



# Honeyguide

## WILDLIFE HOLIDAYS

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Extremadura  
12 – 20 March 2019

## Holiday participants

Mervin Nethercoat  
Mel and Ann Leggett  
Jill Jordan  
Jean Dunn  
Douglas Willis

Robin Mulholland and Louise Adams  
Chris Ash  
Howard Wix  
Geoff Morries and Jane Baddeley  
Jackie and Ray Guthrie

**Leaders:** Martin Kelsey and Chris Durdin

Our base for the holiday was Finca Santa Marta [www.fincasantamarta.es](http://www.fincasantamarta.es):  
rooms by the big almond tree shown below (LA).



Report and bird list by Martin Kelsey with other lists and various additions by Chris Durdin.  
Martin Kelsey's blog about wildlife in Extremadura: <http://birdingextremadura.blogspot.com>  
Flowers in Extremadura in March that are tricky to find in field guides:  
[www.honeyguide.co.uk/Extremaduraflowers.htm](http://www.honeyguide.co.uk/Extremaduraflowers.htm)

Photos were all taken on the holiday, by Chris Durdin where there is no photocredit.  
Cover: olive trees with Mediterranean catchfly near Finca Santa Marta;  
western dappled white on French lavender, Iberian tree frog.  
Below: group photo, taken at Finca Santa Marta (MN).



As with all Honeyguide holidays, part of the price of the holiday was put towards a conservation project, in this case for La Sociedad Española de Ornitología (SEO), the Spanish Ornithological Society, and its work in Extremadura. The conservation contribution this year of £40 per person, plus an additional donation, was supplemented by gift aid through the Honeyguide Wildlife Charitable Trust.

This year's donation of £950 brings the total given to SEO since the first Honeyguide holiday in Spain in 1991 to £19,735. The total for conservation contributions from all Honeyguide holidays was £129,542 at the end of March 2019.

## ITINERARY

<b>Day one, 12 March</b>	Drive from Madrid to Extremadura.
<b>Day two, 13 March</b>	Walk and lunch in vicinity of Finca Santa Marta (Sierra de los Lagares) and afternoon walk near Madroñera.
<b>Day three, 14 March</b>	Plains near Santa Marta de Magasca, lunch at River Magasca, walk on drovers' trail.
<b>Day four, 15 March</b>	Monfragüe National Park
<b>Day five, 16 March</b>	Sierra Brava Reservoir, Campo Lugar plains, Alcollarín Reservoir.
<b>Day six, 17 March</b>	Sierra Brava Reservoir, rice fields near Obando, Moheda Alta.
<b>Day seven, 18 March</b>	Morning visit to Trujillo, lunch in berrocal of Trujillo and afternoon walk beside River Tozo.
<b>Day eight 19 March</b>	Arrocampo Reservoir, afternoon on Cerro de Almaraz.
<b>Day nine, 20 March</b>	Return to Madrid.

## DAILY DIARY

### Tuesday 12 March: Madrid to Extremadura

The flight from Gatwick arrived on time and the Honeyguiders were met by Martin at the arrivals gate of Terminal One, Madrid. After a very efficient collection of the minivans, we headed off clockwise around the M40 Madrid ring road. Although late afternoon traffic was building up, it did not take us very long to reach the A5 motorway. The fine weather meant that we enjoyed excellent views of the Gredos Mountains to our north. On the way we saw a few white storks as well as raptors such as red and black kites. We arrived at the Finca shortly after 19.00, where we were met by the owner Henri and his staff, ably managed by Laura.

### Wednesday 13 March: Finca Santa Marta and Madroñera

The day dawned clear, albeit with a cold start thanks to a fresh north-westerly wind. We enjoyed sunshine throughout the day and with the breeze easing, it became pleasantly warm. Following breakfast, we spent a leisurely morning walking the grounds of the Finca and beyond. As we set off a singing hawfinch was seen by most of the group, perched on top of a tall almond tree. From the start of the walk various birds of prey were watched flying overhead: black kite, griffon and black vultures, while the olive groves were full of bird song: blackcaps, short-toed treecreepers, blackbirds and great tits. Butterflies were showing well on the sheltered slopes, with very fine Spanish festoons and western dappled whites being especially obliging.



The tiny *Linaria amethystea*; crag martins (MN).

From the property we took a pleasant green track, affording us views of the Sierra de los Lagares (so called because the older houses on the hillsides are all called lagares, as each one has a 'lagar' or structure in which grapes were pressed). Although most of the hill has now been converted to olive groves, the local people still refer to the area as 'Las Viñas'. Beyond these hills lay the open plains near Trujillo and as a backdrop the Gredos mountains, with peaks showing pockets of snow.

Along this track we found an Iberian fritillary just about to flower and in an ungrazed olive grove, spikes of champagne and conical orchids, as well as the delightful amethyst toadflax. Descending to the finca, we watched a group of crag martins beside the winery and a passing black stork. We enjoyed a picnic lunch in the finca grounds, with the air full of barn swallows and white storks.

Following lunch, we took an afternoon walk on the heath above Madroñera. Here we quickly got good views of Dartford and Sardinian warblers, Iberian grey shrike and Thekla larks while we enjoyed the sight of a carpet of hoop petticoat narcissus and sets of angel's tears narcissus. A sparrowhawk caused a movement of panic amongst the local swallows and during the afternoon we also had very nice views of passing black and griffon vultures.

Back at the finca by 17.30 for afternoon tea and the daily checklist of sightings. After tea, Jane led several of the group back to the olive orchard we'd been in this morning to show us a small pool she'd discovered. The main reason was to see toad spawn, which we think was probably natterjack toad spawn. Nearby was a lot of green-flowered birthwort. Walking back, Louise found a lesser spotted woodpecker in the almond trees beyond the finca.

