



Honeyguide

WILDLIFE HOLIDAYS

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B I R D I N G 
EXTREMADURA



Extremadura
17 – 25 March 2026

Holiday participants

Mick Gold
Julian Lawrence & Nicky Sutton
Judy Stolz

Everard Daniel
Denise Back
Chris Durdin

Leader: Martin Kelsey,
Casa Rural El Recuerdo and Birding Extremadura.

Our base for the holiday was Martin and Claudia Kelsey's
Casa El Recuerdo in San Clemente www.casarualelrecuerdo.com/

Report and wildlife lists by Chris Durdin.



Photos were all taken on the holiday by group members, shown by initials e.g. Everard Daniel (ED).
Other photos by Chris Durdin.

Cover: pink butterfly orchid and lesser kestrels on a nest box in Trujillo.
Above: group photo, taken in the field, with pink butterfly orchids in the foreground.

As with all Honeyguide holidays, part of the price of the holiday was put towards a conservation project, in this case for La Sociedad Española de Ornitología (SEO), the Spanish Ornithological Society, and its work in Extremadura. The conservation contribution this year of £40 per person was supplemented by gift aid through the Honeyguide Wildlife Charitable Trust.

This year's donation of £290 brings the total given to SEO since the first Honeyguide holiday in Spain in 1991 to £24,431 (through all Honeyguide holidays, mostly Extremadura and the Spanish Pyrenees). The total for conservation contributions from all Honeyguide holidays was £166,207 at the end of March 2026.

There is more information about our donation to SEO in this blog:
honeyguidewildlife.blogspot.com/2026/03/conservation-donations-to-seo-birdlife.html).

ITINERARY

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DAILY DIARY

Tuesday 17 March 2026: Madrid to San Clemente

Patience was the essential characteristic needed at Madrid Airport. For the Stansted contingent of five, that was mostly on account of the machines to scan passports and fingerprints, initially either turned off or not functioning as they should, then – when there were more machines and people in the main arrival hall – to cope with queues and an intrinsically slow process. Anyway, we must have done something right as eventually we got through, meeting Martin Kelsey from Extremadura, Everard who'd come from Gatwick and gone through the same long-winded process, and Judy on an internal flight from San Sebastian who'd had a bureaucracy-free journey. Martin led us to the car park, we loaded suitcases into the minibus and headed west on the motorway.

About three-quarters of an hour later, we stopped for lunch at Las Esparteras restaurant, at a service station. We were lucky with our timing: this popular and sometimes busy stopping place provided food and drinks straight away, main of us opting for *ensalada mixta*, mixed salad, with bread. Refueled (participants rather than minibus) we headed westwards, noting a few black kites, marsh harrier and increasing numbers of white storks on nests. It was a nice moment when we passed the Extremadura sign, the landscape by now mostly holm oaks and solar power panels, plus the continuously impressive snow-capped mountains of the Gredos to the north, our right.

We reached Casa Rural El Recuerdo in the late afternoon, where we were welcomed by a bright yellow serin and Claudia with tea and cake. There was time to unpack and have a stroll through the village in the early evening. There were many azure-winged (Iberian) magpies in scruffy small fields, and a very large flock of mixed sparrows, Spanish and house. Everywhere there were swallows, plus a few crag martins, spotless starlings on aerials and rooftops, then black redstart, blackcaps, chiffchaffs and a male stonechat. Roadsides were colourful with flowers, with ramping fumitory and henbit deadnettle among those talked about, though topped for beauty by the wild lupins in the garden at El Recuerdo.

Martin had earlier given us an introduction to Extremadura and this time, just before dinner, he told us more about the house itself, the nineteenth century Casa El Recuerdo. It was a delicious evening meal, then time for bed after early starts and a long day.

Wednesday 18 March 2026: Santa Marta de Magasca, plains between Trujillo and Cáceres

Before breakfast we walked past the church, which for us meant admiring the pair of white storks on a nest on the tower, plus sparrows in the jumble of branches. The most notable bird was a song thrush flying over, a late wintering bird, and we heard wren and robin singing, both species not encountered in the wilder parts visited today. There were the usual village birds such as black redstart and serin. After breakfast, before we left for the day, a black vulture flew low over El Recuerdo, soon joined by griffon vultures in the sky.



Church in Pago de San Clemente, with storks' nest; champagne orchids, also seen in the village.

We drove through Trujillo, where there were several lesser kestrels in the air, then right off the motorway into the plains west of Trujillo. It was distinctly chilly as we walked along part of a drovers' trail, surrounded by the sound of larks. There were several calandra larks in the air, with their distinctive long wings and dark underwings, though seeing these on the ground proved difficult today. Happily, a Thekla lark on a rock was more cooperative, and later a crested lark also perched where it could be seen well. Corn buntings were common here, as they were elsewhere later. Looking across the pseudosteppe there was a Spanish imperial eagle on a distant eucalyptus tree, a little grebe on a lagoon and a lapwing nearby. Several times black-bellied sandgrouse flew around, usually a group of five. We struck lucky with sandgrouse today as there were also pin-tailed sandgrouse in the area, both skilfully found on the ground by Martin and in flight, including a flock of about 50 as we left the area. Interesting flowers included hoop petticoat narcissi, strapwort (an unusual, prostrate member of the pink family), subterranean clover and the sainfoin *Onobrychis humilis*. On the flowers, a regular theme was how species that were once difficult to identify, sometimes named after much research, were now almost instantly confirmed with an app such as Seek. As the weather warmed, we saw our first butterflies, firstly green-striped whites, then small heaths.



Onobrychis humilis, an unusual, ground-hugging sainfoin; coffee break in Santa Marta de Magasca, our daily routine.

We drove onto Santa Marta de Magasca. By now it was warm enough to have coffee outside the small town's café/bar. We could see house martins building nests on the *ayuntamiento*, the town hall.

We had lunch where we could pull off the road, overlooking a river valley. A short-toed eagle flew over us. We then moved onto another riverside stop, from where we could look down onto waterside rocks where Spanish terrapins had hauled themselves for some sunshine. Everard was alert to a bird of prey, a golden eagle. A cuckoo flew past. Judy found some gorgeous sawfly orchids by the roadside, and soon we found more. Cleopatra butterflies flew past several times, always at a great speed.

Our next stop and excursion was a short walk along part of a Cañada Real, a wide rural droveway. As well as many more sawfly orchids there were also a few mirror orchids. So far today we had already found two dead snake species and a dead western psammmodromus; here at last some live reptiles as on three occasions rather green-looking western psammmodromus lizards scurried at great speed across low grass by the track. There was also a freshly-emerged dragonfly: a female broad-bodied chaser.

