

Spain - Extremadura & Gredos Mountains

Naturetrek Tour Report

5 -12 May 2011



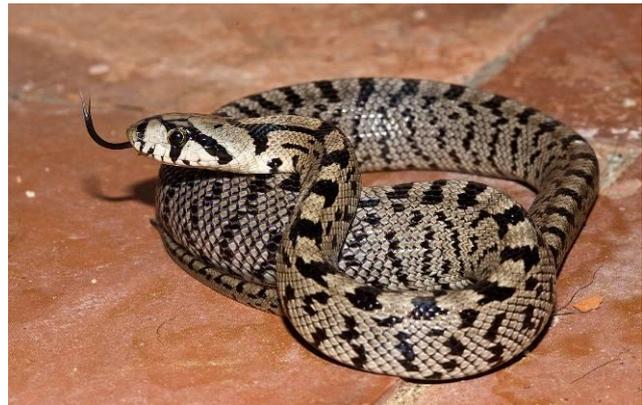
Queen of Spain Fritillary



Bee-eater



Great Bustards



Juvenile Ladder Snake

Report and images compiled by Lee Morgan and Andrew Cleave



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
 Andrew Cleave

Participants: Jean Silver
 John Shambrook
 Jan Shambrook
 Sue Wilsher
 Brian Wilsher
 Lorna Wheater
 Joan Hornby
 Mary Parker
 Dana Griffin
 Nancy Griffin
 Richard Stern
 Ron Brown
 Molly Brown

Day 1

Thursday 5th May

London – Madrid - Trujillo

Despite a slightly delayed flight, the group finally arrived in a warm sunny Madrid ready to make the long journey southwest to Trujillo and, after taking the chance to grab a quick bite to eat at the airport, we loaded up the minibuses and set off into the afternoon traffic on the Madrid ring-roads. Fortunately, the traffic was not too bad and it did not take too long to find our way out onto the empty Spanish motorways. We soon found ourselves motoring through open country, spotting White Storks and Cattle Egrets as we travelled.

A brief stop at a roadside service station en route provided everyone with a welcome chance to stretch their legs and some unexpectedly good birding as, whilst watching a large flock of Serins, Spanish and House Sparrows and the odd Crested Lark. We were also lucky enough to have some wonderful low flyovers from Red several Red-rumped Swallows, Booted Eagles, Red and Black Kites, Griffon Vultures and a Black Vulture. It was a great little stop to break up our journey. We continued, making good time, until we arrived in Trujillo and made a brief stop at the bull ring to watch the Lesser Kestrels coming into roost. The evening light was wonderful and we were rewarded with some lovely views of males and females as they circled low over our heads. It was difficult to tear ourselves away but we ventured on and eventually arrived at Vina las Torres some time after 7pm.

The fields around the hotel were still buzzing with bird activity. Nightingales were singing loudly from the bushes in the garden and we managed some lovely views of Hoopoe, Woodchat and Southern Grey Shrike before we had even emptied the minibuses. After a friendly welcome by our hosts, we were shown to our rooms before being treated to an excellent Spanish meal (the first of many to come), after which we took a short stroll around the hotel to look for the Barn Owls nesting in the barns opposite and to listen to the Scops and Tawny Owls calling from the trees around us. It was a great way to end a busy travel day.

Day 2

Friday 6th May

Belen Plains

Most people rise early (woken by the sound of nightingales and Scops Owls calling in the garden) to a bright sunny morning with a lovely cool breeze. A little pre-breakfast walk around the finca provided us with, amongst numerous other things, some lovely views of Azure-winged magpies, Golden Orioles, Sardinian Warblers and Bee-eaters, as well as a chance to admire the wonderful *Bellardia trixago* and Field Galdiolus flowers that grew along the roadside. But it was not long before the lure of hot coffee and a good breakfast brought us all back to the Finca.

After a leisurely breakfast we set off into Trujillo where a quick stop at the local town park provides everyone with a chance to look for wildlife around the ponds while Lee and Andrew pick up some supplies for the days picnic. Everyone spent their time watching Black Redstarts foraging around the roadside verges, the numerous Swallows and Martins feeding low over the ponds and watching the Marsh Frogs and European Pond Terrapins basking around the pond margins. Some even managed to spot the odd Viperine Snake as it swam across the surface of the pond.

After another brief stop at the bull ring to take another look at the Lesser Kestrels, we eventually set off through the winding streets of Trujillo to explore the dusty tracks the treeless landscapes of the Belen Plains in search of Bustards. The slow drive along the narrow dirt tracks provided us with some lovely views of the hundreds of Crested Larks and Corn Buntings that adorn every fence post, while occasional stops provided us with the chance to scan the miles of beautiful, flower-filled meadows laid out in front of us. The roadside verges, dotted with electric blue flowers of Purple Bugloss and Spreading Bellflower, flitted with Bath and Dappled Whites and the long grassy meadows were alive with Spanish Marbled White butterflies. As we scanned, we had some wonderful views of White Storks patrolling the long grass and Mantagu's Harriers hunting over the fields, while Black Kites and Booted Eagles circled around over head.

