

Spring in Southern Portugal

Naturetrek Tour Report

6 - 13 April 2013



White Stork nest



Little Owl



Meadows full of flowers

Report compiled by Philip Thompson
Images courtesy of Anne Kinniment



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Day 1

Saturday 6th April

Once everyone had arrived and assembled and we had picked up the mini-buses, we travelled the short distance to the Ludo Marshes section of the Rio Formosa NP, which lies alongside the airport. Here we took a relaxing orientation walk to familiarise the group with some of the common birds and plants. With lunchtime approaching we headed north to stop in the town of Sao Bras de Alportel for a café lunch. Whilst relaxing in the pavement tables an obliging Blue Rock Thrush was sighted singing from the adjacent rooftop. Moving on north into the hills of the Serra do Caldeirao we took another stop on a hilltop viewpoint. Several interesting plants were seen here, most notably *Ornithogalum broteroi*, a plant endemic to Iberia. We then completed the final stretch of our transfer to our hotel in Mertola.

Day 2

Sunday 7th April

Today was spent exploring various points of the grassy plains found between Mertola and Castro Verde, in search of the specialised and threatened birds of the area. It was soon apparent that as a result of good rains this year the plains were spectacularly colourful with swathes of purple, yellow, white, lilac and rusty red covering huge areas. An initial short stop was taken at a crossroads where we watched one of numerous White Stork nests, with their respective “squatter” Spanish Sparrows underneath, on the poles lining the main road. Plants included *Ornithogalum orthophyllum*, *Silene colorata* and *gallica* and *Cistus monspeliensis*. Little else of note was seen so we quickly moved on to stop by a track leading to a Trig Point on a small hillock.

During this walk we spotted our first distant Great and Little Bustards. On our return to the vehicles a very unconcerned and obliging Common Cuckoo sat atop the fence posts a short distance ahead of the group catching and feeding upon the numerous hairy caterpillars found among the vegetation. We then returned to the main road and moved on to stop and scan across into the protected LPN reserve at Sao Marcos da Ataboeira, which contains one of the main lekking areas for Great Bustard. We found the first of several groups of bustards straight away and were able to enjoy some excellent views of both male and female birds both on the ground and in the air. At one point a large number of birds took to the air. The reason for their possible agitation soon became apparent as the first of 3 Spanish Imperial Eagles appeared, flying low almost among the bustards. The 3 eagles then proceeded to gain height directly overhead to soar above the group providing for a great opportunity to watch these rare birds! Other raptors seen nearby included both Black and Red Kites and Montagu's Harrier, but they were rather overshadowed by the trio of eagles.

A short distance up the road we again stopped at a point where another good number of Great Bustards were showing, somewhat closer than previously. For lunch break we took a dirt farm track to stop alongside one of several small dams. The adjacent field held a small breeding herd of the black fighting bulls found in the region. The lake held small numbers of both Great Crested and Little Grebes and Mallard, Gadwall and Shoveler.

For our last stop of the day we moved on to explore the riverside and surrounding terrain of one of the tributaries of the Ribeira de Cobres. This was a pleasant and relaxing spot where several interesting plants were found. In the alluvial shingle small numbers of *Narcissus bulbocodium* and *jonquilla* were present alongside *Hyacinthoides vicentina*. The rocky fields held abundant *Campanula lusitanica* and *Linaria amethystea* and numerous more common species. We then returned to Mertola to freshen up before eating out in the town in one of the local restaurants.

Day 3

Monday 8th April

Our morning today was spent north of Mertola at the gorge of Pulo do Lobo. Due to the recent heavy rains inland in Spain and the very high water levels of the Rio Guadiana it was with expectations of a dramatic foaming tumult of water that we hoped to see. The reality was that the water levels were so high that the usual bottleneck of water was completely submerged by the river flowing over and above the rocks beneath. The Crag Martins and Barn Swallows that would normally be nesting in the rocks over the rushing waters were flooded out and were prospecting in the cliffs high above in the gorge. We spent some time walking up the track that led down to the water examining the local plants and hearing singing Cirl Bunting and spotting a Rock Bunting. The most interesting plants included *Cleome violacea* and *Allium neopolitanum*. We picnicked on a nearby hilltop that afforded excellent views all around. A couple of very distant Griffon Vultures were seen followed by an overhead Short-toed Eagle, best of all was the pair of rare Black Storks that drifted by. The scrub nearby held several species of Cistus, together with their similar looking relative *Halimium verticillatum*.

For the afternoon the group were offered the choice of spending the remains of the day exploring the historic town of Mertola with its Roman and Moorish remains or continuing on to the Spanish border near Corte do Pinto for a riverside stroll. All but one opted to continue with our natural history explorations.

Among the birds seen at the river was a pair of Wryneck, Griffon and Black Vultures, Hawfinch, Little Ringed Plover, and Common Sandpiper. The delicate blooms of *Omphalodes linifolia* covered large areas of the bank alongside many other species. With time still to spare our return journey was broken with a trip up a dirt track to scan the open fields. We soon found a couple of both Great and Little Bustards, Calandra Larks and numerous hunting Lesser Kestrels. Distantly soaring were good numbers of Griffon Vultures with at least one Black Vulture among them.

Day 4

Tuesday 9th April

Today we transferred from Mertola travelling cross-country westwards to our next hotel in Monchique. We began by taking some of the minor roads through the open country towards Castro Verde. The excellent rains this year had produced lush and tall vegetation that made finding some of the semi-steppe species tricky. At one stop our hoped-for Black-bellied Sandgrouse could not be found, but we were compensated with a few Collared Pratincoles and up to 8 Great Spotted Cuckoos.

