

Mallorca - A Beginner Birdwatching Tour

Naturetrek Tour Report

26 April - 3 May 2014



View from Formentor Lighthouse by Dave Smith



Bee Orchid by Dave Smith



Speckled Wood by Alan Miller



Red-knobbed Coot by Dave Smith

Report compiled by Dave Smith
Images Dave Smith and Alan Miller



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Day 1

Saturday 26th April

Arrival at Palma airport, Mallorca; Transfer to hotel; Hotel grounds and adjacent Albufereta Marsh

Weather: Fine, dry and sunny. Afternoon high of 22 deg.C

Dave and Alan were already at Palma airport after dropping off the previous weeks Naturetrek group, who were returning to the UK after their week's tour of Mallorca. So with no flight delays the new group were on their way by 1300 hrs, for the drive across the island to our base for the week at the Pollentia Club Resort, just outside Puerto Pollensa. With the rooms not available until about 1500 hrs we called off at the nearby S'Albufereta Marsh and had a light picnic snack while we looked over the adjacent farmland and water area. Super views of Stone Curlew and Northern Wheatear were had during our repast before we moved a few hundred yards down the road to the hotel.

After checking in we met up with Chris and Jill who had made their own way to the hotel a couple of days earlier. With most of the group assembled we toured the hotel grounds to familiarise people to their surroundings, finishing up at the hotel hide that provides views over the S'Albufereta Marsh. Here the group got their first sightings of the more common Mediterranean species, and were soon learning the sounds of Cetti's Warbler, Sardinian Warbler, Serin and Zitting Cisticola. Cattle Egret and Little Egret were there to provide plumage comparison, as was a few elegant Black Winged Stilt.

It was time to unpack so the group dispersed to carry out this chore before reconvening at the Bar Triton at 1815 hrs for the first of our routine pre dinner get-togethers. Here we met up with our remaining 2 group members, Liz and Rozanne, before Dave and Alan talked through the prospects for the coming week. Many of the group were experiencing a Naturetrek holiday for the first time so hopefully they would enjoy it... After a splendid feast in the adjacent restaurant, some group members met up the scan the marsh from a new elevated viewpoint near to the hotel pool and as dusk descended were rewarded with excellent views of Night Heron, Purple Heron and an unexpected Spoonbill. A nice way to end the day!

Day 2

Sunday 27th April

Walk along the Bocquer Valley and a visit to Albufereta Marsh

Weather: Overnight wind and rain clearing to give a sunny but breezy day. Temperature high was 22 deg.C

Our first pre-breakfast gathering in the hotel hide overlooking Albufereta Marsh produced good views of Little Egret, both Grey and Purple Heron, Night Heron and a super male Golden Oriole.

After breakfast we set off with much anticipation and after collecting the makings for our picnic lunch we headed to the car park at the bottom of the Bocquer Valley. Looking over the adjacent fields we saw Pied Flycatcher and Spotted Flycatcher in the nearby Almond trees, and had a group of Crag Martin fly overhead. We set off towards the finca at the start of the path up the valley watching Goldfinch, Greenfinch, Tree Pipit, Blackcap and Blue Rock Thrush. We added a male Redstart, another gloriously coloured Golden Oriole and a splendid Cirl Bunting in the Fig trees before following the path up the valley. We heard Bee-Eaters passing over, before both Booted Eagle and Raven came in to view and by the time we had reached the sea end of our walk we had also seen a Peregrine and a distant Osprey

After a fruitless search for the elusive Balearic Warbler we made our descent back to the Finca and were rewarded with good views of Stonechat and Whinchat and a very unusual albino plumaged House Sparrow. We ate a good picnic lunch by the vehicles in the car park before heading via the Puerto Pollensa sea front to the S'Albufera Marsh. A brief stop in Puerto Pollensa allowed Shag and Audouin's Gull to be added to the ever growing sightings list. By the time we had reached the mound overlooking the marsh a fresh wind had got up, but it did not deter us from observing our first Eleanora's Falcon of the week as it slowly passed by just a few feet above us. Also noted during our stay were Marsh Harrier, Woodchat Shrike and Corn Bunting. With a number of waders present it was an ideal time for the group to get acquainted with the identification quirks of a number of species, enabling Common Sandpiper, Redshank, Kentish Plover, and Little Ringed Plover, to be observed. Our botanists also came into their own here finding Tongue, Mirror and Bee Orchids in reasonable numbers.