Our final stop was in the granite boulder country nearer to Trujillo. There were several flowering star-of-Bethlehems of a very local species, *Ornithogalum concinnum*, a single yellow toadflax *Linaria spartea* and quite a lot of *Anthyllis lotoides*, a yellow pea-flower related to kidney-vetch but looking more like a birdsfoot trefoil. It was time to return to Casa El Recuerdo for tea, cake and checklists, though we did pause briefly in San Clemente to say hello to Isabelle, an old friend from Finca Santa Marta, now approaching her 98th birthday.

Thursday 19 March 2026: Monfragüe National Park

On our pre-breakfast walk there was a short-toed treecreeper in the cork oaks close to El Recuerdo. A hoopoe flew through. Near a tumbledown property a red-rumped swallow flew past us, and crag martins settled on a building's ledge. We added Cetti's warbler, long-tailed tit and a probable Iberian woodpecker (heard) to the bird list.

We took advantage of more good weather to travel north to Monfragüe National Park, driving through extensive *dehesa* landscape from Trujillo northwards, including some holm oaks surrounded by piles of prunings, that periodic management more difficult than usual over the previous very wet winter. Our first

stop was at the castle, taking the trail around the back through open cork oak woodland. Martin described the geology of where we stood (quartzite rocks) and mountain ranges within eyesight, and the visible influence of climate: dry holm oak woodland on the south slope, mixed forest on the cooler north side. Flowers along here included meadow saxifrage, Spanish bluebell and yellow star-of-Bethlehem. From the viewing area by the castle there was endless movement of griffon vultures, flying over us, below us or at eye level. We descended the steps and it was already time to go for coffee, in the friendly bar in the hamlet of Villareal de San Carlos.



Vultures in Monfragüe National Park (ED).

We had our picnic at the Tajadilla viewpoint, beside the Tiétar River, sitting on benches opposite a cliff with nesting griffon vultures, over which we also saw two Egyptian vultures. The ground was a sea of flowering annual daisies: I made a rough estimate of 100,000 flowers, which no-one disputed! Elm trees were in seed, prompting a successful search just before we left for a hawfinch, half-hidden in yellow-green seeds and early season leaves alongside serins and goldfinches.

From here we moved onto the viewpoint of the Portilla del Tiétar. An adult Bonelli's eagle soared with the many griffons, and two black storks flew past, their white tail feathers striking in appearance against the bright sky. There was a single spike, slightly gone over, of angel's tears narcissus, more hoop petticoat narcissi, Iberian milkvetch, laurestinus, Spanish adenocarpus and false olive. It took a little time, but eventually we had good views of a blue rock thrush.

Our final stop of the day was at the dramatic gorge of Peña Falcón by the dammed Tagus River. The most obvious sight here was the many griffon vultures in flight over the rock. But we started with something more subtle: a nettle-tree butterfly, perched with wings closed on a leafless nettle-tree. Later, as we returned to the minibus, sunshine tempted the butterfly to open its wings, though it remained helpfully in its position for Everard to take photos and to get the telescope fixed onto it. At Peña Falcón, those who arrived first saw a rock bunting, and we all saw more blue rock thrushes. There was a peregrine high over the rock, dwarfed by the griffons, and Martin found black storks on their nest. Dwarf sheepsbit was an excellent new flower here, but even the various apps were defeated by an umbellifer on grassy slopes among the cliffs by the road. Back at the minibus there was a red deer – Iberian subspecies – in the scrub across the road, the fourth time we saw red deer today in Monfragüe National Park.



Nettle-tree butterfly (ED)

Back at El Recuerdo, the constant movement of azure-winged magpies in the garden in the early evening was striking. We settled into our usual routine of tea and checklists.

Friday 20 March 2026: plains of Campo Lugar and Alcollarín Reservoir

It rained overnight but the weather was dry all day, albeit cool and cloudy. We had a surprise on our pre-breakfast walk: a water vole in the concrete water channel by La Higuera restaurant, which Martin told us was a good record. Julian successfully photographed it and managed to upload the photo to iNaturalist, where two naturalists later confirmed the ID as southwestern water vole, which is found in France and the Iberian peninsula.

After buying fuel for the minibus, we took the short journey to the south to the plains of Campo Lugar, where we had several stops to scan or walk for a short distance. At our first stop we had a stroke of luck: a great bustard flew past. A little further up the road, four great bustards flew. We also managed to see a

little bustard on the ground, though that took some patience as it was always at least partly hidden by vegetation. A distinctive feature on the brow of the hill was a new plantation of olive trees, low and in orderly rows, which is the current style of planting to enable mechanical harvesting. As we stopped in another gateway, a black vulture flew incredibly low over us, followed by a griffon vulture that was equally close. A third vulture, also a griffon, landed in the nearby field. There were also the usual larks and a group of hunting lesser kestrels, some of which were investigating roller nest boxes on pylons.

We stopped for coffee at Restaurante Afer by the Cepsa fuel station just beyond the small town of Campo Lugar. Across the road was a corn silo with many nestboxes for lesser kestrels. We then had a stop in an area of ruderal vegetation by the River Alcollarín. Jules found a kingfisher in the river, there were many sawfly orchids, we heard Cetti's warbler and zitting cisticola. A western dappled white proved very cooperative for those with cameras, probably as the weather was so cool, and we had good views of two woodchat shrikes.

We moved onto Alcollarín Reservoir, our destination for the afternoon. We started by looking over the higher part of the reservoir where there were many swallows feeding, plus a few sand martins and hunting marsh harriers. A purple swamphen appeared on the edge of the reservoir before disappearing into vegetation. A superbly marked water pipit on some wet stones reminded some of a wheatear as its coloration was so good. We ate our picnics on a handily placed bench.

A purple heron flew in, and once it settled by a solitary greylag goose we realised that there was a second purple heron there. We then did a tour of the reservoir, with various stops. There were two cattle egrets with sheep. We stopped on the main dam where there were many swallows plus sand martins and red-rumped swallows. A pale-phase booted eagle moved around the area.

For the final part of the reservoir tour, we had a particular bird to look for. Nearly a fortnight ago, Martin found two American wigeons here, the first record of this species for Extremadura. We found the wigeon flock, and with it were a few teals, shovelers and ... a male American wigeon. We watched for a good while, telescopes being well-used as we kept our distance to prevent disturbing it. That said, the wigeon flock moved several times, probably spooked by a marsh harrier, though the ducks remained in the same area. Eventually Martin also found the second American wigeon, and a greenshank on the water's edge.



