

## Birding Extremadura and Casa Rural El Recuerdo

Early Spring Holiday 17th – 24th March 2012

Martin Kelsey

### Participants

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### Itinerary

**17th March:** Pick-up at Madrid airport. Visit to Arrocampo and arrival late afternoon at Casa Rural El Recuerdo.  
**18<sup>th</sup> March:** Plains near Santa Marta de Magasca and Trujillo bull ring.  
**19<sup>th</sup> March:** Monfragüe National Park  
**20<sup>th</sup> March:** Plains south of Zorita, Sierra Brava reservoir, Madrigalejo and Moheda Alta.  
**21<sup>st</sup> March:** Walk near Casa Rural El Recuerdo. Visit to Trujillo followed by Villuercas mountains and Belén plains.  
**22<sup>nd</sup> March:** Arrocampo, Monfragüe National Park and Almonte river.  
**23<sup>rd</sup> March:** Plains near Santa Marta de Magasca, Talavám reservoir, Almonte river and Tozo river.  
**24<sup>th</sup> March:** Heath land and cork oaks near Jaraicejo, Cerro Almaráz and Valdecañas, followed by return to Madrid airport for evening flight.

The weather was dry all week (a continuation of a long winter drought) and generally sunny, becoming warmer as the week progressed, but with more windy conditions.

### 17th March

The London flight arrived shortly after 11.00 and after collecting luggage, we were assembled and ready to set off from the airport. The traffic was quite heavy on the Madrid ring-road – it being a local public holiday weekend. Once out on the A5 motorway heading south-west out of the city, we stopped for an excellent mixed salad lunch at the Esparteras bar. Suitably refreshed we settled down for the drive towards Extremadura, with the traffic gradually thinning-out as he progressed. It was not long before we had started to see the first **White Storks** and **Black Kites** of the week.

Once in Extremadura, we made a stop at the reservoir of Arrocampo where we enjoyed watching a **Purple Swamphen** feeding its two chicks and fine views of a **Squacco Heron**. **Sand Martins** and **Barn Swallows** hawked insects overhead, whilst **Kingfishers** were seen dashing across the reeds. We watched a **Purple Heron** and a **Grey Heron** flying close to each other, giving us an

excellent comparison of plumage, shape and size. As we were leaving a pair of **Spoonbills** was seen flying west, their necks characteristically stretched.

We arrived at Casa Rural El Recuerdo in time for tea and a chance to settle down until dinner, after which a **Scops Owl** started to call, adding its welcome.

### 18<sup>th</sup> March

Today we explored the plains to the west of Trujillo and east of Santa Marta de Magasca, giving us opportunities during the day to stop and go for short walks in the traditional mixed-farming country and the Magasca river valley. Our first stop was on an area of high ground, giving us an extensive view across the fields. Parties of **Great Bustard** were seen on the ground as well as in flight and we also saw two **Little Bustard** flying close by. On the field close-by we found a group of **Pin-tailed Sandgrouse**, their orange breast contrasting with their white bellies. An **Iberian Grey Shrike** was perched closer by and **Calandra Larks** sang and chased each other. A little further along we walked along a wide dirt road, where a farmer was also allowing his herd of cattle to graze on the verges. We had close views of **Thekla Lark** and saw more **Great Bustards**. More distantly in flight we saw an immature **Spanish Imperial Eagle** and a **Black Stork**. Despite the drought, we did find a nice patch of **Hoop Petticoat Narcissus** in flower.

After coffee in the pretty village of Santa Marta de Magasca (sitting in the sunshine and enjoying watching a **Short-toed Eagle** gliding overhead), we stopped beside the River Magasca for lunch. **Crag Martins** were gliding through the valley, whilst the wild olives on the steep valley sides were a haven for **Blackcap** and **Hawfinch**. Overhead, as well as **Griffon** and **Black Vulture**, we also watched a **Golden Eagle**, a distant **Bonelli's Eagle** and a **Short-toed Eagle**.