#### **Thursday 14 March: Santa Marta de Magasca**

It was a day of warm and sunny weather. We ventured to the west to visit the open plains near the village of Santa Marta de Magasca. We enjoyed a long walk along a dirt road accompanied by lark song throughout and with opportunities to get excellent views of Thekla larks, calandra larks and corn buntings. At our feet were masses of winter webworm caterpillars. We had good views of a group of seven great bustards and especially memorable was a prolonged view of a soaring adult Spanish imperial eagle. We watched an Iberian grey shrike carry a lizard into a retama bush, where it wedged it inside the fork of a twig. The lizard we identified as a western psammodromus.



Distant great bustards on the plains (MN); spiders in hammocks: *Aculepeira ceropegia*, the oak leaf orb web spider; western psammodromus stashed in a retama by a shrike.

Our route then took us through lightly wooded *dehesa* on the way to the village, where we enjoyed a coffee in the small main square, sitting in the sun while house martins hawked insects above us. Our lunch stop was just to the north, beside the Magasca River. Here crag martins were busy and a girl bunting was singing, while Spanish terrapins basked in the sunshine.

We concluded our visit by walking on a drovers' trail. Here we saw five little bustards and distantly both pin-tailed and black-bellied sandgrouse. Tiny spiders had made hammocks of web hanging from grass stems. We had distant views of a golden eagle and short-toed eagle, but they were outshone by the spectacle of a kettle of well over a hundred griffon vultures rising on a thermal. The whole time we were enveloped, as it were, by the evocative song of calandra larks.

Back at the Finca, Marcelino gave a talk about the work of SEO/Birdlife in Extremadura.

### **Friday 15 March: Monfragüe National Park**

Before breakfast a cuckoo was seen, as were hawfinch and woodlark, and the first red-rumped swallows were around the finca.

It was another fine day, becoming quite warm in the afternoon, indeed perfect for our destination of the Monfragüe National Park. We drove north through seemingly endless *dehesa* landscape before arriving at the rocky ridge announcing the southern boundary of the national park. During the drive we saw the first (and only) booted eagle of the week. We drove up through a cork oak grove, finding a place to park before the walk up to the small castle. At the top, looking south across the direction we had driven, the *dehesa* extended as far as the eye could see. Closer at hand, griffon vultures flew past us and we also saw Egyptian vulture, black vulture and short-toed eagle. The castle top often has other birdwatchers but today was busier than usual with what must have been a staff team-building exercise with groups of people in matching coloured clothes and baseball caps. We descended to where the vehicles were parked and watched at close quarters griffon vultures at their nests. Photographs were taken of a clump of broomrapes and identified later as slender broomrape *Orobanche gracilis*.

From there it was a short drive to the viewpoint looking across to the massive rock face of Peña Falcon. Here we saw more vultures of all three species, another short-toed eagle and at least four black storks, including two perched on the cliff opposite. Nettle-tree butterflies showed themselves very well.



Nettle-tree butterfly (MN).

After a coffee stop in the hamlet of Villarreal de San Carlos, where a huge throng of house martins were collecting mud for their nests, we stopped for lunch in a grove of southern elm trees, opposite a cliff with breeding griffon vultures. But it was the spectacle of fifty or more vultures soaring at low altitude just above us as soon as we got out of the vehicles that took our breath away. Small birds were not overlooked at the picnic area, with a singing subalpine warbler and an Iberian chiffchaff being of particular interest. A flashy Cleopatra was also seen.

We then stopped beside the Tiétar River, with again a cliff face with nesting vultures. From the trees and shrubs beside us, subalpine warblers, blackcaps and Cetti's warblers sang. But as soon as we arrived, we spotted an adult Spanish imperial eagle circling over the river. It reappeared just as we were leaving too. We also had excellent views of blue rock thrush.

We ended the visit with a walk beside the shady mixed Mediterranean forest on the northern slope of the castle ridge. Here singing robins and blackcaps gave it a homely feel. There were score of pairs of house martins nesting under the road bridge.

### Saturday 16 March: Sierra Brava Reservoir, Campo Lugar plains, Alcollarín Reservoir

It was another fine, sunny and almost windless day in Extremadura! Before breakfast many members of the group had excellent and prolonged views of a male lesser spotted woodpecker drumming on a telegraph pole by the old main road.

After breakfast we headed south, passing the town of Zorita and onwards across the plains to our first stop at the dam of the Sierra Brava Reservoir. There was a particular reason for stopping at the reservoir: tucked under a bush in the distance was a roosting eagle owl. We also enjoyed good views of crag martins and red-rumped swallows. On the water were large numbers of great crested grebes and a few cormorants. From there we entered the plains of Campo Lugar where we were happily detained by the sight of about a dozen male great bustards, two of which started displaying. All the time calandra larks sang above us in the blue sky. We also saw a party of four migrating common cranes: tail-end Charlies of the winter flocks as the main departure of cranes was in February.

Coffee was near Campo Lugar where we could also watch at least four lesser kestrels and numerous house martins nesting on the old silo, and then it was just a short journey to the picnic area beside the Azud of Alcollarín. Here we were torn between starting our picnic or watching about a hundred shovelers along with two spoonbills busy feeding, while an adult Bonelli's eagle appeared beyond, at times in the sky with two marsh harriers. Closer to us were several vagrant emperor dragonflies, as well as Iberian bluetail damselflies. We found an obliging woodchat shrike perched on a bramble bush, the first for the week.