We continued on with our journey before reaching Ourique and were then struck with bad luck when one of the vehicles experienced mechanical problems. The quickest option was for the group to be left at a very attractive viewpoint with shade, tables and toilets to enjoy their lunch while the other bus was driven to Faro to pick up a replacement. As a result not much time was lost and the picnic area kept the group entertained with several Hawfinches and Hoopoes in the orchards below. We eventually arrived in Monchique at our usual time having taken a quicker route for the remainder of the journey.

Day 5

Wednesday 10th April

We travelled due south today to visit the Alvor Estuary and Quinta da Rocha with its coastal salt marsh and sandbanks. We spent the morning taking a slow and leisurely stroll around the seawall in a circular route. Within the harbour a good selection of Terns and Gulls were present which included 3 Caspian Terns. During the course of the walk a good selection of wading birds were seen, many of which were familiar from estuaries in the UK, the exceptions being the noisy and strident Black-winged Stilts and the unobtrusive and retiring Kentish Plovers. We were fortunate with the sighting of a hunting Black-winged Kite over the brackish pastures inland, which was present for some time allowing everyone an excellent view of this attractive species. We also encountered a feeding flock of the introduced, and usually flighty, Common Waxbills that remained on view as they picked seeds from the tops of the grasses. Botanically one of the highlights was the striking yellow trumpets of the Broomrape relative, *Cistanche phelypaea*, growing from the sand and parasitizing the members of the Chenopodiaceae around it. In these coastal sands the common *Silene colorata* seen inland is replaced by the very similar *Silene obtusiflora*.

We then moved the short distance to visit the A Rocha Foundation centre for lunch in their shady garden (with tables! A rare treat...). Here we were given a short talk over coffee on the work carried out by the foundation by Marcial, who runs the centre. Our final visit of the day was at the ochre coloured cliff stacks at the Ponta da Piedade south of Lagos. Here was the intriguing and unusual sight of a breeding colony of Little and Cattle Egrets on an isolated stack mixed with the local Yellow-legged Gulls. Plants here included the abundant and attractive *Astericus maritimus* and huge unopened flower spikes of the Giant Fennel *Ferula communis*. Enough time remained for a coffee and ice cream in the café before returning to the hotel.

Day 6

Thursday 11th April

Our day today began with a trip through the range of hills known as the Serra de Espinhaco de Cao. During our first stop we were once again very lucky with an excellent view of an adult Bonelli's Eagle which rose above the nearby hilltops on a couple of occasions giving everyone a good view of the diagnostic features of this thinly spread and rather rare species. The surrounding scrub and trees held several Cirl Buntings, loudly singing Nightingales and elusive Iberian Chiffchaff. Orchids were represented by the very common *Serapias parviflora* and a few *Orchis morio*.

Our second stop was next to a small dammed pond that held numerous croaking and chuckling Iberian Water Frogs. Turning stones in a nearby stream revealed a Viperine Snake. Numerous froglets and toadlets of rather unidentifiable parentage filled the grassy banks, no doubt high on the menu of the snake seen earlier, although it would have to be careful itself as evidenced by a flyover Short-toed Eagle with a half-swallowed snake hanging from its beak!

A third walk was taken along a level forest track alongside a couple of small streams. In the surrounding *Cistus* and *Ditrichia* scrub we were lucky in spotting a couple of the most striking of the tongue orchids, *Serapias cordigera*, or Heart-shaped Tongue Orchid. Within a couple of large puddles in the track (no doubt a result of the good recent rains) were several adults of the endemic Bosca's Newts with numerous well-grown juveniles. A Black-eyed Blue butterfly was netted and potted for the group to see before release. Even more for the bug-hunters was the finding of a specimen of the large 'armour-plated' flightless grasshopper *Prionotropis flexuosa*.

From the hills we then made our way to the coast at Carrapateira where we had our picnic lunch under the shade of the Stone Pines. Once lunch had been eaten we then took a short walk through the pines to the open dune vegetation over which a colony of Bee-eaters were feeding. The flora here is exceptional with several attractive and endemic species among which were numerous *Leucojum trichophyllum* and *Linaria algarviana* and *spartea*.

We next travelled north up the coast to Aljezur and the beach and vegetated dune system at the Praia de Amoreira. Here the choice was offered to take a walk through the dunes or to continue to the coast café to relax over a coffee and ice cream. Those that opted for a walk made the better choice as the café appeared to have closed! The dunes held several special plants among which *Antirrhinum cirrhigerum*, *Biscutella vincentina*, *Corema album*, *Silene littorea* and *Linaria viscosa* were particularly noted. Once the walking party had returned to rejoin the rest of the group we made our way back to the hotel.

Day 7

Friday 12th April

The weather was kind to us for our final day with clear sunny skies and most importantly very little wind as we visited the exposed and flat headlands of Sagres and Cape St. Vincent at the most south-westerly point of mainland Europe. We began the day with a morning spent walking within the fort of Henry the Navigator. Within the fortified headland a natural limestone rock garden occurs with, once more, abundant rare and endemic plants to admire. Birds present included Blue Rock Thrush, Black Redstart and singing Thekla Larks. It was, however the scenery and plants that remained the main focus of our attentions.

Just within the fort a fine assemblage of species included the endemic *Bellevalia hackellii*, *Cerintho gymandra* and *Echium gaditanum*. Further round we were treated to some stunning examples of ‘the glory of the Algarve’ *Anagallis monelli* or Shrubby Pimpernel. The local wild carrot *Daucus halophilus* drew attention alongside Spiny Thrift *Armeria pungens* and *Astragalus massiliensis*. As we were leaving the fort one of the resident local Peregrine Falcons passed over. We then drove on to take a short walk among the endemic *Cistus palinbae* scrub on Cape St. Vincent. Here more good plants were seen, as well as the very localised Lorquin’s Blue butterfly.

