

Honeyguide

WILDLIFE HOLIDAYS

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Extremadura
10-17 March 2001

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Holiday participants

Bob Sharland Barbara Hare	Fordingbridge
Ann Preston	Wiltshire
Mike Freer	Norwich
Brian Warhurst Terry Warhurst	Breaston, Derbyshire
Mike Poulton Margaret Poulton	Wymondham, Norfolk
John Edelsten	Banff
Val Pritchard	Abergele, Clywd
Keith Ball Joyce Ball	Sale, Cheshire
Laura Horton Ray Horton	Telford
Kate Watson Rita Broadbent	Wakefield
<u>Leaders</u> John Muddeman Rob Macklin	Madrid Suffolk coast

Daily log by Rob Macklin, species notes by John Muddeman.
Illustrations by Rob Hume. Front cover: white storks at Trujillo

As with all Honeyguide holidays, £25 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. During the holiday, Carlota Viada Sauleda of SEO's Madrid office came to Finca Santa Marta to collect £400 from this year's holiday in Extremadura.

This year's donations bring the total given to SEO since the first Honeyguide holiday in Spain in 1991 to £6,675, and the total from all Honeyguide holidays to £22,805. A thank-you letter from Carlota appears at the end of this report.

EXTREMADURA

10 – 17 March 2001

Saturday 10th March – Heathrow to Trujillo

Grey skies in the UK were left behind after an irritating thirty minute delay at Heathrow and a pleasant flight ensued after initial turbulence. We met up with the contingent from Manchester and John Muddeman at Madrid airport before boarding our buses and heading south to Trujillo. On the way we stopped at the Hotel David for coffee where Swallows were already nesting in the outbuildings. Bob and Barbara went off for a stroll and found a Hoopoe in nearby scrub. As we approached Trujillo the hillsides were covered in masses of flowering white broom. We arrived at the Finca Santa Marta after dark and after the usual melée of finding our rooms we were treated to pre-dinner drinks in the common room. Henri then gave the group an introduction to the Finca before we enjoyed a splendid dinner. We retired to bed listening to Scops Owls and bill-clapping by the roof-nesting White Storks.

Sunday 11th March – Belén Plain, Aldeacentenera, Madronera

A pre-breakfast walk around the Finca began in misty conditions but it soon turned sunny and warm. At least two Hoopoes were calling in the surrounding fields and a Raven uttered its typical “cronking” call as it flew over. Two or three Woodlarks were difficult to see well as they sang overhead, a Grey Wagtail called and a Great Spotted Woodpecker drummed in the surrounding trees. We were also lucky enough to get excellent views of a Firecrest picking its way through the foliage and several Azure-winged Magpies flew off quickly between the trees.

After breakfast we headed off towards Trujillo, along the back road through the village of Belén and onto the open plain. We then made a series of short stops along the road to scan the surrounding fields. The first stop turned up two Great Spotted Cuckoos being seen off by a Magpie (this cuckoo species targets Magpies as its host species). We had our first good views of Crested Larks here, Corn Buntings sang non-stop and a Little Owl perched up on one of the stone walls. John delved into the damp undergrowth and came up with an amazing Stripeless Tree-frog. An Eyed Lizard dashed across the wall and the first two butterflies were identified as Western Dappled White and Small Copper. The whole of this area was a mass of pink catchfly flowers (*Silene colorata*). The next stop gave us our first, albeit distant, views of 30 Little Bustards and a gathering of Griffon Vultures plus our first Black Vulture were showing enormous interest in a dead sheep. A nearby dead cow was being ignored by everything – probably waiting for it to rot down a little! We then parked up at an open grassy area which was full of Sand Crocus; we had hardly got ourselves out of the bus when we located three Great Bustards away along the track but showing quite well in the telescopes! Two Short-toed Eagles soared overhead and the first Lesser Kestrel was busily devouring its prey on the wing. The third butterfly of the trip was identified as a Green-Striped White. A local shepherd then moved his considerable flock of sheep past us and his three dogs gave us all suspicious looks before moving on!

Our next stop was for lunch on a grassy bank on the roadside with an excellent view of 13 White Stork nests in trees around a small lake. Scores of Griffons were now in the air and were joined by two Red Kites, a Short-toed Eagle and several magnificent Black Vultures. The nearby lake had three Little Grebes and a pair of Mallard with 27 Lapwings in the fields beyond. A Fan-tailed Warbler was in fitful song and Val spotted a Hoopoe in the fields swiftly followed by yet another of these magical birds. After lunch we moved on slowly across the plain before stopping in an entrance to a prosperous looking local farm. Almost immediately we were treated to superb views of two nesting Stone-curlews relatively close to the road and seemingly unconcerned about our presence. Two more Great Spotted Cuckoos then perched up on nearby fences uttering their harsh calls, a Heron stalked through an area of rush and three Calandra Larks sang in the open skies. John's delving in the undergrowth was rewarded by finding a dead Sharp-ribbed Salamander which he decided to send on to

the UK for analysis. Further searching of the fields turned up a small flock of nine Skylarks, a soaring adult Egyptian Vulture and another four Great Bustards which flew towards us before veering off and below a nearby ridge. Amazing!!

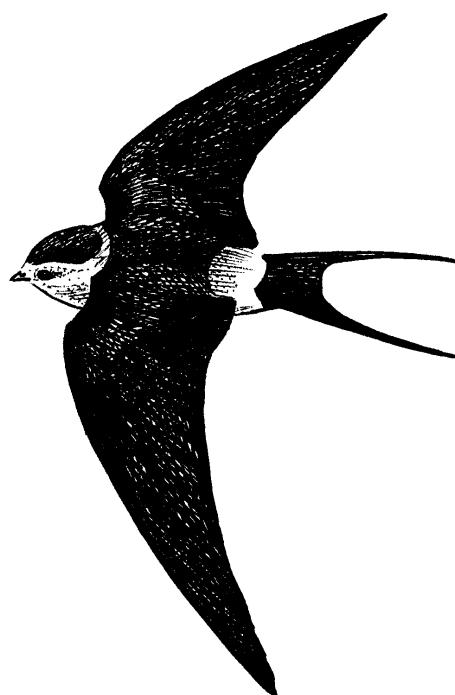
Instead of retracing our steps across the plain we headed off towards the village of Aldeacentenera where House Martins were already nesting. We stopped above the village to explore a scrubby area and almost immediately found a Ladder snake draped across a rock and in no mood to move off. A solitary orchid turned out to be a Spanish Milky Orchid. We then drove on through areas of *dehesa* – the wood pasture so typical of this part of Spain – and at our next stop we encountered two more Short-toed Eagles, one flying with a Buzzard. A Green Sandpiper flew up from a nearby pond and several Hoop Petticoat daffodils were in full flower. New butterflies here included Clouded Yellow and Large Tortoiseshell, several Azure-winged Magpies fed among the trees and at least two Short-toed Treecreepers betrayed their presence by their calls. Our final stop of the day was to search for Dartford Warblers in a dense area of scrub. We were very fortunate here finding at least six of these typically skulking warblers while a passing Sparrowhawk was mobbed by several Swallows.

