

## **Birding Extremadura and Casa Rural El Recuerdo**

**SPRING TOUR 29th March 2011 – 5<sup>th</sup> April 2011**

**Guests: Rosemary and Richard Parker**

**Guide: Martin Kelsey**

### **Itinerary**

29<sup>th</sup> March 2011: Collection midday at Madrid Airport and transfer to Casa Rural El Recuerdo, Pago de San Clemente, Trujillo.

30<sup>th</sup> March 2011: Plains south of Zorita and the rice-growing area near Madrigalejo (Palazuelo and Casas del Hito).

31<sup>st</sup> March 2011: Monfragüe National Park

1<sup>st</sup> April 2011: Jaraicejo and the Villuercas Mountains.

2<sup>nd</sup> April 2011: Visit to Trujillo followed by afternoon on Roman Bridge in Mérida.

3<sup>rd</sup> April 2011: Monfragüe National Park, Arrocampo reservoir and the Cerro de Almaráz.

4<sup>th</sup> April 2011: The plains near Santa Marta de Magasca and the Guadiloba reservoir.

5<sup>th</sup> April 2011: Local walk, followed by return to Madrid with brief stop at Cerro de Almaráz.

## TRIP REPORT

### 29<sup>th</sup> March 2011

Rosemary and Richard arrived twenty minutes ahead of schedule at Madrid airport and by 5pm we were loading up the vehicle and heading on the ring-road around the south of Madrid. The traffic was generally flowing well and it was not long before we were Extremadura-bound on the A5 motorway, heading south-west. There were a few heavy showers of rain as we crossed the plateau lands of Castille La Mancha, but by the time we had crossed into Extremadura, the sky had brightened-up considerably. We arrived at Casa Rural El Recuerdo just before 8 pm.

### 30<sup>th</sup> March 2011

It was a wonderful sunny and quite calm day. We headed south to explore the plains south of the town of Zorita. As we got out of the car for our first stop, **Zitting Cisticolas** and **Corn Bunting** were singing and we picked up the song of **Calandra Lark** above us. Within a couple of minutes we had located our first **Great Bustards** and as we watched them we started to pick up other individuals until we found a fine male in full display. The viewing conditions were excellent: good light and no heat haze. We moved on a short distance, seeing two **Stone Curlew** fly across the road and lead ahead of us, and excellent views of a very pristine male **Spectacled Warbler**, as it perched on the roadside fence. We stopped to look for the **Stone Curlew**, finding them quite quickly as well as another pair on the other side of the road, but best of all was a displaying **Little Bustard**, which flew to approach a female, which it promptly pursued. Minutes later we came across a large flock of about 30 **Great Bustards**, feeding very close to the road. The sunshine was encouraging the appearance of some butterflies, such as an obliging **Swallowtail**, whilst we also took care to look at the spring flowers. A single **Black Vulture** drifted over, as did a **Booted Eagle** shortly afterwards. We also had magnificent views of a melanistic form of **Montagu's Harrier** and also a fine male.

We descended from the plains and entered the rice-growing area near the village of Palazuelo. Although the rice fields were largely devoid of birds: they were either ploughed or were drying to prepare them for ploughing, there were good numbers of **White Stork**. We stopped beside the River Ruercas, at a very attractive spot with riverine woodland. **Cetti's Warblers** and **Nightingales** sang from the thickets, whilst an **Iberian Chiffchaff** sang just a couple of trees away from a **Common Chiffchaff**. We walked on a track through the fields, coming across a large and noisy flock of **Bee-eaters**, which spent some time perched in trees and the rest catching insects above us.

We also saw a pair of **Collared Pratincoles** flying quite low overhead. All the time there were raptors in the sky: **Black Kites**, the occasional **Red Kite**, **Common Buzzards**, **vultures** and **Lesser Kestrels**. We continued to the

Sierra Brava reservoir where there were a few rafts of **Shoveler** and pairs of **Great Crested Grebe**.



A fine male **Black-eared Wheatear** appeared, our second wheatear species of the day – the passage **Northern Wheatears** had been very numerous on the plains. We made a final stop visiting the pool at Casa del Hito. Here we found two sleeping **Spoonbill**, a single **Avocet**, a few other waders such as **Lapwing**, **Black-winged Stilt** and **Little Ringed Plover**. Parties of **Red Avadavat** flew up from the bank side vegetation and a fine male **Marsh Harrier** quartered the habitat at the far end. We returned home having spent a highly rewarding and productive first day in Extremadura.

