



# Honeyguide

## WILDLIFE HOLIDAYS

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Valencia  
8 – 15 March 2018

## Participants

Graham Harris  
Mervin Nethercoat  
Sue and Peter Burge  
Ann Stearns  
Rosemary Macdonald and John Rumpus

Malcolm and Helen Crowder  
Margaret Dixey  
Chris Ebdon and David Wilkins  
Angela Wilkes  
Robert Carr

## Leaders

Pau Lucio and Chris Durdin.  
Report and lists by Chris Durdin.

Photos by Chris Durdin unless noted otherwise. Other photos by group members noted by initials, all taken during the holiday.

Cover, top: glossy ibises and egrets in the paddy fields (RC).  
Bottom: Spanish festoon (PB); chiffchaff (RC).  
Below: the group.



We stayed at Hotel Font Salada [www.fontsalada.com](http://www.fontsalada.com); pictured below, with brimstone butterfly on paperwhite narcissus.



This holiday, as for every Honeyguide holiday, also puts something into conservation in our host country by way of a contribution to the wildlife that we enjoyed. The conservation contribution of £40 per person was supplemented by Gift Aid and we were able to give £690 (€760) to the Grupo de Anillamiento Pit-Roig (pit-roig is the robin in the local language) which runs bird ringing stations in Valencia. We met the group at Pego Marsh – see account on page 9. As at March 2018, the total for all conservation contributions through Honeyguide since 1991 was £119,711.

*Names of places in this report are generally in Castilian Spanish: there are also local spellings such as Calpe = Calp, Alicante = Alacant.*



## DAILY DIARY

### Thursday 8 March – to Valencia, paddy fields and coastal dunes

The water fountain where you could join the queue to refill a water bottle after security and free copies of the *i* newspaper were small environmental positives among Gatwick's rampant commercialism, but then early morning airports are a necessary evil and just a stage of travel. The flight was a little delayed though nothing to write home about and it wasn't long before we were at baggage reclaim in Valencia Airport. There we met Chris E who had flown from Luton; Chris directed us to Pau who had started the Europcar paperwork. I joined the vehicle queue and we then took the short walk to the car park's first floor to collect and load minibuses.

We found our way out of the car park and through the urban edge of Valencia and were fairly quickly driving into the paddy fields at Catorroja. Briefly it seemed unpromising: just clusters of house sparrows and spotless starlings. Then we hit the purple patch, as rich a place for wetland birds as you could see almost anywhere. It was the hundreds of glossy ibises that first made you gasp, perhaps 1000 or so all told but near impossible to count. Alongside these were also hundreds of egrets, with little egrets in by far the biggest numbers but plenty of cattle egrets, often mixed in, and many great egrets beyond to complete the set. A black-winged stilt and three black-tailed godwits were side shows for those looking in the right direction. A marsh harrier occasionally caused a disturbance, though not for the large numbers of greater flamingos on the next lagoon. Most of the hunting hirundines were crag martins, with a fair few swallows and house martins.

Field marigolds provided splashes of gold and Bermuda buttercups bright yellow. Patches of white crucifer were often white wall rocket but also watercress within the water, alongside luxuriant celery-leaved buttercups.



Bermuda buttercups by the paddy fields; paella on arrival day provided a taste of Spain.

Lunch was calling, two huge paellas – one vegetarian, one not – at Restaurant Mateu, and we could see why this is one of Pau's favourite places to eat.

Pau's wife Virginia met us at the sand dune nature reserve of El Saler, to keep an eye on the still loaded minibuses. Typical Mediterranean shrubs included lentisc and false olive but it was a small group of sombre bee orchids that caused the most botanical excitement. On the open water were both great crested and black-necked grebes, with a count of 16 of the latter. As at the paddy fields there were good views of Audouin's gulls and a couple of shelducks and a flypast of sand martins.



Watching night herons: night heron in a pine tree; sombre bee orchid *Ophrys fusca*.

Our final, brief stop was to view roosting night herons somewhat incongruously in pines by houses. Numbers are much reduced, Pau said, but with the telescope's help we had close-up views of one of the adults within sight of our viewpoint. A pale phase booted eagle drifted overhead and there was a flypast of sand martins. Then it was time to head off south down the *peaje* in the late afternoon sunshine, turning at the sign for Oliva and Pego, through Oliva town and then a right turn off the road through orange groves and to Font Salada Hotel.

The salad starter for dinner included what we assume were locally grown oranges, part of an excellent meal with plenty of wine accompanied by a selection of 1960s music that sparked various conversations.

### Friday 9 March – micro-reserves for flora

It was a warm and bright morning at Font Salada. The local hoopoe showed for some, a Sardinian warbler chattered in the orange trees and serins trilled around the area for anyone who was out and about. We had a relaxed 8:30 breakfast: I requested lemon with my tea and Sophia on duty nipped out the back and picked one to cut some slices. We were away at about 9:45.

It took a while to get through Oliva and 45 minutes or so away we made our first stop by a closed natural history interpretation centre – which later had a black redstart on the roof – primarily to look for orchids. We quickly found several sombre orchids, sawfly orchids and the very local *Ophrys lucentina*<sup>1</sup> with a yellow edge to its lip. Remarkably the only mirror orchid was not yet in flower, surprising as it had been out 10 days earlier on Honeyguide's visit two years ago, an effect of the cold weather that had slowed spring here as well as bringing heavy snow at home. But warm sunshine brought out butterflies, especially brimstones, speckled woods and holly blues. Two other local specialties were a thyme *Thymus piperella*, with a strong scent and spicy taste, and a rockrose *Helianthemum marifolium*, though neither were in flower. We walked for a while through the open wood of Aleppo and maritime pine, past a lime kiln (chalk oven would be the direct translation of the Spanish on the sign) and lots of wild boar rootings. Crested tit, firecrest and short-toed treecreeper were all heard but not seen well. Mason bees by little piles of earth and disappearing into holes caused especial interest.

A short-toed eagle appeared over a distant crag at coffee break – the weather was good enough to have that outside the café. For lunch we moved to the nearby old snow well at Barx and had our picnics on the tables in a nice mix of sun and shade, accompanied by displaying serins. The deep snow well reflected colder weather here centuries ago when snow was collected to make ice. Lizards on a wall were a puzzle, ID-wise, but not so the paper wasps or the strongly-scented paperwhite narcissi in the adjacent scrub, the latter attracting a brimstone as well as us.