To the north of the village we stopped at another area of high ground, watching a female Hen Harrier quartering a cereal field. Despite a chilly wind, along a roadside bank there was a bit of shelter for butterflies and we had good views of a **Western Dappled White**. **Sand Crocuses** were also in flower.

We stopped a little further on the road to walk out onto an ancient drovers' trail. Larks were present in plenty, especially **Crested** and **Calandra**, a small flock of **Lapwings** and **Golden Plover** and as we left a group of 16 **Great Bustard** flew over. **Wall Lizards** lurked amongst the tussocks of vegetation on the trail.

The day ended with a memorable stop beside the Bull Ring in Trujillo as **Lesser Kestrels** were returning from foraging trips to the plains. In superb late afternoon sunshine, we enjoyed close views of these attractive falcons, as well as good studies of **Spotless Starlings** singing.

After dinner, the night sky was glorious, with Venus and Jupiter shining brightly, Mars, the Milky Way and Orion dominating the southern sky.

## 19<sup>th</sup> March

A **Hawfinch** was singing from the almond tree in front of the house first thing in the morning. Today we headed north from Trujillo, making a first stop beside the attractive River Almonte. A pair of **Little Ringed Plovers** was present on a pebbly island in the river, as well as **White Wagtail**. A fine pale-phase **Booted Eagle** was seen overhead, whilst a pair of **Rock Sparrows** obligingly settled on a sign-post close to where we were standing.

We then drove onto the Monfragüe National Park, landscape dominated by rocky gorges, escarpments, woodland and rivers. On our way through the park a pair of **Egyptian Mongoose** were seen briefly as they crossed the road. At the Portilla del Tiétar viewpoint, two **Black Stork** and two **White Stork** soared together and we enjoyed excellent views of the brooding **Eagle Owl** on her nest, the light showing off her plumage beautifully. A **Short-toed Eagle** also put in a star performance, gliding over the rock face, dropping down and emerging with a snake writhing in its talons. A **Great White Egret** flew past and **Cormorants** were out catching fish in the river below us. Closer at hand, **Angel Tear's** and **Hoop Petticoat Narcissus** were both in flower.

After coffee, we stopped at the Tajadilla viewpoint for lunch. A **Subalpine Warbler** sang from the scrubby hillside, provided us with very good views. All three species of vulture (**Black, Griffon** and **Egyptian**) were in the sky and we also had opportunity to watch a **Large Tortoiseshell** butterfly in the picnic area. We then made a stop to admire deeply folded rock strata visible in a cutting beside the road, before taking a walk beside mixed Mediterranean woodland. A pair of **Bonelli's Eagles** was seen overhead and **Speckled Wood** and **Nettle-tree butterfly** were present along the track.

We completed our visit with some time at the spectacular Peña Falcón viewpoint. Here as well as magnificent views of **Griffon Vultures**, we watched **Blue Rock Thrush, Booted Eagle, Egyptian Vulture** as well as some close-by **Nettle-tree Butterflies**.

## 20<sup>th</sup> March

Today we headed south with a stop first of all on the edge of the plains near Zorita. Our stop was prompted by the sight of displaying **Great Bustards** and we spent half an hour or so enjoying the spectacle of a group of about 25 male **Great Bustards**, large and colourful, some of which were in full display, their neck pouches inflated like orange basket balls and their bodies and wings forming an extraordinary white foam-bath appearance. Nearby a similar-sized group of females appeared less than interested! Along the same stretch of road we also watched a party of **Black-bellied Sandgrouse**, had a magnificent view of a **Booted Eagle** and were entertained again by the sound of **Calandra Larks**.

Not a far away, beside the Sierra Brava reservoir, we had good views of two **Iberian Hare** and a group of **Shoveler** on a small pool. We paused by a small

river to watch a **White Stork's** nest with a throng of tenant **House Sparrows** nesting within it.

