

Spain - Extremadura & Gredos Mountains

Naturetrek Tour Report

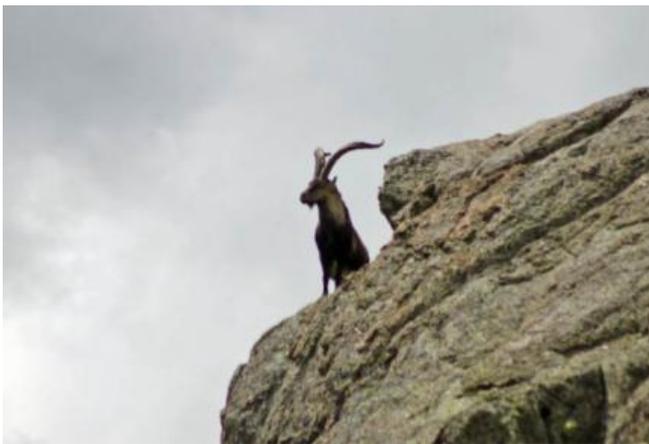
30 April - 7 May 2013



Great Spotted Cuckoo



Alpine Swift



Spanish Ibex



Naturetrek picnic lunch

Report compiled by James Andrews & Tom Mabbett

Images by Tom Mabbett



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Day 1

Tuesday 30th April

London- Madrid – Trujillo

After a straight forward flight from Heathrow we landed in Madrid and after negotiating Madrid airport and the ring road we were on our way to Trujillo and our final destination of the Vina las Torres. As we travelled we saw the first of the wildlife Spain has to offer with Black Kites, White Storks, Cattle Egrets and the occasional Booted Eagle. Approximately halfway there we stopped for a service break and a chance to stretch the legs! This stop gave the group a great chance to look at a White Storks nest and the community that lived in this high rise block with House Sparrows and Spanish Sparrows buzzing in and out, while Crested Lark ran around the car park with Corn Buntings jangling in the bushes nearby and Spotless Starlings replacing the Starlings we were all so used to. A taste of things to come...

Back on the road we got towards Trujillo with more birds appearing including Griffon Vultures and for a lucky few who caught a Great Spotted Cuckoo which shot across the road! We carried on towards Trujillo which soon came into view on the hill side and we were soon off the main road and heading towards Vina las Torres. As we turned off the road up the hill to the hotel Corn Buntings flitted off the stone walls and as we pulled up at the hotel we were welcomed by Azure Winged Magpies and Woodchat Shrikes with the beautiful song of Golden Oriole coming from the orchard. Once everyone was checked in people had a chance to look around the grounds where Champagne Orchids (*Orchis champagneuxii*) and Serapia's grow in the garden and a first look at the beautiful views of the area. After sitting down to a wonderful meal, a few of us wandered out front to see if the Barn Owls were showing but sadly not, although we did get to listen to the local mole crickets and Cicada with the sonar "pinging" call of the local Scops Owls before retiring to bed for the night.

Day 2

Wednesday 1st May

Vina las torres- Madronera- Trujillo- Belen Plain

Everyone rose early after a good night sleep, ready for our first full day exploring the region. We went on a pre-breakfast ramble near to the hotel looking over the flower covered meadows and dense olive groves. Golden Orioles were still teasing the group with glancing views while the Azure-winged Magpie's flitted around with Sardinian Warblers proving elusive in the scrub with its scratching song being heard for the first time.

After breakfast we all loaded up and headed down to Madronera to pick up supplies for lunch and while Tom and I were in the shops the group had a look around the local park where there was a storks nest and hundreds of House Martins were buzzing above with screaming swirls of Common Swift with a few Pallid Swift in amongst them to pick out. Once loaded with provisions, we headed off whilst being watched from the side of the road by our first Black (Cinereous) Vulture sat on a rock.

Driving down into Trujillo we pulled off by the bull ring for a quick stop where we watched the local Lesser Kestrel colony. We were soon back on the road and heading through the tight cobbled streets of Belen and out on to the plains beyond the town. As we travelled along the track we stopped several times searching the grasslands where Calandra Larks and Crested Larks buzzed around as Quail teased us from the fields "quipping" away and every so often we were having "raspberries" blown at us as Little Bustards were hiding in the grass. We travelled on and as we went over the brow of the next hill a call came from the second van of Great Bustard...a single bird was working his way up the gully but there was no sign of who he was displaying to.

After enjoying this we travelled up to our picnic area just off the main track with views back across the plain. While we prepared lunch Tony discovered 10 more Great Bustards displaying while others looked through the local flora. As we carried on preparing, the temperature dropped rapidly and became dark and the first thought was of impending rain. Much to our surprise, in the distance back towards Belen, a twister funnel was forming and slowly coming down which made for an unusual sight. As fast as it had started to form the skies brightened up again and it dissipated with the plains coming back to life.