For lunch we moved on to the nearby heath and pine shelter bed where we relaxed and scanned for birds. Several Red-billed Choughs flew by as well as Black Kite, Montagu’s Harrier and Short-toed Eagle. With lunch completed we took a more focussed search for the Spectacled Warblers which breed in this habitat. We were fortunate as a male of this normally skulking and fleetingly seen species took to singing prominently from atop a young pine within the heath, so enabling everyone a decent view!

Our homeward journey was broken by our final stop of the trip at a hillside near Figueira where several attractive plants grow. The most obviously showy were the numerous *Scilla peruviana* in full bloom. These were joined by several species of Ophrys orchids, most notably the Iberian endemic *Ophrys vernixia*. Other noted plants included *Ornithogalum narbonense*, *Stachys germanica*, *Morea sisyrrinchium* and *Gladiolus italicum*.

Day 8

Saturday 13th April

An early start was needed to make our flights home with little of note or incident seen on the way. Our final farewells were made between the various group members as they made their way to several different flights thus ending a very enjoyable and colourful trip (if a trifle cold, due to Portugal experiencing their coldest spring in 60 years! Similar to conditions at home...).

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Species List

Plants

<i>Group/Series</i>	<i>English Name (if any)</i>
PTERIDOPHYTES	FERNS & ALLIES
Dennstaedtiaceae	Bracken Family
<i>Pteridium aquilinum</i>	Bracken
PINOPSIDA (GYMNOSPERMS)	CONIFERS
Cupressaceae	Juniper Family
<i>Cupressus sempervirens</i>	Italian Cypress
<i>Juniperus phoenicea subsp. turbinata</i>	Phoenicean Juniper
Ephedraceae	Joint Pine Family
<i>Ephedra fragilis</i>	Joint Pine
Pinaceae	Pine Family
<i>Pinus halepensis</i>	Aleppo Pine
<i>Pinus pinaster</i>	Maritime Pine
<i>Pinus pinea</i>	Stone or Umbrella Pine
MAGNOLIOPSIDA (ANGIOSPERMS)	FLOWERING PLANTS
Magnoliidae (Dicotyledons)	
Acanthaceae	Bear's-breech Family
<i>Acanthus mollis</i>	Bear's-breech
Aizoaceae	Dewplant Family
<i>Carpobrotus acinaciformis</i>	Sally-my-handsome
<i>Carpobrotus edulis</i>	Yellow Hottentot Fig
<i>Lampranthus roseus</i>	Rosy Dewplant
<i>Mesembryanthemum nodiflorum</i>	A Mesembryanthemum
Anacardiaceae	Sumach Family
<i>Pistacia lentiscus</i>	Mastic Tree
<i>Rhus coriaria</i>	A Sumach
Apiaceae	Carrot Family
<i>Cachrys libanotis</i>	a Cachrys
<i>Cachrys sicula</i>	Sand Cachrys
<i>Crithmum maritimum</i>	Rock Samphire
<i>Daucus halophilus</i>	Wild Carrot
<i>Daucus muricatus</i>	a Carrot
<i>Elaeoselinum foetidum</i>	
<i>Eryngium campestre</i>	Field Eryngo
<i>Ferula communis</i>	Giant Fennel
<i>Foeniculum vulgare</i>	Fennel
<i>Oenanthe crocata</i>	Hemlock Water-dropwort
<i>Scandix pecten-veneris</i>	Shepherds Needles
<i>Smyrnium olusatrum</i>	Alexanders

Group/Series	English Name (if any)
<i>Thapsia nitida</i>	Thapsia
<i>Thapsia transtagana</i>	a Thapsia
<i>Thapsia villosa</i>	a Thapsia
Apocynaceae	Periwinkle Family
<i>Nerium oleander</i>	Oleander
<i>Vinca difformis</i>	a Periwinkle
Aristolochiaceae	Birthwort Family
<i>Aristolochia paucinervis</i>	a Birthwort
Asteraceae	Daisy Family
<i>Anacyclus radiatus</i>	
<i>Andryala integrifolia</i>	Andryala
<i>Anthemis arvensis</i>	Corn Chamomile
<i>Arctotheca calendula</i>	Cape Weed
<i>Asteriscus maritimus</i>	Yellow Sea Aster
<i>Bellis annua</i>	Annual Daisy
<i>Calendula arvensis</i>	Field Marigold
<i>Calendula suffruticosa</i>	
<i>Carduncellus caeruleus</i>	
<i>Carduus tenuiflorus</i>	Seaside or Slender Thistle
<i>Centaurea calycitrapa</i>	Red Star Thistle
<i>Centaurea sphaerocephala subsp. polyacantha</i>	-
<i>Centaurea pullata</i>	-
<i>Chamaemelum mixtum.</i>	a Chamomile
<i>Coleostephus myconis</i>	
<i>Cotula coronopifolia</i>	Button Weed
<i>Crepis capillaris</i>	Smooth hawksbeard
<i>Crepis vesicaria</i>	Beaked Hawksbeard
<i>Cynara algarbiensis</i>	
<i>Cynara cardunculus</i>	Cardoon
<i>Cynara humilis</i>	
<i>Dittrichia viscosa subsp. revoluta</i>	-
<i>Evax lusitanica</i>	Evax
<i>Filago vulgaris</i>	Common Cudweed
<i>Galactites tomentosa</i>	Galactites
<i>Galinsoga quadriradiata</i>	Shaggy Soldier
<i>Glebionis coronarium var. coronarium</i>	Crown Daisy
<i>Glebionis coronarium var. discolor</i>	Crown Daisy
<i>Glebionis segetum</i>	Corn Marigold
<i>Helichrysum italicum</i>	
<i>Helichrysum stoechas</i>	Curry Plant
<i>Otanthus maritimus</i>	Cottonweed
<i>Pallenis spinosa</i>	Spiny Pallenis
<i>Phagnalon rupestre</i>	Phragmalon
<i>Picris echioides</i>	
<i>Pulicaria odora</i>	-
<i>Riechardia gaditana</i>	
<i>Riechardia intermedia</i>	
<i>Scolymus hispanicus</i>	Spanish Oysterplant
<i>Senecio jacobaea</i>	Ragwort
<i>Senecio gallicus</i>	

