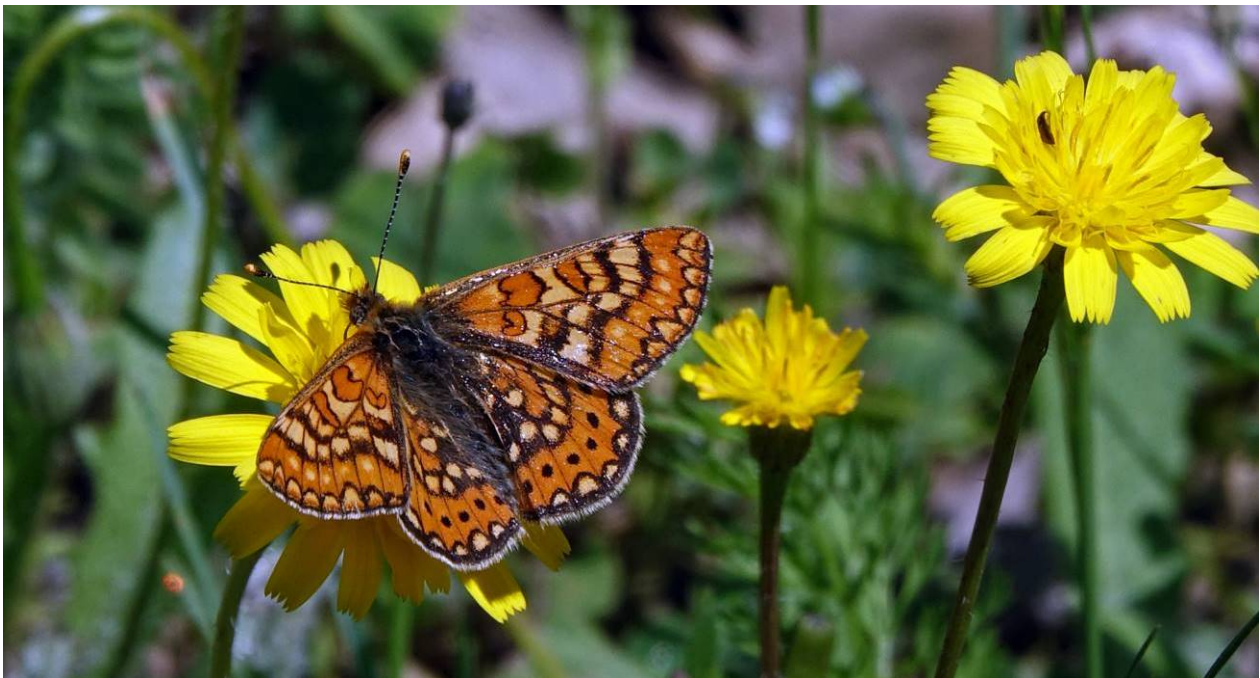




Honeyguide

WILDLIFE HOLIDAYS

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South of Salamanca
10 – 17 May 2026

Holiday participants

Julian Lawrence and Nicky Sutton
Sue and Peter Burge
Julie Sherwood

Tim & Phylida Wright
Philip & Jackie Jenkins
Jenny Loring

Leaders: Vega Bermejo from birdinginspainswildwest.com/ and Chris Durdin



Two group photos, for a change, this one is in Puente del Congosto ...



... and this group photo is with Sole at Neila de San Miguel (VB).

Our base for the holiday was Hotel Rural Salvatierra salvatierrarural.es/en/ in Salvatierra de Tormes.

Report and wildlife lists by Chris Durdin.

Photos were all taken on the holiday by group members, shown by initials e.g. Tim Wright (TW).

Other photos by Chris Durdin.

Cover: white stork nest (TW); marsh fritillary, the brightly coloured Spanish subspecies *Euphydryas aurinia beckeri* (VB).

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 this region, in particular protecting crop-nesting harriers. This year, SEO plans to use the donation to buy a drone to help pinpoint harrier nests. 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 **£480** brings the total given to SEO since the first Honeyguide holiday in Spain in 1991 to **£24,911** (through various Honeyguide holidays, mostly Extremadura and the Spanish Pyrenees). The total for conservation contributions from all Honeyguide holidays was **£167,577** at the beginning of June 2026.

There is more information about our donations to SEO in this blog:

honeyguidewildlife.blogspot.com/2026/03/conservation-donations-to-seo-birdlife.html).

ITINERARY

10 May 2026: Madrid to Salvatierra de Tormes
11 May 2026: Salvatierra area
12 May 2026: Campo de Alba
13 May 2026: Puente del Congosto and Neila de San Miguel

14 May 2026: Monleón and Quilamas Mountains
15 May 2026: Miranda del Castañar area
16 May 2026: Sierra de Bejar and Cadelario
17 May 2026: return to Madrid

DAILY DIARY

Sunday 10 May: Madrid to Salvatierra de Tormes

The Stansted and Edinburgh flights must have arrived at much the same time at Madrid Airport as we bumped into each other while we made our way along corridors. The EES process proved quick and straightforward, whether or not group members were previously 'in the system'. After baggage reclaim, we met Vega outside arrivals, then found Julie who'd flown in yesterday from Heathrow, and Philip and Jackie who'd come from Geneva. Outside it was pouring with rain on the way to the Europcar office, though happily that eased. Paperwork sorted, the group was split between my minibus (with Vega to navigate) and a taxi minibus driven by Fran (Francisco). We were on our way.

An hour and half later we stopped at a motorway services, unfortunately just after coach loads had done the same. Sue realised that buying sandwiches and snacks involved much less queueing than the hot food counter, so we did that. Outside there was a dark phase booted eagle to add to the griffon vultures and red kites seen already, plus swifts, black kites and white storks as we continued. Once into the more rural areas close to Salvatierra, for my bus at least, there was a burst of singing nightingale, bee-eaters on a wire, azure-winged magpies flying across the road and views of perched woodchat shrikes. The Hotel Rural Salvatierra, despite the village being ruined in many places, was busy with people finishing a very late lunch. We settled into our rooms.