### **31<sup>st</sup> March 2011**

It was a warm, sunny day which had started in quite a raucous fashion with a **Great Spotted Cuckoo** being chased by a pair of Magpies. We drove north through Trujillo, across the vast expanse of *dehesa* woodland, to Torrejón El Rubio, before reaching the Monfragüe National Park.



We made our first stop at Peña Falcon where **Griffon Vultures** wheeled above the cliff. Amongst them, looking quite diminutive was a **Peregrine**. Other birds appeared such as **Booted Eagle**, **Black Kite**, **Egyptian Vulture** and **Black Stork** (including a bird incubating on a nest). We also had magnificent views of **Blue Rock Thrush** and a singing **Rock Bunting**. After a stop for coffee we moved to the Tajadilla view point. As we got out of the car we heard **Hawfinch** and soon we had located a bird in a nearby elm tree. Along with **Hawfinches**, there were also **Siskins**, **Goldfinches**, **Linnets**, **Greenfinches** and **Chaffinches** feeding on the elm mast.

On the cliff opposite a **Griffon Vulture** was watched feeding its chick, whilst shortly afterwards drifted a juvenile **Golden Eagle** overhead, with a **Short-toed Eagle**, three species of **vulture** and **Black Kite** all in the view together. A **Cirl Bunting** was found singing close by. We repaired for lunch in the shelter of pines overlooking the Tietar river, enjoying more views of **Egyptian Vulture** and **Black Stork**.







We then proceeded to the Portilla del Tietar cliff. Here we had hoped to spend some time, but there was a rather noisy excursion having lunch there, so we retreated to Peña Falcon to conclude the day. We were not disappointed. Another **Golden Eagle**, superb close views of **Rock Bunting** and **Blue Rock Thrushes** in lovely afternoon light were some of the highlights. It was a thoroughly satisfying way to end the day!

### 1<sup>st</sup> April 2011

It was another clear and sunny day, even warmer than yesterday with the temperature rising to about 25 degrees in the afternoon. It was a perfect morning to explore the lavender and broom heath of Jaraicejo.



The white broom was in full flower and as we arrived a **Dartford Warbler** was singing on top of one of the bushes, An **Iberian Grey Shrike** sat on a wire and a **Thekla Lark** sang nearby. And so the morning progressed - there was always something of interest to see such as numbers of vultures drifting out of the Monfragüe National Park, butterflies and lizards (including **Iberian Rock Lizard**) at our feet. The adjacent cork oak grove was equally full of interest: **Lesser Spotted Woodpecker** in the tree beside us and superb views of **Crested Tits**. **Black Kites** wheeled above us, calling in the cloudless sky. It was late morning when we moved on, first for a short coffee break and then to drive to the Villuercas mountains, where we stopped at the River Almonte south of Retamosa, where the river has cut an impressive gorge. It was an excellent picnic site.



**Orange Tip** and **Brimstone** butterflies were on the wing, a male **Grey Wagtail** sat on a wire near the car for minutes on end and there were still some **Sand Crocuses** and **Meadow Saxifrage** in flower. Pride of place must go to the male **Black Wheatear** which swooped in to land beside the road, singing from the top of the crash barrier, before then moving to the boulders below.

From there we visited the dramatic village of Cabañas del Castillo, walking to a gap between the two crags above the village . To the west of the village lies a panorama of undulating *dehesa*, to the east the dramatic ridges and valleys of the Villuercas mountains. Here packs of **Alpine Swift** chattered and chased, a **Peregrine** mobbed a **Griffon Vulture**, a **Black Stork** glided high above us and **Short-toed Eagles** hung motionless in the sky. The flowers too were of interest: **Dwarf Sheep's' Bit** and **Yellow Toadflax** amongst others. There were also butterflies such as the **Spanish Festoon**.

We completed the afternoon in the cork-oak covered hillsides to the south of the village where we saw, at great height, a pair of **Bonelli's Eagle**, heard **Red-billed Choughs** and at closer quarters saw **Short-toed Treecreepers**. It had been another magnificent day and we concluded it with a short stop at the Bull Ring in Trujillo to watch **Lesser Kestrels**.







