



Mallorca 14-21 August 2007

An unplanned family holiday taken on the spur of the moment. As usual birding was restricted to pre-breakfast trips in the area around S'Albufera. However, the hotel balcony provided some interest – despite overlooking the essentially unproductive lagoon to the north of the reserve.

Using a hired bicycle (18 euro for 3 days) all birding was done in the area around the reserve i.e. Salinas de S'illot, Depuradora de S'illot, the Ses Puntes track and the S'Albufera reserve itself were covered.

The most disappointing thing was that the Tower hide is now gone – hopefully it will be replaced in the near future. Various improvements appear to be in progress, with viewing platforms appearing in places that were without earlier. Notably the hide at Depuradora de S'illot has been replaced with a higher viewing platform which makes it easier to cover more of the lagoons.



Cattle egrets at dawn, Ses Puntes track

During four trips out (covering different areas each time) a total of 77 species were recorded, the highlight for me being a Marsh Sandpiper. In addition there was an Orange Bishop in the vicinity of the CIM hide and I missed a flock of 25 Bee Eaters.

This visit was once again different to my previous trips being slightly later in the year and therefore more autumn migration in evidence.



Crested Coot such as this one are becoming commoner, some without neck rings are also to be seen in the reserve.



Zitting Cisticola (or Fan-tailed Warbler for the old-timers), a common sight in the area



Black winged Stilt – one of the commonest birds in the S'Albufera



Part of a flock of Little Egrets – a spectacular sight



Little Egret



Osprey



Purple Heron



White Stork with Little Egrets



Kingfisher – damn those reeds!



Water Rail – very numerous



Purple Swamphen – another of the characteristic species of the area



Stone Curlew – flocks of up to 26 seen



English	Norwegian	Scientific	Numbers	Comments
Little Grebe	Dvergdykker	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>	**	Common
Great Crested Grebe	Toppdykker	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>	**	Common
Black-necked Grebe	Svarthalsdykker	<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>	*	One at Depuradora de S'illot 17.08.07
Little Bittern	Dvergrødrum	<i>Ixobrychus minutus</i>	*	Two at "Stone Bridges" 19.08.07
Squacco Heron	Topphegre	<i>Ardeola Ralloides</i>	**	Up to 10 seen each visit
Black-crowned Night Heron	Natthegre	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>	**	Small numbers
Cattle Egret	Kuhegre	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>	**	Plentiful
Little Egret	Silkehegre	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	***	Large flocks of over 100 seen
Grey Heron	Gråhegre	<i>Ardea cinera</i>	**	Especially at Es colombars
Purple Heron	Purpurhegre	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>	**	
White Stork	Stork	<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>	*	One at Es Colombars throughout the week
Eurasian Spoonbill	Skjestork	<i>Platalea leucorodia</i>	*	Three seen on 16 & 19.08.07
Sacred Ibis		<i>Threskiornis aethiopicus</i>	*	One flew towards the reserve 15.08.07
Gadwall	Snadderand	<i>Anas strepera</i>	*	Small numbers
Eurasian Teal	Krikkand	<i>Anas crecca</i>	*	Small numbers
Marbled Duck	Marmorand	<i>Marmaronetta angustirostris</i>	*	A flock of 5 at Es Colombars 17.08.07
Mallard	Stokkand	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	****	
Northern Shoveler	Skjeand	<i>Anas clypeata</i>	*	One at Es Colombars
Red-crested Pochard	Rødhodeand	<i>Netta Rufina</i>	**	Common
Common Pochard	Taffeland	<i>Aythya ferina</i>	**	Common
Eurasian Marsh Harrier	Sivhauk	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>	*	Up to 6 present daily
Booted Eagle	Dvergørn	<i>Hieraaetus pennatus</i>	*	Two seen over hills to the north, 17.08.07
Osprey	Fiskeørn	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	*	One at Es Colombars 17.08.07
Eleonora's Falcon	Leonorafalk	<i>Falco eleonora</i>	*	A few seen daily
Common Kestrel	Tårnfalk	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	*	Singles only
Water Rail	Vannrikse	<i>Rallus aquaticus</i>	**	Very common
Common Moorehen	Sivhøne	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	**	Very common
Purple Gallinule	Sultanhøne	<i>Porphyrio porphyrio</i>	**	Very common
Common Coot	Sothøne	<i>Fulica atra</i>	***	
Crested Coot	Knoppsothøne	<i>Fulica cristata</i>	*	Some unringed birds present
Black-winged Stilt	Stylteløper	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>	***	Very common
Stone Curlew	Triel	<i>Burhinus oedicnemus</i>	**	Ses Punes and CIM hide (flock of 26)
Little Plover	Dverglo	<i>Charadrius dubious</i>	**	Common
Kentish Plover	Hvitbrystlo	<i>Charadrius alexandrius</i>	**	Common
Grey Plover	Tundralo	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>	*	Three present at Bishops I on 16.08.07
Little Stint	Dvergsnipe	<i>Calidris minuta</i>	**	Flocks of 10-20 seen daily
Curlew Sandpiper	Tundrasnipe	<i>Caladris ferruginea</i>	**	Flock of 14 at CIM hide 19.08, otherwise just ones and twos
Dunlin	Myrsnipe	<i>Calidris alpina</i>	*	1-3 daily
Whimbrel	Småspove	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>	*	Heard on two occasions