A stroll around the grounds of the Finca in early evening was rewarded by the first Red-rumped Swallow of the week and a pair of Black Redstarts on the farmhouse roof. In the evening a Moorish Gecko climbed around the walls and ceiling of the dining room and the usual Scops owls tuned in around eight.

Monday 12th March – Monfragüe, Embalse de Arrocampo

A pair of Cirl Buntings, Serins singing and two Collared Doves were the pre-breakfast highlights in cloudy and cool conditions with rain forecast. As we boarded the buses Kate spotted a Red Kite perched up on an old Stork's nest. We were heading north to the Monfragüe Natural Park and our route took us through Trujillo linking up with the new road north. We stopped at a bridge overlooking the Río Tozo and braved the cold wind whipping through the valley. Two Red-rumped Swallows and a pair of Crag Martins had taken up residence under the bridge, two Serins gave us good views and a small group of Sand Martins flew past. This stop allowed us to get our first good views of Thekla Larks while Joyce was lucky enough to get a glimpse of a Kingfisher. Our second stop was at the Río Almonte which proved a little quiet with just single Common and Green Sandpipers on the river and a small flock of Linnets in the pastures.

We then moved on to Monfragüe and pulled up at the car park below the Castillo. The view from the top after a short climb was absolutely amazing and the sun came out to warm us all up. The views of vultures here was something else with the group looking down on at least 50 soaring Griffons interspersed with several Black Vultures including one scraggy individual with no tail. Two Black Storks soared in the sky among the vultures, two Ravens flew over and a pair of Peregrines looked tiny against the larger raptors. A pair of Chough had taken up residence at the Castillo and were seen carrying nesting material. At least two Blue Rock Thrushes showed well from the surrounding rocks, several Red-rumped Swallows and House Martins flew past and two adult Egyptian Vultures appeared over nearby crags. What an amazing morning!!



We then moved briefly on to Peña Falcón but the wind was making things difficult and cold. Two Black Storks perched up and allowed us to get great views in the telescopes and a Rock Bunting was seen briefly. A Chiffchaff then began singing and we discovered a stunning Nettle-tree butterfly. Our lunch spot was at a picnic area by one of the reservoirs called Frenchman's Fountain and the sun had come out by this time to warm us all up. Swallows and Crag Martins were nesting under the bridge and aerial interest centred on soaring Black Storks, Short-toed Eagles and Black Kites. Holly Blue and Comma were new butterflies for the trip and we also picked up another Nettle-tree here. After lunch we drove the short distance to Villareal de San Carlos for coffee and postcards. We were amazed to find two Golden Eagles soaring and diving through the air over the village and two adult Egyptian Vultures also joined in.

The next stop was along a line of conifers overlooking a reservoir. Our aim was to find Crested Tits and we soon heard them singing. We searched long and hard and finally got reasonable views of them among the pines. Goldcrest, Firecrest and Coal Tits were also found here. The last stop in the park was at the Tiétar Cliffs where two Short-toed Eagles soared along the ridge, two Egyptian Vultures perched up on the cliff top and four Red Deer were located on grassy areas across the reservoir.

We then decided to take the long drive to the Embalse de Arrocampo which is one of the best wetland areas in the region. Several Coots and Great Crested Grebes were on the open water and it wasn't long before we picked up our quarry of Purple Gallinules moving through the sedge clumps; we managed to find four birds in all. A female Marsh Harrier was hunting over the reedbeds, a Snipe was flushed from cover, 14 Sand Martins flew over and we located a large flock of 200 Spanish Sparrows. As we were leaving, nine Black-tailed Godwits flew in and John got a glimpse of three Purple Herons dropping into the reeds. Both Barbary Nut and Spanish Bugloss were in flower here rounding off an excellent day.

Tuesday 13th March – Sierra Brava Reservoir, Vegas Altas Ricefields and Madrigalejo

This morning saw us take the road south through Zorita where six Lesser Kestrels gave us great views as we stopped to take on fuel. We then stopped outside the town to scan the steppe areas and were immediately rewarded by two Great Bustards flying by, Great Spotted & Common Cuckoos on fence posts and good views of yet another Hoopoe. We moved swiftly on and pulled up at the Sierra Brava reservoir. Several Great Crested Grebes and many Coots were on the open water together with at least three Black-necked Grebes. Another three Hoopoes were seen here and we had our first views of Lesser Black-backed and Black-headed Gulls. Our attention was then drawn to a Great Bustard that was slowly moving through the fields below the reservoir; as we scanned across we became aware of another 12 of these magnificent birds in the valley below. A Spanish Hare then bolted out of the undergrowth and at least 150 Cattle Egrets were in the livestock fields by the rice paddies. Another larger white shape then turned out to be a Spoonbill that landed in the most inaccessible part of the rice fields. As it landed we became aware of yet another white apparition which, almost unbelievably, turned out to be a Great White Egret, a vagrant to Extremadura and something which we were amazed to find. A Little Egret then flew across the reservoir dangling its yellow feet and our stop here was completed by good views of a male Subalpine Warbler.

We then approached the rice fields outside the village of Vegas Altas to be greeted by a super little flock of 60+ Common Waxbills and a singing Fan-tailed Warbler. Lunch was along one of the tracks out in the middle of the fields and this proved to be wise decision. An immature Golden Eagle soared very close to the group and was mobbed by a Buzzard while a female Marsh Harrier drifted serenely by. Another great find here was a white spot perched up in a tree which turned out to be a Black-shouldered Kite; we walked towards it as the heat haze was making it difficult to see through the telescope. We were able to get fairly close before this small raptor flew along the fence line giving most of the group good views. It then flew back towards us and over another bird perched up in the top of one of the oaks – sensational!