Bumblebee drilling into the calyx of *Silene colorata*.

We then headed to the western shore of the reservoir, walking across dried mud as the water level was low on account of a rather dry winter. Here we found black-necked grebe and a distant gull-billed tern, but overall duck numbers and diversity were low. However, as we walked back to the van, Louise was alert to some otter tracks.

After tea and checklists back at the finca, a few of us walked through the grounds to look at the pond with natterjack tadpoles, then on to the Iberian fritillary, now in flower. In the early evening sunshine, we watched a bumblebee drilling into the calyxes of Mediterranean catchfly.

Honeyguide leader and bee expert Tim Strudwick says, "I think this can only be put down to either *Bombus terrestris* (buff-tailed) or one of the three species in the *B. lucorum* (white-tailed) complex.

### Sunday 17 March 2019: Sierra Brava Reservoir, rice fields near Obando, Moheda Alta

On Chris's regular pre-breakfast walk, Jackie asked about short-toed treecreeper. Obliging, one immediately sang. A little farther on we looked over a stone wall into a grove of olive trees under which was a sheet of colour, especially blue lupins and pink Mediterranean catchfly. Short-toed treecreepers are often vocal yet hidden in small branches, but here one flitted in plain sight from tree trunk to tree trunk. Various suggestions were made about what Jackie should next request ...

It was yet another sunny day, although with a touch of freshness thanks to a south-westerly breeze. After breakfast we returned southwards, stopping again beside the Sierra Brava Reservoir, this time to look for and find stone-curlews on the retama-covered slopes. This was followed by a stop beside the River Gargaligas, south of Madrigalejo in the heart of rice-growing country. Here we saw three penduline tits, watched hoopoes calling and tree sparrows on a wire. We took a small road beside the rice fields, finding one wetter field where there were two green sandpipers and a water pipit.

After coffee in the welcoming village of Obando we drove to the Crane Centre and public *dehesa* of Moheda Alta. Being Sunday and with fine weather, we were not alone at the picnic area, but once on the walk through the park, we soon left the Sunday revellers behind. On the walk we found a clump of sawfly orchids, yellow anemone and an Iberian tree frog. Corn buntings were singing throughout. The hide at the end of the walk through the *dehesa* overlooked dry rice stubble beyond which the former paddy fields were now dense, newly-planted olive plantations. Nearby we stopped to inspect a small water body and were pleased to find a wonderful diversity of waders present including two avocets, a Kentish plover and a flock of little stints. As we started our return to base, we had excellent views of a black-winged kite beside the road.

In the evening we dined at the Rural Hotel Viña las Torres, just a couple of kilometres from the finca.

**Monday 18 March 2019: Morning visit to Trujillo. Lunch in berrocal of Trujillo and afternoon walk beside River Tozo**

We enjoyed another sun-filled day (despite there being cloud cover at dawn), with, as yesterday, some freshness to the breeze. We spent the morning exploring the historic centre of Trujillo, starting at the Plaza Mayor (the main square) surrounded by 16<sup>th</sup> century palaces and churches and then we went back in time as we ascended the narrow medieval streets, past fortified palaces built from the wealth of wool from the *dehesas*, to the Moorish fort, which itself was built on earlier Roman and Celtic settlements. We walked beside the town walls on the western flank of the town, taking in magnificent views in all directions. White storks were busy at their nests, incubating and bill-clacking, lesser kestrels drifted over the tiled rooftops, pallid swifts swerved around the buildings, black redstarts were singing and crag martins were nest-building.



Walking around the walls of Trujillo.

After coffee and a little shopping in the Plaza Mayor, we drove just a few kilometres north to the edge of the berrocal, the granite landscape surrounding Trujillo. Here there were a few new plants for the holiday list including a rockrose *Helianthemum aegyptiacum*. Red and black kites were overhead and we were accompanied most of the time by a pair of stonechats.



The rockrose *Helianthemum aegyptiacum*, new to us. The flower at first looks like any rockrose, albeit with pointed petals, but the underside is very distinctive with red veins on its sepals.

From there we drove east through *dehesa* landscape to take a walk beside the Tozo River. Here we had excellent views of Provence hairstreaks and Spanish festoons and found clumps of common jonquils.

We reached a beautiful small reservoir with a nice variety of birds including spoonbill, spotted redshanks, black-winged stilt and several duck species, including wigeon and pintail. Sawfly orchids were in flower.

We retraced our steps and returned to the Finca for tea and checklists.

## Tuesday 19 March 2019: Arrocampo Reservoir, afternoon on Cerro de Almaraz

It was yet another sun-soaked day as we headed north-east after breakfast, not far from the base of the magnificent Gredos Mountains, to spend the morning around the marsh at Arrocampo, close to the village of Saucedilla.

The reservoir was built to provide cooling water for the Almaraz power station and is fringed with reedmace and reeds, creating an excellent habitat for birds. We parked the vans and spent most of the morning walking and birding from beside the edge of the marsh. Here we had good views of purple swamphen, a couple of fine purple herons, lovely sightings of two squacco herons in flight, a female red-crested pochard, and we could hear the reeling song of Savi's warblers. Vultures and kites drifted overhead, the light showed up the plumage of red kites quite superbly, and a male marsh harrier caught the eye with its dipping display flight. Clumps of sawfly orchids were at our feet.



Black vulture (JD); long skimmer on a bramble.

We had coffee on the terrace, (where dozens of sand martins were resting in the crossing cables), and visited the reserve's Information Office. We stopped at another area of marsh west of the village where water rails were calling and then had lunch beside some pools of water, where a glossy ibis and black-winged stilts were present.

