

# **Extremadura in Spring**

**31 March – 7 April 2007**

## **Leaders:**

John Muddeman  
Ray Nowicki

## **TRIP DIARY**

### **Saturday 31 March**

Ray and ten group members fly out of an extremely busy Heathrow Airport and join John waiting with the remaining group members that have flown directly to Madrid. We are slightly delayed getting the hire vehicles as it is busy in Madrid too but at least everyone takes the opportunity to grab a spot of lunch.

We set off along the excellent motorway system and start to eat up the kilometres. A good mixture of bird species are seen during the first part of our journey including: Spotless Starling, Hoopoe, White Stork, Black & Red Kites, Black-shouldered Kite, Buzzard, Common Magpie, Raven, Cattle Egret, Southern Grey Shrike and Griffon Vulture. We also encounter quite a few heavy showers of rain before stopping at Bar David for a break and some refreshments. We also increase the species list with Swallow, House Martin and Serin before rejoining the motorway.

Our next stop is at the Embalse de Arrocampo-Almaraz and here we enjoy a feast of interesting species such as Great-crested Grebe, Grey and Purple Heron, 2 Little Bittern, Black-shouldered Kite in display, Black Kite and Marsh Harrier, Buzzard, Purple Swamphen with young, Kingfisher, Zitting Cisticola, Cetti's Warbler and Chiffchaff. We also have amazing views of 3 Savi's Warbler singing in full view, not forgetting other species like Moorhen, Coot, Snipe, Meadow Pipit and Stonechat. We move on towards our base for the week and arrive at Finca Santa Marta and are greeted by the staff, all with an umbrella in hand as the rain is quite heavy and we unload our luggage into our rooms. After this we all meet and enjoy a reception with Henri Elink-Schurman during which we all learn a little bit more about the local history before enjoying a wonderful meal and then sleep.

### **Sunday 1 April**

Several of the group set off for a pre-breakfast walk around the Finca and are rewarded with good views of House and Spanish Sparrows sitting together, Hawfinch perched behind us, Iberian Azure-winged Magpie feeding on the ground and other sightings include Great-spotted Woodpecker, Cuckoo, Spotless Starling, Sardinian Warbler, Grey Heron, Serin, Hoopoe, Blackcap and Greenfinch before returning to a well earned breakfast. After breakfast we create our own custom-made lunch from an incredible selection of food and drink.

A short drive and we start to explore the area near Madroñera and soon find Black Redstart, Stonechat, Crested Lark, Corn Bunting and good views of 2 Great Spotted Cuckoo before they vanish over the nearby hillside. The way forward leads us on to the famous Belén Plain and within minutes of stopping we enjoy seeing a pair of Stone Curlew, what a find! A single Great Bustard at great distance, 3km at least, at best shows that they are big birds! Further scanning of the surroundings produce Crested and Thekla Lark, Booted Eagle, Griffon & Egyptian Vulture plus Raven. We move along the Plain and encounter 2 Little Owl near a farm and then search another area to find a much closer group of 13 Great Bustard. The same field also produces a male Montagu's Harrier floating past and numerous Calandra Lark. We then travel to Torrecillas de la Tiesa to have lunch in the comfort of a bar. After lunch we travel back to the Belén Plain and begin to survey a new area but end up seeing X-certificate wildlife activity in the form of 'The Food Chain'. A Raven spots an Iberian Hare running away, follows it and pounces on it but the Hare gets away. Then the Ravens mate joins in the hunt and nails the victim, a Red Kite then

moves in and claims the body but only manages to fly off with a leg just as a Black Vulture arrives to take over the carcass, one Raven comes back to square up to the Black Vulture, a short lived and one sided stand-off takes place before the hare is eaten. The 3 Great Bustard that have recently flown in are a convenient distraction from the carnage. We return to Finca Santa Marta and indulge in some plant hunting and end the day with Champagne & Spanish Milky Orchids being two of the many highlights of the varied flora seen on the hillside above the Finca. The weather improves near the end of the day after the cold and foggy start, allowing us to enjoy a few Booted Eagles drifting overhead in the sunshine before walking back to the Finca.

### **Monday 2 April**

It's back to a cold and wet start to the day as we set off along the motorway towards Almaraz and just after we leave the main road we stop to look for more Orchids: Italian Man, Woodcock, Sawfly, Yellow Bee & Mirror Orchid. A Willow Warbler is singing nearby as we set off towards the Embalse de Arrocampo-Almaraz and stop near Saucedilla.

We find the reed bed type warblers are in fine form and delight in showing themselves, for a change, and we have excellent views of Savi's, Cetti's, Sedge and even Zitting Cisticola, all perched! The first of only two Yellow Wagtails for the week passes overhead and a Kingfisher flashes past. Purple Swamphen, Little Bittern, Grey & Purple Heron are found in the reeds but the calling Water Rails remain hidden. A pair of Gadwall floats over the water, whilst a trick of the light causes confusion when a Black Kite flies toward us looking as if it has been skewered, but when it turns to land on a nest does it become clear that it is only carrying nest material, what a relief! A pair of Marsh Harriers drifts around nearby and an Iberian Chiffchaff calls but is only heard by the leaders, and it does not call again. We walk back to the vehicles, load up and travel to the other side of

Saucedilla and explore another area. There is not much to see apart from a huge waterspout in the distance, glad that's where it stayed, although the Southern Grey Shrikes look good on their perches.

The rain eases off and so we have lunch at Cero Alto overlooking a

Pool that we hope may contain a few surprises. It looks very quiet at a quick glance but the more you look the more you see. Numerous dead trees in the water make viewing difficult but the 4 Spoonbills, along with Cattle & Little Egret are obvious. Minimum wader counts include 12 Black-winged Stilt, 7 Snipe, 4 Green Sandpiper, 3 Little Ringed Plover, 2 Greenshank, 2 Common Sandpiper, 2 Spotted Redshank and 1 Ruff. Raptors drift over at regular intervals with larger numbers of Griffon Vultures at times plus several Black Vultures, smaller numbers of Red & Black Kite, Booted Eagle, Buzzard and Marsh Harrier are noted.

We travel a comparatively short drive to visit the Valdecañas area and find Long-tailed Tit, Chaffinch and Blackcap in the woodland plus Griffon and Egyptian Vulture flying overhead. A Spanish Festoon butterfly settles on the bank and the various photographers find themselves creeping up the bank to take pictures when it becomes clear that there are 2 Spanish Festoon butterflies! Unexpectedly the silence is broken by the sound of a Wild Boar female plus at least 8 stripy piglets run across the road nearby, such fun.

There is just time to return to the Almaraz area to check out some more plants. Greater Broomrape welcomes us as we park the minibuses; further exploration yields Pink Butterfly Orchid, unfortunately ruined by horse muck! At another area we find a form of Early Spider Orchid. As we stroll back to the vehicles a Golden Eagle drifts slowly past before heading away, a great way to end a super day with the improving weather playing its part. Another good meal is enjoyed back at the Finca and afterwards the Scops Owl is heard once again.

### **Tuesday 3 April**

We travel towards Trujillo and stop next to the Bullring and study the Lesser Kestrels that nest in the roof of the building but they disappear very quickly into their nest sites and we struggle to get more than flight views. Spotless Starlings also nest in the roof but they are very obliging and allow

us to study them and work out the subtle differences between male & female. Meanwhile overhead a few Pallid Swifts flash past.