After coffee at the village of Obando, we visited a small embanked pool which hosted a fine group of **Pintail** and some waders, including **Little Stint**, **Ringed** and **Little Ringed Plovers**. We then had lunch amongst the holm oaks of the Moheda Alta *dehesa* and walked through the woodland to an observation tower overlooking rice stubble fields. On flooded fields in the foreground there were a few waders, mainly **Redshank**, but what was the real surprise was the discovery of group of ten **Cranes** further in the distance. Phyl in particular was delighted at this as we had not expected to find any still remaining following their massive exodus in late February. A female **Hen Harrier** also passed close by.

Walking back through the *dehesa*, the **Barbary Nut Iris** were coming out into bloom – just an hour earlier all had been in bud. We then made a quick visit to the Cubilar reservoir and were rewarded by excellent views of **Short-toed Eagle**, passing **Alpine** and **Pallid Swift** and yet another **Crane**, this time in flight and sadly appearing to have a broken leg. We then returned to Moheda Alta for a quick visit to the Crane Information Centre.

We dropped into the old railway station of Madrigalejo and found at least three **Stone Curlews** in a rather stony plantation of oak trees. We then explored a little the area near the village Fernando V, where we had good views of **Red Avadavat** but most memorably of two **Egyptian Mongoose** which were exploring the edge of a ploughed field. As we returned to the main road, we saw a further three **Cranes** in flight, this time all looking in good health. Just when we thought it was then homeward bound we had a further surprise: the sight of an **Osprey** feeding on a fish atop of a roadside telegraph post. Fortunately we were able to pull off the road close by to enjoy this magnificent bird.

## **21<sup>st</sup> March**

A slightly later departure time this morning allowed for a short walk near the house which produced for some a **Lesser Spotted Woodpecker**. We then spent the morning in the historic town of Trujillo, with time to visit the medieval quarter and the Moorish castle, do some shopping and enjoy a coffee in the main square, watching **Lesser Kestrel**, **Pallid Swifts** and **White Storks**.

We then drove east to the edge of the Villuercas mountains where we lunched beside the upper reaches of the Almonte river, beside a spectacular gorge. A pair of **Grey Wagtails** foraged beside the water, amongst fronds of **Water Crowfoot**. We then took a walk from the village of Cabañas del Castillo, to look across the impressive "Appalachian Relief" of the mountains, recently designated as a Geological Park. Clumps of **Dwarf Sheeps' Bit** grew from crevices formed by the layers of stratified sandstone.

We returned to Trujillo across the Belén Plains, seeing an **Egyptian Vulture** fly up from a pool, where a **Greenshank** and **Green Sandpiper** also foraged and finding a **Little Owl** watching us intently from its pile of stones.

## 22<sup>nd</sup> March

Today was warmer and less breezy than previously, making it very pleasant indeed. We returned first of all to the Arrocampo reservoir, visiting the area that we had stopped beside on Day One, where the **Purple Swamphen** was still present feeding its chicks. A pair of **Squacco Heron** also flew up from the edge of the marsh there. Again good views were had of several **Purple Heron**. We drove to an area to the north-west, getting views of **Great Spotted Cuckoo**, three **Glossy Ibis** feeding in shallow pools in a meadow and a perched **Black-winged Kite**.

After coffee, we drove back to Monfragüe National Park. No sooner had we stepped down from the minivan at the Portilla viewpoint, a fine **Spanish Imperial Eagle** came into view. Over the minutes that followed we were rewarded with amazing views of it performing a good repertoire of behaviours: soaring, mobbing **Griffon Vultures**, collecting nest material, perched on a tree and calling – all in excellent light and at close range. We checked on the **Eagle Owl**, appearing fast asleep in the shade of its nesting ledge. A **Cuckoo** called from the wooded hillside opposite. We then stopped at the Peña Falcón viewpoint, again enjoying the afternoon sun. A **Black Stork** gave us good views, as did a pair of **Egyptian Vulture**, soaring against a clear blue sky. Smaller birds there included **Red-rumped Swallow**, **Rock Bunting** and **Black Redstart**.

