

BIRDS OBSERVED IN MALLORCA

by *P. H. G. Wolstenholme, M. B. O. U.*

WORKERS' EDUCATIONAL ASSOCIATION
CHEADLE HULME BRANCH

ORNITHOLOGICAL SAFARI TO MAJORCA
25 MARCH - 1 APRIL 1972

1. Members of Party

Mr. B. Bailey	Mrs. B. E. Maybury
Mrs. J. M. Bailey	Miss N. Robinson
Mr. H. Birch	Miss G. M. Runciman
Miss E. M. Bonner	Mrs. E. Stubbs
Miss H. Crewe	Miss S. Tomlinson
Miss H. Crook	Miss B. Uttley
Miss M. Holden	Miss I. Whitehill
Mr. R. R. Jackson	Mr. A. Winstanley
Mr. H. Kent	Mr. P. H. G. Wolstenholme
Mrs. J. Kent	

2. A Summary of Observations Made on the Birds of Majorca between 25 March and 1 April 1972.

A proportion of the party spent over an hour before breakfast either at Barcarés or Albufereta Marsh, Albufera Marsh was visited almost daily, and Salinas de Levante twice. Formentor, Cabo de Salinas, Sa Vall, the lower slopes of Puig Major were other major areas in the island visited at least once. The whole party was in the field from 9.00 a.m. to 7.00 p.m. each day, and this helped the total species definitely observed to exceed a hundred.

A month earlier we might have noted greater numbers of ducks (4,000 had wintered at Albufera) and a few white storks. During the last week of March 1972, the temperature daily reached 60°F, or more, and migration was well under way. Cloudy, misty, rainy conditions always lead to many migrants sheltering for a few hours on the island and the notes on Swallow and other species show this. On clear days migrants probably make straight for the coast of mainland Spain.

Records of other observers during the week included the arrival of the Flamingo at Salinas de Levante on 29 March (Mr. and Mrs. Jobbins) and Spectacled Warblers and Bluethroats there throughout the week. A party from London on 31 March recorded Marsh Sandpiper and Wryneck in the same locality.

Evidence of breeding behaviour included displaying Audouin's Gulls and Marsh Harriers; several species of warbler feeding young in the nest, i.e. Fantailed and Sardinian, and a Crossbill extracting pine seeds from cones and later feeding a fledged young one by regurgitating the pulpy seeds.

LITTLE GREBE: *Podiceps ruficollis*

Single birds 'whinnying' at Albufera on 25, 26 and 28 March.

CORYS SHEARWATER: *Procellaria diomedea*

Small numbers off the point of Formentor on 27 March, and off Porto Colom on 31 March; at least 60 offshore at Cabo de Salinas on 29 March.

BALEARIC SHEARWATER: *Puffinus puffinus mauretanicus*

Forty flew south past the point at Formentor on 27 March; six at Cabo de Salinas on 29 March.

SHAG: *Phalacrocorax aristotelis*

Fifteen flew north past the point at Formentor on 27 March; two at Cabo de Salinas on 28 March, and a few off Porto Colom, including one disturbed by a fishing boat from the cliffs on 31 March.

NIGHT HERON: *Nycticorax nycticorax*

Seven flew in from south at Albufera on 27 March.

LITTLE EGRET: *Egretta garzetta*

Small numbers on all marshes with maxima of five at Salinas de Levante and at Albufereta and fifteen at Albufera.

GREY HERON: *Ardea cinerea*

A single bird at Albufereta on 28-31 March, and seven together at Albufera on 1 April.

PURPLE HERON: *Ardea purpurea*

One - two Albufera throughout week; one at Albufereta on 27 March; four flew south along Lago Esperanza on 28 March.

FLAMINGO: *Phoenicopterus ruber*

One at Salinas de Levante on 31 March (this bird arrived on 29 March).

MALLARD: *Anas platyrhynchos*

Maxima of twenty at Albufera and Salinas de Levante, smaller numbers at Sa Vall.

TEAL: *Anas crecca*

Six at Albufera on 1 April.

PINTAIL: *Anas acuta*

Three at Salinas de Levante on 26 March and one at Sa Vall on 29 March.

GARGANEY: *Anas querquedula*

Eighteen at Albufera on 27 March and five there on 1 April; one at Sa Vall on 30 March.

SHOVELER: *Anas clypeata*

One drake at Sa Vall on 29 March.