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Common Redshank	Rødstilk	<i>Tringa totanus</i>	*	Not quite daily
Marsh Sandpiper	Damsnipe	<i>Tringa stagnatilis</i>	*	One at Ses Punes 17.08.07
Common Greenshank	Gluttesnipe	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>	**	Common
Green Sandpiper	Skogsnipe	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>	*	Widespread. Much commoner than Wood sand
Wood Sandpiper	Grønnstilk	<i>Tringa glareola</i>	*	One at Salinetes de S'illot 16.08, 4 at Depuradora de S'illot 20.08
Common Sandpiper	Strandsnipe	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>	*	1-5 daily
Black-headed Gull	Hettemåke	<i>Larus ridebudus</i>	***	Very common
Audouin's Gull	Middelhavsmåke	<i>Larus audouinii</i>	*	Small numbers around Porto Alcudia
Yellow-legged Gull	Gulbeingrāmåke	<i>Larus cachinnans</i>	**	Small flocks largely along the shore / by the lagoon
Common Tern	Makrellterne	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>	**	12+ at Es Colombars
Common Woodpigeon	Ringdue	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	***	
Eurasian Collared Dove	Tyrkedue	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	**	
European Nightjar	Nattravn	<i>Caprimulgus europaeus</i>	*	One at a regular site for this species
Common Swift	Tårnseiler	<i>Apus aapus</i>	**	Largely over the town
Alpine Swift	Alpeseiler	<i>Apus melba</i>	*	One from hotel balcony 15.08.07
Common Kingfisher	Isfugl	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>	*	Singles regular
Hoopoe	Hærfugl	<i>Upupa epops</i>	*	1-6 daily, Es Comu best locality
Barn Swallow	Låvesvale	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	**	
House Martin	Taksvale	<i>Delichon urbica</i>	*	
Crag Martin	Klippesvale	<i>Ptyonoprogne rupestris</i>	**	20 from hotel balcony
Yellow Wagtail	Gulerle	<i>Motacilla flava</i>	*	Mostly Ses puntes
Stonechat	Svartstrupe	<i>Saxicola torquata</i>	*	Widespread.
Common Blackbird	Svartrost	<i>Turdus merula</i>	**	
Sardinian Warbler	Svarthodsanger	<i>Sylvia melnocephala</i>	**	
Cetti's Warbler	Cettisanger	<i>Cettia cetti</i>	**	
Zitting Cisticola	Cistussanger	<i>Cisticola juncidis</i>	**	
Moustached Warbler	Tamarisksanger	<i>Acrocephalus meanopogon</i>	*	
Willow Warbler	Løvsanger	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>	*	One juvenile at Es Colombars 19.08
Spotted Flycatcher	Gråfluesnapper	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>	*	
Great Tit	Kjøttmeis	<i>Parus major</i>	*	
Woodchat Shrike	Rødhodevarsler	<i>Lanius senator</i>	*	Singles widespread
Common Raven	Ravn	<i>Corvus corax</i>	**	Flocks seen over the hills to the north of the reserve
House Sparrow	Gråspurv	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	****	
European Serin	Gulirisk	<i>Serinus serinus</i>	**	Especialy at Depuradora de S'illot
European Greenfinch	Grønnfink	<i>Carduelis chloris</i>	**	
European Goldfinch	Stillits	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	**	
Common Linnet	Tornirisk	<i>Carduelis cannabina</i>	*	
Reed Bunting	Sivspurv	<i>Embiriza schoenicius</i>	*	"Stone Bridges" area



English	Norwegian	Scientific	Numbers	Comments
Orange Bishop				Escape? Or is it now colonising the S'Albufera...very vocal.



Orange Bishop record shot. Right in the middle of the reserve....

- * = 1-10
- ** = 10-100
- *** = 100's
- **** = 1000+

Previous trip reports from this area can be found here:

http://www.naturalbornbirder.com/travel/mallorca_2001.pdf
http://www.naturalbornbirder.com/travel/mallorca_2005.pdf

Pictures of many of the species seen can be found here:

<http://www.naturalbornbirder.com/gallery/gallery.php>

Other wildlife:

A gecko at the hotel:



Otherwise just a weasel and plenty of bats.