We met first to get our orders sorted for dinner, then for a walk around the village, the weather now bright but very chilly. We started by enjoying a white stork on a nest on a low arch of an abandoned building. Other birds included black redstarts, serins, spotless starlings and a raven. We overlooked the reservoir, built in Franco's day, full to overflowing after a very wet winter. Vega explained how the many tumbledown buildings were because of the reservoir, not the direct impact but because people had lost their land. We looked through the window of the former communal wash-house and saw a new youth hostel. There was a rich ruderal flora, often lush because of the wet weather, including bellardia, kohlrashcia (childling pink), rock phagnalon (shrubby cudweed), fodder vetch, wall pennywort, small bellflower, thyme-leaved sandwort and annual nettle. In a garden a nightingale sang, then a second nightingale that some saw before it flew. It was a tasty, though late, evening meal, then time for bed after early starts and a long day.



Salvatierra del Tormes: overlooking the reservoir; the arch with a stork's nest among ivy.

Monday 11 May 2026: Salvatierra area

There was a nightingale singing in the hotel car park as we gathered to leave. Our first excursion was prompted by some bird news that had reached Vega: a northern bald ibis nearby, presumably a bird that had wandered north from the now well-established population in Andalusia¹. The ibis was close to the Berrocal area where we'd planned to go this afternoon, but just in case it was a fleeting visit, it was best to go now, though we paused on the way for two close bee-eaters on a fence. It proved easy to find in a hay field, by which another birdwatcher was just leaving. Above us was a calandra lark, a group of kestrels was feeding that were presumably lesser kestrels, though the key ID features proved tricky to see at a distance, and a rather dark Montagu's harrier flew through – a dark morph is fairly frequent in this area. As everywhere there were many flowers of interest, including an unfamiliar clover *Trifolium cherleri*. On this

¹ Vega found out that the bald ibis we saw is Cañaila, born in Germany and reintroduced to Spain in 2024 in Andalusia. He spent part of last year in Galicia and is obviously a traveller.

cool day of mixed cloud and sunny intervals, with showers, the indifferent weather meant we returned to the hotel for coffee.



Northern bald ibis (VB): an unfamiliar clover *Trifolium cherleri*; Gredos lupins *Lupinus gredensis*

We then headed to Vega's home village of Navahombela, giving her a chance to call in to see husband Alfonso, who was recovering from a broken ankle. She left us for a short time, during which we found woodchat shrike, a particularly bright linnet and, best of all, a brightly-coloured melodious warbler that allowed excellent views. With Vega back with the group, we explored nearby, soon finding big patches of champagne orchids, golden orioles that perched briefly on some dead trees plus a turtle dove that sang somewhere out of sight. Here, as at several places today, there were Gredos lupins *Lupinus gredensis*, plus blue narrow-leaved lupins for good measure.

Lunch – less light than intended, as a piece of the very good Spanish omelette was filling on its own – was at a bar called La Escuela, a former school.

Our afternoon was in the slatey landscape near Berrocal village. We stood on a bridge over a river full of water crowfoot, from where we could hear and then found a woodlark singing against dark grey clouds. Nearby was Iberian grey shrike, though we had no luck with finding a stone-curlew. The rather local toadflax species, *Linaria incarnata*, was in fine flower. Rain was hinting that a prompt return to base was a good idea, then it cleared up and we had a late afternoon purple patch of birds, especially a black-eared wheatear on a wall, a great spotted cuckoo flying past us and a 'ringtail' hen harrier.

We paused briefly on the way back to see the bald ibis, still there, and for more bee-eaters.

Tuesday 12 May 2026: Campo de Alba

We had a guest with us today: Veith (pronounced *fight*) Elspeter, a student from Berlin currently studying (through the Erasmus exchange scheme) at the university in Salamanca. He had approached us with a view to seeing how we related to the natural world, as human-environment relations is a subject he is studying for his geography course. Despite the weather forecast and overnight rain it stayed dry, if cool at times, until we were driving home this evening.

We started in the village of Herrezuelo, which has a lesser kestrel colony. They were easy to find, mostly feeding over adjacent fields, or perching on fences. Storks on the church, black redstarts, swallows everywhere and kites moving to and from added to the interest. There were almost always griffon vultures somewhere and we heard a quail. A damp ditch held lots of celery-leaved buttercup. We walked down to the river where a wryneck was calling and a melodious warbler was singing. As we walked through the village, those with Vega saw two Spanish imperial eagles flying over among the many griffons. From a viewpoint at the top of the village we could see a cluster of griffon vultures on the ground, up on a hill. We drove to Navarros for coffee, and Vega nipped next door to buy bread, cheese and fruit for our picnic.

We then spent time in the wide-open arable areas of the Campo de Alba SPA, designated for its crop-nesting harriers. There were calandra larks, Iberian yellow wagtails and several quails calling. We saw an extraordinary column of raptors in a thermal, mainly griffons plus a few black kites, and a black vulture flew over us. After a short time in the first area, with going further ruled out in case the track was too wet, we moved to where a tarmac road gave better access. We pulled off the road, scanned and immediately found a pair of Montagu's harriers, in the distance, quartering the fields.

We drove to Alba, pausing by a tall municipal building with huge arches, under which there were countless house martin nests. We had our picnic in a park open to the public by the River Tormes, where some tables by a closed café proved ideal to spread a tablecloth and the picnic. From here we spent the

afternoon on a riverside walk strolling and looking at wildlife in the trees, bushes and water. Golden orioles had flown around while we ate, and as you'd expect there were glimpses but not many sustained views. A purple heron – perhaps the same one - flew over three or four times, and a pale phase booted eagle came very close to us. An unfamiliar call from a small bird prompted a check with the Merlin app – a calling Iberian chiffchaff. We also saw it where some willows touched the water and soon after another started to sing and kept doing so. Vega had mentioned penduline tit, which helped as Jenny described a bird she could see on an arch of bramble, and some of us were speedy or lucky enough to see the tit before it flew away. Three gadwalls were a surprise find on the open water. We put a telescope on some hoof fungi on what was probably a dead willow, then used 'scopes again for a spotted flycatcher on some barbed wire that topped a high fence. A peregrine flew over as we retraced our steps, then Jules called me over on account of a half-hidden brown bird which was, as he suspected, a wryneck. It stayed just long enough for everyone to see it through telescopes.