Our pre meal gathering had plenty to discuss as our roll call list was put in to motion. Again the meal was well received, as was the evening's sightings from the pool viewpoint, 7 Night Herons, 2 Eleanora's Falcons, at least 20 Pipestrelle Bats and a host of Stone Curlews calling at dusk being the highlights. It had been a great day in Mallorca.

Day 3

Monday 28th April

South of Mallorca – Salinas de Levante and Cabo de Salinas

Weather: Sunny and warm with occasional cloud and a light to moderate W breeze. High temp of 23 deg C

Our pre-breakfast bird-watch from the hotel hide provided reasonable views of a couple of Wood Sandpipers and both Redshank and Greenshank for comparison, while nearby a Water Rail uttering its pig-like squeal enabled the less experienced group to come to terms with the sounds of this species.

After breakfast we made the journey south across the island to the working salt pans at Salinas de Levante. En route we made a stop in an arable farming area between Petra and Felinitx. Here there were many Corn Buntings and Stonechats, but Thekla and Short-toed Lark numbers appeared to be down on previous years, with just 2 or 3 of each species noted. Red Legged Partridges were seen as we drove further on, so too was Hoopoe and a solitary Booted Eagle.

At the salt pans we were treated to good views of many waders including Avocet, Black-winged Stilt, Redshank, Greenshank, Wood Sandpiper, Curlew Sandpiper, Little Stint and both Kentish and Ringed Plover. The star turns for many were the 35 Greater Flamingos displaying their immaculate pink plumage, especially when the odd group flew by in formation. Other sightings worthy of note was a Pallid Swift among the many Common Swifts present, a group of 8 Yellow Wagtails of the race *flava* (Blue Headed) and two splendid Emperor Dragonflies. Again we lunched on a grassy area overlooking the salt pans which allowed us to continue birding as we ate our picnic.

After our picnic lunch we moved on to the Cabo de Salinas headland, positioning ourselves by the lighthouse in search of shearwaters, but were quite frustrated by the lack of sea birds in general. With just 2 or 3 Cory's Shearwaters visible in the distance we were just about to call time when a small fishing boat appeared to the west of us. As it approached a large group of gulls could be seen in a feeding frenzy all around it. As it passed by at least 300 Yellow-legged Gulls were noted, together with 20 Audouin's Gulls, 50 Cory's Shearwaters and 3 Balearic Shearwaters, the latter 2 species providing the group with sufficient views to enable future recognition of these shearwaters. Arriving back at our hotel after a good day's birding we held our roll-call after our meal, which enabled us to settle the repast in comfort before retiring to our rooms.

Day 4

Tuesday 29th April

Parc Natural de S'Albufera de Mallorca

Clear skies, sunny and warm. Temp 23 deg C

With no takers for our pre-breakfast gathering we opted to lie-in and meet for breakfast at the usual time. After breakfast we made our way for a full day visit to the Parc Natural de S'Albufera de Mallorca, delayed slightly by a lone Sandwich Tern in Pollensa Bay. We entered the reserve at the English Bridge entrance and proceeded down the tarmac access road where we enjoyed good views of the egret and heron colony on the opposite side of the river. Cattle Egret, Little Egret and Night Herons showed well, as did a Purple Swamphen perched right at the top of a tree. It was a comical sight made all the more humorous when it uttered a call then leapt off to land rather heavily in the river below. Also along the driveway we heard countless songs of Cetti's Warblers and Nightingales, together with the raucous calls of the Iberian Water Frogs. Just before reaching the centre we encountered super views of Great White Egret, Great Reed Warbler and a fly past of 3 Purple Herons.

After booking in at the Reserve Office we headed for the hides where we enjoyed Black-winged Stilts and Kentish and Little Ringed Plovers. Wildfowl here included Shelduck, Gadwall, Red-crested Pochard, Marbled Duck and at least 6 more Purple Swamphens. Next we visited the nearby elevated mount which gives a super panoramic view over the whole reserve. Up to 10 Marsh Harriers could be seen quartering the area, together with a 3 Kestrels, while a small group of white horses gave a suggestion of the Camargue.