The sky is cloudy as we drive along the road towards Santa Marta de Magasca and stop briefly to look at Woodlark, Southern Grey & Woodchat Shrike. We then stop near a bend in the road and start to scan for birds. Great Bustards and a single displaying Little Bustard

are a very welcome sight. Moving along the road we see numerous Northern Wheatear along the fence line with Calandra Lark in the field beyond. We leave the road on to a track and stop to scan once more. Here we find Greater Short-toed Lark in display flight, a large flock of Cattle Egrets in the distance and a Merlin perched on a rock. Our next drive takes us to the village of Santa Marta de Magasca for light refreshments in the square. Raptors drift overhead as we enjoy our drinks before moving on to stop at the bridge over the Rio Tamuja. Here we look at Black Stork, Crag Martin, White Wagtail, Stonechat, Long-tailed Tit, Serin and Sardinian Warbler before moving to the Llanos de Cáceres turning for lunch. As we start lunch a flock of Meadow Pipits land in the field next to the vehicles. Displaying Montagu's Harriers are skydiving over the surrounding fields either side of us. Gadwall, Little Grebe, Black-winged Stilt and Grey Heron are seen in a small lake. Pin-tailed Sandgrouse are heard somewhere in the distance but not seen until 20 land behind us in a field. We drive slowly along the track searching the fields either side, the rear vehicle finding a stunning Pink Butterfly Orchid and vow to stop on the return journey to take photos. At least 9 Pin-tailed Sandgrouse are seen, a minimum of 6 Little Bustard scattered either side of the track, a (large) handful of Great Bustard and a stunning male Black-eared Wheatear. Raptors are good too with decent numbers of Vulture, Kite and Buzzard drifting over. A very distant perched 'eagle' did fly after a while and this immature Golden Eagle delayed our travel plans as it drifts nearer giving prolonged views. We return to the Pink Butterfly Orchid and take our photos before heading towards the main road. As we approach the road a flock of 80+ Great Bustard fly over the nearby hill. Once on the road we find a Male Montagu's Harrier flying beside the vehicle only metres away, so we adjust our speed accordingly and enjoy superb views for some time before it crosses over the road. We see a single Great Bustard plus a good mix of raptors as we travel back to the Finca Santa Marta. On our return we enjoy yet another hot drinks and cakes/biscuits session before we do the customary checklist for the day.

### **Wednesday 4 April**

After breakfast we travel towards the Parque Natural de Monfragüe but stop at the Rio Almonte first and check out the area. We find a good blend of birds with including Sand & Crag Martin, Kingfisher, Black Redstart, Little-ringed Plover, Pallid Swift, Red-rumped Swallow, Singing Cirl Bunting, Green Sandpiper, Red Kite, Buzzard and a pair of Stonechat feeding newly fledged young. On the outskirts of Monfragüe we stop to view Rock Sparrow, Short-toed & Bonelli's Eagle plus Alpine Swift. The main car park at Peña Falcón is full so we drive to the Rio Tajo bridge and scan for wildlife. This turns out to be a very good move as we enjoy a classy mix of birdlife with Bonelli's Eagle, Egyptian Vulture, a close Rock Bunting, Blue Rock Thrush, Peregrine, Alpine Swift, Black Stork, and singing Subalpine Warbler. All this excitement leaves us breathless and thirsty so we drive to nearby Villarreal de San Carlos to have food and drink. After this welcome break we travel to the far end of the park and stop to explore to Portilla del Tiétar and find an Eagle Owl tending its chick, awesome!

More views of Rock Bunting, Subalpine Warbler, Blue Rock Thrush, plus Black Kite and Booted Eagle overhead then a small group of Bee-eater fly over the cliff giving brief views. We then travel back and stop for a moment to admire a large group of House Martin collecting mud from a roadside puddle. As we move on an adult Golden Eagle is admired as it hunts over the hillside beside us. Next we stop near the dam to search an area of Pine to look for Crested Tit but only manage brief views meanwhile John arrives with an amazing creature in the palm of his hand, Worm-lizard, a new experience for the rest of us! A short drive takes us to the other side of the dam where we study a group of 10-12 very friendly Hawfinch feeding on the Elms. A large flock of Azure-winged Magpie descend on the car park before moving away. We finally make it into the Peña Falcón car park and split into two groups as there is so much to see here! Bonelli's Eagle, Blue Rock Thrush, Black Stork, Black Redstart, Rock Bunting, Subalpine Warbler, Short-toed Treecreeper and the only pair of Red-billed Chough in the Parque are spotted, what a find.

We return to the Finca on a high and later venture into Trujillo to have our evening meal in a hotel; this is due to the Finca staff having a day off. The meal consists of a constant stream of different types of traditional Spanish food and these keep appearing! We finally finish this generous feast and manage to exit the hotel to find ourselves walking into a religious festival just outside. Some of the costumes look a little scary but it is good to see people of all ages being involved in something that is still very traditional in Spain and is on the increase.

#### **Thursday 5 April**

We head off straight after breakfast but only travel to nearby Madroñera and as we pass through the village a few Lesser Kestrel are seen before we stop at the heath land above the village. Corn Bunting, Stonechat and Crested Lark are obvious on their perches. It is not long before we find one of our targets for the day, Dartford Warbler seem very obliging as one after another appear and sing in the warm sunshine. Other small birds found here include Sardinian Warbler & Great Tit, and then we see Buzzard and Cuckoo fly past. We then return to the vehicles and find a low flying Short-toed Eagle overhead giving us great views but as we turn around to look the other way another eagle appears, this time a Golden (imm). We now drive to the Rio Almonte and see Champagne & Spanish Milky Orchid, Rock Sparrow, Mistle Thrush and Woodchat Shrike along our route. At the river we see Grey Wagtail (briefly), Rock Bunting, \_ & \_ Subalpine Warbler, 3+ Blue Rock Thrush, Blackcap, Red-rumped Swallow, Crag Martin, Booted & Short-toed Eagle as we have lunch. We see a few more Mistle Thrush plus White Wagtail and Linnet as we drive towards Cabañas del Castillo and park near the outskirts of the village. A short uphill walk takes us to the foot of the cliff where we search and manage to find a pair of Black Wheatear, also Blue Rock Thrush, Black Redstart and Serin. Those that make it to the viewpoint enjoy outstanding scenery but breezy conditions. As we are about to load up and drive on, a distant Peregrine is found on the cliff-face which then takes off and disappears at high speed. We find this thirsty work and end up stopping at Deleitosa for afternoon tea. The nearby Church has at least twenty White Stork nests on the roof; the building must be near to collapse! We travel beyond the village but soon stop again to explore a raptor feeding station not far from the road. There are lots of bones visible on the ground and during our watch we see at least 70 Raven, 20 Red Kite, smaller numbers of Black Kite, Griffon Vulture, Egyptian Vulture and Black Vulture.

