiration. As we pulled into the empty lighthouse car park around 1030 the rain stopped and our normal sea-watching vantage point was quite sheltered from the prevailing wind. Peering over the wall we discovered the sea teeming with hundreds of shearwaters drifting south east, low over the sea directly below us. Both Cory's and Balearic Shearwaters were present in this spectacle which frequently involved a feeding frenzy, just yards below us. During these frenzies the Balearic Shearwaters could be clearly seen diving below the surface in search of food. Having both species of Shearwater so close to us enabled the finer details of their plumage and their relative size difference and flight characteristics to be described and observed by all.

During our enthralling stay here numerous Yellow-Legged Gulls competed with the shearwaters in the waters below and a stunning male Blue Rock Thrush appeared and thrilled its audience just metres away from our viewing point. An oncoming shower prompted us to board our vehicles and we headed back the way we had come, stopping at the Cases Velles plantations just as the rainfall abated.

Here both Spotted and Pied Flycatchers were present in good numbers, and further evidence of migration was noted with groups of Wood Warbler, Tree Pipit, Yellow Wagtail and the odd Redstart. Scanning the adjacent mountain ridges provided excellent raptor passage with 5 Marsh Harrier, a Montague's Harrier, 3 Eleanor's Falcon, a Honey Buzzard and a pair of Ravens, all providing a good introduction into the observation skills needed to enjoy such a spectacle. With stomachs rumbling it was time to adjourn to our picnic site, promising to return afterwards to resume our migration watching. While Alan and Dave prepared the picnic many of the group had a short stroll to the adjacent Formentor beach to take advantage of the facilities. The lunch was soon demolished despite the torrential rain bouncing on the shelter roof above us.

Heading back to Cases Velles we parked the vehicles back to back and opened the back doors so that they formed a shelter in an attempt to avoid the worst of the rain. Fortunately it stopped again so that we could continue our spotting where we had left off. The rain had subdued most of the small birds but we were again given excellent views of a hand-full of Marsh Harriers and a couple of Honey Buzzards as they made their way north towards the open sea and the Spanish mainline beyond.

Leaving the area around 1500 hours we made our way back to the hotel to reconvene at the hide after a short comfort stop. Approaching the hotel along the main Pollenca road we were surprised to see half a dozen Marsh Harriers flying low of the sea from the direct of Formentor towards the S'albufereta Marsh. Surely these must have been the same birds we had seen just minutes earlier heading north over Cases Velles. Had they been thwarted in the migration attempt by the weather? As we stopped to watch the Harriers go by we took time to observe a group of Audouin's Gulls on the beach, their dark legs and tricoloured bill providing an obvious ID feature that readily distinguishes them from the more common Yellow-Legged Gull. After our brief comfort stop the hide again provided more thrills with 3 Ospreys, at least 10 Marsh Harriers and our first Squacco Heron of the week.

Our first day had been a great success and had been full of memorable sightings with many species new to most of the group. We met for a roll-call of the day's events before our evening meal and Dave highlighted and the plan of action for the next day, and the alternative actions should the inclement weather continue. Alan gave the answers to the previous days quiz and many were shocked to have done so well. After another good feed, including roast beef and Yorkshire puddings, we retired to our rooms to ready ourselves for the next day.

Day 3

Monday 29th April

Pre-breakfast in the hotel hide, then a trip to the south of the island to visit the Salinas de Levante

Weather: Overnight rain continuing to first light. Cloudy, with spells of drizzle throughout the day. Temp: max of 14 deg C

We awoke to a wet day with the mountains almost totally obscured by low cloud. Our pre-breakfast meet in the hide produced a glut of some 15 Marsh Harriers and excellent views of 2 Ospreys perched in trees some 100 metres away. With the mountains obviously out of bounds due to the weather we made the decision to go south, after breakfast, in search of better weather.

Loading up the vehicles we headed south towards Manacor stopping to pick up picnic provisions on the way. With rain still falling, the number of birds usually seen perched on roadside wires was low. Cutting across the wide open spaces of farmland south of Manacor we soon started to notice Corn Buntings, Stonechats and Thekla Larks on the wires. By the time our usual farmland stop was reached the rain had stopped allowing Whinchat, Short Toed Lark and Northern Wheatear to be scoped from our roadside viewing point.

