

# Honeyguide

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## Extremadura 14 – 22 March 2023

#### Holiday participants Michelle and Nick Penny John Titchmarsh Pam Windeatt Julia Maynard Ruth Dow

#### Leader: Martin Kelsey

Our base for the holiday was Martin and Claudia Kelsey's Casa El Recuerdo in San Clemente <u>www.casaruralelrecuerdo.com/</u>

Report and wildlife lists by Martin Kelsey

Photos were all taken on the holiday by Martin Kelsey. Cover: great spotted cuckoo and Italian man orchids.

Below: group photo, taken at Casa El Recuerdo (CK).



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 was supplemented by gift aid through the Honeyguide Wildlife Charitable Trust.

This year's donation of £290 brings the total given to SEO since the first Honeyguide holiday in Spain in 1991 to £20,265. The total for conservation contributions from all Honeyguide holidays was £146,377 at the end of March 2023.

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



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#### ITINERARY

- 14 March Pick-up Madrid and transfer to Casa Rural El Recuerdo
- 15 March The plains west of Trujillo and near Santa Marta de Magasca.
- 16 March Monfragüe National Park
- 17 March Campo Lugar plains, rice fields and Alcollarín Reservoir
- 18 March Plains east of Cáceres, Arroyo de la Vid, River Almonte, Jaraicejo and Trujillo town.
- 19 March Cultivated land and rivers near Madrigalejo, Puerto Peña, Moheda Alta, Sierra Brava Reservoir
- 20 March: Alange, Jabata Valley and Mérida
- 21 March: Arrocampo Reservoir, Almaráz Hill, Miravete Pass and Jaraicejo
- 22 March: Return to Madrid with stops on plains west of Trujillo and near Valdecañas dam.

#### DAILY DIARY

#### 14 March 2023: Pick-up Madrid and transfer to Casa Rural El Recuerdo

The group arrived half an hour ahead of schedule at Terminal One Madrid airport, with Martin only just arriving when they had retrieved baggage and entered the arrival area. It was a warm, sunny afternoon, a great contrast to wintry Britain. We set off along the southern ring road of Madrid and then onto the motorway for Extremadura. A group of Monk Parakeets flew across the road, a common exotic species in the city.

We crossed the vast arable plains of La Mancha, and about halfway started to see holm oaks and dehesa landscape with livestock. At that stage we were travelling parallel to the great Gredos Mountain chain, with just tiny patches of snow visible at the highest peaks. Birds such as White Stork and Red Kites were seen. We made a stop for refreshments, watching Barn Swallows nesting under the awnings of the windows. A Great White Egret flew majestically past. The final leg of the journey went very smoothly, and we arrived at Casa Rural El Recuerdo just after 7pm.

#### 15 March 2023: The plains west of Trujillo and near Santa Marta de Magasca.

A beautiful cloudless sky greeted us in the morning, and so it remained all day. With hardly any wind, it became quite warm by midday. As we headed out of the village, we were treated by a pair of Great Spotted Cuckoos which perched on the wires beside the road. We skirted around Trujillo and made our first stop at the edge of the plains. On a walk along a sandy track, we were accompanied continuously with the song of Calandra Larks and Corn Buntings. We also obtained excellent views of both Crested and Thekla Larks. A group of Great Bustards were seen almost straightaway in flight and then rather distantly on the ground. We saw a party of Little Bustards in flight, rather closer to us. An adult Spanish Imperial Eagle was perched on a tree in excellent light and we also saw Red and Black Kites. Three Iberian Grey Shrikes were in a territorial dispute along the track. The winter drought and long period of very cold weather meant that the botany was hard work, as most plants were yet in flower. However, we found clusters of Hoop-Petticoat Narcissus and Sand Crocuses.



Little bustards over the plains.

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 made a stop overlooking the Tamuja River, with both Griffon and Black Vultures drifting overhead.

North of the village, we had our picnic beside the River Magasca, watching Spanish Terrapins, Crag Martins and Sardinian Warblers.



Sawfly orchid

#### 16 March 2023: Monfragüe National Park

Back on the plains, we walked along an ancient Drovers' Trail, seeing a group of Little Bustards. Larks were surrounding us with their song. Three Short-toed Eagles appeared together. Sawfly Orchids were starting to come put into flower as well as Star of Bethlehem, and we had views of a very obliging Western Psammodromus lizard (others quickly scarpered for cover, thanks to the warm sunshine, as we approached).

We then made a stop in the area of granite outcrops near Trujillo, with White Broom in flower and some Yellow Toadflax, but again other species which we were hoping to find were simply not yet in flower.

We made a final stop beside the old grain silo at the edge of Trujillo where we had wonderful views of perhaps a dozen Lesser Kestrels, including a male carrying a lizard and a pair mating. The sunshine and blue skies made for excellent conditions to watch them.

It was another fine sunny day and as we assembled at the van, we watched a pair of Short-toed Eagles gliding and hovering over the hillside. We headed north across a vast landscape of *dehesa* on our way to the Monfragüe National Park.

At Monfragüe we stopped at the viewpoint looking across the Tagus River to the enormous Peña Falcon cliff. A Subalpine Warbler sang at the top of a holm oak in front of us. Numerous Griffon Vultures were nesting on this vast quartzite rockface and soaring over the cliff. They dwarfed a Peregrine as it soared above the pinnacle. Black Vultures glided overhead and two Egyptian Vultures passed the rock as well. We had superb views of Black Stork in flight and at the nest. Smaller birds included several Blue Rock Thrushes and Black Redstarts. Growing on the rock face close to us were Spanish Adenocarpus bearing yellow flowers.