Group/Series	English Name (if any)
<i>Senecio vulgaris</i>	Groundsel
<i>Silybum marianum</i>	Milk Thistle
<i>Sonchus asper</i>	Prickly Sow-thistle
<i>Sonchus oleraceus</i>	Smooth Sow-thistle
<i>Tolpis barbata</i>	Tolpis
<i>Tolpis umbellatum</i>	a Tolpis
Boraginaceae	Borage Family
<i>Anchusa azurea</i>	Large Blue Alkanet
<i>Anchusa undulata</i>	Undulate Anchusa
<i>Borago officinalis</i>	Borage
<i>Cerintho gymnandra</i>	Honeywort
<i>Cynoglossum creticum</i>	Blue Hound's-tongue
<i>Echium gaditanum</i>	
<i>Echium plantagineum</i>	Purple Viper's Bugloss
<i>Lithodora prostrata subsp. lusitanica</i>	Scrambling Gromwell
<i>Omphalodes linifolia</i>	
Brassicaceae	Cabbage Family
<i>Biscutella auriculata</i>	
<i>Biscutella vinctina</i>	A Buckler Mustard
<i>Brassica nigra</i>	Black Mustard
<i>Capsella bursa-pastoris</i>	Shepherds Purse
<i>Coronopus didymus</i>	Lesser Swinecress
<i>Diploaxis siifolia subsp. vinctina</i>	-
<i>Eruca vesicaria subsp. sativa</i>	Rocket
<i>Iberis procumbens</i>	Candytuft
<i>Lobularia maritima</i>	Sweet Alison
<i>Malcolmia lacera</i>	
<i>Malcolmia littorea</i>	Sand Stock
<i>Sinapis arvensis</i>	Charlock
<i>Sisymbrium officinale</i>	Hedge Mustard
Cactaceae	Cactus Family
<i>Opuntia ficus-indica</i>	Barbary Fig
Campanulaceae	Bellflower Family
<i>Campanula erinus</i>	
<i>Campanula lusitanica</i>	
<i>Jasione montana</i>	
Capparidaceae	Caper Family
<i>Cleome violacea</i>	-
Caprifoliaceae	Honeysuckle Family
<i>Lonicera implexa</i>	A Honeysuckle
<i>Viburnum tinus</i>	Laurustinus
Caryophyllaceae	Pink Family
<i>Arenaria montana</i>	Mountain Sandwort
<i>Cerastium fontanum</i>	Mouse-eared Chickweed
<i>Cerastium glomeratum</i>	Sticky Mouse-ear
<i>Dianthus broteri</i>	a Pink

Group/Series	English Name (if any)
<i>Paronychia argentea</i>	Silvery Paronychia
<i>Polycarpon tetraphyllum</i>	Four-leaved Allseed
<i>Silene colorata</i>	a Catchfly
<i>Silene cretica</i>	Cretan Catchfly
<i>Silene gallica</i>	Small-flowered Catchfly
<i>Silene latifolia</i>	White Champion
<i>Silene littorea</i>	a Catchfly
<i>Silene obtusifolia</i>	
<i>Silene uniflora</i>	Sea Champion
<i>Silene vulgaris</i>	Bladder Champion
<i>Spergularia media</i>	Greater Sea Spurrey
<i>Spergularia purpurea</i>	Purple Spurrey
<i>Stellaria media</i>	Chickweed
Chenopodiaceae	Goosefoot Family
<i>Arthrocnemum macrostychium</i>	
<i>Atriplex halimus</i>	Shrubby Orache
<i>Beta vulgaris subsp.maritima</i>	Sea Beet
<i>Chenopodium album</i>	Fat Hen
<i>Halimione portulacoides</i>	Sea Purslane
<i>Salicornia ramosissima</i>	Glasswort
<i>Salsola vermiculata</i>	
<i>Suaeda vera</i>	Shrubby Seablite
Cistaceae	Rockrose Family
<i>Cistus albidus</i>	Grey-leaved Cistus
<i>Cistus crispus</i>	a Cistus
<i>Cistus ladanifer</i>	Gum Cistus
<i>Cistus monspeliensis</i>	Narrow-leaved Cistus
<i>Cistus palhinhae</i>	a Cistus
<i>Cistus salvifolius</i>	Sage-leaved Cistus
<i>Fumana thymifolia</i>	Thyme-leaved Fumana
<i>Halimium halimifolium</i>	
<i>Halimium calycinum</i>	-
<i>Halimium verticillatum</i>	
<i>Tuberaria guttata</i>	Spotted Rockrose
Convolvulaceae	Bindweed Family
<i>Convolvulus althaeoides</i>	Mallow-leaved Bindweed
<i>Convolvulus tricolor</i>	
<i>Ipomoea purpurea</i>	Common Morning-glory
Crassulaceae	Stonecrop Family
<i>Sedum sediforme</i>	a Stonecrop
<i>Umbilicus rupestris</i>	Wall pennywort
Cucurbitaceae	Gourd Family
<i>Bryonia cretica subsp.dioica</i>	White Bryony
<i>Ecballium elaterium</i>	Squirting Cucumber
Dipsacaceae	Teasel family
<i>Scabiosa atropurpurea</i>	

