



# Honeyguide

**WILDLIFE HOLIDAYS**

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**Extremadura**  
**16 – 24 March 2022**

### Holiday participants

Mick Gold  
Barry and Denise Madden  
Chris and Mary Ash

**Leader:** Martin Kelsey

Our base for the holiday was Martin and Claudia Kelsey's  
Casa El Recuerdo in San Clemente [www.casaruralelrecuerdo.com/](http://www.casaruralelrecuerdo.com/)

Report and wildlife lists by Martin Kelsey

Photos were all taken on the holiday, birds by Barry Madden, others see photo credits.  
Cover: Iberian yellow wagtail (BM).

Below: group photo, taken at Casa El Recuerdo (CK).  
In years to come the face mask may be a reminder of Covid times.



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 £240 brings the total given to SEO since the first Honeyguide holiday in Spain in 1991 to £19,975. The total for conservation contributions from all Honeyguide holidays was £139,807 at the end of March 2022.

Marcelino from SEO says: "Our sincere thanks to your customers and to you for the support you give us."



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## ITINERARY

- 16 March: Pick-up Madrid and transfer to Casa Rural El Recuerdo.
- 17 March: The plains west of Trujillo and near Santa Marta de Magasca.
- 18 March: Monfragüe National Park.
- 19 March: Campo Lugar plains and Alcollarín Reservoir.
- 20 March: Trujillo, Alange, Jabata Valley and Mérida.
- 21 March: Ricefields near Madrigalejo.
- 22 March: Arrocampo Reservoir, Almaráz Hill and Trujillo.
- 23 March: Trujillo town, River Almonte, Jaraicejo and the Villuercas Mountains.
- 24 March: Return to Madrid with stop near Valdecañas dam.

## DAILY DIARY

### 16 March 2022: Pick-up Madrid and transfer to Casa Rural El Recuerdo

The group arrived perfectly on time at Terminal One Madrid airport. Stepping out of the terminal building we immediately encountered the extraordinary and eerie experience of the shroud of Sahara dust which had been hanging in suspension in the sky across Spain for a day. The atmosphere was a gloomy orange haze and the vehicles in the carpark (even those under cover) were covered by a layer of red dust. Despite being mid-afternoon it was like twilight, or as if it was a total eclipse. We set off along the southern ring road of Madrid and then onto the motorway for Extremadura. The sides of the road had a layer of this fine dust, like a sprinkling of snow.

The poor visibility meant that we saw nothing of the mountain ranges that usually are a spectacular backdrop to the journey, but we did see birds like White Stork, Black and Red Kites, Buzzards and a Common Kestrel.

We had a rest stop halfway and then made the final leg of the journey, smoothly arriving at Casa Rural El Recuerdo just after 7pm.

### 17 March 2022: The plains west of Trujillo and near Santa Marta de Magasca

By dawn the dust in the atmosphere appeared to have had moved on, but it was generally heavily overcast all day, with a fresh and rather troublesome northerly wind. As we prepared to leave El Recuerdo a flotilla of vultures (Griffons and the huge Black) drifted low overhead. We skirted around Trujillo and made our first stop at the edge of the plains. Here we found a group of Pin-tailed Sandgrouse, seen first in flight and then on the ground. On a walk along a sandy track we were accompanied continuously with the song of Calandra Larks and Corn Buntings. Groups of up to four Calandras sang together in flight, despite the strong wind. We found a party of male Great Bustards standing majestically on the skyline, preening and going through some preparatory motions for display.



Lesser Kestrel and Short-toed Eagle (BM).

After a coffee in the friendly little village square of Santa Marta de Magasca, where House Martins were building nests on the town hall, we spent an hour or so overlooking the Tamuja River. The sky was brightening up and this had encouraged numerous birds of prey to start soaring. It was hard to combine eating our packed lunches with the constant distractions they made.

First there was a rough and tumble between a pair of Ravens and two immature Spanish Imperial Eagles. On one occasion a Raven was chasing one of the eagles, while the other eagle was chasing a Raven! Then a Golden Eagle appeared on the scene and it was chased off by one of the Spanish Imperial Eagles. A pair of Short-toed Eagles were displaying, while birds like Red Kite, Griffon and Black Vultures were also airborne. Beside the river a Kingfisher sat stoically on a branch the entire time.