We stopped beside the Tagus River, just where the bridge crosses to admire the huge House Martin colony and several Alpine Swifts. Taking a walk in the shady edge of the mixed woodland, we looked at some of the deciduous trees coming into leaf, such as Montpellier Maple and Portuguese Oak. At some Nettle Trees, still in bud, a Nettle Tree Butterfly was settling nicely. We also watched a Short-toed Treecreeper there.

Stopping for a welcome coffee at the hamlet of Villareal de San Carlos we were rewarded as we returned to the van with the sight of four Common Cranes passing over on migration.



Monfragüe National Park, overlooking Peña Falcon; Moorish gecko.

Our picnic was in a grove of Southern Elm trees beside the Tiétar River. Here too a Subalpine Warbler was singing and at last all of us were able to get good views.

Better was in store at our next stop at the Portilla del Tétar where a Subalpine Warbler sang and fed, quite oblivious to our presence. Magnificent. At the same viewpoint we saw a pair of Spanish Imperial Eagle and the top of the head of a brooding Eagle Owl, ensconced at its nest site. Angel's Tears Narcissus graced us with their beauty on the bank beside the road.

We continued to visit a cork oak dehesa and then turned around to make our return through the park. We stopped to admire more Angel's Tear Narcissus and then again beside the Tagus River where three Moorish Geckos were enjoying the afternoon sunshine on a slate notice board.

#### 17 March 2023: Campo Lugar plains, rice fields and Alcollarín Reservoir

There was fresh wind that continued through pretty much the whole day, it remained dry (apart from a short shower as we were driving) and there were periods of sunshine with some cloud. We travelled southwards, crossing into the basin of the Guadiana River, through the town of Zorita and onward to the plains of Campo Lugar. Calandra Larks and Corn Buntings were in full song. Griffon Vultures cruised overhead and at one stop we saw two male Little Bustards in hot pursuit, making a wide circular flight.

We made a brief detour to see the rice fields south of the village, all dry as witness to last year's lack of water to cultivate a crop. After coffee in a friendly bar from which we could watch a large House Martin colony, we headed to the relatively new reservoir of Alcollarín. We stopped first downstream of the main dam, getting lovely views of Cetti's Warbler, Spanish Sparrows and Red-rumped Swallows. A juvenile Bonelli's Eagle soared overhead.



Alcollarín Reservoir

We then moved to small subsidiary reservoir, beside a picnic area. There were Mallard, Teal and Gadwall on the water. Along the edge of the water, a feeding party of Spoonbills and Great White Egrets standing beside Little Egrets, affording us an excellent comparison in size. A Greenshank and Green Sandpiper were also present. Most interestingly were the number of Vagrant Emperor dragonflies, including a mating pair which settled and stayed put for all of us to see.

After our picnic we explored the eastern shore of the reservoir, adding plants to our botanical list and timing it perfectly to see freshly opened Barbary Nut Irises, this curious afternoon-flowering species. We also saw a Common Cuckoo (which had been calling during our picnic).

We spent the rest of the afternoon on the western shore, finding a juvenile Common Crane, seeing more Spoonbills, groups of Wigeon and having good views of Lesser Kestrels and Black Kites.

We dined in Madroñera and, after dinner, stopped to listen to the Scops Owl calling in the small town park.

**18 March 2023: Plains east of Cáceres, Arroyo de la Vid, River Almonte, Jaraicejo and Trujillo town.** It was a fresher morning, with low cloud and a cool wind. We spent the morning on the plains just east of Cáceres city where at our first stop we enjoyed the wonderful sight of a displaying Great Bustard, along with over thirty other birds present. We then took a dirt road for a few kilometres across the plains. Our search was for sandgrouse, but we managed only views in flight of Black-bellied and Pin-tailed Sandgrouse and then a group of the latter on the ground, but by which time despite the rather cloudy weather the heat haze made viewing through the telescope difficult. A group of ten Little Bustards were seen on the ground and a distant male Hen harrier. On our return we saw two Short-toed Larks. We had coffee nearby and watched a Booted Eagle circling nearby.

We then headed back towards Trujillo, swinging north to Jaraicejo where we stopped at the pretty Arroyo de la Vid. A Sardinian Warbler sang in view and we heard a Lesser Spotted Woodpecker. South of Jaraicejo we enjoyed a picnic close to the River Almonte. Vultures passed overhead and Iberian Water Frogs were in the river among the water's crowfoot.

We spent the afternoon visiting the historic town of Trujillo, moving from the 16<sup>th</sup> century Main Square up to the oldest part, the Moorish castle at the top of the town, working through the early medieval walled city and then back into the Main Square. Our journey through history, embracing two continents was accompanied by Crag Martins and White Storks, a Geniez's Wall Lizard, a Fire Bug and wonderful views of the surrounding landscape.



River Almonte; Geniez's Wall Lizard.

Returning to Pago de San Clemente we stopped to look at Champagne Orchids.

### 19 March 2023: Cultivated land and rivers near Madrigalejo, Puerto Peña, Moheda Alta, Sierra Brava Reservoir

A warm, sunny and mainly windless day and we started in good form again with the pair of Great Spotted Cuckoos on the wires as we left the village. We returned to the area south of Zorita, making a first stop along a near near Madrigalejo. Here we had an outstanding morning, with superb views of a pair of Blackwinged Kites, in flight and perched, two pairs of Great Spotted Cuckoos in territorial dispute as well as great views of Iberian Grey and Woodchat Shrikes and a gorgeous Great White Egret in a pool covered with water's Crowfoot.

