

Mallorca, September 11th - 18th 2010



Cap de Formentor



Introduction

This was a family holiday and we were based at Alcúdia which isn't bad at all if you're a birder since both Albufera and Formentor is pretty close. I did full-on birding only three mornings. Plenty of information could be found in other trip-reports on travellingbirder.com. My focus was to see the endemic warbler and enjoy the Eleonora's Falcon colony at Cap Formentor. Besides the touristy beaches there still is some astonishing nature on Mallorca, Serra de Tramuntana, the mountain ridge on the northwestern part of the island is recently proposed to the UNESCO World Heritage Site list. With this report I hope to inspire and to provide some information about Balearic Warblers.

Literature

- * Finding Birds in Mallorca, Rev ed., D Gosney (1995!)
(Way out-of-date, off course... Some maps still usable, there should be a new guide called Birding in Majorca, I didn't bother to purchase it though)
- * Collins Bird Guide, L Svensson, K Mullarney and D Zetterström (2009)
- * Many trip-reports on travellingbirder.com. EJ Alblas (2008, Netfugl.dk) have good information about the taxonomy of the subspecies.

Car rental

Many different car rental alternatives are available at Palma Airport. We pre-booked a car via Goldcar. An ultra-low on petrol Peugeot. Around 2000 SEK (~200 E) for a week.

Site comments

General

Most sites in Gosney have changed, as expected. I hardly found anything interesting at Puerto Pollença-sites, Casas Veyas or Albufereta.

Cuber

Spectacular scenery along the way makes driving there joyful. A lot of tourists and a stronghold for Black Vulture. Perhaps unexpectedly quite a few migrants were found around the reservoir.

Cap de Formentor

Very exiting birding. Just watching the Eleonora's Falcons hunt was amazing. There were at least 15 birds of both phases present. During a first light visit, I observed a couple of falcons succeed at least three times in striking incoming passerine migrants. There was a good movement of migrants dropping out of the sky that day, mostly Willow Warblers and Common Redstarts. Seawatching was hard but I found a couple of Scopoli's Shearwaters.

Boquer Valley

A pleasant walk in beautiful surroundings, including some migrants. Well worth a visit.



Boquer Valley

Albufera National Park

The park is only open from 9 AM, and the walk to the park center from the car park is at least 20-30 minutes, so you lose the first light. I tried the pools at Bishop's hide I and II, which gave nice and close views of few birds. The best pool was south of the center where there are two hides and one vantage point. At this pool it was quite some ducks and waders. The pools close to Alcludia at the green bridge were more-or-less possible to scan from behind the fence. The Water Treatment Lagoons were rather empty although Bar-tailed Godwit and Bluethroat.

Balearic Warbler

Prior to the trip I had been in contact with Olof Jönsson (Sweden), who gave me valuable information about where to find the warbler at Formentor (thanks!). I saw Balearic Warbler at two sites and didn't have any problem at all. My first encounter was at KM17 where I soon found at least 6 birds in low '*macchia*' scrub. I didn't try KM16 where there is a supposedly reliable stake-out at an obvious open area down the slope on the right (east) hand side of the road. At Boquer Valley I had encounters on two visits just after you walk through a couple of tall rocks and then scan uphill. When going further I also had 2 or 3 birds at the top of the valley where scrub vegetation is becoming lower and more sparse. The most common warbler seen at both these sites is Sardinian Warbler, but when you've learned the calls the Balearic Warblers are quite easy to pick out.



Balearic Warbler *Sylvia balearica*, at KM17, Cap de Formentor

Birdlist: Mallorca, September 11th - 18th 2010

1. Gadwall *Anas strepera*
2. Common Teal *Anas crecca*
3. Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*
4. Shoveler *Anas clypeata*
5. Marbled Teal *Marmaronetta angustirostris*
1 at Albufera (main pool)
6. Red-crested Pochard *Netta rufina*
10 at Green bridge, Albufera
7. Red-legged Partridge *Alectoris rufa*
4 at Water Treatment Lagoons
8. Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis*
9. Scopoli's Shearwater *Calonectris diomedea diomedea*
5 at Cap de Formentor
10. Great Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*
11. Shag *Phalacrocorax aristotelis desmarestii*
1 at Cap de Formentor
12. Black-crowned Night-Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax*
13. Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis*
14. Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*
15. Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea*
16. Black Vulture *Aegypius monachus*
1+1 at Cuber Reservoir
17. Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus*