The final stop was another botanical micro-reserve, this one called Pla de Mora set up for one of Europe's scarcest plants, the pink *Silene diclinis*. Pau was concerned that forestry and fire prevention work was over-zealous with only basal rosettes of the *Silene* to be found at first, but Ann found two flowering specimens in the open scrub on the other side of the track. Here also was another attractive white daffodil, *Narcissus dubius*. Other notable finds were a crested nymph of the mantid *Empusa pennata* and the brightest green hairstreak butterfly you could imagine. The hairstreak was netted and, when released, perched on Mervin's finger with both butterfly and its perch showing huge patience while photographs were taken. Mallow skipper and wood white were other 'new' butterflies.



Conehead mantis *Empusa pennata* on *Erica multiflora*; yellow-edged *Ophrys lucentina*; an obliging green hairstreak poses for photos.

<sup>1</sup> *Ophrys lucentina* (this is the name given in the orchid 'bible' by Delforge, which notes that the name is from Alicante, ancient Lucentum of the Romans) is also known as *Ophrys dianica*. It's one of a group of *Ophrys* orchids midway in appearance between sombre bee orchids *Ophrys fusca* and yellow bee orchid *Ophrys lutea*.



Lucky observers saw a hawfinch back at the hotel shortly after we returned. It was around every day after that, showing to Graham and other early risers in the same two trees.

We caught up with two days of wildlife checklists before dinner, the serving of which was helped by having chosen starters and main course when we'd returned to the hotel. A pause to choose from the evening's dinner menu became a daily routine.

### **Saturday 10 March – El Fondo Natural Park and in search of Bonelli's eagle**

Breakfast was at 7:45 today to make an early departure at 8:30 because of the long drive south and early closing on the first part of the El Fondo nature reserve. There was a friendly greeting for Pau from the man on the Natural Park's north gate, and the briefest of pauses while the gate was re-opened for the second minibus. Surprisingly there were one or two mosquitoes at the first stopping point, but no more all day. A penduline tit called but all the small birds that could be seen in the reeds and tamarisk were chiffchaffs, some of which were singing. From the platform, reached via a short walkway, we scanned the distant water body. The distant ducks were of no great note but not so birds of prey: a marsh harrier, then bit by bit several booted eagles appeared and came overhead, including a couple of dark phase individuals. Better still was the greater spotted eagle<sup>2</sup>, one of the handful that winter in Spain and probably not long before it was due to depart for Estonia or thereabouts. It flew lazily along the edge of the reeds at some distance from us, settling on a bush where it was mobbed by a harrier from time to time. A little later it flew again and dropped out of sight. A few glossy ibises flew through as we returned to the minibuses, where a Cetti's warbler shouted out of sight in their usual way.

Moving farther into the reserve, the next lagoon had a nice group of white-headed ducks, the pale blue bills on the males bright in the warm sunshine. A moustached warbler chattered in the reeds: quite a tricky song to separate from similar species, like a sedge warbler but less frenetic, also recalling reed warbler in pace but less repetitive. Eventually it came into view and the strong supercilium and capped appearance were clear through telescopes. We re-found the tiny blue butterfly that had puzzled us on the approach to the elevated platform: by now Sue had clinched an ID of African grass blue.

We drove out of the gated part of the reserve and to the car park by the visitor centre, a chance to use the loos and to look over the adjacent lagoons. By the water body near to the car park there were two Spanish yellow wagtails and a little ringed plover. On the lagoon beyond the screen by the picnic area there were at least three red-knobbed (crested) coots, one with a white collar fitted initially on these introduced birds, but the rest were natural looking. Red-crested pochards were at their closest here.



Red-knobbed coot and black-necked grebe (RC).

We walked to more viewpoints across various lagoons. On the first was a single close black-necked grebe with the many little grebes. Dragonflies didn't come close enough for identification: red-veined darter and blue emperor were best guesses. The next lagoon had three marbled ducks and more red-crested pochards. By the island on the far lagoon a group of avocets had gathered alongside a few black-winged stilts. On the island were many shelducks, several shovelers and a male garganey. We walked back to the visitor centre's picnic tables for lunch.

We called into Bar Harry in San Felipe Neri, Spanish-speaking Angela in charge of the coffee kitty as always, before heading inland to a dry, Wild West style landscape dominated by a backdrop of sandy cliffs. Our target was Bonelli's eagle, and it wasn't long before one dropped into a long fissure below the skyline.

<sup>2</sup> Bird books traditionally called this species spotted eagle, but the name greater spotted eagle is increasingly used for *Aquila clanga* to avoid confusion with lesser spotted eagle or birds that could be either species.

The eagle sat there for a while, long enough for telescopes to be set on it, then soared around the cliff top and high into the blue sky and cloud. Those who had moved ahead then saw the eagle catch a partridge and it was up there feeding on it for a while. Down below blue rock thrush and black wheatear were located on rocks in the middle distance.



*Cistanche phelypaea* with our local leader, Pau; a distant Bonelli's eagle (RC); devil's backbone, mother of thousands, alligator plant or Mexican hat plant is a succulent plant native to Madagascar.

In the meantime a green-striped white was a new butterfly. The dry habitat wasn't great for plants though the shrubby pea *Anthyllis cytisoides* was new. Patches of a mauve, honesty-like crucifer had caught our eye as we drove, and a careful look revealed these to be *Moricandia arvensis*. A red succulent, plainly a garden escape, caused some discussion: later research gave the name of *Bryophyllum daigremontianum* (= *Kalanchoe daigremontiana*) and a selection of English names.

Rosemary had earlier found a strange shrub with hanging yellow flowers and rather succulent leaves: *Withania frutescens* – *oroval* in Spanish – was the later ID after internet research for this bushy member of the Solonaceae. A large spurge by this was a puzzle: whorled spurge *Euphorbia biumbellata* was another delayed ID. Finally, as we left the area, we paused to photograph the chunky yellow spikes of *Cistanche*, a distinctive member of the broomrape family.

The long drive home passed uneventfully, save for lightning close to home and some rain as we arrived at Font Salada. It came to nothing. A large wedding party was nearing the end of its celebrations at the hotel so we had dinner in the meeting room where we did our wildlife checklists.

### Sunday 11 March – Old orchard, Cabo de San Antonio and Calpe

Another relatively local day (= later breakfast), our first location an abandoned almond orchard known to be a good place to find orchids. And so it proved: many giant and woodcock orchids and a few mirror orchids.



*Ophrys x pielteri* (sawfly x woodcock orchid hybrid); *Ophrys x catroviejoi* (mirror x woodcock orchid); and a more straightforward giant orchid.