A comical sight is an American Black Vulture (*Coragyps atratus*) flying overhead with other vultures. Obviously a deliberate release as we can see the jesses! Meanwhile there is always something going on behind us and we turn to find a large number of Griffon Vulture roosting on the cliffs and spot that one is wearing wing-tags, the rest must feel jealous. We also hear Woodlark calling nearby but cannot find them until at last we realise we are looking too far and have fantastic views close by. A male Montagu's Harrier drifts through a group of circling Vultures adding a great deal of class to that occasion. We then climb into the vehicles and travel towards Jaraicejo over roads and road works but get through to our next site for birds. We scan the area looking for Spectacled Warbler and manage to see at least five birds and have scope views of the them perched, if you are quick! After our return to have our meal at the Finca we go back to Trujillo and have an extensive experience of the Religious Festival; and then return to the Finca to sleep.

#### **Friday 6 April**

After breakfast we head almost due south to explore new habitat and hope to find new species, we stop after turning on to the Campo Lugar road and search for birds. Our only Lapwing (pair) for the trip are a nice surprise, a pair of Montagu's Harrier float around, Great Bustard and distant Little Owl are just a few of the good birds seen but the sight of 4 Black-bellied Sandgrouse landing was more than welcome as they have avoided us until now. We turn around and drive a short distance and stop overlooking the Embalse de Sierra Brava. Next to our viewpoint is an old farm building, the home of a small colony of Lesser Kestrel plus on the ground Mallard and Gadwall, the ducks seemed out of place though. Over the Embalse we can see Sand Martin, Common Sandpiper, 60+ Great Crested Grebe, Black-headed and Lesser Black-backed Gulls and the odd Marsh Harrier. We move to a new viewpoint and just start to scan once more when the cry goes up for Caspian Tern, what a stunning find, it livens things up a bit! Now that we have moved up a gear we also

find our first 2 Common Swift and our second Merlin of the trip dashes away to our left. We go to Madrigalejo to celebrate with hot drinks as the weather is on the damp side. It is still wet as we leave Madrigalejo and start to tour the rice fields; we stop to admire a drake Garganey but it proves to be very elusive, although everyone eventually sees this bird and some see a female too. We view a selection of smaller pools and find high numbers of Moorhen plus Black-winged Stilt and Green Sandpiper before driving on. Soggy raptors looking pathetic perched on pylons did not deter us from exploring further and we finally see a Black-shouldered Kite, a group of Stock Doves feeding in a field, Southern Grey Shrike and a Brown Rat carrying its young to a dryer nest. Our next stop takes us to the Vegas Atlas area and just before we stop for lunch find Marsh & Montagu's Harrier. After lunch we move along and see Water Pipit, Northern Wheatear and have brief views of Red Avadavat before moving on. The rain eases off and this seems to allow the birdlife to increase and we have good views of Red Avadavat, Cetti's Warbler and Zitting Cisticola. A short journey then takes us to the Rio Gargáligas and we see a large number of species here: Water Rail, Redshank & Green Sandpiper and Cetti's, Sedge, Reed, Great Reed and Willow Warbler, Nightingale and Blackcap but only hear Little Bittern and Tree Sparrow. Then we travel back to the Finca and meet for our last hot drinks and cakes/biscuits and then checklist session, followed by our meal.

Due to the obvious protection needed for a very rare species, the details of Spanish Imperial Eagle have not been mentioned in this report, but 2 adults were seen during the week.

### **Saturday 7 April**

We load up the luggage into the vehicles after breakfast and say our goodbyes to Henri and his staff before heading off along the motorway.

The drive is punctuated by a stop for refreshments. We do have a moment of concern as the traffic grinds to a halt. After a short while we start to move once more and make steady progress towards the airport. A brief stop to top up the vehicles with fuel and then we drop everyone off at the airport. Some go to catch different flights but we all reach the check-in desks in time. The Heathrow flight is smooth and after landing we gather to collect our luggage and then say our goodbyes. We do hope to travel with you again in the future!

## **SPECIES LISTS**

### **BIRDS**

#### *PHEASANTS, FOWL & ALLIES - Phasianidae*

**Red-legged Partridge** *Alectoris rufa* 1 - 5 noted each full day at various sites, except for 11 on 3<sup>rd</sup>.

#### *DUCKS, GEESE, SWANS - Anatidae*

**Gadwall** *Anas strepera* Three Embalse de Arrocampo on 31<sup>st</sup> and a pair there on 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2 pairs Llanos de Cáceres on 3<sup>rd</sup>, and a pair Embalse de Sierra Brava on 6<sup>th</sup>.

**Mallard** *Anas platyrhynchos* Noted widely in small to moderate number daily.

**Garganey** *Anas querquedula* A pair on a small pond close to Madrigalejo on 6<sup>th</sup>.

#### *GREBES - Podicipedidae*

**Little Grebe** *Tachybaptus ruficollis* Singles en route near Trujillo on 2<sup>nd</sup> - 4<sup>th</sup>, 1 Llanos de Cáceres on 3<sup>rd</sup> and 1 close to Madrigalejo on 6<sup>th</sup>.

**Great Crested Grebe** *Podiceps cristatus* Two Embalse de Arrocampo on 31<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3 Santa Marta de Magasca on 3<sup>rd</sup> and 10+ Embalse de Sierra Brava on 6<sup>th</sup>.

#### *STORKS - Ciconiidae*

**Black Stork** *Ciconia nigra* One over Cerro Alto on 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1 over the Río Tamuja on 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5-6 various sites in Monfragüe on 4<sup>th</sup>.

**White Stork** *Ciconia ciconia* Abundant, widespread and seen daily in moderate - large number.

#### *IBISES, SPOONBILLS - Threskiornithidae*

**Eurasian Spoonbill** *Platalea leucorodia* Four adults resting Cerro Alto on 2<sup>nd</sup>, including a colour-ringed bird.

#### *HERONS, BITTERNs - Ardeidae*

**Little Bittern** *Ixobrychus minutus* A pair Embalse de Arrocampo on 31<sup>st</sup>, one there on 2<sup>nd</sup> and heard calling Río Gargáligas on 6<sup>th</sup>.

**Cattle Egret** *Bubulcus ibis* Noted daily in very variable number and at numerous sites.

**Grey Heron** *Ardea cinerea* Noted daily in small number at scattered sites, with a max of 5+ Embalse de Arrocampo on 31<sup>st</sup>.

**Purple Heron** *Ardea purpurea* Five+ Embalse de Arrocampo on 31<sup>st</sup> and 2-3 there on 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**Great (White) Egret** *Ardea alba* 5 Embalse de Arrocampo on 17<sup>th</sup>.

**Little Egret** *Egretta garzetta* Three Embalse de Arrocampo on 31<sup>st</sup> and 1 there on 2<sup>nd</sup>, 4+ Belén plain on 1<sup>st</sup>, 4 Cerro Alto on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 6+ various sites on 6<sup>th</sup>.

#### **CORMORANTS - Phalacrocoracidae**

**Great Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax carbo* Four Embalse de Arrocampo on 31<sup>st</sup> and 16+ there on 2<sup>nd</sup>, 9 Río Almonte and 6+ Monfragüe on 4<sup>th</sup> and 2+ Embalse de Sierra Brava on 6<sup>th</sup>.

#### **NEW WORLD VULTURES - Family Cathartidae**

**Black Vulture** *Coragyps atratus* A single escaped falconer's bird circling in a small mixed flock of cinereous and griffon vultures at MRFS on 5<sup>th</sup> was a remarkable sight!

#### **CARACARAS, FALCONS - Falconidae**

**Lesser Kestrel** *Falco naumanni* Widespread and quite common, being seen each full day throughout the region, mainly in open pseudosteppe and/or on mostly ruined buildings.