## 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2011

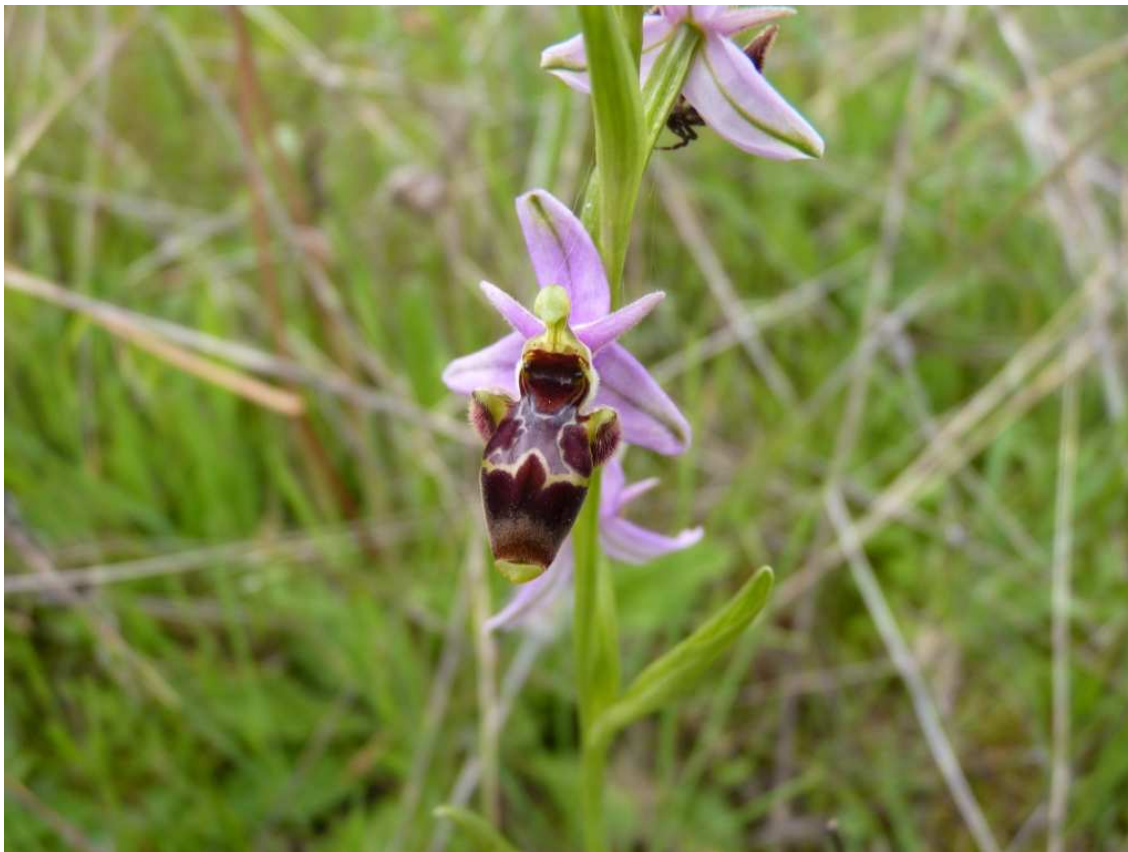
A hazier day today, but the anticipated rain never materialised. Rosemary and Richard spent the morning visiting Trujillo, walking around the medieval quarter first, including the Moorish Castle, before going to the annual Medieval Fair in the Main Square. Whilst in Trujillo they had views of a **Great Spotted Cuckoo** being chased by **Magpies**. At 1 pm we left Trujillo for Mérida. From the car park we passed some of the famous Roman sites before arriving at the impressive Roman Bridge, the longest in the world, spanning the Guadiana river. As a monument it is magnificent, but it is also a wonderful place to spend an afternoon's birding, which is just what we did. Eye-level views of **Pallid Swift** and **Alpine Swift**, a **Purple Swamphen** feeding right out in the open, no fewer than six different **Little Bitterns**, and excellent views of most of them were some of the choice on offer. One of the most memorable was the prolonged view of a nearby **Penduline Tit**, gathering the down from a reed mace seed head for its nest. We also saw two **Spoonbill** and a couple of **Black-crowned Night Heron**, including one perched. A winter plumage **Whiskered Tern** was also an unexpected bonus. All of this whilst townsfolk and other tourists (including a couple of wedding groups) were on the bridge! What a memorable afternoon!