18. **Booted Eagle** *Aquila pennata*
1 at Cuber, 1 at Boquer, 2 at Arta Mountains (all dark phase)
19. **Kestrel** *Falco tinnunculus*
20. **Eleonora's Falcon** *Falco eleonora*
1 at Cuber, 15 at Cap de Formentor, 3 at KM17.
21. **Peregrine Falcon** *Falco peregrinus*
2 at Cuber, 1 at Cap de Formentor
22. **Water Rail** *Rallus aquaticus*
23. **Common Moorhen** *Gallinula chloropus*
24. **Purple Swamp-Hen** *Porphyrio porphyrio* [Introduced]
Albufera
25. **Common Coot** *Fulica atra*
26. **Red-knobbed Coot** *Fulica cristata* [Introduced]
Albufera, both unmarked and marked individuals are present
27. **Black-necked Stilt** *Himantopus himantopus*
28. **Stone-curlew** *Burhinus oedicephalus*
29. **Little Ringed Plover** *Charadrius dubius*
30. **Common Ringed Plover** *Charadrius hiaticula*
31. **Kentish Plover** *Charadrius alexandrinus*
10 at Albufera (main pool)
32. **Little Stint** *Calidris minuta*
3 at Albufera (main pool)
33. **Dunlin** *Calidris alpina*
2 at Albufereta
34. **Common Snipe** *Gallinago gallinago*
35. **Bar-tailed Godwit** *Limosa lapponica*
2 at Water Treatment Lagoons
36. **Spotted Redshank** *Tringa erythropus*
1 at Albufera (Bishop I)
37. **Common Greenshank** *Tringa nebularia*
38. **Green Sandpiper** *Tringa ochropus*
39. **Black-headed Gull** *Larus ridibundus*
40. **Audouin's Gull** *Larus audouinii*
1 at Alcudia beach, 1 at Pollenca, 2 at Albufera (Green bridge)
41. **Yellow-legged Gull** *Larus michahellis*
42. **Rock Dove** *Columba livia*
43. **Wood Pigeon** *Columba palumbus*
44. **Collared Dove** *Streptopelia decaocto*
45. **Common Swift** *Apus apus*
46. **Hoopoe** *Upupa epops*
3 at Albufera, 1 at Albufereta
47. **Sand Martin** *Riparia riparia*
48. **Crag Martin** *Ptyonoprogne rupestris*
49. **Barn Swallow** *Hirundo rustica*
50. **House Martin** *Delichon urbicum*
51. **Tree Pipit** *Anthus trivialis*
52. **Yellow Wagtail** *Motacilla flava*
53. **Wren** *Troglodytes troglodytes*
54. **Robin** *Erithacus rubecula*
55. **Common Nightingale** *Luscinia megarhynchos*
1 at Casas Veyas
56. **Bluethroat** *Luscinia svecica*
2 at Water Treatment Lagoons
57. **Common Redstart** *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*
58. **Whinchat** *Saxicola rubetra*
2 at Cuber

59. **Stonechat** *Saxicola torquatus*
1 male at Cuber, 2 at KM17, 2 at Boquer Valley
60. **Northern Wheatear** *Oenanthe oenanthe*
61. **Blue Rock Thrush** *Monticola solitarius*
62. **Blackbird** *Turdus merula*
63. **Cetti's Warbler** *Cettia cetti*
64. **Zitting Cisticola** *Cisticola juncidis*
65. **Moustached Warbler** *Acrocephalus melanopogon*
2 at the main channel in Albufera
66. **Reed Warbler** *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*
67. **Great Reed Warbler** *Acrocephalus arundinaceus*
1 at the main channel in Albufera
68. **Balearic Warbler** *Sylvia balearica* [Endemic]
6 at Km17, 1+2 at Boquer Valley
69. **Subalpine Warbler** *Sylvia cantillans*
1 1cy at Cuber
70. **Sardinian Warbler** *Sylvia melanocephala*
71. **Garden Warbler** *Sylvia borin*
2 at Casas Veyas
72. **Willow Warbler** *Phylloscopus trochilus*
73. **Firecrest** *Regulus ignicapilla balearica*
2 at KM17, 7 at Casa Mesquida
74. **Spotted Flycatcher** *Muscicapa striata balearica*
75. **Pied Flycatcher** *Ficedula hypoleuca*
1 at Boquer Valley
76. **Blue Tit** *Parus caeruleus*
77. **Great Tit** *Parus major*
78. **Woodchat Shrike** *Lanius senator*
1 en route Arta (probably ssp. *badius*)
79. **Common Raven** *Corvus corax*
80. **European Starling** *Sturnus vulgaris*
81. **House Sparrow** *Passer domesticus*
82. **Tree Sparrow** *Passer montanus*
1 at Water Treatment Lagoons
83. **Chaffinch** *Fringilla coelebs*
84. **Serin** *Serinus serinus*
85. **Greenfinch** *Carduelis chloris*
86. **Goldfinch** *Carduelis carduelis*
87. **Linnet** *Carduelis cannabina*
88. **Red Crossbill** *Loxia curvirostra balearica*
89. **Cirl Bunting** *Emberiza cirlus*
15 at Boquer Valley

Insects

- Two-tailed Pasha** *Charaxes jasius*
1 at Ermitas de Betlen, Arta
- Migratory Locust** *Locusta migratoria*
1 at Arta Mountains

Additional shots



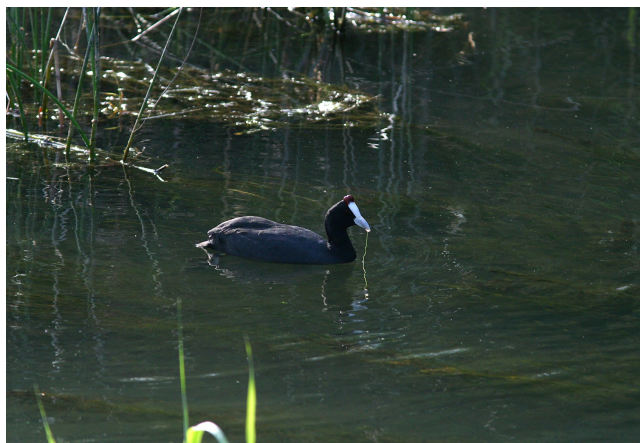
Eleonora's Falcon *Falco eleonorae*, black phase, Cap de Formentor



Two-tailed Pasha *Charaxes jasio*, Ermita de Betlen



Moustached Warbler, *Acrocephalus melanopogon*, Albufera



Red-knobbed Coot, *Fulica cristata*, Albufera

Contact

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