



Honeyguide

WILDLIFE HOLIDAYS

36 Thunder Lane, Thorpe St Andrew, Norwich NR7 0PX

Telephone: 01603 300552

www.honeyguide.co.uk E-mail: chris@honeyguide.co.uk



Tarifa & Gibraltar

3 – 10 March 2014

Holiday participants

Helen and Malcolm Crowder
Margaret Dixey
Sue and Peter Burge
David Nind and Shevaun Mendelsohn
Alan and Lyn Goodkin
Sue Jourdan

Leaders

Frank Vargas and Chris Durdin

Our base was Huerta Grande www.huertagrande.com
El Grupo Ornitológico del Estrecho (GOES) www.grupoornitologicodelestrecho.org
The Gibraltar Ornithological & Natural History Society www.gonhs.org/index.htm

Report by Chris Durdin

All photos in this report were taken during the holiday, those edged green by Chris Durdin, edged blue by Helen Crowder, red by Alan and Lyn Goodkin, orange by Peter Burge and elsewhere as indicated.

Cover photos clockwise: (1) sand crocuses; (2) blackcap ♀; (3) *Aristolochia baetica*; (4) sawfly orchids; (5) Véronica Díaz; (6) paperwhites; (7) ocellated lizard; (8) Moroccan orange-tip ♂; (9 centre) short-toed eagle.

Photos 1, 6, 8 & 9 by Helen, 3, 4 & 7 by Chris, 2 by Lyn/Alan, 5 by Shevaun/David.

Below: the group (minus Alan, who took the photo) at the end of the *tramo accesible* woodland path at Valdeinfierno in Los Alcornocales Natural Park.



As with all Honeyguide holidays, part of the price was put towards a conservation project, in this case for El Grupo Ornitológico del Estrecho (GOES – The Ornithological Group of the Strait), who we met on 8 March.

The conservation contribution of £40 per person was supplemented by gift aid from those eligible, leading to a donation of 712€ / £600 given to GOES. This is our fourth donation to GOES, the four donations totalling 2348€.

The total for conservation contributions from all Honeyguide holidays since 1991 is £92,563, to March 2014.

Daily Diary

Monday 3 March – Gibraltar to Huerta Grande

"Do we really need to leave at 5 am?" queried one of the Honeyguiders at the Corner House Hotel near Gatwick. We did, and there was a stream of people arriving at the easyJet bag drop area as if to emphasise how it helps to arrive in good time. Queues were fast-moving and formalities and the flight straightforward, and it seemed less than three hours later that we landed in sunny Gibraltar. Black kites outside the window of baggage reclaim didn't delay us, and there were David, Shevaun, Lyn and Alan, who'd arrived from Manchester a little before us. We took the short walk across the border into La Linea in Spain where Katrin, Juan Luis and the two red Huerta Grande minibuses were waiting to pick us up.

It's not a pretty drive along the coast and through the outskirts of Algeciras, but it is brief. Along the way a group member in one minibus identified the yellow sheets of Bermuda buttercup and recounted the almost clichéd observation that it's neither a buttercup, nor from Bermuda (it is a South African wood-sorrel and an invasive species in many other parts of the world). Mating white storks on a nest and some groups of spotless starlings apart, there was little of natural history to note on the journey of some 30 minutes. At Huerta Grande we met Frank, and also Sue J who had come three days earlier to spend the weekend with relatives who live nearby. We were settled into our rooms/lodges then gathered at the centre, where chef Juan Carlos first showed us a male lesser kestrel with a minor wing injury and a robin, temporarily being cared for. That was before a delicious light lunch – with the same dessert of orange slices with olive oil and cinnamon as last year.

The first couple of hours of the afternoon consisted of a gentle stroll round the grounds of Huerta Grande. It was bright but distinctly blustery. Many of the plants were ruderal, of disturbed ground, such as ramping fumitory, but there were some notable flowers, including the local brown-flowered birthwort *Aristolochia baetica*, the Iberian friar's cowl *Arisarum simorrhinum*, southern butcher's broom (in fruit) and a rather local yellow-flowered broom-like plant called teline. Birds included blackcaps, several chiffchaffs and displaying serins. A little farther on and we found corn mignonette, the first of many write-ins on the lists, and a green-flowered birthwort *Aristolochia paucinervis*, a species restricted to the Iberian peninsula and absent from most flower books.

Frank and I went to collect minibuses from Algeciras, unusually Mercedes Vito automatics this time. Then it was time for checklists and our evening meal where Honeyguiders new and old caught up with stories and gossip. A few of us peered behind the coffee machine to glimpse a hidden gecko, before retiring in good time to the sounds of tree frogs and the local tawny owl.

Tuesday 4 March – La Janda and Barbate

Seeing migrating griffon vultures over the car park was a good start for the first few to assemble after breakfast before we headed west, beyond Tarifa, to the once extensive wetland of La Janda. Despite being 'improved' in Franco's time it remains a great magnet for birds with its mix of rice paddies, ditches and arable. Dropping down the hill there were immediately stonechats and corn buntings and a lucky few caught sight of a calandra lark as well as crested larks. Most of the group walked the short last stretch, past some paperwhite narcissi and many squirting cucumber plants on the other side of a ditch. At the corner, Frank walked some down to the ditch edge where otter footprints were found. But the main action was all round us with the birds. Inevitably there were many white storks and cattle egrets, but more notable were groups of glossy ibises feeding in a rice paddy. When they all flew there must have been 150 of these, and at one point groups of spoonbills joined them in the air. Surprisingly, to me, a few late wintering cranes were still present, small groups flying and a couple of family parties on the ground. Most of the waders were green sandpipers but snipe buzzed away a few times and half a dozen little ringed plovers fed alongside white wagtails.



Glossy ibises, spoonbills and mallards on a rice paddy at La Janda.