## 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2011

It was generally an overcast day with quite windy spells, but it remained dry the whole day until we were heading back home. We headed first of all to the Portilla del Tietár in Monfragüe National Park. On arrival we found one of the **Eagle Owl** chicks at the nest site there showing itself quite well at the entrance of its nesting ledge. It took a bit of time for the adult to show itself – it had been bunkered low down in the nest, but did raise it self up for a period. The star of the show was the chick however – inquisitively looking around, sometimes staring at us (or so it seemed) and often opening its bill wide, as if yawning. We enjoyed great views of all three **vulture** species, as well as **Short-toed** and **Booted Eagle**, but just before midday, the leading actor took the stage as a **Spanish Imperial Eagle** rose above the skyline, being mobbed by a Black Kite. It drifted overhead, did a couple of turns and then disappeared from view - a fabulous experience.

After a stop for coffee we headed onto the reservoir of Arrocampo, which provides cooling water for the Almaraz Nuclear Power station. As we approached the area we stopped to check a wooded area for **Black-winged Kite** and we rewarded with views of the bird in flight and perched on a small pylon. The reservoir has fringing vegetation of reed mace and some *Phragmites* reed which is excellent for birds and we had superb views of **Purple Swamphen** and numerous **Purple Heron**. Perhaps most memorable was the excellent view of a singing **Savi's Warbler**, which reeled non-stop for minutes—when does it take its breath? Hundreds of **Sand Martins** were lined up on wires and then flew over the marsh as a real horde. We had lunch beside the reservoir, seeing **Great White Egret** feeding at the back of the pool. A second bird was seen much closer at a subsequent stop. We walked for a short distance at the back of the marsh and found a few **Sawfly Orchids** in flower.

The time had arrived for us to focus more fully on orchids, so we drove the short distance to the Cerro de Almaráz and had a wonderful hour and a half admiring the masses of **Naked Man**, **Yellow Bee** and **Mirror Orchids**, as well as finding **Champagne**, **Woodcock** and **Conical Orchids**. It was a remarkable area.



**4<sup>th</sup> April 2011**

It was excellent weather again today, warm and sunny and we enjoyed a full day exploring some of the areas between Trujillo and Cáceres. We started east of the village of Santa Marta de Magasca, seeing some displaying **Great Bustards** and a male **Little Bustard** at our very first stop. There was also a very smart **Iberian Grey Shrike** and whilst we were watching that, we heard the calls of **Pin-tailed Sandgrouse**. Soon we detected them against the clear blue sky, wheeling twos and threes, the sunlight catching their brilliant white underparts. From there we stopped a little bit further along the road and found a few on the ground, and despite some of developing heat haze, their bright orange breasts were clearly visible. There were good numbers of **Northern Wheatears** and **Woodchat Shrikes** in the area. We then drove a short distance along a dirt road, stopping to watch a party of five or six **Tawny Pipits**. We continued to a high point, where we could see a pool with a small group of **Black-winged Stilts**, whilst amongst grazing cattle to our right we located a few **Black-bellied** and **Pin-tailed Sandgrouse** feeding. The views were distance, so it was a relief to then be rewarded with excellent views of two **Black-bellied Sandgrouse** flying overhead. Their soft bubbling call just broke through the background of constant lark song.



After coffee in the village of Santa Marta de Magasca, we visited a colony of **Montagu's Harriers** to the north. There we were treated with the wonderful spectacle of nearly twenty displaying birds, some undertaking magnificent swoops and glides. We then repaired to the Rio Magasca for lunch, arriving just as a **Bonelli's Eagle** high overhead was being mobbed by a **Raven**, with a **Booted Eagle** in the same field of view. We enjoyed our lunch in a shady spot beside the river, watching **Pond** and **Stripe-necked Terrapins** and various butterflies, including **Cleopatras**. Rosemary was delighted when a **Kingfisher** flashed past and just minutes later we had fine views of an adult **Golden Eagle** drifting overhead. By the bridge itself there were **Crag Martins** and **Red-rumped Swallows**, whilst a **Cirl Bunting** sang in the valley.



We then headed south of the village, stopping to look at a **Montpellier Snake** beside the road, and then stopped close to the main road between Trujillo and Cáceres, where we found a distant **Roller** perched on a gate. We then paid a visit to the Guadiloba reservoir where about 25 **Collared Pratincoles** were present, as well as **Little Ringed Plover**. Finally we wandered in the lush ground and adjacent dry river bed below the dam, where **Nightingales** and **Cetti's Warblers** sang and we found several **Iberian Water Frogs**. A final impromptu stop at the San Lazaro park in Trujillo was made where we saw several broods of **Common Coots**.