Alcollarín Reservoir, drake American wigeon (centre), first found by Martin on 7 March.

After tea at El Recuerdo, four of us went a short way beyond where we'd seen the water vole this morning to look at champagne orchids, which were in prime condition and in very good numbers – perhaps 100. There was a cacophony of spotless starlings and house sparrows gathering to roost in the village as we walked back to base.

Saturday 21 March 2026: Trujillo, Almonte River south of Jaraicejo, Miravete Pass

There was rain overnight again, and a light drizzle before breakfast, so the pre-breakfast walk was more for fresh air and exercise than wildlife sightings. Luckily it was dry for the rest of the day, though cloudy and cool.

We spent the morning in Trujillo, a historical tour-de-force with Martin as our guide. The route took us from the Plaza Mayor (main square) to the castle at the highest point, taking in personalities, buildings and events that have shaped Trujillo. We also ranged over many eras: from the Romans (the base layer of the castle), Visigoths, Moorish period, the time of the conquistadores and more recent centuries. We started at the statue of Pizarro in the main square, a famous son of Trujillo known for conquering the Incas, though less celebrated now in more enlightened times. A procession came along a street and into the church, consisting of women carrying a heavy palanquin with a statue of the Virgin Mary, accompanied by men with incense, drums and percussion. We looked at the house of Pizarro's daughter, in one corner of

the Plaza Mayor, now mostly unused, and the house of Francisco de Orellana, the first European to navigate the Amazon River. We heard about the impact of the Lisbon earthquake of 1755, filming for Game of Thrones and where Patrick Kelsey went to school. And of course there were natural history diversions: white storks bill-clapping on church towers, pallid swifts, countless crag martins, lesser kestrels, white henbane growing from the castle's walls. Then it was coffee time, in one of the Plaza Mayor's cafés, and fridge magnet shopping for Everard, to add to his collection celebrating Honeyguide holidays.



Trujillo: 'keyhole' scene at the castle (MG) and the procession.

For lunch we drove to a picnic site by the Almonte River, not far from Jaraicejo. This was within sight of no less than three bridges across the river, dating from 1450 to 1992. A cirl bunting sang, three black storks and two red kites flew over, and there were numerous stonechats. We then spent some time pottering by the river, unusually a river unmodified by dams along all its length. A consequence of this is huge variations in the height of the water, evidenced by the stranded vegetation on the very top of the line of scrub that ran alongside the river, that scrub being a near continuous 'hedge' of Tamujo *Flueggea tinctoria*, an Iberian endemic. We could hear and occasionally see Iberian water frogs and found some frogspawn. Jules was pointing out otter spraint on rocks (he later found a drowned otter), and common jonquil was our third narcissus species of the holiday. On returning to where the minibus was parked by the picnic tables, we found that many Barbary nut irises had opened their flowers. We found mating leopard slugs and some dry land here had woolly clover and tiny rosettes of evax.



Three bridges over the Almonte River.

Our final stop of the afternoon was at Miravete Pass, from where there was a view towards Arrocampo reservoir and nuclear power station in the distance. A fire about three years ago meant there was an

even-aged scrub of daphne and gum cistus. Under this we found more sand crocuses and angel's tears *Narcissus triandrus*. We took time to check the group of cypress trees and maritime pines for birds, and we found crested tit – a new bird for Everard – short-toed treecreeper and goldcrest.



Jonquil with a mayfly (ED); angel's tears narcissus; gum cistus at Miravete.

Sunday 22 March 2026: plains east of Cáceres, Sierra de Fuentes, Trujillo

It was the warmest morning so far – the good weather continued all day – and it felt like the birds responded to that. We heard woodlark, hoopoe and cuckoo, there was a zitting cisticola over El Recuerdo, and two red-rumped swallows flew over the field down the road. Best of all was lesser spotted woodpecker, two seen by most of the pre-breakfast group, and Jules had a brief view of a flying Iberian woodpecker. There were big patches of champagne orchids and our first conical orchid.

We started with various stops in the plains east of Cáceres. The best bird was an immature imperial eagle flying with vultures, we saw another short-toed eagle, calandra larks and other open-country birds. We had coffee in a café near the main road.

We moved to some dehesa on limestone, which supported a very good range of flowers plus some butterflies brought out by the sunshine. Scrub here at Sierra de Fuentes was dominated by kermes oak, and sage-leaved cistus and rosemary were in flower. We spent a short time enjoying the efforts of dung beetles moving rounded dung parcels. Orchids were excellent, starting with sawfly orchids, champagne orchids and many conical orchids. We found woodcock and mirror orchids, then *Ophrys dyris*, a little protected by scrub. Yellow anemone grew in several places, and bright yellow Cleopatras were on the wing. We saw birthwort, and a Spanish festoon (the larvae feed on birthwort) dashed through. There were Iberian fritillaries in several places and our first Italian man orchids. Back nearer to the minibus a Provence hairstreak settled on open ground, and there were yellow bee orchids by the wall we'd stepped over.



Provence hairstreak in a sea of annual daisies.

We drove a short distance to our stopping place for lunch. Here a nuthatch entertained us, modifying with mud its nest cavity in a hole in a large eucalyptus tree. We strolled from here along a quiet lane overlooking a pretty valley, which included a small farm reservoir with a little grebe and moorhens. A

short-toed treecreeper clambered on a cork oak, a chiffchaff showed itself a few times, a cuckoo called and flew past. Along the edge of the track, we looked at the white flowers and distinctive seeds of shepherd's needle.

We headed east, stopping to scan for bustards on the plains of Santa Marta de Magasca, without luck. Our final stop of the day was on the edge of Trujillo by the old grain silos which now support a large colony of lesser kestrels (photo on front cover of this report). We spent a while watching the kestrels around the many nest boxes sited here, including a male with a ring. There were a few jackdaws and feral pigeons with the lesser kestrels. The views were good enough to see the kestrels' pale toenails.

Monday 23 March – Alange, Sierra de Utrera (Jabata valley) and Mérida

Breakfast was at eight o'clock rather than 08:30 as we had a little further to drive today, so there was no 'official' pre-breakfast walk. Nonetheless, Jules and I met where we'd walked yesterday; we saw a late wintering robin and, best of all, had a close encounter with (and filmed) a lesser spotted woodpecker. It was another warm and sunny day.



Some of the house martin nests in Alange.

