

Birds of the Mar Menor

Over the past few weeks I have been writing about Finches. I will continue this week, with two more Finches that are commonly seen around the Mar Menor; the Serin and the Linnet.

Serins are one of the smallest finches being just over 4" (11 cm) long. You can often hear them, but not as often see them, as they nest or shelter in thick conifers, from which they sing. They are brightly coloured with brilliant yellow markings around their face, chest and rump.

Serins are resident in this area all year round and are mostly found in areas where there are trees or dense scrub. I have

seen them at Caravanning La Manga where there are quite a number of trees and shrubs.

My second bird this week is the Linnet. Linnets prefer open waste ground with plenty of seeding plants



and also dense shrubs. They nest in the shrubs and eat the seeds from the plants, which they normally pick up from the ground.

Linnets are slightly smaller than a sparrow and the females can be mistaken for sparrows as they are speckled brown in colour with few distinctive markings. The male however, has a pinky-red chest



and forehead, which become brighter during the summer months.

Both of these finches feed on seeds, though they feed insects to their young. They may often be seen flying in flocks. Linnets may also be seen flying in mixed flocks with other types of Finch.

Name: **Serin**
Serinus serinus



Length: ~4" (11 cm)
Wingspan: ~7.5" (19 cm)
Under body: white /speckled
Upper body: green/yellow streaked
Chest & throat: yellow
Bill: stubby

Name: **Linnet**
Carduelis cannabina
Length: ~5" (13 cm)
Wingspan: ~9" (23 cm)

Under body: beige
Upper body: orange-brown
Chest & forehead: red-pink
Bill: triangular, grey



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