**Common Kestrel** *Falco tinnunculus* Recorded daily and widely in small number, but overlooked among the Lessers!

**Merlin** *Falco columbarius* A very distant male Santa Marta de Magasca on 3<sup>rd</sup> and a female Embalse de Sierra Brava on 6<sup>th</sup>.

**Peregrine Falcon** *Falco peregrinus* One rather distantly Monfragüe on 3<sup>rd</sup>, but a perched bird Cabañas del Castillo on 5<sup>th</sup>.

#### **KITES, HAWKS, EAGLES - Accipitridae**

**Black-winged (-shouldered) Kite** *Elanus caeruleus* One hovering beside road en route and two singles Embalse de Arrocampo on 31<sup>st</sup>, plus a pair Madrigalejo rice fields on 6<sup>th</sup>.

**Red Kite** *Milvus milvus* Frequent, widespread and seen daily, with maxima 20+ on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>.

**Black Kite** *Milvus migrans* Common, widespread and seen daily in moderate to large number.

**Egyptian Vulture** *Neophron percnopterus* Two-three Belén plain on 1<sup>st</sup>, 2 adults Valdecañas area on 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1 adult Llanos de Cáceres on 3<sup>rd</sup>, c.10 Monfragüe on 4<sup>th</sup>, and 10+ various sites including the Monfragüe raptor feeding station on 5<sup>th</sup>.

**Griffon Vulture** *Gyps fulvus* Excellent numbers, being seen daily from 31<sup>st</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup>, including 100+ on 1<sup>st</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>.

**Cinereous (Black) Vulture** *Aegypius monachus* Noted each full day in small – moderate number, including maxima 15+ on 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>.

**Short-toed Snake Eagle** *Circaetus gallicus* One Belén plain on 1<sup>st</sup>, 4 Valdecañas area on 2<sup>nd</sup>, 4-5 Monfragüe and area on 4<sup>th</sup> and 5-6 at various sites on 5<sup>th</sup>.

**Western Marsh Harrier** *Circus aeruginosus* Two males Embalse de Arrocampo on 31<sup>st</sup> and a pair there on 2<sup>nd</sup>, a female Santa Marta de Magasca on 3<sup>rd</sup>, 6+ various sites on 6<sup>th</sup> and a displaying male en route on 7<sup>th</sup>.

**Montagu's Harrier** *Circus pygargus* One male Belén plain on 1<sup>st</sup>, c. 10 Llanos de Cáceres on 3<sup>rd</sup>, a male on migration over the Monfragüe raptor feeding station on 5<sup>th</sup> and 4+ at various sites on 6<sup>th</sup>.

**Common Buzzard** *Buteo buteo* Widespread and seen daily in generally small number, but 10+ on 4<sup>th</sup>.

**Spanish Imperial Eagle** *Aquila adalberti* A superb adult on 2<sup>nd</sup> was much better seen than the distant bird at Monfragüe on 4<sup>th</sup>.

**Golden Eagle** *Aquila chrysaetos* Single adults over Almaraz on 2<sup>nd</sup> and in Monfragüe on 4<sup>th</sup>, and single juveniles or young immatures Llanos de Cáceres on 3<sup>rd</sup> and near Madroñera on 5<sup>th</sup>.

**Bonelli's Eagle** *Hieraetus fasciatus* Two adult pairs Monfragüe on 4<sup>th</sup>.

**Booted Eagle** *Hieraetus pennatus* Quite common and widespread and seen daily, with maxima of 5-6 from 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup>.

#### **BUSTARDS - Otidae**

**Great Bustard** *Otis tarda* Totals of 16 Belén plain on 1<sup>st</sup>, 20+ Santa Marta de Magasca and 80+ Llanos de Cáceres on 3<sup>rd</sup> and 15+ Zorita pseudostepes on 6<sup>th</sup>.

**Little Bustard** *Tetrax tetrax* Just three males Belén plain on 1<sup>st</sup> and 3 Santa Marta de Magasca and c.7 Llanos de Cáceres on 3<sup>rd</sup>.

#### **RAILS, CRAKES, COOTS - Rallidae**

**Water Rail** *Rallus aquaticus* Heard Embalse de Arrocampo on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 2 seen and another heard Río Gargáligas on 6<sup>th</sup>.

**Purple Swampphen** *Porphyrio porphyrio* 12+ including chicks Embalse de Arrocampo on 31<sup>st</sup> and 5-6 there on 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**Common Moorhen** *Gallinula chloropus* Two-three Embalse de Arrocampo area on 31<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1 Río Almonte on 4<sup>th</sup> and 100+ Madrigalejo and Vegas Altas areas on 6<sup>th</sup>.

**Eurasian Coot** *Fulica atra* Just a single Embalse de Arrocampo on 31<sup>st</sup>.

**STONE-CURLEWS, THICK-KNEES - Burhinidae**

**Eurasian Stone-curlew** *Burhinus oedicnemus* A pair near Madroñera on 1<sup>st</sup>.

**STILTS, AVOCETS - Recurvirostridae**

**Black-winged Stilt** *Himantopus himantopus* Except for 5<sup>th</sup>, 1-4 noted daily, with maxima 12+ Embalse de Arrocampo and Cerro Alto on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 6+ Madrigalejo area on 6<sup>th</sup>.

**PLOVERS - Charadriidae**

**Northern Lapwing** *Vanellus vanellus* A very wet pair Campo Lugar road on 6<sup>th</sup> and one displaying beside the road en route to airport on 7<sup>th</sup>.

**Little Ringed Plover** *Charadrius dubius* Two Cerro Alto and 1 displaying beside the road near Trujillo on 2<sup>nd</sup>, plus 1 Río Almonte on 4<sup>th</sup>.

**SANDPIPERS, SNIPES - Scolopacidae**

**Common Snipe** *Gallinago gallinago* One Embalse de Arrocampo on 31<sup>st</sup>, 7+ Cerro Alto on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4+ Río Gargáligas on 6<sup>th</sup>.

**Spotted Redshank** *Tringa erythropus* Two Cerro Alto on 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**Common Redshank** *Tringa totanus* An injured bird Río Gargáligas on 6<sup>th</sup>.

**Common Greenshank** *Tringa nebularia* Two Cerro Alto on 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**Green Sandpiper** *Tringa ochropus* One near Madroñera on 1<sup>st</sup>, 4 Cerro Alto on 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1-2 Río Almonte on 4<sup>th</sup> and 4 Río Gargáligas on 6<sup>th</sup>.

**Common Sandpiper** *Actitis hypoleucos* Just 2 Cerro Alto on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 1 Madrigalejo area on 6<sup>th</sup>.

**Ruff** *Philomachus pugnax* A reeve Cerro Alto on 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**GULLS, TERNS, SKIMMERS - Laridae**

**Lesser Black-backed Gull** *Larus fuscus* Two groups on migration near Zorita, an adult over pseudosteppe there and an immature over the Embalse de Sierra Brava on 6<sup>th</sup>.

**Common Black-headed Gull** *Larus ridibundus* A few Embalse de Sierra Brava and a flock near Madrigalejo on 6<sup>th</sup>.

**Caspian Tern** *Sterna caspia* A single bird in breeding plumage at the Embalse de Sierra Brava on 6<sup>th</sup> was a major rarity in the region.