Purple heron, Alba (TW).

Rain started as we drove back to base in Salvatierra where we chose our evening starters and main meals – a now helpful routine of early ordering – before dispersing to rest before checklists and the evening meal.

Wednesday 13 May 2026: Puente del Congosto and Neila de San Miguel

Our morning was spent in Puente del Congosto, a beautiful town with two bridges, a castle and riverside walk. From the bridge there were countless swifts, two red-rumped swallows, a kestrel on the castle plus griffons, a black vulture and booted eagle overhead. A blue rock thrush flew onto a concrete post, pushing off two rock sparrows that settled on a wire and rocks close by. Growing from the bridge's stonework there was an unusual figwort *Scrophularia scarodonia* – balm-leaved figwort. We walked through Puente del Congosto, paused for a group photo by a stone pig dating from the ancient Vetton culture² and stopped for coffee in a café. Moving on, a narrow-leaved ash tree had several birds in its open branches, including short-toed treecreeper, serin, Cetti's warbler, melodious warbler and a male cirl bunting. This led us to a different part of the town and the start of a short riverside walk. We found wall lizards, a little ringed plover and a common sandpiper among the stone boulders in the water, then snakes entwined around each other, later identified as viperine snakes. Flowers along here included undulate anchusa, Spanish bluebells and star-of-Bethlehem.



Puente del Congosto.

We drove a short distance to a botanically interesting area which had the unusual milk-vetch *Astragalus incanus* and a spurge *Euphorbia oxyphylla*. The weather was good enough for a few butterflies, notably western marbled white and Glanville fritillary. A large ocellated lizard showed well on a rock.

² <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Verraco>



Milk-vetch *Astragalus incanus*; spurge *Euphorbia oxyphylla*; booted eagle (TW); western marbled white (VB).



Red-rumped swallow in Neila San Miguel (VB)

We drove to the small town of Neila de San Miguel for an excellent vegan lunch courtesy of Sole, who runs a small environmental centre. She kindly gave us a tour of the building that she and her husband had renovated, including juniper supports for the ceiling, lathe and plaster walls and a bedhead made from local chestnut wood.

We walked from here – for me slightly delayed by a blue rock thrush in the town – into a lovely area of open woodland, at first huge, ancient sweet chestnuts, later Pyrenean oak. There were more butterflies, including marsh and lesser spotted fritillaries. An ascalaphid (owl-fly) *Libelloides hispanicus* was a bit of a star: the weather was briefly cool and this made it very approachable for a usually fast-flying insect. Nuthatch and jay were new birds for us, though the best birds were the many Bonelli's warblers, singing continuously and showing well for most of the group. The most glamorous new flowers were the local peonies *Paeonia broteri*; by way of contrast, Sue was pleased to introduce us to an underwhelming plant called smooth rupturewort and an odd composite

named rush skeletonweed. Jenny found some distinctive hygroscopic earthstar fungi. Other notable insects included a forester moth, red-and-black froghoppers and green huntsman spiders. Two red-rumped swallows proved approachable when we returned to Neila de San Miguel.



Green huntsman spider (female); hygroscopic earthstar fungus; Iberian owl-fly.

Our return journey was a little slowed for a very rural reason: a herd of cows that was determined to stay ahead of us in the road, despite the best endeavours of the man with them.

Thursday 14 May 2026: Monleón and Quilamas Mountains

It was a day that started bright but cold, steadily warming up and with no rain. The Mediaeval fortified town of Monleón was our first stop, complete with castle. A black vulture flew over and a crag martin appeared from under the entrance archway where it was nesting. The martin then settled, at first on the ground, secondly on a window ledge. There was a rock sparrow here too, and crowds of swifts tore past. We were

then overlooking woodland, and the ever-alert Jules was the first to find a lesser spotted woodpecker on a tall dead tree that was punctuated by woodpecker holes. An oriole called, as in so many places, and we were well past the point of mentioning the ubiquitous nightingales. However purring turtle doves prompted a search, revealing two on another dead tree, this time to our left. We descended into the wooded area then completed a circuit around the town. The sun brought out butterflies, especially Spanish festoon and marsh fritillaries, plus a violet carpenter bee and a hummingbird hawkmoth. Then a very pale short-toed eagle appeared in the sky.

Back where we started there was a café with outside seating where we stopped for coffee. Over us two black kites gripped talons, spinning as they descended, before breaking up before they crashed into a building. While we'd walked around the town a van was driving around with a rather mournful tannoy promoting his wares. He set up close to the café, and I received lots of comments about the set of three cotton briefs that I bought.

We drove on to what was probably the prettiest picnic site I have ever visited, set in Pyrenean oak forest with a carpet of yellow *Allium moly* all around. Among the sea of yellow were many early purple orchids, a local aquilegia species (subspecies *dichroa*), milkwort and white mountain sandwort. A female sooty copper (brighter than the male) flew from bloom to bloom. It was also a fine picnic, especially the empanadas – large pastry wraps. Sue found narrow-leaved helleborines.



Picnic at Honfria Quilamas, surrounded by *Allium moly* (VB); early purple orchids.

Four of the group set off walking up the drivable track through the forest, and the rest of followed on, picking them up part way to a lovely mountain-top meadow above the treeline of oaks with leaves that were only just emerging. Views were outstanding, we found chimney-sweeper moths, *Geum montanum* and Provence orange-tips; a curl bunting and a singing woodlark made brief appearances.