Back on the plains we walked along an ancient Drovers' Trail, seeing a group of Little Bustards, including a high proportion of males. Larks were surrounding us with their song. Sawfly Orchids were quite abundant in patches and we also found the delightful little rock rose *Helianthemum egyptiacum*. Barbary Nut Irises were starting their afternoon flowering and Sand Crocuses were delightful along the path. We made a stop in the area of granite outcrops near Trujillo, with White Broom in glorious flower. There were flocks of Spanish Sparrows and we were also treated to prolonged views of a pair of Great Spotted Cuckoos.

We made a final stop beside the bullring at Trujillo to watch up to six Lesser Kestrels as well as a very close-range Short-toed Eagle and several Spotless Starlings.

### **18 March 2022: Monfragüe National Park**

It was a day of high cloud, with the sun attempting to break through and a more moderate wind than has been the case recently. We headed north, passing through the town of Trujillo and then across a vast landscape of *dehesa* on our way to the Monfragüe National Park. To the north, for the first time, we could see the impressive Gredos Mountains, with the highest covered in snow.

At Monfragüe we stopped at the viewpoint looking across the Tagus River to the enormous Peña Falcon cliff. Here numerous Griffon Vultures were nesting on this vast quartzite rockface. They dwarfed a Peregrine as it soared above the pinnacle. Black Vultures glided over and an Egyptian Vulture passed the rock as well. We had superb views of Black Stork in flight as well as attending to two nests. Smaller birds included several Blue Rock Thrushes and Black Redstarts. Growing on the rock face close to us were Spanish Adenocarpus bearing yellow flowers.



Griffon Vulture and Black Stork in Monfragüe National Park (BM).

We then drove through the park to visit the viewpoint at the Portilla del Tiétar, a smaller but perhaps more intimate site. Hoop Petticoat and Angel's Tears narcissuses were in flower. Here, as well as the vultures, we watched an adult Spanish Imperial Eagle passing high overhead. Better views of this species were granted when we watched a bird sky-dancing and calling above us as we drank coffee at the nearby bar, where a juvenile Ocellated Lizard prepared to take the sun. As we walked to admire the geology we found an extremely early Lang's Short-tailed Blue butterfly.

We then made a couple of stops beside the Tiétar River, for lunch in a grove of Southern Elm trees, where a flock of Siskins chattered quietly and a Hawfinch perched and sang from the top of the same tree. Spanish Milk Vetch was in flower in clumps beside the road. We took an interesting walk along the northern side of the ridge beside the Tagus River, looking across at the mediaeval Cardinal's Bridge. Robins sang from the cool, moist woodland. We saw a Subalpine Warbler, also in song, while above us a Black Vulture passed by carrying nest material and we watched it enter the canopy of a large tree where its mate was waiting.

We completed the visit watching the vultures returning to the Peña Falcon rock, far more than we had seen in the morning, while also enjoying a nearby singing Black Redstart.

Back at Casa Rural Recuerdo following tea and checklist, we repaired to the village bar for a very convivial evening meal.

### 19 March 2022: Campo Lugar plains and Alcollarín Reservoir

A fresh wind continued through pretty much the whole day, but it remained dry and there were periods of sunshine, at last! We travelled southwards, crossing into the basin of the Guadiana River, through the town of Zorita and onward to the plains of Campo Lugar. Here, enjoying superb light, we watched a group of displaying male Great Bustards. A flock of Little Bustards put on a great show too, and we were afforded excellent views of them in flight several times.

A Great Spotted Cuckoo appeared, and we watched it devouring a large caterpillar. As is typical of this habitat, the soundscape was dominated by two species: Calandra Lark and Corn Bunting. A party of Lesser Kestrels hunted over the fields, while vultures drifted effortlessly overhead. As we had seen elsewhere, the recent drought had slowed flowering significantly, so there was not much to note in the way of new species.



Corn Bunting; a flock of Little Bustards (BM).

After coffee in another very friendly bar, we headed to the relatively new reservoir of Alcollarín. We stopped at first by the small subsidiary reservoir, beside a picnic area. There were Mallard, Shoveler, Teal and Gadwall on the water, a Sedge Warbler singing beside us and a group of Black-crowned Night Herons in a tree. Along the edge of the water, a feeding party of Spoonbill and Great White Egrets were standing beside Little Egrets, affording us an excellent comparison in size. Birds of prey started drifting overhead: vultures, kites, a Short-toed Eagle and a Booted Eagle, as well as an Osprey which made a dive at the far end of pool, but without success. One of the most spectacular sights was a group of perhaps two thousand Black-headed Gulls following a tractor and plough.