POCHARD: *Aythya ferina*

Two ducks at Lago Esperanza on 30 March (w. v.).

OSPREY: *Pandion haliaetus*

Single birds at Albufereta on 27 March and at Albufera on 30 March - 1 April.

BOOTED EAGLE: *Hieraetus pennatus*

Single light phase birds at Puig Major, Escorca and near Lluc on 28 March; also at Pollensa and Colonia de San Pedro on 30 March.

MARSH HARRIER: *Circus aeruginosus*

A pair displaying at Salinas de Levante on 26 March. One-three birds over Albufera, Albufereta and Salinas de Levante during the week.

BLACK VULTURE: *Aegypius monachus*

Two at Puig Major, two at Torrent de Pareis on 28 March; one near Pollensa on 28 and 30 March. None noted on Formentor.

KESTREL: *Falco tinnunculus*

Single birds in many parts of the island. A pair on a nesting site near Pollensa.

RED LEGGED PARTRIDGE: *Alectoris rufa*

Single birds at Albufera on 25 March and on Formentor on 27 March; large numbers at Sa Vall on 29 March.

QUAIL: *Coturnix coturnix*

One calling in fields near Salinas de Levante on 26 March (s. v.).

WATER RAIL: *Rallus aquaticus*

Small numbers heard at Salinas de Levante and Albufera.

SPOTTED CRAKE: *Porzana porzana*

At least three calling at Salinas de Levante on 31 March.

MOORHEN: *Gallinula chloropus*

Small numbers at Albufera and Sa Vall.

COOT: *Fulica atra*

Twenty at Lago Esperanza; smaller numbers on Albufera.

LITTLE RINGED PLOVER: *Charadrius dubius*

Small numbers displaying at Albufereta, Salinas de Albufera and Sa Vall.

KENTISH PLOVER: *Charadrius alexandrinus*

One or two at Albufereta, Salinas de Albufera; with a maximum of forty at Salinas de Levante on 26 March.

LAPWING: *Vanellus vanellus*

Single birds at Barcarés on 26 March and at Sa Vall on 29 March.

LITTLE STINT: *Calidris minuta*

At least sixty at Salinas de Levante on 26 and 31 March.

DUNLIN: *Calidris alpina*

Four at Salinas de Levante on 26 March.

RUFF: *Philomachus pugnax*

At Salinas de Levante twenty on 26 March; forty on 31 March. At Albufera ten on 25 March; two on 28 March. At Sa Vall four on 29 March.

SPOTTED REDSHANK: *Tringa erythropus*

Five at Salinas de Levante on 26 March; two at Sa Vall on 29 March.

REDSHANK: *Tringa totanus*

Small numbers on all wetland habitats, i.e. Albufera, Albufereta, Sa Vall, Salinas de Levante.

GREEN SANDPIPER: *Tringa ochropus*

One - five at Sa Vall, Albufera, Salinas de Levante, Albufereta, with a flock of thirteen at Albufera on 26 March.

WOOD SANDPIPER: *Tringa glareola*

Two at Sa Vall on 29 March; single birds at Salinas de Levante on 26 March and at Albufera on 1 April.

COMMON SANDPIPER: *Tringa hypoleucos*

One at Colonia de San Jordi on 26 March.

BLACK-TAILED GODUIT: *Limosa limosa*

Fifteen at Salinas de Levante on 26 March.

CURLEW: *Numenius arquata*

Four at Salinas de Levante on 26 March and one at Salinas de Albufera on 26 March.

SNIPE: *Gallinago gallinago*

Single birds at Albufera, Salinas de Levante with six at Sa Vall on 29 March.

BLACK-WINGED STILT: *Himantopus himantopus*

In wetlands maxima offive at Albufera, six at Salinas de Albufera and thirty at Salinas de Levante. All these birds were apparently in territory.

STONE CURLEW: *Burhinus oedicnemus*

Several heard at Salinas de Levante on 26 March; twelve flushed at Albufereta on 27 March; a total of a least twenty-nine flushed at Sa Vall

(sixteen together) on 29 March; one near Son Bauló on 30 March; six at Porto Colom on 31 March.

MEDITERRANEAN GULL: *Larus melanocephalus*

Single immatures at Salinas de Levante on 26 March and at Porto Colom on 31 March.