We descended and made our final visit of the day to some meadows tucked away in more oak woodland. Here an unusual squill *Scilla ramburei* was a special plant and we found green-flowered birthwort *Aristolochia paucinervis*. Lots of butterflies were on the wing, especially marsh fritillaries and brimstones. This led to a larger pasture where cattle roamed among granite outcrops.



Sooty copper (female) on squill *Scilla ramburei*; green-flowered birthwort; chimney-sweeper moth.

Friday 15 May 2026: Miranda del Castañar area

Another day starting cool then warming, with no rain. In the children's play area that we park next to are two olive trees, and we started by looking at the galls, called olive knot, that were evident on big and small branches. Our first stop was a granite heath with damp patches, over which bee-eaters flew and we heard golden oriole, Bonelli's warbler (as for any area with oaks) and a curl bunting. Turning over a piece of bark revealed a static large psammodromus lizard. There were hundreds of tongue orchids *Serapias lingua*, and other flowers noted early included yellow bartsia, field woundwort and two species of quaking grass. We opted for a relatively early coffee at El Pipero restaurant, to which we returned later for lunch.

Above Miranda del Castañar we parked by a grazed meadow, the hawthorns with an obvious browse line from the cattle. On the side of the dirt road there were many foxgloves of the local species *Digitalis thapsi*. The road turned a corner, and conditions went from breezy to sheltered. There were several interesting plants by the road here: *Tolpis barbata*, with its dark central spot, *Cistus psilosephalus*, a new species for most of us, bloody cranesbill, strawberry trees, a sawwort and the pale yellow *Andryala integrifolia*. Best of all though were several plants of the three-birds-flying toadflax in fine flower.



Three-birds-flying toadflax; edible pollen decorating yoghurt, El Pipero (both TW).

We drove to the town of Miranda del Castañar, and from the car park we could see a small religious procession just starting, heading for the town square. At that point Tim realised he'd lost his wallet, so with Vega and Phylida they swiftly returned to our previous stop and found it immediately. The rest of us had a short walk around the town, passing through its main square by the church that on occasions doubles up as a bullring.

Lunch at El Pipero was a delight: a succession of Spanish dishes. A most extraordinary thing was the *postre* – pudding – consisting of yoghurt with honey and pollen. The idea of collecting pollen for us to eat was explained by our host – the man with sideburns – by him bringing the box that bees returned to, carrying pollen that was then captured by a mesh the bees passed through, for a defined short period in spring so that bee grubs were still well fed.

It was now mid-afternoon, though there was time for three more stops. The first was at a mediaeval bridge over a stream with water crowfoot and various large rocks. Rocks were being used by Iberian terrapins to haul out of the water, and the water crowfoot was busy with calling Iberian water frogs. Not far from here we paused at a respectful distance from where bee-eaters were nesting in low sand banks.

Our final visit of the afternoon was to a grove of old pollarded narrow-leaved ash trees. There were two large asphodel species here: *Asphodelus serotinus* (endemic to the Iberian peninsula, branched inflorescence) and white asphodel *Asphodelus albus* (simple spike), a chance to see the subtle differences between the species. It was briefly cool with a few spots of rain, then distinctly warm as we arrived at a beautiful patch of Spanish lavender. This was alive with wildlife, with butterflies including Queen-of-Spain and silver-washed fritillaries plus western dappled white. Purple-barred yellow moth, a female broad-bodied chaser, a red-striped oil beetle (that was Jenny's find) and a conehead mantis all added up to a quite a list of interesting invertebrates. All around us was the sound of Bonelli's warbler, short-toed treecreeper and turtle dove.

Saturday 16 May 2026: Sierra de Bejar, Candelario area

A clear day, with just a little cloud: ideal for a day at a higher altitude. After buying fuel in the ham town of Guijelo, we drove up to La Covatilla ski resort, within sight of patches of snow. Watching from where we

parked, there were dunnocks and whitethroats, plus singing skylarks: birds of higher altitudes here (or higher latitudes in the UK). On the other side of the car park the turf was coloured by hoop petticoat narcissi, yellow gageas, an unusual buttercup *Ranunculus abnormis* with strap-like leaves, plus lousewort *Pedicularis sylvatica* in damp patches. Then Julie had a fine view of a male rock thrush, which after a while appeared at a greater distance on a post at the end of wicker fencing.



Mountain wildlife: hoop petticoat narcissi and rock bunting (TW).

We descended and took a challenging drive through the pretty but very narrow streets of Candelario. We stopped for coffee, plus snacks 'on the house', and it was warm enough to be outside, watching swifts and crag martins fly past. From here we ascended to a picnic spot with huge stone tables in a Scots pine forest, today for a picnic supplied by Hotel Rural Salvatierra. An open area proved good for butterflies, including scarce swallowtail and small tortoiseshell for some group members. Those in the right place or with good ears heard coal and crested tits, mistle thrush or Bonelli's warbler from nearby oaks. There were purple toadflaxes *Linaria elegans*, an endemic star of Bethlehem *Ornithogalum concinnum* and a lovely moon daisy *Leucanthemopsis pulverulenta*.

We then went higher again. At a roadside stop there were more patches of *Linaria elegans*. Listening revealed that there was a mistle thrush, again hidden from view, and a last the faint sound of an ortolan bunting, with eventually brief and distant views on a B-shaped rock. From here it was a short drive to the car park at the top, which was busy with campervans, mountain walkers and other day trippers. We scanned the open spaces for birds, until Jackie drew our attention to the rock bunting that was actually very close by. Then some of the group saw an ortolan bunting, again relatively close, though only briefly in view. Then it was time to return, back to base in good time as it was our final evening, to a hotel busy with a weekend wedding party.



Group members in Candelario, where we enjoyed parties of swifts (TW).