We drove south, passing through areas of intensive farming, including densely planted olive trees and peaches, and at one point we skirted a large area of rice paddy fields. This took us to the town of Alange, from where we walked past a row of properties with an incredible density of house martins: I counted 86 nests, some old, some occupied, some under restoration with fresh mud and some occupied by house sparrows. This brought us to a rocky outcrop, which had two rock buntings and a blue rock thrush, and into an area rich in orchids. Martin advised not to stop for the two pink butterfly orchids behind a fence as there would be more, and indeed there were. There were also champagne orchids plus a curiosity: seven hybrid pink butterfly x champagne orchids. Asphodels were everywhere: previously we'd seen leaves only, but here they were in full flower or even gone over. We passed several people in high vis carrying handfuls of wild flowers (not orchids!), and we learnt that they were trainee gardeners for municipal gardens. We saw many orchids of species seen previously, such as sawfly orchids and some very tall woodcock orchids, a new Ophrys in the shape of early spider orchid and some unusually tall conical orchids. But it was the pink butterfly orchids that stole the show: they were numerous, tall and colourful. We heard a nightingale (that was a 'write-in' on the checklist) and found red cabbage bugs (=brassica bugs). Green-flowered birthwort and friar's cowl leaves were noted, and villous deadly carrot – previously we'd seen leaves only – was coming into flower, a species we see in full flower in June in the Picos de Europa.



Lef to right: pink butterfly orchid; hybrid pink butterfly x champagne orchid; champagne orchid.

Back in Alange, there was a conveniently placed café where we'd parked. Then we drove a short distance to another spot in Alange with another densely packed house martin colony under arches.

For lunch we moved to Sierra de Utrera (the Jabata Valley), where we ate our picnics. We then had time in a beautiful protected area with numerous green-winged orchids and Lusitanian fritillaries, narrow-leaved

cistus, French lavender and hundreds of yellow anemones in both white and yellow. We had a good view of a Spanish festoon butterfly.



Sierra de Utrera; Iberian fritillary.

We stopped at the dam of Alange, home to Spain's biggest colony of alpine swifts, present today in very good numbers. There was a black wheatear on the large rock next to where we parked.

We drove onto Mérida. We walked through a park – with hoopoes – to the Roman Bridge. There was a common sandpiper by the river, a little bittern also by the water's edge and several non-native red-eared slider terrapins hauled out onto vegetation. Glossy ibises flew overhead, making their way to the island egret colony that we then walked to. This relatively new colony was dominated by cattle egrets, though with a good sprinkling of glossy ibises. We found a night heron, there was a spoonbill on a nest plus three others nearby and, with surprising difficulty, we found a little egret. A marsh harrier caused commotion for a while. As we walked back to the bridge, Martin heard a penduline tit, leading him to search a eucalyptus tree and to find a penduline tit nest. Back on the bridge, we also managed to see a penduline tit, and a familiar call alerted us to a bee-eater flying over. A few of us also glimpsed a monk parakeet, now common in some Spanish towns but just the one here so far, says Martin.

Back at base, we had a visitor at tea and checklist time: Laura from the former Finca Santa Marta (now Finca El Azahar), the base for 21 Honeyguide holidays from the year 2000 to 2019.



Roman bridge in Mérida; penduline tit nest in eucalyptus.

Tuesday 24 March: Jaraicejo and Almaraz

Before breakfast two nightingales were singing in Pago de San Clemente, close to El Recuerdo. We also heard hoopoe and cuckoo and saw many of the usual local birds, such as red-rumped swallows and crag martins, plus a late-winter robin.

As soon as we arrived at the heath at Jaraicejo there was a woodlark singing and Dartford warblers showed in some tall, open scrub. The main part of the heath was dominated by French lavender and white Spanish broom, with some gum cistus. The vegetation was lower than I remembered, having been cleared about five years ago, though had evidently regrown and looked good. Thekla larks were common here. We walked from the heath into an open cork oak woodland, with lots of dead timber, fallen and standing. Short-toed treecreepers seemed to be everywhere. We found a cooperative Spanish festoon, and dancing speckled woods were a new butterfly. Nearly all of the area's angel's tears narcissi had gone over. We

had a good view of a booted eagle and a stationary Egyptian grasshopper. The best bird, though, was a lesser spotted woodpecker that fed actively in cork oaks. As we drove away from the area a helpfully visible Dartford warbler showed in a dead broom by the metal gate by the way-in to the area.



Spanish festoon; cork oak woodland.

Coffee was in a bar with a large boar's head mounted on the wall, and it was warm enough to enjoy our drinks outside in the sunshine. Three red kites soared over us. We moved on to eat our picnics at an abandoned bend in the road, where we had excellent views of subalpine warblers.

Our afternoon excursion was the orchid-rich olive groves at Almaraz, on limestone. There were three short-toed eagles in the sky as we arrived. Visually the area was dominated by big patches of pale pink Italian man orchids, though with these there were also many others: conical, champagne, sawfly, mirror, woodcock, yellow bee and early spider orchids. Green-flowered birthwort was growing in several places, and we added two flower species to the list: the distinctly underwhelming bur chervil and red vetchling *Lathyrus cicera*. A dragonfly needed Martin's local knowledge to name: a violet dropwing, freshly emerged with not a hint of violet.

We returned to El Recuerdo in good time as, after tea and checklists, we had special guests. They were Marce and Lorena from the Extremadura office of SEO (BirdLife Spain), who came to mark Honeyguide's many years of support for SEO in Extremadura, through 29 holiday groups from 1998 to 2026. Marce gave a talk, with Powerpoint slides, about SEO's work, then presented me with a trophy celebrating our connection. That was followed by an interview, with Martin's help, for an article for SEO's magazine.

Our evening meal was at the Hotel Soterraña in Madroñera, where we were joined by Claudia and Patrick Kelsey for an evening out to enjoy local cuisine. We returned to El Recuerdo under a clear, star-filled sky.

25 March 2025: Arrocampo Reservoir, return to Madrid

For a second morning, two nightingales were singing close to El Recuerdo. Denise heard an owl in the night, again: this time, Martin was happy the description was good for long-eared owl, whereas the previous night's sound was little owl. We had breakfast at our usual time, 08:30. We popped into Martin's office to view his photo of an Egyptian vulture holding a stone over an ostrich egg, a bit of African behaviour recorded in Extremadura. Still inside, we had a quick view of a Turkish gecko, then went outside for a group photo, farewells and departure.