Moving along, we paused a few times including for purple swamp-hens: first two birds, one of which had a limp, then five that were clambering along what looked like a walkway of reeds parallel to but several feet off the ground. Great patches of fedia, an unusual low-growing valerian, prompted a botanical stop, alongside which were some purple honeyworts. At first all the egrets had been cattle, but soon there were many little egrets and our first great white egret. A superb short-toed eagle hung low overhead.

Lunch was on the edge of an industrial estate, which is much nicer than it sounds as it was green open space with a view over the Barbate estuary. The picnic, assembled by one of Frank's many friends in the area, was a tasty mix of local food: gazpacho, cheese, salads, chorizo and the contents of a bottle of red wine soon disappeared. We looked at warty spurge, black redstart and apple-of-Sodom, and noted the line of electric fence round some cattle. The fence blocked the way Frank had planned to walk to the estuary, so we took a short drive to another point.

One we'd found the way onto the main path, that gave us an excellent circular walk in the increasing warm afternoon sunshine. Waders on the estuary included a group of sanderlings, greenshanks, four grey plovers and a single black-winged stilt that demonstrated its elegance as it flew close by. We admired a bright yellow wagtail through a telescope; the white throat revealed it to be the Iberian subspecies. The leading group saw a Caspian tern fly past and the lack of a shout to the spread-out group behind soon didn't matter as the tern retraced its route along the estuary channel. Soon after this two Caspian terns flew past, fished in fine view and gently called to each other.



At Barbate estuary: a yellow wagtail of the Iberian race and two Caspian terns.

The return leg took us past wonderful concentrations of sweetly-scented paperwhite narcissi and a fine Barbary nut iris. A couple of clouded yellows and some unidentified white butterflies were outclassed by a stunning, freshly-emerged Spanish festoon that gave all of us excellent views.

Wednesday 5 March – Palmones estuary and Los Alcornocales Natural Park

As we were driving, east, just before Algericas, suddenly black kites were everywhere. It was not long after nine o'clock and plainly there had been a big arrival from Africa: impossible to count but perhaps 2-300 birds.

Just beyond the urban area of Algeciras is the compact estuary natural park of Palmones, with our arrival point an old garden which makes a viewing area over the estuary. Three people from the local authority were there to meet us, but more importantly two guys from the Tumbabuey Grupo de Anillamiento – the local bird ringing group. Just before they kindly showed us the birds they had caught, a mystery sound had us puzzling. There was an odd song that I could hear – could it be Iberian chiffchaff? It was surprisingly powerful, perhaps carried by the gusty wind from the scrub? The Tumbabuey guys said that the ID was correct but in fact it was a recording to draw birds into the ringers' mist nets. That cleared up, we watched as blackcaps, chiffchaffs, a robin, a song thrush and a greenfinch were weighed, measured, checked for fat reserves and ringed, when not re-trapped birds. We then took the very short walk to the shelter overlooking the estuary – though the direction of the fierce wind meant it afforded little shelter in practice. There was a spoonbill, marsh harrier, shovelers and a nice selection of waders on show with plenty of 'scopes between us to share views. As we returned towards the minibuses, one of the hoopoes we'd already seen several times perched obligingly and we all had first-class views.

Twenty minutes later and we were in the heart of Los Alcornocales Natural Park at Valdeinfierno – known to Frank but new to Honeyguide. There was time for half an hour's pottering near the car park before lunch, which proved more rewarding than I'd dared hope. It was Sue B, the birthday girl, who first found the *drosophyllum*, the Lusitanian sundew, and then with many pairs of sharp eyes we realised there were scores more on a rather bare, rough bit of land that seemed to have been scraped clear and suited the special sundew rather well.



Lusitanian sundew.



Scrophularia sambucifolia.



One-leaved squill.

An intense blue milkwort was named as *Polygala microphyllum* and a yellow cistus type was *Halimium atriplicifolium* – found in books a little later. A short-toed eagle eased passed overhead as we ate our picnic; a woodlark sang and Peter found a magnificently macho minotaur beetle. We were all amused to learn that the beetle prefers its dung parcels in small, ready-prepared packets such as rabbit droppings.

There was a hint of rain that came to nothing as the afternoon, like previous days, grew steadily sunnier and warmer as we did the five kilometre circuit from the car park. A large figwort on a field edge drew admiration, later ID'd by Lyn and Alan as *Scrophularia sambucifolia*. Not far up the road were the first of many sawfly orchids, some of which were glorious, chunky specimens on account of the wet winter, and a little beyond these were some sombre bee orchids. A bright blue flower with a single leaf was *Scilla monophyllum*, and having found one we must have seen several hundred.



Griffons floated gently overhead, and the same description could apply to the large tortoiseshell butterfly, though we also saw that well on the ground. Up in the trees we discovered firecrests and, in the same spot, crested tits – and there were more of both later. Eventually we found the turn to head back on the wheelchair-friendly path, though part way along that stopped and it became a more conventional streamside path through and then up through the woods. A beautiful walk, if perhaps a little longer than ideal.

Back at base, we shared a bottle of wine over checklists and, after the meal, lit candles on the cake Katrin had made to mark Sue's special day.

Thursday 6 March – Playa de los Lances, Bolonia

If yesterday was the day of the black kite, today was the turn of short-toed eagles. The first few appeared near the edge of Tarifa and a steady movement continued all morning. At one point, at Playa de los Lances, there were 40 in the air together, and all told we must have seen several hundred. It was a sunny morning, at last, as we parked by the beach and took the boardwalk through the dunes – shared with other walkers, a few cyclists and occasional joggers. We'd seen the odd sand crocus before: here there were thousands, along with the leaves of autumn-flowering sea daffodils and sheets of silvery paronychia. Crested larks sang for most of the morning and there were also a few skylarks and short-toed larks on the dunes, plus linnets, meadow pipits and fan-tailed warbler. The boardwalk led to a hide overlooking a sand bar, which held the main coastal bird interest. A couple of Kentish plovers were much outnumbered by the many sanderlings. With the black-headed and yellow-legged gulls were four Audouin's gulls, two of which sported rings, plus a nice group of Sandwich terns. We retraced our steps to the vans.