Following a final stop at the edge of the marsh, where we found an early long skimmer dragonfly and a spoonbill flew overhead, we proceeded to the limestone olive groves on the hills to the south of us. There we saw large patches of pink naked man orchid, good numbers of conical and sawfly orchids and some beautiful mirror and champagne orchids.

We returned to the Finca for a final session of tea, checklists and collection of holiday highlights. The evening rounded off with the last dinner of the holiday, a goodbye to the staff and songs led by Chris!



Naked or Italian man orchids; sawfly orchid.

### Wednesday 20 March: Madrid and home

Completing the unbroken week of fine weather was another sunny morning. We bade farewell to Lauras 1 and 2 after breakfast, and following a midday-way coffee stop and a stop to refuel we arrived at Madrid airport at 13.00 in good time for the check-in, where Martin said goodbye to the group.

#### HIGHLIGHTS OF THE WEEK as nominated by group members

Mel	Eagle owl, 'just being there'.
Ann	Good views of a hoopoe; view of lesser spotted woodpecker; human company.
Jill	Spanish imperial eagle; Spanish festoon; tree frog; lesser spotted woodpecker.
Jean	Spanish festoon; white broom; raptors; field of orchids; great company.
Jane	Storks, black and white, with hospitality for sparrows; Finca Santa Marta.
Geoff	Storks, black and white; displaying marsh harrier with Gredos Mountains behind; yellow anemone.
Douglas	Storks, including multi-coloured black storks on the rock face at Monfragüe.
Robin	Spanish imperial eagle; blue rock thrush; dinners at Finca Santa Marta.
Louise	Day of the vultures; being with people interested in wildlife.
Howard	Nettle-tree and Provence hairstreak butterflies.
Jackie	Willingness of people to share information; morning walk with the short-toed treecreeper; lesser spotted woodpecker; field of orchids.
Ray	Lesser spotted woodpecker; dangly-legged corn buntings; today's orchids, excellent company with a good sense of humour; Chris and Martin.
Chris A	'The whole thing'; to see the finca again, food; Trujillo and Martin's tour; Spanish festoon; red kites (favourite bird); lesser spotted woodpecker; all three herons together.
Mervin	Nettle-tree and hairstreak butterflies; little bustard in flight; marsh harrier today; the company; Trujillo.
Martin	Purple heron just trumps vulture flock in Monfragüe.
Chris D	Lesser spotted woodpecker; long skimmer; Egyptian rockrose, a mystery discovered and solved; early morning sheets of colourful flowers.



The equestrian statue of conquistador Francisco Pizarro in Trujillo's Plaza Mayor (JD).

## WILDLIFE LISTS

### BIRDS

Little Grebe	Seen on four days.
Great Crested Grebe	Large numbers on Sierra Brava Reservoir.
Black-necked Grebe	Seen at Alcollarín Reservoir.
Cormorant	Seen most days along large rivers and reservoirs.
Squacco Heron	Two at Arrocampo on 19 <sup>th</sup> March.
Cattle Egret	Seen on several days.
Little Egret	Seen on the large reservoirs.
Great White Egret	Seen on the large reservoirs.
Grey Heron	Seen on several days.
Purple Heron	Seen at Arrocampo on 19 <sup>th</sup> March.
Black Stork	One over Finca Santa Marta on 13 <sup>th</sup> and seen at Monfragüe on 15 <sup>th</sup> March.
White Stork	Seen every day.
Glossy Ibis	One amongst Cattle Egrets at Arrocampo on 19 <sup>th</sup> March.
Spoonbill	Seen at Alcollarín, Moheda Alta, the Tozo and Arrocampo.
Egyptian Goose	Seen at Alcollarín and the Tozo.
Shelduck	Seen at Moheda Alta on 17 <sup>th</sup> March.
Wigeon	Seen at the Tozo.
Gadwall	Seen at Alcollarín and the Tozo.
Teal	Seen at Alcollarín, the Tozo and Arrocampo.
Mallard	Seen almost every day.
Pintail	A pair at the Tozo.
Shoveler	Seen on all large reservoirs and also on the plains.
Red-crested Pochard	A female at Arrocampo.
Tufted Duck	Seen at Alcollarín.
Black-shouldered Kite	One seen from road near Moheda Alta on 17 <sup>th</sup> March
Black Kite	Seen every day
Red Kite	Seen on all but one day
Egyptian Vulture	Seen at Monfragüe and Arrocampo.
Griffon Vulture	Seen on all but one day.
Black Vulture	Seen on most days.
Short-toed Eagle	Seen on plains and at Monfragüe.
Marsh Harrier	Seen on rice fields, Sierra Brava, Alcollarín and Arrocampo.
Sparrowhawk	Seen on several days.
Common Buzzard	Seen every day.
Spanish Imperial Eagle	Seen on plains and at Monfragüe.
Golden Eagle	Seen on plains and at Monfragüe.
Bonelli's Eagle	Seen at Alcollarín.
Booted Eagle	Seen on journey to Monfragüe.
Lesser Kestrel	Seen at Campo Lugar and at Trujillo.
Common Kestrel	Seen almost every day.
Peregrine	Seen in Monfragüe.
Red-legged Partridge	Seen on several days.
Water Rail	Heard at Arrocampo.
Moorhen	Seen on several days.
Purple Swampphen	Several seen at Arrocampo on 19 <sup>th</sup> March.
Coot	Seen at Alcollarín and Arrocampo.
Crane	Four flying over Campo Lugar on 16 <sup>th</sup> March.
Little Bustard	A group of four on plains on 14 <sup>th</sup> March.
Great Bustard	Seen on plains west of Trujillo & near Campo Lugar, with several males in display.
Avocet	Two at Moheda Alta.
Stone-curlew	Four seen near Sierra Brava on 17 <sup>th</sup> March. Heard near Madroñera.
Black-winged Stilt	Seen at Alcollarín, Moheda Alta, Tozo and Arrocampo.
Little Ringed Plover	Seen at Alcollarín and Moheda Alta.
Ringed Plover	Seen at Moheda Alta.
Kentish Plover	Seen at Moheda Alta.
Golden Plover	Seen on the plains on 14 <sup>th</sup> March.
Lapwing	Seen on plains and at Tozo.
Little Stint	A flock at Moheda Alta.
Dunlin	Seen at Moheda Alta.
Ruff	Seen at Moheda Alta
Snipe	Seen on several days.
Black-tailed Godwit	Seen at Moheda Alta.
Spotted Redshank	Seen at Moheda Alta and Tozo.
Redshank	Seen at Moheda Alta.
Greenshank	Seen at Moheda Alta, Tozo and Arrocampo.
Green Sandpiper	Seen on several days.
Common Sandpiper	Seen at Arrocampo and Monfragüe.
Black-headed Gull	Seen on several days.
Lesser Black-backed Gull	Seen on several days.
Black-bellied Sandgrouse	Seen near Santa Marta de Magasca on 14 <sup>th</sup> March.