We finished the afternoon with a gentle walk along the Almonte River, finding **Girl Bunting**, **Little Ringed Plover** and seeing yet another **Short-toed Eagle**.

After dinner, we went out to listen for owls, hearing **Scops Owl** and **Long-eared Owl** and then being rewarded with wonderful views of a **Scops Owl** calling close to the house.

## 23<sup>rd</sup> March

As we were about to set off, a **Short-toed Treecreeper** was heard and seen by some in the olive grove opposite the house. Once on board, we headed to the west, with an initial stop in open plains west of Santa Marta de Magasca, finding a small group of **Great Bustard**, large numbers of **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** beside a pool, good views of **Thekla Lark** and mist endearingly, no fewer than four Roller nest boxes beside the road occupied by **Little Owls**, all peering out at us.

We then walked beside the Talaván reservoir, where there were good numbers of **Little Grebe**, a selection of duck including **Teal** and **Gadwall**, and smaller birds like **Woodchat Shrike** and **Zitting Cisticola**. Following coffee at the village of Monroy, we stopped at another spot along the River Almonte for lunch beside a derelict water mill, where we watched **Kingfisher** and heard **Hawfinches** from the wild olives close by. We then walked downstream of the

bridge for a short distance. Here we found a **Provence Hairstreak** butterfly. Overhead were a pair of **Egyptian Vulture**, a **Short-toed Eagle** and then just as we were leaving a pair of **Golden Eagles** glided across the valley.

We stopped further along the road and we delighted by views of two ring-tail and an adult male **Montagu's Harrier**, quartering buoyantly a field of winter wheat. We completed the afternoon with a very pleasant walk along the River Tozo, reaching a spot where we could look across a small reservoir. There was a good selection of duck and waders there, including **Black-tailed Godwit** and **Spotted Redshank**. A small herd of **Red Deer** crossed the view, swimming over the end of the pool, whilst we also had a very close encounter with a **Booted Eagle** which stooped down onto the ground and then soared away.

## 24<sup>th</sup> March

The group bade farewell from El Recuerdo and we set off, only to return ten minutes later to pick up John's telescope which had been left standing beside his room. This time heading north-east, Madrid-bound, we stopped at heath land near Jaraicejo for a walk down to a cork oak grove. It was very windy, and little was moving on the open heath and birdwatching was quite difficult as well amongst the trees, although we did find **Short-toed Treecreeper** and **Nuthatch**. We did however get superb views of low-flying **Black Vultures** and a displaying **Booted Eagle**. Passage **Willow Warblers** sang from the oak trees as they busily foraged. Back on the heath the wind abated slightly, enough for **Dartford Warblers** to start singing and close to the van we got excellent views of a male.

After coffee at a nearby bar, we then stopped at Cerro Almaráz, an area well-known for its orchids. Despite the drought we did find a few examples of **Naked Man Orchid** and **Conical Orchid**. The butterfly list received the additions of **Wall Brown** and **Orange Tip**. From there we went up the Valdecañas valley for lunch, finding a spot beside a deep valley where there were numerous **Blackcaps** and a few **Hawfinches**. Just as we were about to set off, a fine adult **Spanish Imperial Eagle** appeared, to give us one final farewell as it were, soaring around at close range and in perfect light – really there could not have been a better way to end the trip.

We did a brief stop lower down the valley to look for butterflies, with all of us seeing a male *Cleopatra* and the chance to see some birthwort in flower. Then it really was time to move on. We made one stop on the outskirts of Madrid to fill the tank and then by 5 pm we were arriving at Terminal One.