We then stopped beside the River Ruercas to watch a throng of Common Chiffchaffs feeing on insects close to the water's edge. A male Marsh Harrier was engaged in a wonderful sky dance. There were Grey Wagtails, Green Sandpipers and Snipe, as well as Tree Sparrows. Distantly, Collared Pratincoles were heard but they could not be located.

After coffee in Madrigalejo, we stopped beside the River Gargaligas, where a White Stork was nesting on a pole, with House Sparrows using the nest as their own colony. We then drove east to the gorge of Puerto Peña, where the River Guadiana enters its floodplain. There were vultures and Alpine Swifts, and plants such as Mastic Tree and Junipers to look at whilst we had our lunch.

We spent an hour or so walking through the dehesa of Moheda Alta. It was very dry and quite warm, so there was not much to add botanically, but we finally got some views of Western Dappled White butterflies. We completed the day beside the Sierra Brava reservoir, where there was another distant Collared Pratincole, the Barbary Nut Irises were coming into their afternoon show and a group of three Common Cranes was unexpected.

#### 20 March 2023: Alange, Jabata Valley and Mérida

A warm and sunny day throughout, with no wind, so we enjoyed wonderful spring weather. We stopped first in the pleasant little park in Madroñera to search for, unsuccessfully, Scops Owls. There were, however, a few Pallid Swifts flying overhead.

Then it was the long drive down to Alange, stopping at the dam and taking a walk beside the rocky outcrop. We had excellent views of a male Black Wheatear. A Willow Warbler sang quietly, Spanish Festoons flew past and we found some interesting plants, but especially were delighted by the amazing show of Asphodel Lilies.

Following coffee in Alange, we repaired to the Jabata valley, a wonderful setting full of flowers, noteworthy especially 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.

We then returned to the Alange reservoir, eventually finding some rather distant Collared Pratincoles. Onwards to Mérida where we visited the Roman Bridge. Here we had excellent views of Pallid and Alpine Swift, a wonderfully concealed Little Bittern, as well as Black-crowned Night Heron, Glossy Ibis and Purple Swamphens.



Iberian fritillaries; Jabata valley.

#### 21 March 2023: Arrocampo Reservoir, Almaráz Hill, Miravete Pass and Jaraicejo

It was another day of perfect weather, hardly any wind, clear skies and warm temperature. We spent the first part of morning at the Arrocampo Reservoir, near the village of Saucedilla. It was a superb visit, with excellent views of roosting Black-crowned Night Heron, a Squacco Heron, several Purple Herons and Purple Swamphens. We also had good views of a Savi's Warbler, saw Bearded Tits briefly, a dark phase Booted Eagle glided over and an Iberian Grey Shrike showed itself wonderfully.

Following coffee we visited the Almaraz Hill and enjoyed the superb show of orchids there, including Naked Man, Woodcock, Conical and Mirror Orchids. There was a strong supporting cast of flora, such as Tassel Hyacinth and Greyleaved Cistus.

We had lunch on the pass at Miravete, looking in one direction over Arrocampo Reservoir with the Gredos Mountains behind and to the south, the dehesas towards Trujillo. Serins in song accompanied us.

We completed the afternoon visiting an area of heath near Jaraicejo where we had several sightings of Dartford Warbler and Thekla lark, as well as butterflies such as Western Dappled White, Bath White and Queen of Spain Fritillary. We wandered down to a beautiful cork oak grove to complete the afternoon, where Angel's Tears Narcissus were in flower.



Mirror orchid

#### **22 March 2023: Return to Madrid with stops on plains west of Trujillo and near Valdecañas dam** The holiday ended as it had started, in wonderful sunny weather. We bade farewell to Casa Rural El Recuerdo and made a stop west of Trujillo on the plains. Here we had good views of Pin-tailed Sandgrouse on the ground and a wonderful male Little Bustard. We were embraced by the song of Calandra Larks throughout.

We then visited the area near the Valdecañas dam, adding Kermes Oak to our *Quercus* list and watched a Short-toed Eagle perched on a pylon. Following a coffee stop affording us a spectacular view across to the Gredos Mountains, 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

- Michelle: Blue Rock Thrush, Short-toed Eagle with a snake
- Julia: Woodcock Orchid, Queen-of-Spain Fritillary
- Nick: Night Herons
- Ruth: Black-winged Kite, French Lavender
- John: Displaying Great Bustard, being in Extremadura

Pam: Black-winged Kite, the chicken following Martin every evening

Martin: Watching Black-winged Kites, Great Spotted Cuckoos and a Hoopoe all at the same time.