Restarting our journey we arrived at the Salinas late morning and decided to visit our picnic site first as the previous week had been productive from there. During our extended picnic stop an array of waders were on view, including Avocet, Black Winged Stilt, Little Stint, Common Sandpiper and Curlew Sandpiper. A pair of Shelducks conducted a superb mating ritual in front of us, yet another educational experience for our novice birders. Highlights during the lunch break were a group of 3 Greater Flamingos and a splendid fly-past by an Eleanor's Falcon.

A short walk along the coast road brought excellent views of at least 3 Hoopoes, a bird on the wish list of many of the group. Moving round to the main Salinas we successfully negotiated a fairly muddy terrain to obtain great views of both Spanish and Blue Headed Wagtails and unexpected sightings of a Curlew and an Oystercatcher. Here there was a huge flock of hirundines, which included at least one Red Rumped Swallow, hawking for insects over the salt pans. Hundreds of Swifts also joined the feeding frenzy, as did a splendid White-Winged Black Tern. With drizzle again descending it was time to seek the shelter of the vehicle and make our return back to base.

After pausing briefly for a comfort stop, we were approaching the outskirts of C'an Picafort when a male Montegu's Harrier flew low over the road in front of us. We were mistaken in thinking that this would be the last good bird of the day, because just as we slowed to start our approach to the hotel car park, a group of 4 Sandwich Terns and a lone Little Tern started diving for fish just yards from the vehicle... fabulous end to a brilliant day! Our usual evening get together was carried out with many smiling faces as we discussed the day's events. The decision to go south had paid off and this helped to make the super repast even more enjoyable.

Day 4

Tuesday 30th April

Pre-breakfast at the hotel hide and our traditional visit to the S'Albufera Nature Reserve

Weather: Clear skies, sunny and warm with a light wind bring increased cloud by the evening. Temperature: a high of 20 deg C

At last the weather looked promising and it was time to unpack the sunscreen lotion. Some of the group met up at 0700hrs for the pre-breakfast gathering in the hotel hide. Again a number of Marsh Harriers and the usual egret species provided plenty of things to observe. New for the week were a pair of Little Grebes, a Willow Warbler and our first squealing Water Rail, all species who's identity could be discussed at length.

After breakfast we called for picnic supplies before reaching the famous S'Albufera Marsh. The group shared in the carrying of the picnic and set off down the tarmac road towards the visitor centre some 800 metres away. During this section a number of Black Crowned Night Herons were evident in the riverside trees as were a number of Cattle and Little Egrets.

Both Grey and Purple Heron flew over allowing their plumage and structural differences to be observed. Hundreds of Iberian Water Frogs were croaking in the adjacent reeds and both Great Reed Warbler and Moustached Warbler were in song. Unfortunately only the Great Reed Warbler was observed.

Approaching the centre both Cetti's Warbler and Nightingale were in good voice and Bee-Eaters were heard above us but were not visible. Looking over the meadow provided views of an unexpected Collared Pratincole a species never even heard of by many of the group. After booking in at the reception we went to the Sa Roca hide but found it to be full and overflowing. Surprisingly the Es Ras hide was empty so the group enjoyed an uninterrupted time there while receiving tuition on the various waders and wildfowl present. Highlights here included Marbled Duck, Purple Swamphen, Wood Sandpiper, Ruff, Little Ringed Plover, Kentish Plover and the groups favourite Black-winged Stilt. One Osprey sat perched some 75 metres from the hide, but this thrill was eclipsed when another flew by in front of the hide clasping a large fish in its talons. Dragonflies seen from the hide included Emperor and Norfolk Hawker.

With time moving on we ambled round to the observation hill and lagoon, where a couple of Red Knobbed Coots entertained, and a Great Reed Warbler sang in full view. We decided to picnic here and were rewarded with a fly-past of half a dozen Eleanora's Falcons a Hobby and a male Little Bittern that landed in the reeds adjacent to us, before emerging and giving us another splendid flight view as it crossed the lagoon. After a splendid repast we headed off to the Es Cibollar 1 hide where the group had a stunningly close views of Black-winged Stilt and Little Egret and good views of Greenshank, Spotted Redshank, Curlew Sandpiper, Little Stint, Ringed Plover and a splendid Bar-tailed Godwit. Wildfowl here included Shoveler, Red-crested Pochard, Gadwall and Teal. There was frequent disturbance to the birds with a Marsh Harrier regularly passing over the area. Half the group elected to stay in the current hide while the rest went to Es Cibollar 2 hide. Here they were rewarded with a view of a Peregrine Falcon on the ground just yards away. Time was getting on so we made our way back to the vehicles, noting a number of butterflies on the way including Speckled Wood, Clouded Yellow, Red Admiral and Painted Lady. We also found an Egyptian Grasshopper.