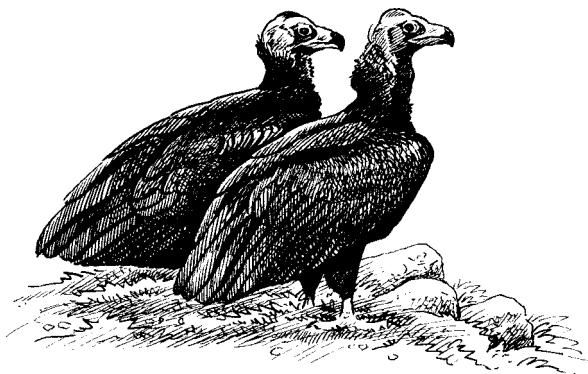
At least 10 Southern Grey Shrikes were found in the scrub here and Fan-tailed Warblers seemed to be all over the place. Another good find was a small group of eight Avadavats, two more Spoonbills and at least eight Little Egrets. Keith stayed behind by the buses and turned up two Ruff on the pools and another six Avadavats. The Spoonbill count had now reached four while John's sharp eyes detected a group of six Cranes moving north well into the distance. This was turning into a memorable couple of hours and was completed by two Hen Harriers hunting over the nearby cereal fields, then two Bonelli's Eagles mobbing a Golden Eagle right in front of us.

After all this excitement, we stopped by the river on the other side of Vegas Altas where there were carpets of Barbary Nut and Hoop Petticoat daffodils. At least three Cetti's Warblers were heard and partially glimpsed in the undergrowth, two Little Ringed Plovers gave us great views on a flooded field and 30 odd Linnets were in the surrounding scrub and undergrowth. A Water Rail then called under the bridge but would not show itself, a pair of Waxbills were seen well and a very smart male Lesser Kestrel put in an appearance. The next stop at the Río Rucas produced five Garganey which flew up from the river, at least two more Water Rails, two Little Egrets and several more singing Cetti's Warblers. Perhaps the most surprising discovery here was a hitherto unknown colony of 126 Sawfly Orchids.

The day was then completed by a huge mixed flock of 200 Waxbills and Avadavats feeding together in the cereal fields. Tired but well satisfied we made our way home to the Finca!

Wednesday 14th March – Santa Marga de Magasca, Monroy, Trujillo

Hot and sunny conditions were the order of the day as we set out for the steppes around Santa Marga de Magasca to search for sandgrouse. Three large figures in a field brought the buses to a stop and they turned out to be two Black Vultures and one Griffon; the views were absolutely amazing. Mike then spotted several birds on the ground further to the right and these turned out to be six Pin-tailed Sandgrouse and four Black-bellied Sandgrouse. Another two of the latter then flew over – extraordinary! Three Great Spotted Cuckoos then came into view being harassed by a Magpie and two Ravens perched up behind the grounded vultures – what a start to the day!



Our second stop of the morning was at a known Montagu's Harrier breeding site although we feared that these summer visitors might not have arrived. We were in luck however as we finally found two males and two females hunting and displaying over the steppes and crops including a food pass in the air. An Iberian Hare then fled across the steppe and five more Black-bellied Sandgrouse disappeared into the distance. We moved on to a bridge over the Río Magasca and all piled out of the buses to explore the area. Crag Martins were nesting under the bridge and several Stripe-necked Terrapins had pulled themselves out of the water and were basking on the rocks. Three Black Vultures drifted over before one of the highlights of the trip in the shape of two immature Spanish Imperial Eagles soared overhead giving us all great views. This was followed by two Kingfishers flying swiftly under the bridge, a

Hawfinch flying by calling and a Short-toed Eagle overhead - what an inspired stop!!
Butterflies here included Brown Argus, Clouded Yellow and Small Heath.

The morning was now moving swiftly on so we drove on towards Monroy and had lunch overlooking the Río Almonte. The skies were again filled with birds including an excellent view of a soaring Black Stork, two adult Egyptian Vultures and up to three Short-toed Eagles. Several Red-rumped Swallows, House Martins and Crag Martins were feeding over the river and then John found a very distant Black Wheatear on the rocks downstream. We managed to get the scopes onto it before it disappeared from view. Moving on we stopped for coffee at Monroy where White Storks were nesting on the castle. On the slow drive back we attempted to find more Little Bustards but without success, although we did find a distant Great Bustard and had very good views of three Calandra Larks which were proving surprisingly difficult to find. We then stopped outside Trujillo to admire heaps of Star-of-Bethlehem and a superb yellow toadflax. We also saw our first Rabbit here and a Little Owl flew up onto the surrounding rocks. Our last stop was at the bullring in Trujillo where we admired masses of Lesser Kestrels displaying and fighting around our heads.

In the evening Carlota from SEO came over from Madrid and gave us a talk on the wealth of bird life in Extremadura and some of the many problems they face. We then presented her with a cheque for conservation work in the region.

Thursday 15th March – Trujillo, Embalse de Tozo, Belén Plain

A Green Woodpecker called as we boarded the buses for the short trip to Trujillo. We started with a look at the town's fishponds; the ponds had been partially filled in but there were still some open areas. These were attractive to several waders including two stunning Black-winged Stilts, at least six Little Ringed Plovers and a Green Sandpiper. Two Water Pipits were found around the edges of the ponds but the star birds were up to four Pallid Swifts hunting for insects over the surrounding farms and town.

We spent the rest of the morning looking around the old town and the castle admiring the architecture and the stunning views of the surrounding countryside. The market was in full swing and the town was packed. Several White Stork nests were in the town square and at least 100 Lesser Kestrels were on the wing. Several more Pallid Swifts were seen and two Red-rumped Swallows were perched up on a TV aerial.

We left the town before lunch and drove up the motorway to the Embalse de Tozo and had lunch on the riverside by the bridge. John's eagle eyes picked out a large party of Cranes flying high to the north in the far distance and a Green Sandpiper was flushed from the river. Hordes of birds were in the air, mainly Griffons and White Storks although we did get an excellent view of a passing Black Vulture. The river was alive with croaking frogs and two stunning Spanish Festoon butterflies were located here. After lunch we walked along the river to the Embalse de Tozo. Four Gadwall were on the river and another five Black Vultures flew over. Jonquils were found in flower on the banks of the river. The reservoir itself was very good value with up to ten Shoveler, three Wigeon plus Gadwall and Teal seen. Two Black-winged Stilts were found along the edge as were three Greenshanks; the water level was on the high side making the area less attractive for feeding waders. John went delving yet again and this time came up with a Natterjack Toad and the stragglers at the back of the group were fortunate enough to get excellent views of a pair of Woodlarks.



After this we returned to the Belén Plain. At our first stop we quickly located two Stone-curlews at their nest site and two Great Bustards were found in the fields here. Four Egyptian Vultures were soaring together and a Short-toed Eagle hung in the air looking out for reptiles. We moved on along the road to the site of the dead cow that we found earlier in the week. This time there were at least 20 Griffons in and around the carcass and nearby we located eight Little Bustards, including good views of males in the telescopes. As we were marvelling at this, 12 Great Bustards came into view and began partial display – an amazing sight! A new butterfly for the trip, a Provence Hairstreak, was found on the roadside here. Another excellent day, rounded off by John trying to pay for his crisps in Trujillo with out of date Spanish money ... good try!