However the especially notable orchids were hybrids: a mirror x woodcock orchid and a small patch of sawfly x woodcock orchids. Shrubby violet *Viola arborescens* was another nice find on the dry roadside bank: woody at the base but far from shrub-like despite the name. Adjacent to this was another puzzle: rock milkwort *Polygala rupestris* was the later conclusion.



We had coffee by the swimming pool of a restaurant on the way to a coastal viewpoint with a lighthouse at Cabo de San Antonio. It was agreeably busy here this very warm Sunday lunchtime, without the expected coastal breeze, and was ideal for a leisurely picnic among the dwarf fan palms and lentisc scrub. A Mediterranean buckthorn was buzzing with bees and other new plants included paronychia, white horehound and the prostrate small-flowered bugloss. A peregrine falcon flew overhead and gannets were out at sea.

By the time we reached the next coastal stop, the large Gibraltar-like rock of Penyal D'Ifac Natural Park next to the town of Calpe, the sun had disappeared and there was a brisk breeze. On a rock in the sea by the base of the cliffs were five Mediterranean shags and on the next rock a couple of cormorants for comparison. Yellow-legged gulls here were plainly used to people and posed beautifully. There were many interesting plants to look at: white mignonette, giant fennel, toothed lavender and *Euphorbia serrata* were a few of these.



Calpe: from the micro-reserve, looking towards the lagoon, town and Penyal D'Ifac.

Bizarrely for a Sunday afternoon the loos and visitor centre were shut and that and the wind encouraged a return to the minibuses to find a well-located café by a roundabout in Calpe. Perfect timing as we were under cover listening to more 1960s music when there was a light shower of rain. That came to nothing and soon we were in another micro-reserve for flora within Calpe town. Weasel's snout was common and Dave was in fine form finding Barbary nut iris and a nice *Centaurea pullata*. A short wooden walkway took us to the lagoon, once a Roman saltworks, now incongruously overlooked by various high-rise buildings beyond. There were good views of a large number of flamingos, black-winged stilts flew close by plus a few shelducks and mallards. By the walkway – so free from trampling – was a lovely group of mirror orchids, beautifully catching the late afternoon sun, a couple of giant orchids and a single *Ophrys lucentina*.

Then it was back to base, filling up with diesel on route, and pausing for a hoopoe on the road into Font Salada.

### **Monday 12 March – orchid hunting above Pego, and Pego Marshes**

Strong winds overnight persisted into the morning causing the Pit Roig ringing group to cancel the ringing at Pego Marsh we'd planned to visit. So that day's itinerary was swapped with Wednesday's plan and the new, additional day – compared with the previous Honeyguide group here – started in the hills beyond Pego and Vall d'Ebo. We stopped on a hillside that looked like any other, but Pau knew it was a good site for *Orchis olbiensis*, the Iberian version of early purple orchid. There were many tucked in under the scrub and more in bud, with a range of colours from deep pink to almost pure white.

The main part of the morning started with a search on some old cultivations for more orchids, mostly sombre bee orchids with a few examples of *Ophrys lucentina*. We walked from here, pottering along the quiet road and in and out of the adjacent land, all a long abandoned farming area, with some terraces for almonds and olives and some old fencing that once would have been for livestock. Helen found a large rock with shell fossils and attached to that was the egg case of a mantid that matches photos of the egg case made by *Empusa pennata*, which Rob found nearby. Purple Jerusalem sage was in flower and the spurges were particularly impressive, with lots of large Mediterranean spurge, cypress spurge and caper spurge. Puddles in the track attracted large numbers of dark honey bees to drink.

It was too windy for birds, apart from a brief view of corn bunting for some, the occasional chatter of Sardinian warblers and the chuck-chuck of red-legged partridges. Surprisingly there was enough sunshine for a few butterflies: a wall brown in a sheltered spot and some sightings of swallowtails. But the best was when we'd turned up a wide track where Pau at the front netted a pristine Spanish festoon. There was a second Spanish festoon that settled in some vegetation out of the wind: there was no need to catch this one and it allowed everyone to approach it for photographs. A clouded yellow as we retraced our steps was another nice additional to the collection of sightings.



A very pale *Orchis olbiensis*, which is closely related to early purple orchid; and *Ophrys dyris*.



After a coffee stop in a friendly village bar we drove a short distance to find somewhere to have picnics, and sitting in the lee of a hill we were able to avoid the worst of the wind. Over the ridge in front of us a large bird of prey appeared, which turned to reveal the distinctive patterns of an immature golden eagle.

Another stop, another orchid search, in what looked to be an unpromising patch of rosemary scrub. Most of the many orchids here were in bud or just rosettes

of leaves but we did find two good examples of *Ophrys dyris*<sup>3</sup> plus a broomrape that specialises, as a parasite, on rosemary. The orchid search had been helped by Peter searching out a photo of this good-looking species and showing it to us on his phone.

There was a change of habitat for the late afternoon as we dropped down the hill to Pego Marsh, calling where a boardwalk went into the reed and open water mix to a raised and roofed viewing point. There was a distinct lack of wetland birds – just one moorhen and quartering marsh harriers, including one very smart male – but there was plenty to see in the shape of aerial feeders. Immediately there were swifts, and as they flew low in the late afternoon sunshine we could take time to pick out the subtle features of pallid swift on the majority. Many of the hirundines were house martins though there were also a few swallows and sand martins plus one red-rumped swallow. High against the clouds were a couple of alpine swifts, then more appeared, dozens of them, and for a brief period some dropped low over us revealing their distinctive pattern without the need for binoculars.



Pallid swift (RC).

Close to the hotel, we made a short detour to font salada – salty font – after which the hotel is named. Several felt the warm water in this concreted, open air pond which apparently has therapeutic uses. There's no connection with the hotel's wonderful salads provided as starters for our evening meals. A hummingbird hawk-moth was feeding on some mauve lantana as we unpacked the minibuses.

## Tuesday 13 March – East Albacete steppes and wetlands

The hawfinch was around pre-breakfast again, along with the usual blackcaps and chiffchaffs, and a red-rumped swallow flew over before we climbed aboard the minibuses for a slightly early 9:20 departure.

It was a long drive out of Valencia and into to next door Castilla-La Mancha region to the steppes area east of Albacete, arriving at our first stop at 11:00. That stop was by some farm buildings which Pau knew to have rock sparrows. Helen and Sue saw one, but many of the rest of us didn't get onto it, partly as we were all putting on every layer we had to combat the cold wind (happily the brief shower of rain came to nothing) but also as a group of three great bustards was feeding on a field in the middle distance.

<sup>3</sup> Dyris is the name given by Roman naturalist Pliny to the mountains of the Moroccan Atlas.



