

Spain - Extremadura & Gredos Mountains

Naturetrek Tour Report

12 -19 May 2011



Rock Bunting



Bluethroat



Spanish Ibex



Spanish Festoon

Report and images compiled by Lee Morgan and James Andrews



Naturetrek Cheriton Mill Cheriton Alresford Hampshire SO24 0NG England

T: +44 (0)1962 733051

F: +44 (0)1962 736426

E: info@naturetrek.co.uk

W: www.naturetrek.co.uk

Tour Leaders: Lee Morgan (Tour Leader & Naturalist)
James Andrews (Co-leader & Naturalist)

Participants: Alan Darling
Andi Darling
Ros Burfield
Colin Best
Judith Best
Katherine Philipson
Matthew Philipson
Iris de Carteret
Brian Shepherd
David George
Mary George
Martin Wall
Bruce Graham

Day 1

Thursday 12th May

London – Madrid - Trujillo

Despite a rather arduous flight (delayed by nearly two hours) the group finally arrived in a rather overcast Madrid ready to make the journey southwest to Trujillo. After taking the chance to grab a quick cup of coffee and a bite to eat at the airport, we loaded up the minibuses and set off into the busy afternoon traffic. Once we broke clear of the busy Madrid ring roads and found our way out onto the open roads we began to make good progress.

Despite being tired from the days travel, everyone remained in good spirits and spent their time spotting birds from the windows of the vans and whilst en route we enjoyed some excellent views of White Stork, Thekla and Crested Lark, Corn Bunting and Black Kite. Some people even managed to spot a few Whiskered Terns that were milling around over a small pond close to the road making an unexpected addition to the trip list. We eventually arrived at Vina las Torres some time after 8pm where after a friendly welcome by our hosts and we were treated to an excellent Spanish meal (the first of many to come) before making our way to bed.

Day 2

Friday 13th May

Belen and Magasca Plains

Most people are awake early (woken up by the sound of nightingales in the garden) and took the opportunity for a little pre-breakfast birding around the finca. Within a short distance of the front gate we enjoyed good views of Azure-winged Magpies, Hoopoe, Woodchat Shrikes and even caught a glimpse of the fluffy heads of two Barn Owl chicks nesting in the chimney of the barn opposite.

We spent a while trying to get a good view of the Golden Orioles and Sardinian Warblers that called from the cover of trees below the finca but as the sun rose higher, our mild frustration with the birds was cut short by the lure of fresh coffee and we tore ourselves away and returned to the hotel for breakfast.

After a leisurely breakfast the sun was already high in the sky and we loaded the minibuses and prepared ourselves for a day exploring the plains. As we headed away from the hotel we were treated to nice views of a Southern Grey Shrike perched high up on a wire overlooking the farm road. A stop in Trujillo to buy supplies for a picnic provided everyone with a chance to take a leisurely stroll around the bull ring and one of the town parks where everyone had nice views of Lesser Kestrels, Black Kites and huge numbers of Swallows, Red-Rumped Swallows, Swifts and House Martins that were catching insects over a small lake to the rear of the supermarket. It also provided the chance to add a few common species to our growing list of birds and Goldfinch, Serin, Coot and Mallard were all seen too.

We eventually set off once more, through the winding streets of Trujillo and through the tiny village of Belen, eventually making our way out on the long dirt tracks that would take us out onto the Plains. By this time, the sun was high in the sky and as we set out onto the dusty tracks the treeless landscape was heating up fast. Our first stop along side the road gave everyone a taste of just how difficult it can sometimes be to spot birds on these plains. The long grass meadows provide ample hiding spaces for even the largest birds and patience and perseverance would certainly be the key if our search for bustards was to be successful. We scanned the skies for a while and had some lovely views of Booted Eagles as they cruised around over head and watched Griffon and Black Vultures circling in the distance.

We made our way further along the long dusty tracks, admiring the spreading bellflower and occasional clumps of French lavender that still adorned the roadside verges. Corn Buntings and Crested Larks were plentiful on every fence post but brief stops along the road provided some nice views of a Stone Curlew (very close views for some people, who 'were not quite in the position to get a photo'), Calandra Lark and several Egyptian Vultures standing on rocks in a distant field. At practically every stop we could hear the occasional tell tail calls of Little Bustards but they were being frustratingly secretive. The heat haze was building all the time and after a while every rock was starting to look like a Bustard (even the Corn Buntings were hiding!) but we soldiered on and even after a long and leisurely lunch taken out in the heat of the plain (in a vain hope that one or two birds might just pop their heads out) we had no further joy. We opted to move on in search of newer (and shorter) pastures.

A short drive in the vans (with the air condition blasting) to the Magasca plains was enough to invigorate everyone's interest once more as we began our search for Bustards. We were not disappointed. As the heat of the midday sun finally began to subside, as if by magic, the birds began to appear. In a short space of time we were watching several Great Bustards strutting and displaying in one of the large field. Our attention was then diverted by Matthew who, in very quick succession, managed to find both his target bird species for the trip when he spotted a lovely Male Montagu's Harrier flying low over the fields behind us, quickly followed by a rapid flyby of a flock of 18 Black-Bellied Sandgrouse. But our day was not over yet and we were determined to catch a glimpse of at least one of the Little Bustards that we had heard calling all day! An open gateway provided us with our last opportunity; a slightly higher vantage point and a different perspective over a field we had been scanning for a while. It was just what we needed.