The kitchen staff at Finca Santa Marta have one night off a week so we headed back to Trujillo after dark for an excellent meal at La Troya in the town square.

Friday 16th March – Jaraicejo and Monfragüe

Overnight rain then a cloudy start with showers did not bode well for our last full day in Extremadura. We headed up the motorway to Jaraicejo and stopped at the Río Almonte. A Black Stork drifted over and two Grey Herons were hunting in the shallows along the river edge. We had a superb view of a Kingfisher hovering over the river and diving below the waters, a Water Pipit was on the riverbank and two Grey Wagtails were located on a shingle bank. Careful inspection of larks on the ground revealed four Thekla Larks, a Black Vulture went over and we struggled to get reasonable views of a Rock Bunting among the scrub.

We then took the road to Monfragüe, stopping in the *dehesas* to search for Rock Sparrows; we heard them call but were unable to get a sight of them. Several Mistle Thrushes were found here. Our next stop was after a drive into the heart of Monfragüe Natural Park at Peña Falcon. Two Black Storks were found on a nest here and another bird was seen with its throat inflated in display. A Griffon flew across the road carrying a clump of grass in its bill, two pairs of Egyptian Vultures soared overhead, a Peregrine called and a Bonelli's Eagle drifted right over our heads. The surrounding hillsides were covered in superb red-flowering gladioli. Our lunch spot overlooked a large reservoir at Puerta del Cardenal and we were hardly out of the buses before we spotted a superb male Subalpine Warbler moving through the scrub. Two more Egyptian Vultures soared over the water and an adult Bonelli's Eagle drifted off the hill across the reservoir. Black Stork and Short-toed Eagle were also seen here, a Hawfinch flew by and some of the group got good views of two Rock Buntings. Before we left here the Bonelli's Eagle re-appeared and gave us all excellent views! Coffee was again taken at Villareal where Serins and Linnets were singing, Swallows and House Martins hunted for insects and a pair of Ravens flew over uttering their typical "cronking" calls.

We then moved on to the Tiétar Cliffs which was a little disappointing with no sign of Eagle Owls. We contented ourselves with three Short-toed Eagles hunting along the ridge, excellent views of four Black Vultures and yet another Black Stork. By this time cloud and wind were getting up so we headed back. We stopped briefly at the Mirador la Bascula where two Woodlarks sang from electricity wires. We also managed to locate a very distant nest that had been used by Imperial Eagles in the past and briefly glimpsed one of the birds arriving and leaving the nest. This was probably the first time this nest had been in use for three years! A fitting end to an amazing week.

Epilogue

Many thanks to my co-leader John Muddeman for his all round local knowledge and enthusiasm and to the group for making the week go so well. The bird species list of 134 equalled the best ever for this time of year while the butterfly total of 19 species reflected the somewhat changeable conditions. The bat that was found in Trujillo turned out to be a European Free-tailed Bat – very unusual. On the plant side the 126 Sawfly Orchids were an amazing find!

Rob Macklin
April 2001

Extremadura bird list 2001:

This is the combined list for the whole group. H = heard only; Emb. = Embalse (reservoir); FSM = Finca Santa Marta; MRF = Madrigalejo rice fields area. Common names per Collins Bird Guide.

- Little Grebe:** Noted on 5 days with very small numbers on ponds in widely scattered locations, including 4 on the Belén Plain on 11th.
- Great Crested Grebe:** Seen on 4 days: 2 at the Emb. de Arrocampo on 12th, 6+ at the Emb de Sierra Brava on 13th, 2 on the Emb. del Tozo on 15th and 2 in Monfragüe on 16th.
- Black-necked Grebe:** Only seen at the Emb de Sierra Brava, but 4 there on 13th.
- [Great] Cormorant:** Seen on 5 days at various rivers and reservoirs, with maxima of 10+ at Monfragüe on 12th and 16th and 25+ at the Emb de Sierra Brava on 13th. Striking adult white-headed sinensis forms seen on several occasions.
- Cattle Egret:** Noted daily, mostly in small numbers by the roadside N of Finca Santa Marta, though 16 there and 25+ at the Emb de Sierra Brava on 12th.
- Little Egret:** Only seen on 13th, when small numbers totalling 20+ at the Emb. de Sierra Brava, MRF and Vegas Altas.
- Great White Egret:** One, superbly picked out by Rob from the Emb. de Sierra Brava, but in MRF, on 13th.
- Grey Heron:** Ones and twos on 6 days, except for 10+ at the Emb. de Arrocampo on 12th.
- Purple Heron:** A flock of three dropping down into the Emb. de Arrocampo were seen by a few on the evening of 12th.
- Spoonbill:** After a rather distant immature in MRF, 3+ fine adults near Vegas Altas were fine reward on 13th.
- Black Stork:** 'Only' seen on 3 days: 2+ at Monfragüe on 12th and 6 there on 16th, and over the Río Almonte 2 on 14th (near Monroy) and 1 on 16th (near Jaraicejo).
- White Stork:** Very common and seen daily with many nests on trees and buildings, including right in the centre of Trujillo and on the roof of FSM.
- [Eurasian] Wigeon:** 3 males (the same as last year?!!) and a female at the Emb. del Tozo on 15th.
- Gadwall:** 10+ (also the same as last year??!!) at the Emb. del Tozo on 15th.
- [Common] Teal:** 2 pairs at the Emb. del Tozo on 15th.
- Garganey:** A small group of 4 males and 1 female flushed off the Río Ruelas, MRF on 13th.
- Mallard:** Seen almost daily and widely in small numbers, with a max. 10+ near Santa Marta de Magasca on 14th.
- [Northern] Shoveler:** 10+ at the Emb. del Tozo on 15th.
- Black-shouldered Kite:** A pair of this delightful species near the Vegas Altas rice fields on 13th.
- Black Kite:** Seen commonly each full day, especially from 13th, with 40+ on passage over the Emb. de Arrocampo on the evening of the 12th and visibly higher numbers over the dehesa by the end of the week.

Red Kite: Noted regularly each full day, in moderate number, with a pair at FSM giving fine views, and 15+ in total over dehesa areas W of Trujillo on 14th.

Egyptian Vulture: Noted on 5 days: 1 ad. over the Belén Plain on 11th, 5+ at Monfragüe on 12th, 2 over the Río Almonte on 14th, 4 over the Belén Plain on 15th, and c.10 on 16th from Jaraicejo to Monfragüe.

[Eurasian] Griffon Vulture: Daily from 11th to 16th, with a max. 200+ on 12th at Monfragüe and several feeding 'illegally' on a dead cow on the Belén Plain on 15th.

[Eurasian] Black Vulture: Noted daily from 11th to 16th, with some excellent views at the Belén Plain, near Santa Marta de Magasca (on the ground), Emb. del Tozo and Monfragüe among others, with 10+ on 11th, 12th and 16th.