#### Annotated list of bird species seen

Little Grebe	Seen on two days on small pools and reservoirs.		
Great Crested Grebe	Several on large reservoirs		
Cormorant.	Seen most days along large rivers and reservoirs.		
Little Bittern.	One seen at Mérida.		
Black-crowned Night Heron	Seen at Mérida and Arrocampo.		
Squacco Heron.	One seen at Arrocampo.		
Cattle Egret.	Seen on several days.		
Little Egret.	Seen on most days.		
Great White Egret.	Seen on four days, especially Alcollarín.		
Grey Heron.	Seen on several days.		
Purple Heron.	Seen at Arrocampo.		
Black Stork.	Seen at Monfragüe.		
White Stork.	Seen every day.		
Glossy Ibis.	Seen on three days, especially at Mérida.		
Spoonbill	Seen on three days.		
Egyptian Goose.	Seen on three days.		
Wigeon.	A flock at Alcollarín.		
Gadwall.	Seen at Alcollarín.		
Teal.	Seen at Alcollarín.		
Mallard .	Seen almost every day.		
Pintail.	Seen at Alcollarín.		
Shoveler.	Seen at Moheda Alta.		
Black-shouldered Kite	Excellent views of two near Madrigalejo.		
Black Kite	Seen every day.		
Red Kite	Seen almost every day.		
Egyptian Vulture.	Seen only at Monfragüe.		
Griffon Vulture	Seen on all but one day.		
Black Vulture.	Seen almost every day.		
Short-toed Eagle.	Seen almost every day.		
Marsh Harrier.	Seen almost every day.		
Hen Harrier	A male seen on plains east of Cáceres.		
Sparrowhawk.	Seen on one day.		
Common Buzzard.	Seen on all but one day.		
Spanish Imperial Eagle.	Seen on the plains and Monfragüe.		
Bonelli's Eagle.	A juvenile seen near Alcollarín.		
Booted Eagle.	Seen on two days.		
Lesser Kestrel.	Seen on four days.		
Common Kestrel.	Seen on two days.		
Peregrine	One at Monfragüe.		
Red-legged Partridge.	Seen on two days.		
Water Rail.	Heard on two days.		
Moorhen.	Seen on three days.		
Moorhen. Coot	Seen on three days. Seen on two days.		
Moorhen. Coot Purple Swamphen.	Seen on three days. Seen on two days. Seen well at Mérida and Arrocampo.		
Moorhen. Coot Purple Swamphen. Common Crane	Seen on three days. Seen on two days. Seen well at Mérida and Arrocampo. Seen on three days: over Monfragüe, Alcollarín and Sierra Brava.		
Moorhen. Coot Purple Swamphen. Common Crane Little Bustard	Seen on three days. Seen on two days. Seen well at Mérida and Arrocampo. Seen on three days: over Monfragüe, Alcollarín and Sierra Brava. Seen on four mornings: on Trujillo-Cáceres plains and Campo Lugar plains		
Moorhen. Coot Purple Swamphen. Common Crane Little Bustard Great Bustard.	Seen on three days.   Seen on two days.   Seen well at Mérida and Arrocampo.   Seen on three days: over Monfragüe, Alcollarín and Sierra Brava.   Seen on four mornings: on Trujillo-Cáceres plains and Campo Lugar plains   Displaying birds east of Cáceres, also west of Trujillo.		
Moorhen. Coot Purple Swamphen. Common Crane Little Bustard Great Bustard. Collared Pratincole.	Seen on three days.   Seen on two days.   Seen well at Mérida and Arrocampo.   Seen on three days: over Monfragüe, Alcollarín and Sierra Brava.   Seen on four mornings: on Trujillo-Cáceres plains and Campo Lugar plains   Displaying birds east of Cáceres, also west of Trujillo.   Seen distantly near Alange.		
Moorhen. Coot Purple Swamphen. Common Crane Little Bustard Great Bustard. Collared Pratincole. Black-winged Stilt.	Seen on three days.   Seen on two days.   Seen well at Mérida and Arrocampo.   Seen on three days: over Monfragüe, Alcollarín and Sierra Brava.   Seen on four mornings: on Trujillo-Cáceres plains and Campo Lugar plains   Displaying birds east of Cáceres, also west of Trujillo.   Seen on two days.   Seen on two days.		
Moorhen. Coot Purple Swamphen. Common Crane Little Bustard Great Bustard. Collared Pratincole. Black-winged Stilt. Little Ringed Plover.	Seen on three days.   Seen on two days.   Seen well at Mérida and Arrocampo.   Seen on three days: over Monfragüe, Alcollarín and Sierra Brava.   Seen on four mornings: on Trujillo-Cáceres plains and Campo Lugar plains   Displaying birds east of Cáceres, also west of Trujillo.   Seen on two days.   Seen on two days.   Seen at Alcollarín.		
Moorhen.   Coot   Purple Swamphen.   Common Crane   Little Bustard   Great Bustard.   Collared Pratincole.   Black-winged Stilt.   Little Ringed Plover.   Lapwing.	Seen on three days.   Seen on two days.   Seen well at Mérida and Arrocampo.   Seen on three days: over Monfragüe, Alcollarín and Sierra Brava.   Seen on four mornings: on Trujillo-Cáceres plains and Campo Lugar plains   Displaying birds east of Cáceres, also west of Trujillo.   Seen on two days.   Seen on two days.   Seen at Alcollarín.   Seen at Alcollarín.		
Moorhen.   Coot   Purple Swamphen.   Common Crane   Little Bustard   Great Bustard.   Collared Pratincole.   Black-winged Stilt.   Little Ringed Plover.   Lapwing.   Ruff.	Seen on three days.   Seen on two days.   Seen well at Mérida and Arrocampo.   Seen on three days: over Monfragüe, Alcollarín and Sierra Brava.   Seen on four mornings: on Trujillo-Cáceres plains and Campo Lugar plains   Displaying birds east of Cáceres, also west of Trujillo.   Seen on two days.   Seen on two days.   Seen at Alcollarín.		
Moorhen.   Coot   Purple Swamphen.   Common Crane   Little Bustard   Great Bustard.   Collared Pratincole.   Black-winged Stilt.   Little Ringed Plover.   Lapwing.	Seen on three days.   Seen on two days.   Seen well at Mérida and Arrocampo.   Seen on three days: over Monfragüe, Alcollarín and Sierra Brava.   Seen on four mornings: on Trujillo-Cáceres plains and Campo Lugar plains   Displaying birds east of Cáceres, also west of Trujillo.   Seen on two days.   Seen on two days.   Seen at Alcollarín.   Seen at Alcollarín.		