As we made our way further along the long tracks we spotted Black and Griffon Vultures circling high over the plains and began to hear the tell-tale calls of Little Bustards from the long grass all around us. Although quiet, the faint sound (said to be similar to the sound of a baby blowing a raspberry) could be heard quite close to the vehicles and we stopped to scan the fields for signs of life. It was not long before we spotted one or two grey heads of Great Bustards amidst the long grass and as we watched, several more started to appear providing us all with some really great views in the scopes. The continued calls of Little Bustards persisted all around us, urging us to continue our search. Our persistence was rewarded when we spotted a small dark head pop up out of the grass and in seemingly no time at all we were watching a Little Bustard strutting around in the open on the far side of one of the fields. It had been a great morning and, with nice views of most of our target species, we were all beginning to wonder what else the day could possibly bring.

A wide grassy verge by a crossroads proved to be an excellent place for us to have our picnic, giving everyone a chance to look for Bug Orchids and Barbary Nut flowers in the long grassy swards while the food was being laid out. The picnic afforded us a great vantage point over the plain and we had lots more sightings of Great Bustards as we enjoyed our lunch in the warmth of the midday sun; some even performed their wonderful 'foam bath' display while we watched. We continued to scan the fields around us and were also rewarded with an unusual sighting of a solitary Black Stork feeding on the edge of a small farm dewpond.

After lunch we continued to explore the tracks around the plain, venturing eastwards to explore some of the hillside dehesa around Aldeacentenera. We parked the vehicles and wandered along the wide trackside margins dotted with clumps of French lavender, where we found Marsh fritillaries and Brown Argus butterflies and watched Calandra Larks fluttering over the stony fields while Bee-eaters and shrikes swooped between the overhead lines and the fences in front of us. This was all topped off very nicely with a lovely view of a juvenile Golden Eagle that soared majestically around the valley for a while before disappearing over the hillside.

It had been a wonderful day out on the plains, with nice weather and great birds. Happy with our efforts, we slowly retraced our steps back to the Finca where a glass or two of the local wine and a tasty meal awaited us.

Day 3

Saturday 7th May

Caceres Plains

We started the day bright and early with another pre-breakfast walk around the hotel but a slightly cooler and windy start to the day made for a slower start to our days bird watching. Nonetheless, most people managed a second chance to see and photograph some of the species they had missed out on the day before as well as getting some nice views of Woodlark and Spotted Flycatcher too.

After breakfast we loaded up the minibuses, ready to explore more of the steppe habitats and plains around Caceres. As we did so, a few of us were lucky enough to observe a wonderful view of a Honey Buzzard that drifted over our head on the rather stiff morning breeze. Once loaded up we set off on our short journey towards Caceres. We had not been travelling very long when there was a cry from the back of the van to 'stop'. Once safely off the road we all exited the vehicles to find out what had been spotted and to our surprise we found ourselves looking at a group of about 35 Griffon Vultures sitting on the ground just 50 yards or so from the car! It was a great find and we watched them for a while as they squabbled amongst themselves and generally readied themselves for the day ahead.

By mid morning we had continued our journey out across the plains towards Santa Marta de Magasca, occasionally stopping and walking a little way to provide us better chances to scan for birds. This proved to be a good strategy and by late morning we had had nice views of several Rollers, Booted Eagles, Lesser and Common Kestrels, low flyovers by a Black Vulture, a nice flock of Black-bellied Sandgrouse, numerous Montagu's Harriers and even a flock of Great Bustards. However, the weather had started to become a little changeable and we found ourselves dodging showers so we headed onwards to look for a likely picnic spot.

We stopped for a picnic alongside the Rio Magasca where we ate our lunch in the sunshine while watching Bee-eaters and Red-rumped Swallows swooping over the river, and listened to the Marsh Frogs calling from the margins. The weather had settled into a warm sunny afternoon so, after a very relaxed lunch, we took a short walk along the river for a closer look at some Bee-eater nesting burrows in the banks and watched Kingfishers fishing in the shallows upstream. We also managed to spot a few Little-ringed Plovers too.

After a very successful mornings birding and a rather lazy lunch we continued our journey across the Caceres plains, working our way slowly back toward Trujillo. The afternoons bird watching was a little slower but the warm afternoon sunshine had started to bring out some butterflies including Silver-studded Blues, Painted Ladies and even the odd Clouded Yellow.

We ended the afternoon back in Trujillo, taking the chance to grab a cup of coffee and enjoy another visit to watch the Lesser Kestrels flying in to roost at the bull ring, before eventually returning to the hotel for a lovely evening meal.

Day 4

Sunday 8th May

Monfragüe National Park

With a beautiful sunny morning we finished breakfast and hit the road early for a trip into the Monfragüe National Park to explore the mountain dehesas and rocky vulture cliffs. The roads were quiet and we stopped en route to have a look at the wonderful bridge across the Rio Almonte and to search the grassy margins of the river for Fan-tailed Warblers.