With lunch done and cleared away we travelled on scanning our surroundings and spotted our first Montagu's Harriers of the trip as they floated across the fields with a few catching on to a Hen Harrier trying to sneak through low along the fence lines. Carrying on along the track, Calandra Larks were flitting off the fence lines into the fields and where the grass became lower we pulled over to watch Stone Curlew moving around the fields and Southern Grey Shrikes were sitting on the scrubby bushes. This also gave a chance to look at the verge side flora with Dipcadi (*Dipcadi serotinum*) being found. We moved on along the crossing to a small bridge where those in the second van watched a Pied Flycatcher feeding over a small pool and those in the front found a Short-toed Eagle up on a telegraph pole. Continuing on we came across a ploughed field teeming with Larks and in amongst them a few Tawny Pipit were scurrying around while on the fences behind two Whinchats flitted up and down off the lines.

With the sun shining, butterflies started to appear with Clouded Yellows steaming past and Whites bouncing along the field edges. Continuing on, more broom scrub began to appear and with a sudden gasp from the back of the van we came to a stop as a Great Spotted Cuckoo was sat in a tamarisk right next to the van peering in.

After a little bit he moved off and as everyone reeled in the great views of this bird, low and behold on the other side of the van another bird appeared and was just as obliging as the first!! Carrying on down the track towards the back of Madronera where the fences were replaced with small stone walls was yet another Great Spotted Cuckoo! A real hot spot for them it seemed. A few Southern Grey Shrikes were around carrying food and further along some people felt we were being watched and quite rightly with the yellow glowing eyes of a Little Owl glaring at us over the stone wall. We enjoyed a Spotted Flycatcher flitting around on a cattle pen before bumping our way back into Madronera. There are always raptors to look at in this region and we quickly stopped as a couple of Booted Eagles soared high overhead with a Bonelli's Eagle near to them. We then set off back to our hotel for another wonderful home cooked meal after a top day!

Day 3

Thursday 2nd May

Santa Marta de Magasca plain- Rio Tamuja- Caceres plains

Everyone rose to a wonderful sunny morning and with spirits still high from the day before we went for a morning walk before breakfast. Golden Orioles were still teasing the group and Red-rumped Swallows were seen and Bee-eaters were "brupping" away overhead.

After breakfast we set off to the Santa Marta de Magasca plain and we turned off the main road and drove through some oak dehesa habitat and out on to the plains. We soon pulled off the road to yet another Great Spotted Cuckoo which was being chased by a Corn Bunting. At this point we decided to enjoy the weather and took a walk up through the plains on a track which very quickly paid off. Our first Little Bustards took flight along the ridge and a smart male was found sitting up on a rock calling to females. After enjoying this very showy bird we watched in amazement as other bird took off and was joined by five more flying around!! As this unfolded a couple of Pin-tailed Sandgrouse shot through, giving us the dilemma of what to look at first. This problem became harder as a couple of Great Bustards loomed over the ridge and flew through. As we walked on Stuart was being "stalked" by a Quail at the edge of the track before it finally showed itself flying low over the fields. A really superb hour of Steppe birding! The sun brought out the butterflies with Painted Ladies, Small Copper, Spanish Marbled White and Small Heath all appearing.

We continued our walk to the top of the ridge where three male Great Bustards were dancing, trying to impress a female who seemed less than impressed and just walked down the hill away from them. Amongst the short grass Pin-tailed Sandgrouse were feeding but with a heat haze forming it was difficult to see them. We walked back down the hill where the first reptiles started to appear bathing in the sun including a Viperine Snake sliding back into the wall and some of the smaller species of butterflies were shooting back and forth on the tracks as raptors started to get up including a distant Golden Eagle. We got back into the vehicles and slowly moved up the road checking all around us for birds moving around and once again meeting up with the three Bustards from the ridge showing much closer. We turned down a side track and searched for more bustards and admired the amazing colours of the flower rich plains, with larks singing all around before heading for the picnic spot.

We pulled down into the valley of the Rio Tamuja where a local birder asked us to park up the hill a bit so we drove back up the valley a small way before parking for lunch. On stepping out and scanning around we soon noticed a nest on top of a pylon which held two young fluffy Bonelli's Eagle chicks. While we made lunch the group had a look around with small numbers of butterflies, Sardinian Warblers and Cuckoos singing.

Another warbler was singing from the trees close by, which we soon realised was a Western Orphean Warbler which promptly shot across and down in to the valley where Pond Terrapins were sunbathing on the rivers edge. While we enjoyed our lunch we had good views of the young eagles waiting for their lunch to come in but the adults weren't seen.

We finished up lunch and headed down and round the valley and up onto the Cáceres plains, where we soon followed the phone-lines with nest boxes on each post. We soon found that the home-owners were fantastic jackdaw-sized blue Rollers which put on a great show all the way along the road. We then turned down another dirt track and as we slowly rolled up the road a few Montagu's Harriers glided back and forth over the tracks, with Calandra Larks and Crested Larks flitting round and two Thekla Larks were dust-bathing in a field next to the track. Further on we saw a few Short-toed Larks also feeding alongside the track. We headed back to the road where the Montagu's Harriers were still showing and joined the main road back to Trujillo with Lesser Kestrels, Rollers and Little Owl all watching us from the nest boxes. Once on the road Black Kites drifted by and we were soon back at the hotel all talking about the great wildlife we had seen.