### 5<sup>th</sup> April 2011

On their final morning of the holiday, Richard and Rosemary chose to take a local walk near the village and were rewarded with excellent views of Bee-eaters. After final photos and saying goodbye to Claudia, we left at 11.30 and made a short stop at the Cerro de Almaráz, visiting a different track to the one we had explored earlier, but still as magnificent for orchids, including a clump of **Dark Ophrys**.

From there it was non-stop to the airport, arriving shortly after 15.00. There was quite a long check-in queue, but once successfully bearing their boarding passes, Richard and Rosemary bid farewell to Martin, drawing to a close their wonderful week's holiday in Extremadura.





### **List of species seen**

Generally good weather and spring migrants arriving on cue helped us reach an excellent total of **143 species of birds** over the tour. These are listed below.

1. **Little Grebe:** Seen on small pool near Trujillo on 4<sup>th</sup> April.
2. **Great Crested Grebe:** Seen at Sierra Brava reservoir 30<sup>th</sup> March.
3. **Great Cormorant:** Seen almost everyday, sometimes in small migrating flocks.
4. **Little Bittern:** Six from Roman Bridge, Mérida on 2<sup>nd</sup> April.
5. **Black-crowned Night Heron:** Two from Roman Bridge, Mérida on 2<sup>nd</sup> April.
6. **Cattle Egret:** Common and seen almost daily.
7. **Little Egret:** Seen almost daily.
8. **Great White Egret:** Two at Arrocampo on 3<sup>rd</sup> April.
9. **Grey Heron:** Seen almost daily.

10. **Purple Heron:** Several at Arrocampo on 3<sup>rd</sup> April.
11. **Black Stork:** About six seen in Monfragüe on 31<sup>st</sup> March, one in Villuercas mountains on 1<sup>st</sup> April and also in Monfragüe on 3<sup>rd</sup> April.
12. **White Stork:** Seen daily.
13. **Spoonbill:** Two at Casas del Hito on 30<sup>th</sup> March and two over Roman Bridge, Mérida on 2<sup>nd</sup> April.
14. **Gadwall:** Seen at Arrocampo on 3<sup>rd</sup> April and Guadiloba on 4<sup>th</sup> April.
15. **Mallard:** Seen almost daily.
16. **Shoveler:** Perhaps a hundred or so at Sierra Brava on 30<sup>th</sup> March.
17. **Black-winged Kite:** One near Arrocampo on 3<sup>rd</sup> April
18. **Black Kite:** Seen daily.
19. **Red Kite:** Seen almost daily, but fewer than Black Kite.
20. **Egyptian Vulture:** Seen almost daily.
21. **Griffon Vulture:** Seen almost daily.
22. **Black Vulture:** Seen almost daily.
23. **Short-toed Eagle:** Seen almost daily.
24. **Marsh Harrier:** Seen on rice fields and at Arrocampo.
25. **Montagu's Harrier:** Seen on plains south of Zorita on 30<sup>th</sup> March (including a melanistic form) and north of Santa Marta de Magasca on 4<sup>th</sup> April.
26. **Sparrowhawk:** One seen on 31<sup>st</sup> March near Monfragüe.
27. **Common Buzzard:** Seen on 31<sup>st</sup> March and 4<sup>th</sup> April.
28. **Spanish Imperial Eagle:** One adult in Monfragüe on 3<sup>rd</sup> April.
29. **Golden Eagle:** Two seen in Monfragüe on 31<sup>st</sup> March and one north of Santa Marta de Magasca on 4<sup>th</sup> April.
30. **Booted Eagle:** Seen almost daily.
31. **Bonelli's Eagle:** Two in Villuercas mountains on 1<sup>st</sup> April and one north of Santa Marta de Magasca on 4<sup>th</sup> April.