We headed onwards, arriving at the car park below Castillio Monfragüe a little after 10.30am. We made the short walk up the steep staircase to the castle, admiring the Ilex Hairstreak butterflies that flitted around the canopies of the Holme and Kermes Oaks that covered the castle slopes. The views from the top of the castle were spectacular and we were soon enjoying wonderful views of Egyptian and Griffon vultures flying past us at eye level, and trying to spot White-rumped Swifts amidst the swarms of Swallows, Swifts and Martins that streaked overhead. Having set up our scopes on top of the castle walls we set about scanning the surrounding landscape for birds and we soon had our eyes trained on a large nest in a tree top adjacent to Penafalcon Rock and were eagerly watching the distinctive figure of an adult Imperial Eagle feeding a chick. It was an amazing chance for us all to have a really good look at these rare and so frequently elusive raptors.

At midday we headed onwards to explore more of the park. We stopped briefly at the bridge over the Tajo to enjoy some amazingly close views of Alpine Swifts, before heading on to the visitor centre where we set out our picnic on some tables in the shade of some lime trees. This proved to be a very worthwhile stop. In quick succession, we had lovely views of Bonelli's, Booted and Short-toed Eagles (and Dana even managed a tantalising glimpse of a passing White-rumped Swift too) before we finally packed away the lunch things and headed on.

We stopped for a while at the Mirador del Tajadilla, watching the thousands of House and Crag Martins swooping around the dam, trained the scopes on the numerous Griffon Vultures that sat around on the craggy cliffs on the opposite side of the river and scanned the skies for eagles. After a while we continued on to Mirador Portilla del Tieter where we spent some time scanning the rocky slopes for a newly fledged Eagle Owl chick that had only recently left the nest. Unfortunately our search for the owl was unsuccessful but we soldiered on, making our way back through the park to end our day watching Blue Rock Thrushes, Rock Buntings, Redstarts and Black Redstarts singing from the Vulture filled cliffs at Penafalcon Rock; where we also managed to get some wonderful views of Black Storks feeding their chicks at the nest.

It had been a great day and we headed back to the hotel for dinner where once again we were treated to some more wonderful Spanish food and wine. After dinner we all took a little stroll to watch the Barn Owls hunting over the fields and to listen to the sounds of Nighthales, Field Crickets and very noisy Mole Crickets filling the warm evening air with their songs.

Day 5

Monday 9th May

Extremadura to Gredos via Monfragüe

Another beautiful sunny start to the day and after a relaxed breakfast we packed up the vehicles and said farewell to our wonderful hosts at Vina las Torres and set off on our journey northwards towards our next destination in the Gredos Mountains. A stop in Trujillo for some last minute lunch supplies provided everyone with a final opportunity to explore the wonderful cobbled streets of the old town and to take a wander up to the castle before we eventually boarded the vehicles and continued our journey.

With a long day ahead, we decided to make the most of the wonderful weather and avoid the main highways north; opting for a more leisurely days travel through the Monfragüe Park. We spent much of the day retracing the previous day's steps through the park and with a first stop at the Penafalcon watch point; we managed some great views of a male Black Wheatear that started the day very well. With most of the day spent in the park looking for Warblers and Buntings amidst the flowering thickets of Gum and Sage-leaved Cistus and watching Golden and Bonelli's Eagles soaring over the vulture filled cliffs it was soon time to hit the road and continue onwards to the Gredos.

Our journey north was rather fun, with a minor 'wrong turn' off the highway that took us through some wonderfully picturesque village streets and along narrow (sometimes very narrow) roads boarded by flower-filled gardens and allotments, before we eventually found our way back to the main road. We continued our journey on the main road, taking the scenic route along the valleys filled with cherry orchards and up through the winding mountain roads into the western end of the Gredos range. We eventually arrived at the Milano Real (Red Kite) hotel in the tiny village of Hoyos del Espino a little before 7pm and, after checking into our rooms, we all took the opportunity for relaxing drink in the bar before dinner was served.

Day 6

Tuesday 10th May

Hoyos del Espino – La Plataforma

We started our day with a little pre-breakfast walk up the hill and through the pine forest behind the hotel where some wonderful views of Cirl Bunting, Firecrest, Bonnellis Warbler, Melodious Warbler, Whitethroats and Crested Tit got the day's bird watching off to a flying start.

After breakfast we all take a little time to explore the narrow cobbled streets of the pretty village of Hoyos del Espino where we watched Rock Sparrows, Black Redstarts and Serins singing from every roof top and watched the swarms of Swifts and Swallows charge along the narrow streets.

We headed slowly up to the La Plataforma for lunch, stopping en route to scan the fields for birds and to look at the very locally distributed Toadflax (*Linaria elegans*) that grows alongside the road. A relaxed picnic sitting in the sun amidst the boulders at La Plataforma provided ample opportunity to watch and photograph the tame Rock Buntings, Ortolan Buntings and Yellow Wagtails that pecked for scraps around the car park, and had the chance to train our scopes on the Spanish Ibex that peered down at us from high up on the surrounding crags.