Moorhen.   Coot   Purple Swamphen.   Common Crane   Little Bustard   Great Bustard.   Collared Pratincole.   Black-winged Stilt.   Little Ringed Plover.   Lapwing.   Ruff.   Snipe	Seen on three days.   Seen on two days.   Seen well at Mérida and Arrocampo.   Seen on three days: over Monfragüe, Alcollarín and Sierra Brava.   Seen on four mornings: on Trujillo-Cáceres plains and Campo Lugar plains   Displaying birds east of Cáceres, also west of Trujillo.   Seen on two days.   Seen at Alcollarín.   Seen at Alcollarín.   Seen at Alcollarín.		
Moorhen.   Coot   Purple Swamphen.   Common Crane   Little Bustard   Great Bustard.   Collared Pratincole.   Black-winged Stilt.   Little Ringed Plover.   Lapwing.   Ruff.   Snipe   Spotted Redshank	Seen on three days.   Seen on two days.   Seen well at Mérida and Arrocampo.   Seen on three days: over Monfragüe, Alcollarín and Sierra Brava.   Seen on four mornings: on Trujillo-Cáceres plains and Campo Lugar plains   Displaying birds east of Cáceres, also west of Trujillo.   Seen on two days.   Seen at Alcollarín.   Seen at Alcollarín.   Seen on two days.   Seen at Alcollarín.		
Moorhen.   Coot   Purple Swamphen.   Common Crane   Little Bustard   Great Bustard.   Collared Pratincole.   Black-winged Stilt.   Little Ringed Plover.   Lapwing.   Ruff.   Snipe   Spotted Redshank   Greenshank	Seen on three days.   Seen on two days.   Seen well at Mérida and Arrocampo.   Seen on three days: over Monfragüe, Alcollarín and Sierra Brava.   Seen on four mornings: on Trujillo-Cáceres plains and Campo Lugar plains   Displaying birds east of Cáceres, also west of Trujillo.   Seen on two days.   Seen at Alcollarín.   Seen at Alcollarín.   Seen on two days.   Seen at Alcollarín.   Seen on two days.   Seen at Alcollarín.   Seen at Alcollarín.   Seen on two days.   Seen at Alcollarín.		
Moorhen.   Coot   Purple Swamphen.   Common Crane   Little Bustard   Great Bustard.   Collared Pratincole.   Black-winged Stilt.   Little Ringed Plover.   Lapwing.   Ruff.   Snipe   Spotted Redshank   Green Sandpiper	Seen on three days.   Seen on two days.   Seen well at Mérida and Arrocampo.   Seen on three days: over Monfragüe, Alcollarín and Sierra Brava.   Seen on four mornings: on Trujillo-Cáceres plains and Campo Lugar plains   Displaying birds east of Cáceres, also west of Trujillo.   Seen on two days.   Seen at Alcollarín.   Seen on two days.   Seen at Alcollarín.   Seen on two days.   Seen on two days.   Seen at Alcollarín.   Seen at Alcollarín.   Seen on two days.   Seen at Alcollarín.   Seen on two days.   Seen at Alcollarín.   Seen on two days.   Seen on two days.   Seen at Alcollarín   Seen at Alcollarín   Seen at Alcollarín   Seen on two days.   Seen at Alcollarín   Seen on three days.		
Moorhen.   Coot   Purple Swamphen.   Common Crane   Little Bustard   Great Bustard.   Collared Pratincole.   Black-winged Stilt.   Little Ringed Plover.   Lapwing.   Ruff.   Snipe   Spotted Redshank   Green Sandpiper   Common Sandpiper	Seen on three days.   Seen on two days.   Seen well at Mérida and Arrocampo.   Seen on three days: over Monfragüe, Alcollarín and Sierra Brava.   Seen on four mornings: on Trujillo-Cáceres plains and Campo Lugar plains   Displaying birds east of Cáceres, also west of Trujillo.   Seen on two days.   Seen at Alcollarín.   Seen on two days.   Seen at Alcollarín.   Seen on two days.   Seen on two days.   Seen at Alcollarín.   Seen at Alcollarín.   Seen on two days.   Seen on two days.   Seen at Alcollarín.   Seen on two days.   Seen at Alcollarín.   Seen at Alcollarín.   Seen at Alcollarín.   Seen on two days.   Seen at Alcollarín   Seen on three days.   Seen at Monfragüe.		
Moorhen.   Coot   Purple Swamphen.   Common Crane   Little Bustard   Great Bustard.   Collared Pratincole.   Black-winged Stilt.   Little Ringed Plover.   Lapwing.   Ruff.   Snipe   Spotted Redshank   Green Sandpiper   Common Sandpiper   Black-headed Gull.	Seen on three days.   Seen on two days.   Seen well at Mérida and Arrocampo.   Seen on three days: over Monfragüe, Alcollarín and Sierra Brava.   Seen on four mornings: on Trujillo-Cáceres plains and Campo Lugar plains   Displaying birds east of Cáceres, also west of Trujillo.   Seen on two days.   Seen at Alcollarín.   Seen on two days.   Seen at Alcollarín.   Seen on two days.   Seen at Alcollarín.   Seen at Alcollarín.   Seen at Alcollarín   Seen at Monfragüe.   Seen most days.		
Moorhen.   Coot   Purple Swamphen.   Common Crane   Little Bustard   Great Bustard.   Collared Pratincole.   Black-winged Stilt.   Little Ringed Plover.   Lapwing.   Ruff.   Snipe   Spotted Redshank   Green Sandpiper   Common Sandpiper	Seen on three days.   Seen on two days.   Seen well at Mérida and Arrocampo.   Seen on three days: over Monfragüe, Alcollarín and Sierra Brava.   Seen on four mornings: on Trujillo-Cáceres plains and Campo Lugar plains   Displaying birds east of Cáceres, also west of Trujillo.   Seen on two days.   Seen at Alcollarín.   Seen on two days.   Seen at Alcollarín.   Seen on two days.   Seen on two days.   Seen at Alcollarín.   Seen at Alcollarín.   Seen on two days.   Seen on two days.   Seen at Alcollarín.   Seen on two days.   Seen at Alcollarín.   Seen at Alcollarín.   Seen at Alcollarín.   Seen on two days.   Seen at Alcollarín   Seen on three days.   Seen at Monfragüe.		