Short-toed Eagle: Seen on 4 days, including over the Belén Plain on 11th, at Monfragüe (including copulation) on 12th and 16th, and 3 over the Río Almonte near Monroy on 14th.

Marsh Harrier: An adult female over the Emb. de Arrocampo on 12th and a female at Vegas Altas on 13th.

Hen Harrier: Just 2 females spiralling over fields near Vegas Altas on 13th.

Montagu's Harrier: Only noted on one day, but giving fine views, with at least 3 males and 2 females over fields near Santa Marta de Magasca on 14th.

[Eurasian] Sparrowhawk: 1 male near Madroñera on 11th and 1, probably a female, over the Río Magasca on 14th.

Common Buzzard: Seen daily at widely dispersed sites, though in small numbers.

Spanish Imperial Eagle: 2, a juvenile and a young immature spiralled up until high over the Río Magasca on 14th, while an adult was briefly seen by John and Rob at the famous nest-site in Monfragüe on 16th.

Golden Eagle: A pair, with the male displaying, were watched from by the 'Bar Merendero Monfragüe' on 12th, while a closer and fine immature was near Vegas Altas on 13th.

Bonelli's Eagle: A pair, the female of which attacked the Golden Eagle above (!!) at Vegas Altas on 13th, and an imm. over Peñafalcón and an adult from the lunch spot over the 'Puente del Cardenal' in Monfragüe on 16th. Excellent! Just one is good!

Booted Eagle: Amazingly, just 1 pale phase bird noted by Laura near Vegas Altas on 13th...

Lesser Kestrel: Seen in generally small numbers on 5 days, but with 40+ Trujillo on 14th and 150+ there on 15th.

[Common] Kestrel: Noted in ones and twos on 5 days, but overlooked among the Lessers!

Peregrine Falcon: Seen over Peñafalcón: 2 on 12th and 1 on 16th.

Red-legged Partridge: Seen in small number on 6 days, and though most were rather brief, a pair at Monfragüe on 12th were well watched by most and 6+ were seen in total on 14th, especially around Santa Marta de Magasca.

Water Rail: Only heard squealing at the Emb. de Arrocampo on 12th.

[Common] Moorhen: Noted on 2 days: 1 at the Emb. de Arrocampo on 12th, and several in MRF and Río Rucas on 13th.

Purple Swamp-hen [=Gallinule]: 6 seen very well at the Emb. de Arrocampo on 12th.

[Eurasian] Coot: 7 at the Emb. de Arrocampo on 12th and 29 at the Emb. de Sierra Brava on 13th.

[Common] Crane: A group of 6 moving NE past Vegas Altas on 13th, with 1 there flying over later, and a very distant flock of c. 25 moving NE near Torrecillas de la Tiesa on 15th.

Little Bustard: Remarkably, only seen on 2 days on the Belén Plain, with flocks of 28 on 11th and 8 on 15th.

Great Bustard: Seen on 4 days: 3 + 4 on 11th and 12 on 15th on the Belén Plain, 2 over the Zorita steppes and 1 + 12 below the Emb. de Sierra Brava on 13th and 1 distant female on steppe between Trujillo and Monroy on 14th.

Stone-curlew: A nesting pair seen extremely well on the Belén plain on 11th and 15th, with one seen by Val as we left the plain on the latter date.

Black-winged Stilt: A fine 'pair' at the remains of the Trujillo fish-ponds on 15th.

Little Ringed Plover: Noted on 3 days, with 2 by the Río Gargáligas on 13th, 6+ at the remains of the Trujillo fish-ponds on 15th and 2 on the Río Almonte 16th near Jaraicejo.

[Northern] Lapwing: Seen from the minibus on the journey to FSM on 10th, with 27 on 11th and 2 on 15th on the Belén Plain.

[Common] Snipe: Singles seen on 3 days: at the Emb. de Arrocampo on 12th, on the Río Gargáligas on 13th and on the Belén Plain on 15th.

Black-tailed Godwit: 9 in flight over the Emb. de Arrocampo on 12th.

[Common] Greenshank: 2 at the Emb. del Tozo on 15th.

Ruff: 2 all-too-distant birds in the Vegas Altas rice fields on 13th.

Green Sandpiper: Seen on 4 days: 2 near Aldeacentenera on 11th, singles at the Emb. de Arrocampo and on the Río Almonte north of Trujillo on 12th, singles at the Trujillo fishpond and on the Emb. del Tozo on 15th, and one on the Río Almonte near Jaraicejo on 16th.

Common Sandpiper: Singles on the Río Tozo and at the Emb. de Arrocampo on the 12th, 2 at the Emb. de Sierra Brava on 13th and 1 on the Trujillo fishpond on 15th.

Black-headed Gull: Numerous birds at the Emb. de Sierra Brava and MRF on 13th and various birds on 14th.

Lesser Black-backed Gull: Seen on 3 days: 1 on the Belén Plain on 11th, 2 at the Emb. de Sierra Brava on 13th and 2 near Trujillo on 14th.

Black-bellied Sandgrouse: 4 on the ground and another 2 in flight near Santa Marta de Magasca on 14th.

Pin-tailed Sandgrouse: 8 on the ground near Santa Marta de Magasca on 14th were excellent.

Rock Dove/Feral Pigeon: Noted daily from 11th, all were Feral Pigeons of some type, though some wild-type bird were present in the flocks in Monfragüe.

[Common] Wood Pigeon: Noted widely in just ones and twos on 5 days.

[Eurasian] Collared Dove: A pair at FSM daily from 12th and max. of 6 on 13th.

Great Spotted Cuckoo: Seen on 3 days: 5 on the Belén Plain on 11th, 1 at the Emb. de Sierra Brava on 13th and 6+ at various sites near Santa Marta de Magasca on 14th.

Common Cuckoo: Two very early individuals: one on a fence on the Zorita steppe on 13th and another N of Trujillo on 16th.

[Eurasian] Scops Owl: Noted all nights calling around FSM.

Little Owl: Noted calling on two nights around FSM, though 3 seen on the Belén Plain on 11th and one there on 15th, 1 on the Zorita steppe briefly on 13th and one N of Trujillo on 14th.

Pallid Swift: 3 over Trujillo on 14th and 10+ there the following day.

[Common] Kingfisher: One on the Río Tozo on 12th, N of Sta. Marta de Magasca 2 on the Río Magasca and 1 on the Río Almonte on 14th and one on the Río Almonte near Jaraicejo on 16th.

[Eurasian] Hoopoe: Noted regularly each day at various sites, especially notable when singing on the roofs at FSM!