Sunday 17 May 2026: return to Madrid

It was time to leave and head for Madrid, again with taxi driver Fran in the leading minibus. We stopped for loos and fuel at a service station with a La Pausa café; there were no delays when driving through Madrid. To be in good time was helpful as the airport is huge, though the new EES process was quick. For the Stansted contingent, the Ryanair flight was delayed by nearly three hours because the GPS on the plane was not working. The plane returned from the runway, and we were transferred to another plane. Happily, with an early afternoon flight, we were not horribly late getting home.

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

- Sue *Narcissus bulbocodium* (hoop petticoat narcissi); lesser spotted woodpecker, scenery.
Peter lesser spotted woodpecker; wonderful medieval villages.
Phylida tongue orchids; lunch and the pollen demonstration; frog chorus in water crowfoot; scenery; thick-legged flower beetle
Tim: Sheer number of raptors; vast variety of butterflies.
Jenny: penduline tit; lavender glade with butterflies; psammodromus eating a cricket.
Julie: rock thrush; vegan meal at Neila; 'you lot', the rest of the group.
Philip bee-eaters; rock bunting; earthstar fungus.
Jackie Friday's day at Miranda del Castañar as a whole, especially the pollen demonstration.
Nicky bee-eaters and hoopoes; pollen talk; the company.
Jules wryneck; pollen talk; general company and Chris buying underpants.
Chris lunchtime meadow of yellow *Allium moly*; patch of Spanish lavender in ash pollard woodland with so many good invertebrates (Queen of Spain fritillary, broad-bodied chaser, conehead mantis); talon-grappling black kites.
Vega sharing my beloved biosphere reserve with who appreciate it; the vegan meal with Sole.

WILDLIFE LISTS

BIRDS

- Great crested grebe** Distant view on the reservoir at Salvatierra.
Cormorant On or flying over the reservoir at Salvatierra.
Grey heron Seen on three days.
Purple heron Flew over the riverside walk at Alba several times, 12/5.
White stork Three pairs nesting in Salvatierra, and seen every day.
Northern bald ibis A single bird on 11/5 that had travelled north from the reintroduction in Andalucia.
Gadwall River at Alba, 12/5, and distant birds on the reservoir at Salvatierra.
Black kite Seen daily.
Red kite Seen daily.
Griffon vulture Seen every day.
Black vulture Seen almost every day.
Short-toed eagle Seen on three days.
Marsh harrier One on 16/5.
Hen harrier Female on 15/5
Montagu's harrier Seen on 15/5 and 16/5.
Common buzzard Seen every day, often while we were driving.
Spanish imperial eagle Two on 12/5, at Herrozuelo.
Booted eagle Seen every day, often many times; more pale-phase than dark-phase birds.
Lesser kestrel A colony at Herrozuelo, 12/5, perhaps 20 birds, probably also on 11/5.
Common kestrel Seen almost daily.
Hobby Flying over the river at Alba, 12/5.
Peregrine Flying over the river at Alba, 12/5.
Red-legged partridge Seen on five days. Mostly walking along roads.
Quail Many calling in the arable fields in Campo de Alba, 13/5.
Coot River at Alba, 12/5.
Little ringed plover A single bird on the river at Puente del Congosto
Common sandpiper A single bird on the river at Puente del Congosto.
Feral pigeon Seen most days.
Woodpigeon Seen on six days.
Collared dove Seen daily.
Turtle dove Two at Monleón, 14/5 the best sighting; seen or heard on four days.
Great spotted cuckoo Two on 11/5 near Berrocal village.
Cuckoo Heard every day and seen almost every day.
Tawny owl Heard one night at Salvatierra.
Swift Seen every day
Bee-eater Seen on five days.
Hoopoe Seen or heard daily.
Wryneck Herrozuelo, 12/5; seen at Alba, also 12/5.
Lesser spotted woodpecker Seen well at Monleón, 14/5.
Calandra lark Seen over the cereal steppe.
Crested lark Seen on five days.
Woodlark Seen, 12/5 and heard, 15/5.
Crag martin Seen on the last four days.
Swallow Seen daily.
Red-rumped swallow Seen on three days, including at Puente del Congosto.
Yellow wagtail Iberian subspecies on the cereal steppes.
Grey wagtail Seen on three days by streams or rivers.
House martin Seen daily, some big colonies in Alba.
White wagtail Seen almost every day.
Wren Heard on four days, seen on the fifth.
Duncock A high altitude species here: seen at Sierra de Bejar, 16/5.
Robin Heard or seen on four days.

Nightingale	Singing in Salvatierra and everywhere else, several sightings.
Black redstart	Seen daily.
Stonechat	Seen most days.
Northern wheatear	Seen on five days.
Black-eared wheatear	11/5 only.
Blue rock thrush	13/5, Puente del Congosto and Neila de San Miguel
Rock thrush	Male at Sierra de Bejar, 16/5.
Blackbird	Seen daily.
Song thrush	Seen on 12/5, heard on 14/5 and 16/5.
Mistle thrush	Heard on 16/5 when at higher altitudes; seen from the minibus, 15/5.
Cetti's warbler	Heard on three seven days, seen at Puente del Congosto
Reed warbler	Singing from reed at Alba, 12/5.
Melodious warbler	Seen on heard on five days, with some very good views.
Subalpine warbler	Seen on four days, including at Salvatierra.
Whitethroat	A high altitude species here: seen at Sierra de Bejar, 16/5.
Blackcap	Seen almost daily.
Chiffchaff	Heard calling in Scots pine on 16/5.
Iberian chiffchaff	Calling, singing and seen on 12/5 by the river in Alba.
Western Bonelli's warbler	Heard and sometimes seen on four days, wherever there were oaks.
Spotted flycatcher	On a fence on the riverside walk at Alba, 12/5.
Crested tit	Heard calling in Scots pine on 16/5.
Coal tit	Heard calling in Scots pine on 16/5.
Blue tit	Seen on three days.
Great tit	Heard or seen almost daily.
Penduline tit	Riverside walk at Alba several times, 12/5
Short-toed treecreeper	Heard on three days; seen in ash tree in Puente del Congosto.
Nuthatch	13/5 only, in chestnuts at Neila.
Iberian grey shrike	Seen on 11/5 only.
Woodchat shrike	Seen every day, often while we were driving.
Jay	Seen on four days.
Iberian magpie	Seen every day, often flying across the road when we were driving.
Common magpie	Seen every day.
Common crow	Seen most days.
Raven	Seen daily.
Spotless starling	Seen daily; common in Salvatierra.
House sparrow	Seen daily; common in Salvatierra.
Tree sparrow	Brief views and flew past at Neila, 13/5.
Rock sparrow	Seen on 13/5, 15/5 and 16/5.
Chaffinch	Seen daily.
Serin	Seen daily, easy to see in Salvatierra.
Greenfinch	Seen daily, often in Salvatierra.
Goldfinch	Seen daily.
Linnet	Seen on six days.
Cirl bunting	Heard or seen on four days.
Rock bunting	A high altitude bird; 16/5 only.
Corn bunting	Seen daily.
Oortolan bunting	A high altitude bird; 16/5 only.