Day 4

Friday 3rd May

Rio Almonte- Monfragüe- Arrocampo

We were up early and ready for what would be our longest day, setting out on our way to Monfragüe National Park. It was warming up quite quickly on the roads and as we drove a Green Lizard ran across and a large Viperine snake had chosen the most dangerous of places to warm up! We carried on to the river valley of the Rio Almonte where we pulled in for a short time. The river looked really stunning with the Water Crows Foot in full flower making it look like white rapids. We walked along the valley with the first vultures of the day soaring over and Sardinian Warblers were diving in and around the bushes. As we walked, a very skulky Grasshopper Warbler shot along the river edge which was a surprise. Little Ringed Plovers flew back and forth and a Common Sandpiper was also noted but we had to get back on the road with so much more to see in Monfragüe. Arriving at the Castillo car park up a steep winding road we stepped out of the vehicles and vultures were drifting by all around us. The group, all at their own pace, made their way up the steps to the top of the hill and once there everyone was greeted by the most beautiful views across the whole area. Looking across the valley Black Kites were down below fishing over the reservoirs with Griffin Vultures gliding by almost looking us in the eye and a couple of Egyptian Vultures also joined them. Black Redstart and Blue Rock Thrush were also seen here.

After a while we made our way back down to the vans where we loaded up and moved around to Pena Falcon Rock. We stepped out to look up at the nesting vultures on the rocks and dotted amongst the nests lower down were two nests which held Black Storks with young. Blue Rock Thrushes were whistling on either side of the valley and a Black Wheatear appeared briefly for a few. Around the rocks Red-rumped Swallow and Crag Martin buzzed back and forth whilst Rhoddy and Pam found the endemic Foxglove (*Digitalis thapsi*) on the side of the road. We headed along the valley to the road bridge where we parked up and were met by thousands of House Martins which nest along the bridge and Alpine Swifts drifted back and forth which made for quite an amazing spectacle. We drove on round to the visitors centre for a quick stop and Griffon Vultures drifted overhead whilst one or two Crested Larks were around the grounds and Nightingale sang at the bottom of the gully. We carried on along the windy roads to our lunch stop in a tree-covered picnic site offering a little shade from the hot sun.

As myself and Tom prepared lunch the group enjoyed looking across the valley and watching the adult Griffon Vultures bringing dinner in for the young. We were pleased to report our lunch looked a little more appetising which is most probably why a young local Fox joined us at the picnic site. While here more of the endemic Foxglove (*Digitalis thapsi*) were found and after a relaxing lunch we continued on along the roads back out into the Gum Cistus-covered hillsides with a few watch point stops, where we picked up a Subalpine Warbler skulking away amongst the bushes.

At our final stop in Monfragüe we walked down to the watch point and sheltered under trees whilst looking up across the river at the rock face. While we stood watching there was an explosion of song from Cetti's Warbler and Nightingales and once you got past that you could hear the soft purring of Turtle Doves. We searched the hillside with the local birders but sadly no Eagle Owls were found but as we searched a Spanish Imperial Eagle drifted in high on the thermals looking down on us before drifting back down the valley. Everybody then wondered back to the vans and into the cool as we left Monfragüe behind and headed out through the Cork woods.

After a short journey we turned off the main road in search of Arrocampo nature reserve. Turning down a dirt track outside Saucedilla wondering if we were in the right area we were soon welcomed by a Marsh Harrier and there was a hide in the distance. Approaching the hide there was a little scrape on one side and a larger lake on the other side. Pulling up at "hide 5" there was a White Stork nesting on top and it looked down on us appearing slightly bemused. The lake had the murmuring of Reed Warblers and the scrape had a couple of Black-winged Stilt and two Common Sandpipers were feeding around the muddy edge with two Little Egrets fishing and Bee-eaters landing on the sand. The sonar ping of a Scops Owl was a surprise and a Redshank called overhead.

We then made the decision to find the rest of this great reserve! Heading back towards the village and a Short-toed Eagle made for a great distraction sat on the telegraph pole ahead of us and we soon spotted a hide not too far down a dusty track. As we pulled up the welcome was two Purple Herons flying at the van and as we all disembarked we were welcomed with an explosion of Great Reed Warblers singing away nearby. It was clear this area held a lot of birds! We walked down to "hide 1" and took up position either side looking for birds which really didn't take long! More Purple Herons were seen with two Whiskered Terns in the back ground and Marsh Harriers and Black Kites drifting across the fields. A Squacco Heron gave a brief view as it dropped in over the back of the reed bed and all of a sudden a male Little Bittern dived across leaving the great question of what do I look at first. As we grew accustomed we searched for the rather rowdy Great Reed Warblers which soon turned up a couple of Purple Gallinule hiding away in the reeds. At this point our attention was drawn to the conversation of "is that a large fish or is it an alligator" amongst the group. Whatever it was, was out of view to myself and Tom, but much to our amazement when it came into view we had the strange sight of a mother Wild Boar with six piglets swimming across in a line to the other side before trundling off in to the reed bed.

With this we moved on to the "hide 2" where we started to see Grebes and Cormorants on the lakes with Gull-billed Terns starting to make an appearance and a single Black-headed Gull. We moved to the third hide and en route the local cattle were being used as perches by around 40 Cattle Egrets. Once at the hide we scanned the water and noticed a large concrete barrage in the distance with Gull-billed Terns dotted all the way along. Tom and Tony soon called me over and amongst the terns was a wader in the form of a summer plumaged Grey Plover much to our surprise. Our attention was drawn to another Little Bittern which obliged this time by sitting out on show.