After our picnic we noted several flowering plants, such as beds of Purple Sand Spurrey.

We spent the rest of the afternoon at the reservoir, watching Red-rumped Swallows, and finding a Black-necked Grebe and a Garganey on the western shore, as well as a few waders such as Little Ringed Plover and Dunlin.

We completed our visit at the dam, admiring the dense flock of Black-headed Gulls, a Black Kite with nesting material and Lesser Kestrels returning to their nest sites in the village.

### 20 March 2022: Trujillo, Alange, Jabata Valley and Mérida

The day remained dry until our return home, with generally light cloud but with a fresh easterly wind. We stopped first in a little park in Trujillo to find, successfully, a pair of roosting Scops Owls. They sat close to each other, partially obscured by the foliage of a Horse Chestnut.

Then it was the long drive down to Alange (with a stop to buy oranges, with basic commodities in short supply because of a truckers' strike). At Alange we visited first the northern side of the rocky outcrop, on top of which stands the castle. We were hoping for orchids but due to the long winter drought they have been very late. We found many Sawfly Orchids, one good specimen of Conical Orchid, but the Pink Butterfly Orchids were still in bud. Alpine Swifts wheeled above, while the olive groves were teeming with Blackcaps.

We then checked the southern side of the outcrop and found a Black Wheatear which gave us prolonged views, fanning its tail beautifully.

Following coffee, we repaired to the Jabata valley, a wonderful setting full of flowers. Especially noteworthy were the Iberian Fritillaries and Green-winged Orchids. There were numerous Yellow Anemones, and also Narrow-leaved and Sage-leaved Cistus in flower. Thekla Larks sang tunefully above us.

Onwards to Mérida where we first visited the Roman Bridge. It was rather windy and rain was threatening, so few birds were seen, apart from Glossy Ibis. However at an impromptu stop at the Milagros Aqueduct we enjoyed a very productive half an hour with three species of wagtail, several species of wader as well as Glossy Ibis, right in the centre of the city.

### **21 March 2022: Ricefields near Madrigalejo**

As forecast, we set off in heavy rain and for most of the day we were glad of the shelter of the minivan. There were just a few short spells when the rain eased and the sky brightened. However, despite the inclement conditions we enjoyed some very productive birdwatching.

At our first stop, beside the Sierra Brava reservoir, we watched four species of hirundine hawking insects close to the shore. Then we descended to cross an area of rice fields, approaching Madrigalejo across an area of *dehesa* and pasture. Here we had an excellent view of a Black-winged Kite as it sought to dry its plumage. A Great Spotted Cuckoo flew overhead, chased by a Magpie.

We stopped beside the River Ruercas, where Great White Egrets, Little Egrets and Spoonbills were feeding. There were numerous Common Chiffchaffs flitting out of the Lesser Reed Mace.

We then headed south of Madrigalejo to have a coffee in the rice village of Vegas Altas. Driving along the muddy tracks behind the village, we found a lone Common Crane. There were also a few waders, such as Black-tailed Godwit and Ruff. A Hen Harrier was watched hunting over adjacent scrub, while a few minutes later a Merlin startled a band of Barn Swallows.



Scops Owl in Trujillo; Hoopoe (BM).

We had lunch beside the River Gargaligas, where more Common Chiffchaffs were busy feeding and White Storks were on their nests, liberally filled with House Sparrows as well.

We spent the afternoon on the rice fields west of Madrigalejo. Here we had superb views of several Iberian Yellow Wagtails, lots of pipits including a few Water Pipits, more waders such as Little Ringed and Ringed Plover, Spotted Redshank and Greenshank, as well as Marsh Harrier and Buzzard. Parties of Red Avadavats popped in and out of the reed-filled ditches. By the end of the afternoon the rain started again with strength and we returned to Casa Rural El Recuerdo for tea.

We dined at the village bar and on the walk back the early evening rain had brought out amphibians such as Spiny Toad, Natterjack Toad and Southern Marbled Newt. The Natterjack Toad chorus that night was awesome.