MAMMALS (RK = roadkill)

Wild boar <i>Sus scrofa</i> – rootings
Roe deer <i>Capreolus capreolus</i>
Western hedgehog <i>Erinaceus europaeus</i> RK
Iberian hare <i>Lepus granatensis</i>
Rabbit <i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i>

BUTTERFLIES

Scarce swallowtail	Glanville fritillary	Small tortoiseshell
Spanish festoon	Silver-washed fritillary	Painted lady
Small white	Knapweed fritillary	Small heath
Western dappled white	Lesser spotted fritillary	Southern speckled wood
Orange-tip	Queen-of Spain fritillary	Sooty copper
Provence orange-tip	Marsh fritillary	Holly blue
Brimstone	Western marbled white	Common blue
Clouded yellow	Large tortoiseshell	Southern brown argus

MOTHS (mostly day-flying)

Hummingbird hawk-moth <i>Macroglossum stellatarum</i>
Pine processionary <i>haemetopoea pityocampa</i> (tents)
Mullein moth caterpillar <i>Cucullia verbasci</i>
Purple-barred yellow moth <i>Lythria cruentaria</i>
Yellow shell <i>Camptogramma bilineata</i>
Forester moth <i>Adscita statices</i>
Chimney sweeper <i>Odezia atrata</i>
Burnet companion <i>Euclida glyphica</i>

REPTILES & AMPHIBIANS

Spanish (stripe-necked) terrapin <i>Mauremys leprosa</i>
Viperine snake <i>Natrix maura</i>
Large psammodromus <i>Psammodromus algeris</i>
Iberian wall lizard <i>Podarcis hispanicus</i>
Ocellated lizard <i>Lacerta lepida</i>
Iberian water frog <i>Rana perezi</i>

OTHER INVERTEBRATES

Broad-bodied chaser <i>Libelula depressa</i>
Conehead mantis <i>Empusa pennata</i>
Red-necked bull beetle <i>Heliotaurus ruficollis</i>
8-Spotted beetle <i>Trichodes octopunctatus</i>
Garden chafer <i>Phyllopertha horticola</i>
Red-striped oil beetle <i>Berberomeloe majalis</i>
A pollen chafer <i>Oxythyrea funesta</i>
A pollen chafer <i>Tropinota hirta</i>

Thick-legged flower beetle *Oedemera nobilis*
 Red-and-black froghopper *Cercopsis vulnerata*
 Striped shieldbug "Millwall bug" *Graphosoma italicum*
 Violet carpenter bee *Xylocopa violacea*
 Honey bee *Apis mellifera*

Paper wasp *Polistes* sp
 Bee-fly sp *Bombyliidae*
 Green huntsman spider *Micrommata virescens*
 Iberian owlfly *Libelloides hispanicus*



Glanville fritillary (VB); conehead mantis; thick-legged flower beetle on *Cistus psilosephalus*; large psammodromus (VB).

PLANTS

Numbers on the right refer to Blamey & Grey-Wilson, Mediterranean Wild Flowers, though many plants in this area are not Mediterranean. 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 sylvestris</i>	Scots pine
Fagaceae	<i>Quercus rotundifolia</i>	Holm oak (26)
	<i>Quercus suber</i>	Cork oak (27)
	<i>Quercus pirenaica</i>	Pyrenean oak
	<i>Castanea sativa</i>	Sweet chestnut
Urticaceae	<i>Urtica 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
Santalaceae	<i>Thesium humifusum</i>	Bastard-toadflax
Caryophyllaceae	<i>Paronychia argentea</i>	Silvery whitlow wort
	<i>Arenaria montana</i>	Mountain sandwort
	<i>Arenaria serpyllifolia</i>	Thyme-leaved sandwort
	<i>Spergularia arvensis</i>	Corn spurrey
	<i>Spergularia purpurea</i>	Purple sand-spurrey (148)
	<i>Silene vulgaris</i>	Bladder campion (157)
	<i>Silene latifolia</i>	White campion (158)
	<i>Silene dioica</i>	Red campion
	<i>Silene colorata</i>	Mediterranean catchfly (180)
	<i>Petrorhagia velutina</i>	Kholrauschia or childling pink (187)
Plumbaginaceae	<i>Armeria transmontana</i>	a thrift
Papaveraceae	<i>Papaver rhoeas</i>	Common poppy (283)
	<i>Papaver hybridum</i>	Rough poppy (290)
Ranunculaceae	<i>Ranunculus</i> sp.	Water crowfoot sp.
	<i>Ranunculus paludosus</i>	Jersey buttercup (249)
	<i>Ranunculus bulbosus</i>	Bulbous buttercup
	<i>Ranunculus sceleratus</i>	Celery-leaved buttercup (251)
	<i>Ranunculus abnormis</i>	Iberian buttercup
Fumariaceae	<i>Fumaria capreolata</i>	Ramping fumitory (303)
Brassicaceae/Cruciferae	<i>Lunaria annua</i>	Honesty
	<i>Raphanus raphanistrum</i>	Wild radish (369)
	<i>Teesdalia coronopifolia</i>	Lesser shepherds' cress
Resedaceae	<i>Reseda luteola</i>	Weld or dyer's rocket 377
	<i>Sesamoides purpurascens</i>	Sesamoides
Crassulaceae	<i>Umbilicus rupestris</i>	Navelwort (396)
	<i>Sedum arenarium</i>	Sandy stonecrop
	<i>Petrosedum amplexicaule</i>	Clasping stonecrop
Rosaceae	<i>Rosa canina</i>	Common dogrose (c.404) NiF
	<i>Geum montanum</i>	
	<i>Poterium verrucosum</i> (or <i>Sanguisorba minor</i>)	Mediterranean salad burnet 410
Saxifragaceae	<i>Saxifraga granulata</i>	Meadow saxifrage
	<i>Saxifraga carpetana</i>	An Iberian saxifrage
Leguminosae	<i>Adenocarpus hispanicus</i>	
	<i>Anthyllis vulneraria</i> subsp. <i>gandogeri</i>	Mediterránea kidney vetch

