

From greenshanks to red-capped shrikes and purple swamp hens, it was an informative, exciting, satisfying, and affordable first visit to Mallorca.

Birding with Lucky Looker was a splendid way for us two Americans from Hawaii to see this famous Spanish island, and Dirk as organizer was terrific at making all kinds of adjustments for us—such as our departure from London instead of Bielefeld, our arrival a day early, our need for a special airport-to-hotel transfer. It all worked exactly right.



The trip was a joy. Dirk knew exactly the right places for us to look for birds and he did everything possible to be sure that even the least equipped of us had a good chance to see and hear every one.

That took adjustments as well. I had looked up the English names of the birds on the Mallorca list that he had kindly sent in advance, but identifying them was still a struggle for Steve and me since so few of the birds are the same or even similar in the U.S. The English and German names, furthermore, were often completely unrelated: *Schwarzkehlchen* = stonechat, *Samtkopf-Grasmücke* = Sardinian warbler, and more. Nonetheless, every day we got a bit better.



And every day we saw something new, exploring new areas of the island, coming back to the hotel each night tired from that day's (long but not too long) walks and drives (sometimes also long), but exhilarated by the new finds.



Over the week, we explored mountains and seashore, marshes and meadows, and saw distinctive birds in every location.



One of the special pleasures was having good views of stone curlews (German *Triel*) on several different days.

Another highlight was taking the boat to Cabrera, the smaller island offshore of Mallorca, and floating into one of the marine caves that clips into its coast.







Our hotel was perfectly located for birding too, right on the shore and close to salt marshes that the stilts simply loved.

At dinner each evening we gathered to check our lists, laugh over our confusions, and learn what was coming next.

Everyone was flexible and generous, despite talking in two languages.

This was an excellent trip and a thoroughly enjoyable experience with patient, good-natured, knowledgeable and helpful travel companions too.

Proof that it was a great trip? We've signed up for another one next year. Watch out, Dirk!