## 22 March 2022: Arrocampo Reservoir, Almaráz Hill and Trujillo

We were lucky with the weather today: we stayed dry whereas other places to the south, north, east and west had heavy rain! We spent the morning at the Arrocampo Reservoir, near the village of Saucedilla. Despite the rather good conditions there was not a huge amount of bird activity, although we did get good views of Iberian Grey Shrike, Purple Heron, Great White Egrets and Spoonbills. Purple Swamphens were heard better than were seen. We heard a Savi's Warbler reeling away intermittently in the marsh, but it could not be located. We enjoyed some rather splendid Spanish Sparrows perching close to one of our stops. An American Crayfish put on a feisty threat display for us.



Crayfish and its 'feisty threat display'; Purple Heron (BM).

We had lunch on the hillside looking over the town of Almaráz, in an area famous for orchids. There were breathtaking colonies of Naked Man Orchid, as well as some good examples of Conical, Champagne and Woodcock Orchid. The Grey-leaved Cistus was in full flower while above us there was an impressive set of birds of prey: Booted Eagles, Short-toed Eagle, three species of vulture and two species of kite.

We completed the afternoon visiting a small marsh near Trujillo, with very busy Little Grebes whinnying and two species of native terrapin present. The afternoon was rounded off watching Lesser Kestrels in sunshine flying over the Trujillo bullring.

The Natterjack Toad chorus continued in the evening, along with that of Mole Crickets.

## 23 March 2022: Trujillo town, River Almonte, Jaraicejo and the Villuercas Mountains

A day of strong and cold winds and generally persistent rain, although for some of the morning it remained dry. We spent the first part of the day visiting the historic town of Trujillo, starting from the oldest part, the Moorish castle at the top of the town, working through the early medieval walled city and then into the 16<sup>th</sup> century Main Square. Our journey through history, embracing two continents, was accompanied by Crag Martins and White Storks in particular. We also found a Rhinoceros Beetle.

After coffee, sheltering from heavy rain in the Main Square, some time was spent shopping for the local cheeses and Iberian ham. We then headed north to find a sheltered picnic area beside the River Almonte near Jaraicejo, where three bridges cross the river. It was raining hard most of the time, but a party of vultures struggled past. From there we made a short stop at the Arroyo de la Vid, and then a longer stop beside an abandoned old hotel near Miravete, where we had good views of an Iberian Green Woodpecker and a party of Rock Sparrows, amongst other species.

By now, the rain had really set in and we opted to stay in the minivan and make a tour of the Villuercas Mountains, at least to enjoy the stunning scenery of this mountain range. We crossed belts of Holm Oak, Cork Oak and Pyrenean Oak, Sweet Chestnut groves and cherry orchards. The highest peaks were hidden by cloud, but we could appreciate the distinctive Appalachian Relief of the mountains.

We then moved westwards to cross the Belén Plains, seeing a Great Spotted Cuckoo and an unexpected Spoonbill which was feeding in the middle of a field. We reached Casa Rural El Recuerdo just before 17.30 as the wind grew in force. We were pleased to be back in the comfort of the house with a cup of tea and some cake.

## 24 March 2022: Return to Madrid with stop near Valdecañas dam

We were greeted with another fresh and overcast morning, with less rain than yesterday but still a chilly easterly wind. We bade farewell to Casa Rural El Recuerdo and headed back on the motorway towards Madrid. We had time for a stop near Almaraz to admire again the Naked Man orchids, to find more Woodcock Orchids and also several Mirror Orchids, which were new for the trip. We visited the area near the Valdecañas dam, adding Kermes Oak to our *Quercus* list and saying goodbye to Griffon and Black Vultures circling close overhead.

A stop for coffee at our favourite halfway point also gave us an opportunity to buy some beautiful ceramic piggybanks. From there it was a straight and easy run on to the airport which we reached with plenty of time for the check-in.

### Wildlife sightings of the week (and other highlights) as nominated by group members

- Denise: Strutting male Great Bustard, the Black Stork at Monfragüe, Rhinoceros beetle.  
 Barry: Iberian Yellow Wagtail, the emptiness and silence.  
 Mick: First view of a Great Bustard through the telescope, the company.  
 Mary: Black Wheatear, the American Crayfish rearing up in threat, the aqueduct in Mérida.  
 Chris: Male Spanish Sparrow, Rock Sparrows, Black-winged Kite drying itself, Claudia's ajiaco soup.  
 Martin: Eye-level Short-toed Eagle, Spanish Imperial Eagle mobbing a Golden Eagle.