Moving on to the last hide, everyone disembarked to the reeling of a Savi's Warbler. In the reed beds ahead we soon found the bird, and off to our left the snake-like necks of the three Great White Egrets were amongst the reeds with the local Grey and Purple Herons! We only had a couple of hours in this area and managed to see a huge variety of great birds. After this we headed back to Vina Las Torres and our last evening meal in Extremadura with everyone trying to decide what the highlight of the day was before a good night's sleep.

Day 5

Saturday 4th May

Trujillo- Rio Almonte- Monfragüe- El Barco- Hoya de Espino

We woke up to a bright sunny day, finished our breakfasts and loaded our vans before saying our goodbyes to our great hosts of the last few days. We stopped in the main square so people could have a look around this historic town for a small while and once all back together we set off back towards Monfragüe. We soon arrived at the valley of the Rio Almonte and as we descended down the hill we were greeted by a Golden Eagle soaring in the skies across the valley. We had a short walk down the river noting another Little Ringed Plover.

All stepping back into the vans we went on to Monfragüe and sadly had to drive past Pena Falcon Rock due to the number of cars in the parking bays. We pulled up down the road next to the bridge and went down the track alongside the water through the woods. As we strolled along we came across Speckled Wood butterflies dancing round in the shade and a Green Hairstreak butterfly was on the path. We walked back towards the bridge with the House Martins and Crag Martins going back and forth with Alpine Swifts working the hill sides. Getting back to the vans we were surprised to hear a Lesser Spotted Woodpecker calling from the wood edge!

Driving on up the hillside we soon reached the visitors centre where picnic lunch loomed. On pulling up under the trees we started work on lunch with a view up on to Gum Cistus-covered hillsides. The group went for a wander to see what could be found and at the bottom of the picnic site and found a pool full of weed which held Pond Terrapins and Marsh Frogs with a Common Darter and Broad-bodied Chaser to boot. Also the biggest mammal of the trip was seen here with a Red Deer wandering up the hill. After a filling lunch we drove on to the last stop in Monfragüe and wandered down to the watch point for a small while with a couple of Subalpine Warblers moving around us and the occasional Black Stork.

We set off saying goodbye to Extremadura and all it had given us and on to the Gredos Mountains. After a couple of hours we reached the town of El Barco with its castle standing over the large Rio Tormes and pulled up for a leg stretch. A Booted Eagle soared over us here while the White Storks watched from the castle turrets. Some of the group went down to the river edge and were lucky enough to see a Dipper, while Grey Wagtails called and moved around the rocks with a group of Long-tailed Tits moving in the trees.

Pit stop over, on we went on to Hoya de Espino and the scenery started to change from oaks and more to birch not yet in leaf with smaller fields and the hillsides seeming to be covered more in Broom now instead of Cistus with snow-capped mountains ahead. We wound round the roads down to our home for the next couple of nights at the Milano Real in Hoya de Espino. Stepping out of the vans the local Black Redstarts were singing from the roof tops. After getting settled in, some of the group found the bar and enjoyed the garden with the amazing views across at the mountains. Here we met Richard and Ann who were joining us for this last bit of the journey. That night we sat down to a great dinner and the hospitality of the hotel and looked forward to what was still to come.

Day 6

Sunday 5th May

Plataforma

Everyone was up before breakfast for a look around and a walk and we found ourselves listening to Black Redstarts on the roofs with a Rock Sparrow putting in an appearance. As we strolled along the track a few Rock Buntings were seen with the track slinking round up the hillside through an area of pine and out into the open. Here we were met by a couple of Wood Larks, singing Western Bonelli's Warblers, with Black Kite drifting down the valley. On the return journey a Cirl Bunting put in an appearance on the edge of the road.

After breakfast we loaded up and headed towards the plataforma, dropping down the valley and through the pine woods stopping at a local camp site. Strolling down the track we wandered in to the woods finding a Pied Flycatcher on the edge of a clearing where Hoop Petticoat Narcissus (*Narcissus bulbocodium* Var. *nivalis*) was dotted across the clearing. Strolling back to the vans Serins buzzed around and three Citril Finches shot off into the pines with Crossbills moving and chipping. We now drove on up the mountain side towards the top and a Red Squirrel put in a brief appearance and our first Iberian Wagtails were sat on the fences. Driving on up the hillsides went from lush green to more arid rocky slopes and a quick stop revealed a stunning singing male Ortolan Bunting on top of the scrub along with Whitethroats darting around and a single Lesser Whitethroat was a surprise. Driving down to a mountain river were more Iberian Wagtails and a few more Ortolan Bunting moved around the bottom of the scrub. Carrying on to the top car park we pulled up and set up for the highest picnic lunch of the trip. As we set up, Richard shot off up the mountain side, like the Ibex we were hoping to see, with great results finding a stunning male Rock Thrush for the group.

