

## Mallorca

6th - 13<sup>th</sup> May 2012



This was my fourth visit to Mallorca and as previously we stayed at Puerto Pollenca in the extreme north-east of the island which despite evidence of encroaching urbanisation and related destruction of habitat remains low key and has kept its charm. The one big difference from my last visit was the presence of a bypass which has been built at the rear of the resort and this has destroyed some fields at the base of the Boquer Valley and has divided 'postage stamp' wood in half, however much good habitat remains and the road was more like a country lane when compared to UK motorways and was not particularly busy, though it was of course still early in the season.

The trip was book independently and our accommodation was the [Massol apartments](#) which quite conveniently overlooked the Boquer Valley; they were spacious, clean and came thoroughly recommended and an ideal location for the birder. This was my first visit to the island outside the month of April and migration was much reduced with no large arrivals of migrants and very little raptor migration, this made birding hard work. The prevalent view among island regulars was 'it's not like it used to be' well in my opinion that's the case with many migration watch points these days, it's a sign of the times. I left the island with my previous favourable impression intact and glad to see despite the horror stories much good habitat remains. Mallorca is still a great place to watch birds and I will not leave it fourteen years till my next visit.



*The view from our apartment with the Boquer Valley on the doorstep*

Having been to the island on previous occasions this was never a 'full on,- see you at the evening meal ! ' birding trip, rather I aimed to get to grips with some of the endemic subspecies and my time in the field was confined to several hours early morning and again early evening at a fairly relaxed pace. The following locations were visited:-

6<sup>th</sup> May: - Early evening walk around base of Boquer Valley

7<sup>th</sup> May: - Boquer Valley – walked to sea

8<sup>th</sup> May: - Albufera Natural Park & Boquer Valley

9<sup>th</sup> May: - Boquer Valley & Albufereta Nature Reserve

10<sup>th</sup> May: - Lluch Monastery - Tramuntana Mountains – La Calobra

11<sup>th</sup> May: - Albufera Natural Park

12<sup>th</sup> May: - Boquer Valley – Albufereta Nature Reserve

13<sup>th</sup> May: - Boquer Valley



## Species List

**Shelduck:** - *Tadorna tadorna* - 15+ at Albufera on 8<sup>th</sup>, and two broods of 4, 7 at Depuradora on 11<sup>th</sup>

**Mallard:** - *Anas platyrhynchos* - Common and widespread

**Gadwall:** - *Anas strepera* - 2 noted at Albufera on 8<sup>th</sup>, several at Albufereta and 20 + at Depuradora on 11<sup>th</sup>

**Shoveler:** - *Anas clypeata* - A pair at Albufera

**Marbled Duck:** - *Marmaronetta angustirostris* - Albufera, 5 on 8<sup>th</sup>, 2 on 11<sup>th</sup>

**Pochard:** - *Aythya ferina* – noted only at the Depuradora where two pairs noted

**Red-Crested Pochard:** - *Netta rufina* – Good numbers noted, this species was part of a successful reintroduction scheme to the Albufera where 30 + noted including a brood of 6 on the 8<sup>th</sup>, in addition 27 were also observed at the Albufereta

**Red-legged Partridge:** - *Alectoris rufa* – several calling from fields at base of Boquer Valley, also heard at Albufereta on several dates



**Little Grebe:** - *Tachybaptus ruficollis* - 2 Albufera on 8<sup>th</sup>

**Cormorant:** - *Phalacrocorax carbo* – 2 birds noted only in flight at Albufera and Albufereta. These views made assigning to ssp difficult

**Shag:** - *Phalacrocorax aristotelis desmarestii* – 20+ of this Mediterranean ssp noted feeding in Pollensa Bay daily and resting on rocky reefs off promenade

**Night Heron:** - *Nycticorax nycticorax* – Numbers of this heron much reduced from previous visits in April, 8 noted at the Albufera on 8<sup>th</sup>, 2 on 11<sup>th</sup>

**Cattle Egret:** - *Bubulcus ibis* – Much increased from previous visits, common and good numbers observed most days

**Squacco Heron:** - *Ardeola ralloides* – Locals informed me late April – mid May best time to catch up with this attractive Heron, 2 noted both at the Albufera

**Little Egret:** - *Egretta garzetta* – Common and noted daily



**Great White Egret:** - *Casmerodius albus* – Chiefly a scarce winter visitor, 3 birds noted - 2 Albufereta on 9<sup>th</sup> and a single Albufera on 11<sup>th</sup>