Group/Series	English Name (if any)
Ericaceae	Heather Family
<i>Arbutus unedo</i>	Strawberry Tree
<i>Corema album</i>	-
<i>Erica arborea</i>	
<i>Erica australis</i>	Spanish Heath
<i>Erica lusitanica</i>	Portuguese Heath
<i>Rhododendron ponticum subsp. baeticum</i>	
Euphorbiaceae	Spurge Family
<i>Euphorbia exigua</i>	Dwarf Spurge
<i>Euphorbia helioscopia</i>	Sun Spurge
<i>Euphorbia characias subsp.characias</i>	Large Mediterranean Spurge
<i>Euphorbia paralias</i>	Sea Spurge
<i>Mercurialis annua</i>	Annual Mercury
<i>Ricinus communis</i>	Castor-oil Plant
Fabaceae	Pea Family
<i>Acacia longifolia</i>	
<i>Anthyllis tetraphylla</i>	Bladder Vetch
<i>Anthyllis vulneraria subsp.maura</i>	Mediterranean Kidney-vetch
<i>Astragalus boeticus</i>	-
<i>Astragalus echinatus</i>	
<i>Astragalus lusitanicus (Erophaca baetica)</i>	Iberian Milk-vetch
<i>Astragalus massiliensis</i>	Tragacanth
<i>Bitumaria bituminosa</i>	Pitch Trefoil
<i>Ceratonia siliqua</i>	Carob or Locust Tree
<i>Cercis siliquastrum</i>	Judas Tree
<i>Coronilla scorpiodes</i>	Annual Scorpon Vetch
<i>Cytisus scorparius</i>	Broom
<i>Dorycnium hirsutum</i>	a Dorycnium
<i>Genista hirsuta</i>	Hairy Spanish Gorse
<i>Hymenocarpus lotoides</i>	
<i>Lathyrus cicera</i>	-
<i>Lathyrus ochrus</i>	-
<i>Lathyrus setifolius</i>	
<i>Lathyrus sphaericus</i>	
<i>Lotus creticus</i>	Southern Bird's-foot Trefoil
<i>Lupinus angustifolius</i>	Narrow-Leaved Lupin
<i>Lupinus luteus</i>	Yellow Lupin
<i>Lupinus micranthus</i>	Hairy Lupin
<i>Lygos monosperma</i>	
<i>Medicago marina</i>	Sea Medick
<i>Medicago murex</i>	-
<i>Medicago orbicularis</i>	
<i>Onobrychis peduncularis (humillis)</i>	-
<i>Ononis natrix</i>	Large Yellow Rest Harrow
<i>Ornithopus compressus</i>	Compressed Bird's-foot
<i>Ornithopus sativus</i>	
<i>Robinia pseudacacia (Planted)</i>	False Acacia
<i>Scorpiurus muricatus</i>	Scorpiurus
<i>Scorpiurus vermiculatus</i>	A Scorpiurus
<i>Spartium junceum</i>	Spanish Broom
<i>Staurcanthus spectabilis subsp.vincentinus</i>	Staurcanthus

Group/Series	English Name (if any)
<i>Trifolium angustifolium</i>	Narrow-leaved Clover
<i>Trifolium arvense</i>	Hare's-foot Clover
<i>Trifolium campestre</i>	Hop Trefoil
<i>Trifolium cherleri</i>	
<i>Trifolium incarnatum</i>	
<i>Trifolium repens</i>	White Clover
<i>Trifolium resupinatum</i>	Reversed Clover
<i>Trifolium scabrum</i>	Rough Clover
<i>Trifolium stellatum</i>	Starry Clover
<i>Trifolium tomentosum</i>	Woolly Trefoil
<i>Ulex argenteus</i>	
<i>Vicia benghalensis</i>	Purple Vetch
<i>Vicia lutea</i>	Yellow Vetch
<i>Vicia sativa subsp. sativa</i>	Fodder Vetch
<i>Vicia sativa subsp. segetalis</i>	Common Vetch
<i>Vicia tetrasperma</i>	Smooth Tare
Fagaceae	Beech Family
<i>Quercus coccifera</i>	Kermes Oak
<i>Quercus rotundifolia</i>	Spanish Oak
<i>Quercus suber</i>	Cork Oak
Frankeniaceae	Sea Heath Family
<i>Frankenia laevis</i>	Sea Heath
Gentianaceae	Gentian Family
<i>Centaurium maritimum</i>	Seaside Centaury
Geraniaceae	Geranium Family
<i>Erodium botrys</i>	
<i>Erodium cicutarium</i>	Common Stork's-bill
<i>Erodium malacoides</i>	Mallow-leaved Stork's-bill
<i>Geranium dissectum</i>	Cut-leaved Crane's-bill
<i>Geranium molle</i>	Dove's-foot Crane's-bill
Lamiaceae	Dead-nettle Family
<i>Ballota hirsuta</i>	-
<i>Lamium amplexicaule</i>	Henbit Dead-nettle
<i>Lavendula stoechas</i>	French Lavender
<i>Lavendula viridis</i>	Green Lavender
<i>Mentha aquatica</i>	Water Mint
<i>Phlomis purpurea</i>	a Phlomis
<i>Prasium majus</i>	Prasium
<i>Prunella vulgaris</i>	Self Heal
<i>Rosmarinus officinalis</i>	Rosemary
<i>Salvia verbenaca</i>	Wild Clary
<i>Stachys arvensis</i>	Field Woundwort
<i>Stachys germanica</i>	Downy Woundwort
<i>Stachys oxymastrum</i>	A Woundwort
<i>Thymus camphoratus</i>	-
<i>Thymus capitatus (Thymbra capitata)</i>	