Our usual roll call and quiz answer session went without a hitch, many group members thrilled beyond description at the marvellous day we had had. Our observations had produced 70 bird species at the S'albufera, again proving that this is a wonderful venue. Our evening meal was its usual high standard and everyone went to bed happy.

Day 5

Wednesday 1st May

Pre-breakfast at the hotel hide, visits to Cuber Reservoir and the Lluc Monastery, and an evening trip to search for nocturnal species

Weather: A sunny bright day with high cloud increasing from mid afternoon. Max temp 16 deg C in the mountains, 18 deg C at the hotel

Wakening to a clear sky it was easy to make the decision that the Tramuntana Mountains was to be our venue for the day. Our pre breakfast watch from the hide was quieter than normal, the appearance of one Marsh Harrier and very few Egrets suggesting a movement out of the area.

After breakfast we made our way to the mountains calling for picnic produce on the way. The roads appeared fairly quiet which allowed us to make good time, but when we got to our destination at Cuber the car parks were jam-packed. We realised that it was May Day and a bank holiday on the island. Fortunately we managed to squeeze in and begin our short trek around the lake. Things soon settled down as we took the tarmac track down to the dam wall, enabling us to view Tawny Pipit and Whinchat on the way. Just before the dam a couple of Booted Eagles appeared high above the ridge allowing comparison between light and dark phase plumages. A scratchy call in the scrub alerted us to the presence of a Subalpine Warbler, recently re-named Moltoni's Warbler. Unfortunately the small group looking for it only had brief flight views. At the dam wall Iberian Water Frog was seen in the overflow stream below and numerous Spotted Flycatchers occupied the adjacent scrub. Continuing to the quarry a number of blooms of the endemic Balearic Cyclamen were enjoyed together with a single flower-head of Loose Flowered Orchid.

Just as we recommenced our walk another Booted Eagle appeared and then our days target Black Vulture came into view, majestically drifting over the sky above us. More excitement was to follow when the stream, normally passed in a single stride, had swollen to 3 metres wide. A chain of willing hands enabled the group to scramble across makeshift stepping stones without mishap. Lunch was now calling so we returned to the vehicles somewhat later than planned. During lunch groups of Chaffinch hung around waiting for scraps, and Pied and Spotted Flycatchers were noted. Half way through lunch a major interruption occurred when 3 Firecrests appeared in the trees above the picnic tables with 2 locking together and grappling as they floated to the ground in a territorial dispute. After that we made our way to the Lloc Monastery.

Arriving about 1515 hrs we invited the group to do their own thing and explore this splendid venue at their leisure then meet back at the vehicles for the return to the hotel. Alan and Dave took the opportunity to take in a coffee break and were rewarded with super close views of Black Vulture. Unfortunately none of the group had seen this spectacle so another fly-over was needed. Back at the vehicles Spotted Flycatchers were very prominent and a splendid male Redstart added colour to the proceedings. Then right on cue another Black Vulture appeared high above us, enabling the ID features of Europe's largest raptor to be explained. We made our way back to base taking in the spectacular scenery on the way, arranging to meet at the usual time for our daily roll-call.

At our gathering the day's events were discussed and Dave described our plans for the evening, a short trip out after our meal for nocturnal species. Tomorrow's excursion was also highlighted and Alan presented his quiz answers to a group who were getting quite competitive.

After another excellent feast just one vehicle loaded up for our short trip to the base of Puig di San Marti some 10 minutes away. Here we disembarked and waited for the darkness to descend. As the last throws of daylight gave out a Scop's Owl called out nearby followed seconds later by a Nightjar churring further along the track. The Nightjar sang throughout our visit as we concentrated on the Scop's Owl activities. By now at least two birds were calling to each other and at one point both flew into the trees adjacent to us. It was a thrill to hear their repetitive call at such close quarters. Not wanting to disturb them further we returned to the hotel a very happy group...

Day 6

Thursday 2nd May

Pre-breakfast walk to the Torrent, a walk along the Bocquer Valley and late afternoon at the S'albufereta Marsh

Sunny and clear, Max temp 22 deg C

We started the day with a pleasant short walk to the S'Albufereta Torrent noting at least 45 Little Egrets and a Purple Heron on the way. Arriving at the torrent 4 Kentish Plovers, 3 Little Ringed Plover and a Redshank were in the vicinity. The return to the hotel produced a number of Spanish Wagtails, the usual array of Stonechats and the ever present Zitting Cisticola. The walk had certainly stimulated the appetite and the breakfast fare was eagerly consumed.