Pin-tailed Sandgrouse	Seen near Santa Marta de Magasca on 14 <sup>th</sup> March.
Rock Dove/Feral Pigeon	Seen daily.
Woodpigeon	Seen almost every day.
Collared Dove	Seen daily.
Great Spotted Cuckoo	Seen along roads on 19 <sup>th</sup> and 20 <sup>th</sup> March.
Cuckoo	Seen and/or heard from 15 <sup>th</sup> March.
Eagle Owl	Seen at Sierra Brava on 16 <sup>th</sup> March.
Little Owl	Seen on plains and heard at the Finca.
Pallid Swift	Seen at Trujillo.
Kingfisher	Seen on several days.
Hoopoe	Seen every day.
Lesser Spotted Woodpecker	Seen or heard most days at the Finca.
Calandra Lark	On plains of Campo Lugar and Santa Marta de Magasca.
Crested Lark	Seen almost every day.
Thekla Lark	Seen on several days on plains and heathland.
Woodlark	Singing on several days at Finca.
Skylark	One at Sierra Brava.
Sand Martin	Large flocks at Arrocampo on 19 <sup>th</sup> March.
Crag Martin	Seen almost every day.
Swallow	Seen every day.
Red-rumped Swallow	Seen almost daily from 15 <sup>th</sup> May.
House Martin	Seen every day.
Meadow Pipit	Seen on several days.
Water Pipit	One near Obando on 17 <sup>th</sup> March.
Grey Wagtail	Seen on River Magasca on 14 <sup>th</sup> March.
White Wagtail	Seen every day.
Wren	Heard and/or seen most days.
Robin	Seen almost every day
Black Redstart	Seen on several days at the Finca, Monfragüe and elsewhere.
Stonechat	Seen every day.
Northern Wheatear	Seen on several days.
Blue Rock Thrush	Seen in Monfragüe.
Blackbird	Seen every day.
Song Thrush	Seen every day.
Mistle Thrush	Seen on several days.
Cetti's Warbler	Recorded almost every day.
Zitting Cisticola	Seen and heard on several days.
Savi's Warbler	Singing birds in Arrocampo on 19 <sup>th</sup> March.
Sedge Warbler	Singing near Obando on 17 <sup>th</sup> March.
Dartford Warbler	Seen well on heath near Madroñera.
Subalpine Warbler	Seen in Monfragüe.
Sardinian Warbler	Seen every day.
Blackcap	Seen every day.
Chiffchaff	Seen on most days.
Iberian Chiffchaff	One singing in Monfragüe on 15 <sup>th</sup> March.
Long-tailed Tit	Seen on two days.
Blue Tit	Seen every day.
Great Tit	Seen every day.
Penduline Tit	Three near Obando on 17 <sup>th</sup> March.
Short-toed Treecreeper	Seen and/or heard almost every day.
Iberian Grey Shrike	Seen every day.
Woodchat Shrike	Seen at Alcollarín on 16 <sup>th</sup> March.
Azure-winged Magpie	Seen every day.
Magpie	Seen every day.
Jackdaw	Seen on several days.
Raven	Seen almost every day.
Spotless Starling	Seen every day.
House Sparrow	Seen every day.
Spanish Sparrow	Seen almost every day.
Tree Sparrow	Seen near Obando on 17 <sup>th</sup> March.
Red Avadavat	Seen on rice fields.
Common Waxbill	Seen on rice fields.
Chaffinch	Seen every day.
Serin	Seen every day.
Greenfinch	Seen most days.
Goldfinch	Seen every day.
Siskin	Seen at Monfragüe.
Linnet	Seen every day.
Hawfinch	Seen most days at the Finca.
Cirl Bunting	Singing at River Magasca and Monfragüe.
Rock Bunting	Seen at Monfragüe.
Corn Bunting	Seen every day.