As soon as we entered the gate we could see a solitary male popping his head up out of the grass at the far end of the field and we watched it in the scope for a while before we eventually called it a day. It was a just reward for what had been a very tough days birding and we returned to the hotel tired but very happy with our efforts.

Day 3

Saturday 14th May

Caceres Plains

We started the day with a later breakfast, giving everyone a chance to have a lay in. Nonetheless most people managed a pre-breakfast walk around the hotel, giving everyone a second chance to see some of the species they had missed out on the day before. Most of the group managed to get nice views of the Hawfinches that were nesting in the hotel garden too. By 8am it was already warm and the clear blue skies indicated it was going to be another warm day out on the plains.

After breakfast we set off in the minibus once again to explore more of the steppe habitats around Trujillo. We stopped briefly in town for some fresh lunch supplies before heading west to towards Caceres. We started the day well with a nice low fly over from a huge Black Vulture, dozens of Griffon Vultures, several Booted Eagles and an unexpected show from a male Hen Harrier. Walking along the road, we searched for Sandgrouse that could be heard calling from cover around the margins of one of the fields and had great views of several pairs of Rollers, Common Kestrels and numerous Spotless Starlings that were busy visiting the nesting boxes located on the pylons next to the road. It was starting to get very hot and there was, once again, an ominous lack of Bustard activity in the area. Nevertheless our careful scanning of each field revealed some nice additions to our bird list with some great views of Tawny Pipit, Short-toed Lark, Short-toed Eagle and some more amazing views of Montagu's Harriers.

We stopped for a picnic lunch by the Rio Magasca (in an attempt to escape the worst of the midday sun) where we watched turtles basking on rocks along the rivers edge and listened to the frogs calling from the reeds. Some people spent some time trying to spot the Spanish Sparrows amidst the dozens of Tree Sparrows nesting in the bottom of a large raptor nest while others watched the flocks of Long-tailed Tits and Coal Tits moving through the oak trees that lined the river valley. After a lazy lunch we retraced our steps back across the plain towards Caceres in the hope of getting some more views of Bustards. Once again, we were not disappointed. As soon as the heat of the midday sun had started to subside we found five Great Bustards standing in the open in the middle of a field affording great views to everyone in the group. We opted to end the day on a high and left the Bustards behind and returned to the hotel a little earlier, giving everyone a chance to relax before enjoying another wonderful Spanish meal prepared for us by our hosts.

Day 4

Sunday 15th May

Monfrague National Park

We started the day with a little earlier and with good reason. We were heading into the Monfrague National Park with the intention of starting our day on top of the Castillio de Monfrague, a notoriously busy hotspot in the park but a great vantage point from which to watch the raptors taking to the air around Penafalcon rock. So after a quick breakfast we hit the road.

We arrived at the car park just below the castle before 9 am and made the short walk up the steep staircase to the castle. From the top of the castle we were met by crystal clear skies and spectacular vistas of the Monfrague park extending out for miles around us. Within minutes we were enjoying wonderful views of Griffon and Black Vultures flying past us at eye level and were all taking it in turns with the scopes to watch a Spanish Imperial Eagle at the nest feeding its chick. White-rumped, Alpine and Common Swifts screamed past overhead while Short-toed Treecreepers called from the castle walls below. This was truly a wonderful morning's birdwatching.

It was late morning by the time we managed to we drag ourselves away and we set off into the park in search of more birds and a shady spot to have lunch. We paused briefly at Puente Nuevo to watch the swarms of House Martins and 12 Alpine Swifts that nest under the bridge.

We stopped for lunch at the picnic site overlooking the Embalse de Torrejon-Tietar and trained the scopes on the numerous Griffon Vultures that sat around on the steep cliffs on the opposite bank of the reservoir and watched a couple of Golden Eagles flying high over the dam. There was little else moving in the heat of the midday sun so we relaxed for a while under the shade of the trees before setting off once more to look for Eagle-owls at the Mirador Portilla del Tietar. En route a few people spotted several Red Deer in a field next to the road and some were lucky enough to spot a kingfisher that darted across the road between the two mini buses. At the mirador we set about systematically scanning the rocks and trees for any sign of an Eagle-owl but, having little luck, we turned our attention to the skies where we were lucky enough to see Spanish Imperial Eagle, Egyptian Vulture and Black Stork before we decided to call it a day.

On the return to the minibuses we were fortunate enough to bump into a local couple watching the slopes (some distance from the main watch point) and on enquiry they were very pleased to point out to us an almost fully fledged Eagle-owl chick sitting motionless in the shade deep within a small Arbutus tree! This was an incredible end to an amazing day's bird watching, and after taking the time to have a really good look at the bird that we very nearly overlooked, we headed back to the hotel very happy with our efforts.

Day 5

Monday 16th May

Extremadura to Gredos via Monfrague

We started our day a little early giving everybody a final chance for a little more birding around the hotel before we eventually had to pack up the minibuses, say our farewells to the wonderful Vina Las Torres and continue our journey northwards to the Gredos Mountains. We were all keen to repeat the success of the previous day and opted to take the longer but more scenic route, one that would take us once again through the wonderful Monfrague National Park. The need to top up the picnic supplies gave everyone the chance for one final look around Trujillo. Many took the opportunity to walk up the cobbled streets to the castle while others opted to take a leisurely stroll, grab a coffee and generally soak up the atmosphere of the wonderful historic town.

Our journey to Monfrague was relaxed and we took the chance to stop and have a look along the Rio Almonte. After a quick scan around the bridge where we heard Cettis Warblers and watched a displaying Zitting Cisticola, terrapins and numerous dragonflies we took a short walk upstream where James and Matthew found a singing Great Reed Warbler that obliged us all with some really great views.