We took another of Frank's excellent picnics in an open part of the rocky, scrubby area up near Bolonia cliffs, well-equipped with flat rocks to sit on. A few griffon vultures came over, plus the continuing parade of short-toed eagles, and Sardinian warblers chattered. High-speed bright yellow butterflies were proving tricky to pin down as Cleopatra or brimstone but, these apart, additional wildlife interest was a little thin. Three donkeys enjoyed our company and perhaps it was something to do with me wearing shorts that made one nuzzle my legs as I tried to explain the plan for the next part of the day. We then drove the steep ascent to the mast at the hilltop, where there's an ancient 'village', dating between Greek and Phoenician times. From here the views were impressive including over a plain peppered with wind turbines and, in another direction, to Frank's home village. Some of us admired the chunky aerial rhizomes of ferns on a rock, which later research revealed to be hare's foot fern *Davallia canariensis*.



The long beach at Tarifa, with the Atlas mountains of Morocco across the water.

For the remainder of the afternoon, we visited the historical site of the Roman port and fish-processing factory at Bolonia. The stark, modern visitor centre isn't attractive but it tells the story well. You had to admire the organisation and civilisation of the Romans. The excavated and restored ruins are also a nice place to wander round, with black redstarts, stonechat and a charm of some 40 goldfinches, among other passerines, plus black kites arriving from Africa over the adjacent sea. Malcolm and Helen found our first small copper and there were clouded yellows and a hummingbird hawkmoth. Looking down, despite vegetation having been cut recently, among the wild flowers there were several examples of *Centaurea pullata* and you couldn't fail to be impressed by the spreading trunk of a big ombú tree with 'feet' reminiscent of a hobbit's. Three of us were lucky enough to see a green ocellated lizard – and by coincidence Shevaun and Helen took the idea of 'been there and bought the T-shirt' literally, choosing T-shirts from the museum shop with an ocellated lizard design.

Friday 7 March – Laguna de Medina and Bonanza

Sixty-five minutes up the motorway and we were at the nature reserve of Laguna de Medina. Early clouds had given way to sunshine, but it came with a fierce wind that stayed with us for much of the day and seemed to reduce numbers of ducks on show on the big open lake, though it did push three red-crested pochards close to the boardwalk leading to the hide, along with a few pochards and shovelers. A lone black stork flew high over the water, the blustery conditions keeping small birds mostly hidden, though between us we had good views of Cetti's and fan-tailed warblers and heard many blackcaps, attracted here by the bumper crop of wild olives, many of which littered the path. The commonest water bird on show at the main hide, gulls excepted, was great crested grebe, but there was no sign of white-headed ducks. Shevaun was alert to three black-necked grebes on the lake as we retraced our steps along the boardwalk.

Twenty minutes later we were at El Puerto Santa Maria. The first, compact, lagoon, Laguna Juncosa, was alive with coots and a little searching revealed red-crested pochards and little grebes plus, a little later, three purple swamp-hens – all of which were struggling in the wind. We had our picnic, discovering some were almost sitting on some star-of-Bethlehem plants (we saw more later). A few paper wasps, with a nest, were gripping the underside of a dwarf fan palm leaf. We drove a short way down the track, then walked to the second of the three lagoons (Salada). On a grassy area were many rosettes of mandrake plants, and Alan found one with a flower. On the lake, perhaps helped by us being slightly hidden from the birds' view by some scrub, we quickly found a male-white headed duck – a 'lifer' for Peter and perhaps others. There was a female nearby, and on the far right there were more white-headed ducks mixed in with shovelers, pochards and red-crested pochards. Black-necked grebes were also in excellent numbers, some 40 in a mix of plumages. Among the coots on the far side was one, then two coots with dark-looking knobs on their heads. Were they red-knobbed (crested) coots? The birds were rather distant yet the knobs were distinct enough – yet no sign of them being red, and other features, like how they sat in the water, suggests red-knobbed coot as the ID, but sadly it wasn't possible to be certain. Time was pressing, so we missed the third lagoon (Chica) and returned to the minibuses, though some stopped long enough to photograph a butterfly that proved to be a Bath white.

Onwards to Sanlúcar and the third and final stop of the day, the Bonanza salt pans on the edge of the famous Coto Doñana. Happily the wind had dropped, at last, and it was warm in the late afternoon sunshine. For a moment, the lagoons seemed bereft of birds, save a few gulls and flamingos. But they were all clustered up the far end of the lagoon's main track. The first bird-rich lagoon simply had lots of black-winged stilts. The second had slender-billed gulls, many looking splendid with breasts as pink as a flamingo. At the same place were many dunlins, sanderlings and redshanks. When the second bus was close to the tight wader flock we were also able to pick out two little stints. Then there were avocets, swiftly followed by black-tailed godwits. Frank found an osprey with a fish on a distant pylon; later it flew much closer to us. Kentish plover, greenshank, curlew, whimbrel and grey plover were added to the list. A few dozen fiddler crabs scuttled about on dry mud in a deep ditch. But it was time to head back, first stopping to re-fuel the minibuses in Sanlúcar, then the long drive back to Huerta Grande, arriving back at base at 7:45. Our slightly delayed dinner had a Moroccan theme and flavour – and was excellent, as always.

Saturday 8 March – Los Alcornocales Natural Park

We had a date this morning: to meet El Grupo Ornitológico del Estrecho (GOES – The Ornithological Group of the Strait). The rendez-vous was some wild olive scrub on the edge of Algeciras which, we heard, had been in and is now out of the Natural Park. A bird ringing session was underway, and one GOES group member was taking feather mites from captured passerines as part of a detailed study. There was an easy circuit of the open woodland, so we pottered round. Frank's friend Paco was there, who is a great reptile expert: he soon found an ocellated lizard and later on a viperine snake. Frank showed us an oil beetle and kept a careful grip



Presenting Honeyguide's cheque to GOES.

on a devil's coach-horse. Also in the invertebrate department was another minotaur beetle, butterflies that proved easy to get close to this chilly morning (small copper and common blue) and a fine banded argiope spider. Botanically there was little new to see, though there was lots of both local species of birthwort and a perfect specimen of a shaggy inkcap toadstool. Pausing by the river, we found a distant osprey on a post, flypasts from a couple of cormorants and a common sandpiper, and Sue B described what sounded like a water rail flying from one bank to the other.