### WILDLIFE LISTS

BIRDS	
Little Grebe	Seen on several days on small pools and reservoirs.
Great Crested Grebe	Several on reservoirs and also close to Trujillo.
Black-necked Grebe	Seen at Alcollarín reservoir.
Cormorant	Seen most days along large rivers and reservoirs.
Black-crowned Night Heron	A group at Alcollarín reservoir.
Cattle Egret	Seen on several days.
Little Egret	Seen on most days.
Great White Egret	Seen on three days, especially Alcollarín and Arrocampo.
Grey Heron	Seen on several days.
Purple Heron	Four at Arrocampo on 22 <sup>nd</sup> March.
Black Stork	Seen at River Tamuja, Monfragüe and Alcollarín.
White Stork	Seen every day.
Glossy Ibis	Seen on several days, especially at Mérida.
Spoonbill	Seen on four days.
Egyptian Goose.	Seen at Alcollarín.
Wigeon	Large flock at Alcollarín.
Gadwall	Seen on most days.
Teal	Seen on most days.
Mallard	Seen almost every day.
Garganey	A drake at Alcollarín.
Shoveler	Two on pool near Sierra Brava on 22 <sup>nd</sup> March.
Tufted Duck	A small group at Alcollarín.
Black-shouldered Kite	Excellent views of two near Madrigalejo.
Black Kite	Seen every day.
Red Kite	Seen every day.
Egyptian Vulture	Seen on three days.
Griffon Vulture	Seen on all but one day.
Black Vulture	Seen on most days.
Short-toed Eagle	Seen on several days.
Marsh Harrier	Seen on rice fields, on plains, Alcollarín and Arrocampo.
Hen Harrier	Seen on rice fields.
Sparrowhawk	Seen at River Tamuja.
Common Buzzard	Seen most days.
Spanish Imperial Eagle	Juveniles seen at River Tamuja and an adult at Monfragüe.
Golden Eagle	Excellent views at River Tamuja.
Booted Eagle	Seen on two days, including a pair at Almaráz.
Osprey	One at Alcollarín.
Lesser Kestrel	Seen almost every day.
Common Kestrel	Seen almost every day.
Merlin	One seen on rice fields.
Peregrine	One at Monfragüe.
Red-legged Partridge	Seen at Monfragüe.
Pheasant	Heard near Madrigalejo.