Heading onwards we retraced our steps back through the park stopping briefly at the busy Penafalcon watch point where we all had some nice views of Redstart, Black Redstart and Blue Rockthrush. We stopped for lunch by the National Park visitor centre where, as we set out our picnic, we were treated to views of a Honey Buzzard that soared overhead. After lunch we re visited the Portilla del Tietar once again where, although we added few new species to our list, we were happy to take just one more chance to watch the hundreds of Griffon Vultures mooching around their nesting cliffs and take our last chance too see Black Storks and Egyptian Vultures feeding their chicks at the nest.

It was mid afternoon before I could tear the group away and we continued our journey northwards, taking in some of the parks wonderful Cork Oak habitats on the way. The remainder of our journey north was largely uneventful, taking the main road via Plasencia, winding our way up through the sheltered valleys filled with cherry orchards, before eventually crossing the Gredos Mountains and arriving at our hotel in the wonderful little village of Hoyos del Espino in the early evening where after updating our trip lists in the comfort of the hotel bar we retire to the dining room to enjoy another wonderful Spanish meal.

Day 6

Tuesday 17th May

Hoyos del Espino – La Plataforma

We started our day with clear skies and some wonderful views up to the mountains. A relaxed pre-breakfast stroll along road and up the hill behind the hotel proved rewarding and we quickly added some great views of Melodious Warbler, Whitethroat, Bonelli's Warbler and Cirl Bunting to our sightings for the day.

After a leisurely breakfast we all took a little time to explore the steep cobbled streets of the pretty village of Hoyos del Espino where we watched the Black Redstarts and Serins singing from the terracotta rooftops, swarms of Swifts and Swallows charging along the narrow streets and even manage to get some nice views of Rock Sparrow perched up on a TV aerial.

It was late morning by the time we returned and we all jumped into the minibus to head up to La Plataforma for lunch. We stopped briefly en route to look for Dippers near the river and scan the fields and floodplains where we got some great views of several Iberian race Yellow Wagtails, as well as Pied and Grey Wagtail too. We took a rather hurried picnic sitting in the seemingly unusual surroundings of La Plataforma car park, but there was method in this madness as it gave us all a great chance to watch (and photograph) the tame Rock Buntings that inevitably come pecking for scraps. Some even managed to get some nice views of Ortolan Bunting, more Yellow Wagtails and some very handsome Schriebers Lizards too.

After lunch we all took a slow walk up the steep mountain path above Plataforma stopping occasionally to scan the rocky outcrops for Rock Thrush and watch Black-eared Wheatears and Water Pipits displaying amidst the boulders. We explored the alpine meadow plateau on the path to the Refugio de Reguero Llano where we spent some time watching and attempting to photograph the male Bluethroats that occasionally popped up onto the bushes just a few feet in front of us. We made our way slowly across the wet plateau grassland, listening to songs of numerous Skylarks and admiring the thousands of tiny flowers of hoop-petticoat daffodils and lousewort as we went.

While many of the group were enjoying some wonderfully close encounters with a rather relaxed bachelor herd of Spanish Ibx, James managed to find us a nice (if somewhat distant) view of a Rock Thrush (a species that had eluded us throughout most of the trip). It was a great end to our time on the mountain and we returned to Plataforma.

On return to the car park we encountered some holiday makers who had run into some difficulties with their hire car and were stranded at La Plataforma. We decided to use this opportunity to our advantage and offered to drive the stranded pair back to the Parador where we spent the remainder of the day looking (unsuccessfully) for Citril Finches amidst the pine forests that surround the hotel. Despite our lack of success with the finches we did manage some amazingly close views of Firecrest and returned to the hotel happy with our efforts.

Day 7

Wednesday 18th May

'Bonellis Wood' & Prado del Jabali

After breakfast we set off early with the intention of exploring some of the Gredos Mountains wonderful woodland habitats. We headed east, stopping briefly once more to look for Citril Finches around the Parador. Again, no Finches but we did manage to get some nice views of a Pied Flycatcher perched in a clearing below us. We pressed onwards towards Hoyocasero and stopped in 'Bonelli's Wood' and took a walk through the wonderful mixed oak woods filled with the sound of Golden Orioles, Nightingales and of course Bonelli's Warblers. Spanish Festoon butterflies flitted between the Western Peonys that cover the woodland floor and we watched as Booted Eagles cruised overhead before making our way back to the woodlands picnic site for lunch. After lunch we explored the pine forest habitats at the southern end of the wood where we found a spectacular display of yellow Pasque flowers that even the most die hard birders couldn't fail to appreciate.

By mid afternoon the temperatures was getting very hot so we started to make our way back towards Hoyos del Espino to explore more thoroughly the extensive and shady pine forest habitats below the Parador Hotel and along the wonderful Prado del Jabali. We drove slowly down the winding forest tracks, stopping occasionally to walk a little and scan the tall forest trees. It was a little quiet on the bird front but there were plenty of common species to look at with Coal Tits and Chaffinches a plenty, and once again James managed a great find of a Goldcrest visiting a nest hanging just above our heads.

As we made our way further down into the woodland everyone got some nice views of Red Squirrels before everyone walked down to the river to look for Dippers. We managed a couple of fleeting glimpses of the Dippers but they seemed unsettled so we took some time to explore the more open forests along the Prado del Jabali, looking for woodpeckers and crossbills amidst the massive pine trees.