After lunch, a slow walk up the steep mountain path towards the Refugio gave us a chance to take a closer look at the tufts of tiny Rock Narcissus and clumps of Lousewort that flowered amidst the giant granite boulders. Exploring the plateau and along the path to the Refugio de Reguero Llano we had some wonderful views of Bluethroats, that occasionally popped up onto the bushes in front of us and large Spanish Ibex 'billies' that grazed on the rough moorland pastures. We followed the mountain path up as far as the snowline before making our way slowly back down to La Plataforma and heading over to search for Citril Finches around the tall pine trees around the Parador. Unfortunately our search for finches proved unsuccessful, but more extraordinarily close views of a singing Firecrest more than made up for it and we ended the day on a high, returning to the hotel with enough time to enjoy the last of the days sunshine, and fantastic views of the mountains, from the comfort of the hotel's gardens.

Day 7

Wednesday 11th May

'Bonellis Wood' & Prado del Jabali

We started the morning with a pre-breakfast walk and another opportunity for some great photo opportunities of the numerous buntings and warblers present in the habitats around the village before returning to the hotel for breakfast and the chance to discuss our plans for the day.

With the forecast for sunny, warm conditions for the whole day, we headed towards Hoyocasero to explore the beautiful Pyrenean Oak woodlands of the aptly nick-named Bonelli's Wood. We parked the vehicles and explored the woodland trails on foot to the sounds of Golden Orioles and Bonelli's Warblers singing from the trees around us. Spanish Festoon butterflies flitted between the Wild Peonies and Birthwort that flowered in every sunny glade and we finally got some good views of a Nightingale. We wandered on, finding the flowers of Bastard Balm, Bloody Cranesbill and Angel's Tear Narcissus as well as spotting a variety of woodland birds such as Green and Great Spotted Woodpecker, Nuthatches and Short-toed Treecreeper. Our wanderings around the woodland also lead us to a fun encounter with a local small holder who proudly showed off his reconstruction of an ancient Roman water hoist that he had made out of old oil drums; providing everyone with a chance for some truly unique holiday snaps!

We stopped for a picnic in the dappled shade of the woodland but, after lunch, we made our way slowly back towards Hoyos del Espino to explore the pine forests below the Parador. We walked along the roads and through the pine forest trails by the river; providing us with some lovely views of Pied Flycatcher and (after a rather precarious and chilly river crossing made by Lee) a surprising encounter with a large Viperine Snake that was trying to swallow a live Brown Trout! After a great day exploring the forests and woodlands there was just enough time to top it all off with some great views of several Booted Eagles and a Bonelli's Eagle being mobbed by two Peregrines and a Sparrowhawk, before we made our way back to the hotel for a celebratory G&T before dinner.

Day 8

Thursday 12th May

Hoyos del Espino to Madrid - London

We set off early but couldn't resist one last stop at the Parador to look for Citril Finches before finally heading back to Madrid airport for our flight home

Summary:

Great weather, great company, great food and some great wildlife watching combined on this trip, providing everyone with a truly wonderful experience of what the habitats, landscape and people of this part of rural Spain really have to offer. It was fun sharing it with you all.

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Species Lists

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

	Common name	Scientific name	May								
			5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
1	Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>		✓	✓						
2	Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓					
3	Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	✓								
4	Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓					
5	Black Stork	<i>Ciconia nigra</i>		✓		✓	✓				
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>				✓	✓	✓			
11	Black Vulture	<i>Aegypius monachus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
12	Griffon Vulture	<i>Gyps fulvus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
13	Montagu's Harrier	<i>Circus pygargus</i>	✓	✓	✓						
14	Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>			✓						✓
15	Common Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>			✓	✓	✓			✓	✓
16	Golden Eagle	<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>		1				2			
17	Spanish Imperial Eagle	<i>Aquila heliaca (adalberti)</i>					3				
18	Bonelli's Eagle	<i>Hieraaetus fasciatus</i>				✓	✓			✓	
19	Booted Eagle	<i>Hieraaetus pennatus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
20	Short-toed Eagle	<i>Circaetus gallicus</i>				✓			✓	✓	
21	Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
22	Lesser Kestrel	<i>Falco naumanni</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓					
23	Peregrine	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>								✓	
24	Red-legged Partridge	<i>Alectoris rufa</i>		✓	✓	✓		H			
25	Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>		✓	✓						
26	Great Bustard	<i>Otis tarda</i>		✓	✓						
27	Little Bustard	<i>Tetrax tetrax</i>		✓							
28	Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>		✓							
29	Little ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>			✓						
30	Black-bellied Sandgrouse	<i>Pterocles orientalis</i>			✓						
31	Wood Pigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
32	Rock Dove / Feral Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
33	Stock Dove	<i>Columba oenas</i>		✓							
34	Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
35	Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>					H				
36	Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓		H	H	
37	Tawny Owl	<i>Strix aluco</i>	H								
38	Scops Owl	<i>Otus scops</i>	H						H	H	
39	Barn Owl	<i>Tyto Alba</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				
40	Alpine Swift	<i>Apus melba</i>				✓					
41	White-rumped Swift	<i>Apus caffer</i>						✓			
42	Common Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
43	Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>			✓						
44	Bee-eater	<i>Merops apiaster</i>	H	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
45	Roller	<i>Coracias garrulus</i>			✓						
46	Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