It was time for lunch but not before we had met up with a very tame Red-Knobbed Coot, sporting a fashionable white neck collar, issued as part of a previous captive breeding program. Our lunch was taken near to the information centre and was interrupted twice by small groups of Bee-Eaters flying northwards towards mainland Spain. Moving on across the river to Bishop Hide we were enthralled by the waders, including Curlew Sandpiper, Snipe, Wood Sandpiper, Greenshank, Common Sandpiper, Redshank, Spotted Redshank, Little Stint and Kentish, Little Ringed and Ringed Plovers. We also had superb views of dragonflies including Lesser Emperor, Green-eyed Hawker, Black Tailed Skimmer and Blue-tailed Damselfly. Butterfly highlights included Holly Blue, Swallowtail and Speckled Wood and our plant expert Liz added Bee Orchid, Sword-leaved Heliborine and Bug Orchid to the day's delights.

Everyone was in good spirits as we headed back to the vehicles for our journey back to the hotel. The roll call kept everyone on a high, as did another splendid evening meal. After dinner we took the short trip to nearby Mont Sant Marti in search of nocturnal species and were rewarded with the calls of Stone Curlew, Barn Owl, Nightjar and our target species Scop's Owl. Whilst waiting for the darkness to descend Liz and Alan discovered a Violet Bird's Nest Orchid, a fitting end to a great day.

Day 5

Wednesday 30th April

Cuber Reservoir and Lluc Monastery Botanical Garden

Sunny and warm all day. High clouds, Temperature 22 deg C

We started our day with a pre-breakfast visit to the hotel hide and although we didn't see anything new we enjoyed good close views of Serin, Greenfinch and Cetti's Warbler.

After breakfast we took the scenic drive up to the Tramuntana Mountains to enjoy our circumnavigation of the Cuber reservoir situated some 750 metres above sea level. En route we made an unscheduled stop to view a Cinereous (Black) Vulture soaring overhead before reaching the car park at about 1000 hrs. We set off for our walk in high spirits with the sky clear and visibility good and we hadn't gone far when we enjoyed flight and ground views of Tawny Pipit which was a new bird for many of the group, as was a Woodchat Shrike that appeared just moments later. On approaching the dam wall we looked back to the northern ridge to see a group of three Cinereous Vultures and four Griffon Vultures slowly gliding across the sky in a formation that enabled their identification to be described effectively.

At the dam wall we had our first Iberian Water Frogs of the day in the small stream below which to our surprise also contained 5 ruddy coloured Crayfish which are listed on the internet as being American Crayfish (*Procambarus clarkii*). The surrounding trees contained yet more Spotted Flycatchers, numerous Nightingales and a couple of Blackcaps. Continuing along the track we reached the disused quarry where a colony of Loose-flowered Orchid was in bloom, on the rock face, some 15 metres above our heads. Also found here was the endemic Balearic Sowbread (Cyclamen) and Rusty-backed Fern. Our walk along the back side of the reservoir, produced a couple of Ravens, a singing Blue-Rock Thrush and a Wren. Butterflies of note were Wall Brown and Clouded Yellow, and Dragonflies included Emperor and Green-eyed Hawker. A brief rest stop allowed Viperine Snake to be observed together with both Spanish and European Pond Terrapins.

We ate our lunch at picnic tables under pine trees next to the parking area. Chaffinches were plentiful, looking for scraps, and more Spotted Flycatchers were around. At least 3 Crossbill were present but only observed by those able to ignore their picnic lunch! We departed on our return journey and stopped at Lluç Monastery. Some of the group wandered through the botanical gardens, while others explored the monastery buildings or relaxed in the coffee shop. Highlights here were Booted Eagle, Griffon Vulture, Crag Martin and our first Cleopatra butterfly of the trip.

We were welcomed back at the hotel by a Red Admiral butterfly as we alighted from the vehicles and later met up for our traditional pre-meal gathering and another great feast. Our evening watch from the pool viewpoint provided some unexpected migration with 6 Grey Herons flying high to the north, followed by 19 Wood Sandpipers and about 250 Swallows which dropped in to roost. ...another enjoyable day

Day 6

Thursday 1st May

Formentor Peninsular visiting Cap Formentor, Casas Vellas, and the Albercutx viewpoint

Weather: Sunny and warm with cloud developing late afternoon. High 22 deg C

After breakfast we set off in our vehicles and after collecting picnic food we drove straight to the end of the Formentor Peninsular and parked at Cap Formentor Lighthouse at 0950 hrs, just as an Eleanora's Falcon flew over. Although the sea was calm we were soon watching Cory's Shearwaters from our high vantage point and were then treated to a thrilling aerial display by 4 juvenile Peregrine Falcons and excellent views of 2 male Blue Rock Thrushes. Migration was evident with 11 Pallid Swifts passing over, together with small groups of Swallows and House Martins and a noisy but unseen flock of Bee-Eaters. Spotted Flycatchers abounded on the rock-side bushes, another indication that there was some passage occurring.