Back with the ringers, we saw them take Sardinian warbler, blackcap and great tit from the nets. While the birds were being processed there was a chance to buy GOES T-shirts and fleeces. The guys then brought out refreshments of cheese, Serrano ham, tortilla and wine, and Malcolm formally handed over a cheque for the holiday's conservation donation (see page 2).

We returned to Huerta Grande for the 'official' lunch; Frank had wisely ordered less today. Then we had a couple of hours to ourselves, starting with 'exchange visits': quick tours of each others' accommodation, starting in the Comandante's House and then the cabins. At four o'clock we had the shortest of trips out, to take a short walk at nearby El Bujeo in Los Alcornocales Natural Park. The sun still shone but the wind remained cold. Wildlife included many *Drosophyllum* plants, but nothing new of note.

Sunday 9 March – Gibraltar

Another day that was dry yet overcast and windy to start with, but warmed up nicely. Handily, being Sunday, we could park for free at La Linea on the roadside just past the frontier. We waved passports at border officials as we walked into Gibraltar, then caught the number 5 bus from the frontier, over the runway and as far as Casemates Square, from where we walked along Main Street and to the cable car. The wind was a strong *levanter* – from the east – so it was a smooth cable car ride to the top of the Rock. Looking down, and braving the gusts of wind, we could see the large conical flowers of *Scilla peruviana* and, through binoculars, some Gibraltar candytuft on the east-facing slope. Most then braved the machine-made hot drinks in the café atop the Rock, heeding warnings not to show any hint of food to the Barbary macaques outside.



On the Rock: Gibraltar candytuft, an aspirational macaque (photo by Malcolm), and shrubby scorpion vetch with an upended 'tail' at the end of each seedpod, which gives the plant its name.

We then walked the long sloping road down the Rock, through the nature reserve. The book on the Flowers of Gibraltar was our constant companion and there was lots to see: rock marigold, Tangier giant fennel (though not yet in flower), sweet-scented shrubby scorpion vetch, narrow-leaved rue and the dandelion-like *Hyoseris radiata* among the special local plants. There were several wall lizards and Peter photographed a chunky, green-coloured specimen. We later sent this photo to the Gibraltar Ornithological & Natural History Society who identified it as Andalusian wall lizard, *Podarcis vaucheri*, a recent 'split' from Iberian wall lizard (see p.11).

The warmth in the lee of the Rock brought out butterflies: Spanish festoons, many Cleopatras and a fine male Moroccan orange-tip that perched obligingly for all to enjoy. Shortly afterwards, a female Moroccan orange-tip then settled on a buckler mustard. Birds were more limited, apart from the abundant yellow-legged gulls: mostly blackcaps, Sardinian warblers and chiffchaffs, the last especially in the gardens lower down. We lunched part way down, well away from the macaques. A nice surprise lower down was some Gibraltar candytuft by the road.

Leaving the reserve, most of the group saw a monarch butterfly in the Botanic Gardens. We walked on, many stopping for a drink, Margaret and me for an ice cream, before gathering at Casemates and catching the bus back to the border. Patches of a yellow daisy by the buses had us puzzled for a while, until the penny dropped that they were the South African Cape daisy *Arctotheca calendula*.

It was good to be back at 5:15, allowing time for Frank and me to return one minibus to Algeciras. After checklists and notices, our last dinner included a big thank-you to chef Juan Carlos and collecting holiday highlights (below). There was special entertainment on our final evening: Katrin's friend Veronica sang to us, a lady with a powerful voice and big personality who had group members dancing. Other music and morris dancing added to the variety show.

Monday 10 March – Gibraltar and home

After breakfast, Frank and Katrin drove us to the border in La Linea from where we took the short walk to the airport terminal in Gibraltar. Both Gatwick and Manchester flights left when they should and we were homeward bound.

Holiday highlights as nominated by group members

David	Black kite migration, asphodels.
Shevaun	Asphodels; black kites coming from Africa at Bolonia; the Huerta Grande cabin, atmosphere and staff.
Sue B	Short-toed eagle so close, sundew, Moroccan orange-tips.
Peter	Blackcap in the hand, Romulae, minotaur beetle with its food in ready prepared parcels.
Malcolm	Holding a chiffchaff in the hand and then seeing it roll over and fly; meeting with Jose Luis from GOES.
Helen	Short-toed eagles, sawfly orchids, Moroccan orange-tips.
Margaret	Ringling, and understanding why it is done.
Sue J	Sardinian warbler through the window at Bolonia; weighing the birds, head first in a pot; Barbary nut iris.
Alan	Crested tit, the intense blue milkwort <i>Polygala microphylla</i> .
Lyn	Sawfly orchid, the impressive black kite arrival.
Frank	Slender-billed gulls, Gibraltar candytuft.
Chris	Moroccan orange-tips, the morning of the short-toed eagles, one-leaved squill, the food.

... and a general consensus in favour of Huerta Grande and its team, and that the Andalusian birthwort *Aristolochia baetica* was the memorable plant of the week.



One of the many corn buntings at La Janda.