There was also our first of several lapwings today – *avefría* in Spanish, meaning cold bird – and another great bustard in the other direction. Eagle-eyed Helen was at it again, though perhaps goggle-eyed would be a better word as her find was a stone-curlew. It wasn't far away but being static and stone-coloured it took some time for everyone to see it well, helped by a good line-up of telescopes.

We then drove through some rather featureless and intensive arable, at the end of which we found a rock sparrow on a fence around an enclosed area.

As well as our usual pre-lunch coffee in a bar in Pétrola they also kindly let us eat picnics inside, which was very welcome even though the benches in the village were a lot more protected from the cool wind than the bleak steppes.

We drove around a succession of water bodies after lunch. By a damp patch several snipe took off and a water pipit walked along the track. The pipit was showing good signs of its pretty spring plumage, despite being a late wintering bird here, and it stayed in view for a long time allowing good views by all. Farther on a pile of stones in a large arable field had two little owls: viewing from the minibus isn't ideal but was the right thing to do as they slipped out of view as soon as I tried to get a telescope set up to view them. By another lake there were excellent close views of both female and male marsh harriers



Birds in the Albacete steppes: water pipit, little owl and greater flamingo (all RC).

The various lakes – some temporary, some permanent – were a disappointment: close to birdless save for the occasional gull and stilt. Pau suggested that the dry autumn meant the usual wintering ducks went to the coast and didn't come once winter rains had come. Added to this the late winter meant a complete lack of botanical interest. Only the final lake offered good birdwatching: many delightfully pink greater flamingos and a good selection of ducks. Of these, shovelers were the most numerous but there were also red-crested pochards, pochards, gadwalls, shelducks and mallards, plus three black-winged stilts that took to the air as yet another marsh harrier quartered the marsh. By now it was four o'clock and the time and chilly weather prompted us to set off home. Back at base at around six o'clock it was decidedly balmy by contrast and there was time to potter around the hotel's grounds and orchard.

### Wednesday 14 March – Pego Marshes and Gandía Port



Malcolm releases a chiffchaff

Today was our rearranged trip to Pego Marshes, close to the hotel. On this fine morning there had been no problem for Juan and another colleague from Pau's bird ringing group, Grupo de Anillamiento Pit-Roig, to put up a mist-net on a path through the reeds. The caught birds had already been ringed, weighed and measured and were ready for us to see and release.

A moustached warbler was the first, a key bird here as not only are they resident but some winter here from the south of France, making Pego Marshes doubly important for this scarce species.

Chiffchaff (which seemed very at ease in Rob's hand), a winter plumage reed bunting and Cetti's warbler were in other bird bags, but the biggest 'ooh' was for a male white-spotted bluethroat.

Details of the holiday's conservation donation supporting the ringing group are on page 2.



Cetti's warbler, showing rounded tail and short wings on a species that doesn't migrate; bluthroat (RC); moustached warbler.

The paddy fields we then drove through were dry, though still with a scattering of little and cattle egrets, as we made our way to the stopping place for our morning's walk, the first minibus pausing for a kingfisher by a ditch. In the parking area we could see a group of students and Pau was soon in conversation with their professor who he knew, and we learnt that they were eco-tourism students from all over Europe and beyond. It was an obvious chance to brief them about Honeyguide before we followed the course of the River Salinar, with reeds to our right and a raised limestone area to our left.

The first find was not good news: several non-native red-eared terrapins. Booted eagles drifted over, so did the inevitable marsh harriers and a single white stork. Moroccan orange-tip was the best of the butterflies. A freshly-emerged blue-tailed damselfly was a nice find. Grey-leaved cistus was in flower in this sheltered location – on previous days we had just seen the distinctive leaves. Cut-leaved lavender grew among the rocks, and easier to recognise wild flowers included blue houndstongue, butcher's broom and water figwort. It was nice to see parties of junior school children out enjoying the equable weather and natural surroundings, chattering away with enthusiasm.

We had picnics and coffee back at base, outside Hotel Font Salada, before leaving at 2:30 for a journey via Oliva and Piles to coastal Gandía where we parked behind the fishermen's café on the quay. A Sandwich tern called, others came into view and it became apparent that there was quite a group of them on the factory roof on the other side of the harbour. With the terns were Mediterranean gulls with fine black hoods plus black-headed gulls for comparison. A level down on the quayside there was a large group of Audouin's gulls: many gather here this time of year before going to the Ebro Delta to breed.

We walked to the end the jetty to try our hand at seawatching in much warmer conditions than the hobby's aficionados customarily experience in the UK. Gannets drifted to and fro and a party of five common scoters on the sea was a surprise. Off to the right was a small group of Mediterranean gulls. In the far distance a fishing boat was slowly making its way in, followed by a group of gulls and gannets. Once the boat was within range an Arctic skua was picked out, then a Balearic shearwater, though neither followed the boat as far as the harbour. The gulls – yellow-legged, Audouin's, Mediterranean and black-headed – hung around until the boat had disposed of its by-catch, after which it was also our cue to walk back.



Audouin's gulls, Sandwich terns and cormorants on the quayside at Gandía.

We had time in hand in the warm late afternoon sunshine and we gave into the temptation of a beer, ice cream or cup of tea outside the bar on the quayside. A nice Englishman by the name of Terry looked at the various gulls and terns through the 'scope and kindly took a photo of the Honeyguide group.



### Thursday 15 March – return

We had an early breakfast at 7:30 to allow a departure at 8:15. It was a smooth journey to Valencia where we refuelled the minibuses before returning them. We saw Chris E's flight to Luton depart; the Gatwick flight was slightly delayed but the time was more than made up with the help of a following wind.

### THE BEST BITS

Towards the end of our final evening meal at Hotel Font Salada we shared our holiday highlights, some of the best memories of the holiday.