32. **Lesser Kestrel**: Seen everyday, especially at Trujillo and on the plains.
33. **Common Kestrel**: Seen almost daily.
34. **Peregrine Falcon**: One at Monfragüe on 31<sup>st</sup> March and in Villuercas mountains on 1<sup>st</sup> April..
35. **Red-legged Partridge**: Seen or heard almost daily.
36. **Quail**: One calling on Zorita plains on 30<sup>th</sup> March.
37. **Moorhen**: Seen in suitable habitat.
38. **Purple Swamphen**: One seen from Roman Bridge Mérida on 2<sup>nd</sup> April and about six seen at Arrocampo on 3<sup>rd</sup> April.
39. **Common Coot**: Family parties on lake beside Trujillo.
40. **Little Bustard**: Displaying males on Zorita plains on 30<sup>th</sup> March and near Santa Marta de Magasca on 4<sup>th</sup> April.
41. **Great Bustard**: About 50 birds seen on the plains near Zorita on 30<sup>th</sup> March and perhaps 15 near Santa Marta de Magasca on 4<sup>th</sup> April.
42. **Black-winged Stilt**: Seen almost everyday.
43. **Avocet**: One at Casas del Hito on 30<sup>th</sup> March.
44. **Stone Curlew**: Four seen on Zorita plains on 30<sup>th</sup> March.
45. **Collared Pratincole**: Two near Palazuelo on 30<sup>th</sup> March and about 25 at Guadiloba on 4<sup>th</sup> April.
46. **Little Ringed Plover**: Two at Casas del Hito on 30<sup>th</sup> March and two at Guadiloba on 4<sup>th</sup> April.
47. **Northern Lapwing**: One at Casas del Hito on 30<sup>th</sup> March.
48. **Green Sandpiper**: One seen near Trujillo on 4<sup>th</sup> April.
49. **Whiskered Tern**: One from Roman Bridge, Mérida on 2<sup>nd</sup> April.
50. **Black-headed Gull**: Small numbers seen on 30<sup>th</sup> March and 2<sup>nd</sup> April.
51. **Lesser Black-backed Gull**: Singles seen in Mérida and Guadiloba.
52. **Black-bellied Sandgrouse**: About 10 near Santa Marta de Magasca on 4<sup>th</sup> April.

53. **Pin-tailed Sandgrouse**: About 20 seen near Santa Marta de Magasca on 4<sup>th</sup> April.
54. **Rock Dove/Feral Pigeon**: See daily.
55. **Wood Pigeon**: Seen daily.
56. **Collared Dove**: Seen daily.
57. **Great Spotted Cuckoo**: Seen at Casa Rural El Recuerdo on 31<sup>st</sup> March and in Trujillo on 2<sup>nd</sup> April, and heard at Guadiloba on 4<sup>th</sup> April.
58. **Common Cuckoo**: Heard almost daily and one seen on 3<sup>rd</sup> April.
59. **Scops Owl**: Calling each evening in Pago de San Clemente.
60. **Eagle Owl**: Adult and chick in Monfragüe on 3<sup>rd</sup> April.
61. **Little Owl**: One seen near Campo Lugar on 30<sup>th</sup> March.
62. **Alpine Swift**: Seen in Villuercas mountains, Mérida and Monfragüe.
63. **Pallid Swift**: Seen from Roman Bridge, Mérida on 2<sup>nd</sup> April.
64. **Common Swift**: Seen in Trujillo on 2<sup>nd</sup> April and near Santa Marta de Magasca on 4<sup>th</sup> April.
65. **Kingfisher**: Seen at Arrocampo on 3<sup>rd</sup> April and Rio Magasca on 4<sup>th</sup> April.
66. **Bee-eater**: Seen almost daily.
67. **Roller**: One near Santa Marta de Magasca on 4<sup>th</sup> April.
68. **Hoopoe**: Seen daily.
69. **Great Spotted Woodpecker**: Recorded near Palazuelo, Villuercas mountains and Monfragüe.
70. **Lesser Spotted Woodpecker**: Drumming most days in Pago de San Clemente and seen near Jaraicejo on 1<sup>st</sup> April.
71. **Calandra Lark**: Seen in good numbers on plains.
72. **Short-toed Lark**: Two near Palazuelo on 30<sup>th</sup> March and also near Santa Marta de Magasca on 4<sup>th</sup> April.
73. **Crested Lark**: Seen almost daily.
74. **Thekla Lark**: Seen almost daily.