SPECIES LISTS

BIRDS

Little grebe	Several at Juncosa lake, 7 th .
Great crested grebe	Palmones, 5 th , Laguna de Medina, 7 th .
Black-necked grebe	3 at Laguna de Medina, c40 at Salada, the second lake at Puerto Santa Maria, both on 7 th .
Cormorant	Recorded on five days.
Grey heron	Recorded on four days. Large numbers at la Janda, c.100.
Little egret	Recorded on three days. Large numbers at La Janda, c.100.
Great white egret	Recorded on two days, best seen at La Janda on 4 th .
Cattle egret	Common wherever there were livestock, recorded almost daily. Perhaps 1000 at La Janda and impressive flocks going to roost on the return drive from Bonaza.
Black stork	1 over Laguna de Medina, 7 th .
White stork	Recorded every day.
Glossy ibis	A highlight of La Janda on 4 th with c.150, also on 7 th .
Spoonbill	Recorded on three days, at La Janda, Palmones and Bonanza.
Greater flamingo	Good numbers at Bonanza salt pans, 7 th .
Shelduck	1 at Bonanza salt pans, 7 th .
Mallard	Recorded on four days. Large flocks at La Janda on 7 th .
Teal	Two males at Salada, the second Puerto Santa Maria lake, 7 th .
Gadwall	A small group over Laguna de Medina, 7 th .
Pintail	1 male, La Janda, 7 th .
Shoveler	Recorded on three days.
Red-crested pochard	At Laguna de Medina and Puerto Santa Maria lakes, 7 th .
Pochard	At Laguna de Medina and Puerto Santa Maria lakes, 7 th .
White-headed duck	Several at Puerto Santa Maria lakes, 7 th .
Osprey	Recorded on two days, at Bonanza and near Algeciras on 8 th .
Red kite	Seen while driving on 7 th .
Black kite	Recorded on 4 days, notably a large arrival on the morning 5 th with 2-300 just west of Algeciras. More arrived the following afternoon, 6 th , while we were at Bolonia.
Griffon vulture	Seen on six days, including overhead at Huerta Grande.
Montagu's harrier	A glimpsed bird of prey as we left the Roman ruins at Bolonia was probably a male Montagu's harrier.
Buzzard	Recorded on two days, all appeared to be resident birds.
Lesser kestrel	Juan Carlos showed us a male being cared for, and soon to be released, on our arrival day on 3 rd .
Kestrel	Seen every day.
Red-legged partridge	Recorded on two days.
Water rail	A brown bird that flew across the river near the GOES ringing demonstration may have been a water rail.
Moorhen	Recorded on two days.
Purple swamp-hen (purple gallinule)	Good views at La Janda, 4 th ; c.5 at Juncosa lake, 7 th .
Coot	c.300 at Juncosa Lake, 7 th , but no trace of a red-knobbed coot.
Red-knobbed coot	Two distant coots at Santa Maria appeared to have knobs, but not red knobs, and other attributes of red-knobbed coots. We couldn't be certain, though other birders saw this species here around the same time.
Crane	About 20 birds still at La Janda on 4 th .
Black-winged stilt	One at Barbate estuary, 4 th , also 100+ at Bonanza salt pans, 7 th .
Avocet	Scores at Bonanza salt pans, 7 th .
Lapwing	Recorded at La Janda, 4 th .
Grey plover	Recorded on four days at the various coastal sites.
Little ringed plover	La Janda, 4 th .
Ringed plover	Recorded on two days at coastal sites.
Kentish plover	2 at Playa de los Lances, 6 th and several at Bonanza, 7 th .
Snipe	At La Janda on 4 th .
Black-tailed godwit	Many at Bonanza salt pans, 7 th .
Whimbrel	1 at Bonanza salt pans, 7 th .
Curlew	1 at Bonanza salt pans, 7 th .
Redshank	Recorded on three days.
Greenshank	Recorded on three days.
Green sandpiper	At least 8 at La Janda on 4 th .
Common sandpiper	Recorded on three days.

Sanderling	12 at Playa de los Lances, 4 at Palmones and scores at Bonanza salt pans, 7 th in a mixed flock with dunlins.
Dunlin	Scores at Bonanza salt pans, 7 th in a mixed flock with sanderlings.
Little stint	2 at Bonanza salt pans in the sanderling/dunlin flock.
Audouin's gull	4 at Playa de Los Lances, 6 th .
Lesser black-backed gull	Single bird at Playa de Los Lances.
Yellow-legged gull	Seen daily, often in big numbers.
Black-headed gull	Recorded on four days.
Slender-billed gull	46 at Bonanza salt pans, 7 th .
Caspian tern	2 at least at Barbate, 4 th .
Sandwich tern	c.20 at Playa de los Lances, 6 th .
Little tern	1 at Salada, the second Puerto Santa Maria lake.
Feral pigeon	Seen daily.
Woodpigeon	2 at Barbate, 4 th .
Collared dove	Seen almost daily.
Tawny owl	Heard at Huerta Grande every night.
Swift	A few swifts at La Janda, 4 th , those seen best seemed to be common swifts.
Hoopoe	Showed beautifully at Palmones, 5 th , also seen two other days.
Great spotted woodpecker	Seen or heard five days at Huerta Grande.
Calandra lark	All too brief glimpses at La Janda.
Short-toed lark	A small group at Playa de los Lances, 4 th .
Crested lark	Recorded on three days.
Woodlark	Singing at Valdeinfierno, 5 th .
Skylark	Wintering birds heard & seen in flight at Playa de los Lances, 4 th .
Sand martin	Recorded on three days.
Crag martin	Recorded on four days.
Swallow	Seen on six days.
House martin	Seen on four days.
Yellow wagtail	Seen on two days, including one <i>iberiae</i> at Barbate, 4 th .
White wagtail	Seen on four days.
Grey wagtail	Recorded on 4 th at Barbate and one on the river near the GOES ringing demonstration, 8 th .
Meadow pipit	Recorded on two days.
Wren	Heard (usually) or seen daily at Huerta Grande.
Robin	Seen daily at Huerta Grande, also ringed at Palmones.
Stonechat	Seen on four days.
Black redstart	Seen on four days.
Blue rock thrush	A distant bird at Bolonia on 6 th .
Blackbird	Seen daily at Huerta Grande, also on Gibraltar.
Song thrush	One ringed at Palmones and recorded on 7 th at Huerta Grande.
Cetti's warbler	Heard or seen almost daily, including at Huerta Grande.
Zitting cisticola (fan-tailed warbler)	Singing birds seen on five days.
Sardinian warbler	Seen or heard on five days.
Blackcap	Seen daily.
Chiffchaff	Seen or heard daily. Wintering birds on most wetland edges.
Firecrest	At least 3 seen well at Valdeinfierno on 5 th , heard on 4 days at Huerta Grande.
Crested tit	Seen well at Valdeinfierno on 5 th .
Blue tit	Five days at Huerta Grande.
Great tit	Two days at Huerta Grande.
Nuthatch	At Valdeinfierno on 5 th .
Short-toed treecreeper	Singing at Huerta Grande almost daily, seen at Valdeinfierno 5 th .
Jackdaw	Recorded on two days.
Raven	Recorded on four days.
Spotless starling	Seen daily.
House sparrow	Seen daily.
Spanish sparrow	Only recorded at La Janda on 4 th .
Chaffinch	Daily at Huerta Grande.
Serin	Daily at Huerta Grande, and elsewhere.
Greenfinch	Regularly at Huerta Grande, and in the hand.
Goldfinch	Seen every day but one, including a flock of c.40 at Bolonia Roman site.
Linnet	Seen or heard three days; c. 100 at La Janda.
Corn bunting	Recorded on three days, seen best at La Janda.