Early evening flights meant we had a time for a relaxed morning at Arrocampo Reservoir on this lovely, warm day, conveniently about an hour away in the direction of Madrid. We parked by the information centre, providing an opportunity to buy wildlife charts or fridge magnets. On adjacent wires, several sand martins were perching, remarkably good views of a bird that usually flits quickly by. From here it was a short walk to look over expanses of reed and reedmace, with the open water of the reservoir beyond. A black-winged kite hovered near a distant pylon, several of us had sightings of a little bittern and we all saw purple swamphens. A flying gull-billed tern was another new bird for the holiday. Marsh harriers were on the move all morning, as were griffon and black vultures: it's not far, as the vulture flies, from Monfragüe National Park. Two great spotted cuckoos flew over, chased by a magpie.

We walked on, past the shack with the barking dogs, to stand on the slope that leads to a hide, giving us an elevated view over the wetland. The most obvious birds were two purple herons standing on their nest in the reedmace, and the more you looked the more you saw: at least 11 purple herons, many half-hidden in the vegetation. A Savi's warbler was reeling, and twice Martin was able to find it in his telescope. Zitting cisticolas were surprisingly easy to see well, though a bee-eater that flew over wasn't seen by any of us. Also in the tricky-to-see category were red avadavat and common waxbill, though Jules and I, a little

ahead of the rest of the group, saw a waxbill briefly but well. Not far from where we started there were three Iberian bluetail damselflies on the grass.

After coffee in the café across the road, we took a short drive to eat picnics overlooking a lake punctuated with tree stumps. On one stump a great egret stood side-by-side with a cattle egret, showing their huge size difference. Overflying snipe (three of these) and little ringed plover were also new birds for the holiday, and a lesser emperor dragonfly flew past a couple of times.

It was time to leave and head for Madrid. We arrived in good time at Terminal 1, right by the bus for Judy to take to Terminal 4. Airport procedures were quicker than when we arrived and the Ryanair flight was on time.

Wildlife sightings of the week (and other highlights), as nominated by group members

Denise: nettle-tree butterfly; dor (dung) beetles; small, friendly group. Martin and Claudia's hospitality – including welcome afternoon tea and delicious cake – in the interesting historical building of El Recuerdo.

Judy: Spanish festoon; fields of lavender; the friendliness of the group; the depth of knowledge of the leaders; the variety of beautiful habitats with & without livestock and the large quantity of wildlife therein.

Julian: loved Extremadura, Casa El Recuerdo and the group, one of the best. Lesser spotted woodpecker; orchids and great scenery.

Nicky: penduline tit and nest; the group and area; the amount of orchids.

Everard: lesser kestrels; orchids!!; crested tit; Dartford and subalpine warblers; Martin and his lovely family and home; cork oak and olive habitats.

Mick: Spanish festoon; colony of spoonbills, ibises and night herons; very nice group.

Chris: pink butterfly orchids; nettle-tree butterfly; lesser spotted woodpecker. The thank-you from SEO was a touching conclusion to 29 years of Honeyguide groups in Extremadura.

Martin: pink butterfly orchids; the real sense of being part of Honeyguide history in Extremadura with the meetings with Isabelle, Laura and Marce.



French lavender; egret colony in Mérida.

WILDLIFE LISTS

BIRDS

Little grebe	Seen on five days, including small water bodies.
Great crested grebe	Seen at Alcollarín Reservoir.
Cormorant	Seen most days, often birds flying over.
Little bittern	Mérida and Arrocampo.
Night heron	In the heron colony at Mérida.
Cattle egret	Seen on four days, large colony at Mérida.
Little egret	Seen on four days.
Great white egret	Seen on three days, including Alcollarín and Arrocampo reservoirs.
Grey heron	Seen on four days.
Purple heron	Alcollarín, and nesting at Arrocampo.
Black stork	Seen in Monfragüe and two other days.
White stork	Seen every day.
Glossy ibis	Nesting in Mérida.
Spoonbill	Nesting in Mérida.
Greylag goose	One at Alcollarín Reservoir.
Egyptian goose	About 20 at Alcollarín Reservoir.
Wigeon	Flock at Alcollarín Reservoir.
American wigeon	Two males with the wigeons at Alcollarín Reservoir.
Gadwall	Seen at Alcollarín Reservoir.
Teal	Seen at Alcollarín Reservoir.
Mallard	Seen most days.
Shoveler	Seen at Alcollarín Reservoir.

Black-winged kite	One at Arrocampo.
Black kite	Seen daily.
Red kite	Seen daily.
Egyptian vulture	Seen on four days.
Griffon vulture	Seen every day, including over El Recuerdo.
Black vulture	Seen every day, including over El Recuerdo.
Short-toed eagle	Seen on five days.
Marsh harrier	Seen on five days, over plains as well as wetlands.
Sparrowhawk	Seen on three days.
Common buzzard	Seen on seven days, often while we were driving.
Spanish imperial eagle	Seen on four days (on the plains, in Monfragüe and at Arrocampo)
Booted eagle	Seen on two days.
Lesser kestrel	Seen on five days, including at the colony in Trujillo.
Common kestrel	Seen almost daily.
Peregrine	One in Monfragüe.
Red-legged partridge	Seen on four days.
Water rail	Heard at Arrocampo.
Moorhen	Seen on four days.
Purple swamphen	Alcollarín and Arrocampo reservoirs.
Coot	Alcollarín.
Little bustard	Two seen on the plains.
Great bustard	Only seen in flight near Campo Lugar, a single then a group of four.
Black-winged stilt	Two often by a pool next to the road to Trujillo.
Little ringed plover	Seen at Alcollarín and Arrocampo.
Lapwing	A single bird on the plains.
Snipe	Seen at Arrocampo.
Greenshank	One at Alcollarín Reservoir.
Common sandpiper	One on the river's edge in Mérida.
Black-headed gull	Seen on three days.
Lesser black-backed gull	Seen on three days, including over the plains heading to Sierra Brava reservoir.
Gull-billed tern	One at Arrocampo.
Black-bellied sandgrouse	Seen near Santa Marta de Magasca; heard here again a few days later.
Pin-tailed sandgrouse	Seen near Santa Marta de Magasca, a flock of about 50.
Feral pigeon	Seen daily.
Woodpigeon	Seen on six days.
Collared dove	Seen daily.
Great spotted cuckoo	Seen at Arrocampo.
Monk parakeet	One in Mérida.
Cuckoo	Seen or heard on four days.
Little owl	Heard from El Recuerdo.
Tawny owl	Heard from El Recuerdo.
Long-eared owl	Heard from El Recuerdo.
Pallid swift	Seen on three days, especially in Trujillo.
Alpine swift	Seen on two days, especially at the colony at the dam at Alange.
Kingfisher	One heard by several and seen by one on River Alcollarín.
Bee-eater	One flew over in Mérida; heard at Arrocampo.
Hoopoe	Seen or heard daily.
Iberian woodpecker	Pago de San Clemente only.
Great spotted woodpecker	Heard in the cork oak woodland.
Lesser spotted woodpecker	Seen twice at Pago de San Clemente, and in the cork oak woodland.
Calandra lark	Seen on the plains.
Crested lark	Seen on four days.
Thekla lark	Seen on four days.
Woodlark	At Alcollarín, and heard two other days.
Sand martin	Seen on three days, very good views at Arrocampo.
Crag martin	Seen daily.
Swallow	Seen daily.
Red-rumped swallow	Seen almost every day, a regular pair in Pago de San Clemente.
House martin	Seen daily, some wonderful colonies in Alange.
Meadow pipit	Seen on five days.
Water pipit	One in summer plumage at Alcollarín.
White wagtail	Seen almost every day.
Wren	Recorded almost daily.
Robin	Seen on three days.
Nightingale	Singing in Pago de San Clemente on the last three mornings.
Black redstart	Seen daily.
Stonechat	Seen most days.
Black wheatear	Seen by the dam at Alange.
Blue rock thrush	Seen on three days, about 10 in Monfragüe.
Blackbird	Seen daily.
Song thrush	A late wintering bird over Pago de San Clemente, 18/3.
Mistle thrush	Heard on two days, especially in cork oak woodland.
Cetti's warbler	Recorded on seven days, seen at Arrocampo
Zitting cisticola	Seen daily, including over El Recuerdo.