[European] Green Woodpecker: One seen and/or heard on 4 days at FSM, with good views of this race (ssp. *sharpei*) there on 14th.

Great Spotted Woodpecker: One seen and/or heard drumming at FSM on 4 days, and three there on 13th.

Calandra Lark: Surprisingly, 'only' noted on 4 days and in relatively small number, with a maximum of 30+ on the Belén plain on 15th.

Crested Lark: Widespread and seen daily in variable numbers.

Thekla Lark: Noted in small number but well seen: 2 pairs by the Río Tozo on 12th and 2 pairs by the Río Almonte near Jaraicejo on 16th.

Woodlark: 1 - 2 at FSM on three days from 11th, a pair seen by a lucky few very well at the Emb. del Tozo on 15th, but 2 watched well at the Monfragüe eagle viewpoint on 16th.

[Common] Skylark: A small group of 9+ on the Belén Plain on 11th.

Sand Martin: 3 over the Río Tozo and 14 over the Emb. de Arrocampo on 12th, 3 over the Río Rucas on 13th and c. 20 over the eagle viewpoint, Monfragüe on 16th.

[Eurasian] Crag Martin: Seen on 12th, 14th and 16th, especially by river bridges over the Ríos Tozo and Almonte and also in Monfragüe.

Barn Swallow: Common and noted daily, with several at the nests at FSM by the end of the week.

Red-rumped Swallow: Seen daily from 11th, with good numbers in Monfragüe but also widespread in various towns and villages, and arriving at FSM from 15th.

[Common] House Martin: Noted daily from 11th, especially around Trujillo, with 100+ on 12th and 14th.

Meadow Pipit: Seen on 4 days with max. 6+ on the Belén Plain on 11th and 10+ by the Río Almonte near Jaraicejo on 16th.

Water Pipit: Just two singles: at the Trujillo fishpond on 15th and beside the Río Almonte near Jaraicejo on 16th.

Grey Wagtail: Singles at FSM and near Aldeacentenara on 11th and one at FSM on 16th when also 2 by the Río Almonte near Jaraicejo.

White Wagtail: Seen daily and widely in small number.

[Winter] Wren: Heard and / or seen on 5 days at FSM, with 1+ singing Monfragüe on 12th.

[European] Robin: Seen in small number on 3 days from 11th, near Aldeacentenara, FSM and Monfragüe.

Black Redstart: Ones or twos seen on 5 days at widely scattered localities, though 12+ were at FSM on 13th.

Stonechat: Seen in small numbers almost daily.

Black Wheatear: One, though rather distant, by the Río Almonte S of Monroy on 14th.

Blue Rock Thrush: Noted on just 2 days, but with 9+ at Monfragüe on 12th and 2 there on 16th, with 1 by the Río Almonte near Jaraicejo on the latter date.

[Common] Blackbird: Noted on 6 days in small number at FSM, Monfragüe, etc.

Song Thrush: Ones or twos seen on 4 days, mostly flying across the road in front of the first bus!

Mistle Thrush: 3+ near Aldeacentenara on 11th, one singing at FSM from 12th - 15th and 6+ in dehesa near Jaraicejo on 16th.

Cetti's Warbler: Heard well on 3 days: 3+ at the Emb. de Arrocampo on 12th, 3+ (including one seen well) at the Río Gargáligas and 6+ on the Río Rucas on 13th and 1 at Monfragüe on 16th.

Zitting Cisticola [=Fan-tailed Warbler]: One zitting at the Emb. de Arrocampo on 12th, but 10+ at various sites in the MRF and near Vegas Altas on 13th.

Dartford Warbler: 5+ in scrub near Madroñera on 11th.

Subalpine Warbler: A male plying hide-&-seek by the Emb. de Sierra Brava on 13th and at least 2 males at Monfragüe on 16th.

Sardinian Warbler: Noted on 6 days, with small numbers at FSM, Monfragüe, MRF, etc.

Blackcap: Noted on 5 days, with small numbers at FSM and Monfragüe.

Willow Warbler: Two in broom scrub near the Emb. de Sierra Brava on 13th.

[Common] Chiffchaff: Singles at Monfragüe and the Emb. de Arrocampo on 12th and various towards the MRF on 13th.

Goldcrest: 1 watched singing in pines at Monfragüe on 12th.

Firecrest: One in cork oaks at FSM on 11th.

- Long-tailed Tit:** 4 at Monfragüe on 12th, 4 by the Río Rucas on 13th and 4 by the Emb. del Tozo on 15th.
- Crested Tit:** 2 tricky birds seen by most at Monfragüe on 12th.
- Coal Tit:** 1 heard and seen by a couple of us at Monfragüe on 12th.
- Blue Tit:** Small numbers in wooded areas daily from 11th. Common at FSM.
- Great Tit:** Small numbers in wooded areas daily from 11th. Common at FSM.
- Short-toed Treecreeper:** Heard and/or seen on 5 days, near Aldeacentenara, FSM Monfragüe, etc.
- [Eurasian] Nuthatch:** 1 heard near Aldeacentenara on 11th.
- Southern Grey Shrike:** Noted in small number on 5 days except for 10+ in the Madrigalejo and Vegas Altas areas on 13th.
- [Eurasian] Jay:** 1 near Aldeacentenara on 11th, 1 heard at FSM on 14th and 3 calling at Monfragüe on 16th.
- Azure-winged Magpie:** Seen each full day, with good numbers around FSM.
- [Common] Magpie:** Noted daily in moderate number.
- [Red-billed] Chough:** Seen near Monfragüe castle, with 2 on 12th.
- [Western] Jackdaw:** Small numbers noted each full day, especially near Trujillo.
- [Common] Raven:** Small numbers seen daily, with pairs at FSM and Monfragüe.
- Spotless Starling:** Seen well each day, with an impressive flock of sev. thousand on the Belén Plain on 15th.
- House Sparrow:** Noted every day and common.
- Spanish Sparrow:** Seen on 4 days with 300+ by the Emb. de Arrocampo, groups near Madrigalejo and Vegas Altas on 13th, near the Río Almonte on 14th and at FSM on 15th.
- [Eurasian] Tree Sparrow:** 6 seen at FSM on 13th.
- Rock Sparrow:** Just 2 heard in dehesa near Jaraicejo on 16th.
- Red Avadavat:** c.50 in rice fields nr Vegas Altas, but bettered by c.100 in the MRF on 13th.
- Common Waxbill:** c.60 in a mixed flock with Red Avadavats in MRF on 13th.
- [Common] Chaffinch:** Noted daily in small number in numerous locations.
- [European] Serin:** Seen daily from 11th, especially around FSM and Trujillo.
- [European] Greenfinch:** Seen on 4 days, with max. 4 in the MRF on 13th.
- [European] Goldfinch:** Noted each full day in moderate number.
- [Common] Linnet:** Seen on 4 days, with max. 30+ on 13th.
- Hawfinch:** Noted on 5 days, with 2 at FSM on 11th and 1 there on 15th, 8+ at Monfragüe on 12th and 4+ there on 16th, and 1 over the Río Magasca on 14th.
- Cirl Bunting:** A pair at FSM on 12th, and singles there on 14th and 16th, and 1 by the Río Tozo on 12th and 1 singing by the Río Almonte near Jaraicejo on 16th.
- Rock Bunting:** Only seen by a few, despite one by the Río Tozo on 12th and 1 at Monfragüe the same day, and 4+ at the latter site on 16th.
- Corn Bunting:** Noted daily and commonly from 11th.