LITTLE GULL: *Larus minutus*

At Salinas de Levante six (three adult, three immature) on 26 March; four on 31 March.

BLACK-HEADED GULL: *Larus ridibundus*

At Salinas de Levante on 26 March and 31 March.

HERRING GULL: *Larus argentatus michahellis*

Up to twenty offshore at Pollensa, Alcudia, Porto Colom; small numbers feeding in coastal marshes such as Albufera, Salinas de Levante. c. fifty were on Formentor cliffs and stacks on 27 March.

AUDOUIN'S GULL: *Larus Audoninii*

At least six on the sea at Porto Colom. Two separate pairs were observed displaying on 31 March.

CUCKOO: *Cuculus canorus*

Single birds heard at Albufera on 25 March.

SCOPS OWL: *Otus scops*

Up to four heard calling at Barcarés throughout the week.

LITTLE OWL: *Athene noctua*

One heard calling at Barcarés on 26 March (r).

SWIFT: *Apus apus*

Ten at Salinas de Levante on 26 March with small numbers persisting until 31 March when there were over two hundred at Salinas de Levante.

ALPINE SWIFT: *Apus melba*

Six over limestone crags near Colonia de San Pedro (p.m.).

HOOPOE: *Upupa epops*

Single birds and pairs in territory in many types of lowland habitats - Alcudia, Colonia de San Pedro, Sa Vall, Ca'n Picafort, Pollensa etc.

SHORT-TOED LARK: *Calandrella cinerea*

Small numbers in song at Albufereta, Sa Vall, on farmland, some in song at Porto Colom and several small flocks (up to seven birds) migrating north on 31 March.

THEKLA LARK: *Galerida theklae*

Two at Sa Vall on 29 March and one at Porto Colom on 31 March (r).

SKYLARK: *Alauda arvensis*

One at Porto Colom on 31 March (w.v.).

SAND MARTIN: *Riparia riparia*

Single birds among swallows on 26 and 27 March. Small numbers at Albufera on 31 March and 1 April.

CRAG MARTIN: *Hirundo rupestris*

Small numbers on Formentor on 27 March, one on Alcudia peninsular on 27 March; on 28 March small numbers near Puig Major and at Escorca.

SWALLOW: *Hirundo rustico*

Six at Albufera on 25 March; numbers rose to several hundred, after overnight rains on 27 and 31 March.

HOUSE MARTIN: *Delichon urbica*

Small numbers with migrating swallows at Albufera, Albufereta, Sa Vall, Salinas de Levante, others visiting nesting sites in several towns.

TAWNY PIPIT: *Anthus campestris*

Six in territory at Porto Colom on 31 March.

TREE PIPIT: *Anthus trivialis*

Single birds at Albufereta on 28 March, Sa Vall on 29 March, Formentor on 30 March and Albufera on 1 April.

MEADOW PIPIT: *Anthus pratensis*

Flocks of twenty birds Alcudia, Formentor, Salinas de Levante, Albufera and Sa Vall.

WATER PIPIT: *Anthus spinoletta spinoletta*

Small numbers at Albufera, Albufereta, Salinas de Levante, Sa Vall on the marshland.

SPANISH WAGTAIL: *Motacilla flava iberiae*

Small numbers in territory on marshes Albufera, Albufereta, Sa Vall, Salinas de Levante.

WHITE WAGTAIL: *Motacilla alba alba*

One by the lake Laguna Tamarells at Sa Vall on 29 March.

WOODCHAT SHRIKE: *Lanius senator*

Two at Felanitx and six on the Cabo de Salinas road on 29 March; one near Manacor on 31 March.

WREN: *Troglodytes troglodytes*

Small numbers in song Salinas de Levante, Puig Major, Sa Vall, Colonia de San Pedro, Formentor.

CETTI'S WARBLER: *Cetti cetti*

Widely distributed in wetland habitats Albufera, Albufereta, Salinas de Levante, Sa Vall.

MOUSTACHED WARBLER: *Luscinola melanopogon*

Widely distributed in reed beds of Albufera.

BLACKCAP: *Sylvia atricapilla*

Single birds on Formentor, at Pollensa and Sa Vall with up to thirty in a fig orchard at Barcarés.

SARDINIAN WARBLER: *Sylvia melanocephala*

The commonest species of warbler in the island; up to over 2,000 feet in the mountains, in Euphorbia scrub, pine and oak woods, waste land, Salicornia scrub.