After a good walk around we eventually set off once more where a brief stop to scan the skies for raptors turns into a wonderful end to our final days birding as we watch a Sparrowhawk, two Peregrines, several Booted Eagles and two Bonelli's Eagles soaring around above us. As the birds slowly dispersed we finally managed to tear ourselves away from this wonderful location and made our way back to the hotel where we recapped on our weeks birding and enjoyed our final evening meal of the holiday.

Day 8

Thursday 19th May

Hoyos del Espino to Madrid - London

We set off early in an attempt to beat the inevitable traffic on the Madrid ring roads but after a long uneventful drive we still managed to end up in a rather long queue of cars as we entered Madrid. Fortunately we had allowed plenty of time and we all maintained high spirits with a ridiculously fun game of 'film titles for ornithologists' (a game that turned out to be very contagious and lasted over a month in the Morgan household!) as well as remaining alert enough to spot 2 Alexandrine Parakeets that flew rapidly past the buses as we moved slowly through the traffic. It made for a fitting end to a wonderful trip!

Summary:

Despite some tough watching conditions that made it a little difficult to spot some of the target species, the group persevered and were justly rewarded with some great views. A nice list of bird species coupled with great food, clear skies and great company made for a relaxing, entertaining and thoroughly enjoyable trip.

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Species Lists

Birds (✓ = recorded but not counted; H = heard only)

	Common name	Scientific name	May							
			12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
1	Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>	✓	✓	✓		3			
2	Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
3	Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>		1	2					
4	Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
5	Black Stork	<i>Ciconia nigra</i>				7	11			
6	White Stork	<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
7	Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓
8	Black Kite	<i>Milvus migrans</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
9	Red Kite	<i>Milvus milvus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
10	Egyptian Vulture	<i>Neophron percnopterus</i>		3		7	5			
11	Black Vulture	<i>Aegypius monachus</i>		2	5	15+	12	5		
12	Griffon Vulture	<i>Gyps fulvus</i>		30+	30+	60+	60+	5	3	
13	Montagu's Harrier	<i>Circus pygargus</i>		4	5					
14	Hen Harrier	<i>Circus cyaneus</i>			1					
15	Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>					1			
16	Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>							1	
17	Goshawk	<i>Accipiter gentilis</i>				1				
18	Honey Buzzard	<i>Pernis apivorus</i>					1			
19	Common Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
20	Golden Eagle	<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>				3				
21	Spanish Imperial Eagle	<i>Aquila heliaca (adalberti)</i>				3				
22	Bonelli's Eagle	<i>Hieraaetus fasciatus</i>		2		1			2	
23	Booted Eagle	<i>Hieraaetus pennatus</i>		5	6	4	3	2	5	
24	Short-toed Eagle	<i>Circaetus gallicus</i>			2		3			
25	Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
26	Lesser Kestrel	<i>Falco naumanni</i>		5	1	3	5	1		
27	Peregrine	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>						1	1	
28	Red-legged Partridge	<i>Alectoris rufa</i>		3		H	1	1		
29	Common Quail	<i>Coturnix coturnix</i>		H	H					
30	Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>		2	1					
31	Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>	✓	✓	✓		✓			
32	Great Bustard	<i>Otis tarda</i>		5	5					
33	Little Bustard	<i>Tetrax tetrax</i>		4	H					
34	Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>		3	1	2				
35	Stone Curlew	<i>Burhinus oedicnemus</i>		2						
36	Little ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>		1	1					
37	Black-bellied Sandgrouse	<i>Pterocles orientalis</i>		10	H					
38	Wood Pigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
39	Rock Dove / Feral Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
40	Stock Dove	<i>Columba oenas</i>	1		1	1				
41	Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
42	Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>			H		2			
43	Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
44	Eagle Owl	<i>Bubo bubo</i>			1	1				
45	Scops Owl	<i>Otus scops</i>	H		H	H	H	H	H	
46	Barn Owl	<i>Tyto Alba</i>	1	2	2	1	2			
47	Alpine Swift	<i>Tachymartitis melba</i>				12	1	1		

	Common name	Scientific name	May							
			12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
48	White-rumped Swift	<i>Apus caffer</i>				2				
49	Pallid Swift	<i>Apus pallidus</i>	3	2	2	9	✓		4	✓
50	Common Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
51	Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>				1				
52	Bee-eater	<i>Merops apiaster</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
53	Roller	<i>Coracias garrulus</i>			12	1	2			
54	Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
55	Green Woodpecker	<i>Picus viridis</i>					1		H	
56	Great-spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopus major</i>				2		H	4	
57	Woodlark	<i>Lullula arborea</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
58	Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>		✓	✓			✓	✓	✓
59	Crested Lark	<i>Galerida cristata</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
60	Thekla Lark	<i>Galerida theklae</i>	2							
61	Short-toed Lark	<i>Calandrella brachydactyla</i>			1					
62	Calandra Lark	<i>Melanocorypha calandra</i>		✓	✓					
63	Crag Martin	<i>Ptyonoprogne rupestris</i>				7	9			
64	Sand Martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>	✓			✓				
65	Red-rumped Swallow	<i>Cecropis daurica</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
66	Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
67	House Martin	<i>Delichon urbica</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
68	Water Pipit	<i>Anthus spinoletta</i>						4		
69	Tree Pipit	<i>Anthus trivialis</i>							2	
70	Meadow Pipit	<i>Anthus pratensis</i>						2		
71	Tawny Pipit	<i>Anthus campestris</i>		1	2					
72	White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>			1	4	5	3	✓	✓
73	Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>				1	1	2	1	
74	Yellow (Iberian) Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava iberiae</i>						10		
75	Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>			1	H		H	1	
76	Dipper	<i>Cinclus cinclus</i>					1	1	1	
77	Dunnock	<i>Prunella modularis</i>						✓	✓	
78	Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>					✓	✓	✓	✓
79	Nightingale	<i>Luscinia megarhynchos</i>	2	1	1	1	1	2	3	1
80	Bluethroat	<i>Luscinia svecica</i>						5		
81	Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>				2		2		
82	Black Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>				1	4	✓	✓	✓
83	Stonechat	<i>Saxicola torquata</i>		1	1	1	2	4	1	
84	Northern Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>				1	1	4		
85	Black-eared Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe hispanica</i>						11	2	
86	Rock Thrush	<i>Monticola saxatilis</i>						1		
87	Blue Rock Thrush	<i>Monticola solitarius</i>				12	3			
88	Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
89	Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>				1		1	1	
90	Mistle Thrush	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>						1	H	
91	Fan-tailed Warbler	<i>Cisticola juncidis</i>		1	1	1	2			
92	Cetti's Warbler	<i>Cettia cetti</i>				H	H			
93	Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>					1			
94	Great Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus arundinaceus</i>						✓	✓	✓
95	Subalpine Warbler	<i>Sylvia cantillans</i>				2	9			
96	Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia communis</i>					H	✓	✓	
97	Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>					H	✓	✓	✓
98	Sardinian Warbler	<i>Sylvia melanocephala</i>		H	3	2	1	1		