Group/Series	English Name (if any)
Linaceae <i>Linum bienne</i>	Flax Family Pale Flax
Malvaceae <i>Lavatera arborea</i> <i>Lavatera mauritanica</i> <i>Malva sylvestris</i>	Mallow Family Tree Mallow Common Mallow
Moraceae <i>Ficus carica</i>	Mulberry Family Fig
Oleaceae <i>Fraxinus angustifolia</i> <i>Olea europaea</i> <i>Phillyrea angustifolium</i> <i>Phillyrea latifolia</i>	Olive Family Olive - -
Orobanchaceae <i>Cistanche phelypaea</i> <i>Orobanche foetida</i>	Broomrape Family Cistanche -
Oxalidaceae <i>Oxalis pes-caprae</i>	Wood-Sorrel Family Bermuda Buttercup
Paeoniaceae <i>Paeonia broteroi</i>	Peony Family Peony sp.
Papaveraceae <i>Fumaria capreolata</i> <i>Papaver dubium subsp.dubium</i> <i>Papaver hybridum</i> <i>Papaver rhoeas</i> <i>Papaver somniferum</i>	Poppy Family Long-headed Poppy Round-headed Prickly Poppy Common Poppy Opium Poppy
Plantaginaceae <i>Plantago afra</i> <i>Plantago coronopus</i> <i>Plantago lagopus</i> <i>Plantago lanceolata</i> <i>Plantago major</i> <i>Plantago seraria</i>	Plantain Family Buck's-horn Plantain Hare's-foot Plantain Ribwort Plantain Greater Plantain A Plantain
Plumbaginaceae <i>Armeria pungens</i> <i>Limoniastrum monopetalum</i>	Thrift Family Spiny Thrift Limoniastrum
Polygalaceae <i>Polygala monspeliaca</i>	Milkwort Family
Polygonaceae <i>Rumex bucephalophorus</i> <i>Rumex scutatus</i> <i>Rumex thyrsoides</i>	Dock Family Horned Dock French Sorrel

Group/Series	English Name (if any)
Primulaceae <i>Anagallis arvensis</i> (Red and Blue) <i>Anagallis monelli</i>	Primrose Family Scarlet Pimpernel Shrubby Pimpernel
Rafflesiaceae <i>Cytinus hypocistus</i>	Rafflesia Family
Ranunculaceae <i>Ranunculus peltatus</i> <i>Ranunculus sceleratus</i>	Buttercup Family Pond Water Crowfoot Celery-leaved Buttercup
Resedaceae <i>Reseda lutea</i> <i>Reseda luteola</i> <i>Reseda phyteuma</i>	Mignonette Family Mignonette Weld Corn Mignonette
Rosaceae <i>Clydonia oblonga</i> <i>Crataegus monogyna</i> <i>Eriobotrya japonica</i> <i>Prunus dulcis</i> <i>Rosa c.f. canina</i> <i>Sanguisorba minor</i>	Rose Family Quince Hawthorn Japanese Loquat Almond A Dog Rose Salad Burnet
Rubiaceae <i>Crucianella maritima</i> <i>Rubia peregrina</i> <i>Sherardia arvensis</i>	Bedstraw Family Wild Madder Field Madder
Santalaceae <i>Osyris quadripartita</i>	Sandalwood Family
Saxifragaceae <i>Saxifraga granulata</i>	Saxifrage Family Meadow Saxifrage
Scrophulariaceae <i>Antirrhinum cirrhigerum</i> <i>Bellardia trixago</i> <i>Cymbalaria muralis</i> <i>Linaria algarviana</i> <i>Linaria amethystea</i> <i>Linaria hirsuta</i> <i>Linaria spartea</i> <i>Misopates orontium</i> <i>Parentucellia viscosa</i> <i>Scrophularia frutescens</i>	Figwort Family Climbing Snapdragon Bellardia Ivy-leaved Toadflax Algarve Toadflax - Weasel Snout Yellow Bartsia Shrubby Figwort
Solanaceae <i>Solanum sodomaeum</i> <i>Lycium barbarum</i>	Nightshade Family Apple of Sodom Duke of Argyll's Tea-plant
Tamaricaceae <i>Tamarix africana</i>	Tamarisk Family

Group/Series	English Name (if any)
Thymelaeaceae <i>Daphne gnidium</i>	Daphne Family Mediterranean Mezereon
Urticaceae <i>Urtica membranacea</i> <i>Urtica urens</i>	Nettle Family Membranous Nettle Annual Nettle
Valerianaceae <i>Centranthus calcitrapae</i> <i>Fedia cornucopiae</i>	Valerian Family
Verbenaceae <i>Verbena supina</i>	
Liliidae (Monocotyledons)	
Agavaceae <i>Agave americana</i> <i>Agave sisalana</i>	Century Plant Family Century Plant Sisal
Alismataceae <i>Alisma lanceolatum</i>	Water Plantain Family Narrow-leaved Water Plantain
Araceae <i>Arisarum vulgare subsp. simorrhinum</i> <i>Arum maculatum</i>	Arum Family Friar's Cow Lords and Ladies
Areaceae <i>Chamaerops humilis</i>	Palm Family Dwarf Fan Palm
Iridaceae <i>Gladiolus illyricus</i> <i>Gladiolus italicus</i> <i>Iris albicans</i> <i>Iris pseudacorus</i> <i>Moraea sisyrinchium</i> <i>Romulea bulbocodium</i>	Iris Family Italian Gladiolus A White Iris Yellow Flag Barbary Nut A Sand Crocus
Liliaceae <i>Allium ampeloprasum</i> <i>Allium neapolitanum</i> <i>Allium roseum</i> <i>Allium subvillosum</i> <i>Aloe succotrina</i> <i>Asparagus acutifolius</i> <i>Asparagus albus</i> <i>Asparagus aphyllus</i> <i>Asphodelus aestivus</i> <i>Asphodelus fistulosus</i> <i>Asphodelus ramosus</i> <i>Asphodelus tenuifolia</i> <i>Bellevalia hackellii</i> <i>Dipcardi serotinum</i>	Lily Family Wild Leek Rosy Garlic Aloe Common Asphodel Hollow-leaved Asphodel - Dipcardi