Savi's warbler	Singing at Arrocampo.
Reed warbler	Singing at Arrocampo.
Dartford warbler	Seen at Jaraicejo.
Spectacled warbler	Seen at Jaraicejo.
Subalpine warbler	Seen in Monfragüe.
Sardinian warbler	Seen or heard daily.
Blackcap	Seen almost daily.
Chiffchaff	Seen on seven days.
Iberian chiffchaff	Heard on 24/3.
Long-tailed tit	Seen on four days.
Crested tit	Seen at Miravete Pass.
Blue tit	Seen daily.
Great tit	Seen daily.
Short-toed treecreeper	Seen or heard on six days.
Nuthatch	Seen or heard on two days.
Iberian grey shrike	Seen on three days.
Woodchat shrike	Seen on six days.
Iberian magpie	Seen every day.
Common magpie	Seen every day.
Jackdaw	Seen on six days, including in Trujillo.
Raven	Seen most days.
Spotless starling	Seen daily.
House sparrow	Seen daily.
Spanish sparrow	Seen on three days; in the sparrow flock in Pago de San Clemente
Common waxbill	Seen at Arrocampo.
Red avadavat	One seen briefly at Arrocampo.
Chaffinch	Seen most days.
Serin	Seen daily.
Greenfinch	Seen daily.
Goldfinch	Seen daily.
Linnet	Seen on five days.
Hawfinch	Seen at the picnic spot in Monfragüe.
Cirl bunting	Almonte River.
Rock bunting	Monfragüe and Alange.
Corn bunting	Seen daily.



Corn bunting, griffon vulture; woodchat shrike (all ED).

MAMMALS (RK = roadkill)

Otter *Lutra lutra* deceased and spraints
Red fox *Vulpes vulpes* RK
Wild boar *Sus scrofa* – rootings
Red deer *Cervus elaphus hispanicus*
Roe deer *Capreolus capreolus*
Rabbit *Oryctolagus cuniculus*
Southwestern water vole *Arvicola sapidus*
Greater white-toothed shrew *Crocidura russula* RK
Iberian mole *Talpa occidentalis* hills

REPTILES & AMPHIBIANS

Spanish (stripe-necked) terrapin *Mauremys leprosa*
Red-eared slider *Trachemys scripta*
Viperine snake *Natrix maura* RK
Montpellier snake *Malpolon monspessulanus* RK
Large psammodromus *Psammodromus algirus*
Western psammodromus *Psammodromus occidentalis*
Turkish gecko *Hemidactylus turcicus*
Iberian water frog *Rana perezi*

FISH **Barbel** *Barbus barbus*,
Common carp *Cyprinus carpio*

BUTTERFLIES

Swallowtail
Spanish festoon
Small white
Green-striped white
Western dappled white
Clouded yellow

Cleopatra
Nettle-tree butterfly
Red admiral
Painted lady
Small heath
Southern speckled wood

Provence hairstreak
Small copper
Holly blue
Common blue



Western dappled white; freshly emerged broad-bodied chaser; red cabbage bug.

OTHER INVERTEBRATES

- Lesser emperor *Anax parthenope*
- Violet dropwing *Trithemis annulata*
- Broad-bodied chaser *Libellula depressa*
- Iberian blue-tailed damselfly *Ischnura graellsii*
- A large pond skater, probably *Aquarius najas*
- Egyptian grasshopper/locust *Anacridium aegyptium*
- Broad green-winged grasshopper *Aiolopus strepens*
- Black oil beetle *Meloe proscarabaeus*
- Rhinoceros beetle *Copris hispanicus*
- Dor beetle or dumbledor *Geotrupes stercorius*
- 7-spot ladybird *Coccinella 7-punctata*
- A ground beetle *Chlaenius festivus*
- A red-and-black ground bug *Spilostethus pandurus*
- Red cabbage (brassica) bug *Eurydema oleracea*
- Rhombic leatherbug *Syromatus rhombeus*

- Pine processionary moth *Thaumetopoea pityocampa* tents
- Grass processionary moth *Thaumetopoea herculeana* caterpillars
- Caterpillars of the tiger moth or winter webworm *Ocnognyna boetica* aka Rambur's pellicle
- Grass eggar moth caterpillar *Lasiocampa trifolii*
- Purple-barred yellow moth (day-flying) *Lythria cruentaria*
- Violet carpenter bee *Xylocopa violacea*
- Honey bee *Apis mellifera*
- A bee-fly sp *Bombyliidae*
- Blood spotted sugar ant *Camponotus cruentatus*
- Great centipede *Scolopendra cingulatus*
- Leopard slug *Limax maximus*



Another freshly emerged dragonfly: female violet dropwing (MK). Dor beetles, which provided great entertainment.

PLANTS

Numbers on the right refer to Blamey & Grey-Wilson, *Mediterranean Wild Flowers*. Some more recently coined English names are included, which may not be in Blamey. Polunin refers to Polunin & Smythies, *Flowers of south-west Europe*.

Where there is no number, sometimes they are in floras from northern Europe.

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.