After lunch we set off up the track with Rock Buntings darting between the rocks and Wheatears and Black Redstart popping up. Heading higher, rock narcissus (*Narcissus rupicola*) was dotted along the edge and up amongst the rocks another pair of Rock Thrushes was watching, along with a group of Ibex standing proud on the mountain side. On getting to the top the group started to spread out to look around amongst the broom and gorse scrub. This soon paid off with the stunning blue georgette of a male Bluethroat in front of us, with another appearing briefly. We waited patiently to get good views of the bird and eventually had superb views as it approached to within a couple of feet of us! After looking around the top we made a steady stroll back to the vans and made our way slowly back down the mountain side into the woods where we turned down a track to look for more woodland species. Pulling back at the river we watched Crossbills coming down to drink before heading back to the hotel for dinner and to say goodbye to Anke who left us to carry on her holiday with a spot of horse riding.

Day 7

Monday 6th May

The Paradore - Bonelli's wood- Lower Paradore

The morning started with Tom finding a Goshawk sitting on the other side of the valley and most the group came out for a morning drive to the Paradore before breakfast. We started searching the edges of the pine woods for birds and soon had groups of Crossbill leaving their roosts and Rock Buntings pottering around with a single Siskin flying over. After a little work a group of 15 Citril Finches gave themselves up coming down on to the rocks to feed and this made for a great start and a talking point at breakfast.

Once replete we set off to Bonelli's Wood and on arriving at our destination we pulled up in the broad-leaved wood where a few of the locals were doing some work. We walked down through the woods where Peony (*Paeonia broteri*) were just starting to bud and the trees were exploding with the song of Bonelli's Warblers and Golden Orioles singing with the occasional Nightingale and Blackcap joining in for good measure. A single Chiffchaff moved round in the trees above and as we headed down Booted Eagles drifted over and another Chiffchaff appeared and this time it was contact calling, giving itself away as an Iberian chiffchaff which was nice to compare to the earlier bird. At the bottom of the slope a small pool gave everyone a chance to see Marsh Frogs and we carried on to an area of stone walls surrounding the small fields and on these walls we watched a couple of Iberian Wall Lizards and a Large Psammadromus warming up. As the sun came out Pied Flycatchers started to pop up in the trees and Speckled Woods danced in the dappled light. On reaching the picnic site we were rewarded with very smart Spanish festoons on the wing.

After eating lunch in this lovely last picnic venue, we loaded back up and drove from the broad-leaved side of the wood, over to the pine wood side of the area. As we came down in this area we were greeted by a carpet of yellow with the Pasque Flower (*Pulsatilla alpina*) which covered the hillside under the pine trees. Down in the gully a small pool was being used as a bath for the local Crossbills and Tree Pipits giving everyone a chance to obtain great views. After most of the group went for a wander through these wonderful woods we set off back to below the Paradore to explore more pine woodland.

We headed back and turned down the track behind the Paradore checking along the edges of the fields through the Corn Buntings and Sparrows and then into the woods. We searched around the area and found a couple of Red Squirrels scurrying round and our attention was drawn to the groups of small birds coming down to the river to drink. Scanning through the birds revealed Rock Buntings, Ortolan Bunting and while Coal Tits, Goldcrest and Firecrests flitted around above we finally found Crested Tits. We then headed back to the hotel and our last night at the Milano.

Day 8

Tuesday 7th May

Paradore – Madrid – Heathrow

Morning started with a good breakfast and after loading up our luggage, we said our goodbyes to our hosts of the last few nights and set upon our way back towards Madrid. We had time for a quick stop at the Paradore and a quick look we had another brief Crested Tit before continuing on out of the Gredos with a few Kestrels, Buzzards and Corn Bunting along the way. We reached Madrid and the busy roads were something of a shock after our week in rural Spain. On reaching the airport and checking in we boarded the plane and headed for home before saying our goodbyes and leaving with great memories of a wonderful trip.

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Species List

Plants (Thank you to Pam Millman and Rhoddy Wood for assistance with this list)