**Grey Heron:** - *Ardea cinerea* – 4 noted at Albufera and Albufereta and a single feeding in Pollensa Bay on 11<sup>th</sup> and La Gola / Smelly Stream in resort on 12<sup>th</sup>

**Purple Heron:** - *Ardea purpurea* – 4+ at Albufera on 8<sup>th</sup>, with a single at Albufereta on 9<sup>th</sup>

**Greater Flamingo:** - *Phoenicopterus roseus* - 5 immatures observed at the Es Rotlas (western end) of the Albufera on 8<sup>th</sup>



**Booted Eagle:** - *Aquila pennata* - Noted daily from Balcony over the Boquer Valley and 3 + in Tramuntana range on 10<sup>th</sup>, both light and dark phase observed

**Black Vulture:** - *Aegypius monachus* - Never visited the best site on the island for this species at Cuber reservoir ; however 5+ birds noted around Lluch Monastery in the Tramuntana range

**Marsh Harrier:** - *Circus aeruginosus* – Common especially at Albufera and Albufereta, though also noted flying over Pollensa Bay and singles well away from the marshes near Lluch Monastery

**Kestrel:** *Falco tinnunculus* - Relatively scarce, 2 Albufera, singles on Llenaire Road and at Boquer Valley.

**Eleonora's Falcon:** - *Falco eleonora* – maximum 8 over Boquer Valley late afternoon on 9<sup>th</sup>, (where 1-3 noted daily) 3 La Calobra on 10<sup>th</sup> and singletons at Albufera and Albufereta on a couple of dates

**Water Rail:** - *Rallus aquaticus* - 1-2 very vocal at Albufereta on 9<sup>th</sup>

**Moorhen:** - *Gallinula chloropus* - 3+ at Albufera, where a brood of 4 noted on 8<sup>th</sup>

**Coot:** - *Fulica atra* – Common both at Albufera and Albufereta



**Red-knobbed Coot:** - *Fulica cristata* – Quite easily observed at Albufera where re-introduced, 5+ on both dates visited

**Purple Swamphen:** -*Porphyrio porphyrio* – Again part of a successful re-introduction scheme though appeared much more elusive than previous visits, maximum of 6 Albufera and 2 Albufereta

**Avocet:**-*Recurvirostra avosetta* – Two first summer birds Albufera on 11<sup>th</sup>

**Black-winged Stilt:** - *Himantopus himantopus* – Lots at Albufera and Albufereta





**Stone Curlew:** - *Burhinus oediconemus* - Pair breeding in vicinity of Boquer Valley and heard each evening from Apartment

**Little Ringed Plover:** - *Charadrius dubius* – 8 + at Albufera

**Kentish Plover:** - *Charadrius alexandrinus* - 15 + Albufera



**Curlew Sandpiper:** - *Calidris ferruginea* – At the Albufera 8 were seen on 8<sup>th</sup> and 9 on 11<sup>th</sup> showing a variety of plumages

**Wood Sandpiper:** - *Tringa glareola* - 2 Albufera on 11<sup>th</sup>

**Common Sandpiper:** - *Actitis hypoleucos* - Max 3 Albufera only

**Redshank:** - *Tringa totanus* – 2 Albufera on 8<sup>th</sup>

**Spotted Redshank:** - *Tringa erythropus* – Single Albufera 11<sup>th</sup>

**Greenshank:** - *Tringa nebularia* – max 4 Albufera, and 3 Albufereta

**Yellow-legged Gull:** - *Larus michahellis* – Widespread and common, a great majority of birds were adults

**Audouins Gull:** - *Larus audouinii* - This species is commoner than on last visit, easily seen on resort beach and marina with a max count of 12 on 9<sup>th</sup>, mostly adults though a few 2<sup>nd</sup> summer birds noted



**Sandwich Tern:** - *Sterna sandvicensis* - 2 birds were regularly noted feeding in Pollensa Bay, a winter visitor to the island

**Common Tern:** - *Sterna hirundo* – 2 birds Albufera on 11<sup>th</sup>

**Feral Rock Dove:** - *Columba livia domestica* – Common and widely observed

**Woodpigeon:** - *Columba palumbus* – Widespread, small flocks regularly flying east over the resort early evening towards Formentor Peninsula