75. **Woodlark**: Singing near Jaraicejo on 1<sup>st</sup> April.
76. **Sand Martin**: Present on rice fields and at Arrocampo.
77. **Crag Martin**: Seen almost daily.
78. **Barn Swallow**: Seen daily.
79. **Red-rumped Swallow**: Seen daily.
80. **House Martin**: Seen daily.
81. **Tawny Pipit**: Five or six near Santa Marta de Magasca on 4<sup>th</sup> April.
82. **Meadow Pipit**: Seen in small numbers on plains.
83. **Grey Wagtail**: Seen on Rio Almonte on 1<sup>st</sup> April.
84. **White Wagtail**: Seen almost daily.
85. **Wren**: Recorded almost daily.
86. **Robin**: Singing in Villuercas on 1<sup>st</sup> April.
87. **Nightingale**: Seen and/or heard daily.
88. **Black Redstart**: Seen almost daily.
89. **Stonechat**: Seen almost daily.
90. **Northern Wheatear**: Large numbers on passage on the plains.
91. **Black-eared Wheatear**: One near Sierra Brava on 30<sup>th</sup> March.
92. **Black Wheatear**: Male at Rio Almonte on 1<sup>st</sup> April.
93. **Blue Rock Thrush**: Seen on both visits to Monfragüe and to Villuercas.
94. **Blackbird**: Seen almost daily.
95. **Song Thrush**: One seen near Monfragüe on 31<sup>st</sup> March.
96. **Mistle Thrush**: Seen in Villuercas mountains on 1<sup>st</sup> April.
97. **Cetti's Warbler**: Recorded daily.
98. **Zitting Cisticola**: Seen almost daily.
99. **Savi's Warbler**: At least five singing at Arrocampo on 3<sup>rd</sup> April.



100. **Sedge Warbler:** One singing in cereal field near Zorita on 30<sup>th</sup> March.
101. **Reed Warbler:** Seen from Roman Bridge Mérida on 2<sup>nd</sup> April and several singing at Arrocampo on 3<sup>rd</sup> April.
102. **Great Reed Warbler:** One seen beside Rio Ruercas on 30<sup>th</sup> March and heard at Arrocampo on 3<sup>rd</sup> April.
103. **Dartford Warbler:** Several in song at Jaraicejo on 1<sup>st</sup> April.
104. **Spectacled Warbler:** A male on passage on plains near Zorita on 30<sup>th</sup> March.
105. **Subalpine Warbler:** Seen at Monfragüe and in the Villuercas mountains.
106. **Sardinian Warbler:** Recorded several times.
107. **Western Orphean Warbler:** Two heard at Jaraicejo on 1<sup>st</sup> April.
108. **Blackcap:** Seen almost daily.
109. **Iberian Chiffchaff:** One singing at Rio Ruercas on 30<sup>th</sup> March.
110. **Common Chiffchaff:** Singing in Rio Ruercas on 30<sup>th</sup> March.
111. **Long-tailed Tit:** Seen at Monfragüe and Villuercas.
112. **Crested Tit:** Excellent views at Jaraicejo on 1<sup>st</sup> April.
113. **Blue Tit:** Seen daily.
114. **Great Tit:** Seen daily.
115. **Bearded Tit:** Heard at Arrocampo on 3<sup>rd</sup> April.
116. **Nuthatch:** Seen at Jaraicejo and the Villuercas mountains on 1<sup>st</sup> April.
117. **Short-toed Treecreeper:** Seen in Monfragüe on 31<sup>st</sup> March and at Jaraicejo and the Villuercas mountains on 1<sup>st</sup> April.
118. **Penduline Tit:** A pair seen from Roman Bridge, Mérida on 2<sup>nd</sup> April.
119. **Iberian Grey Shrike:** Seen almost daily.
120. **Woodchat Shrike:** Seen almost daily.

121. **Jay:** Seen in the Villuercas mountains and Monfragüe.
122. **Azure-winged Magpie:** Seen daily.
123. **Magpie:** Seen daily.
124. **Red-billed Chough:** Recorded in Villuercas mountains on 1<sup>st</sup> April.
125. **Jackdaw:** Seen almost daily.
126. **Raven:** Seen almost daily.
127. **Spotless Starling:** Seen daily.
128. **House Sparrow:** Seen daily.
129. **Spanish Sparrow:** Seen almost daily.
130. **Tree Sparrow:** Seen on rice fields.
131. **Rock Sparrow:** Singing near Jaraicejo on 1<sup>st</sup> April.
132. **Common Waxbill:** Small flock in rice fields on 30<sup>th</sup> March.
133. **Red Avadavat:** Many seen on rice fields.
134. **Chaffinch:** Seen almost daily.
135. **Serin:** Seen daily.
136. **Greenfinch:** Seen in Monfragüe and in Mérida.
137. **Goldfinch:** Seen daily.
138. **Siskin:** Party in Monfragüe on 31<sup>st</sup> March.
139. **Linnet:** Seen almost daily.
140. **Hawfinch:** Seen at Monfragüe on 31<sup>st</sup> March.
141. **Cirl Bunting:** Singing in Monfragüe on 31<sup>st</sup> march and near Santa Marta de Magasca on 4<sup>th</sup> April.
142. **Rock Bunting:** Seen at Monfragüe on 31<sup>st</sup> March and 3<sup>rd</sup> April.
143. **Corn Bunting:** Seen daily.