<b>Water Rail</b>	Heard at Arrocampo.
<b>Moorhen</b>	Seen most days.
<b>Coot</b>	Seen on three days.
<b>Purple Swamphen</b>	Brief views at Arrocampo.
<b>Common Crane</b>	One on rice fields.
<b>Little Bustard</b>	Flocks seen north of Trujillo and also on Campo Lugar plains.
<b>Great Bustard</b>	Flocks seen west of Trujillo and also on Campo Lugar plains (including displaying males).
<b>Stone Curlew</b>	Heard on rice fields.
<b>Black-winged Stilt</b>	Seen on several days.
<b>Little Ringed Plover</b>	Seen on rice fields and Alcollarín.
<b>Ringed Plover</b>	Seen on rice fields.
<b>Golden Plover</b>	Flocks on the plains.
<b>Dunlin</b>	Seen on rice fields and Alcollarín.
<b>Ruff</b>	Seen on rice fields.
<b>Snipe</b>	Seen on several days.
<b>Black-tailed Godwit</b>	Seen on rice fields.
<b>Spotted Redshank</b>	Seen on rice fields and Alcollarín.
<b>Redshank</b>	Seen on rice fields.
<b>Greenshank</b>	Seen on rice fields and Alcollarín.
<b>Green Sandpiper</b>	Seen on several days.
<b>Common Sandpiper</b>	Seen near aqueduct at Mérida.
<b>Black-headed Gull</b>	Seen daily, huge flock at Alcollarín.
<b>Lesser Black-backed Gull</b>	Seen on several days.
<b>Pin-tailed Sandgrouse</b>	A flock of about 50 west of Trujillo.
<b>Rock Dove/Feral Pigeon</b>	Seen daily.
<b>Woodpigeon</b>	Seen on only two days.
<b>Collared Dove</b>	Seen almost every day.
<b>Great Spotted Cuckoo</b>	Seen on four days.
<b>Cuckoo</b>	Seen and/or heard on several days.
<b>Scops Owl</b>	Two seen in Trujillo.
<b>Pallid Swift</b>	Seen briefly on two days.
<b>Alpine Swift</b>	Seen at Alange and Almaráz.
<b>Kingfisher</b>	Seen on three days.
<b>Hoopoe</b>	Seen most days.
<b>Iberian Green Woodpecker</b>	Seen near Miravete.
<b>Great Spotted Woodpecker</b>	One calling in Monfragüe.
<b>Calandra Lark</b>	Seen on plains.
<b>Crested Lark</b>	Seen almost every day.
<b>Thekla Lark</b>	Seen on several days on plains and heathland.
<b>Woodlark</b>	Seen near Miravete.
<b>Sand Martin</b>	Several at Arrocampo.
<b>Crag Martin</b>	Seen at the Finca, in Monfragüe and along Magasca River.
<b>Swallow</b>	Seen every day.
<b>Red-rumped Swallow</b>	Seen on several days.
<b>House Martin</b>	Seen every day.
<b>Meadow Pipit</b>	Seen on several days.
<b>Water Pipit</b>	Seen on rice fields.
<b>Yellow Wagtail</b>	Iberian form seen at Mérida and on rice fields.
<b>Grey Wagtail</b>	Seen at Monfragüe and Mérida.
<b>White Wagtail</b>	Seen on most days.
<b>Wren</b>	Heard and/or seen most days.
<b>Robin</b>	Seen almost every day.
<b>Bluethroat</b>	Seen briefly on rice fields and Arrocampo.
<b>Black Redstart</b>	Seen almost every day, especially at Pago de San Clemente.
<b>Stonechat</b>	Seen on most days.
<b>Northern Wheatear</b>	Seen near Almaráz.
<b>Black Wheatear</b>	Seen at Alange.
<b>Blue Rock Thrush</b>	Seen on three days.
<b>Blackbird</b>	Seen every day.
<b>Song Thrush</b>	Seen on several days.
<b>Redwing</b>	One at Pago de San Clemente.
<b>Mistle Thrush</b>	Seen on two days.
<b>Cetti's Warbler</b>	Heard on several days.
<b>Zitting Cisticola</b>	Seen and heard on several days.
<b>Savi's Warbler</b>	Singing bird at Arrocampo.
<b>Sedge Warbler</b>	Singing at Alcollarín and at Mérida.
<b>Subalpine Warbler</b>	Seen at Monfragüe.
<b>Sardinian Warbler</b>	Seen and heard on several days.
<b>Blackcap</b>	Seen almost every day.

<b>Chiffchaff</b>	Seen almost every day.
<b>Long-tailed Tit</b>	Seen on several days.
<b>Blue Tit</b>	Seen almost every day.
<b>Great Tit</b>	Seen every day.
<b>Short-toed Treecreeper</b>	Seen on one day at Pago de San Clemente.
<b>Nuthatch</b>	Heard at Monfragüe
<b>Iberian Grey Shrike</b>	Seen almost every day.
<b>Woodchat Shrike</b>	Seen at Alcollarín.
<b>Azure-winged Magpie</b>	Seen every day.
<b>Magpie</b>	Seen every day.
<b>Jackdaw</b>	Seen on several days.
<b>Raven</b>	Seen almost every day.
<b>Spotless Starling</b>	Seen every day.
<b>House Sparrow</b>	Seen every day.
<b>Spanish Sparrow</b>	Seen on plains, rice fields and Arrocampo.
<b>Tree Sparrow</b>	Seen on rice fields.
<b>Rock Sparrow</b>	Seen near Miravete.
<b>Red Avadavat</b>	Seen on rice fields.
<b>Chaffinch</b>	Seen every day.
<b>Serin</b>	Seen every day.
<b>Greenfinch</b>	Seen most days.
<b>Goldfinch</b>	Seen every day.
<b>Siskin</b>	Seen in Monfragüe.
<b>Linnet</b>	Seen almost every day.
<b>Hawfinch</b>	Seen on three days. Good views in Monfragüe.
<b>Cirl Bunting</b>	Heard singing on two days.
<b>Corn Bunting</b>	Seen every day.