Leaving the hotel around 0900 we had stocked up with provisions and were heading up the Bocquer Valley by 0930. The trees at the bottom held both Spotted and Pied Flycatchers and a number of Greenfinch and Serin. Arriving at the old Finca farmhouse, a look over the wall into the fields below brought excellent views of a Stone Curlew, its large yellow, beady eyes clearly visible in the telescope. Whilst here a female Montagu's Harrier flew towards Pollenca old town and a couple of pale phase Booted Eagles soared above us, one in particular giving a more than adequate show of its distinctive plumage. Cirl Bunting, Blue Rock Thrush and Balearic Woodchat Shrike were added to the list as we steadily headed up the valley, constantly interrupted by the large numbers of Sardinian Warblers active along the way. A pair of Ravens put in an appearance as did a small group of Crag Martins hawking around the rocky pinnacles high on the ridge.

Reaching the valley end some members of the group carried on towards the beach while Dave and Alan prepared the picnic lunch. With the group happily munching away proceedings were interrupted when a group of 6 raptors appeared overhead, steadily drifting in a northerly direction; 2 Red Kites, 2 Honey Buzzards, a Common Buzzard and a Marsh Harrier made up this spectacular lunchtime entertainment.

After a fruitless search for the skulking Balearic Warbler we headed back down the valley. It was quieter than the ascent so a pair of Peregrine Falcons perched high on the ridge was a welcome sight. The finca gardens provided single Wood and Willow Warblers and a number of butterflies including Wall Brown, Painted Lady and our first Swallowtail of the week.

Re-assembled in the vehicles we made the short journey to the S'Albufereta Marsh, calling off at the hotel for a short comfort stop. Viewing from the mound was not as busy as usual but the group were rewarded with excellent views of Great White Egret, and the usual thrilling sights of Marsh Harrier and Osprey hunting the area. A search for flowers produced our expected Mirror Orchid, a few stems of the Small-Flowered Tongue Orchid, and the diminutive iris-like Barbary Nut. Returning to the vehicles brought a super view of a Stone Curlew taking advantage of the shade, under a bush, just 30 metres or so from the path, and a fly-by Hoopoe.

Our evening get together went well many commenting on the beauty of the valley and how they had enjoyed the day. Again the quiz was enjoyed and we retired to the restaurant for another good meal, a number of Pipistrelle Bats escorting us back to our rooms on the conclusion of our dining experience.

Day 7

Friday 3rd May

Pre-breakfast at the hotel hide, visit to the Southern end of S'Albufera Marsh – Old Salt Pans at S'illot, Depuradora (water works) and 'Lone Pine' walk

Weather: Sunny and warm with high cloud - Temperature: 20 deg C

Another quiet session at the hide with little or no passage seen... The Great White Egret was still present but Marsh Harriers were conspicuous by their absence. Again very few Little Egrets were showing so it was left to 2 Purple Herons, alighting close to the hide, to provide the thrills. Both Cetti's Warbler and Nightingale sang throughout our visit and a small group of Goldfinches feasted on thistle heads just below our vantage point prompting our departure for our own feed. An Audouin's Gull on the restaurant roof was unusual and a sure sign that breakfast today would be enjoyable.

After breakfast we made our way to the southern end of the S'Albufera Reserve, arriving and disembarking at the old salt pans at S'illot we were soon watching a female Red-crested Pochard with her brood of 9 ducklings. The Coot, Gadwall, Black-winged Stilt and 3 superb Marbled Ducks also attracted our attention here. Scanning the reeds both sides of the track produced a Great Reed Warbler but despite the presence of at least 4 singing Moustached Warblers none ventured up the reed stems to show themselves. It was here that the group got their first sightings of Bee-Eater, a party of 5 perched on the overhead wires some distance away. Continuing along the track we managed to get to within 50 metres of the Bee-Eaters allowing the group excellent views of this superbly colourful creature. For many it was the highlight of the trip as they gorged themselves on close up scope views of the immaculate plumages and the distinctive bubbling calls of the species. With everybody happy we returned to the vehicles witnessing the arrival of a pair of Common Terns that proceeded to demonstrate their courtship display.