<b>Dave</b>	Bonelli's eagle; bluethroat.
<b>Rob</b>	Photographing a pallid swift; bonding with the chiffchaff.
<b>Margaret</b>	Flamingos, the colour and the way they move; when Pau caught the Moroccan orange-tip.
<b>Malcolm</b>	First day spectacular; Bonelli's eagle, quality of the freshly-emerged butterflies e.g. Spanish festoon, Moroccan orange-tip, green hairstreak.
<b>Sue</b>	Field of glossy ibises, especially in flight; green hairstreak, so shiny; cistanche.
<b>Pau</b>	Bonelli's eagle carrying prey; butterflies; the walk that ended with the Spanish festoon.
<b>Ann</b>	Holding the moustached warbler; blue rock thrush.
<b>Helen</b>	Bonelli's eagle; seeing <i>Ophrys dyris</i> for real after looking at pictures on Peter's phone; green hairstreak.
<b>Peter</b>	Green hairstreak; birds in the hand.
<b>John</b>	Ibises and egrets on day 1; birds in the hand.
<b>Mervin</b>	Spanish festoon and Moroccan orange-tip; moustached warbler; the company.
<b>Rosemary</b>	Spanish festoon; sheer number of orchids.
<b>Chris E</b>	Paddyfields with ibises and egrets; white-headed duck/marbled teal/red-crested pochard at El Fondo.
<b>Graham</b>	Sheer number of ibises; Spanish 'spittoon'.
<b>Angela</b>	First day with "big birds I could see"; sight of Pau catching the Spanish festoon.
<b>Chris D</b>	1000 glossy ibises; hybrid orchids; seeing Ann being thrilled as she released the moustached warbler.

Sue in her vote of thanks reminded us how good the food was at Hotel Font Salada.



A nice group of mayweeds on a terraced hillside (SB); birding and botanising in the 'Wild West' (HC).

**WILDLIFE LISTS**  
**BIRDS NP = Natural Park**

<b>Little grebe</b>	Heard or seen in three wetlands
<b>Great crested grebe</b>	Seen in two wetlands
<b>Black-necked grebe</b>	16 on the first day; very close at El Fondo NP
<b>Balearic shearwater</b>	A distant bird at sea at Gandía
<b>Gannet</b>	Off San Antonio Cape and many at sea at Gandía
<b>Cormorant</b>	At all wetlands
<b>Shag</b>	5 on a rock off Penyal D'Ifac NP at Calpe
<b>Cattle egret</b>	Large numbers on the paddy fields a several on other wetlands
<b>Little egret</b>	Often large numbers in wetlands
<b>Great white egret</b>	c.40 in the paddyfields and one at Pego Marsh
<b>Grey heron</b>	Seen on four days at various wetlands
<b>Night heron</b>	A day-time roost on our arrival day
<b>White stork</b>	A single bird over Pego Marsh area
<b>Glossy ibis</b>	Impressive flocks including one of c.1000 at the paddy fields. Also a few flew over El Fondo.
<b>Greater flamingo</b>	Seen on 4 days, often in large numbers, including well inland at Albacete
<b>Shelduck</b>	Seen on 4 days
<b>Wigeon</b>	Singles on two days
<b>Gadwall</b>	At Albacete
<b>Teal</b>	Small groups at El Fondo NP and Albacete
<b>Garganey</b>	A male at El Fondo NP
<b>Mallard</b>	Seen on 5 days
<b>Shoveler</b>	Large flocks at El Fondo NP and at seen at Albacete
<b>Red-crested pochard</b>	El Fondo NP and Albacete
<b>Pochard</b>	A few at El Fondo NP and Albacete
<b>Tufted duck</b>	At El Fondo NP
<b>White-headed duck</b>	Small groups at El Fondo NP
<b>Short-toed eagle</b>	1 on 9/3
<b>Marsh harrier</b>	Numerous at all main wetlands
<b>Harrier sp</b>	Unidentified 'ringtail' harriers over the hotel and Pego Marsh
<b>Buzzard</b>	Recorded on 4 days
<b>Greater spotted eagle</b>	1 at El Fondo NP
<b>Golden eagle</b>	An immature on 12/3
<b>Bonelli's eagle</b>	1 on day 3, distant but good views, including with prey
<b>Booted eagle</b>	Seen on 3 days, often good numbers, a mix of light and dark phase birds
<b>Osprey</b>	1 over El Fondo NP
<b>Kestrel</b>	Seen almost daily
<b>Peregrine</b>	1 at San Antonio Cape
<b>Red-legged partridge</b>	Seen or heard on 4 days
<b>Water rail</b>	Heard at 2 wetlands
<b>Moorhen</b>	Seen on 6 days
<b>Purple swamp-hen</b>	Seen on two days
<b>Coot</b>	Large numbers at freshwater wetlands
<b>Red-knobbed coot</b>	Close birds, one with a neck collar, at the visitor centre at El Fondo NP, five all told including others elsewhere at El Fondo.
<b>Great bustard</b>	3 groups of 3 and a singleton at Albacete
<b>Avocet</b>	A nice group at El Fondo, 1 at Albacete
<b>Black-winged stilt</b>	On 4 days, especially El Fondo and Albacete
<b>Little ringed plover</b>	El Fondo and Albacete
<b>Lapwing</b>	Albacete
<b>Ruff</b>	2 at El Fondo NP
<b>Snipe</b>	El Fondo NP and at Albacete
<b>Black-tailed godwit</b>	3 on day 1 and 2 at El Fondo NP
<b>Green sandpiper</b>	1 flew past at Pego Marsh
<b>Arctic skua</b>	A pale phase skua chasing gulls behind a fishing boat at sea at Gandía
<b>Black-headed gull</b>	Common at most wetlands
<b>Lesser black-backed gull</b>	Recorded on 3 days
<b>Yellow-legged gull</b>	On territory at Penyal D'Ifac NP and numerous elsewhere
<b>Mediterranean gull</b>	Gandía harbour only
<b>Audouin's gull</b>	Many at the paddy fields and numerous in Gandía harbour
<b>Sandwich tern</b>	Numerous in Gandía harbour