After an hour or so we moved back to Cases Velles, a small agricultural area, in an attempt to find grounded migrants. The fig plantations here contained Red-legged Partridge, good numbers of Spotted and Pied Flycatchers, Redstarts, Whinchats and a group of Yellow Wagtails that included the races of *iberiae*, *flava* and *thumbergi*. In the pines beside the road we also saw Cirl Bunting and Crossbill and heard Firecrest and Serin. We were disappointed that there was no raptor passage along the ridges, although two more Peregrines and half a dozen displaying Ravens did appear there. At least 3 Holly Blue butterflies were located before we moved off for our picnic lunch in the shaded parking area near Formentor beach. Blackcaps, and both Spotted and Pied Flycatchers were present in the adjacent Holme Oak trees as was a couple of Firecrests that thrilled group members while the picnic was being prepared.

After lunch we headed back towards Puerto Pollensa calling at the Albercutx viewpoint, the Mirador Colomer, where we enjoyed good views of Crag Martin and another male Blue Rock Thrush. Scanning the sea from our elevated position enabled us to find a raft of some 150 Balearic Shearwaters loafing on the sea, a species that had been absent during our visit to the lighthouse just hours before. With members of the group wanting a little leisure time we opted to return to the hotel by 1500 hrs a little earlier than normal. This allowed some to alight in Puerto Pollensa, some in Alcudia old town and others to drop off at the hotel and take advantage of the various swimming and leisure facilities.

The pre-dinner roll call again went well with Dave indicating that tomorrow's early gathering was the last chance to get the special bird and recommended that all attend to avoid missing it. After dinner the group met to check the marsh behind the hotel and were rewarded with 15 Little Egrets coming in to roost, 3 Night Herons and the usual 20 or so Pipestrelle bats buzzing around the hotel grounds.. A superb spectacle to finish the day!

Day 7

Friday 2nd May

Southern end of Albufera Marsh – S'illot Old Salt Pans, Depuradora and old farm area

Weather: Cloudy with fresh breeze am sunny and warm pm. Max temp 19 deg C

Today's pre-breakfast birdwatch was our last visit to the hotel hide and half the group attended. Species on offer were as expected, with Black Winged Stilts, Purple Heron, Redshank, Wood Sandpiper and a few House Martins providing just enough to entertain our attendees, then it all kicked off, a Marsh Harrier flew low over the marsh and everything was spooked with, waders, egrets and wildfowl flying everywhere. We opened the hide door to watch its progress down the marsh and were staggered to see a splendid bright blue Roller perched just metres away. What a fantastic sight, although it soon flew away out of sight. We headed for breakfast far from disappointed with our morning haul, despite most missing an Eleanora's Falcon flying down the boundary fence line.

After a good breakfast we made our way back to S'Albufera to check the southern part of the reserve that we hadn't previously visited, specifically the Old Salt Pans at S'illot; the Depuradora (Water Works); and the path to the old farm. Water levels at the Salt Pans were high but held Marbled Duck, Shelduck and Black-winged Stilts in reasonable numbers. A walk along the track produced a fly-over of three Purple Herons, the song of both Cetti's Warbler and Zitting Cisticola, and a carpet of blooming orchids, containing 57 Bee Orchids, 10 Small-flowered Tongue Orchids and a single Bug Orchid. Reaching the end of the track a group of Bee-Eaters were back at their breeding territory, entertaining us as they flew to and fro along the nearby power-lines in search of their insect prey. We spent quite some time watching these special birds as everyone tried to out-do each other in getting the best photo with the many different pieces of equipment on offer. In the end digi-scoping with a mobile phone was the winner. Re-tracing our steps we returned to the vehicles, with some having brief views of Moustached Warbler on the way. Alan noticed an Alpine Swift in the group of swifts passing over, but could not relocate it.