**SANDGROUSE - Pteroclididae**

**Pin-tailed Sandgrouse** *Pterocles alchata* Two flocks of 20-25 and another 9 on the Llanos de Cáceres on 3<sup>rd</sup> were excellent.

**Black-bellied Sandgrouse** *Pterocles orientalis* Just 2 distant bird in flight, then 4 on the ground on the Zorita pseudosteppe on 6<sup>th</sup>.

**PIGEONS, DOVES - Columbidae**

**Common Pigeon (Rock Dove)** *Columba livia* Noted widely and daily, including plenty of wild-type 'rock doves'.

**Stock Dove** *Columba oenas* Nine in the Madrigalejo rice fields on 6<sup>th</sup> were a surprise.

**Common Wood Pigeon** *Columba palumbus* Quite common, widespread and seen daily in variable number.

**Eurasian Collared Dove** *Streptopelia decaocto* Common, widespread and seen daily.

**CUCKOOS - Cuculidae**

**Great Spotted Cuckoo** *Clamator glandarius* Four near Madroñera on 1<sup>st</sup>, heard Finca Santa Marta and Cerro Alto on 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1 en route on 3<sup>rd</sup> and heard Finca Santa Marta on 4<sup>th</sup>.

**Common Cuckoo** *Cuculus canorus* Quite common, widespread and heard daily, with two seen on 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>, and singles on 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>.

**BARN OWLS - Tytonidae**

**Barn Owl** *Tyto alba* One in flight entering Trujillo after dark on 5<sup>th</sup>.

**OWLS - Strigidae**

**Eurasian Scops Owl** *Otus scops* One – two heard nightly FSM 1<sup>st</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup>.

**Eurasian Eagle-Owl** *Bubo bubo* An adult plus a chick on the nest in Monfragüe on 4<sup>th</sup>.

**Little Owl** *Athene noctua* Two near Madroñera and 1 Belén plain on 1<sup>st</sup>, heard Cerro Alto on 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1 Santa Marta de Magasca on 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1 near Madroñera on 5<sup>th</sup> and 2 Campo Lugar road on 6<sup>th</sup>.

**SWIFTS - Apodidae**

**Alpine Swift** *Tachymarptis melba* Five – six very high over FSM on 1<sup>st</sup> and lots Monfragüe on 4<sup>th</sup>.

**Common Swift** *Apus apus* Two feeding over the Embalse de Sierra Brava on 6<sup>th</sup>.

**Pallid Swift** *Apus pallidus* Common, widespread and seen each full day, especially in Madroñera on 1<sup>st</sup>.

**KINGFISHERS - Alcedinidae**

**Common Kingfisher** *Alcedo atthis* Singles Embalse de Arrocampo on 31<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>, Río Almonte and Monfragüe on 4<sup>th</sup> and Madrigalejo rice fields on 6<sup>th</sup>.

**BEE-EATERS - Meropidae**

**European Bee-eater** *Merops apiaster* Just 4-5 high over Monfragüe on 4<sup>th</sup>.

**HOOPES - Upupidae**

**Eurasian Hoopoe** *Upupa epops* Noted widely in moderate - large number each full day.

**WOODPECKERS - Picidae**

**Great Spotted Woodpecker** *Dendrocopos major* Singles FSM on 1<sup>st</sup>, Monfragüe on 4<sup>th</sup> and heard drumming upper Río Almonte on 5<sup>th</sup>.

**SHRIKES - Laniidae**

**Southern Grey Shrike** *Lanius meridionalis* Common, widespread and noted daily in moderate number, but 10+ on 2<sup>nd</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>.

**Woodchat Shrike** *Lanius senator* Two – four noted daily at various sites from 3<sup>rd</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup>.

**CROWS, JAYS - Corvidae**

**Eurasian Jay** *Garrulus glandarius* One Valdecañas area on 2<sup>nd</sup> (Richard) and 2 en route near Madroñera on 5<sup>th</sup>.

**Iberian (Azure-winged) Magpie** *Cyanopica cooki* Common, widespread and noted daily in variable number from 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Eurasian Magpie** *Pica pica* Noted daily in moderate – large number.

**Red-billed Chough** *Pyrhcorax pyrrhcorax* A fine pair Monfragüe on 4<sup>th</sup>.

**Western Jackdaw** *Corvus monedula* Widespread and locally common; noted daily.

**Northern Raven** *Corvus corax* Noted each full day in small – moderate number, but 15+ Belén plain on 1<sup>st</sup> and 70+ Monfragüe raptor feeding station on 5<sup>th</sup>.

**TITS, CHICKADEES - Paridae**

**European Crested Tit** *Lophophanes cristatus* Just one seen briefly by one or two, though heard by all, at Monfragüe on 4<sup>th</sup>.

**Great Tit** *Parus major* Noted each full day daily in small – moderate number at various sites.

**Blue Tit** *Cyanistes caeruleus* One to a few noted on 31<sup>st</sup>, 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>.

**SWALLOWS, MARTINS - Hirundinidae**

**Sand Martin** *Riparia riparia* Two-three Embalse de Arrocampo on 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2 Río Almonte on 4<sup>th</sup> and a few Embalse de Serra Brava on 6<sup>th</sup>.

**Barn Swallow** *Hirundo rustica* Common and widespread; seen daily.

**Eurasian Crag Martin** *Ptyonoprogne rupestris* Widespread in mountain areas and river valleys; seen daily from 2<sup>nd</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup>, including 1 near Madrigalejo on 6<sup>th</sup>.

**Common House Martin** *Delichon urbicum* Common, widespread and noted daily, including 1000s at Monfragüe on 4<sup>th</sup>.

**Red-rumped Swallow** *Cecropis daurica* Seen in small – moderate number each full day.

**BUSHTITS - Aegithalidae**

**Long-tailed Bushtit (Tit)** *Aegithalos caudatus* Two+ Valdecañas area on 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2+ Río Tamuja on 3<sup>rd</sup>, plenty Monfragüe on 4<sup>th</sup>, and a few Río Gargáligas on 6<sup>th</sup>.

**LARKS - Alaudidae**

**Calandra Lark** *Melanocorypha calandra* Lots on open pseudosteppe areas; seen and heard in good number on 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>.

**Greater Short-toed Lark** *Calandrella brachydactyla* Three near Santa Marta de Magasca on 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**Crested Lark** *Galerida cristata* Abundant and widespread; seen daily.

**Thekla Lark** *Galerida theklae* Quite common but easily overlooked; a pair near Madroñera on 1<sup>st</sup>, 1 Monfragüe on 4<sup>th</sup> and 3-4 near Jaraicejo on 5<sup>th</sup>.

**Woodlark** *Lullula arborea* Just 3 near Santa Marta de Magasca on 3<sup>rd</sup>, but a superb pair Monfragüe raptor feeding station on 5<sup>th</sup>.

**Eurasian Skylark** *Alauda arvensis* Just 1 in flight by the Río Gargáligas on 6<sup>th</sup>.

**CISTICOLAS & ALLIES - Cisticolidae**

**Zitting Cisticola** *Cisticola juncidis* A few at widely scattered grassy sites on 4 days.

**OLD WORLD WARBLERS - Sylviidae**

**Cetti's Warbler** *Cettia cetti* Heard and seen Embalse de Arrocampo on 31<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>, and several along the Río Gargáligas on 6<sup>th</sup>.