## Annotated List of Species Recorded

### Birds

The following 141 species were recorded:

1. **Little Grebe** Seen at Arrocampo and Talaván with about 40 present at latter site on 23<sup>rd</sup> March.
2. **Great Crested Grebe** Seen at Monfragüe, Sierra Brava and Talaván.
3. **Great Cormorant** Seen most days, including some migrating flocks.
4. **Squacco Heron** Seen on both visits to Arrocampo.
5. **Cattle Egret** Seen everyday.
6. **Little Egret** Seen almost everyday.
7. **Great Egret** About six present in Monfragüe on 19<sup>th</sup> March, also seen there on 22<sup>nd</sup> March.
8. **Grey Heron** Seen almost everyday.
9. **Purple Heron** Seen on both visits to Arrocampo.
10. **Black Stork** One near Santa Marta de Magasca on 18<sup>th</sup> March and seen on both visits to Monfragüe.
11. **White Stork** Seen everyday.
12. **Spoonbill** Two at Arrocampo on 17<sup>th</sup> March.
13. **Glossy Ibis** Three near Arrocampo on 22<sup>nd</sup> March (including a colour-ringed bird).
14. **Wigeon** About six present at Tozo reservoir on 23<sup>rd</sup> March.
15. **Gadwall** Four at Arrocampo on 22<sup>nd</sup> March and also present at Talaván and Tozo reservoirs on 23<sup>rd</sup> March.
16. **Teal** Small groups at Moheda Alta on 20<sup>th</sup> March, also at Arrocampo, Talaván and Tozo reservoirs.
17. **Mallard** Seen almost everyday.
18. **Pintail** About 20 at Moheda Alta on 20<sup>th</sup> March.
19. **Shoveler** Small groups at Sierra Brava, Talaván and Tozo.
20. **Black-winged Kite** One at Arrocampo on 22<sup>nd</sup> March.
21. **Black Kite** Common, seen everyday.
22. **Red Kite** Seen almost every day.
23. **Osprey** One near Zorita on 20<sup>th</sup> March.
24. **Egyptian Vulture** Seen almost every day.
25. **Griffon Vulture** Seen every day.
26. **Black Vulture** Seen almost every day.
27. **Short-toed Eagle** Seen almost every day.
28. **Marsh Harrier** Seen at Arrocampo, the Zorita steppes and near Santa Marta de Magasca.
29. **Hen Harrier** Females near Santa Marta de Magasca on 18<sup>th</sup> March and Moheda Alta on 20<sup>th</sup> March.
30. **Montagu's Harrier** A male and two ringtails near Santa Marta de Magasca on 23<sup>rd</sup> March.
31. **Sparrowhawk** One in Villuercas mountains on 21<sup>st</sup> March and a pair at Valdecañas on 24<sup>th</sup>.
32. **Common Buzzard** Seen almost everyday.