	Common name	Scientific name	May								
			12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	
99	Western Bonelli's Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus bonelli</i>						✓	✓	H	
100	Goldcrest	<i>Regulus regulus</i>							2		
101	Firecrest	<i>Regulus ignicapillus</i>						✓	✓		
102	Crested Tit	<i>Lophophanes cristatus</i>						1	5		
103	Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
104	Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
105	Coal Tit	<i>Periparus ater</i>			H		H	✓	✓	✓	
106	Long-tailed Tit	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>					3		15+		
107	Nuthatch	<i>Sitta europaea</i>							✓		
108	Short-toed Treecreeper	<i>Certhia brachydactyla</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓		
109	Iberian Grey Shrike	<i>Lanius meridionalis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				
110	Red-backed Shrike	<i>Lanius collurio</i>	1			2					
111	Woodchat Shrike	<i>Lanius senator</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	1	1	
112	Common Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	3							✓	
113	Spotless Starling	<i>Sturnus unicolor</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
114	Golden Oriole	<i>Oriolus oriolus</i>		H	4	H	H		10		
115	Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>			1	1	1		5		
116	Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
117	Azure-winged Magpie	<i>Cyanopica cyana</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				
118	Jackdaw	<i>Corvus monedula</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
119	Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>		1	1	1	1	5	1		
120	Carrion Crow	<i>Corvus corone</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
121	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
122	Tree Sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>			2						
123	Spanish Sparrow	<i>Passer hispaniolensis</i>		✓	✓						
124	Rock Sparrow	<i>Petronia petronia</i>						1			
125	Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>		1	3	15	✓	✓	✓	✓	
126	Hawfinch	<i>Coccothraustes coccothraustes</i>		1	2		1				
127	Crossbill	<i>Loxia curvirostra</i>						H	H		
128	Serin	<i>Serinus serinus</i>		1	7	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
129	Greenfinch	<i>Carduelis chloris</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
130	Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
131	Linnet	<i>Acanthis cannabina</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
132	Corn Bunting	<i>Miliaria calandra</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
133	Ortolan Bunting	<i>Emberiza hortulana</i>						7			
134	Cirl Bunting	<i>Emberiza cirlus</i>						1			
135	Rock Bunting	<i>Emberiza cia</i>						60+	4	2	
136	Alexandrine Parakeet	<i>Psittacula eupatria</i>								2	

Butterflies

1	Spanish Swallowtail	<i>Iphiclides feisthamelii</i>	17	Holly Blue	<i>Celastrina argiolus</i>
2	Spanish Festoon	<i>Zerynthia rumina</i>	18	Chapman's Blue	<i>Polyommatus thersites</i>
3	Cleopatra	<i>Gonepteryx cleopatra</i>	19	Silver-studded Blue	<i>Plebejus argus</i>
4	Brimstone	<i>Gonepteryx rhamni</i>	20	Comma	<i>Polygonia c-album</i>
5	Berger's Clouded Yellow	<i>Colias alfacariensis</i>	21	Painted Lady	<i>Vanessa cardui</i>
6	Clouded Yellow	<i>Colias crocea</i>	22	Red Admiral	<i>Vanessa atalanta</i>
7	Large White	<i>Pieris brassicae</i>	23	Peacock	<i>Inachis io</i>
8	Green-veined White	<i>Pieris napi</i>	24	Small Tortoiseshell	<i>Aglais urticae</i>
9	Small White	<i>Pieris rapae</i>	25	Large Tortoiseshell	<i>Nymphalis polychloros</i>
10	Orange Tip	<i>Anthocharis cardamines</i>	26	Silver-washed Fritillary	<i>Argynnis paphia</i>
11	Provence Orange Tip	<i>Anthocharis euphenoides</i>	27	Dark Green Fritillary	<i>Argynnis aglaja</i>