**Savi's Warbler** *Locustella luscinioides* Three+ seen singing and calling well Embalse de Arrocampo on 31<sup>st</sup>, and 1 seen and two others heard at a different part of the site on 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**Great Reed Warbler** *Acrocephalus arundinaceus* Two Río Gargáligas on 6<sup>th</sup>.

**Sedge Warbler** *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus* A few heard and seen Embalse de Arrocampo on 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 5-6 along the Río Gargáligas on 6<sup>th</sup>.

**Eurasian Reed Warbler** *Acrocephalus scirpaceus* One heard singing and seen beside the Río Gargáligas on 6<sup>th</sup>.

**Willow Warbler** *Phylloscopus trochilus* Two heard singing Almaraz on 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1 Monfragüe on 5<sup>th</sup> and 2+ Río Gargáligas on 6<sup>th</sup>.

**Common Chiffchaff** *Phylloscopus collybita* Singles Embalse de Arrocampo on 31<sup>st</sup> and near Madrigalejo on 6<sup>th</sup>.

**Iberian Chiffchaff** *Phylloscopus ibericus* One singing briefly Embalse de Arrocampo on 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**Eurasian Blackcap** *Sylvia atricapilla* Common, widespread and seen and heard each full day except on 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**Dartford Warbler** *Sylvia undata* Approx. 10 in total in the Madroñera and Jaraicejo areas on 5<sup>th</sup>.

**Subalpine Warbler** *Sylvia cantillans* Five+ males Monfragüe on 4<sup>th</sup> and a pair upper Río Almonte on 5<sup>th</sup>.

**Sardinian Warbler** *Sylvia melanocephala* Common and quite noisy! One – six seen each full day at various sites, except on 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**Spectacled Warbler** *Sylvia conspicillata* A total of 5 near Jaraicejo on 5<sup>th</sup>.

**WRENS - Troglodytidae**

**Winter Wren** *Troglodytes troglodytes* Widespread in small number, and 1-3 recorded each full day, especially at FSM.

**TREECREEPERS - Certhiidae**

**Short-toed Treecreeper** *Certhia brachydactyla* One heard FSM almost daily, but only seen there on 1<sup>st</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>, also heard near Valdecañas on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 1 seen Monfragüe on 4<sup>th</sup>.

**STARLINGS - Sturnidae**

**Spotless Starling** *Sturnus unicolor* Common, widespread and seen and heard daily.

**THRUSHES - Turdidae**

**Common Blackbird** *Turdus merula* Common, widespread and noted daily.

**Song Thrush** *Turdus philomelos* A few FSM on 1<sup>st</sup> and at various sites on 2<sup>nd</sup>, then just 1 Río Gargáligas on 6<sup>th</sup>.

**Mistle Thrush** *Turdus viscivorus* Eight+ en route on 5<sup>th</sup> were all rather flighty.

**CHATS, OLD WORLD FLYCATCHERS - Muscicapidae**

**European Robin** *Erithacus rubecula* Just 1 Río Almonte and heard Monfragüe on 4<sup>th</sup>.

**Common Nightingale** *Luscinia megarhynchos* One Río Gargáligas on 6<sup>th</sup>.

**Black Redstart** *Phoenicurus ochruros* A male near Madroñera on 1<sup>st</sup>, 1 Río Almonte and 5+ Monfragüe on 4<sup>th</sup> and 4-5 Cabañas del Castillo on 5<sup>th</sup>.

**Eurasian Stonechat** *Saxicola torquatus* Quite common, widespread and noted daily in small – moderate number.

**Northern Wheatear** *Oenanthe oenanthe* A m Belén plain on 1<sup>st</sup>, 2 males and female Santa Marta de Magasca on 3<sup>rd</sup> and 2 males and female Vegas Altas area on 6<sup>th</sup>.

**Black-eared Wheatear** *Oenanthe hispanica* Just 1, but a stunning male Llanos de Cáceres on 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**Black Wheatear** *Oenanthe leucura* A pair Cabañas del Castillo on 5<sup>th</sup>.

**Blue Rock Thrush** *Monticola solitarius* Five males and a female Monfragüe on 4<sup>th</sup> and 3 upper Río Almonte and 5 Cabañas del Castillo on 5<sup>th</sup>.

**Spotted Flycatcher** *Muscicapa striata* Singles FSM on 2<sup>nd</sup> (Mary) and heard Monfragüe on 4<sup>th</sup>.

**OLD WORLD SPARROWS, SNOWFINCHES - Passeridae**

**House Sparrow** *Passer domesticus* Common, widespread and noted daily.

**Spanish Sparrow** *Passer hispaniolensis* Locally common, and noted each full day except on 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**Eurasian Tree Sparrow** *Passer montanus* Just one or two heard Río Gargáligas on 6<sup>th</sup>.

**Rock Sparrow** *Petronia petronia* One Monfragüe on 4<sup>th</sup> and 6 en route on 5<sup>th</sup>.

*WAXBILLS, MUNIAS & ALLIES - Estrildidae*

**Red Avadavat** *Amandava amandava* Lots in several small flocks in the pouring rain in Madrigalejo rice fields on 6<sup>th</sup>, though one small group watched well.

*WAGTAILS, PIPITS - Motacillidae*

**Western Yellow Wagtail** *Motacilla flava* One in flight over the Embalse de Arrocampo on 2<sup>nd</sup> and a male, apparently *flavissima* near Madrigalejo on 6<sup>th</sup>.

**Grey Wagtail** *Motacilla cinerea* Heard Monfragüe on 4<sup>th</sup> and a pair, very briefly seen on the upper Río Almonte on 5<sup>th</sup>.

**White Wagtail** *Motacilla alba* Quite common and noted in small number each full day.

**Meadow Pipit** *Anthus pratensis* Lingering wintering birds and/or migrants still quite common; 10+ Embalse de Arrocampo on 31<sup>st</sup>, a few various sites on 1<sup>st</sup>, 40+ Llanos de Cáceres on 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1 Jaraicejo area on 5<sup>th</sup> and lots on 6<sup>th</sup>.

**Water Pipit** *Anthus spinoletta* 30+ in rice fields near Vegas Altas in pouring rain on 6<sup>th</sup> were sadly missed by most.

*FINCHES - Fringillidae*

**Common Chaffinch** *Fringilla coelebs* Quite common and widespread, and noted each full day in small number.

**European Serin** *Serinus serinus* Common and widespread, being noted daily.

**European Greenfinch** *Carduelis chloris* Heard FSM on 1<sup>st</sup>, heard Valdecañas area and Almaraz on 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1 seen on 5<sup>th</sup> and 6+ FSM on 6<sup>th</sup>.

**European Goldfinch** *Carduelis carduelis* Common, widespread and noted daily in variable number.

**Common Linnet** *Carduelis cannabina* Relatively scarce, but noted each full day except on 2<sup>nd</sup>; maxima of 40+ on 5<sup>th</sup>.

**Hawfinch** *Coccothraustes coccothraustes* A few FSM on 1<sup>st</sup>, heard Almaraz on 2<sup>nd</sup>, 10-12 Monfragüe on 4<sup>th</sup> and 2 FSM on 6<sup>th</sup>.