	<i>Astragalus lusitanicus</i>	Iberian milk-vetch (504) NiF
	<i>Astragalus incanus</i>	A milkvetch found in central Spain and Morocco, ssp nummuloides
	<i>Cercis siliquastrum</i> P	Judas tree (430)
	<i>Cytisus multiflorus</i>	White broom
	<i>Cytisus scoparius</i>	Broom (456)
	<i>Echinospartum ibericum</i>	An endemic spikey genista NiF
	<i>Lathyrus setifolius</i>	Brown vetch(ling) (544)
	<i>Lathyrus linifoliosus</i>	Bitter vetch
	<i>Lotus cytisoides</i>	Grey bird's foot trefoil (633)
	<i>Lupinus angustifolius</i>	Narrow-leaved lupin (486)
	<i>Lupinus gredensis</i>	Gredos lupin
	<i>Medicago polymorpha</i>	Toothed medick (618)
	<i>Medicago arabica</i>	Spotted medick (623)
	<i>Medicago minima</i>	Small or bur medick (622)
	<i>Medicago arabica</i>	Spotted medick (623)
	<i>Retama monosperma</i>	White Spanish broom
	<i>Robinia pseudacacia</i>	False acacia 488
	<i>Trifolium tomentosum</i>	Woolly trefoil (658)
	<i>Trifolium cherleri</i>	A trefoil (666)
	<i>Vicia lutea</i>	Yellow vetch (525)
	<i>Vicia sativa</i>	Common vetch (531)
	<i>Vicia narbonensis</i>	French / Narbonne vetch
	<i>Vicia villosa</i>	Fodder vetch (510)
Geraniaceae	<i>Geranium molle</i>	Dovesfoot cranesbill (741)
	<i>Geranium pusillum</i>	Small-flowered leaved cranesbill (744)
	<i>Geranium dissectum</i>	Cut-leaved cranesbill (745)
	<i>Geranium purpureum</i>	Little robin (748)
	<i>Geranium lucidum</i>	Shining cranesbill (749)
	<i>Geranium sanguineum</i>	Bloody cranesbill
	<i>Geranium pyrenaicum</i>	Pyrenean cranesbill
Linaceae	<i>Linum bienne</i>	Pale flax (777)
Euphorbiaceae	<i>Euphorbia helioscopia</i>	Sun spurge (799)
	<i>Euphorbia oxyphylla</i>	Spurge of W Iberia
	<i>Euphorbia peplis</i>	Petty spurge
Polygalaceae	<i>Polygala vulgaris</i>	Common milkwort (850)
Violaceae	<i>Viola (arvensis) kitaibeliana</i>	Dwarf pansy (931)
Thymelaeaceae	<i>Daphne gnidium</i>	Daphne (936)
Cistaceae	<i>Cistus monspelliensis</i>	Narrow-leaved cistus (961)
	<i>Cistus salviifolius</i>	Sage-leaved cistus (965) NiF
	<i>Cistus ladanifer</i>	Gum cistus (big white fls) (971)
	<i>Cistus psilosepalus</i>	a small hairy rockrose
	<i>Cistus umbellatus</i>	(white, sticky)
	<i>Helianthemum egyptiacum</i>	'Egyptian' rockrose
	<i>Helianthemum apenninum</i>	White rockrose
	<i>Tuberaria guttata</i>	Spotted rockrose (985)
Cucurbitaceae	<i>Bryonia cretica</i>	White bryony (1033)
Cactaceae	<i>Opuntia maxima (= ficus-indica)</i>	Prickly pear (1040)
Umbelliferae	<i>Eryngium campestre</i>	Field eryngo (1081)
	<i>Foeniculum vulgare</i>	Fennel (1108) NiF
	<i>Scandix pecten-veneris</i>	Shepherd's needle (1097)
	<i>Anthriscus caucalis</i>	Bur chervil / bur parsley
	<i>Oenanthe crocata</i>	Hemlock water-dropwort (1103)
	<i>Thapsi villosa</i>	Villous deadly carrot (1159)
	<i>Conium maculatum</i>	Hemlock
	<i>Conopodium</i> sp	Pignut
Ericaceae	<i>Arbutus unedo</i>	Strawberry tree (1176)
Primulaceae	<i>Lysimachia monelli</i>	Blue or flax-leaved pimpernel
Rubiaceae	<i>Sherardia arvensis</i>	field madder
Oleaceae	<i>Olea europaea</i>	Olive (1248)
	<i>Fraxinus angustifolia</i>	Narrow-leaved ash (-)
Convolvulaceae	<i>Convolvulus arvensis</i>	Field bindweed (1334)
Boraginaceae	<i>Amsinckia intermedia</i>	Californian borage or fiddleneck
	<i>Echium plantagineum</i>	Purple viper's bugloss (1383)
	<i>Anchusa undulata</i>	Undulate anchusa (1406)
	<i>Cynoglossum</i> sp	A houndstongue NiF
	<i>Myosotis discolor</i>	Changing forget-me-not
	<i>Pentaglottis sempervirens</i>	Green alkanet
Labiatae	<i>Marrubium vulgare</i>	White horehound (1445)
	<i>Lamium amplexicaule</i>	Henbit deadnettle (1478)
	<i>Lavandula pedunculata</i>	Spanish lavender
	<i>Salvia verbenaca</i>	Wild clary (1545)
	<i>Stachys arvensis</i>	Field woundwort
	<i>Thymus camphoratus</i>	Camphor thyme
Scrophularicaea	<i>Digitalis thapsi</i>	Spanish foxglove