I make it a total of 134 spp., very similar to last year's final tally, missing just a few of the summer visitors which had not quite arrived (e.g. I saw Alpine Swift, Black-eared Wheatear, Savi's, Sedge and Reed Warblers and Woodchat Shrike on a flying visit to the area on 18th and 19th March, but in worse weather...!)

Other vertebrates:

MAMMALS: **Western Hedgehog** (*Erinaceus europaeus*) - odd ones dead on road on 2 - 3 days; the dead bat handed to me (John) on 16th in Trujillo, and about which all I said was 'that's big!', is indeed one of the biggest in Europe. Looking at it properly, I found that it had a long tail (unfortunately lacking skin when found, hence not noticed) and is definitely **European Free-tailed Bat** (*Tadarida teniotis*), a species of Iberia and v. locally E through extreme S Europe to extreme S Greece. Very interesting and my first!; other bats at SM and over Trujillo remained unidentified; **Red Fox** (*Vulpes vulpes*) - one dead on the road near Serrejón on 12th; **Stoat** (*Mustela erminea*) - one seen by a few of us while walking up to the castillo at Monfragüe on 12th; **Red Deer** (*Cervus elaphus*) - at least 5 in Monfragüe on 12th; **'Iberian' Hare** (*Lepus* sp. *) - singles on the Belén Plain on 11th, by the Emb. de Sierra Brava on 13th and two near Sta. Marta de Magasca on 14th; **Wood Mouse** (*Apodemus sylvaticus*) - two singles under metal sheets near the Emb. del Tozo on 15th and a large mouse sp. (possibly Yellow-necked Mouse) near Aldeacentenera on 11th; **Rabbit** (*Oryctolagus cuniculus*) - one on the Belén Plain on 11th and a few by the roadside near Sta. Marta de Magasca on 14th.

*The hares here are thought to belong to the African species *Lepus capensis*, though may just be a race of the European Brown Hare *Lepus europaeus* - a rather nice one though!

REPTILES & AMPHIBIANS: The numerous terrapins seen in the Emb. de Arrocampo, Ríos Magasca, Tozo & Almonte were **Stripe-necked Terrapins** (*Mauremys caspica*); **Moorish Geckos** (*Tarentola mauretana*) were at FSM almost nightly; the spotty lizard JM caught on the Belén Plain was a juvenile **Ocellated Lizard** (*Lacerta lepida*); a few **Iberian Wall Lizards** (*Podarcis hispanica*) were also seen on a few days; the very confiding brown **Ladder Snake** (*Elaphe scalaris*) near Aldeacentenera on 11th was a treat; a small **Viperine Snake** (*Natrix maura*) was picked up having been flattened on the road by the Río Tozo on 12th. We were also very lucky with amphibians (though some not so lucky as us...): a dead **Sharp-ribbed Salamander** (*Pleurodeles waltl*) by a track on the Belén Plain on 11th; **Common Toad** (*Bufo bufo*) one or two dead on roads, but several croaking in various rivers; **Natterjack Toad** (*Bufo calamita*) one under a metal sheet near the Emb. del Tozo and another on the Belén Plain on 15th; **Stripeless Tree Frog** (*Hyla meridionalis*) a beautiful individual on the Belén Plain on 11th; **Iberian Pool Frog** (*Rana perezi*) was frequent in the rivers, with its 'leughing' heard in various places;

BUTTERFLIES:

Spanish Festoon: 4 seen by the Río Tozo on 15th.

Large White: Seen on a couple of days.

Green-striped White: Quite common in the open steppe areas; seen on 3 days.

Western Dappled White: The commonest white; seen on 3+ days.

Clouded Yellow: Small numbers seen on a few days.

Cleopatra: A female on 15th and a fine male seen on 16th.

Comma: A couple at the picnic spot in Monfragüe on 12th.

Nettle-tree Butterfly: A few in Monfragüe, also on 12th.

Large Tortoiseshell: A few singles seen on a few days.

Red Admiral: One by the Emb. de Sierra Brava on 13th.

Small Heath: Seen on a few days; these were of the large spp. lillus.

Southern Speckled Wood: 1 seen on 12th in Monfragüe.

Wall Brown: Seen on 2+ days.

Provence Hairstreak: 1 seen on the Belén Plain on 15th.

- Small Copper:** Seen on 2+ days.
Holly Blue: A couple at the picnic spot in Monfragüe on 12th.
Common Blue: A pair seen on the Belén Plain on 11th.
Brown Argus: A beautiful specimen by the Río Magasca on 14th.
Dingy Skipper: 1 briefly on the Belén Plain on 11th.

OTHER TAXA: included **Egyptian Grasshopper/Locust** (*Anacridium aegyptium*), trilling **Mole Crickets** (*Gryllotalpa gryllotalpa*) and most interestingly a **stick insect** (Phasmida).

SELECTED PLANTS:

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

<u>Pinaceae:</u>	<i>Pinus pinea</i>	Stone / Umbrella Pine	(3)
<u>Fagaceae:</u>	<i>Quercus rotundifolia</i> <i>Quercus suber</i>	Evergreen Oak Cork Oak	(26) (27)
<u>Ulmaceae:</u>	<i>Ulmus minor</i> <i>Celtis australis</i>	Elm sp. Southern Nettle Tree	(c. 38) (39)
<u>Aristolochiaceae:</u>	<i>Aristolochia paucinervis</i>	Birthwort sp.	(c. 64)
<u>Caryophyllaceae:</u>	<i>Cerastium glomeratum</i> <i>Paronychia argentea</i> <i>Silene colorata</i>	Clustered Mouseear Paronychia (prob. this sp.)	(c.128) (136) (180)
<u>Ranunculaceae:</u>	<i>Ranunculus</i> sp. <i>Ranunculus</i> sp.	Water Crowfoot sp. Buttercup sp.	
<u>Fumariaceae:</u>	<i>Fumaria capreolata</i>	Ramping Fumitory	(303)
<u>Resedaceae:</u>	<i>Sesamoides purpurascens</i>	Sesamoides (a small <i>Reseda</i>)	(c. 378)
<u>Crassulaceae:</u>	<i>Umbilicus rupestris</i>	Navelwort	(396)
<u>Rosaceae:</u>	<i>Rosa canina</i>	Common Dogrose	(c.404)
<u>Saxifragaceae:</u>	<i>Saxifraga tridactyla</i> <i>Saxifraga granulata</i>	Rue-leaved Saxifrage Meadow Saxifrage	
<u>Leguminosae:</u>	<i>Cercis siliquastrum</i> <i>Acacia dealbata</i> <i>Cytisus multiflorus</i> <i>Cytisus scoparius</i> <i>Lygos sphaerocarpa</i> <i>Adenocarpus argyrophyllus</i> <i>Lupinus ?hispanicus</i> <i>Astragalus lusitanicus</i>	Judas Tree 'Mimosa' or Silver Wattle White Broom Broom Lygos (common broom-like plant) Spanish Adenocarpus Iberian Lupin (prob. this sp.) 'Iberian' Milk-vetch	(430) (432) (456) (478) (482) (c. 484) (504)
<u>Oxalidaceae:</u>	<i>Oxalis pes-caprae</i>	Bermuda Buttercup	(735)
<u>Geraniaceae:</u>	<i>Geranium molle</i> <i>Erodium botrys</i>	Dove's-foot Crane's-bill Storksbill sp.	(741) (758)

<u>Euphorbiaceae:</u>	<i>Mercurialis annua</i>	Annual Mercury	(820)
<u>Violaceae:</u>	<i>Viola kitaibeliana</i>	Dwarf Pansy	(931)
<u>Thymelaeaceae:</u>	<i>Daphne gnidium</i>		(936)
<u>Cistaceae:</u>	<i>Cistus albidus</i>	Grey-leaved Cistus (big pink fls)	(961)
	<i>Cistus salviifolius</i>	Sage-leaved Cistus (small white)	(965)
	<i>Cistus ladanifer</i>	Gum Cistus (big white fls)	(971)
	<i>Tuberaria guttata</i>	Spotted Rockrose (small yellow)	(985)
<u>Cactaceae:</u>	<i>Opuntia maxima (=ficus-indica)</i>	Prickly Pear	(1040)
<u>Umbelliferae:</u>	<i>Smyrniium perfoliatum</i>	Perfoliate Alexanders	(1088)
	<i>Scandix pecten-veneris</i>	Shepherd's Needles	(1097)
<u>Ericaceae:</u>	<i>Arbutus unedo</i>	Strawberry Tree	(1176)
	<i>Erica arborea</i>	Tree Heath (pink fls in EX)	(1178)
	<i>Erica lusitanica</i>	Portuguese Heath (white fls)	(1179)
<u>Oleaceae:</u>	<i>Phillyrea angustifolia</i>		(1245)
	<i>Olea europaea</i>	Olive	(1248)
<u>Boraginaceae:</u>	<i>Echium plantagineum</i>	Purple Viper's Bugloss	(1383)
	<i>Borago officinalis</i>	Borage	(1395)
	<i>Anchusa undulata</i>	Undualte Anchusa	(1406)
	<i>Myosotis</i> sp.	Forget-me-not sp.	
<u>Labiatae:</u>	<i>Scutellaria galericulata</i>	Skullcap (almost cert. this sp.)	(1426)
	<i>Rosmarinus officinalis</i>	Rosemary	(1526)
	<i>Lavandula stoechas</i>	French Lavender	(1528)
	<i>Salvia verbenaca</i>	Wild Clary	(1545)
<u>Solanaceae:</u>	<i>Hyosciamus albus</i>	White Henbane	(1555)
<u>Scrophularicaea:</u>	<i>Linaria amethystea</i>	'Amethyst' Toadflax	(c. 1614)
	<i>Linaria spartea</i>	a yellow-fl. Toadflax	(c. 1614)
<u>Compositae:</u>	<i>Bellis annua</i>	Annual Daisy	(1791)
	<i>Bellis sylvestris</i>	Southern Daisy	(1793)
	<i>Chamaemelum nobile</i>	Chamomile	(1884)
	<i>Calendula arvensis</i>	Field Marigold	(1908)
	<i>Silybum marianum</i>	Milk Thistle	(1982)
<u>Liliaceae:</u>	<i>Asphodelus aestivus</i>	Common Asphodel	(2089)
	<i>Gagea elliptica</i>	Yellow Star-of-Bethlehem sp.	
	<i>Fritillaria lusitanica</i>	Iberian Fritillary	(2152)
	<i>Ornithogalum ?narbonense</i>	Star-of-Bethlehem sp.	(2171)
	<i>Hyacinthoides hispanica</i>	Spanish Bluebell	
	<i>Muscari comosum</i>	Tasselled Hyacinth	(2201)
	<i>Muscari neglectum</i>	Grape Hyacinth	(2206)
	<i>Ruscus aculeatus</i>	Butcher's Broom	(2219)
	<i>Allium roseum</i>	Rosy Garlic	(2224)
	<i>Narcissus triandrus papyraceus</i>	Narcissus sp. (small pale fls)	
	<i>Narcissus jonquilla</i>	Common Jonquil	(2279)
	<i>Narcissus bulbocodium</i>	Hoop-petticoat Narcissus	(2281)
<u>Iridaceae:</u>	<i>Gynandris sisyrrinchium</i>	Barbary Nut Iris	(2305)
	<i>Romulea ramiflora gaditana</i>	Sand Crocus sp.	(2316a)

	<i>Romulea columnae</i>	Sand Crocus	(2320)
<u>Orchidaceae:</u>	<i>Orchis champagneuxii</i>	Champagne Orchid	(2405)
	<i>Orchis lactea</i>	Milky Orchid	(2408)
	<i>Ophrys tenthredinifera</i>	Sawfly Orchid	(2442)
<u>Gramineae:</u>	<i>Lamarckia aurea</i>	Golden Dog's-tail	(2459)

This (perhaps surprisingly long) list has been drawn up after some serious post-trip homework using Blamey & Grey-Wilson's *Med. Wild Flowers*, the 'Flora y vegetación de Extremadura', Polunin & Smythies' 'Guía de campo de las flores de España, Portugal y sudoeste de Francia' and Durán & Rodríguez's 'Guía de arboles y arbustos de Extremadura', thus names to a number of things we didn't get to species level in the field, and a number of species seen by just one or two people. Apologies if I've omitted anything obvious except for the flowering thistles near Vegas Altas which could be one of dozens, while the silvery-leaved yellow-flower pea bush at Monfragüe is *Adenocarpus*.

John Muddeman

hoop petticoat narcissus