<b>Feral pigeon</b>	Recorded on most days
<b>Woodpigeon</b>	Recorded on most days
<b>Collared dove</b>	Recorded daily
<b>Tawny owl</b>	Heard at Hotel Font Salada
<b>Little owl</b>	2 on a pile of stones at Albacete
<b>Common swift</b>	Unidentified swifts on the first 3 days; confirmed on the following 3 days
<b>Pallid swift</b>	Close views of c.20 on the first visit to Pego Marsh, 12/3
<b>Alpine swift</b>	On 4 days, including c.40 over Pego Marsh, 12/3
<b>Kingfisher</b>	From one minibus at Pego Marsh
<b>Hoopoe</b>	Flew past minibuses on occasions; often heard and seen at the hotel
<b>Calandra lark</b>	Seen at Albacete
<b>Crested lark</b>	Recorded on 4 days
<b>Crag martin</b>	Lots of wintering birds over wetlands on 2 days
<b>Sand martin</b>	Over wetlands on 4 days
<b>Barn swallow</b>	Seen daily
<b>Red-rumped swallow</b>	Seen 3 days, including over the hotel
<b>House martin</b>	Seen on 5 days, often the commonest hirundine
<b>Meadow pipit</b>	Winter groups or individuals on 3 days
<b>Water pipit</b>	Seen well at Albacete
<b>Yellow wagtail</b>	Two of the Iberian race at El Fondo
<b>Grey wagtail</b>	Pego Marsh on 12/3
<b>White wagtail</b>	Seen every day
<b>Robin</b>	Seen on four days at the hotel
<b>Bluethroat</b>	1 male white-spotted form in the hand at Pego Marsh
<b>Black redstart</b>	Seen almost daily
<b>Stonechat</b>	Seen on 5 days
<b>Northern wheatear</b>	Seen at Albacete
<b>Black wheatear</b>	2 at Bonelli's eagle cliff
<b>Blackbird</b>	Daily at the hotel
<b>Song thrush</b>	Heard at the hotel on 3 days
<b>Blue rock thrush</b>	2 males at Bonelli's eagle cliff
<b>Cetti's warbler</b>	Heard or seen on 5 days at various wetlands
<b>Fan-tailed warbler</b>	Heard or seen on 4 days at various wetlands
<b>Moustached warbler</b>	Seen well at El Fondo; in the hand at Pego Marsh
<b>Sardinian warbler</b>	Seen or heard daily, especially at the hotel
<b>Blackcap</b>	Seen or heard daily, especially at the hotel
<b>Chiffchaff</b>	Seen or heard daily, especially at the hotel
<b>Firecrest</b>	Seen on day 2
<b>Long-tailed tit</b>	Seen on 2 days
<b>Crested tit</b>	Seen in pine woods on day 2, heard on day 5
<b>Great tit</b>	Daily, especially at the hotel
<b>Penduline tit</b>	Heard at El Fondo and at Pego Marsh
<b>Short-toed treecreeper</b>	Seen and heard on day 2
<b>Iberian grey shrike</b>	2 distant birds at El Fondo NP, 1 on day 4
<b>Magpie</b>	Daily
<b>Red-billed chough</b>	2 on day 2, heard on day 3
<b>Jackdaw</b>	Recorded on day 3
<b>Raven</b>	Recorded on day 4
<b>Carrion crow</b>	Recorded on 3 days, fairly numerous at Albacete
<b>Spotless starling</b>	Daily
<b>Common starling</b>	Good views at the hotel, 13/3
<b>House sparrow</b>	Daily
<b>Rock sparrow</b>	Albacete
<b>Chaffinch</b>	Almost daily
<b>Serin</b>	Displaying daily at Hotel Font Salada, and elsewhere
<b>Greenfinch</b>	Seen on almost every day, especially at Hotel Font Salada
<b>Goldfinch</b>	Seen daily
<b>Hawfinch</b>	Daily sightings in the trees at the hotel
<b>Linnet</b>	At the Bonelli's eagle cliff and Albacete
<b>Reed bunting</b>	In the hand at Pego Marsh
<b>Corn bunting</b>	12/3 and at Albacete

MAMMALS			
Wild boar <i>Sus scrofa</i> – rootings		Rabbit <i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i>	
AMPHIBIANS & REPTILES			
Iberian water frog <i>Pelophylax perezi</i> (heard what we presume were these)			
Large psammodromus <i>Psammodromus algirus</i>		Iberian wall lizard <i>Podarcis hispanica</i>	
Moorish gecko <i>Tarentola mauretanica</i>		Red-eared terrapin <i>Trachemys scripta</i> (feral)	
FISH			
Mosquito fish <i>Gambusia</i> sp (non-native)		Flathead grey mullet <i>Mugil cephalus</i>	
Largemouth bass <i>Micropterus salmoides</i> (non-native)			
BUTTERFLIES			
Mallow skipper	Small white	Cleopatra	Wall brown
Swallowtail	Green-striped white	Wood white	Green hairstreak
Scarce swallowtail	Moroccan orange-tip	Red admiral	African grass blue
Spanish festoon	Brimstone	Peacock	Holly blue
Large white	Clouded yellow	Southern speckled wood	



Mint leaf beetle *Chrysolina herbacea* and a pollen chafer, *Oxythyrea funesta*, both on apple mint.



Leatherbug *Plinactus imitator* here on pine needles, though the foodplant is lentisc; larval case for conehead mantis *Empusa pennata*; green huntsman spider *Micrommata virescens*, female.

OTHER INVERTEBRATES		
Blue-tailed damselfly <i>Ischnura elegans</i>	Mint leaf beetle <i>Chrysolina herbacea</i>	Violet carpenter bee <i>Xylocopa violacea</i>
Pond skater probably <i>Aquarius najas</i>	Seven-spot ladybird <i>Coccinella septempunctata</i>	Mining bee <i>Halictus</i> sp or <i>Lasioglossum</i> sp
Conehead mantis <i>Empusa pennata</i>	Leatherbug <i>Plinactus imitator</i>	Honey bees <i>Apis</i> spp
Egyptian grasshopper/locust <i>Anacridium aegyptium</i>	Fire bug <i>Pyrrhocoris apterus</i>	Paper wasp <i>Polistes dominula</i>
Saddle bushcricket <i>Pycnogaster</i> sp	A red-and-black ground bug <i>Spilostethus pandurus</i>	Bee-fly sp <i>Bombyliidae</i>
Oil beetle sp	Hummingbird hawk-moth <i>Macroglossum stellatarum</i>	Green huntsman spider <i>Micrommata virescens</i>
Pollen chafer <i>Oxythyrea funesta</i>	Pine processionary moth <i>Thaumetopoea pityocampa</i>	Louisiana crayfish <i>Procambarus clarkii</i> remains
		Sea urchin sp