	<i>Antirrhinum graniticum</i>	endemic snapdragon of granite areas
	<i>Verbascum pulverulentum</i>	Hoary mullein
	<i>Cymbalaria muralis</i>	Ivy-leaved toadflax (1632)
	<i>Parentucellia viscosa</i>	yellow bartsia (1651)
	<i>Parentucellia latifolia</i>	a tiny, red bartsia (1652)
	<i>Bartsia trixago</i>	bellardia (1653)
	<i>Linaria sparteae</i>	a yellow-flowered toadflax (Polunin)
	<i>Linaria elegans</i>	Elegant toadflax
	<i>Linaria incamata</i>	a purple toadflax
	<i>Linaria triornithophora</i>	Three birds flying toadflax
	<i>Scrophularia scarodonia</i>	Balm-leaved figwort
Binoniaceae	<i>Catalpa bignonioides</i> P	Indian bean tree
Plantaginaceae	<i>Plantago coronopus</i>	Buckshorn plantain (1696)
	<i>Plantago holosteum</i>	
Valerianaceae	<i>Centranthus calcitrapae</i>	Annual valerian (1725)
	<i>Valerianella</i> sp	cornsalad
Campanulaceae	<i>Campanula rapunculus</i>	Rampion bellflower (1759)
	<i>Campanula erinus</i>	Small bellflower (1774)
	<i>Jasione montana</i>	Sheep's bit
Compositae	<i>Andryala integrifolia</i>	a lemon yellow- composite (2081)
= Asteraceae	<i>Anthemis arvensis</i>	Corn mayweed
	<i>Bellis perennis</i>	Perennial daisy (1792)
	<i>Bellis sylvestris</i>	Southern daisy (1793)
	<i>Phagnalon saxatile</i>	Rock phagnalon (1833)
	<i>Leucanthemopsis pulverenta</i>	a moon daisy
	<i>Carduus tenuiflorus</i>	Slender thistle
	<i>Condrilla juncea</i>	Rush-skeleton weed.
	<i>Evax (Filago) pygmaea</i>	Evax (1805)
	<i>Onopordum acanthium</i>	Cotton thistle (1975)
	<i>Silybum marianum</i>	Milk thistle (1982)
	<i>Cnicus benedictus</i>	Blessed thistle (2011)
	<i>Tolpis barbata</i>	Umbrella milkwort
	<i>Hispidella hispanica</i>	
Liliaceae	<i>Asphodelus serotinus</i>	Iberian form of common asphodel
	<i>Asphodelus albus</i>	White asphodel (2089)
	<i>Gagea sp bohémica?</i>	Yellow star-of-Bethlehem
	<i>Ornithogalum concinnum</i>	A spiked star-of-Bethlehem (Polunin 1639b)
	<i>Ornithogalum baeticum</i>	Star-of-Bethlehem
	<i>Scilla ramburei</i>	
	<i>Hyacinthoides hispanica</i>	Spanish bluebell (2191)
	<i>Muscari comosum</i>	Tassel hyacinth (2201)
	<i>Allium moly</i>	Yellow garlic or lily leek
Amaryllidaceae	<i>Narcissus bulbocodium</i>	Hoop-petticoat narcissus (2281)
Dioscoreaceae	<i>Dioscorea communis</i>	Black bryony (2282)
Paeoniaceae	<i>Paeonia broteri</i>	Iberian peony
Orchidaceae	<i>Cephalanthera longifolia</i>	Narrow-leaved helleborine
	<i>Orchis (morio) champagneuxii</i>	Champagne orchid (2403)
	<i>Orchis mascula</i>	Early purple orchid
	<i>Serapias lingua</i>	Tongue orchid
Gramineae	<i>Phragmites australis</i>	Reed
	<i>Briza maxima</i>	Large quaking grass
	<i>Briza media</i>	Quaking grass
	<i>Avena sterilis</i>	Wild oats
FERNS (PTERIDOPHYTA)	<i>Pteridium aquilinum</i>	Bracken
	<i>Asplenium trichomanes</i>	Maidenhair spleenwort (2525)
	<i>Asplenium adiantum-nigrum</i>	Black spleenwort
	<i>Ceterach officinarum</i>	Rustyback fern (2532)
FUNGI (some IDs from Seek app, so may be approximate)		
	<i>Astraeus hygrometricus</i>	Hygroscopic earthstar
	<i>Fomes fomentarius</i>	Hoof fungus
	<i>Panaeolus papilionaceus</i>	Petticoat mottlegill
	<i>Pleurotus eryngii</i>	King oyster (or king trumpet) mushroom
	<i>Auricularia auricula-judae</i>	Jelly ear
	<i>Hypholoma fasciculare</i>	Sulphur tuft
GALLS	<i>Andriscus quercustozae</i> (gall wasp) on Pyrenean oak	
	Olive knot, an epiphyte pathogen (bacterium) <i>Pseudomonas savastanoi</i>	