<b>MAMMALS</b>	
Wild Boar <i>Sus scrofa</i> - rootings	Rabbit <i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i>
<b>REPTILES &amp; AMPHIBIANS</b>	
European Pond Terrapin <i>Emys orbicularis</i>	Spanish Terrapin <i>Mauremys leprosa</i>
Red-eared Terrapin <i>Trachemys scripta</i>	Ocellated Lizard <i>Lacerta lepida</i>
Spiny Toad <i>Bufo spinosus</i>	Natterjack toad <i>Bufo calamita</i>
Iberian Tree Frog <i>Hyla molleri</i>	Iberian water frog <i>Rana perezi</i>
Southern Marbled Newt <i>Titurus pygmaeus</i>	
<b>BUTTERFLIES</b>	
Swallowtail	Large White
Small White	Clouded Yellow
Cleopatra	Nettle-tree Butterfly
Large Tortoiseshell	Painted Lady
Small Heath	Wall Brown
Holly Blue	Lang's Short-tailed Blue
<b>OTHER INVERTEBRATES</b>	
Rhinoceros Beetle <i>Copris lunaris</i>	Pine Processionary moth <i>Thaumetopoea pityocampa</i>
A tiger moth <i>Ocnognyna boetica</i>	Violet carpenter bee <i>Xylocopa violacea</i>
Red swamp crayfish <i>Procambarus clarkii</i>	



Clouded Yellow (BM); Rhinoceros Beetle (MG).

## PLANTS

Selected species. P = planted.

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

<b>Pinaceae</b>	
<i>Pinus pinea</i>	Stone / umbrella pine (3)
<i>Pinus nigra</i>	Black pine (4)
<b>Fagaceae</b>	
<i>Quercus coccifera</i>	Kermes oak (24)
<i>Quercus rotundifolia</i>	Holm oak (26)
<i>Quercus suber</i>	Cork oak (27)
<i>Quercus faginea</i>	Portuguese oak (30)
<i>Quercus pyrenaica</i>	Pyrenean oak
<b>Ulmaceae</b>	
<i>Ulmus minor</i>	Elm sp. (c. 38)
<i>Celtis australis</i>	Southern nettle-tree (39) P
<b>Urticaceae</b>	
<i>Urtica membranacea</i>	Membranous nettle (49)
<b>Polygonaceae</b>	
<i>Rumex bucephalophorus</i>	Horned dock, often brick-red sheets on dry ground
<b>Aristolochiaceae</b>	
<i>Aristolochia paucinervis</i>	Green-flowered birthwort
<b>Caryophyllaceae</b>	
<i>Paronychia capita</i>	Paronychia (134)
<i>Spergularia purpurea</i>	Purple sand-spurrey (148)
<i>Silene latifolia</i>	White campion (158)
<i>Silene colorata</i>	Mediterranean catchfly (180)
<b>Papaveraceae</b>	
<i>Papaver rhoeas</i>	Common poppy (283)
<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 sceleratus</i>	Celery-leaved buttercup (251)
<b>Fumariaceae</b>	
<i>Fumaria capreolata</i>	Ramping fumitory (303)
<b>Cruciferae</b>	
<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
<i>Teesdalia nudicaulis</i>	Shepherd's cress
<b>Crassulaceae</b>	
<i>Umbilicus rupestris</i>	Navelwort (396)
<b>Rosaceae</b>	
<i>Rosa canina</i>	Common dogrose (c.404) NiF
<b>Saxifragaceae</b>	
<i>Saxifraga granulata</i>	Meadow saxifrage
<b>Leguminosae</b>	
<i>Acacia dealbata</i>	'Mimosa' or Silver wattle (432) P
<i>Adenocarpus argyrophyllus</i>	Spanish adenocarpus (in neither book)
<i>Astragalus lusitanicus</i>	Iberian milk-vetch (504)
<i>Cercis siliquastrum</i>	Judas tree (430) P
<i>Cytisus multiflorus</i>	White broom
<i>Cytisus scoparius</i>	Broom (456)
<i>Genista hirsuta</i>	(466)
<i>Lygos monosperma</i>	Retama (480) NiF
<i>Onobrychis humilis</i>	Not in Blamey or Polunin
<i>Lathyrus cicera</i>	A vetchling of cultivated fields (545)
<i>Lupinus angustifolius</i>	Narrow-leaved lupin (486)
<i>Medicago arabica</i>	Spotted medick (623)
<i>Vicia sativa</i>	Common vetch (531)
<b>Oxalidaceae</b>	
<i>Oxalis pes-caprae</i>	Bermuda buttercup (735)
<b>Geraniaceae</b>	
<i>Geranium molle</i>	Dovesfoot cranesbill (741)
<i>Geranium rotundifolium</i>	Round-leaved cranesbill (743)
<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>Meliaceae</b>	
<i>Melia azedarach</i>	Indian bead tree or Persian lilac (843) P
<b>Aceraceae</b>	
<i>Acer monspessulanum</i>	Montpellier maple (856)
<b>Anacardiaceae</b>	
<i>Pistacia terabinthus</i>	Turpentine tree, terebinth (861)
<i>Pistacia lentiscus</i>	Mastic tree or lentisc (865)
<b>Cistaceae</b>	
<i>Cistus albidus</i>	Grey-leaved cistus (big pink fls) (961)
<i>Cistus monspelliensis</i>	Narrow-leaved cistus (961)
<i>Cistus salviifolius</i>	Sage-leaved cistus (small white) (965)
<i>Cistus ladanifer</i>	Gum cistus (big white fls) (971)
<i>Helianthemum egyptiacum</i>	
<i>Helianthemum nummularium</i>	Common rockrose (996)
<i>Tuberaria guttata</i>	Spotted rockrose (985)
<b>Cactaceae</b>	
<i>Opuntia maxima</i> (=ficus-indica)	Prickly pear (1040)
<b>Umbelliferae</b>	
<i>Ferula communis</i>	Giant fennel (1141)
<i>Smyrniolus olustatum</i>	Alexanders (1087)
<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>Rubiaceae</b>	
<i>Galium verticillatum</i>	a tiny bedstraw (1299)
<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>Boraginaceae</b>	
<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 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)
<b>Solanaceae</b>	
<i>Datura stramonium</i>	Thornapple (1575)
<b>Scrophularicaceae</b>	
<i>Verbascum sinuatum</i>	(1601) NiF
<i>Cymbalaria muralis</i>	Ivy-leaved toadflax (1632)
<i>Linaria sparteae</i>	a yellow-flowered toadflax (Polunin)
<b>Plantaginaceae</b>	
<i>Plantago lagopus</i>	(1702)
<b>Caprifoliaceae</b>	
<i>Viburnum tinus</i>	Laurestinus (1711)
<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>Chrysanthemum coronarium</i>	Crown daisy (1895)
<i>Calendula arvensis</i>	Field marigold (1908)
<i>Galactites tomentosa</i>	Galactites (1971)
<b>Liliaceae</b>	
<i>Asphodelus fistulosus</i>	Hollow-leaved asphodel (2087)
<i>Asphodelus aestivus</i>	Common asphodel (2089)
<i>Gagea sp lutea?</i>	Yellow star-of-Bethlehem sp. (c 2106)
<i>Fritillaria lusitanica</i>	Iberian fritillary (2152)
<i>Ornithogalum ?narbonense</i>	Star-of-Bethlehem sp. (2171)
<i>Urginea maritima</i>	Sea squill (leaves & dead flower spikes) (2163)