Calling for picnic provisions on the way we drove around to the Depuradora adding Short-toed Lark and Hoopoe to the day's list as we travelled down the access road. Viewing from the platform over the lagoons brought immediate success with a small group of 9 waders that comprised of 3 Curlew Sandpiper, 1 Redshank, 2 Wood Sandpiper, 1 Ruff, 1 Little Stint, and 1 Temminck's Stint, a perfect set up for those wanting to compare the plumages of such species. Wildfowl were also present, the 10 Common Pochards being new for the trip. Shelducks had already produced young, the half grown ducklings thrilling many of the group's members.

We had only just started our picnic when panic set in as Dave shouted Golden Eagle! Many thought this was a joke but after realising it was not, abandoned their laden plates and ventured on to the viewing platform to see this spectacular bird. It was mobbed by the resident Marsh Harriers that were dwarfed by the size comparison. One wing of the eagle was bigger than the full wingspan of the harriers in pursuit.

We managed to settle back to our lunch when the excitement died down and afterwards walked to the old farm area at the back of Albufera reserve. Here we heard and saw a few more Bee-Eaters and concentrated on the flora on offer here. Plants of note here include a Broomrape (*Orobanche romosa*) and numerous spikes of Robust Marsh Orchid. Butterflies also appeared here enabling Holly Blue, Speckled Wood and Swallowtail to be seen by all. Back at the vehicles we had just enough time to spot a couple of White Wagtails on the water works lawns before returning to the hotel to pack and prepare for our journey home. We had had another great day's birding, a fitting climax to a great week.

Before dinner we had our last meeting to complete our lists, organise arrangements for the return journeys and say group thanks. We then enjoyed our last evening meal and met afterwards on the pool viewing area for a mini farewell party, being waved off by a group of some 200 Swallows and a couple of Eleanora's Falcons, the latter a missing link on many people's list, until now.

Day 8

Saturday 3rd May

Return journey to Palma Airport

Weather: Sunny and warm, 24 deg C at the airport

Everyone for a morning flight was in the vehicle by 0730 for the trip back to the airport. Chris and Terry were on a tea-time flight so were taking a cab there and Liz and Rozanne were moving on to Menorca by ferry so were departing separately too. The journey was straightforward though busy. We continued to bird from the vehicles as we went, enabling Alan's passengers to add Starling to their list as we approached the airport, a new bird for the trip list.

Everyone had lots of happy birding memories of their Naturetrek trip to Mallorca and all had seen numerous new birds. The camaraderie had been good so it was obvious to us that many had formed new friendships. The weather had been kind to us, a couple of cloudy mornings and one spell of overnight rain being the exception to a week with the sun shining almost constantly from dawn to dusk. Everyone agreed it had been a wonderful trip. Thanks to all for a lovely week and for your companionship.

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Species List

Birds (✓ = recorded but not counted)