Pin-tailed Sandgrouse	Seen on two days, very well on plains west of Trujillo.		
Rock Dove/Feral Pigeon	Seen daily.		
Woodpigeon.	Seen most days.		
Collared Dove.	Seen every day.		
Great Spotted Cuckoo March.	Seen on three days, no fewer than seven seen on 19th March.		
Cuckoo	Seen and/or heard on several days.		
Scops Owl	Heard every evening.		
Eagle Owl Little Owl	Seen at Monfragüe. Heard one evening.		
Pallid Swift.	Seen on two days.		
Alpine Swift.	Seen at Monfragüe, Alange and Mérida.		
Monk Parakeet	Seen in Madrid.		
Kingfisher	Seen on two days.		
Ноорое	Seen most days.		
Great Spotted Woodpecker	Heard on two days.		
Lesser Spotted Woodpecker	Seen or heard on three days.		
Calandra Lark. Short-toed Lark.	Seen on plains. Seen on plains east of Cáceres.		
Crested Lark.	Seen almost every day.		
Thekla Lark	Seen on several days on plains and heathland.		
Sand Martin.	Seen on one day.		
Crag Martin.	Seen most days.		
Swallow	Seen every day.		
Red-rumped Swallow	Seen on several days.		
House Martin.	Seen almost every day.		
Meadow Pipit. Grey Wagtail.	Seen on several days. Seen on River Ruercas.		
White Wagtail.	Seen on most days.		
Wren.	Heard and/or seen most days.		
Robin.	Seen on two days.		
Black Redstart	Seen almost every day, especially at Pago de San Clemente.		
Stonechat	Seen on most days.		
Northern Wheatear.	Seen near Campo Lugar.		
Black Wheatear.	Seen at Alange.		
Blue Rock Thrush. Blackbird	Seen at Monfragüe.		
Song Thrush	Seen every day. Seen on one day.		
Mistle Thrush.	Seen on one day.		
Cetti's Warbler.	Heard on several days.		
Zitting Cisticola.	Seen and heard on several days.		
Savi's Warbler	Singing birds at Arrocampo.		
Sedge Warbler	Singing at Arrocampo and at Mérida		
Reed Warbler. Dartford Warbler	Singing at Arrocampo.		
Subalpine Warbler	Seen at Jaraicejo. Seen at Monfragüe.		
Sardinian Warbler.	Seen and heard almost every day.		
Blackcap.	Seen almost every day.		
Willow Warbler.	Singing at Alange.		
Chiffchaff	Seen almost every day.		
Long-tailed Tit.	Seen on two days.		
Blue Tit.	Seen almost every day.		
Great Tit. Bearded Tit.	Seen every day. Seen at Arrocampo.		
Short-toed Treecreeper	Seen at Monfragüe.		
Nuthatch.	Heard at Valdecañas.		
Iberian Grey Shrike	Seen almost every day.		
Woodchat Shrike	Seen almost every day.		
Jay.	Seen at Monfragüe.		
Azure-winged Magpie	Seen every day.		
Magpie .	Seen every day.		
	Soon on covoral days		
Jackdaw.	Seen on several days.		
Jackdaw. Raven.	Seen almost every day.		
Jackdaw. Raven. Spotless Starling.	Seen almost every day. Seen every day.		
Jackdaw. Raven.	Seen almost every day.		
Jackdaw. Raven. Spotless Starling. House Sparrow. Spanish Sparrow. Tree Sparrow	Seen almost every day. Seen every day. Seen every day. Seen on plains, rice fields and Arrocampo. Seen at River Ruercas.		
Jackdaw. Raven. Spotless Starling. House Sparrow. Spanish Sparrow. Tree Sparrow Common Waxbill.	Seen almost every day. Seen every day. Seen every day. Seen on plains, rice fields and Arrocampo. Seen at River Ruercas. Seen on two days.		
Jackdaw. Raven. Spotless Starling. House Sparrow. Spanish Sparrow. Tree Sparrow Common Waxbill. Chaffinch	Seen almost every day. Seen every day. Seen every day. Seen on plains, rice fields and Arrocampo. Seen at River Ruercas. Seen on two days. Seen every day.		
Jackdaw. Raven. Spotless Starling. House Sparrow. Spanish Sparrow. Tree Sparrow Common Waxbill.	Seen almost every day. Seen every day. Seen every day. Seen on plains, rice fields and Arrocampo. Seen at River Ruercas. Seen on two days.		