We re-boarded the vehicles and drove the short distance to the Water Works, picking up picnic ingredients and a comfort stop in C'an Picafort on the way. A slow drive down the road to the water-works allowed for prolonged views of another group of Bee-Eaters and a splendid Hoopoe perched on the fence directly in front of the vehicle. The usual wildflower verges and fields were not as densely populated as in previous years, the poppy appearing to be conspicuous by its absence. Maybe the recent cold damp weather had delayed their flowering cycle. On arrival at the observation platform Red Crested Pochard, Common Pochard and Shelduck were soon recognised on the main concrete lined ponds. Common Sandpiper numbers were into double figures and at least 3 Little Ringed plovers were noted. A Black-necked Grebe emerged on the water in front of us to frustrate the group as it dived constantly in search of food, preventing the observers getting any suitable prolonged views. Next to appear were more Marbled Ducks, a pair of Common Pochards and a single Little Stint. Marsh Harriers were giving a good display with numerous pairs either displaying or carrying out food passes within 100 metres of our position.

Lunch was prepared and consumed, the only delay being caused by a Swallowtail butterfly, a fly-by Hoopoe and the eerie song of a couple of Stone Curlews. After our traditional group photo we moved on to park near the water works entrance and strolled through the old farm small holding, admiring the array of wild flowers and the diagnostic sounds of Corn Bunting, Zitting Cisticola and of course Nightingale.

Driving slowly back passed the water-works we encountered the Bee-Eaters again and had fabulous views of a Tawny Pipit on the road just feet in front of us and then a Short-toed Lark equally adjacent. A Starling on the fence was new for the week and a good conclusion to the afternoon.

The evenings roll-call touched on everyone's trip highlight, there being so many that no single sighting could be claimed the best although Bee-Eater was top of many people's memory. The overall quiz champion was Mary Peck who was crowned "Bird brain of the week" and was thrilled to receive her prized bar of chocolate which would no doubt be consumed on the plane journey home. The entire group had contributed to make this inaugural beginners week a success and many would be going home with the confidence to stride out on their own when continuing their newly found passion. With the pressure off everyone tucked into a thoroughly enjoyable evening meal.

Day 8

Saturday 4th May

Return journey to Palma Airport

Weather: Bright and clear with hazy sunshine. Temperature: Around 20 deg C

With our groups flights leaving at various times Dave took the early shift, leaving the hotel around 0715 after a pleasant continental-style breakfast. Alan followed with the Gatwick flight contingent about an hour later after a more traditional meal. The roads were very quiet, enabling us to reach the airport in good time for everyone to make their flights and for Dave and Alan to return the vehicles.

Sightings during our journey to the airport included a field of some 30 Cattle Egret, 3 Starlings and as if to say goodbye a splendid Marsh Harrier. Both Alan and Dave considered the week to be a great success; the number of birds seen had surpassed the previous weeks total by one species, despite the weather for the first few days. We would like to convey our thanks to all for a wonderful week and for your companionship!

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Species List

Birds (✓ = recorded but not counted)

	Common name	Scientific name	April/May							
			27	28	29	30	1	2	3	4
1	Red-legged Partridge	<i>Alectoris rufa</i>		1	10			2		
2	Common Shelduck	<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>			70	2			15	
3	Gadwall	<i>Anas strepera</i>		2		6	1	3	8	
4	Mallard	<i>A. platyrhynchos</i>	15	30+	10	20	15	20+	50	1
5	Northern Shoveler	<i>A. clypeata</i>				2				
6	Marbled Duck	<i>Marmaronetta angustirostris</i>				3			6	
7	Eurasian Teal	<i>A. Crecca</i>				10				
8	Red –crested Pochard	<i>Netta rufina</i>				10				
9	Common Pochard	<i>Aythya ferina</i>							4	
10	Cory's Shearwater	<i>Calonectris diomedea</i>		500						
11	Balearic Shearwater	<i>Puffinus mauretanicus</i>		50+						
12	Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>				2			2	
13	Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>				1				
14	Black-necked Grebe	<i>P. nigricollis</i>								1
15	Greater Flamingo	<i>Phoenicopterus roseus</i>			3					
16	Little Bittern	<i>Ixobrychus minutus</i>				1				
17	Black-crowned Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>				6				
18	Squacco Heron	<i>Ardeola ralloides</i>		1						
19	Western Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>	20	2	2	10			10	30
20	Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>		1		2	3		1	
21	Purple Heron	<i>A. purpurea</i>	1	3	2	5	2	3	5	
22	Great Egret	<i>A. alba</i>	2	2		3	1	3	1	
23	Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	6	20	20	40	3	45	20	1
24	European Shag	<i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis</i>		5						
25	Great Cormorant	<i>P. carbo</i>	1	18	20	1	5	3	2	
26	Western Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	2	3	2	2		1		
27	European Honey Buzzard	<i>Pernis apivorus</i>		4				2		
28	Red Kite	<i>Milvus milvus</i>						2		
29	Cinereous (Black) Vulture	<i>Aegypius monachus</i>					3			
30	Western Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>	4	20	20	10	3	4	12	1
31	Montagu's Harrier	<i>C. pygargus</i>		1	1			1		
32	Common Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>						1		
33	Booted Eagle	<i>Hieraaetus pennatus</i>				1	3	2		
34	Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	1	2	4	3	1	2	3	
35	Eleonora's Falcon	<i>F. eleonora</i>		3	1	6				
36	Eurasian Hobby	<i>F. subbuteo</i>				1				
37	Peregrine	<i>F. peregrinus</i>				1		2		
38	Water Rail	<i>Rallus aquaticus</i>				4H			1H	
39	Purple Swamphen	<i>Porphyrio porphyrio</i>				3			1	
40	Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	2	2	2	4	1	2	4	1
41	Eurasian Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>	1	2	3	6	1	6	7	
42	Red-knobbed Coot	<i>Fulica cristata</i>				110				
43	Stone Curlew	<i>Burhinus oedichnemus</i>			2			3	1H	
44	Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>			1					
45	Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>	20	20	100	60	5	10	20	
46	Pied Avocet	<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>			70	2				
47	Little Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>	2			5		4	5	