	Common name	Scientific name	April/May							
			26	27	28	29	30	1	2	3
1	Red-legged Partridge	<i>Alectoris rufa</i>			4			6	1	
2	Common Shelduck	<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>	1	6	20	12			12	
3	Gadwall	<i>Anas strepera</i>		1		20	2		15	
4	Mallard	<i>A. platyrhynchos</i>	20	25	20	20	10	4	25	2
5	Northern Shoveler	<i>A. clypeata</i>		2		2				
6	Marbled Duck	<i>Marmaronetta angustirostris</i>				3		4		
7	Red-crested Pochard	<i>Netta rufina</i>	1	2		20				
8	Common Pochard	<i>Aythya ferina</i>							10	
9	Cory's Shearwater	<i>Calonectris diomedea</i>			50			150		
10	Balearic Shearwater	<i>Puffinus mauretanicus</i>			3			150		
11	Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>							1	
12	Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>				1				
13	Greater Flamingo	<i>Phoenicopterus roseus</i>			35					
14	Eurasian Spoonbill	<i>Platalea leucorodia</i>	1							
15	Black-crowned Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>	5	9		3	2	3		
16	Western Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>	2		6	20	1		20	
17	Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>		2		1	14	1		
18	Purple Heron	<i>A. purpurea</i>	2	2		4		2	3	
19	Great Egret	<i>A. alba</i>				2				
20	Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	10	20	20	20	4	1	10	20
21	European Shag	<i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis</i>		4	5			2	1	
22	Great Cormorant	<i>P. carbo</i>		2	3	3			1	
23	Western Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>		1						
24	Red Kite	<i>Milvus milvus</i>					1			
25	Eurasian Griffon Vulture	<i>Gyps fulvus</i>					5			
26	Cinereous (Black) Vulture	<i>Aegypius monachus</i>					6			
27	Western Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>		3	4	10			15	
28	Golden Eagle	<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>							1	
29	Booted Eagle	<i>Hieraaetus pennatus</i>		2	2		1			
30	Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	4	1	11	4	1	1	1	
31	Eleonora's Falcon	<i>F. eleonora</i>		3				1	3	
32	Peregrine	<i>F. peregrinus</i>		1				4		
33	Water Rail	<i>Rallus aquaticus</i>		1	1+2H	2H			1H	
34	Purple Swamphen	<i>Porphyrio porphyrio</i>				7				
35	Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	1	3	1	4	1		2	
36	Eurasian Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>	10	12	1	10	1		6	
37	Red-knobbed Coot	<i>Fulica cristata</i>				2				
38	Stone Curlew	<i>Burhinus oedichnemus</i>	1	2+3H		4H	3H	2H	1+1H	
39	Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>	20	25	35	75	6	2	40	
40	Pied Avocet	<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>			60					
41	Little Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>	2	1	1	6				
42	Common Ringed Plover	<i>C. hiaticula</i>			5	6				
43	Kentish Plover	<i>C. alexandrinus</i>		1	12+2yg	18			1	
44	Common Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>				1				
45	Spotted Redshank	<i>Tringa erythropus</i>				3				
46	Common Redshank	<i>T. totanus</i>		1	4	6			5	
47	Common Greenshank	<i>T. nebularia</i>			3	6				1H

	Common name	Scientific name	April/May								
			26	27	28	29	30	1	2	3	
48	Wood Sandpiper	<i>T. glareola</i>			1	5	19			4	
49	Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>	2	2	1	3	1			3	
50	Little Stint	<i>Calidris minuta</i>			5	2				1	
51	Temminck's Stint	<i>Calidris temminckii</i>								1	
52	Curlew Sandpiper	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>			1	3				1	
53	Ruff	<i>Philomachus pugnax</i>								1	
54	Black-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>				10				3	
55	Audouin's Gull	<i>Ichthyaetus audouinii</i>		7	20		2	3	1		
56	Yellow-legged Gull	<i>Larus michahellis</i>	40	150	500	6	250	300	80	6	
57	Sandwich Tern	<i>Thalasseus sandvicensis</i>				1		2			
58	Rock Dove	<i>Columba livia</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
59	Common Wood Pigeon	<i>C. palumbus</i>	10	6	50	15	6	2	15	15	
60	Eurasian Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	2		4		2		1	1	
61	Western Barn Owl	<i>Tyto alba</i>				1H					
62	Eurasian Scops Owl	<i>Otis scops</i>				4H					
63	Eurasian Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus europaeus</i>				H					
64	Alpine Swift	<i>Tachymarptis melba</i>							1		
65	Common Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>	100	30	1000	20	1	20	100	12	
66	Pallid Swift	<i>Apus pallidus</i>			1			11			
67	European Roller	<i>Coracias garrulus</i>							1		
68	European Bee-Eater	<i>Merops apiaster</i>		8		30		H	20		
69	Eurasian Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>	1		2	1			3		
70	Balearic Woodchat Shrike	<i>Lanius senator badius</i>		1			2		1		
71	Eurasian Golden Oriole	<i>Oriolus oriolus</i>		2							
72	Northern Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>	1	2			2	6	1		
73	Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>	2	2		1	4	2	1	2	
74	Eurasian Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>					8				
75	Greater Short-toed lark	<i>Calandrella brachydactyla</i>			5				2		
76	Thekla Lark	<i>Galerida theklae</i>			2+1H						
77	Sand Martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>			1				10		
78	Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	45	30	15	6	250	20	230	1	
79	Crag Martin	<i>Ptyonoprogne rupestris</i>		15			1	4			
80	House Martin	<i>Delichon urbica</i>		10	2	2	8	6	20		
81	Cetti's Warbler	<i>Cettia cetti</i>	6	6	3	10	6	3H	10H	1H	
82	Willow Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>		1		1H					
83	Chiffchaff	<i>P. collybita</i>		1							
84	Great Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus arundinaceus</i>				2+4H					
85	Moustached Warbler	<i>A. melanopogon</i>				1H			2+2H		
86	Zitting Cisticola	<i>Cisticola juncidis</i>	1H	2	4	6	2	2H	5	1H	
87	Eurasian Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>		2		1	2	2			
88	Sardinian Warbler	<i>S. melanocephala</i>	1	15	6	5	3	5	5		
89	Common Firecrest	<i>Regulus ignicapillus</i>				1H	2H	2+5H			
90	Eurasian Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>					2H				
91	Common Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>								2	
92	Common Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	5	8	10	5	6	6	4	2	
93	Common Nightingale	<i>Luscinia megarhynchos</i>		1H	3H	3+7H	12H	4H	4H		
94	Common Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>		1				4			
95	Whinchat	<i>Saxicola rubetra</i>		2				2			
96	European Stonechat	<i>S. rubicola</i>	2	6	18		3		2		
97	Northern Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>	1								
98	Blue Rock Thrush	<i>Monticola solitarius</i>		2			1H	3			