- 33. Spanish Imperial Eagle** One immature near Santa Marta de Magasca on 28<sup>th</sup> March, an adult in Monfragüe on 22<sup>nd</sup> and an adult at Valdecañas on 24<sup>th</sup>.
- 34. Golden Eagle** One over Magasca River on 18<sup>th</sup> March and a pair over Almonte on 23<sup>rd</sup>.
- 35. Booted Eagle** Seen almost everyday.
- 36. Bonelli's Eagle** One over Magasca River on 18<sup>th</sup> March and a pair at Monfragüe on 19<sup>th</sup>.
- 37. Lesser Kestrel** Seen almost every day.
- 38. Common Kestrel** Seen almost every day.
- 39. Merlin** One near Zorita on 20<sup>th</sup> March.
- 40. Red-legged Partridge** Seen almost every day.
- 41. Water Rail** Heard on both visits to Arrocampo.
- 42. Moorhen** Seen most days.
- 43. Purple Swamphen** Several seen, including with chicks, on both visits to Arrocampo.
- 44. Common Coot** Seen at Arrocampo and Talaván.
- 45. Common Crane** 14 seen on 20<sup>th</sup> March, including a group of 10 at Moheda Alta.
- 46. Little Bustard** About 17 seen near Santa Marta de Magasca on 18<sup>th</sup> March and two near Zorita on 20<sup>th</sup>.
- 47. Great Bustard** Over 75 seen during the day near Santa Marta de Magasca on 18<sup>th</sup> March and between 50 to 100 near Zorita on 20<sup>th</sup>, including displaying males, smaller groups (less than ten) on Belén Plains on 21<sup>st</sup> and near Santa Marta de Magasca on 23<sup>rd</sup>.
- 48. Black-winged Stilt** Seen most days.
- 49. Stone Curlew** Three at Madrigalejo on 20<sup>th</sup> March.
- 50. Ringed Plover** One at Moheda Alta on 20<sup>th</sup> March.
- 51. Little Ringed Plover** Seen most days.
- 52. Golden Plover** About 20 near Santa Marta de Magasca on 18<sup>th</sup> March.
- 53. Lapwing** Seen most days in small numbers.
- 54. Little Stint** About ten at Moheda Alta on 20<sup>th</sup> March.
- 55. Common Snipe** Seen most days.
- 56. Black-tailed Godwit** About five at Tozo reservoir on 23<sup>rd</sup> March.
- 57. Common Redshank** About six at Moheda Alta on 20<sup>th</sup> March.
- 58. Spotted Redshank** At least two at Tozo on 23<sup>rd</sup> March.
- 59. Greenshank** Seen at Moheda Alta, Belén plains and Tozo.
- 60. Green Sandpiper** Seen most days.
- 61. Common Sandpiper** Seen near Arrocampo and Talaván.
- 62. Black-headed Gull** Seen on several days.
- 63. Lesser Black-backed Gull** Seen on several days.
- 64. Black-bellied Sandgrouse** Eight seen on plains near Zorita on 20<sup>th</sup> March.
- 65. Pin-tailed Sandgrouse** 25-30 present on plains near Santa Marta de Magasca on 18<sup>th</sup> March.
- 66. Feral Pigeon** Seen everyday.
- 67. Wood Pigeon** Seen everyday.
- 68. Collared Dove** Seen everyday.
- 69. Great Spotted Cuckoo** Three seen near Arrocampo on 22<sup>nd</sup> March.



- 70. Common Cuckoo** Heard at Monfragüe on 22<sup>nd</sup> March and Jaraicejo on 24<sup>th</sup>.
- 71. Scops Owl** Heard every night and seen on 22<sup>nd</sup> March close to El Recuerdo.
- 72. Eagle Owl** Seen in Monfragüe on 19<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> March.
- 73. Little Owl** Seen on several days, including five on plains near Santa Marta de Magasca on 23<sup>rd</sup> March.
- 74. Long-eared Owl** Heard on 22<sup>nd</sup> March close to El Recuerdo.
- 75. Alpine Swift** Seen at Cubilar reservoir on 20<sup>th</sup> March and Monfragüe on 22<sup>nd</sup>.
- 76. Pallid Swift** Seen on several days, especially in Trujillo.
- 77. Kingfisher** Seen almost everyday.
- 78. Hoopoe** Seen everyday.
- 79. Great Spotted Woodpecker** Heard in Monfragüe on 19<sup>th</sup> March.
- 80. Lesser Spotted Woodpecker** One drumming near El Recuerdo on 21<sup>st</sup> March.
- 81. Calandra Lark** Seen on each visit to the plains.
- 82. Crested Lark** Seen every day.
- 83. Thekla Lark** Seen on several days.
- 84. Woodlark** Recorded on several days.
- 85. Skylark** Small party on plains near Santa Marta de Magasca on 18<sup>th</sup> March.
- 86. Sand Martin** Seen at Arrocampo and Talaván.
- 87. Crag Martin** Seen almost every day.
- 88. Barn Swallow** Seen everyday.
- 89. Red-rumped Swallow** Seen almost every day.
- 90. House Martin** Seen almost every day.
- 91. Meadow Pipit** Seen every day.
- 92. Grey Wagtail** Seen on River Almonte at most stops.
- 93. White Wagtail** Seen everyday.
- 94. Wren** Seen or heard most days.
- 95. Dunnock** One seen near El Recuerdo on 21<sup>st</sup> March.
- 96. Robin** Seen most days.
- 97. Black Redstart** Seen on several days.
- 98. Stonechat** Seen almost every day.
- 99. Blue Rock Thrush** Seen on most days.
- 100. Blackbird** Seen everyday.
- 101. Song Thrush** Seen everyday.
- 102. Mistle Thrush** One singing at Jaraicejo on 24<sup>th</sup> March.
- 103. Cetti's Warbler** Recorded most days.
- 104. Zitting Cisticola** Recorded most days.
- 105. Savi's Warbler** One singing at Arrocampo on 22<sup>nd</sup> March.
- 106. Sedge Warbler** Heard singing on both visits to Arrocampo.
- 107. Dartford Warbler** Two or three seen at Jaraicejo on 24<sup>th</sup> March.
- 108. Subalpine Warbler** One seen in Monfragüe on 19<sup>th</sup> March.
- 109. Sardinian Warbler** Recorded everyday.
- 110. Blackcap** Seen everyday.
- 111. Chiffchaff** Seen almost everyday.
- 112. Willow Warbler** At least two singing at Jaraicejo on 24<sup>th</sup> March.
- 113. Long-tailed Tit** Seen most days.