**Collared Dove:** - *Streptopelia decaocto* – Noted daily in small numbers

**Turtle Dove:** - *Streptopelia turtur* – Only two noted, a single east with Woodpigeon over resort on 9<sup>th</sup>, and a single at base of Boquer Valley on 12<sup>th</sup>

**Barn Owl:** - *Tyto alba* – A single illuminated by lights of new bypass hunted fields opposite apartment at 23.00 on 9<sup>th</sup>, ssp 'alba'

**Scops Owl:** - *Otus scops* – Heard calling from 21.00 in vicinity of Pollentia Park Hotel and showing well on wires and telegraph poles from 21.15 and seen flying to window panes of hotel to hunt moths

**Common Swift:** - *Apus apus* – Common, e.g 100+ over resort on 7<sup>th</sup>

**Pallid Swift:** - *Apus pallidus* – Not really looked for among large numbers of above species, but 3 definite birds near the Depuradora on 11<sup>th</sup>

**Hoopoe:** - *Upupa epops* – 3+ Albufera, with singletons Boquer Valley, Albufereta and Llenaire Road.

**European Bee-eater:** - *Merops apiaster* – 3 through the Boquer Valley on 6<sup>th</sup>, 4 on 7<sup>th</sup>, and 7 on 12<sup>th</sup>. In addition 8 appeared to be breeding / prospecting the quarry area to the east of the Depuradora

**European Roller:** - *Coracias garrulus* – Still a rare migrant on the island; one was found to the south of the Muro – Sa Pobla road a few km west of the Can Picafort coach depot on 8<sup>th</sup>

**European Wryneck:** - *Jynx torquilla* – A single heard calling along the Torrent de Sant Jordi along the resorts back roads on 9<sup>th</sup> was the only record

**Short-toed Lark:** - *Calandrella brachydactyla* – 2 near the Depuradora on the 11<sup>th</sup>

**Crag Martin:** - *Ptyonoprogne rupestris* – Maximum of 8 Boquer Valley, the only site noted

**Barn Swallow:** - *Hirundo rustica* – Noted daily in small numbers

**Red-rumped Swallow:** - *Cecropis daurica* – 2 around the base of the Boquer Valley, early evening on the 9<sup>th</sup>

**House Martin:** - *Delichon urbicum* – Noted daily in small numbers, maximum 20 Boquer Valley on 9<sup>th</sup>

**White Wagtail:** - *Motacilla alba* – single bird at the Albufereta

**Yellow Wagtail:** - *Motacilla flava iberiae* (*Spanish Wagtail*) Handful at Albufera and Albufereta





**Robin:** - *Erithacus rubecula* – Singles Boquer Valley on three dates including a singing bird on the 13<sup>th</sup>, mainly a winter visitor this species is a recent addition to the islands breeding birds

**Nightingale:** - *Luscinia megarhynchos* – Common at Albufera with at least 6 singing in one small area, odd birds noted elsewhere

**Redstart:** - *Phoenicurus phoenicurus* – Single Albufereta on 9<sup>th</sup>

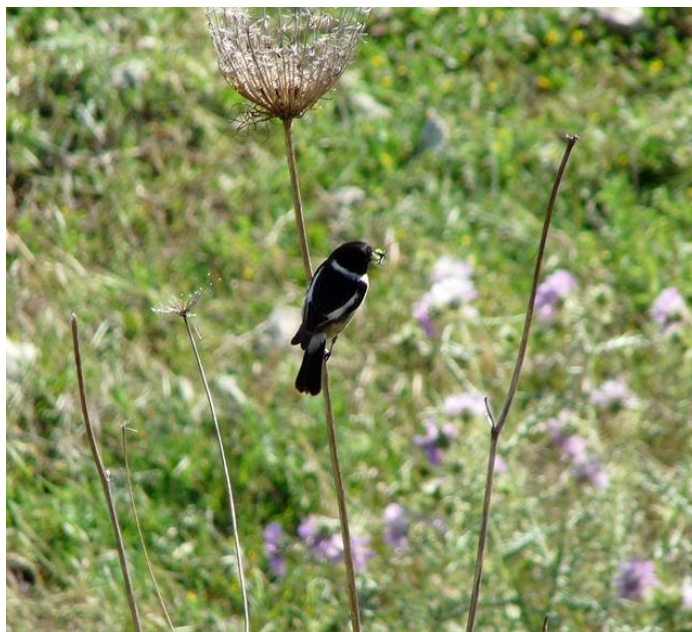
**Stonechat:** - *Saxicola torquatus* – Widespread including a brood of 4 at the Boquer Valley, most of adult males showed obvious white upper tail coverts