MAMMALS		
Otter <i>Lutra lutra</i> tracks and spraint	Iberian hare <i>Lepus granatensis</i>	Bat, probably Kuhl's pipistrelle <i>Pipistrellus kuhlii</i>
Wild boar <i>Sus scrofa</i> – rootings	Rabbit <i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i>	
Red deer <i>Cervus elaphus hispanicus</i>		
REPTILES, AMPHIBIANS, FISH		
Names of reptiles and amphibians follow recent splits in <i>Field Guide to the Amphibians and Reptiles of Britain and Europe</i> (British Wildlife Field Guides) by Jeroen Speybroek et al.		
Spanish (stripe-necked) terrapin <i>Mauremys leprosa</i>	Natterjack toad <i>Bufo calamita</i> spawn	
Western psammodromus <i>Psammodromus occidentalis</i>	Iberian tree frog <i>Hyla molleri</i>	
Geniez's wall lizard <i>Podarcis virescens</i>	Iberian water frog <i>Rana perezi</i>	
Moorish gecko <i>Tarentola mauretanica</i>	Barbel <i>Barbus barbus</i>	



Western psammodromus (cropped) showing its scaly back (MN).

BUTTERFLIES			
Swallowtail	Clouded yellow	Painted lady	Green hairstreak
Scarce swallowtail	Cleopatra	Small copper	Small heath
Spanish festoon	Nettle-tree butterfly	Southern speckled wood	Holly blue
Large white	Small white	Wall brown	Brown argus
Western dappled white	Red admiral	Provence hairstreak	Mallow skipper



Provence hairstreak (JD) and Spanish festoon (MN).

OTHER INVERTEBRATES	
Vagrant emperor <i>Anax ephippiger</i>	Ornate shieldbug <i>Eurydema ornata</i>
Long skimmer <i>Orthetrum trinacria</i>	Silver Y moth <i>Autographa gamma</i>
Iberian blue-tailed damselfly <i>Ischnura graellsii</i>	Hummingbird hawk-moth <i>Macroglossum stellatarum</i>
A large pond skater, probably <i>Aquarius najas</i>	Pine processionary moth <i>Thaumetopoea pityocampa</i> tents
Praying mantis <i>Mantis religiosa</i> egg case	Caterpillars of the tiger moth or winter webworm <i>Ocnognyna boetica</i>
Egyptian grasshopper/locust <i>Anacridium aegyptium</i>	
Red-striped oil beetle <i>Berberomeloe majalis</i>	
Rhinoceros beetle <i>Copris hispanicus</i>	Violet carpenter bee <i>Xylocopa violacea</i>
Scarab beetle <i>Scarabaeus laticollis</i>	Honey bee <i>Apis mellifera</i>
7-spot ladybird <i>Coccinella 7-punctata</i>	Paper wasp <i>Polistes</i> sp
A pollen chafer <i>Oxythyrea funesta</i>	A bee-fly sp <i>Bombyliidae</i>
A pollen chafer <i>Tropinota hirta</i>	Large ant possibly <i>Camponotus vagus</i>
Rove beetle probably <i>Paederus</i> sp	House centipede <i>Scutigera coleoptrata</i>
Fire bug <i>Pyrrhocoris apterus</i>	Green huntsman spider <i>Micrommata virescens</i>
Backswimmer, species unknown	Oak spider, an orb web spider <i>Aculepeira ceropegia</i>

## PLANTS

Numbers on the right refer to Blamey & Grey-Wilson, *Mediterranean Wild Flowers*.

Polunin refers to Polunin & Smythies, *Flowers of south-west Europe*.

Where there is no number, sometimes these are plants in floras from northern Europe

e.g. *Wild Flowers of Britain & Europe* by Fitter, Fitter & Blamey.

Some are planted, marked P. NiF = not in flower.

Common northern European plants e.g. shepherd's purse, groundsel, are not usually noted;  
planted trees are noted when of special interest.

<b>Pinaceae</b>		
<i>Pinus pinea</i>	Stone / umbrella pine	3
<i>Pinus nigra</i>	Black pine	4
<b>Fagaceae</b>		
<i>Quercus rotundifolia</i>	Holm oak	26
<i>Quercus suber</i>	Cork oak	27
<i>Quercus faginea</i>	Portuguese oak	30
<b>Ulmaceae</b>		
<i>Ulmus minor</i>	Elm sp.	c. 38
<i>Celtis australis</i> P	Southern nettle-tree	39
<b>Urticaceae</b>		
<i>Urtica membranacea</i>	Membranous nettle	49
<i>Urtica urens</i>	Annual nettle	
<b>Polygonaceae</b>		
<i>Rumex bucephalophorus</i>	Horned dock, often brick red sheets on dry ground	
<i>Rumex scutatus</i>	Rubble dock or French sorrel	
<b>Aristolochiaceae</b>		
<i>Aristolochia paucinervis</i>	Green-flowered birthwort (Not in Blamey or Polunin)	
<b>Caryophyllaceae</b>		
<i>Cerastium glomeratum</i>	Sticky mouse-ear	
<i>Corrigiola litoralis</i>	Strapwort	
<i>Paronychia capita</i>	Paronychia	134
<i>Spergularia arvensis</i>	Corn spurrey	
<i>Spergularia purpurea</i>	Purple sand-spurrey	148
<i>Silene latifolia</i>	White campion	158
<i>Silene colorata</i>	Mediterranean catchfly	180
<b>Ranunculaceae</b>		
<i>Anemone palmata</i>	Yellow anemone	218
<i>Ranunculus</i> sp.	Water crowfoot sp.	
<i>Ranunculus macrophyllus</i>	Large-leaved buttercup	237
<i>Ranunculus paludosus</i>	Jersey buttercup	249
<i>Ranunculus sceleratus</i>	Celery-leaved buttercup	251
<b>Papaveraceae</b>		
<i>Papaver rhoeas</i>	Common poppy	283
<b>Fumariaceae</b>		
<i>Fumaria capreolata</i>	Ramping fumitory	303
<b>Cruciferae</b>		
<i>Moricandia arvensis</i>	purple patches by Madrid roads	354
<i>Matthiola lunata</i>	a stock (photo in Polunin)	
<i>Raphanus raphanistrum</i>	Wild radish	369
<i>Sinapsis arvensis</i>	Charlock	
<i>Sisymbrium altissimum</i>	Tall rocket, the abundant yellow crucifer in fields and on disturbed ground everywhere.	
<i>Teesdalia nudicaulis</i>	Shepherd's cress	
<b>Resedaceae</b>		
<i>Reseda luteola</i>	Weld or dyer's rocket	377
<b>Crassulaceae</b>		
<i>Umbilicus rupestris</i>	Navelwort	396
<b>Rosaceae</b>		
<i>Rosa canina</i>	Common dogrose NiF	c.404
<b>Saxifragaceae</b>		
<i>Saxifraga granulata</i>	Meadow saxifrage	