114. **Blue Tit** Seen every day.  
 115. **Great Tit** Seen every day.  
 116. **Nuthatch** Seen at Jaraicejo.  
 117. **Short-toed Treecreeper** Recorded on several days.  
 118. **Penduline Tit** Heard at Arrocampo.  
 119. **Iberian Grey Shrike** Seen almost every day.  
 120. **Woodchat Shrike** Seen on several days.  
 121. **Jay** Recorded at Jaraicejo and Valdecañas.  
 122. **Azure-winged Magpie** Seen daily.  
 123. **Magpie** Seen daily.  
 124. **Red-billed Chough** A pair in Villuercas mountains on 21<sup>st</sup> March.  
 125. **Jackdaw** Seen daily.  
 126. **Raven** Seen almost every day.  
 127. **Spotless Starling** Seen every day.  
 128. **House Sparrow** Seen daily.  
 129. **Spanish Sparrow** Seen on several days, often in large flocks.  
 130. **Rock Sparrow** Three beside River Almonte on 19<sup>th</sup> March.  
 131. **Red Avadavat** Seen near Madrigalejo on 20<sup>th</sup> March.  
 132. **Chaffinch** Seen almost every day.  
 133. **Serin** Seen every day.  
 134. **Greenfinch** Seen in Monfragüe on 19<sup>th</sup> March.  
 135. **Goldfinch** Seen every day.  
 136. **Linnet** Seen near Madrigalejo and Belén plains, also Jaraicejo.  
 137. **Bullfinch** Heard in Monfragüe on 22<sup>nd</sup> March.  
 138. **Hawfinch** Seen on most days.  
 139. **Girl Bunting** Three beside River Almonte on 22<sup>nd</sup> March.  
 140. **Rock Bunting** One in Monfragüe on 22<sup>nd</sup> March.  
 141. **Corn Bunting** Seen every day.