Group/Series	English Name (if any)
<i>Hyacinthoides vicentina</i>	
<i>Leucojum trichophyllum</i>	Three-leaved Snowflake
<i>Muscari comosum</i>	Tassel Hyacinth
<i>Narcissus bulbocodium</i>	Hoop-petticoat Daffodil
<i>Narcissus jonquilla</i>	Common Jonquill
<i>Ornithogalum broteroi</i>	
<i>Ornithogalum narbonense</i>	A Star of Bethlehem
<i>Ornithogalum orthophyllum</i>	
<i>Pancratium maritimum</i>	Sea Daffodil
<i>Scilla monophyllos</i>	Single-leaved Squill
<i>Scilla peruviana</i>	-
<i>Smilax aspera</i>	Common Smilax
<i>Urginia maritima</i>	Sea Squill
<i>Watsonia pillansii</i>	Bugle-lily
Orchidaceae	Orchid Family
<i>Epipoactis lusitanica</i>	-
<i>Ophrys bombylifolia</i>	Bumble Bee orchid
<i>Ophrys fusca</i>	Brown Bee Orchid
<i>Ophrys lutea</i>	Yellow Ophrys
<i>Ophrys speculum</i>	Mirror Orchid
<i>Ophrys vernixia</i>	a Mirror Orchid
<i>Orchis morio</i>	Green-winged Orchid
<i>Serapias cordigera</i>	Heart-flowered Tongue Orchid
<i>Serapias parviflora</i>	Small-flowered Tongue Orchid
<i>Serapias strictiflora</i>	

Birds (✓ = recorded but not counted; H = heard only)

	Common name	Scientific name	April							
			6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1	Red-legged Partridge	<i>Alectoris rufa</i>	4	4	✓			1		
2	Common Quail	<i>Coturnix coturnix</i>		H	H					
3	Gadwall	<i>Anas strepera</i>		6						
4	Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	3	3	6		4	1	2	
5	Northern Shoveler	<i>Anas clypeata</i>		4						
6	Common Scoter	<i>Melanitta nigra</i>							20	
7	Cory's Shearwater	<i>Calonectris diomedea</i>							1	
8	Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>		1					2	
9	Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>		6						
10	Black Stork	<i>Ciconia nigra</i>			2					
11	White Stork	<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	3	✓	✓
12	Eurasian Spoonbill	<i>Platalea leucorodia</i>					4			
13	Western Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>	2	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	
14	Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	1	1	2					
15	Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	2				✓			
16	Northern Gannet	<i>Morus bassanus</i>					6		1	
17	European Shag	<i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis</i>							4	
18	Great Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>		2	2		2			
19	Black-winged Kite	<i>Elanus caeruleus</i>					1			
20	Red Kite	<i>Milvus milvus</i>	1	1		2				
21	Black Kite	<i>Milvus migrans</i>	1	10					1	
22	Griffon Vulture	<i>Gyps fulvus</i>		2	40					

	Common name	Scientific name	April								
			6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
23	Cinereous Vulture	<i>Aegypius monachus</i>			2						
24	Short-toed Snake Eagle	<i>Circaetus gallicus</i>	1	1	6	3		1	1		
25	Western Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>	1		2						
26	Montagu's Harrier	<i>Circus pygargus</i>		4	5	15				1	
27	Spanish Imperial Eagle	<i>Aquila adalberti</i>		3							
28	Common Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓		3	1		
29	Bonelli's Eagle	<i>Aquila fasciata</i>						1			
30	Booted Eagle	<i>Hieraaetus pennatus</i>		1		1					
31	Lesser Kestrel	<i>Falco naumanni</i>	10	12	40	✓					
32	Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	3	3		3	4	3	4		
33	Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>								1	
34	Great Bustard	<i>Otis tarda</i>		30	1	4					
35	Little Bustard	<i>Tetrax tetrax</i>		10	7	12					
36	Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>		4							
37	Eurasian Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>		8		2				2	
38	Eurasian Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>					4				
39	Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>		1		2	20				
40	Pied Avocet	<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>					1				
41	Grey Plover	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>					4				
42	Common Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>	4		1		6				
43	Little Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>		3	2						
44	Kentish Plover	<i>Charadrius alexandrinus</i>	1				10				
45	Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>					8				
46	Common Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>					3				
47	Common Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>				1	2				
48	Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>					1				
49	Ruddy Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>					8				
50	Sanderling	<i>Calidris alba</i>	1				10				
51	Dunlin	<i>Calidris alpina</i>					12				
52	Ruff	<i>Philomachus pugnax</i>					2				
53	Collared Pratincole	<i>Glareola pratincola</i>				8	2				
54	Black-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>		5			3				
55	Slender-billed Gull	<i>Larus genei</i>	3								
56	Mediterranean Gull	<i>Ichthyaetus melanocephalus</i>					6				
57	Yellow-legged Gull	<i>Larus michahellis</i>	6				✓		✓		
58	Lesser Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus fuscus</i>					✓				
59	Gull-billed Tern	<i>Gelochelidon nilotica</i>					1				
60	Caspian Tern	<i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>					3				
61	Sandwich Tern	<i>Thalasseus sandvicensis</i>					20				
62	Little Tern	<i>Sternula albifrons</i>					2				
63	Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>					2				
64	Common Guillemot	<i>Uria aalge</i>								1	
65	Rock Dove / Feral Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
66	Common Wood Pigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	12	10	10	20	3	H			
67	European Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>						1			
68	Eurasian Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
69	Great Spotted Cuckoo	<i>Clamator glandarius</i>		1		8					
70	Common Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>		1	3	H	H	H	H		
71	Tawny Owl	<i>Strix aluco</i>		H			H	H			
72	Little Owl	<i>Athene noctua</i>			2		2				
73	Alpine Swift	<i>Tachymartus melba</i>								2	