Reptiles and amphibians

Terrapin
Moorish gecko
Ocellated lizard
Andalusian wall lizard
Viperine snake
Stripeless tree frog

thought to be European pond terrapin, at Bonanza Huerta Grande
Bolonia Roman ruins, also at the olive grove near Algeciras
Gibraltar
at the olive grove near Algeciras
heard daily at Huerta Grande



Andalusian wall lizard *Podarcis vaucheri* and map (from Wikipedia) showing species distribution.

Butterflies

Spanish festoon (*below left*)
Large white
Small white
Bath white (*below middle, on Centaurea pullata*)
Clouded yellow

Cleopatra
Moroccan orange-tip
(*underside of ♀ on buckler mustard, below right*)
Monarch
Speckled wood

Wall brown
Small copper
Holly blue
Common blue
Red admiral
Painted lady



Other notable invertebrates

Violet carpenter bee
Paper wasp *Polistes* sp.
Rhinoceros beetle
Minotaur beetle *Typhaeus typhoeus* (*top right*)
Oil beetle sp.
Devil's coach-horse
Darkling beetle *Adesmia* sp. *microcephala*?
7-spot ladybird
Ground bug *Spilostethus pandurus*
Egyptian locust
Pine processionary moth (caterpillars and tents).
Hummingbird hawkmoth
Banded garden spider (Banded argiope) (*bottom right*)
Argiope trifasciata
Fiddler crab



Mammals

Barbary macaque, Gibraltar

Otter footprints, La Janda

Footprints, probably roe deer, in Los Alcornocales NP

Plants

Numbers refer to Blamey & Grey-Wilson, *Mediterranean Wild Flowers*.

Polunin refers to Polunin & Smythies, *Flowers of south-west Europe*.

The Flowers of Gibraltar was a valuable reference both on the Rock and in Spain.

Where there is no number, sometimes these are plants in floras from northern Europe

e.g. *Wild Flowers of Britain & Europe* by Fitter, Fitter & Blamey.

Some are planted species, marked P. nif = not in flower. G: noted especially on Gibraltar.

Common northern European plants e.g. shepherd's purse, groundsel, are not usually noted; planted trees are only noted when of special interest.

Pinaceae – Pines		
<i>Pinus pinea</i>	stone / umbrella pine	3
<i>Pinus nigra</i>	black pine	4
Fagaceae – Oaks		
<i>Quercus coccifera</i>	kermes oak	24
<i>Quercus suber</i>	cork oak	27
<i>Quercus canariensis</i>	Algerian oak	30
Urticaceae – Nettle family		
<i>Urtica membranacea</i>	membranous nettle	49
Aristolochiaceae – Birthworts		
<i>Aristolochia baetica</i>	Andalusian birthwort	58
<i>Aristolochia paucinervis</i>	green-flowered birthwort (not in Blamey or Polunin)	
Polygonaceae – Dock family		
<i>Polygonum aviculare</i>	knotgrass	
<i>Polygonum persicaria</i>	redshank	
<i>Rumex bucephalophorus</i>	horned dock	78
Phytolaccaceae – Pokeweed family		
<i>Phytolacca dioica</i>	ombú	113 (P)
Caryophyllaceae – Pink family		
<i>Corrigiola litoralis</i>	strapwort	
<i>Paronychia argentea</i>	paronychia	136
<i>Spergularia</i> sp.	a pink sand-spurrey	
<i>Silene colorata</i>	Mediterranean campion	180
<i>Silene latifolia</i>	white campion	
Ranunculaceae – Buttercup family		
<i>Clematis cirrhosa</i>	virgin's bower or December clematis	208 (G)
<i>Ranunculus</i> sp.	water crowfoot sp.	
<i>Ranunculus ficaria</i> subsp. <i>ficariiformis</i>	lesser celandine – the more robust southern form	252a
Fumariaceae – Fumitories		
<i>Fumaria capreolata</i>	ramping fumitory	303
Cruciferae – Cress/cabbage family		
<i>Biscutella megacarpaea</i>	Biscutella, a buckler mustard	(G)
<i>Lobularia maritima</i>	sweet Alison	336 (G)
<i>Iberis gibraltarica</i>	Gibraltar candytuft	347 (G)
<i>Sinapsis arvensis</i>	charlock	359
Resedaceae – Mignonette family		
<i>Reseda alba</i>	white mignonette	375 (G)
<i>Reseda phyteuma</i>	corn mignonette	378
Droseraceae – Sundews		
<i>Drosophyllum lusitanicum</i>	drosophyllum, a sundew	381 (nif)
Crassulaceae - Stonecrop family		
<i>Umbilicus rupestris</i>	navelwort	396
Rosaceae – Rose family		
<i>Sanguisorba minor</i>	salad burnet	nif
Leguminosae- Pea family		
<i>Acacia dealbata</i>	'mimosa' or silver wattle	432 (P)
<i>Cercis siliquastrum</i>	Judas tree	430 (P)
<i>Ceratonia siliqua</i>	carob	431
<i>Calycotome spinosa</i>	spiny broom	452
<i>Teline monspessulana</i>	teline	459
<i>Genista cinerea</i>		468
<i>Ulex</i> sp.	gorse	
<i>Lygos monosperma</i>	retama (a white broom)	480
<i>Galega officinalis</i>	goat's rue	490
<i>Astragalus lusitanicus</i>	Iberian milk-vetch	504