Pinaceae	<i>Pinus pinea</i>	Stone / umbrella pine (3)
	<i>Pinus pinaster</i>	Maritime pine (5)
Fagaceae	<i>Quercus coccifera</i>	Kermes oak (24)
	<i>Quercus rotundifolia</i>	Holm oak (26)
	<i>Quercus suber</i>	Cork oak (27)
Ulmaceae	<i>Ulmus minor</i>	Field elm
	<i>Celtis australis</i> P	Southern nettle-tree (39)
Phyllanthaceae	<i>Flueggea tinctoria</i>	Tamujo
Urticaceae	<i>Urtica membranacea</i>	Membranous nettle (49)
	<i>U. urens</i>	Annual nettle
Polygonaceae	<i>Rumex bucephalophorus</i>	Horned dock, often brick-red sheets on dry ground

	<i>Rumex scutatus</i>	Rubble dock or French sorrel
Aristolochiaceae	<i>Aristolochia paucinervis</i>	Green-flowered birthwort
Caryophyllaceae	<i>Cerastium glomeratum</i>	Sticky mouse-ear
	<i>Corrigiola litoralis</i>	Strapwort
	<i>Paronychia argentea</i>	Paronychia or Algerian tea (136)
	<i>Spergularia arvensis</i>	Corn spurrey
	<i>Spergularia purpurea</i>	Purple sand-spurrey (148)
	<i>Silene colorata</i>	Mediterranean catchfly (180)
Papaveraceae	<i>Papaver rhoeas</i>	Common poppy (283)
Ranunculaceae	<i>Anemone palmata</i>	Yellow anemone (218)
	<i>Ranunculus</i> sp.	Water crowfoot sp.
	<i>Ranunculus paludosus</i>	Jersey buttercup (249)
Fumariaceae	<i>Fumaria capreolata</i>	Ramping fumitory (303)
	<i>Platycapnos spicata</i>	Spiked fumitory (Polunin 282)
Cruciferae	<i>Alyssum alyssoides</i>	Small Alison
	<i>Raphanus raphanistrum</i>	Wild radish (369)
	<i>Sinapsis arvensis</i>	Charlock
	<i>Sisymbrium altissimum</i>	Tall rocket
	The abundant yellow crucifer in fields and on disturbed ground everywhere.	
Resedaceae	<i>Reseda luteola</i>	Weld or dyer's rocket 377
Crassulaceae	<i>Umbilicus rupestris</i>	Navelwort (396)
Rosaceae	<i>Rosa canina</i>	Common dogrose (c.404)
Saxifragaceae	<i>Saxifraga granulata</i>	Meadow saxifrage
Leguminosae	<i>Acacia dealbata</i> P	'Mimosa' or Silver wattle (432)
	<i>Adenocarpus argyrophyllus</i>	Spanish adenocarpus (in neither book)
	<i>Anthyllis lotooides</i>	(Polunin 623a)
	<i>Astragalus lusitanicus</i>	Iberian milk-vetch (504)
	<i>Cercis siliquastrum</i> P	Judas tree (430)
	<i>Cytisus multiflorus</i>	White broom
	<i>Cytisus scoparius</i>	Broom (456)
	<i>Retama sphaerocarpa</i>	Retama (478) NiF
	<i>Onobrychis humilis</i>	Not in Blamey or Polunin
	<i>Lathyrus tingitanus</i>	Tangier pea (536)
	<i>Lathyrus cicera</i>	Red vetchling (545)
	<i>Lupinus angustifolius</i>	Narrow-leaved lupin (486)
	<i>Medicago arabica</i>	Spotted medick (623)
	<i>Melilotus indicus</i>	Small melilot (572)
	<i>Trifolium subterranean</i>	Subterranean clover
	<i>Trifolium nigrescens</i>	Small white clover (647)
	<i>Trifolium campestre</i>	Hop trefoil (656)
	<i>Trifolium tomentosum</i>	Woolly trefoil (658)
	<i>Vicia lutea</i>	Yellow vetch (525)
	<i>Vicia sativa</i>	Common vetch (531)
Oxalidaceae	<i>Oxalis pes-caprae</i>	Bermuda buttercup (735)
Geraniaceae	<i>Geranium molle</i>	Dovesfoot cranesbill (741)
	<i>Geranium purpureum</i>	Little robin (748)
	<i>Geranium lucidum</i>	Shining cranesbill (749)
	<i>Erodium cicutarum</i>	Common storksbill (761)
Euphorbiaceae	<i>Euphorbia helioscopia</i>	Sun spurge (799)
	<i>Mercurialis annua</i>	Annual mercury (820)
Meliaceae	<i>Melia azedarach</i> P	Indian bead tree or Persian lilac (843)
Violaceae	<i>Viola (arvensis) kitaibeliana</i>	Dwarf pansy (931)
Thymelaeaceae	<i>Daphne gnidium</i>	Daphne (936)
Cistaceae	<i>Cistus albidus</i>	Grey-leaved cistus (big pink fls) (961)
	<i>Cistus monspelliensis</i>	Narrow-leaved cistus (961)
	<i>Cistus salviifolius</i>	Sage-leaved cistus (small white) (965)
	<i>Cistus ladanifer</i>	Gum cistus (big white fls) (971)
	<i>Helianthemum nummularium</i>	Common rockrose (996)
	<i>Tuberaria guttata</i>	Spotted rockrose (985)
Tamaricaceae	<i>Tamarix gallica</i>	Tamarix (1017)
Cucurbitaceae	<i>Bryonia cretica</i>	White bryony (1033) NiF
Cactaceae	<i>Opuntia maxima (=ficus-indica)</i>	Prickly pear (1040)
Umbelliferae	<i>Ferula communis</i>	Giant fennel (1141)
	<i>Smyrnium olustatum</i>	Alexanders (1087)
	<i>Scandix pecten-veneris</i>	Shepherd's needle (1097)