	Common name	Scientific name	April/May								
			26	27	28	29	30	1	2	3	
99	Spotted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>		3					6		
100	Pied Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula hypoleuca</i>		1		3	1	2			
101	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
102	White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>								2	
103	Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava flavissima</i>			1						
	Spanish Yellow Wagtail	<i>M. flava iberiae</i>		2	2	2		2			
	Blue-headed Wagtail	<i>M. flava flava</i>		1	8			1	1		
	Grey-headed Wagtail	<i>M. flava thumbergi</i>						2			
104	Tawny Pipit	<i>Anthus campestris</i>					3				
105	Tree Pipit	<i>A. trivialis</i>		2							
106	Common Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>				H	50	15			
107	Serin	<i>Serinus serinus</i>	6	10	6	6	5	3	10		
108	Greenfinch	<i>Carduelis chloris</i>	12	15	6	6	6	6	6	2H	
109	Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>		6	5	4	4	2	6		
110	Linnet	<i>Carduelis cannabina</i>			3				4		
111	Crossbill	<i>Loxia curvirostra</i>					3	4			
112	Corn Bunting	<i>Emberiza calandra</i>		2	20		8H	1+3H	2		
1193	Cirl Bunting	<i>Emberiza cirlus</i>		2+2H				1			

Orchids

Small-flowered Tongue Orchid (*Serapias*) - Common, seen on our visits to S'Albufera and S'Albufereta and on waste ground adjacent to the hotel.

Mirror Orchid -10 in the old Roman Quarry at Albufereta.

Bug Orchid -Seen on both visits to the S'Albufera area.

Bee Orchid - 2 near the S'Albufereta viewing mound, 57 on the track by the old salt pans at S'illot and also noted on waste ground adjacent to the hotel.

Loose-flowered Orchid -About 30 spikes in the quarry at Cuber Reservoir

Violet Bird's Nest Orchid -One seen on our nocturnal trip to Mont Sant Marti

Robust Marsh Orchid -10 on the south side of Albufera

Sword-leaved Helleborine -1 by the road down to the S'Albufera reserve.

Butterflies

Clouded Yellow -1at the Salinas on 28th and 1 at Cuber on 30th.

Swallowtail -1 at S'Albufereta on 27th, 1 at the Salinas on 28th, 2 at S'Albufera on 29th and 2nd.

Red Admiral - 1 at Lluc and 1 in the hotel car park, both on 30th.

Speckled Wood - 1 at S'Albufereta on 27th, 12 at S'Albufera on 29th, 6 at Cuber and Lluc on 30th and 4 at the Depuradora on 2nd.

Small White - 2 at the Salinas on 28th, 1 at S'Albufera on 29th and 2 there on 2nd, 1 at Cases Velles on 29th.

Large White - 1 at the Salinas on 28th.

Holly Blue - 2 in the Bocquer on 27th, 2 at the Salinas on 28th, 3 at Cases Velles on 1st and 2 at S'illot on 2nd.

Cleopatra -1 at Lluc on 30th.

Common Blue -1 at S'Albufereta on 26th.

Green Veined White -2 at the Salinas on 28th.