## Mammals

Iberian hare  
Rabbit

## Reptiles and amphibians

European Pond Terrapin  
Spanish (stripe-necked) Terrapin  
Montpellier Snake  
Large Psammodromus lizard  
Iberian Wall Lizard  
Iberian Rock Lizard  
Stripeless Tree Frog  
Iberian Water Frog

## Butterflies

Swallowtail  
Spanish Festoon  
Large White  
Western Dappled White  
Bath White  
Brimstone  
Clouded Yellow  
Cleopatra  
Nettle-tree Butterfly  
Painted Lady  
Small Heath  
Southern Speckled Wood  
Wall Brown  
Green Hairstreak  
Small Copper  
Holly Blue  
Brown Argus

## Other invertebrates

A small blue damselfly (sp?)  
Vagrant Emperor Dragonfly *Hemianax ephippiger*  
A large Pond Skater (sp? Prob. *Aquarius najas*)  
Egyptian Locust *Anacridium aegyptium*  
Rhinceros Beetle *Copris lunaris*  
Red-striped Oil Beetle  
Purple-barred yellow moth *Lythria cruentaria*  
Giant Peacock moth *Saturnia pyri*  
Violet Carpenter Bee *Xylocopa violacea*  
Great Centipede *Scolopendra cingulatus*

## Highlights of the plants



<i>Celtis australis</i>	Southern nettle-tree
<i>Paronychia capita</i>	Paronychia
<i>Spergularia purpurea</i>	Purple sand-spurrey
<i>Silene colorata</i>	Mediterranean Campion
<i>Ranunculus sp.</i>	Water Crowfoot
<i>Fumaria capreolata</i>	Ramping Fumitory
<i>Sisymbrium altissimum</i>	Tall rocket
<i>Raphanus raphanistrum</i>	Wild radish
<i>Umbilicus rupestris</i>	Navelwort
<i>Saxifraga granulata</i>	Meadow Saxifrage
<i>Adenocarpus argyrophyllus</i>	Spanish Adenocarpus
<i>Cercis siliquastrum</i>	Judas Tree
<i>Cytisus multiflorus</i>	White Broom
<i>Cytisus scoparius</i>	Yellow Broom
<i>Hedysarum glomeratum</i>	a sainfoin
<i>Lupinus angustifolius</i>	Narrow-leaved Lupin
<i>Geranium molle</i>	Dovesfoot Cranesbill
<i>Cistus albidus</i>	Grey-leaved Cistus
<i>Cistus clusii</i>	
<i>Cistus salviifolius</i>	Sage-leaved Cistus
<i>Cistus ladanifer</i>	Gum Cistus
<i>Helianthemum nummularium</i>	Common Rockrose
<i>Arbutus unedo</i>	Strawberry Tree
<i>Erica arborea</i>	Tree heath
<i>Echium plantagineum</i>	Purple Viper's bugloss
<i>Anchusa undulata</i>	Undulate Anchusa
<i>Lamium amplexicaule</i>	henbit Deadnettle
<i>Linaria spartea</i>	Yellow Toadflax
<i>Jasione crispa</i>	Dwarf Sheep's Bit
<i>Calendula arvensis</i>	Field marigold
<i>Prolongoa pectinata</i>	small yellow daisy
<i>Asphodelus aestivus</i>	Common Asphodel
<i>Ornithogalum sp.</i>	Star of Bethlehem
<i>Muscari comosum</i>	Tassel Hyacinth
<i>Muscari neglectum</i>	Grape Hyacinth
<i>Narcissus bulbocodium</i>	hoop-petticoat Narcissus
<i>Gynandris sisyrrinchium</i>	Barbary Nut iris
<i>Romulea bulbocodium</i>	Sand crocus
<i>Orchis champagneuxii</i>	Champagne orchid
<i>Orchis conica</i>	Conical orchid
<i>Orchis italica</i>	Naked man orchid
<i>Ophrys tenthredinifera</i>	Sawfly orchid
<i>Ophrys lutea</i>	Yellow bee orchid
<i>Ophrys scolopax</i>	Woodcock orchid
<i>Ophrys speculum</i>	Mirror orchid
<i>Ophrys incubacea</i>	Dark Ophrys
<i>Lamrakia aurea</i>	Golden Dog's tail