	Common name	Scientific name	April							
			6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
74	Common Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>		6	10	✓	2	✓		
75	Pallid Swift	<i>Apus pallidus</i>	1	1						
76	European Bee-Eater	<i>Merops apiaster</i>	3	40	30	20	10	30	6	
77	Eurasian Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>	1	2	3	6				
78	Eurasian Wryneck	<i>Jynx torquilla</i>			2					
79	Lesser Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos minor</i>							1	
80	Great Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>	1		2	1		1	H	
81	European Green Woodpecker	<i>Picus viridis</i>					H	1	1	
82	Southern Grey Shrike	<i>Lanius meridionalis</i>	10	20	30	20				
83	Woodchat Shrike	<i>Lanius senator</i>	3	6	6	8	H		1	
84	Eurasian Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>	3			2	H	2	2	
85	Iberian Magpie	<i>Cyanopica cooki</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
86	Eurasian Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>		2	2	2				
87	Red-billed Chough	<i>Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax</i>							10	
88	Western Jackdaw	<i>Coloeus monedula</i>		✓	12	✓	✓	✓	✓	
89	Carrion Crow	<i>Corvus corone</i>	6	6	6	2				
90	Northern Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>		2	4	1				
91	European Crested Tit	<i>Lophophanes cristatus</i>						1	4	
92	Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>		H	H		2	H	4	
93	Eurasian Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>			1		1	4	6	
94	Calandra Lark	<i>Melanocorypha calandra</i>			4					
95	Greater Short-toed Lark	<i>Calandrella brachydactyla</i>		H						
96	Crested Lark	<i>Galerida cristata</i>	2	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓
97	Thekla Lark	<i>Galerida theklae</i>			4					
98	Woodlark	<i>Lullula arborea</i>			3					
99	Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
100	Eurasian Crag Martin	<i>Ptyonoprogne rupestris</i>			8					
101	Common House Martin	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	
102	Red-rumped Swallow	<i>Cecropis daurica</i>	6	12	10		12	6	6	
103	Cetti's Warbler	<i>Cettia cetti</i>	3	1	H		H	H		
104	Long-tailed Tit	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>			6			2		
105	Iberian Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus ibericus</i>						6		
106	Western Bonelli's Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus bonelli</i>						H		
107	Zitting Cisticola	<i>Cisticola juncidis</i>	2	6	H		✓	✓	✓	
108	Eurasian Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>						H	3	
109	Dartford Warbler	<i>Sylvia undata</i>		H				H	H	
110	Spectacled Warbler	<i>Sylvia conspicillata</i>							4	
111	Sardinian Warbler	<i>Sylvia melanocephala</i>	2		4		4	H	✓	
112	Common Firecrest	<i>Regulus ignicapilla</i>					H	2		
113	Eurasian Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>					H	H	H	
114	Eurasian Nuthatch	<i>Sitta europaea</i>					1	3	8	
115	Short-toed Treecreeper	<i>Certhia brachydactyla</i>				1		6	H	
116	Spotless Starling	<i>Sturnus unicolor</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
117	Common Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	2	3	2	4	2	4	4	
118	Common Nightingale	<i>Luscinia megarhynchos</i>		H	H	H		4	H	
119	Black Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>							10	
120	Common Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>					1	2	3	
121	European Stonechat	<i>Saxicola rubicola</i>	2	6	4	4	15	1	2	
122	Blue Rock Thrush	<i>Monticola solitarius</i>	1						2	
123	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
124	Spanish Sparrow	<i>Passer hispaniolensis</i>		✓		✓				

	Common name	Scientific name	April							
			6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
125	Common Waxbill	<i>Estrilda astrild</i>					6	1	2	
126	Western Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava iberiae</i>					12			
127	White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>		2	2		2	2		
128	Common Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>			H		1	3	H	
129	European Serin	<i>Serinus serinus</i>	H		10	15	✓	✓	✓	
130	European Greenfinch	<i>Carduelis chloris</i>	2			10		H	6	
131	European Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
132	Common Linnet	<i>Carduelis cannabina</i>			3		3		4	
133	Hawfinch	<i>Coccothraustes coccothraustes</i>			2	10				
134	Corn Bunting	<i>Emberiza calandra</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
135	Rock Bunting	<i>Emberiza cia</i>			1				2	
136	Cirl Bunting	<i>Emberiza cirlus</i>			H			4		

Mammals (RK = road kill)

Western Hedgehog, *Erinaceus europaeus* (RK)

Fallow Deer, *Dama dama*

Rabbit, *Oryctolagus cuniculus*

Polecat, *Mustela putorius* (RK)

Iberian Hare, *Lepus granatensis*

Reptiles & Amphibians

Bosca's Newt, *Triturus boscai*

Iberian Water Frog, *Rana perezi*

Moorish Gecko, *Tarentola mauritanica*

Horseshoe Whip Snake, *Coluber hippocrepis*

Viperine Snake, *Natrix maura*

Common Toad, *Bufo bufo*

European Pond Terrapin, *Emys orbicularis*

Large Psammodromus, *Psammodromus algirus*

Ladder Snake, *Elaphe scalaris* (RK)

Butterflies

False Mallow Skipper, *Carcharodus tripolinus*

Spanish Swallowtail, *Iphiclides feisthamelli*

Large White, *Pieris brassicae*

Green-striped White, *Euchloe belemia*

Clouded Yellow, *Colias crocea*

Green Hairstreak, *Callophrys rubi*

Long-tailed Blue, *Lampides boeticus*

Black-eyed Blue, *Glaucopsyche melanops*

Brown Argus, *Aricia agestis*

Painted Lady, *Vanessa cardui*

Wall Brown, *Lassiommatia megera*

Spanish Marbled White, *Melanargia ines*

Spanish Festoon, *Zerynthia rumina*

Swallowtail, *Papilion machaon*

Small White, *Pieris rapae*

Western Dappled White, *Euchloe crameri*

Brimstone, *Gonepteryx rhamni*

Small Copper, *Lycaena phlaeas*

Lorquin's Blue, *Cupido lorquini*

Common Blue, *Polyommatus icarus*

Red Admiral, *Vanessa atalanta*

Speckled Wood, *Pararge aegeria*

Small Heath, *Coenonympha pamphilus*

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