12	Western Dappled White	<i>Euchloe crameri</i>	28	Queen of Spain Fritillary	<i>Issoria lathonia</i>
13	Bath White	<i>Pontia daplidice</i>	29	Wall Brown	<i>Lasiommata megera</i>
14	Spanish Purple Hairstreak	<i>Laeosopis evippus</i>	30	Spanish Marbled White	<i>Melanargia ines</i>
15	Ilex Hairstreak	<i>Satyrrium ilicis</i>	31	Meadow Brown	<i>Maniola jurtina</i>
16	Small Copper	<i>Lycaena phlaeas</i>			

Reptiles

1	Tree Frog	<i>Hyla arborea</i>	7	Schreiber's Lizard	<i>Lacerta schreiberi</i>
2	Marsh Frog	<i>Rana ridibunda</i>	8	Ocellated Lizard	<i>Lacerta lepida</i>
3	European Pond Terrapin	<i>Emys orbicularis</i>	9	Iberian Wall Lizard	<i>Podarcis hispanica</i>
4	Stripe-necked Terrapin	<i>Mauremys caspica</i>	10	Three-toed Skink	<i>Chalcides chalcides</i>
5	Moorish Gecko	<i>Tarentola mauritanica</i>	11	Ladder Snake	<i>Elaphe scalaris</i>
6	Large Psammodromus	<i>Psammodromus algirus</i>	12	Viperine Snake	<i>Natrix maura</i>

Mammals

1	Greater White-toothed Shrew	<i>Crocidura russula</i>	3	Spanish Ibex	<i>Capra pyrenaica</i>
2	Red Deer	<i>Cervus elaphus</i>	4	Red Squirrel	<i>Sciurus vulgaris</i>

Plants

Scientific Name	Common Name
DICOTYLEDONS	
Aceraceae	
<i>Acer monspessulanum</i>	Maple Family Montpelier Maple
Anacardiaceae	
<i>Pistachio terebinthus</i>	Cashew Family Turpentine Tree
<i>P.lentiscus</i>	Mastic Tree
<i>Rhus Coriaria</i>	Sumach
Apiaceae	
<i>Daucus carota</i>	Carrot Family Wild Carrot
<i>Eryngium campestre</i>	Field Eryngo
<i>Ferrula communis</i>	Giant Fennel
<i>Foeniculum vulgare</i>	Fennel
<i>Oeanthe crocata</i>	Hemlock water dropwort
<i>Thapsia. Villosa</i>	(A tall fennel like plant)
<i>Torillis arvensis</i>	Spreading hedge parsley
Aristolochiaceae	
<i>Aristolochia paucinervis</i>	Birthwort Family (A type of Dutchman's pipe)
Asteraceae	
<i>Andryala integrifolia</i>	Daisy Family Andryala
<i>Anthemis arvensis</i>	Corn Camomile
<i>Arnoseris minima</i>	(A low cats ear daisy)
<i>Bellis sylvestris</i>	Southern daisy
<i>Calendula arvensis</i>	Field Marigold
<i>Centaurea cyanus</i>	Cornflower
<i>C. solstitialis</i>	St Barnaby's Thistle
<i>Chrysanthemum coronarium</i>	Crown Daisy
<i>C. segetum</i>	Corn Marigold
<i>Cirsium. Creticum</i>	(A slender purple thistle)
<i>Cnicus benedictus</i>	Blessed Thistle
<i>Cynara cardunculus</i>	Cardoon

Scientific Name

Echinops ritro
Evax pygmaea
Fiago vulgaris
Galactites tomentosa
Helicrysum stoechas
Hypochoeris achyrophorus
Knautea purpurea
Lactuca serriola
Leucanthemopsis pallida
Pallensis spinosa
Scolymus hispanicus
Silybum marianum
Rhagadiolus stellatus
Tolpis barbata

Common Name

Globe Thistle
 Evax
 Common Cudweed
 Galactites
 (A silver leaved daisy)
 Mediterranean cats ear
 (a paint brush)
 Prickly Lettuce

 Pale yellow thistle
 Spanish Oyster Plant
 Milk Thistle
 Star Hawkbit
 Tolpis

Boraginaceae

Anchusa undulata
A azurea
Echium plantagineum
Lithodara diffusa
Myosotis ramosissima
Omphalodes linifolia
Pentaglottis sempervirens

Borage Family

Undulate Anchusa
 Large Blue Alkanet
 Purple Vipers Bugloss
 Scrambling Gromwell
 (A small flowered Forget-me-Not)
 Omphalodes
 Green alkanet

Brassicaceae

Biscuttela didyma
Crambe hispanica
Eruca sativa
Lepidium villasii
Raphanus raphanistrum
Scandix pecten veneris
Sinapis alba

Cress Family

Biscuttela
 Spanish Sea Kale
 Eruca
 Lepidium
 Wild Radish
 Shepherds Needle
 White Mustard

Cactacea

Opuntia Monacantha

Cactus Family

Red fruited Prickly Pear

Campanulaceae

Campanula patula
C. rapuncululus
C. Lusitanica
Jasione corumbose
J crispa

Bellflower Family

Spreading Bellflower
 Rampion Bellflower
 Spanish Bellflower
 (A type of Sheep's Bit)
 (A type of Sheep's Bit)

Caprifoliaceae

Lonicera etrusca
L. implexa
Viburnum tinus

Honeysuckle Family

Etruscan honeysuckle
 (A honeysuckle)
 Lauristinus

Caryophyllaceae

Arenaria Montana sub.sp montana
Cerastium arvense
Petrohagia kohltrauschia
Paronychia argentea
Silene colorata

Pink Family

Mountain Sandwort
 Field Mouse Ear
 Kohltrauschia
 (prostrate, silvery bracts)
 Mediterranean Catchfly

