

Trip Report

By Bob Shiret



Peregrine with prey in Mahon Harbour

Introduction

This was our third visit to the Insotel Resort in Punta Prima, our last visit was just before the pandemic. This is a TUI family resort and total cost each for all inclusive for two weeks was £1200 each including flights and transfers, you do need to be aware that there are lots of children and toddlers here, which will not please everyone! The main reason we come here is that there is very good walking (at least five different walks) directly from the hotel and a good hourly bus service to Mahon where you can easily access other parts of the island. Weather on our trip was very good for our first week, around 20 degrees C and sunny all day, the second week was windy with some downpours which was prevalent around the rest of Europe.

Punta Prima and local areas

In the hotel complex there were many **House Martins** nesting, alongside **House Sparrows**, **Hoopoes**, **Blackbirds** and surprisingly **Audouin's Gulls** which seemed to have changed their lifestyle to become hotel scavengers! **Moroccan Wall Lizards** were common in the hotel grounds







Cleopatra



Ringed Plover on Punta Prima foreshore



Turnstones were very confiding



This Hermann's Tortoise was behind our hotel



This Roller was pictured near the hotel by my birding buddy John Wallbank



Audouin's Gull





Whilst sitting on a rock about 200m from the coast at Punta Prima this **Osprey** flew over with a large fish in its talons. One week later at the same spot the same thing happened only this time it was seen to devour the fish in a distant tree, as my friend John and I watched this another **Osprey** flew over with large prey in its talons, record pics below.



On the left is original **Osprey** devouring a fish, the bird on the right is a second **Osprey** with prey.



**Tawny Pipit**



**Hoopoe**, (very common)





Spotted Flycatcher (very common)



Northern Wheatear



Flower display on walk behind the hotel

Insects below all seen in Punta Prima area



Hummingbird Hawk Moth



Black-tailed Skimmer Dragonfly





Keeled Skimmer Dragonfly



Red-veined Darter Dragonfly



Speckled Wood



Zephyr Blue





Small Heath



Small Copper



Clouded Yellow



Adonis Blue



Holly Blue



Butterflies seen but not pictured in this report are: Swallowtail, Painted Lady, Large White and Red Admiral. Bath White is pictured below.





Bath White



Light Morph **Booted Eagle** over Punta Prima



This was the only **Egyptian Vulture** seen on our trip, near Punta Prima Birds seen in Punta Prima and not pictured above were: **House Martin**, **Common Swift**, **Kestrel**, **Nightingale** (very common), **Raven**, **Herring Gull**, **Yellow-legged Gull**, **Red Kite**, **Collard Dove**, **Woodpigeon**, **Sardinian Warbler** and **Blackbird**.



This **Moorish Gecko** was hiding in a wall near Punta Prima

### Es GRAU

We caught a taxi to here from Mahon and spent about two hours walking the area, there were very few birds about and quite a few tour groups getting guided tours. Birds seen are pictured below:



**Black-winged Stilt** and **Shelduck** on a small lake

Apart from these birds the only birds observed were **Coots**, **Moorhens**, **Grey Herons** and the most **Turtle Doves** I have ever heard (none seen!).



## Mahon Harbour

On our trips to Minorca we always get the bus to Mahon and travel on the glass bottomed boats that leave the harbour every half an hour for a very interesting one hour trip, this is also a good place to spot several bird species as detailed below:



Flock of Little Egrets



Yellow-legged Gull harassing Booted Eagle



This bird was quite interesting, it was close to the boat and appeared to be the size of a Cattle Egret, when looking at the picture later it obviously was not and it seemed too small for a Great White Egret. It did cross my mind it may be an Intermediate Egret but there is not enough info to confirm so i'll stay with Great White!

When we reached the entrance to Mahon Harbour in the boat I spotted a Peregrine on the rocks and managed to get some pictures in spite of the bobbing of the boat.



It was only when looking at these pictures at home that I realised the **Peregrine** was carrying prey!

### Summary

We were a bit disappointed with the number of birds seen after our previous holiday at this time of year, possibly October may have more birds, but Minorca is a very pleasant place to be and it is very easy to get off the beaten track and be totally alone and there are not too many places you can say that about.



Species List

Booted Eagle

Egyptian Vulture

Peregrine Falcon

Kestrel

Raven

Red Kite

Osprey

Grey Heron

Cattle Egret

Little Egret

Great White Egret

Coot

Moorhen

Shelduck

Mallard

Audouin`s Gull

Yellow-legged Gull

Herring Gull

Northern Wheatear

Tawny Pipit

Sardinian Warbler

Nightingale

Turtle Dove

Collard Dove

Feral Pigeon

Black-winged Stilt

Ringed Plover

Turnstone

Cetti`s Warbler

Greenfinch

Hoopoe

Cormorant

Goldfinch

House Martin

Common Swift

Wood Pigeon

Blackbird

House Sparrow

Spotted Flycatcher

Total=39