## Butterflies

The following 18 species were recorded

Swallowtail  
 Spanish Festoon  
 Small White  
 Western Dappled White  
 Green-striped White  
 Orange Tip  
 Clouded Yellow  
 Cleopatra  
 Provence Hairstreak  
 Small Copper  
 Holly Blue  
 Brown Argus  
 Nettle-tree Butterfly  
 Large Tortoiseshell

Red Admiral  
 Small Heath  
 Speckled Wood  
 Wall Brown

**Mammals**

Free-tailed Bat (heard)  
 Common Rabbit  
 Iberian Hare  
 Egyptian Mongoose  
 Red Deer

**Reptiles and Amphibians**

Stripeless Tree Frog  
 Iberian Pool Frog  
 European Pond terrapin  
 Spanish Wall Lizard  
 Large Psammodromus

**Noteworthy Plants**

<b>Fagaceae</b>	<i>Quercus rotundifolia</i> <i>Q. suber</i>	Evergreen (holm) Oak Cork Oak
<b>Ulmaceae</b>	<i>Ulmus minor</i> <i>Celtis australis P.</i>	Elm sp Southern nettle-tree
<b>Caryophyllaceae</b>	<i>Paronychia argentea</i> <i>Spergularia purpurea</i> <i>Silene colorata</i>	Paronychia Purple Sand-spurrey Campion sp
<b>Ranunculaceae</b>	<i>Ranunculus sp.</i>	Water Crowfoot sp.
<b>Fumariaceae</b>	<i>Fumaria capreolata</i>	Ramping Fumitory
<b>Cruciferae</b>	<i>Raphanus raphanistrum</i>	Wild Radish
<b>Leguminosae</b>	<i>Acacia dealbata</i> <i>Adenocarpus argyrophyllus</i> <i>Astragalus lusitanicus</i> <i>Cytisus multiflorus</i> <i>Cytisus scoparius</i> <i>Lupinus angustifolius</i>	Silver Wattle Spanish adenocarpus Iberian Milk-vetch White Broom Broom Narrow-leaved Lupin
<b>Geraniaceae</b>	<i>Erodium cicutarim</i>	Common Storksbill
<b>Cistaceae</b>	<i>Cistus salviifolius</i>	Sage-leaved Cistus

	<i>C. ladanifer</i>	Gum Cistus
<b>Cactaceae</b>	<i>Opuntia maxima (=ficus-indica)</i>	Prickly Pear
<b>Umbelliferae</b>	<i>Ferula communis</i> <i>Smyrniolum olustratum</i>	Giant Fennel Alexanders
<b>Ericaceae</b>	<i>Arbutus unedo</i> <i>Erica arborea</i> <i>Erica lusitanica</i>	Strawberry Tree Tree Heath Portuguese Heath
<b>Oleaceae</b>	<i>Phillyrea angustifolia</i> <i>Olea europaea</i> <i>Olea europaea</i> spp <i>oleaster</i>	False Olive Olive Wild Olive
<b>Boraginaceae</b>	<i>Anchusa undulata</i>	Undulate anchusa
<b>Labiatae</b>	<i>Lamium amplexicaule</i> <i>Rosmarinus officinalis</i> <i>Lavandula stoechas</i>	Henbit Deadnettle Rosemary French Lavender
<b>Campanulaceae</b>	<i>Jasione crispa</i>	Dwarf Sheep's Bit
<b>Compositae</b>	<i>Anthemis sp. arvensis</i> <i>Bellis sylvestris</i> <i>Calendula arvensis</i> <i>Silybum marianum</i>	An abundant mayweed Southern Daisy Field Marigold Milk Thistle
<b>Liliceae</b>	<i>Asphodelus aestivus</i> <i>Gagea elliptica</i> <i>Urginea maritima</i> <i>Asparagus acutiflorus?</i> <i>Narcissus triandrus papyraceus</i> <i>Narcissus jonquilla</i> <i>N. bulbocodium</i>	Common Asphodel Yellow Star-of-Bethlehem Sea Squill A shrubby asparagus Angel's Tears Common Jonquill Hoop-petticoat Narcissus
<b>Iridaceae</b>	<i>Gynandris sisyrrinchium</i> <i>Romulea columnae</i>	Barbary Nut Iris Sand Crocus
<b>Orchidaceae</b>	<i>Orchis conica</i> <i>Orchis italica</i>	Conical Orchid Naked man orchid