	<i>Thapsi villosa</i>	Villous deadly carrot (1159)
	<i>Anthriscus caucalis</i>	Bur chervil
	<i>Eryngium campestre</i>	
Ericaceae	<i>Arbutus unedo</i>	Strawberry tree (1176)
	<i>Erica arborea</i>	Tree heath (white fls) (1178)
	<i>Erica australis</i>	Spanish heath (pink fls) (1181)
Primulaceae	<i>Anagallis arvensis</i>	Scarlet pimpernel (1198)
Rubiaceae	<i>Galium verticillatum</i>	whorled bedstraw or southern cleavers (1299)
	<i>Rubia peregrina</i>	Wild madder (1305)
	<i>Sherardia arvensis</i>	field madder
Oleaceae	<i>Jasminium fruticans</i>	Wild jasmine (1239)
	<i>Phillyrea angustifolia</i>	Phillyrea or false olive (1246)
	<i>Olea europaea</i>	Olive (1248)
	<i>Olea europaea</i> spp <i>oleaster</i>	Wild olive (1248a)
	<i>Fraxinus angustifolia</i>	Narrow-leaved ash (-)
Boraginaceae	<i>Echium plantagineum</i>	Purple viper's bugloss (1383)
	<i>Anchusa undulata</i>	Undulate anchusa (1406)
	<i>Anchusa azurea</i>	Large blue alkanet (1409)
	<i>Cynoglossum cheirifolium</i>	A houndstongue (1409)
	<i>Myosotis ramosissima</i>	Early forget-me-not
Labiatae	<i>Marrubium vulgare</i>	White horehound (1445) NiF
	<i>Lamium amplexicaule</i>	Henbit deadnettle (1478)
	<i>Rosmarinus officinalis</i>	Rosemary (1526)
	<i>Lavandula stoechas</i>	French lavender (1528)
	<i>Salvia verbenaca</i>	Wild clary (1545)
	<i>Stachys arvensis</i>	Field woundwort
Solanaceae	<i>Hyosciamus albus</i>	White henbane (1555)
Scrophulariaceae	<i>Verbascum sinuatum</i>	(1601) NiF
	<i>Cymbalaria muralis</i>	Ivy-leaved toadflax (1632)
	<i>Parentucellia latifolia</i>	a tiny, red bartsia (1652)
	<i>Bellardia trixago</i>	bellardia (1653)
	<i>Linaria spartea</i>	a yellow-flowered toadflax (Polunin)
Caprifoliaceae	<i>Viburnum tinus</i>	Laurestinus (1711)
Valerianaceae	<i>Centranthus calcitrapa</i>	Annual valerian (1725)
Campanulaceae	<i>Campanula erinus</i>	Small bellflower. (1774)
	<i>Jasione crispa</i>	Dwarf sheep's bit (Polunin 1355c, but illustrated in
	Blamey / Grey-Wilson's <u>Alpine</u> flowers)	
Compositae	<i>Anthemis arvensis</i>	Corn mayweed
	<i>Bellis annua</i>	Annual daisy (1791)
	<i>Bellis sylvestris</i>	Southern daisy (1793)
	<i>Evax pygmaea</i>	Evax (1805)
	<i>Phagnalon rupestre</i>	Rock phagnalon (1831) NiF
	<i>Dittricia graveolens</i>	Stink aster (1841) NiF
	<i>Chrysanthemum segetum</i>	Corn marigold (1894)
	<i>Calendula arvensis</i>	Field marigold (1908)
	<i>Galactites tomentosa</i>	Galactites (1971)
	<i>Cynara cardunculus</i>	Cardoon NiF
	<i>Silybum marianum</i>	Milk thistle (1982)
Liliaceae	<i>Asphodelus aestivus</i>	Common asphodel (2089)
	<i>Gagea sp lutea?</i>	Yellow star-of-Bethlehem sp. (c 2106)
	<i>Fritillaria lusitanica</i>	Iberian fritillary (2152)
	<i>Ornithogalum concinnum</i>	A spiked star-of-Bethlehem (Polunin 1639b)
	<i>Ornithogalum baeticum</i>	Star-of-Bethlehem
	<i>Urginea maritima</i>	Sea squill (leaves & dead flower spikes) (2163)
	<i>Hyacinthoides hispanica</i>	Spanish bluebell (2191)
	<i>Muscari comosum</i>	Tassel hyacinth (2201)
	<i>Asparagus albus</i>	
	<i>Allium neapolitanum</i>	Naples garlic (2225)
Agavaceae	<i>Agave americana</i>	Agave, century plant 2253
Amaryllidaceae	<i>Narcissus triandrus</i>	Angel's tears (Polunin 1668d)
	<i>Narcissus jonquilla</i>	Common jonquill (2279)
	<i>Narcissus bulbocodium</i>	Hoop-petticoat narcissus (2281)
Dioscoreaceae	<i>Dioscorea communis</i>	Black bryony (2282)
Iridaceae	<i>Gynandrisis sisyrrinchium</i>	Barbary nut iris (2305)



White henbane

	<i>Iris germanica</i>	A large iris (2291)
	<i>Romulea columnnae</i>	Sand crocus (2320)
	<i>Arisarum sp</i>	Friar's cowl
Orchidaceae:	<i>Orchis papilionaceae</i>	Pink butterfly orchid (2401)
	<i>Orchis morio</i>	Green-winged orchid (2403)
	<i>Orchis (morio) champagneuxii</i>	Champagne orchid (2403b)
	<i>Orchis conica</i>	Conical orchid
	<i>Orchis italica</i>	Naked man orchid (2409)
	<i>Ophrys dyris</i>	
	<i>Ophrys speculum</i>	Mirror orchid (2422)
	<i>Ophrys lutea</i>	Yellow bee orchid (2423)
	<i>Ophrys sphegodes</i>	Early spider orchid (2428)
	<i>Ophrys scolopax</i>	Woodcock orchid (2436)
	<i>Ophrys tenthredinifera</i>	Sawfly orchid (2442)



Ophrys dyris or hairy bee orchid: Martin's tip is that it resembles a boxing glove (ED). Yellow bee orchid; sawfly orchid.

Gramineae & Juncaceae	<i>Lamarckia aurea</i>	Golden dog's-tail/goldentop grass (2459)
	<i>Typha angustifolia</i>	Lesser reedmace
	<i>Phragmites australis</i>	Reed
	<i>Arundo donax</i>	Giant reed (2494)
	<i>Juncus acutus</i>	Sharp rush

FERNS (PTERIDOPHYTA)

<i>Cheilanthes hispanica</i>	Spanish cheilanthes (2521)
<i>Asplenium trichomanes</i>	Maidenhair spleenwort (2525)
<i>Asplenium adiantum-nigrum</i>	Black spleenwort
<i>Ceterach officinarum</i>	Rustyback fern (2532)
<i>Polypodium vulgare</i>	Polypody
<i>Optionless lusitanicum</i>	Least adder's tongue

Lichens	Oakmoss	<i>Evernia prunastri</i>
	Starburst lichen	<i>Xanthoria parietina</i>

Gall (caused by a fungus) Alexanders rust *Puccinia smyrnii*



Galium verticillatum whorled bedstraw or southern cleavers, with distinctive seeds.