<i>Psoralea bituminosa</i>	pitch trefoil	508 (nif)
<i>Medicago lupulina</i>	black medick	594
<i>Medicago sativa</i>	lucerne	596
<i>Medicago tornata</i>		608
<i>Medicago polymorpha</i>	toothed medick	618
<i>Lotus creticus</i>	southern birdsfoot trefoil	632
<i>Tetragonobulus purpureus</i>	asparagus pea	682
<i>Coronilla valentina</i>	shrubby scorpion vetch	695 (G)
<i>Hedysarum coronarium</i>	Italian sainfoin or French honeysuckle	710
	Oxalidaceae – Sorrel family	
<i>Oxalis pes-caprae</i>	Bermuda buttercup	735
	Geraniaceae – Geranium family	
<i>Geranium molle</i>	dovesfoot cranesbill	741
<i>Geranium dissectum</i>	cut-leaved cranesbill	745
<i>Geranium robertianum</i>	herb robert	747
<i>Erodium malacoides</i>	mallow-leaved storksbill	752
<i>Erodium cicutarium</i>	common storksbill	761
	Linaceae – Flax family	
<i>Linum bienne</i>	pale flax	777
	Euphorbiaceae – Spurges	
<i>Euphorbia helioscopia</i>	sun spurge	799
<i>Euphorbia peplus</i>	petty spurge	807
<i>Euphorbia squamigera</i>	warty spurge	
<i>Mercurialis annua</i>	annual mercury	820
	Rutaceae- Rue family	
<i>Ruta angustifolia</i>	narrow-leaved rue	828 (G)
	Meliaceae – Persian lilac family	
<i>Melia azedarach</i>	Indian bead tree or Persian lilac	843 (P)
	Polygalaceae – Milkwort family	
<i>Polygala microphylla</i>		Polunin 696b
	Anacardiaceae – Pistacio family	
<i>Pistacia lentiscus</i>	mastic tree or lentisc	865
	Thymelaeaceae – Daphne family	
<i>Daphne gnidium</i>	daphne	936
	Cistaceae – Rock-rose family	
<i>Cistus albidus</i>	grey-leaved cistus	961
<i>Cistus salviifolius</i>	sage-leaved cistus	965
<i>Cistus ladanifer</i>	gum cistus	971 (nif)
<i>Halimium atriplicifolium</i>		976
	Cucurbitadeae – Cucumber family	
<i>Echballium elaterium</i>	squirting cucumber	1032
<i>Bryonia cretica</i>	white bryony	1033 (nif)
	Cactaceae – Cactuses	
<i>Opuntia maxima = ficus-indica</i>	prickly pear	1040
	Umbelliferae – Umbellifers / Carrot family	
<i>Smyrniolum olustatum</i>	Alexanders	1087
<i>Oenanthe sp.</i>	water-dropwort	
<i>Bupleurum fruticosum</i>	shrubby hare's-ear / shrubby thorrow-wax	1128 (nif G)
<i>Ferula tingitana</i>	Tangier giant fennel	1142 (nif G)
<i>Daucus carota</i>	wild carrot	1168
	Ericaceae – Heather family	
<i>Arbutus unedo</i>	strawberry tree	1176
<i>Erica arborea</i>	tree heath (white flowers)	1178
<i>Erica australis</i>	Spanish heath (pink flowers)	1181
<i>Rhododendrum ponticum baeticum</i>	Andalusian rhododendrum	nif
	Primulaceae – Primrose family	
<i>Anagallis arvensis</i>	scarlet pimpernel	1198
	Rubiaceae – Bedstraw family	
<i>Galium verticillatum</i>	a tiny bedstraw	1299
<i>Rubia peregrina</i>	wild madder	1305
<i>Sherardia arvensis</i>	field madder	
	Oleaceae – Olive family	
<i>Jasminium fruticans</i>	wild jasmine	1239
<i>Olea europaea</i>	olive	1248
<i>Olea europaea ssp. oleaster</i>	wild olive	1248a