<i>Pinus pinea</i> , Stone Pine	<i>Pinus Scotia</i> , Scots Pine
<i>Juniperus oxycedrus</i> ,	<i>Quercus suber</i> , Cork oak
<i>Quercus coccifera</i> , Kermes Oak	<i>Quercus rotundiflora</i> ,
<i>Quercus pyrenaica</i> , Pyrenean Oak	<i>Quercus ilex</i> ,
<i>Celtis australis</i> ,	<i>Ulmus canescens</i> ,
<i>Urtica dioica</i> , Stinging nettle	<i>Urtica membranacea</i> ,
<i>Aristolochia rotunda</i> ,	<i>Rumex scutatus</i> ,
<i>Silene alba</i> , White campion	<i>Silene gallica</i> , Small flowered catchfly
<i>Paronychia capitata</i> ,	<i>Ranunculus sceleratus</i> , Celery leaved buttercup
<i>Ranunculus abnormis</i> ,	<i>Paeonia officinalis ssp humilis</i> ,
<i>Paeonia broteri</i> ,	<i>Papaver rhoeas</i> , Common poppy
<i>Papaver dubium</i> , Long headed poppy	<i>Fumaria officinalis</i> , Common fumitory
<i>Raphanus raphanistrum</i> , Wild radish	<i>Reseda gredensis</i> ,
<i>Sedum album</i> ,	<i>Saxifraga granulata</i> , Meadow Saxifrage
<i>Geum sylvaticum</i> ,	<i>Genista hispanica</i> , Spanish gorse
<i>Spartium junceum</i> , Spanish broom	<i>Robinia pseudacia</i> , False Acacia
<i>Cystisus multiflorus</i> , White broom	<i>Cystisus striatus</i> , Yellow broom
<i>Lupinus augustifolius</i> ,	<i>Lathyrus siccar</i> ,
<i>Lathyrus cicera</i> ,	<i>Medicago orbicularis</i> , Large disk medic
<i>Lotus corniculatus</i> , Birds foot trefoil	<i>Trifolium stellatum</i> , Starry Clover
<i>Trifolium resupinatum</i> ,	<i>Geranium robertianum</i> , Herb Robert
<i>Erodium ciconium</i> ,	<i>Linum sp</i> ,
<i>Malva sylvestris</i> , Common Mallow	<i>Cistus ladanifer</i> , Gum Cistus
<i>Cistus salvifolius</i> ,	<i>Cistus populifolius</i> ,
<i>Tuberaria guttatum</i> , Spotted rockrose	<i>Halimium oxymoides</i> ,
<i>Opuntia ficus-indica</i> , Prickly pear	<i>Smygium perfoliatum</i> ,
<i>Oenanthe crocata</i> ,	<i>Ferula communis</i> , Giant fennel
<i>Arbutus unedo</i> , Strawberry tree	<i>Erica arborea</i> ,
<i>Anagallis arvensis</i> , Scarlet pimpernel	<i>Anagallis foemina</i> , Blue pimpernel
<i>Primula elatior</i> , Oxlip	<i>Fraxinus ornus</i> , Flowering ash
<i>Olea europaea</i> , Olive	<i>Cenataurium maritimum</i> ,
<i>Anchuusa azurea</i> ,	<i>Echium vulgare</i> , Viper bugloss
<i>Echium plantagineum</i> , Purple bugloss	<i>Borago officinalis</i> ,
<i>Acinos arvensis</i> , Basil thyme	<i>Lavandula stoechas</i> , French lavender
<i>Salvia verbenaca</i> ,	<i>Scrophularia peregrine</i> , Nettle leaved figwort
<i>Verbascum nigrum</i> , Dark mullein	<i>Digitalis thapsi</i> ,
<i>Parentucellia viscosa</i> , Yellow bartsia	<i>Bellardia trixago</i> , Bellardia
<i>Orobanche minor</i> ,	<i>Orobanche ramose</i> ,
<i>Plantago media</i> , Hoary plantain	<i>Plantago affra</i> ,
<i>Campanula erinus</i> ,	<i>Campanula patula</i> , Spreading bellflower
<i>Bellis perennis</i> , Daisy	<i>Helichrysum stoechas</i> ,

Evax pygmaea, Evax*Tolpis barbata*, Tolpis*Dipcardi serotinum*,*Muscari comosum*,*Gladiolus italicus*, Field gladiolus Gagea*Narcissus rupicola*, Rock Narcissus*Narcissus triandrus*, Angels tears*Iris pseudacorus*, Yellow flag*Orchis morio*, Green winged orchid*Serapias lingua*,*Galactites tomentosa*, Galactites*Andryala integrifolia*, Andryala*Asphodelus albus*, White Asphodel*Gagea fistulosa*,*Ornithogalum umbellatum*, Star of Bethlehem*Narcissus bulbocodium var. nivalis*, Hoop petticoat narcissus*Narcissus jonquilla*,*Pulsatilla alpina ssp. apiiflora*,*Orchis champagneuxii*, Champagne orchid*Serapias parviflora*

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

	Common name	Scientific name	April/May							
			30	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>		✓		✓				
2	Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>		H	✓					
3	Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>				✓				
4	Cattle egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓
5	Little Bittern	<i>Ixobrychus minutus</i>				3				
6	Squacco Heron	<i>Ardeola ralloides</i>				1				
7	Little egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>				2				
8	Great White Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>				5				
9	Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓			✓
10	Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>				10				
11	Black Stork	<i>Ciconia nigra</i>				7	✓			
12	White Stork	<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
13	Greylag Goose	<i>Anser anser</i>		✓						
14	Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓
15	Black Kite	<i>Milvus migrans</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
16	Red Kite	<i>Milvus milvus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
17	Egyptian Vulture	<i>Neophron percnopterus</i>		1	1	6				
18	Black Vulture	<i>Aegypius monachus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓			
19	Griffon Vulture	<i>Gyps fulvus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
20	Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>				15				
21	Hen Harrier	<i>Circus cyaneus</i>		1						
22	Montagu's Harrier	<i>Circus pygargus</i>		2	5	1				
23	Goshawk	<i>Accipiter gentilis</i>							1	
24	Common Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
25	Golden Eagle	<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>					1			
26	Spanish Imperial Eagle	<i>Aquila adalberti</i>				1				
27	Bonelli's Eagle	<i>Hieraaetus fasciatus</i>				3				
28	Booted Eagle	<i>Hieraaetus pennatus</i>	5	3	3	2	3	1	2	2
29	Short toed Eagle	<i>Circaetus gallicus</i>		2		4	1	1		
30	Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
31	Lesser Kestrel	<i>Falco naumanni</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓			
32	Peregrine	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>						1		
33	Quail	<i>Coturnix coturnix</i>		H	1					
34	Red legged Partridge	<i>Alectoris rufa</i>		✓	✓	H				
35	Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>				3				
36	Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>		✓	✓	✓				
37	Purple Gallinule	<i>Porphyrio porphyrio</i>				2				

