Trip Report

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 it`s 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 it`s 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
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**.

![Moorish Gecko](image1)

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](image2)

**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!).
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