Scientific Name

S. dichotoma
S. gallica
Spergularia purpurea

Common Name

Forked Catchfly
 Small-flowered Catchfly
 Purple Sand Spurry

Chenopodiaceae

Parietaria officinata

Goose Foot Family

Common Pellitory

Cistaceae

Cistus albidus
C. ladanifer
C. monspeliensis
C. salvifolius
Fumaria arabica
Guttatae Tubaria
Helianthemum apennivium
Helianthemum nummularium

Rockrose Family

Grey Leaved Cistus
 Gum Cistus
 Narrow Leaved Cistus
 Sage-leaved Cistus
 Arabian Fumaria
 Spotted Rock Rose
 White Rockrose
 Common Rockrose

Convolvulaceae

Convolvulus althaeoides
C. arvensis
C. tricolor

Bindweed Family

Mallow Leaved Bindweed
 Tri-coloured Bindweed

Crassulaceae

Sedum album
S. Dasphyllum
S. Tenulifolium
Umbilicus rupestris

Stonecrop Family

White Stonecrop
 Thick Leaved Stonecrop
 (A tall stonecrop)
 Navelwort

Crucubitateae

Bryonia cretica

Cucumber Family

White Bryony

Ericaceae

Arbutus unedo
Erica arborea

Heath Family

Strawberry Tree
 Tree Heath

Euphorbiaceae

Euphorbia oxyphylla

Spurge Family

Red Eyed Spurge

Fabaceae

Adenocarpus complicatus
Anthyllis lotoides
Astragalus monspessulannus
Cytisus multiflorus
Genista falcata
G. hirsuta
G. tourniforte
Hedysarum coronarum
Lathyrus aphaca
L. cicera
L. setifolius
L. latifolius
Lupin angustifolius
L. hispanicus
Lygos sphaerocarpa

Pea Family

Bladder Vetch
 Montpellier Milk Vetch
 White Broom
 (a turpentine smelling broom)
 low spiny shrub
 (a type of Spanish gorse)
 Sanfoin
 Yellow Vetchling
 Red Vetchling
 Brown Vetch
 Broad leaved everlasting pea
 Narrow-leaved Lupin
 Spanish Lupin
 Lygos

Scientific Name

L. raetma
Melilot indicus
Psoralea bituminosa
Robinia pseudacacia
Spartium junceum
Tetragonolobus purpureus
Trifolium angustifolium
T. campestre
T. cherleri
T. stellatum
T. resupinatum
T. subterraneum
T. tormentosum
Vicia hirsuita
Vicia. lutea
V. onobrychoides
V. villosa

Common Name

White Lygos
 Small Melilot
 Pitch Trefoil
 False Acacia
 Spanish Broom
 Asparagus Pea
 Narrow-leaved Crimson Clover
 Hop trefoil
 (sub species of hairy trefoil)
 Starry Clover
 Reversed Clover
 (a low white clover)
 Woolly Trefoil
 Hairy Tare
 Yellow Vetch
 False Sanfoin
 Fodder Vetch

Fagaceae

Castanea sativa
Quercus coccifera
Q. ilex
Q. pyrenaica
Q. suber

Oak Family

Sweet Chestnut
 Kermes Oak
 Holm Oak
 Pyrenean Oak
 Cork Oak

Fumariaceae

Fumaria capriolata
F. officinalis

Fumitory Family

Ramping Fumitory
 Common Fumitory

Gentianaceae

Centaureum erythraea

Gentian Family

Common Centaury

Geraniaceae

Erodium petaeum
E.mallacoides
Geranium dissectum
G.lucdum
G.molle

Geranium Family

Rock Storksbill
 Mallow leaved Storksbill
 Cut-leaved Cranesbill
 Shining Cranesbill
 Doves foot cranesbill

Hypericaceae

H. perforata

St John's Wort Family

Perforate St John's Wort

Labiaceae

Ballota nigra
Lavendula stoechas
Melittis melissophyllum
Parentucellia latifolia
Rosmarinus officinalis
Salvia verbenaca
Thymus capitata

Mint Family

Black Horehound
 French Lavender
 Bastard Balm
 Southern Red Bartista
 Rosemary
 Wild Clary
 Wild Thyme

Linaceae

Linum bienne

Flax Family

Pale Flax

Scientific Name	Common Name
Malvaceae <i>Lavatera cretica</i> <i>Malva sylvestris</i>	Mallow Family Small tree mallow Common Mallow
Oxalidaceae <i>Oxalis pes-caprae</i>	Sorrel Family Bermuda Buttercup
Oleaceae <i>Fraxinus augustifolia</i> <i>Fraxinus ornus</i> <i>Jasminum fruticans</i> <i>Olea europaea</i>	Olive Family Narrow leaved Ash Flowering Ash Wild Jasmine Olive
Orobanchaceae <i>Orobanche genistae</i> <i>O. minor</i>	Broomrape Family Greater Broomrape Common Broomrape
Paeoniaceae <i>Paeonia broteri</i> <i>P. microcarpa</i>	Paeony Family Western Peony
Papaveraceae <i>Hypocoum imberbe</i> <i>Papaver dubium</i> <i>P. hybridum</i> <i>Papaver rhoeas</i>	Poppy Family (a small yellow poppy) Long-headed Poppy Rough Poppy Common Poppy
Platanaceae <i>Platanus orientalis</i>	Plane Tree Family Plane Tree
Plantaginaceae <i>Plantago coronopus</i> <i>P. lagopus</i>	Plantain Family Buck's Horn Plantain Hares foot Plantain
Polygonaceae <i>Rumex acetosella</i> <i>R. bucephalophorus</i> <i>R. scutatus</i>	Dock Family Sheep's Sorrel Horse Sorrel, pendulous fruit French Sorrel
Primulaceae <i>Anagallis arvensis</i> <i>A foemina</i>	Primrose Family Scarlet/blue Pimpernel (A pimpernel)
Ranunculaceae <i>Aquilegia vulgaris</i> <i>Caltha palustris</i> <i>Nigella damascena</i> <i>Pulsatilla alpina subsp. apiifolia</i> <i>Ranunculus abnormis</i> <i>R. omiophyllus</i> <i>R. sceleratus</i>	Buttercup Family Common Aquilegia Kingcup Love-in-a-mist Yellow Pasque Flower Alpine Buttercup Round leaved water crowfoot Celery-leaved Buttercup
Resedaceae	Mignonette Family