<b>Leguminosae</b>		
<i>Cercis siliquastrum</i>	Judas tree	430
<i>Acacia dealbata</i> P	'Mimosa' or Silver wattle	432
<i>Adenocarpus argyrophyllus</i>	Spanish adenocarpus	
<i>Cytisus multiflorus</i>	White broom	
<i>Cytisus scoparius</i>	Broom	456
<i>Lygos monosperma</i>	Retama NiF	480
<i>Lupinus luteus</i>	Yellow-leaved lupin, also fodder crop	483
<i>Lupinus angustifolius</i>	Narrow-leaved lupin	486
<i>Astragalus lusitanicus</i>	Iberian milk-vetch	504
<i>Vicia villosa</i>	Fodder vetch	510
<i>Vicia lutea</i>	Yellow vetch	525
<i>Vicia sativa</i>	Common vetch	531
<i>Onobrychis humilis</i>	A sainfoin. Not in Blamey or Polunin	
<i>Lathyrus cicera</i>	A brick-red vetchling	545
<i>Lathyrus sylvestris</i>	Narrow-leaved everlasting pea	538
<i>Medicago arabica</i>	Spotted medick	623
<i>Anthyllis lotooides</i>		Polunin 623a
<i>Ornithopus compressus</i>	Compressed birdsfoot	639
<i>Scorpiurus muricatus</i>	Scorpiurus, a scorpion vetch	684
<i>Trifolium subterranean</i>	Subterranean clover	
<b>Oxalidaceae</b>		
<i>Oxalis pes-caprae</i>	Bermuda buttercup	735
<b>Geraniaceae</b>		
<i>Geranium molle</i>	Dovesfoot cranesbill	741
<i>Geranium purpureum</i>	Little robin	748
<i>Geranium lucidum</i>	Shining cranesbill	749
<i>Erodium botrys</i>	Mediterranean or long-beaked storksbill	758
<i>Erodium cicutarium</i>	Common storksbill	761
<b>Linaceae</b>		
<i>Linum bienne</i>	Pale flax	777
<b>Euphorbiaceae</b>		
<i>Mercurialis annua</i>	Annual mercury	820
<b>Meliaceae</b>		
<i>Melia azedarach</i> P	Indian bead tree or Persian lilac	843
<b>Violaceae</b>		
<i>Viola (arvensis) kitaibeliana</i>	Dwarf pansy	931
<b>Thymelaeaceae</b>		
<i>Daphne gnidium</i>	Daphne	936
<b>Cistaceae</b>		
<i>Cistus albidus</i>	Grey-leaved cistus	961
<i>Cistus salviifolius</i>	Sage-leaved cistus	965
<i>Cistus monspeliensis</i>	Narrow-leaved cistus	966
<i>Cistus ladanifer</i>	Gum cistus	971
<i>Tuberaria guttata</i>	Spotted rockrose	985
<i>Helianthemum aegyptiacum</i>		
<b>Cucurbitaceae</b>		
<i>Bryonia cretica</i>	White bryony	1033
<b>Cactaceae</b>		
<i>Opuntia maxima</i> (=ficus-indica)	Prickly pear	1040
<b>Umbelliferae</b>		
<i>Smyrniolus olustatum</i>	Alexanders	1087
<i>Scandix pecten-veneris</i>	Shepherd's needle	1097
<i>Sison amomum</i>	Stone parsley	
<i>Ferula communis</i>	Giant fennel NiF	1141
<i>Tordylium apulum</i>	Mediterranean hartwort	1149
<b>Ericaceae</b>		
<i>Arbutus unedo</i>	Strawberry tree	1176
<i>Erica arborea</i>	Tree heath (white fls)	1178
<i>Erica australis</i>	Spanish heath (pink fls)	1181