SPECTACLED WARBLER: *Sylvia conspicillata*

One in song at Salinas de Levante on 31 March.

MARMORA'S WARBLER: *Sylvia sarda*

Two pairs on Formentor on 27 March and similar numbers at Porto Colom on 31 March.

WILLOW WARBLER: *Phylloscopus trochilis*

One in song near Salinas de Levante on 26 March; at least three at Sa Vall on 29 March.

CHIFFCHAFF: *Phylloscopus collybita*

Single birds in song at Albufereta on 28 and 31 March.

FIRECREST: *Regulus ignicapillus*

Common in evergreen, oak and pine woods, Formentor, Escorca etc.

FANTAILED WARBLER: *Cisticola juncidis*

Common in wetland and dry habitats with low dense herbage e.g. corn.

STONECHAT: *Saxicola torquata*

Small numbers on Formentor, near Puig Major and several pairs at Porto Colom.

WHEATEAR: *Oenanthe oenanthe*

Four at Cabo de Salinas on 29 March; two at Porto Colom on 31 March.

BLACK-EARED WHEATEAR: *Oenanthe hispanica*

One at Porto Colom on 31 March.

BLUE ROCK THRUSH: *Monticola solitarius*

In song, two at Formentor on 27 March; two near Escorca 28 March; four at Porto Colom (and two females) on 31 March.

BLACK REDSTART: *Phoenicurus ochruros*

Single males in fig orchards at Formentor on 27 March and near Pollensa on 28 March.

REDSTART: *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*

One male in fig orchard on Formentor 27 March.

ROBIN: *Erithacus rubecula*

Two on Formentor 27 March, one near Escorca 28 March, two at Sa Vall on 29 March.

NIGHTINGALE: *Luscinia megarhynchos*

One in song at Colonia de San Petro on 30 March.

WHITE SPOTTED BLUE THROAT: *Cyanosylvia svecica cyanecula*

One observed in song at Albufereta marsh on 28-30 March. Another at Albufera on 30 March. (At least two more were seen at Salinas de Levante during the week).

SONG THRUSH: *Turdus philomelos*

Two on Formentor on 30 March.

MISTLE THRUSH: *Turdus viscivorus*

One at Sa Vall on 29 March.

BLUE TIT: *Parus caeruleus*

Several near Escorca on mountain road.

GREAT TIT: *Parus major*

Widespread in dry habitats with trees.

CORN BUNTING: *Emberiza calandra*

Widespread in dry habitats other than woodland.

CIRL BUNTING: *Emberiza cirius*

Unobtrusive, found in dry orchards; five at Lluc on 28 March; ten at Colonia de San Pedro on 30 March.

REED BUNTING: *Emberiza schoeniclus*

Small numbers at Albufera marshes.

CHAFFINCH: *Fringilla coelebs*

Widespread in dry habitats with trees.

SERIN: *Serinus serinus*

Common in dry habitats; flock of up to forty at Barcarés. Obviously many birds were still on passage.

GREENFICH: *Carduelis chloris*

Widespread in dry habitats, usually with trees.

SISKIN: *Carduelis spinus*

One at Formentor on 30 March.

GOLDFINCH: *Carduelis carduelis*

Widespread in dry habitats throughout the island.

LINNET: *Acanthis cannabina*

Small numbers in dry habitats, especially wasteland near the towns.

CROSSBILL: *Loxia curvirostra*

Widespread in pine woods: Alcudia, Barcarés, Formentor, Cabo de Salinas, Sa Vall, Colonia de San Pedro, Son Bauló, Ca'n Picafort. A female feeding a fledged young at Alcudia.

HAWFINCH: *Coccothraustes coccothraustes*

Two seen briefly at Sa Vall on 29 March (r).

HOUSE SPARROWS: *Passer domesticus*

Common near the haunts of man, but also widespread in dry habitats and woodland.

STARLING: *Sturnus vulgaris*

Eigh near Alcudia on 25 March; three near Formentor on 27 March.

SPOTLESS STARLING: *Sturnus unicolor*

Five feeding on the edge of Albufereta marsh on 28 March.

RAVEN: *Corvus corax*

Small numbers throughout the island with maximum of c. twtenty on the mountain road to Puig Major.

Classification: A Field Guide to the Birds of Britain and Europe - Collins 1965.