Goldfinch.	Seen every day.	
Siskin	Seen at Mérida.	
Linnet.	Seen almost every day.	
Hawfinch.	Seen on three days.	
Cirl Bunting.	Seen at Monfragüe.	
Corn Bunting.	Seen every day.	

#### MAMMALS

Wild Boar *Sus scrofa* – rootings Red Deer Iberian hare Rabbit *Oryctolagus cuniculus* Common Pipistrelle

#### **REPTILES & AMPHIBIANS**

Spanish Terrapin *Mauremys leprosa* Red-eared Terrapin *Trachemys scripta* Large Psammodrommus Western Psammodromus Geniez's Wall Lizard Moorish Gecko Iberian water frog *Rana perezi* 

#### FISH

Barbel Carp **BUTTERFLIES** Spanish Festoon Small White Western Dappled White Bath White Brimstone Clouded Yellow

#### Nettle-tree Butterfly Red Admiral Painted Lady Small Heath Wall Brown Green Hairstreak Small Copper Holly Blue Lang's Short-tailed Blue Long-tailed Blue Brown Argus Queen-of-Spain Fritillary

#### **OTHER INVERTEBRATES**

Vagrant Emperor Iberian Blue-tailed Damselfly Scarab Beetle Fire Bug Another red-and-black ground bug Hummingbird Hawk Moth Pine Processionary moth *Thaumetopoea pityocampa* A tiger moth *Ocnognyna boetica* Violet carpenter bee *Xylocopa violacea* Honey Bee A bee-fly

#### PLANTS

Numbers on the right refer to Blamey & Grey-Wilson, *Mediterranean Wild Flowers*. Polunin refers to Polunin & Smythies, *Flowers of south-west Europe*. Where there is no number, sometimes they are plants in floras from northern Europe e.g. *Wild Flowers of Britain & Europe* by Fitter, Fitter & Blamey. Some are planted, marked P. NiF = not in flower.

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

Pinaceae	Pinus pinea	Stone / umbrella pine (3)		
	Pinus nigra	Black pine (4)		
Cupressaceae	Juniperus communis	Common juniper (13)		
Fagaceae	Quercus coccifera	Kermes oak (24)		
	Quercus rotundifolia	Holm oak (26)		
	Quercus suber	Cork oak (27)		
	Quercus faginea Portuguese oak (30)			
Ulmaceae	Ulmus minor	Elm sp. (c. 38)		
	Celtis australis P Southern nettle-tree (39)			
Urticaceaea	Urtica membranacea	Membranous nettle (49)		
	U. urens Annu	al nettle		
Polygonaceae	Rumex bucephalopho	rus Horned dock, often brick-red sheets on dry ground		
	Rumex scutatus Rubble dock or French sorrel			
	-	Grey-Wilson's Alpine flowers		
Aristolochiaceae Aristolochia paucinervisGreen-flowered birthwort (Not in Blamey or Polunin)				
Caryophyllaceae Paronychia capita		Paronychia (134)		
	Spergularia arvensis	Corn spurrey		
	Spergularia purpurea	Purple sand-spurrey (148)		
	Silene colorata	Mediterranean catchfly (180)		
Papaveraceaea Papaver rhoeas Common poppy (283)				
Ranunculaceae Anemone palmataYellow anemone (218)				
	Ranunculus sp.	Water crowfoot sp.		
	Ranunculus macrophyllus Large-leaved buttercup (237)			
	Ranunculus paludosus Jersey buttercup (249)			

-		elery-leaved buttercup (251)	
Fumariaceae	Fumaria capreolata	Ramping fumitory (303)	
Cruciferae	Platycapnos spicata Raphanus raphanistrum	Spiked fumitory (Polunin 282) Wild radish (369)	
Ordenerae	Sinapsis arvensis	Charlock	
	Sisymbrium altissimum	Tall rocket	
	Wall Rocket		
Crassulaceae	Teesdalia nudicaulis	Shepherd's cress	
Saxifragaceae	Umbilicus rupestris Saxifraga granulata	Navelwort (396) Meadow saxifrage	
Leguminosae	Acacia dealbata P	'Mimosa' or Silver wattle (432)	
	Adenocarpus argyrophyllus Spanish adenocarpus (in neither book)		
	Anthyllis lotoides (Polunir	-	
	Astragalus lusitanicus	Iberian milk-vetch(504)	
	Cercis siliquastrum P	Judas tree (430)	
	Cytisus multiflorus	White broom	
	Cytisus scopariusBroom Genista hirsuta	(456) (466)	
	Lygos monosperma	Retama (480) NiF	
	Lathyrus cicera	A vetchling of cultivated fields (545)	
	Lathyrus clymenum	(550)	
	Lupinus angustifolius	Narrow-leaved lupin (486)	
	Medicago intertexta	(602)	
	Medicago arabica	Spotted medick (623)	
	Vicia hybrida	Hairy yellow vetchling vetch (527)	
	Vicia lutea Vicia sativa	Yellow vetch (525)	
		Common vetch (531) bes- <i>caprae</i> Bermuda buttercup (735)	
Geraniaceae	Geranium molle	Dovesfoot cranesbill (741)	
	Geranium rotundifolium	Round-leaved cranesbill (743)	
	Geranium pusillum	Small-flowered leaved cranesbill (744)	
	Erodium botrys	Mediterranean or long-beaked storksbill (758)	
	Erodium cicutarum	Common storksbill (761)	
Linaceae	Linum bienne	Pale flax (777)	
Euphorbiaceae	Euphorbia helioscopia Su		
Meliaceae	Mercurialis annua Melia azedarach P	Annual mercury (820)	
Aceracea	Acer monspessulanum	Indian bead tree or Persian lilac (843) Montpellier maple (856)	
Anacardiaceae	Pistacia lentiscus	Mastic tree or lentisc (865)	
Violaceae	Viola (arvensis) kitaibeliai		
Thymelaeaceae	Daphne gnidium Daphne	(936)	
Cistaceae	Cistus albidus	Grey-leaved cistus (big pink fls) (961)	
	Cistus monspelliensis	Narrow-leaved cistus (961)	
	Cistus crispus		
	Cistus salviitollus Sage-le Cistus ladanifer	aved cistus (small white) (965) Gum cistus (big white fls) (971)	
		ium Common rockrose (996)	
	Tuberaria guttata Spotted		
Cactaceae	Opuntia maxima (=ficus-ii		
Umbelliferae	Ferula communis Giant fe	. ,	
	Smyrnium olustatrum	Alexanders (1087)	
	Scandix pecten-veneris	Shepherd's needle (1097)	
Friences	Eryngium campestre	Stroughorny trop (1176)	
Ericaceae	Arbutus unedo Erica arborea	Strawberry tree (1176) Tree heath (white fls) (1178)	
	Erica australis	Spanish heath (pink fls) (1176)	
Primulaceae	Anagallis arvensis	Scarlet pimpernel (1198)	
Oleaceae	Phillyrea angustifolia	Phillyrea or false olive (1246)	
	Olea europaea	Olive (1248)	
	Olea europaea spp oleas		
<b>0</b>	Fraxinus angustifolia Narrow-leaved ash (-)		
Convolvulaceae		Mallow-leaved bindweed (1331)	
Boraginaceae	Convolvulus siculus Echium plantagineum	Purple viper's bugloss (1383)	
Doraginaceae			