Bath White -2 at the Salinas on 28th.

White sp - 4 on 26th, 30 on 28th, 6 on 29th and 2 on 30th.

Wall Brown - 1 in the Boquer on 27th and 1 at Cuber on 30th.

Dragonflies

Blue-tailed Damselfly - 4 at S'Albufera on 29th.

Emperor Dragonfly - 2 at Salinas de Levante on 28th and singles at S'Albufera on 29th and at Cuber on 30th.

Black-tailed Skimmer -1 at S'Albufereta on 26th and 2 at S'Albufera on 29th.

Green Eyed Hawker (Norfolk Hawker) – Singles at S'Albufereta on 26th, at S'Albufera on 29th and at Cuber on 30th.

Broad Scarlet – 1 at S'Albufera on 27th.

Lesser Emperor – 3 at S'Albufera on 29th and 1 at Cuber on 30th.

Reptiles and Amphibians

Iberian Water Frog - heard daily from the hotel's ornamental ponds and very vocal, suggesting large numbers, at S'Albufera. Also seen and heard at Cuber and the Lluç Monastery.

European Pond Terrapin – 4 at S'Albufera on 29th and 1 at Cuber on 30th.

Spanish Terrapin – Singles at S'Albufera on 29th and at Cuber on 30th.

Moorish Gecko -1 at S'Albufera on 29th.

Common Wall Lizard – 1 at Cuber on 30th.

Viperine Snake -1 at Cuber on 30th.

Mammals

Rabbit - singles noted at S'Albufera on 27th, the Salinas on 28th, and at S'Albufera on 30th and 2nd.

Brown Rat -1 found dead on waste ground opposite the hotel tennis courts.

Pipistrelle Bat - Twenty or more seen daily at dusk in the hotel grounds – Bat detection equipment matched the frequency and noise pattern associated with this species.

Weasel - Seen from the vehicles near Petra during our drive to the south of the island on 28th.

White Horses - Introduced animals seen in the main S'Albufera reserve on 29th.

Insects

Below is a list of the more unusual insects noted during the week:-

Honey Bee

Marmalade Hoverfly

Violet Carpenter Bee

White-tailed Bumblebee

Green House-fly (*Neomyia cornicina*)

Egyptian Grasshopper

Chafer Beetle (*Oxythyria funestra*)

Buprestid Beetle (*Chalcophora mariana*)

Cardinal Beetle (*Trichodes alberius*)

Pill Millipede

Flowers

Interesting species noted during the week, mainly identified by Liz Curtis:

Asphadel – Common in all areas visited.

Dwarf Fan Palm (*Chamaerops humilis*) – Europe's only native palm. Common in all rocky and barren areas visited.

Hedgehog Plant (*Astragalus balearicus*) – An endemic noted in the Boquer Valley and at Cuber and Formentor.

Balearic St John's Wort – (*Hypericum Balearica*) A Balearic endemic noted in the Bocquer Valley on 27th.

Cistus Albidus (pink) – noted on our trip to the Salinas on 28th.

Cistus Monspeliensis (white, 5 sepals) - noted on our trip to the Salinas on 28th.

Cistus Clusii (3 sepals) – noted on our trip to the Salinas on 28th.

Perforate St John's Wort – recorded at S'Albufera on 29th.

Balearic Sowbread (*Cyclamen balearicum*) – Another endemic noted near the Quarry at Cuber on 30th.

Rusty-backed Fern (*Ceterach officinarum*) – Found growing with the Balearic Sowbread at Cuber on 230th.

Erodium Richardii – A much sought after endemic seen from the vehicles during the return drive from the Formentor Lighthouse. Site difficult to access.

Broomrape (*Orobanche remosa*) – one found near the depudora on 2nd.

Great Fen Sedge – commonly growing at S'illot on 2nd.

Other interesting sightings

American Crayfish (*Procambarus clarkia*) – At least 5 individuals were noted in the stream below the dam wall at Cuber on the 30th. Their general colouration was quite rufousy red, suggesting this species. A search of the internet shows photographs of this species taken at Cuber in recent times.

Albino House Sparrow – A very pale creamy bird was feeding with large numbers of House Sparrows at the start of the Bocquer Valley on the 27th.



2014 Naturetrek Group photo by Dave Smith



Great Egret by Dave Smith