<i>Hyacinthoides hispanica</i>	Spanish bluebell (2191)
<i>Muscari comosum</i>	Tassel hyacinth (2201)
<i>Asparagus acutifolius</i>	A shrubby asparagus (2212)
<i>Ruscus aculeatus</i>	Butcher's broom (2219)
<i>Allium roseum</i>	Rosy garlic (2224)
<i>Allium neapolitanum</i>	Naples garlic (2225)
<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 bulbocodium</i>	Hoop-petticoat narcissus (2281)
<b>Iridaceae</b>	
<i>Gynandris sisyrrinchium</i>	Barbary nut iris (2305)
<i>Romulea bulbocodium</i>	A sand crocus (2314)
<i>Romulea columnae</i>	Sand crocus (2320)
<b>Orchidaceae</b>	
<i>Himantoglossum robertiana</i>	Giant orchid (2446)
<i>Orchis papilionacea</i>	Pink Butterfly Orchid
<i>Orchis morio</i>	Green-winged Orchid
<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 (2422)
<i>Ophrys scolopax</i>	Woodcock orchid (2436)
<i>Ophrys tenthredinifera</i>	Sawfly orchid (2442)
<b>Gramineae &amp; Juncaceae</b>	
<i>Typha angustifolia</i>	Lesser reedmace
<i>Phragmites australis</i>	Reed
<i>Arundo donax</i>	Giant reed (2494)
<i>Juncus acutus</i>	Sharp rush



Italian (or naked) man orchid *Orchis italica* (MK) near Almaráz, 22 March; Iberian fritillary (MK).