	Common name	Scientific name	April/May							
			27	28	29	30	1	2	3	4
48	Common Ringed Plover	<i>C. hiaticula</i>				6				
49	Kentish Plover	<i>C. alexandrinus</i>	2	2	20	30		3		1
50	Bar-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa lapponica</i>				1				
51	Eurasian Curlew	<i>Numenius arquata</i>			1					
52	Spotted Redshank	<i>Tringa erythropus</i>				6				
53	Common Redshank	<i>T. totanus</i>	1		5	4		2		
54	Common Greenshank	<i>T. nebularia</i>	1	1H	4	2				
55	Wood Sandpiper	<i>T. glareola</i>	2			1			1	
56	Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>			3	4		2	10	
57	Ruddy Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>			1					
58	Little Stint	<i>Calidris minuta</i>			12	4			1	
59	Curlew Sandpiper	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>			2	6				
60	Ruff	<i>Philomachus pugnax</i>			12	4				
61	Collared Pratincole	<i>Glareola pratincola</i>				1				
62	Audouin's Gull	<i>Ichthyaeus audouinii</i>		5	5	2	2	2	1	
63	Yellow-legged Gull	<i>Larus michahellis</i>	50	200	20	10	500	50	20	25
64	Sandwich Tern	<i>Thalasseus sandvicensis</i>			4	1				
65	Little Tern	<i>Sternula albifrons</i>			1			1	4	
66	Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>				5			2	
67	White-winged Tern	<i>C. leucopterus</i>			1					
68	Rock Dove	<i>Columba livia</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
69	Common Wood Pigeon	<i>C. palumbus</i>	12	12	50	30	15	25	50	12
70	Eurasian Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>			6	1	2		2	
71	Turtle Dove	<i>S. turtur</i>			1					
72	Little Owl	<i>Athene noctua</i>			1H					
73	Eurasian Scops Owl	<i>Otis scops</i>					1			
74	Eurasian Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus europaeus</i>					H			
75	Common Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>	100	150	950	50	15	3	20	10
76	European Bee-Eater	<i>Merops apiaster</i>				H			10	
77	Eurasian Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>			6	2		1	4	
78	Balearic Woodchat Shrike	<i>Lanius senator badius</i>						2		
79	Northern Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>		2			5	3		
80	Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>	1		2		2	2	2H	
81	Eurasian Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>					4			
82	Greater Short-toed lark	<i>Calandrella brachydactyla</i>			2				1	
83	Thekla Lark	<i>Galerida theklae</i>			10			7		
84	Sand Martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>		25	40	10			40	
85	Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	50	500	500	50	20	250	100	2
86	Crag Martin	<i>Ptyonoprogne rupestris</i>						6		
87	House Martin	<i>Delichon urbica</i>		10	50	10		33	25	
88	Red-rumped Swallow	<i>Cecropis daurica</i>			2					
89	Cetti's Warbler	<i>Cettia cetti</i>	4H	2+3H	2+4H	6+6H	2+2H	3H	6H	1H
90	Willow Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>		1		1	1+1H	1		
91	Chiffchaff	<i>P. collybita</i>					1			
92	Western Bonelli's Warbler	<i>P. bonelli</i>		H						
93	Wood Warbler	<i>P. sibilatrix</i>		6		1		1		
94	Great Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus arundinaceus</i>				2+2H			1H	
95	Moustached Warbler	<i>A. melanopogon</i>				1			4H	
96	Zitting Cisticola	<i>Cisticola juncidis</i>			1+2H	2+2H		6	4	
97	Eurasian Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>					2			
98	Moltoni Warbler	<i>S. moltoni</i>					1			