<i>Vinca difformis</i>	Apocynaceae – Oleander family intermediate periwinkle	1263
<i>Asclepias curassavica</i>	Asclepiadaceae – Milkweeds bloodflower, an alien species from America	nif
<i>Gomphocarpus fruticosus</i>	bristle-fruited silkweed	1267 (nif)
Both are monarch butterfly larval food plants		
<i>Ipomoea purpurea</i>	Convolvulaceae – Bindweeds morning glory	1319
<i>Lithodora diffusa</i>	Boraginaceae – Borage family scrambling gromwell	1351
<i>Cerinthe major</i> var. <i>purpurascens</i>	honeywort	1367
<i>Echium plantagineum</i>	purple viper's bugloss	1383
<i>Borago officinalis</i>	borage	1395
<i>Anchusa undulata</i>	undulate anchusa	1406
<i>Cynoglossum creticum</i>	houndstongue	
<i>Teucrium fruticans</i>	Labiatae – Mint family shrubby germande	1429
<i>Prasium majus</i>	Spanish hedge-nettle	1444 (nif G)
<i>Marrubium vulgare</i>	white horehound	1445 (nif)
<i>Phlomis purpurea</i>		1465 (nif)
<i>Prunella grandiflora</i>	large self-heal	1472
<i>Lamium amplexicaule</i>	henbit deadnettle	1478
<i>Calamintha nepeta</i>	lesser calamint	1499
<i>Mentha suaveolens</i>	round-leaved or apple mint	1523 (nif)
<i>Rosmarinus officinalis</i>	rosemary	1526
<i>Lavandula stoechas</i>	French lavender	1528
<i>Lavandula dentata</i>	toothed lavender	1530 (G)
<i>Salvia verbenaca</i>	wild clary	1545
<i>Stachys arvensis</i>	field woundwort	
<i>Thymus willdenowii</i>	a thyme, from Gibraltar & N Africa	(nif G)
<i>Solanum nigrum</i>	Solanaceae – Potato family black nightshade	1563
<i>Mandragora autumnalis</i>	mandrake	1573
<i>Solanum sodomaceum</i>	apple of Sodom	1565
<i>Scrophularia sambucifolia</i>	Scrophulariaceae – Figwort family	Polunin 1216
<i>Antirrhinum majus</i>	snapdragon	1609
<i>Veronica cymbalaria</i>	a speedwell	1646
<i>Acanthus mollis</i>	Acanthaceae – Acanthus family bear's breech	1690 (nif G)
<i>Lonicera implexa</i>	Caprifoliaceae – Honeysuckles a honeysuckle	1713 (G)
<i>Viburnum tinus</i>	laurestinus	1711
<i>Fedia cornucopiae</i>	Valerianaceae – Valerian family fedia	1720
<i>Anacyclus valentinus</i>	Compositae – Daisy family a buttonweed	Polunin 1414a
<i>Arctotheca calendula</i>	Cape daisy	
<i>Anthemis</i> sp. <i>arvensis</i> ?	a white mayweed	
<i>Bellis annua</i>	annual daisy	1791
<i>Bellis sylvestris</i>	southern daisy	1793
<i>Calendula suffruticosa</i>	rock marigold	1907 (G)
<i>Calendula arvensis</i>	field marigold	1908
<i>Chrysanthemum coronarium</i>	crown daisy	1895
<i>Ditrichia viscosa</i>	aromatic inula	1842 (nif)
<i>Cirsium eriophorum</i>	woolly thistle	nif
<i>Galactites tomentosa</i>	galactites	1971
<i>Gallinsoga</i> sp.	gallant or shaggy soldier	
<i>Silybum marianum</i>	milk thistle	1982 (nif)
<i>Centaurea calcitrapa</i>	red-star thistle	1990 (nif)
<i>Centaurea pullata</i>		2006
<i>Hyoseris radiata</i>	hyoseris	2032 (G)
<i>Reichardia gaditana</i>	sand reichardia	2062
<i>Asphodelus fistulosus</i>	Liliaceae – Lily family hollow-leaved asphodel	2087
<i>Asphodelus aestivus</i>	common asphodel	2089

<i>Ornithogalum narbonense</i>	a star-of-Bethlehem	2171
<i>Urginea maritima</i>	sea squill, leaves	2163
<i>Scilla peruviana</i>		2183 (G)
<i>Scilla monophyllus</i>	one-leaved squill	2187
<i>Asparagus albus</i>		2214 (nif G)
<i>Ruscus aculeatus</i>	butcher's broom	2219
<i>Ruscus hypoglossum</i>	large or southern butcher's broom	2220
<i>Smilax aspera</i>	smilax or sarsaparilla	2222
<i>Allium triquetrum</i>	three-corned leek	2229
<i>Pancratium maritimum</i>	sea daffodil	2270 (nif)
<i>Narcissus papyraceus</i>	paperwhite narcissus	2276
Dioscoreaceae – Yam family		
<i>Tamus communis</i>	black bryony	2282
Iridaceae – Iris family		
<i>Gynandris sisyrinchium</i>	Barbary nut iris	2305
<i>Romulea bulbocodium</i>	a sand crocus	2314
Araceae – Arum family		
<i>Arisarum simorrhinum</i>	friar's cowl	2378
<i>Freesia refracta</i>	freesia	G
Palmae – Palms		
<i>Washingtonia filifera</i>	one of the most widespread planted palms	2355 (P)
<i>Chamerops humilis</i>	dwarf fan palm, widespread, including on Gibraltar	2357
Orchidaceae – Orchids		
<i>Ophrys fusca</i>	sombre bee orchid	2424
<i>Ophrys tenthredinifera</i>	sawfly orchid	2442
Gramineae – Grasses		
<i>Lagurus ovatus</i>	hare's tail	2473
<i>Arundo donax</i>	giant reed	2494
<i>Phragmites australis</i>	reed	
Pteridophyta – Ferns		
<i>Adiantum capillus-veneris</i>	maidenhair fern	2522
<i>Asplenium trichomanes</i>	maidenhair spleenwort	2525
<i>Asplenium obovatum</i>	a black spleenwort	2529
<i>Ceterach officinarum</i>	rusty-back fern	2532
<i>Davallia canariensis</i>	hare's foot fern	
<i>Polypodium cambricum</i>	southern polypody	
<i>Pteridium aquilinum</i>	bracken	
Fungi		
<i>Coprinus comatus</i>	Shaggy inkcap or Lawyer's wig	



Left to right: *Bellis sylvestris*, southern daisy, with very long stalks (there were lots at Valdeinfierno);
Aristolochia paucinervis, green-flowered birthwort (this one photographed at Huerta Grande);
Halimium atriplicifolium (the yellow rock rose found at Valdeinfierno); and
Davallia canariensis, hare's foot fern, native to the Iberian peninsula, Canary Islands, Madeira and the
Cape Verde Islands (photographed at the ancient 'village' near Bolonia cliffs).