	Common name	Scientific name	May							
			5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
47	Wryneck	<i>Jynx torquilla</i>			✓					
48	Green Woodpecker	<i>Picus viridis</i>							✓	✓
49	Woodlark	<i>Lullula arborea</i>		H	✓					
50	Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>		✓	✓				✓	
51	Crested Lark	<i>Galerida cristata</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
52	Calandra Lark	<i>Melanocorypha calandra</i>		✓	✓					
53	Crag Martin	<i>Ptyonoprogne rupestris</i>	✓			✓	✓	✓		
54	Sand Martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>			✓	✓	✓			
55	Red-rumped Swallow	<i>Hirundo daurica</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
56	Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
57	House Martin	<i>Delichon urbica</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
58	Meadow Pipit	<i>Anthus pratensis</i>							✓	
59	White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
60	Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>							✓	✓
61	Yellow (Iberian) Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava iberiae</i>							✓	✓
62	Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	H	✓	✓	✓	✓	H	✓	✓
63	Dipper	<i>Cinclus cinclus</i>							✓	
64	Dunnock	<i>Prunella modularis</i>		✓					✓	
65	Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>							✓	✓
66	Nightingale	<i>Luscinia megarhynchos</i>	H	H	H	H	H	H	✓	
67	Bluethroat	<i>Luscinia svecica</i>							✓	
68	Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>				✓			✓	
69	Black Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>		✓				✓	✓	✓
70	Stonechat	<i>Saxicola torquata</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
71	Northern Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>						✓	✓	✓
72	Black-eared Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe hispanica</i>				✓				
73	Black Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe leucura</i>						✓		
74	Rock Thrush	<i>Monticola saxatilis</i>						✓	✓	
75	Blue Rock Thrush	<i>Monticola solitarius</i>								
76	Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
77	Fan-tailed Warbler	<i>Cisticola juncidis</i>				✓				
78	Cetti's Warbler	<i>Cettia cetti</i>				H				
79	Melodious Warbler	<i>Hippolais polyglotta</i>							✓	✓
80	Subalpine Warbler	<i>Sylvia cantillans</i>							✓	
81	Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia communis</i>								✓
82	Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
83	Sardinian Warbler	<i>Sylvia melanocephala</i>		✓	H					
84	Western Bonelli's Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus bonelli</i>							✓	✓
85	Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>			H				H	✓
86	Firecrest	<i>Regulus ignicapillus</i>							✓	✓
87	Spotted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>		✓	✓					
88	Iberian Pied Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula hypoleuca iberiae</i>								✓
89	Crested Tit	<i>Lophophanes cristatus</i>							✓	✓
90	Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
91	Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
92	Coal Tit	<i>Periparus ater</i>				✓			✓	✓
93	Long-tailed Tit	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>			✓	✓	✓			
94	Nuthatch	<i>Sitta europaea</i>								✓
95	Short-toed Treecreeper	<i>Certhia brachydactyla</i>				H	✓	✓	✓	

	Common name	Scientific name	May							
			5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
96	Iberian Grey Shrike	<i>Lanius meridionalis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
97	Woodchat Shrike	<i>Lanius senator</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
98	Common Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	✓							
99	Spotless Starling	<i>Sturnus unicolor</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
100	Golden Oriole	<i>Oriolus oriolus</i>	H	✓	H	H	H		✓	
101	Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>	✓				✓		✓	✓
102	Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
103	Azure-winged Magpie	<i>Cyanopica cyana</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
104	Chough	<i>Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax</i>						✓	✓	
105	Jackdaw	<i>Corvus monedula</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
106	Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
107	Carrion Crow	<i>Corvus corone</i>						✓	✓	
108	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
109	Tree Sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>								
110	Spanish Sparrow	<i>Passer hispaniolensis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓				
111	Rock Sparrow	<i>Petronia petronia</i>						✓		
112	Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
113	Hawfinch	<i>Coccothraustes coccothraustes</i>				✓				
114	Serin	<i>Serinus serinus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
115	Greenfinch	<i>Carduelis chloris</i>		✓				✓	✓	
116	Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
117	Linnet	<i>Acanthis cannabina</i>					✓	✓	✓	
118	Corn Bunting	<i>Miliaria calandra</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
119	Ortolan Bunting	<i>Emberiza hortulana</i>						✓		
120	Cirl Bunting	<i>Emberiza cirlus</i>						✓	✓	
121	Rock Bunting	<i>Emberiza cia</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	