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			30	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
38	Great Bustard	<i>Otis tarda</i>		11	12					
39	Little Bustard	<i>Tetrax tetrax</i>		5H	9					
40	Stone Curlew	<i>Burhinus oediconemus</i>		6		H				
41	Black winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>				2				
42	Little Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>		2		1	1			
43	Grey Plover	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>				1				
44	Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>				H				
45	Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis ochropus</i>				3				
46	Black headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>				1				
47	Gull-billed Tern	<i>Gelochelidon nilotica</i>				✓				
48	Whiskered Tern	<i>Chlidonias hybridus</i>				2				
49	Pin-tailed sandgrouse	<i>Pterocles alchata</i>			12					
50	Wood Pigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
51	Feral Pigeon	<i>Columbia livia</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
52	Stock Dove	<i>Columba oenas</i>	✓		✓	✓			✓	
53	Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
54	Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>				H			H	
55	Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>	H	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
56	Great Spotted Cuckoo	<i>Clamator glandarius</i>	1	5	3					
57	Little Owl	<i>Athene noctua</i>		2	1					
58	Scops Owl	<i>Otus scops</i>	H	H		H	H	H	H	H
59	Alpine Swift	<i>Tachymarptis melba</i>				15	25			
60	Pallid Swift	<i>Apus pallidus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
61	Common Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
62	Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>				H				
63	Bee eater	<i>Merops apiaster</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
64	Roller	<i>Coracias garrulus</i>			20	1				
65	Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
66	Green Woodpecker	<i>Picus viridis</i>					H	✓	✓	
67	Great Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos brachydactyla</i>						H	✓	
68	Lesser Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos minor</i>				H				
69	Wryneck	<i>Jynx torquilla</i>							H	
70	Wood Lark	<i>Lullula arborea</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
71	Sky Lark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>						✓		
72	Crested Lark	<i>Galerida cristata</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓
73	Thekla Lark	<i>Galerida theklae</i>		1	2					
74	Short toed Lark	<i>Calandrella brachydactyla</i>			5					
75	Calandra Lark	<i>Melanocorypha calandra</i>	✓	✓	✓					
76	Sand Martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>				✓	✓			
77	Crag Martin	<i>Ptyonoprogne rupestris</i>				✓	✓	✓		
78	Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
79	Red rumped swallow	<i>Cecropis daurica</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
80	House Martin	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
81	Tawny pipit	<i>Anthus campestris</i>		3	1					
82	Water pipit	<i>Anthus spinoletta</i>						2		
83	Meadow Pipit	<i>Anthus pratensis</i>						2		
84	Tree pipit	<i>Anthus trivialis</i>							1	
85	White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
86	Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>					✓	✓	✓	
87	Spanish Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava iberiae</i>						✓	✓	
88	Dipper	<i>Cinclus cinclus</i>					1	1	H	

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89	Dunnock	<i>Prunella modularis</i>							✓	✓	✓
90	Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
91	Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
92	Nightingale	<i>Luscinia megarhynchos</i>			H	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
93	Bluethroat	<i>Luscinia svecica</i>						2			
94	Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>		1							
95	Black Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
96	Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>		✓	✓			✓	✓		
97	Black Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe leucura</i>				1					
98	Whinchat	<i>Saxicola rubetra</i>		2	2	1					
99	Stonechat	<i>Saxicola torquata</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
100	Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
101	Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>	✓	✓							
102	Mistle Thrush	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>						1	H		
103	Blue rock thrush	<i>Monticola solitarius</i>				✓	✓				
104	Rock thrush	<i>Monticola saxatilis</i>						4			
105	Garden warbler	<i>Sylvia borin</i>					H		H		
106	Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>		1		H	H	✓	✓	✓	
107	Orphean Warbler	<i>Sylvia hortensis</i>			2						
108	Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia communis</i>						✓	✓		
109	Lesser whitethroat	<i>Sylvia curruca</i>						1			
110	Sardinian warbler	<i>Sylvia melanocephala</i>		1	3	4	H				
111	Subalpine Warbler	<i>Sylvia cantillans</i>				1	2				
112	Zitting Cisticola	<i>Cisticola juncidis</i>			2	8	1				
113	Grasshopper warbler	<i>Locustella naevia</i>				1					
114	Savi's warbler	<i>Locustella luscinioides</i>				3					
115	Cetti's Warbler	<i>Cettia cetti</i>				✓	✓				
116	Reed warbler	<i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>				H					
117	Great Reed warbler	<i>Acrocephalus arundinaceus</i>				10					
118	Melodious Warbler	<i>Hippolais polyglotta</i>		1				1			
119	Willow Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>							2		
120	Western Bonelli's warbler	<i>Phylloscopus bonelli</i>						✓	✓	✓	
121	Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>							1		
122	Iberian chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus ibericus</i>							1		
123	Goldcrest	<i>Regulus regulus</i>						✓	✓		
124	Firecrest	<i>Regulus ignicapilla</i>				H	H	✓	✓		
125	Spotted flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>		1							
126	Pied flycatcher	<i>Ficedula hypoleuca</i>		1				1	3		
127	Crested Tit	<i>Lophophanes cristatus</i>					✓	✓	✓		
128	Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
129	Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
130	Coal Tit	<i>Pariparus ater</i>					H	✓	✓	✓	
131	Long tailed Tit	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>				✓	✓				
132	Nuthatch	<i>Sitta europaea</i>						✓	✓		
133	Short toed Treecreeper	<i>Certhia brachydactyla</i>							✓		
134	Southern Grey Shrike	<i>Lanius meridionalis</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	
135	Woodchat shrike	<i>Lanius senator</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
136	Common Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	2								
137	Spotless Starling	<i>Sturnus unicolor</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
138	Golden Oriole	<i>Oriolus oriolus</i>	H	4	2	H	✓		✓		
139	Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>						H	✓		