**Whinchat:** - *Saxicola rubetra* – 2 near Depuradora on 8<sup>th</sup>

**Blackbird:** - *Turdus merula* – Common

**Blue Rock Thrush:** - *Monticola solitaries* – 5 observed in the Boquer Valley on 7<sup>th</sup>

**Garden Warbler:** *Sylvia borin* – Increased as week went on, first noted in Boquer Valley 9<sup>th</sup>, 3 Albufera 11<sup>th</sup>, and a singles Boquer on 12<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>



**Blackcap:** - *Sylvia atricapilla* – Singing birds noted Albufera on two dates and Lluch Monastery

**Whitethroat:** - *Sylvia communis* - Singles Boquer Valley on three dates

**Sardinian Warbler:** - *Sylvia melanocephala* - Widespread





**Balearic Warbler:** - *Sylvia sarda balearica* - Pair at end of Boquer Valley on 7<sup>th</sup>

**Moustached Warbler:** - *Acrocephalus melanopogon* - singles Albufera 8<sup>th</sup> /11<sup>th</sup>

**Fan-tailed Warbler:** - *Cisticola juncidis* - 5+ Albufera, Albufereta and Resort Back Roads

**Cetti's Warbler:** - *Cettia cetti* - Common at Albufera / Albufereta

**Reed Warbler:** - *Acrocephalus scirpaceus* – less than 5 singing at Albufera

**Great Reed Warbler:** - *Acrocephalus arundinaceus* – 11 singing at Albufera on 8<sup>th</sup>

**Icterine Warbler:** - *Hippolais icterina* - Single heard singing and seen briefly in Postage Stamp Wood on 12<sup>th</sup>

**Willow Warbler:** - *Phylloscopus trochilus* – Boquer Valley: 5 on 6<sup>th</sup>, 6 on 7<sup>th</sup>, not seen thereafter

**Wood Warbler:** - *Phylloscopus sibilatrix* - Single Albufereta 9<sup>th</sup>

**Firecrest:** - *Regulus ignicapilla* - Singles noted Lluch Monastery and feeding young near Alcudia Pins resort, this ssp *balearicus* looked slightly greyer and less moss green above to my eyes

**Wren:** - *Troglodytes troglodytes* - 3 singing in the Boquer Valley

**Spotted Flycatcher:** - *Muscicapa striata* - One of the most widespread birds and seen in most sites visited. Both nominate and the *balearica* ssp were noted the latter differing in being altogether paler, having more white on forehead and less streaking on breast. A count of 15 in the Boquer Valley after rain on the 6<sup>th</sup>



**Pied Flycatcher:** - *Ficedula hypoleuca* – Only seen at the Boquer Valley area with 10-12 after rain on 6<sup>th</sup>, and a single on the 9<sup>th</sup>

**Great Tit:** - *Parus major* – An endemic ssp *mallorcae* , much greyer and less intense yellow on belly, singles noted Boquer Valley, Resort Back Roads, and Lluch Monastery

**Woodchat Shrike:** -*Lanius senator* – More elusive than expected with only a handful of individuals noted, Boquer Valley, Albufereta, Depuradora and Lluch Monastery, all assigned to ssp *Badius* which lack the white primary patch

**Raven:** - *Corvus corax* – Pair seen daily over Boquer Valley and often over resort, singles on two dates over Albufera and 8+ in Tramuntana range

**House Sparrow:** -*Passer domesticus* – Common

**Chaffinch:** - *Fringilla coelebs* – pair at Lluch monastery on 10<sup>th</sup>

**Linnet:** - *Carduelis cannabina* – Small numbers most sites visited

**Goldfinch:** - *Carduelis carduelis* – Common, 10 + regularly fed in field at opposite apartment

**Greenfinch:** - *Chloris chloris* – Common and widespread

**Serin:** - *Serinus serinus* – Observed daily

**Common Crossbill:** - *Loxia curvirostra* – Only observed in flight, 3 over resort on 7<sup>th</sup> and 4 Lluch Monastery on presumably ssp *Balearica*

**Cirl Bunting:** -*Emberiza cirlus* – 4 + regularly noted in Boquer Valley





**Corn Bunting:** - *Miliaria calandra* – Widespread with at least two singing at base of Boquer Valley