Butterflies

1	Spanish Swallowtail	<i>Iphiclides feisthamelii</i>						✓	✓	
2	Spanish Festoon	<i>Zerynthia rumina</i>							✓	
3	Brimstone	<i>Gonepteryx rhamni</i>				✓	✓			
4	Bergers Clouded Yellow	<i>Colias alfacariensis</i>					✓			
5	Clouded Yellow	<i>Colias crocea</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
6	Large White	<i>Pieris brassicae</i>					✓			
7	Green-veined White	<i>Pieris napi</i>						✓	✓	
8	Small White	<i>Pieris rapae</i>					✓			
9	Orange Tip	<i>Anthocharis cardamines</i>							✓	
10	Provence Orange Tip	<i>Anthocharis euphenoides</i>						✓	✓	
11	Western Dappled White	<i>Euchloe crameri</i>		✓	✓			✓		
12	Bath White	<i>Pontia daplidice</i>		✓		✓				
13	Ilex Hairstreak	<i>Satyrium ilicis</i>				✓	✓			
14	Small Copper	<i>Lycaena phlaeas</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
15	Brown Argus	<i>Aricia agestis</i>		✓						
16	Holly Blue	<i>Celastrina argiolus</i>				✓	✓			
17	Chapmans Blue	<i>Polyommatus thersites</i>							✓	
18	Silver-studded Blue	<i>Plebejus argus</i>			✓					
19	Painted Lady	<i>Vanessa cardui</i>			✓					
20	Large Tortoiseshell	<i>Nymphalis polychloros</i>				✓	✓	✓		
21	Two-tailed Pasha	<i>Charaxes jasius</i>				✓	✓			

	Common name	Scientific name	May								
			5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
22	Queen of Spain Fritillary	Issoria lathonia							✓	✓	
23	Marsh Fritillary	Euphydryas aurinia		✓							
24	Speckled Wood	Pararge aegeria				✓					
25	Wall Brown	Lasiommata megera				✓	✓	✓			
26	Meadow Brown	Maniola jurtina		✓							
27	Small Heath	Coenonympha pamphilus			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Amphibians & Reptiles

1	Tree Frog	Hyla arborea									
2	Marsh Frog	Rana ridibunda		✓	✓	✓					
3	European Pond Terrapin	Emys orbicularis		✓		✓					
4	Moorish Gecko	Tarentola mauritanica			✓						
5	Large Psammodromus	Psammodromus algirus			✓						
6	Schreibers Lizard	Lacerta schreiberi						✓			
7	Ocellated Lizard	Lacerta lepida		✓							
8	Iberian Wall Lizard	Podarcis hispanica				✓				✓	
9	Ladder Snake	Elaphe scalaris				✓					
10	Viperine Snake	Natrix maura		✓						✓	

Mammals

1	Grt White-toothed Shrew	<i>Crocidura russula</i>			✓						
2	Beech Marten	<i>Martes foina</i>		✓							
3	Red Deer	<i>Cervus elaphus</i>			✓						
4	Spanish Ibex	<i>Capra pyrenaica</i>						✓			
5	Rabbit	<i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i>		✓	✓						

Plants

Scientific Name	Common name	Notes, location
Pteridophytes		
Ferns and allies		
Pteridium aquilinum	Bracken	shady woodland sites
Athyrium filix foemina	Lady Fern	Gredos, shaded areas
Anogramma leptophylla	Jersey Fern	Gredos, walls and rocks
Pinaceae		
Pine Family		
Pinus pinea	Stone Pine	nr Trujillo
Pinus sylvestris	Scot's Pine	Monfrague, Gredos
Cupressaceae		
Cypress Family		
Juniperus communis	Juniper	Gredos, upper slopes
Juniperus oxycedrus	Prickly Juniper	nr Trujillo
Fagaceae		
Oak Family		
Quercus suber	Cork Oak	extensive managed woodlands
Quercus coccifera	Kermes Oak	Monfrague, most with catkins
Quercus pyrenaica	Pyrenean Oak	Widespread

Scientific Name	Common name	Notes, location
Quercus ilex	Holm Oak	Monfrague and Gredos
Urticaceae	Nettle Family	
Urtica dioica	Stinging Nettle	cultivated areas, villages
Urtica pillulifera	Roman Nettle	roadside nr Trujillo
Parietaria judaica	Pellitory-of-the-wall	Trujillo, villages
Aristolochiaceae	Birthwort Family	
Aristolochia rotunda	Birthwort	"Bonelli's Wood", Gredos
Polygonaceae	Dock Family	
Rumex scutatus	Buckler-leaved Sorrel/French Dock	Gredos, stony slopes
Caryophyllaceae	Pink Family	
Silene alba	White Champion	roadsides, scattered locations
Silene gallica	Small-flowered Catchfly	Field margins nr Trujillo
Silene colorata	a pink Catchfly	widespread in dry, sunny areas
Herniaria ciliata	Fringed Rupturewort	Gredos, tracks and roadsides
Paronychia capitata	Paronychia	dry, stony areas, Gredos
Scleranthus annuus	Annual Knawel	dry, stony areas, Gredos
Spergularia rubra	(red) Sand Spurrey	abundant on dry tracks, verges
Arenaria grandiflora	Large-flowered Sandwort	dry slopes, Monfrague
Kohlruschia velutina	a tiny pink	dry verges and hillsides, Gredos
Nigella (sativa)	Love-in-a-mist	roadsides, scattered locations
Ranunculaceae	Buttercup Family	
Caltha palustris	Marsh Marigold	Bonelli's Wood - edge of stream Stream margin, Gredos picnic site
Ranunculus sceleratus	Celery-leaved Buttercup	Gredos - grassy slopes
Ranunculus abnormis	a double-flowered Buttercup	Gredos - grassy slopes
Ranunculus gramineus	Grass-leaved Buttercup	Monfrague - riverside picnic stop
Ranunculus aquatilis	Water Crowfoot	
Paeoniaceae	Peony Family	
Paeonia officinalis ssp humilis	Wild Peony	Bonelli's Wood
Papaveraceae	Poppy Family	
Papaver rhoeas	Common Poppy	cultivated areas, nr Trujillo
Papaver dubium	Long-headed Poppy	roadsides, verges, fields
Fumariaceae	Fumitory Family	
Fumaria officinalis	Common Fumitory	Gardens, verges
Fumaria capreolata	Ramping Fumitory	gardens, verges