	Borago officinalis Borage	(1395)		
	Anchusa undulata	Undulate anchusa (1406)		
	Cynoglossum cherifolium A houndstongue (1409)			
	Myosotis ramosissima	Early forget-me-not		
Labiatae	Lamium amplexicaule	Henbit deadnettle (1478)		
	Rosmarinus officinalis	Rosemary (1526)		
	Lavandula stoechas	French lavender (1528)		
	Salvia verbenaca Wild cla			
		Camphor thyme (Polunin, 1162e) NiF		
Solanaceae	Hyosciamus albus	White henbane (1555)		
Scrophularicaea	-	lvy-leaved toadflax (1632)		
	Parentucellia latifolia	a tiny, red bartsia (1652)		
	Linaria spartea	a yellow-flowered toadflax (Polunin)		
Caprifoliaceae	Viburnum tinus	Laurestinus (1711)		
Campanulaceae	Blamey / Grey-Wilson's <u>A</u>	heep's bit (Polunin 1355c, but illustrated in		
Compositae	Anthemis arvensis	Corn mayweed		
Composituo	Bellis annua	Annual daisy (1791)		
	Bellis perennis	Perennial daisy (1792)		
	Bellis sylvestris	Southern daisy (1793)		
	Evax pygmaea	Evax (1805)		
	Phagnalon saxatile	Rock phagnalon (1833) NiF		
	Chrysanthemum segetur			
	Calendula arvensis	Field marigold (1908)		
	Galactites tomentosa	Galactites (1971)		
	Silybum marianum	Milk thistle (1982)		
Liliaceae	Asphodelus fistulosus	Hollow-leaved asphodel (2087)		
	Asphodelus aestivus	Common asphodel (2089)		
	Gagea sp lutea? Yellow s	star-of-Bethlehem sp. (c 2106)		
	Fritillaria lusitanica	Iberian fritillary (2152)		
	Ornithogalum ?narbonens	se Star-of-Bethlehem sp. (2171)		
	Urginea maritima Sea squ	ill (leaves & dead flower spikes) (2163)		
	Hyacinthoides hispanica	Spanish bluebell (2191)		
	Muscari comosum	Tassel hyacinth (2201)		
	Asparagus acutifolius	A shrubby asparagus (2212)		
	Allium neapolitanum	Naples garlic (2225)		
Agavaceae	Agave americana	Agave, century plant 2253		
Amaryllidaceaea	a Narcissus triandrus	Angel's tears (Polunin 1668d)		
	Narcissus bulbocodium	Hoop-petticoat narcissus (2281)		
Iridaceae	Gynandriris sisyrinchium	Barbary nut iris (2305)		
	Romulea bulbocodium	A sand crocus (2314)		
Orchidaceae:	Romulea columnae Orchis (morio) champagn	Sand crocus (2320)		
Orchiuaceae.	Orchis (mono) champagn Orchis morio	euxii Champagne orchid (2403) Green-winged Orchid		
	Orchis conica	Conical orchid		
	Orchis italica	Naked man orchid (2409)		
	Ophrys speculumMirror o	. ,		
	Ophrys lutea	Yellow bee orchid (2423)		
	Ophrys scolopax Woodco			
	Ophrys tenthredinifera	Sawfly orchid (2442)		
Gramineae & Ju		· · · · ·		
	Typha angustifolia	Lesser reedmace		
	Arundo donax	Giant reed (2494)		
	Avena sp	Wild oats		
	Juncus acutus	Sharp rush		
FERNS (PTERIDOPHYTA)				
	Cheilanthes hispanica	Spanish cheilanthes (2521)		
	Polypodium vulgare	Polypody		