<b>Primulaceae</b>		
<i>Anagallis arvensis</i>	Scarlet pimpernel	1198
<b>Oleaceae</b>		
<i>Phillyrea angustifolia</i>	Phillyrea or false olive	1246
<i>Olea europaea</i>	Olive	1248
<i>Olea europaea</i> spp. <i>oleaster</i>	Wild olive	1248a
<i>Fraxinus angustifolia</i>	Narrow-leaved ash	
<b>Rubiaceae</b>		
<i>Galium verticillatum</i>	A tiny bedstraw	1299
<i>Rubia peregrina</i>	Wild madder	1305
<i>Sherardia arvensis</i>	Field madder	
<b>Convolvulaceae</b>		
<i>Convolvulus althaeoides</i>	Mallow-leaved bindweed	1331
<i>Convolvulus arvensis</i>	Field bindweed	1334
<b>Boraginaceae</b>		
<i>Buglossoides arvensis</i>	Corn gromwell	1349
<i>Nonea vesicaria</i>	A nonea, at Finca Santa Marta	1375
<i>Echium plantagineum</i>	Purple viper's bugloss	1383
<i>Borago officinalis</i>	Borage	1395
<i>Anchusa undulata</i>	Undulate anchusa	1406
<i>Cynoglossum cherifolium</i>	A houndstongue	1409
<b>Labiatae</b>		
<i>Lamium bifidum</i>	A white-flowered deadnettle with white stripes on the leaves. Not in Blamey or Polunin!	
<i>Marrubium vulgare</i>	White horehound NiF	1445
<i>Lamium amplexicaule</i>	Henbit deadnettle	1478
<i>Rosmarinus officinalis</i>	Rosemary	1526
<i>Lavandula stoechas</i>	French lavender	1528
<i>Salvia verbenaca</i>	Wild clary	1545
<i>Stachys arvensis</i>	Field woundwort	
<b>Solanaceae</b>		
<i>Hyosciamus albus</i>	White henbane	1555
<i>Solanum nigrum</i>	Black nightshade	1563
<b>Scrophularicaea</b>		
<i>Verbascum sinuatum</i>	NiF	1601
<i>Cymbalaria muralis</i>	Ivy-leaved toadflax	1632
<i>Parentucellia latifolia</i>	A tiny, red bartsia	1652
<i>Linaria amethystea</i>	Amethyst toadflax	Polunin
<i>Linaria spartea</i>	A yellow-flowered toadflax	Polunin
<b>Orobanchaceae</b>		
<i>Orobanche ramosa</i>	Branched broomrape	1655
<i>Orobanche rapum-genistae</i>	Greater broomrape	1670
<i>Orobanche gracilis</i>	Slender broomrape	1672
<b>Plantaginaceae</b>		
<i>Plantago lagopus</i>		1702
<b>Caprifoliaceae</b>		
<i>Viburnum tinus</i>	Laurestinus	1711
<i>Lonicera implexa</i>	A perfoliate honeysuckle	1713
<b>Valerianaceae</b>		
<i>Centranthus calcitrapa</i>	A narrow-leaved valerian	1725
<b>Campanulaceae</b>		
<i>Campanula erinus</i>		1774
<b>Compositae</b>		
<i>Anthemis arvensis</i>	Corn mayweed	
<i>Bellis annua</i>	Annual daisy	1791
<i>Bellis perennis</i>	Perennial daisy	1792
<i>Bellis sylvestris</i>	Southern daisy	1793
<i>Phagnalon saxatile</i>	Rock phagnalon NiF	1833
<i>Diitricia graveolens</i>	Stink aster NiF	1841
<i>Xanthium strumarium</i>	Rough cocklebur (dead seed heads)	1852
<i>Chrysanthemum segetum</i>	Corn marigold	1894

<i>Calendula arvensis</i>	Field marigold	1908
<i>Cirsium eriophorum</i>	Woolly thistle NiF	1956
<i>Galactites tomentosa</i>	Galactites	1971
<i>Silybum marianum</i>	Milk thistle NiF	1982
<b>Liliaceae</b>		
<i>Asphodelus aestivus</i>	Common asphodel	2089
<i>Gagea sp pratensis?</i>	Yellow star-of-Bethlehem sp.	c 2106
<i>Fritillaria lusitanica</i>	Iberian fritillary	2152
<i>Ornithogalum concinnum</i>	A spiked star-of-Bethlehem	Polunin 1639b
<i>Urginea maritima</i>	Sea squill (leaves & dead flower spikes)	2163
<i>Ornithogalum ?narbonense</i>	Star-of-Bethlehem sp.	2171
<i>Hyacinthoides hispanica</i>	Spanish bluebell	2191
<i>Muscari comosum</i>	Tassel hyacinth	2201
<i>Asparagus acutifolius</i>	A shrubby asparagus	2212
<b>Agavaceae</b>		
<i>Agave americana</i>	Agave, century plant	2253
<b>Amaryllidaceae</b>		
<i>Narcissus triandrus</i>	Angel's tears	Polunin 1668d
<i>Narcissus jonquilla</i>	Common jonquil	2279
<i>Narcissus bulbocodium</i>	Hoop-petticoat narcissus	2281
<b>Dioscoreaceae</b>		
<i>Dioscorea communis</i>	Black bryony	2282
<b>Iridaceae</b>		
<i>Iris tuberosa</i>	Widow iris (presumed garden escape)	2283
<i>Gynandris sisyrrinchium</i>	Barbary nut iris	2305
<i>Romulea columnae</i>	Sand crocus	2320
<i>Arisarum simorrhinum</i>	Friar's cowl	2378
<b>Orchidaceae</b>		
<i>Orchis (morio) champagneuxii</i>	Champagne orchid	2403
<i>Orchis conica</i>	Conical orchid	
<i>Orchis italica</i>	Naked man orchid	2409
<i>Ophrys speculum</i>	Mirror orchid	2436
<i>Ophrys tenthredinifera</i>	Sawfly orchid	2442
<b>Gramineae &amp; Juncaceae</b>		
<i>Lamarckia aurea</i>	Golden dog's-tail	2459
<i>Typha angustifolia</i>	Lesser reedmace	
<i>Phragmites australis</i>	Reed	
<i>Arundo donax</i>	Giant reed	2494
<i>Avena sp.</i>	Wild oats	
<i>Juncus acutus</i>	Sharp rush	
<b>FERNS (PTERIDOPHYTA)</b>		
<i>Asplenium adiantum-nigrum</i>	Black spleenwort	
<i>Ceterach officinarum</i>	Rustyback fern	2532
<i>Polypodium vulgare</i>	Polypody	



Grey-leaved cistus and Barbary nut iris.