*BUNTINGS, NEW WORLD SPARROWS & ALLIES - Emberizidae*

**Corn Bunting** *Emberiza calandra* Abundant, widespread and seen daily.

**Rock Bunting** *Emberiza cia* Six Monfragüe on 4<sup>th</sup> and 2 upper Río Almonte on 5<sup>th</sup>.

**Cirl Bunting** *Emberiza cirlus* A male poorly seen Río Almonte on 4<sup>th</sup>, then a superb pair upper Río Almonte on 5<sup>th</sup>.

## MAMMALS

**Western Hedgehog** *Erinaceus europaeus* One dead on the road near FSM most days.

**Iberian Blind Mole** *Talpa occidentalis* Hills in pseudosteppe on 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**Wild Boar** *Sus scrofa* A female with 8 stripy young in tow near Valdecañas on 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**Brown Rat** *Rattus norvegicus* A large individual carrying something in its mouth in the Madrigalejo rice fields on 6<sup>th</sup>.

**Iberian Hare** *Lepus granatensis* Singles Belén plain on 1<sup>st</sup> and near Madrigalejo on 6<sup>th</sup>.

**European Rabbit** *Oryctolagus cuniculus* Plenty en route on 31<sup>st</sup>, 1 Santa Marta de Magasca on 3<sup>rd</sup> and 1 en route on 5<sup>th</sup>.

## AMPHIBIANS AND REPTILES

**Common Tree Frog** *Hyla arborea* Two superb individuals by the Río Gargáligas on 6<sup>th</sup>.

**Iberian Water (Spanish Pond) Frog** *Rana perezi* Heard and/or seen in variable quantity each full day except on 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**Moorish Gecko** *Tarentola mauretanicus* Singles FSM on 31<sup>st</sup>, 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>.

**Large Psammmodromus** *Psammmodromus algirus* Several small ones upper Río Almonte on 5<sup>th</sup>.

**Spanish Psammmodromus** *Psammmodromus hispanicus* A single near Santa Marta de Magasca on 3<sup>rd</sup> (Mary).

**Amphisbaenian (Iberian Worm-lizard)** *Blanus cinereus* One Monfragüe on 4<sup>th</sup>.

**Spanish Terrapin** *Mauremys leprosa* Plenty Belén plain on 1<sup>st</sup> and a few Cerro Alto on 2<sup>nd</sup>.

## BUTTERFLIES

**(Common) Swallowtail** *Papilio machaon* Brief singles on 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>.

**Spanish Festoon** *Zerynthia rumina* Two+ Valdecañas area on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 1 Cabañas del Castillo on 5<sup>th</sup>.

**Large White** *Pieris brassicae* Two-three Cabañas del Castillo on 5<sup>th</sup>.  
**Western Dappled White** *Euchloe simplonia* Common, widespread and seen each full day except on 6<sup>th</sup>.  
**Orange-tip** *Anthocharis cardamines* Single males Valdecañas area on 2<sup>nd</sup> and Monfragüe on 4<sup>th</sup>.  
**Clouded Yellow** *Colias crocea* One Belén plain on 1<sup>st</sup>, 1 Valdecañas area on 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2 Monfragüe on 4<sup>th</sup> and 1 Cabañas del Castillo on 5<sup>th</sup>.  
**Cleopatra** *Gonepteryx cleopatra* A females, probably this species, Monfragüe on 4<sup>th</sup>.  
**Small Copper** *Lycaena phlaeas* Several Llanos de Cáceres on 3<sup>rd</sup>, Monfragüe on 4<sup>th</sup> and 1 Jaraicejo area on 5<sup>th</sup>.  
**Holly Blue** *Celastrina argiolus* One FSM on 1<sup>st</sup> and plenty Monfragüe on 4<sup>th</sup>.  
**Green-underside Blue** *Glaucopsyche alexis* One male Monfragüe on 4<sup>th</sup>.  
**(Spanish) Brown Argus** *Aricia (agestis) celtis* Several Llanos de Cáceres on 3<sup>rd</sup>.  
**Red Admiral** *Vanessa atalanta* One Valdecañas on 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2+ Monfragüe on 4<sup>th</sup> and 2 upper Río Almonte on 5<sup>th</sup>.  
**Painted Lady** *Cynthia cardui* One Belén plain on 1<sup>st</sup>.  
**Small Heath** *Coenonympha pamphilius* Two-three FSM on 1<sup>st</sup>, plenty various sites on 2<sup>nd</sup>, plenty Monfragüe on 4<sup>th</sup> and several Jaraicejo area on 5<sup>th</sup>.  
**Speckled Wood** *Pararge aegeria* A few Monfragüe on 4<sup>th</sup> and 2+ upper Río Almonte on 5<sup>th</sup>.

## MOTHS

**Yellow Belle** *Semiaspilates ochrearia* Singles Belén plain and FSM on 1<sup>st</sup> and 1 Llanos de Cáceres on 3<sup>rd</sup>.  
**Geometer sp.** *Bichroma famula* Abundant near Jaraicejo on 5<sup>th</sup>.  
**Pine Processionary** *Thaumetopoea pityocampa* Plenty of caterpillar nests in Monfragüe on 4<sup>th</sup>.

## DRAGONFLIES & OTHER INSECTS

**Lesser Emperor** *Anax parthenope* A large dragonfly, probably this species, over a pond near Madroñera on 5<sup>th</sup>.  
**Mayfly sp/p.** Ephemeroptera sp/p. Noted at a few sites on a couple of days.  
**Bush Cricket sp.** Tettigoniidae One Almaraz on 2<sup>nd</sup>.  
**Fire Bug sp.** *Lygaeum* sp. One Almaraz on 2<sup>nd</sup>.  
**Pond Skater sp.** *Aquarius najas* A few upper Río Almonte on 5<sup>th</sup>.  
**Rhinoceros Beetle** *Copris lunaris* A male Cabañas del Castillo on 5<sup>th</sup>.  
**Oil Beetle sp.** *Meloe* sp. One Santa Marta de Magasca on 3rd.  
**Crane-fly sp.** Tipulidae Several at various site son a few days.  
**Bee-fly sp.** Bombyliidae A few by the upper Río Almonte on 5<sup>th</sup>.  
**Bumble Bee sp.** *Bombus* sp. A couple upper Río Almonte on 5<sup>th</sup>.

## OTHER TAXA

**Common Carp** *Cyprinus carpio* Plenty Embalse de Arrocampo and Cerro Alto on 2nd.  
**Barbel sp.** *Barbus bocagei / comizo* Several Río Tamuja on 3rd.  
**Black Bullhead catfish** *Ameiurus melas* One finally eaten by a great cormorant in Monfragüe on 4th.  
**Centipede sp.** *Scolopendra cingulatus* Two near Madroñera on 1st and 1 Monfragüe on 4th.  
**Scorpion** *Buthus occitanus* Two under stones near Madroñera on 1st.  
**Red Signal Crayfish** *Procambarus clarkii* One upper Río Almonte on 5th (Richard).