	Common name	Scientific name	April/May							
			27	28	29	30	1	2	3	4
99	Sardinian Warbler	<i>S. melanocephala</i>		1	6	6	2	20	4	
100	Common Firecrest	<i>Regulus ignicapillus</i>					5			
101	Eurasian Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>					1H			
102	Common Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>							1	3
103	Common Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	4	6	20	4	3	4	6	2
104	Common Nightingale	<i>Luscinia megarhynchos</i>		1h	1H	2+6H	6H	5H	10H	
105	Common Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>		2		2	1	1		
106	Whinchat	<i>Saxicola rubetra</i>		2	20	2	2	4	1	
107	European Stonechat	<i>S. rubicola</i>	1		20		2	10	5	
108	Northern Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>		1	3					
109	Blue Rock Thrush	<i>Monticola solitarius</i>		1			1	2		
110	Spotted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>		5	2		15	12	1	
111	Pied Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula hypoleuca</i>		15		3	1	2		
112	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
113	Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava flavissima</i>		6		1				
	Spanish Yellow Wagtail	<i>M. flava iberiae</i>			4			6	6	
	Blue-headed Wagtail	<i>M. flava flava</i>			1					
114	Tawny Pipit	<i>Anthus campestris</i>					2		1	
115	Tree Pipit	<i>A. trivialis</i>		5						
116	Common Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>		6			20			
117	Serín	<i>Serinus serinus</i>	5	6	5	10	6	6	4	6
118	Greenfinch	<i>Carduelis chloris</i>	1	4	2	2	3	10	15	2
119	Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>		3	6	2	6	4	10	
120	Linnet	<i>Carduelis cannabina</i>			3	33			2	
121	Crossbill	<i>Loxia curvirostra</i>					4			
122	Corn Bunting	<i>Emberiza calandra</i>		1H	30		1H	5	3+4H	
123	Cirl Bunting	<i>Emberiza cirlus</i>	1	1H		1+2H				

Butterflies

Swallowtail *Papilio machaon* – Seen at the S'Albufereta marsh on May 2nd and near the water works on May 3rd.

Painted Lady *Cynthia cardui* – 3 at the S'Albufera on April 30th.

Red Admiral *Vanessa atalanta* -Recorded at S'Albufera on April 30th, and near the water works on May 3rd.

Speckled Wood *Pararge aegeria* – fairly common, with 20 at S'Albufera on April 30th. Also noted in the Bocquer Valley on May 2nd and in the S'illot area on 3rd.

Wall Brown *Lasiommata megera* – singles at Cuber on May 1st and in the Bocquer Valley on the 2nd.

Green-veined White *Pieris napi* – 3 seen during our visit to the waterworks on May 3rd.

White *Pieris sp.*- Individuals not positively identified included singles at Cuber on May 1st, in the Bocquer Valley on the 2nd and near the waterworks on the 3rd.

Clouded Yellow *Colias crocea* – 2 at S'Albufera on April 30th.

Common Blue *Polyommatus icarus* – Singles noted on our visits to S'Albufera, Cuber and S'illot.

Dragonflies

Blue-tailed Damselfly *Ischnura elegans* – recorded at S'Albufera with 1 seen on April 30th.

Green-eyed (Norfolk) Hawker *Aeshna isosceles* – at least 5 seen from the hides at S'Albufera on April 30th.

Common Darter *Sympetrum strolatum* – Singles seen at Cuber on May 1st and near the water works on the 3rd.

Reptiles and Amphibians

Iberian Water Frog *Rana perezii* occasionally heard from the hotel's ornamental ponds and very vocal, suggesting large numbers, at S'Albufera., especially on our visit of the 30th. Also seen and heard at Cuber, but only in small numbers.

Red Eared Terrapin *Trechemys scripta* –5 in the Gran Canal, S'Albufera on April 30th, and from the old S'illot salt pans on May 3rd.