	Common name	Scientific name	April/May							
			30	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
140	Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
141	Azure winged Magpie	<i>Cyanopica cyana</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
142	Jackdaw	<i>Corvus monedula</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓			
143	Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
144	Carrion Crow	<i>Corvus corone</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
145	Tree Sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>	1						✓	
146	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
147	Spanish Sparrow	<i>Passer hispaniolensis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		1	✓
148	Rock Sparrow	<i>Petronia petronia</i>						1	1	
149	Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
150	Hawfinch	<i>Coccothraustes coccothraustes</i>		1						
151	Common Crossbill	<i>Loxia curvirostra</i>						✓	✓	✓
152	Serin	<i>Serinus serinus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
153	Greenfinch	<i>Chloris chloris</i>					✓	✓	✓	✓
154	Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
155	Siskin	<i>Carduelis spinus</i>							1	1
156	Citril Finch	<i>Carduelis citinella</i>						3	15	3
157	Linnet	<i>Carduelis cannabina</i>				4			2	
158	Corn Bunting	<i>Emberiza calandra</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
159	Ortolan Bunting	<i>Emberiza hortulana</i>						✓	✓	
160	Cirl Bunting	<i>Emberiza cirlus</i>						1	1	
161	Rock Bunting	<i>Emberiza cia</i>				1	✓	✓	✓	✓
162	Reed Bunting	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>				H	H			
Mammals										
1	Red Fox	<i>Vulpes vulpes</i>				1			1	
2	Red Deer	<i>Cervus elaphus</i>					1			
3	Rabbit	<i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i>						1		3
4	Wild Boar	<i>Sus scrofa</i>				7				
5	Spanish Ibex	<i>Capra pyrenaica</i>						30		
6	Red Squirrel	<i>Sciurus vulgaris</i>						1	2	
7	Pipistrelle sp		1	2						
Butterflies										
1	Spanish Festoon	<i>Zerynthia rumina</i>							5	
2	Brimstone	<i>Gonepteryx rhamni</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
3	Clouded Yellow	<i>Colias crocea</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
4	Small White	<i>Artogeia rapae</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
5	Green veined White	<i>Artogeia napi</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
6	Orange tip	<i>Anthocharis cardamines</i>				✓	✓		✓	
7	Provence Orange tip	<i>Anthocharis euphenoides</i>						1	3	
8	Western Dappled White	<i>Euchloe Cramerii</i>			✓					
9	Wood White	<i>Leptidea sinapsis</i>							1	
10	Green Hairstreak	<i>Callophrys rubi</i>				1				
11	Small Copper	<i>Lycaena phlaeas</i>			✓	✓				
12	Brown Argus	<i>Aricia agestis</i>		✓						
13	Holy Blue	<i>Celastrina argiolus</i>							1	
14	Chapman's Blue	<i>Pollyommatus thersites</i>		1						
15	Adonis Blue	<i>Pollyommatus bellargus</i>		1						
16	Green underwing Blue	<i>Glaucopsyche alexis</i>		1						

	Common name	Scientific name	April/May								
			30	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
17	Comma	<i>Polygonia c-album</i>								1	
18	Painted Lady	<i>Vanessa cardui</i>		✓	✓					✓	
19	Red Admiral	<i>Vanessa atalanta</i>		✓	✓			✓			
20	Speckled Wood	<i>Pararge aegaria</i>						✓		✓	
21	Spanish Marbled White	<i>Melanargia ines</i>		✓	✓						
22	Small Heath	<i>Coenonympha pamphilus</i>		✓	✓			✓			
Reptiles & Amphibians											
1	Viperine Water Snake	<i>Natrix maura</i>			✓	1					
2	Common Wall Lizard	<i>Podarcis muralis</i>				1				1	
3	Iberian Wall Lizard	<i>Podarcis pityusensis</i>				2			2	3	
4	European Green Lizard	<i>Lacerta viridis</i>			1	1					
5	Schreiber's Lizard	<i>Lacerta schreiberi</i>				1					
6	Large Psammodromus	<i>Psammodromus algirus</i>				1				2	
7	Marsh Frog	<i>Pelophylax ridibundus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
8	Common Toad	<i>Bufo bufo</i>			✓						
9	Natterjack	<i>Epidalea calamita</i>		✓							
10	European Pond Terrapin	<i>Emys orbicularis</i>			✓	✓					

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