## SELECTED PLANTS:

[Nos. on the right refer to Grey-Wilson & Blamey, *Mediterranean Wild Flowers*]

<b><u>Pinaceae:</u></b>	<i>Pinus pinea</i>	Stone / Umbrella Pine	(3)
<b><u>Fagaceae:</u></b>	<i>Quercus rotundifolia</i>	Evergreen Oak	(26)
	<i>Quercus suber</i>	Cork Oak	(27)
<b><u>Ulmaceae:</u></b>	<i>Ulmus minor</i>	Elm sp.	(c. 38)
	<i>Celtis australis</i>	Southern Nettle Tree	(39)
<b><u>Moraceae:</u></b>	<i>Ficus carica</i>	Fig	(42)
<b><u>Urticaceae:</u></b>	<i>Urtica urens</i>	Annual Nettle	(c.49)
<b><u>Caryophyllaceae:</u></b>	<i>Silene colorata</i>	pink catchfly sp.	(180)

<b><u>Ranunculaceae:</u></b>	<i>Ranunculus</i> sp.	Water Crowfoot sp.	
<b><u>Paeoniaceae:</u></b>	<i>Paeonia broteroi</i>	Peony sp.	(276)
<b><u>Fumariaceae:</u></b>	<i>Fumaria capreolata</i>	Ramping Fumitory	(303)
<b><u>Resedaceae:</u></b>	<i>Reseda luteola</i>	Weld	(377)
<b><u>Crassulaceae:</u></b>	<i>Umbilicus rupestris</i>	Navelwort	(396)
<b><u>Leguminosae:</u></b>	<i>Cercis siliquastrum</i>	Judas Tree	(430)
	<i>Cytisus multiflorus</i>	White Broom	
	<i>Cytisus scoparius</i>	Broom	(456)
	<i>Lygos sphaerocarpa</i>	Lygos (common broom-like plant)	(478)
	<i>Lupinus angustifolia</i>	Narrow-leaved Lupin (prob. this sp.)	(486)
	<i>Astragalus lusitanicus</i>	'Iberian' Milk-vetch	(504)
	<i>Onobrychis humilis</i>	Sainfoin sp.	(c.717)
<b><u>Geraniaceae:</u></b>	<i>Geranium molle</i>	Dove's-foot Crane's-bill	(741)
	<i>Geranium robertianum</i>	Herb Robert	(747)
	<i>Geranium lucidum</i>	Shiny Crane's-bill	(749)
	<i>Erodium botrys</i>	Storksbill sp.	(758)
<b><u>Euphorbiaceae:</u></b>	<i>Mercurialis annua</i>	Annual Mercury	(820)
<b><u>Thymelaeaceae:</u></b>	<i>Daphne gnidium</i>	Mediterranean Daphne	(936)
<b><u>Cistaceae:</u></b>	<i>Cistus albidus</i>	Grey-leaved Cistus (big pink fls)	(961)
	<i>Cistus salviifolius</i>	Sage-leaved Cistus (small white)	(965)
	<i>Cistus ladanifer</i>	Gum Cistus (big white fls)	(971)
<b><u>Cactaceae:</u></b>	<i>Opuntia maxima</i> (=ficus-indica)	Prickly Pear	(1040)
<b><u>Umbelliferae:</u></b>	<i>Smyrniium olusatrum</i>	Alexanders	(1087)
	<i>Smyrniium perfoliatum</i>	Perfoliate Alexanders	(1088)
	<i>Ferula communis</i>	Giant Fennel	(1141)
<b><u>Ericaceae:</u></b>	<i>Arbutus unedo</i>	Strawberry Tree	(1176)
	<i>Erica arborea</i>	Tree Heath (pink fls in EX)	(1178)
	<i>Erica lusitanica</i>	Portuguese Heath (white fls)	(1179)
<b><u>Oleaceae:</u></b>	<i>Phillyrea angustifolia</i>	narrow-leaved shrub	(1246)
	<i>Olea europaea</i>	Olive	(1248)
<b><u>Boraginaceae:</u></b>	<i>Echium plantagineum</i>	Purple Viper's Bugloss	(1383)
	<i>Anchusa undulata</i>	Undulate Anchusa	(1406)
<b><u>Labiatae:</u></b>	<i>Lamium bifidum</i>	Dead-nettle (white fls and silver on leaf)	(c.1476)
	<i>Rosmarinus officinalis</i>	Rosemary	(1526)
	<i>Lavandula stoechas</i>	French Lavender	(1528)
<b><u>Scrophulariaceae:</u></b>	<i>Linaria amethystea</i>	'Amethyst' Toadflax	(c. 1614)
	<i>Linaria spartea</i>	a yellow-fl. Toadflax	(c. 1614)
<b><u>Orobanchaceae:</u></b>	<i>Orobanche rapum-genistae</i>	Great Broomrape	(1670)
<b><u>Valerianaceae:</u></b>	<i>Centranthus calcitrapae</i>	'Spanish' Valerian	(1725)
<b><u>Campanulaceae:</u></b>	<i>Jasione crispa</i> ssp. <i>mariana</i>	Sheep's Bit sp.	(c.1788)
<b><u>Compositae:</u></b>	<i>Bellis sylvestris</i>	Southern Daisy (a big 'leggy' daisy)	(1793)

	<i>Chamaemelum nobile</i>	Chamomile	(1884)
	<i>Calendula arvensis</i>	Field Marigold	(1908)
	<i>Silybum marianum</i>	Milk Thistle	(1982)
<b><u>Liliaceae:</u></b>	<i>Asphodelus fistulosus</i>	Hollow-leaved Asphodel	(2087)
	<i>Asphodelus aestivus</i>	Common Asphodel	(2089)
	<i>Fritillaria lusitanica</i>	Iberian Fritillary	(2152)
	<i>Hyacinthoides hispanica</i>	Spanish Bluebell	
	<i>Muscari comosum</i>	Tasselled Hyacinth	(2201)
	<i>Allium neapolitanum</i>	Naples Garlic	(2225)
	<i>Narcissus jonquilla</i>	Common Jonquil	(2279)
	<i>Narcissus triandrus pallidulus</i>	Angel's Tears	
	<i>Narcissus bulbocodium</i>	Hoop-petticoat Narcissus	(2281)
<b><u>Iridaceae:</u></b>	<i>Gymnandiris sisyrynchium</i>	Barbary Nut Iris	(2305)
	<i>Romulea cf ramiflora</i>	Sand Crocus sp.	(2316)
<b><u>Orchidaceae:</u></b>	<i>Orchis papilionacea</i>	Pink Butterfly Orchid	(2401)
	<i>Orchis morio ssp. picta</i>	Green-winged Orchid	(2403a)
	<i>Orchis (morio) champagneuxii</i>	Champagne Orchid	(2403b)
	<i>Orchis conica</i>	Spanish Milky Orchid	(cf. 2408)
	<i>Orchis italica</i>	Italian Man Orchid	(2409)
	<i>Ophrys speculum</i>	Mirror Ophrys	(2422)
	<i>Ophrys lutea</i>	Yellow Ophrys	(2423)
	<i>Ophrys (sphegodes) incubacea</i>	Early Spider Orchid form	(c.2428)
	<i>Ophrys scolopax</i>	Woodcock Orchid	(2436)
	<i>Ophrys tenthredinifera</i>	Sawfly Orchid	(2442)

This list has been drawn up using Blamey & Grey-Wilson's *Med. Wild Flowers*, the 'Flora y vegetación de Extremadura', Polunin & Smythies' 'Guía de campo de las flores de España, Portugal y sudoeste de Francia' and Durán & Rodríguez's 'Guía de arboles y arbustos de Extremadura'. Apologies if I've omitted anything obvious.

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