Spanish Terra-pin– 2 basking at S'Albufera on April 30th.

Mammals

Rabbit *Oryctolagus cuniculu* - Seen from the vehicles on most of our journeys. At least 2 present at S'Albufera on April 30th.

Brown Rat *Rattus norvegicus* - One seen at S'illot on May 3rd, feeding on a discarded basket of fruit.

Pipistrelle Bat *Pipistrellus pipistrellus*- up to 10 seen daily in the hotel grounds and adjacent marshland.

Insects

Egyptian Grasshopper *Anacridium aegyptium* – One at S'Albufereta on April 30th.

Other interesting sightings:

Roman Snail *Helix pomatia* – 1 seen in the Bocquer valley on the April 30th.

Grey Mullet *Chelon labrosus* – Seen on our visit to S'Albufera, and occasionally noted in the ditch alongside the hotel hide.

Common Carp *Cyprinus carpio* – Noted at S'Albufera on the 20th.

Orchids

Mirror Orchid *Ophrys speculum* – noted at the S'Albufereta on Maay 2nd. on 22nd

Small-flowered Tongue Orchid *Serapias parviflora* - Quite common, noted in the hotel car park, at the S'Albufereta, the S'Albufera and at the Sillot pools.

Bee Orchid *Ophrys apifera*– specimens seen in the S'illot area on our visit there on May 3rd.

Bog Orchid *Orchis Palustris* –seen at the southern end of S'Albufera on May 2nd.

Loose-flowered Orchid *Orchis laxiflora* – a single flower in the quarry at Cuber on May 1st. here.

Robust Marsh Orchid *Dactylorhiza praetermissa* – very common on the waste ground adjacent to the road leading to the water works.

Woodcock Orchid *Ophrys scolopax* – One found adjacent to the Bee Orchids in the S'illot area on May 3rd was thought to be this species

Other Plants of Note – a list of the more obvious species recorded during the week:

Sibthorpia Africana

Star of Bethlehem *Ornithogalum arabicum*

Blue Hound's-tongue *Cynoglossum creticum*

Opium Poppy *P. sonniferum*

Rough Poppy *P. Hybridum*

Balearic Sandwort *Arenaria balearica*

Hedgehog Plant *Astragalus balearicus*

Common Asphodel *Asphadelus aestivus*

Balearic Horse-shoe Vetch *Hippocrepis balearicus*

Crimson Clover *Trifolium incarnatum*

Pale Bugloss *Echium italicum*

Common Poppy *Pavaver rhoeas*

Prickly Poppy *P. Argenone*

Cytinus *Cytinus hypocistis*

Bladder Campion *Silene vulgaris*

Star Clover *Trifolium stellatum*

Field Gladioli *Gladiolus italicus*

Fodder Vetch *Vicia villosa*

Small Melilot *Melilotus indicus*

Winged Pea *Tetragonolobus purpureus*

Euphobia sp.

Cistus creticus

Ipomoea sagittata

Malcomia sp.

Bellardia *Bellardia trixago*

Three-leaved Toadflax *L. triphylla*

Crown Daisy *Chrysanthemum coronarium*

Chicory *Cichorium intybus*

Common Smilax *Smilax aspera*

Three-cornered Leek *A. Triquetrum*

Small-flowered Melilot *Melilotus indica*

Tree Mallow *Lavatera arborea*

Wild Madder *rubia peregrine*

Pink Convolvulus *Convolvulus cantabrica*

White Mignonette *Reseda alba*

Rosy Garlic *Allium roseum*

Balearic Cyclamen *Cyclamen balearicum*

Black Medick *Medicago lupulina*

Little Robin *Geranium purpureum*

Sage-leaved Cistus *Cistus salvifolius*

Scarlet Pimpernel *Anagallis arvensis (red and Blue)*

Sweet Alison *Lobularia maritime*

Giant Fennel *Ferula communis*

Common Toadflax *Linaria vulgaris*

Annual Daisy *Billis annua*

Corn Marigold *C. Segetum*

Aloe *Aloe arborescens*

Wild Leek *Allium ampeloprasum*

Dwarf Palm *Chamaerops humilis*

Mallow *Malva cretica*

Tassel Hyacinth *Muscari comosum*

Cuckoo Pint *Arum maculatum*

Creeping Cinquefoil *Potentilla reptans*

Wild Mignonette *R. lutea*

Barbary Nut *Gynandrisis Sisyrynchium.*

Broomrape sp. *Orobanche sp.*