Scientific Name	Common name	Notes, location
Cruciferae	Cabbage Family	
Isatis tinctoria	Woad	roadsides, Monfrague
Cardaria draba	Hoary Cress	abundant on some roadsides
Raphanus raphanistrum	Wild Radish	nr Trujillo
Erucaria hispanica	Spanish Pink Mustard	Monfrague
Resedaceae	Mignonette Family	
Reseda gredensis	an endemic Mignonette	rocky hillside, Gredos
Crassulaceae	Stonecrop Family	
Sedum album	White Stonecrop	Monfrague lookout slopes
Sedum sp	Stonecrop - not in flower	Monfrague lookout slopes
Umbilicus rupestris	Pennywort/Navelwort	Monfrague - shaded rock face
Saxifragaceae	Saxifrage family	
Saxifraga granulata	Meadow Saxifrage	edge of Bonelli's Wood
Saxifraga tridactylites	Fingered Saxifrage	Monfrague lookout area
Rosaceae	Rose Family	
Geum sylvaticum	(Woodland) Avens	Gredos woodland areas
Rubus (fruticosus) agg	Bramble	roadsides
Leguminosae	Pea Family	
Genista hispanica	Spanish Gorse	abundant, open country, Monfrague
Spartium junceum	Spanish Broom	Extremadura - open areas
Robinia pseudacacia	False Acacia	towns, roadsides
Cytisus multiflorus	White Broom	Gredos
Cytisus striatus	Yellow Broom	Monfrague, Gredos
Echinospartium lusitanicum	a spiny broom	Monfrague, Gredos
Genista (hystrix?)	a Genista/Greenweed	Gredos
Lygos sphaerocarpa	Lygos	Monfrague, abundant
Astragalus lusitanicus	a Milk-vetch	Gredos
Psoralea bituminosa	Pitch Trefoil	Monfrague
Vicia villosa	Fodder Vetch	Trujillo area
Lathyrus aphaca	Yellow Vetchling	roadsides, widespread
Lathyrus blepharicarpus	Ciliate Vetchling	roadsides, scattered
Mellilotus alba	White Mellilot	cultivated areas, roadsides
Mellilotus indicus	Small Mellilot	roadsides, verges
Medicago orbicularis	Large Disc Medick	nr Trujillo
Lotus corniculatus	Bird's-foot Trefoil	widespread, grassy areas
Trifolium stellatum	Starry Clover	dry areas, Monfrague, Gredos
Trifolium angustifolium	Narrow-leaved Crimson Clover	field margins, tracks
Trifolium fragiferum	Strawberry Clover	grassy areas, widespread
Ornithopus pinnatus	Orange Bird's-foot	nr Trujillo

Scientific Name	Common name	Notes, location
Geraniaceae	Geranium Family	
Geranium pusillum	Small-leaved Cranesbill	roadsides, grassy tracks
Geranium dissectum	Cut-leaved Cranesbill	roadsides, grassy tracks
Geranium columbinum	Long-stalked Cranesbill	nr Trujillo
Geranium robertianum	Herb Robert	Monfrague, cultivated areas
Geranium lucidum	Shining Cranesbill	Bonelli's Wood, shady banks
Geranium molle	Dove's-foot Cranesbill	roadsides, grassy tracks
Erodium ciconium	Common Stork's-bill	nr Trujillo
Linaceae	Flax Family	
Linum bienne	Pale flax	Cultivated areas, field margins
Euphorbiaceae	Spurge Family	
Euphorbia (amygdaloides)	Wood Spurge	Monfrague, riverside
Euphorbia cyparassias	Cypress Spurge	nr Trujillo
Aceraceae	Maple Family	
Acer monspessulanum	Montpelier Maple	Gredos
Acer pseudoplatanum	Sycamore	Gredos
Anacardiaceae	Pistacio Family	
Pistacia terebinthus	Turpentine Tree	Monfrague
Hypericaceae	St John's-wort Family	
Hypericum perforatum	Perforate St John's-wort	Gredos
Cistaceae	Rockrose Family	
Cistus ladanifer	Gum Cistus	Monfrague
Cistus creticus	"Pink" Cistus	Monfrague
Cistus salvifolius	Sage-leaved Cistus	Monfrague
Tuberaria guttatum	Spotted Rockrose	Monfrague
Tuberaria globularifolia	a spotted Rockrose	Monfrague
Helianthemum appeninum	White Rockrose	Monfrague
Helianthemum nummularium	Common Rockrose	widespread, open dry areas
Cactaceae	Cactus Family	
Opuntia ficus-indica	Prickly Pear	Villages, farms
Umbelliferae	Carrot Family	
Eryngium campestre	Field Eryngo/Watling Street Thistle	widespread, roadsides, grassy areas
Scandix pecten-veneris	Shepherd's Needles	field margins, grassy areas
Ferula communis	Giant Fennel	roadsides
Daucus carota	Wild Carrot	grassy areas