PLANTS		
<p>Numbers on the right refer to Blamey &amp; Grey-Wilson, <i>Mediterranean Wild Flowers</i>.  Those without numbers are a mix of species widespread in Europe and local specialities.  Some are planted, marked P. NiF = not in flower.  Common northern European plants e.g. shepherd's purse, groundsel, are not usually noted;  planted trees are noted when of special interest.</p>		
Pinaceae		
<i>Pinus halepensis</i>	Aleppo pine	1
<i>Pinus pinea</i> P	Stone / umbrella pine	3
<i>Pinus pinaster</i>	Maritime pine	5
<i>Pinus canariensis</i> P	Canary pine	7
<i>Araucaria araucana</i> P	Norfolk Island pine	
Cupressaceae		
<i>Juniperus oxycedrus</i>	Prickly juniper	15
Ephedraceae		
<i>Ephedra fragilis</i>	Joint-pine	20
Fagaceae		
<i>Quercus coccifera</i>	Kermes oak	24
<i>Quercus rotundifolia</i>	Holm oak	26
Moraceae		
<i>Ficus carica</i>	Fig	42
Urticaceae		
<i>Parietaria judaica</i>	Pellitory-of-the-wall	50
Aizoaceae		
<i>Carpobrotus edulis</i>	Hottentot fig	115
Caryophyllaceae		
<i>Paronychia capita</i>	Paronychia	134
<i>Spergularia media</i>	Greater sand-spurrey	144
<i>Silene alba</i>	White campion	158
<i>Silene diclinis</i>	(endemic to Spain)	
Papaveraceae		
<i>Papaver rhoeas</i>	Common poppy	283
Ranunculaceae		
<i>Ranunculus sceleratus</i>	Celery-leaved buttercup	251
Fumariaceae		
<i>Fumaria capreolata</i>	White ramping-fumitory	303
<i>Fumaria officinalis</i>	Common fumitory	306
Cruciferae		
<i>Alyssum alyssoides</i>	Small alison	
<i>Coronopus didymus</i>	Lesser swinecress	
<i>Diplotaxis erucoides</i>	White wall rocket	
<i>Matthiola lunata</i>	a stock	329
<i>Lobularia maritima</i>	Sweet alison	338
<i>Cardaria draba</i>	Hoary cress	353
<i>Moricandia arvensis</i>		354
<i>Nasturtium officinale</i>	Watercress	369
<i>Raphanus raphanistrum</i>	Wild radish	369
<i>Sinapis arvensis</i>	Charlock	359
Resedaceae		
<i>Reseda alba</i>	White mignonette	375
Crassulaceae		
<i>Umbilicus rupestris</i> NiF	Navelwort	396
<i>Bryophyllum (=Kalanchoe) daigremontianum</i>	Devil's backbone, mother of thousands, alligator plant, Mexican hat plant	Native to Madagascar
Rosaceae		
<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	Hawthorn	420
<i>Prunus dulcis</i>	Almond	421
<i>Sanguisorba minor</i> NiF	Mediterranean salad burnet	410
<i>Eriobotrya japonica</i> P	Loquat	
Fabaceae / Leguminosae		
<i>Acacia dealbata</i> P	'Mimosa' or Silver wattle	432
<i>Anthyllis cytisoides</i>	a shrub kidney-vetch	688
<i>Cercis siliquastrum</i> P	Judas tree	430
<i>Ceratonia siliqua</i>	Carob	431
<i>Coronilla valentina</i> P	a crown/scorpion vetch	695

<i>Dorycnium hirsutum</i>	Dorycnium	676
<i>Lygos monosperma</i>	Retama	480
<i>Ononis natrix</i>	Large yellow restharrow	556
<i>Medicago polymorpha</i>	Toothed medick	618
<i>Psoralea bituminosa</i>	Pitch trefoil	508
<i>Scorpiurus muricatus</i>	Scorpiurus, a scorpion vetch	684
<i>Ulex parviflorus</i>	Small flowered gorse	473
<i>Vicia hybrida</i>	Hairy yellow vetchling vetch	527
<i>Vicia sativa</i>	Common vetch	531
<b>Oxalidaceae</b>		
<i>Oxalis pes-caprae</i>	Bermuda buttercup	735
<b>Geraniaceae</b>		
<i>Geranium molle</i>	Dovesfoot cranesbill	741
<i>Geranium rotundifolium</i>	Round-leaved cranesbill	743
<i>Erodium malacoides</i>	Mallow-leaved storksbill	752
<i>Erodium cicutarium</i>	Common storksbill	761
<b>Euphorbiaceae</b>		
<i>Euphorbia segetalis</i>	(dunes)	797
<i>Euphorbia helioscopia</i>	Sun spurge	799
<i>Euphorbia characias</i>	Large Mediterranean spurge	799
<i>Euphorbia lathyris</i>	Caper spurge	805
<i>Euphorbia biumbellata</i>	Whorled spurge	810
<i>Euphorbia serrata</i>	Saw-leaved spurge	817
<i>Euphorbia squamigera</i>		
<i>Mercurialis annua</i>	Annual mercury	820
<i>Mercurialis tomentosa</i>		
<i>Ricinus communis</i>	Castor oil plant	824
<b>Meliaceae</b>		
<i>Melia azedarach</i> P	Indian bead tree or Persian lilac	843
<b>Polygalaceae</b>		
<i>Polygala rupestris</i>	Rock milkwort	845
<i>Polygala x dalmaisiana</i> P	Sweet pea shrub, planted at the hotel	
<b>Anacardiaceae</b>		
<i>Pistacia lentiscus</i>	Mastic tree or lentisc	865
<b>Rhamnaceae</b>		
<i>Rhamnus alaternus</i>	Mediterranean buckthorn	885
<i>Rhamnus lycioides</i>		887
<b>Malvaceae</b>		
<i>Lavatera cretica</i>	Cretan mallow	910
<b>Violaceae</b>		
<i>Viola alba</i>	Mediterranean white violet (but not white)	925
<i>Viola arborescens</i>	Shrubby violet	933
<b>Thymelaeaceae</b>		
<i>Daphne gnidium</i>	Daphne	936
<i>Thymelea hirsuta</i>		942
<b>Cistaceae</b>		
<i>Cistus clusii</i>		869
<i>Cistus albidus</i>	Grey-leaved cistus	961
<i>Cistus salvifolius</i> NiF	Sage-leaved cistus	965
<i>Helianthemum marifolium</i> NiF		1011
<i>Fumana</i> sp		
<b>Cactaceae</b>		
<i>Opuntia maxima</i> = <i>ficus-indica</i>	Prickly pear	1040
<b>Araliaceae</b>		
<i>Hedera helix</i>	Ivy	
<b>Punicaceae</b>		
<i>Punica granatum</i>	Pomegranate	1064
<b>Umbelliferae/Apiaceae</b>		
<i>Ferula communis</i>	Giant fennel	1141
<i>Smygium olusatrum</i>	Alexanders	1087
<b>Ericaceae</b>		
<i>Erica multiflora</i>		1186
<b>Primulaceae</b>		
<i>Anagallis arvensis</i>	Scarlet pimpernel	1198