Scientific Name

R. luteola
R. lutea
Sesamiodes purpurascens

Common Name

Weld
 Wild Mignonette

Rosaceae

Crataegus azaorlus
Geum sylvaticum
Poterium verrucosum

Rose Family

Azarole
 yellow flowers
 Mediterranean Salad Burnet

Salicaceae

Salix pedicellata
Populus Nigra ssp.betulifolia

Willow Family

Mediterranean Willow
 Wild Black Poplar

Santalaceae

Osyris alba

Sandalwood Family

Osyris

Saxifragaceae

Saxifraga granulata

Saxifrage Family

Meadow Saxifrage

Scrophulariaceae

Bellardia trixago
Digitalis thapsi
Linaria elegans
L.sparte
L.triornithophora
Parentucella latifolia
P. viscosa
Verbascum pulverulentum
V. sinuatum

Figwort Family

Bellardia
 Spanish Foxglove
 (a violet toadflax)
 Yellow snapdragon
 (a large pink four sided snapdragon)
 Southern Red Bartsia
 Yellow Bartsia
 Hoary Mullein
 (a widely branched mullein)

Solenaceae

*Hyoscyamus albus***

Potato Family

White Henbane

Tamaricaceae

Tamarix africana

Tamarix Family

Tamarix

Thymelaceae

Thymelae sanamunda

Daphne Family**Valerianaceae**

Fedia cornucopiae

Valerian Family

Fedia

Violaceae

Viola riviniana
V.ketabeliana

Violet Family

Common Dog Violet
 Dwarf pansy

MONOCOTYLEDONS**Amaryllidaceae**

Narcissus bulbocodium var. nivalis
Narcissus graellsii
N. pseudonarcissus
N. rupicola

Daffodil Family

Hoop Petticoat Narcissus
 (a small hoop petticoat narcissus)
 Lent Lily
 Rock Narcissus

Dioscoreaceae**Yam Family**

Scientific Name*Tamus communis***Iridaceae***Crocus carpetanus**Gladiolus italicus**Gynandriris sisyrinchium**Iris pseudacorus**I. Xiphium***Liliaceae***Allium ampeloprasum**A. neapolitanum**A. roseum**Anthericum ramosum**Asparagus acutifolius**Asphodelus. aestivus**Convallaria majalis**Gagea fistulosa**Muscari comosum**M. neglectum**Polygonatum odoratum**Ruscus asculatus**Scilla hispanica**S. verna**Ornithogalum concinnum**O. narbonense**O. umbellatum***Common Name**

Black Bryony

Iris Family

(a pale lilac alpine crocus)

Field Gladiolus

Barbary Nut

Yellow Flag Iris

Spanish Iris

Lily Family

Wild Leek

Naples Garlic

Rosy garlic

Branched St Bernard's Lily

(a type of wild asparagus)

Common Asphodel

Lily of the valley

Gagea

Tassel Hyacinth

Grape Hyacinth

Solomon's Seal

Butchers Broom

Spanish Bluebell

Spring Squill

(A small Star of Bethlehem)

(A tall slender Star of Bethlehem)

Star of Bethlehem

Orchidaceae*Orchis mascula**Orchis mascula subsp. champagneuxii**Orchis morio**Serapias lingula**Serapias parviflora***Orchid Family**

Early Purple Orchid

Champagne Orchid

Green-winged Orchid

Tongue Orchid

Small-flowered Tongue Orchid

CONIFERS**Pinaceae***Pinus nigra**P. pinaster**P. pinea**P. sylvestris***Pine Family**

Black Pine

Maritime Pine

Stone Pine

Scots Pine

Cupressaceae*Cupressus sempervirens**Juniperus communis**J. oxycedrus***Cypress Family**

Funeral Cypress

Juniper

Prickly Juniper

Gramineae Family*Arundo donax**Briza Maxima**Lamarckia Aurea***Grasses/reeds**

Giant Reed

Large Quaking Grass

Golden Dog tail

CULTIVATED SHRUBS AND TREES*Allianthus altissima**Catalpa bignonioides*

Tree of Heaven

Indian Bean Tree

Scientific Name*Cercis siliquastrum**Citrus limon**Citrus sinensis**Ficus carica**Gleditsia triacanthos**Melia azedarach**Morus alba**M.nigra**Nerium oleander**Punica granatum**Prunus dulcis**Shinus molle***Common Name**

Judas Tree

Lemon Tree

Orange Tree

Fig

Honey Locust

Indian Bead Tree

White Mulberry

Black Mulberry

Oleander

Pomegranate

Almond

Peruvian Mastic Tree



Montagu's Harrier