Scientific Name	Common name	Notes, location
Ericaceae	Heather Family	
Arbutus unedo Erica lusitanica Erica arborea	Strawberry Tree Portuguese Heath Tree Heather	Monfrague Monfrague Gredos
Primulaceae	Primrose Family	
Anagallis arvensis Anagallis foemina	Scarlet Pimpernel Blue Pimpernel	tracks, verges nr Trujillo
Oleaceae	Olive Family	
Fraxinus ornus Olea europaea	Flowering Ash Olive	Gredos Trujillo area
Gentianaceae	Gentian Family	
Blackstonia acuminata Blackstonia perfoliata Centaurium (angustifolium)	a Yellow-wort Yellow-wort a Centaury	Trujillo area leaves only Trujillo area
Boraginaceae	Borage Family	
Echium vulgare Echium plantagineum Borago officinalis	Viper's Bugloss Purple Viper's Bugloss Borage	widesread roadsides, verges scattered, villages
Labiatae	Mint Family	
Acinos arvensis Thymus capitatus Lavandula stoechas Mentha (smithiana) Melittis melissophyllum	Basil Thyme Thyme French Lavender (Corn) Mint Bastard Balm	dry areas, scattered Gredos, rocky areas Trujillo area grassy areas, field margins Bonelli's Wood
Scrophulariaceae	Figwort Family	
Verbascum nigrum Misopates orontium Digitalis thapsi Linaria elegans Veronica polita Parentucellia viscosa Bellardia trixago	Dark Mullein Weasel Snout/Lesser Snapdragon "branched" Foxglove a purple Toadflax Grey Field Speedwell Yellow Bartsia Bellardia	roadsides, Trujillo area roadsides, tracks Monfrague Gredos scattered, grassy areas
Plantaginaceae	Plantain Family	
Plantago media Plantago coronopus	Hoary Plantain Buck's-horn Plantain	tracks, field margins dry tracks and stony areas

Scientific Name	Common name	Notes, location
Caprifoliaceae	Honeysuckle Family	
<i>Lonicera periclymenum</i>	Honeysuckle	Bonellii's Wood
Campanulaceae	Bellflower Family	
<i>Campanula rapunculus</i> <i>Campanula patula</i>	Rampion Bellflower Spreading Bellflower	shaded grassy areas Gredos
Compositae	Daisy Family	
<i>Bellis perennis</i> <i>Santolina chamaecyparissus</i> <i>Evax pygmaea</i> <i>Chrysanthemum segetum</i> <i>Chrysanthemum coronarium</i> <i>Galactites tomentosa</i> <i>Pallenis spinosa</i> <i>Scolymus hispanicus</i> <i>Silybum marianum</i> <i>Tragopogon (porrifolia)</i> <i>Lactuca serriola</i> <i>Andryala integrifolia</i>	Daisy Lavender Cotton Evax Corn Marigold Crown Daisy Galactites - a thistle Pallenis Spanish Oyster Plant Milk Thistle a Goat's-beard Prickly Lettuce Andryala	widespread Monfrague Gredos, stony areas fields, grassy areas, common roadsides, very common roadsides, grassy areas open grassy areas nr Trujillo roadsides, grassy areas Gredos, grassy areas grassy areas, field margins shaded areas, Gredos nr Trujillo
Liliaceae	Lily Family	
<i>Asphodelus albus</i> <i>Muscari comosum</i> <i>Gladiolus italicus</i> <i>Scilla (verna)</i> <i>Ornithogalum (umbellatum)</i> <i>Urginea maritima</i>	White Asphodel Tassel Hyacinth Wild Gladiolus (Spring) Squill Star of Bethlehem Sea Squill	Monfrague, Gredos nr Trujillo cultivated areas, field margins Monfrague, Gredos Gredos leaves only
Amaryllidaceae	Daffodil Family	
<i>Narcissus rupicola</i> <i>Narcissus bulbocodium var nivalis</i> <i>Narcissus triandra</i>	Rock Narcissus Hoop-petticoat Narcissus Angel's Tears	Gredos Gredos upland grassland Bonelli's Wood
Iridaceae	Iris Family	
<i>Iris pseudacorus</i> <i>Iris sisyrynchium</i> <i>Crocus carpetanus</i>	Yellow Flag Barbary Nut a pink Crocus - very local	leaves only seed pods only Gredos
Orchidaceae	Orchid Family	
<i>Orchis mascula</i> <i>Orchis coriophora</i> <i>Serapias lingua</i>	Early Purple Orchid Bug Orchid Tongue Orchid	Bonelli's Wood nr Trujillo