<b>Oleaceae</b>		
<i>Phillyrea angustifolia</i>	Phillyrea or false olive	1246
<i>Olea europaea</i>	Olive	1248
<b>Rubiaceae</b>		
<i>Galium aparine</i>	Cleavers	
<i>Rubia peregrina</i>	Wild madder	1305
<i>Sherardia arvensis</i>	Field madder	
<b>Convolvulaceae</b>		
<i>Ipomoea purpurea</i>	Morning glory	1319
<i>Convolvulus arvensis</i> NiF	Field bindweed	1334
<b>Boraginaceae</b>		
<i>Cerinthe major</i>	Honeywort	1367
<i>Echium plantagineum</i>	Purple viper's bugloss	1383
<i>Echium parviflorum</i>	Small-flowered bugloss	
<i>Borago officinalis</i>	Borage	1395
<i>Lithodora fruticosa</i>	Shrubby gromwell	1355
<i>Cynoglossum creticum</i>	Blue houndstongue	1402
<i>Cynoglossum cherifolium</i>	a houndstongue	1404
<b>Verbenaceae</b>		
<i>Lantana camara</i>	Lantana	1417
<b>Labiatae</b>		
<i>Marrubium vulgare</i>	White horehound	1445
<i>Phlomis purpurea</i>		1465
<i>Lamium amplexicaule</i>	Henbit deadnettle	1478
<i>Mentha rotundifolia</i>	Apple mint	1523
<i>Rosmarinus officinalis</i>	Rosemary	1526
<i>Lavandula dentata</i>	Toothed lavender	1530
<i>Lavandula multifida</i>	Cut-leaved lavender	1531
<i>Salvia verbeneca</i>	Wild clary	1545
<i>Satureja obovata</i>		
<i>Satureja obovata</i> NiF		
<i>Thymus vulgaris</i> NiF	Thyme	1508
<i>Thymus piperella</i> NiF	<i>Pebrella</i> in Spanish	
<b>Solanaceae</b>		
<i>Withania somnifera</i>	<i>Oroval</i> in Spanish	1558
<i>Solanum nigrum</i>	Black nightshade	1563
<i>Nicotiana glauca</i>	Shrub tobacco	1582
<b>Scrophulariaceae</b>		
<i>Scrophularia auriculata</i>	Water figwort	
<i>Verbascum sinuatum</i> NiF		1601
<i>Misopates orontium</i>	Lesser snapdragon / weasel's snout	1611
<i>Digitalis obscura</i>	Spanish rusty foxglove	1641
<b>Orobanchaceae</b>		
<i>Cistanche phelypaea</i>		1654
<i>Orobanche lastiquama</i>	parasitic on rosemary	
<b>Globulariaceae</b>		
<i>Globularia alypum</i>	Shrubby globularia	1677
<b>Passifloraceae</b>		
<i>Passiflora caerulea</i>	Passion flower, fruit	1679
<b>Plantaginaceae</b>		
<i>Plantago major</i>	Greater plantain	1693
<i>Plantago coronopus</i>	Buckshorn plantain	1696
<i>Plantago maritima</i>	Sea plantain	1699
<i>Plantago lagopus</i>		1702
<b>Caprifoliaceae</b>		
<i>Lonicera implexa</i> NiF	a perfoliate honeysuckle	1713
<i>Viburnum tinus</i>	Laurestinus	1711
<b>Valerianaceae</b>		
<i>Centranthus ruber</i>	Red valerian	1723
<b>Dipsacaceae</b>		
<i>Scabiosa atropurpurea</i>	Mournful widow	1749
<b>Compositae / Asteracea</b>		
<i>Anthemis arvensis</i>	Corn mayweed	1858
<i>Astericus maritimus</i>		1848

<i>Calendula arvensis</i>	Field marigold	1908
<i>Centaurea calcitrapa</i> NiF	Red star-thistle	1990
<i>Centaurea pullata</i>		2006
<i>Chrysanthemum coronarium</i>	Crown daisy	1895
<i>Cichorium intybus</i>	Chicory	2023
<i>Cirsium eriophorum</i> NiF	Woolly thistle	1956
<i>Galactites tomentosa</i>	Galactites	1971
<i>Helichrysum stoechas</i>	Curry plant	1824
<i>Phagnalon</i> sp. <i>saxatile</i> ?	Rock phagnalon	1833
<i>Silybum marianum</i> NiF	Milk thistle	1982
<i>Sonchus (tenerrimus) dianae</i>	a sow-thistle in the rocks at Gandía harbour	2073
<i>Tolpis barbata</i>	Tolpis	2030
<b>Liliaceae</b>		
<i>Asphodelus fistulosus</i>	Hollow-leaved asphodel	2087
<i>Asphodelus aestivus</i>	Asphodel	2089
<i>Urginea maritima</i>	Sea squill, leaves/bulbs	2163
<i>Smilax aspera</i>	berries	2222
<i>Muscari neglectum</i>	Grape hyacinth	2206
<i>Asparagus horridus</i>		
<i>Ruscus aculeatus</i>	Butcher's broom, berries	2219
<b>Amaryllidaceae</b>		
<i>Narcissus dubius</i>		
<i>Narcissus papyraceus</i>	Paperwhite narcissus	2278
<b>Agavaceae</b>		
<i>Agave americana</i>		2253
<b>Iridaceae</b>		
<i>Gynandris sisyrrinchium</i>	Barbary nut iris	2305
<i>Iris pseudacorus</i>	Yellow flag	2290
<i>Arum italicum</i>	Italian lords and ladies	2361
<i>Arisarum vulgare</i>	Friar's cowl	2377
<b>Palmae</b>		
<i>Chamaerops humilis</i>	Dwarf fan palm	2357
<b>Gramineae/Poaceae</b>		
<i>Typha angustifolia</i>	Lesser reedmace	
<i>Arundo donax</i>	Giant reed	2494
<i>Avena</i> sp.	Wild oats	
<i>Phragmites australis</i>	Reed	
<b>FERNS PTERIDOPHYTA</b>		
<i>Ceterach officinarum</i>	Rustyback fern	2532
<b>ORCHIDS</b>		
<i>Orchis italica</i>	Italian man orchid	2409
<i>Orchis (mascula) olbiensis</i>		
<i>Ophrys dianica</i> (= <i>O. lucentina</i> )		
<i>Ophrys speculum</i>	Mirror orchid	2422
<i>Ophrys fusca</i>	Sombre bee orchid	2424
<i>Ophrys (fusca) dyris</i>		
<i>Ophrys tenthredinifera</i>	Sawfly orchid	2442
<i>Ophrys x pielteri</i>	Woodcock x sawfly	
<i>Ophrys x catroviejoi</i>	Mirror x woodcock	
<i>Himantoglossum</i> (or <i>Barlia</i> ) <i>robertianum</i>	Giant orchid	2446



*Withania somnifera*, a bushy member of the nightshade family; *Euphorbia serrata*; *Euphorbia squamigera* on which the red stems are a good feature.