

## Tour Report Secret Wilderness of Extremadura 28 September – 5 October 2025

Great white egret



Griffon vulture



Glossy ibis



Short-toed snake eagle



Compiled by John Muddeman

Extremadura is justifiably famous for the extraordinary abundance of birdlife, especially steppic birds and raptors on the open plains, with autumn seeing interesting concentrations of the former and good chances of the latter following the breeding season. Added to this are the various, largely artificial wetlands in the region, from vast open reservoirs attracting waterbirds to the open water and waders to their muddy edges to the large expanses of rice fields and their irrigation and drainage channels attracting large numbers of small birds to the generally well-vegetated habitats associated with them.

The huge vistas over gently undulating plains incised by small rivers and streams, plus impressive mountains to the N of the region, all largely given over to the vast swathes of pseudosteppe and western holm oak dehesa (or wood pasture) give it a very characteristic feel, while there is considerable subtle variation with the mountain ridges of C and E Cáceres province providing home to a variety of species not found lower down.

The first eight and half months of 2025 had been characterised by a wet late winter and spring followed by near drought conditions, exacerbated by the extremely hot summer and lack of autumn rains (except on our arrival day), meaning that the general countryside looked parched and scorched, but reservoir levels were generally relatively high, there were more and larger pools in the 'dry' rivers than usual and the rice fields were back to full production again after a ban on their cultivation last year (due to the lack of overwinter rain). So how did that affect the birds and other wildlife? Read on!

**Sunday 28 September 2025**

**Day 1:**

Madrid Airport, El Pardo, Bar David

Despite a slightly early arrival of the flight, we finally met at arrivals in Madrid Airport after a very slow delivery of the bags and when I was beginning to wonder what had happened to the group! With time running on, we picked up a tasty 'meal deal' offer at a shop in the airport and then headed quickly out to the van and under thick clouds provided by ex-storm Gabrielle, we moved swiftly on to our first planned stop. Not, however, before noticing a couple of red kites in flight and even a perched adult Spanish imperial eagle on a pylon just off the ring road en route!

Our picnic was taken on the edge of Madrid at a favoured picnic site, where, despite very light rain occasionally falling, there were lots of other picnickers, meaning that it was a little noisier than usual. However, plenty of fallow deer and even four large wild boar were foraging under the western holm oaks opposite and a few birds, including European red-rumped swallows and a European pied flycatcher, were great for kicking off the respective mammal and bird lists.

With a single white stork and a juvenile Spanish imperial eagle in flight of most note along the motorway as we headed to our next stop, we made just one stop to scan over a quite large, half-empty farm lake almost adjacent to the motorway to check what was present. A western marsh harrier disappeared off through the trees as we arrived, but lovely group of 11 Eurasian spoonbills slept just out into the water where the backs of dozens of common carp broke the surface, with a few little egrets along the edges and waders including single common greenshank and green sandpiper, several common sandpipers and little ringed plovers, plus a few white wagtails as well. A couple of calling common kingfishers, four wheeling black-headed gulls, at least five grey herons along the banks and in the trees and ten gadwall completed the tally of the birds on the lake, with a European pied flycatcher giving brief close views in the trees and a couple of zitting cisticolas affording excellent views in the fennel beside the track as we exited!

We reached our destination with time to relax before meeting again just before sunset (even though it was still cloudy thanks to the remains of the former hurricane Gabrielle) and then into the restaurant for our first tasty meal!

**Monday 29 September 2025**

**Day 2:**

Almonte bridge, Aldea del Obispo, Monroy Road, Trujillo, "Three bridges", Puerta de Miravete, Jaraicejo Heath

The day dawned calm and mild, with intense dew requiring cleaning the van's windows before we could even attempt to leave the car park.

Following our 8 a.m. (still pre-sunrise!) breakfast, we were out an hour later in much clearer conditions than the day before. Heading south in leisurely fashion, shortly after starting our drive, a special bird 'intervened' to require a (brief) stop in the (thankfully empty!) road for a good look, as a stunning adult Spanish imperial eagle sat on a low pylon not far off to the side! OK, so it didn't stay too long, but it gave superb views before deciding that we were too close, turned around and flew off behind us before we could even muster cameras!

Stopping at the Río Almonte, before we could even all get out and 'kitted up', calls went up of a stork flying off, which, given the date and the location, could only really mean one thing: a black stork! However, it just kept going down the valley and out of sight, though another unexpectedly repeated the process once we neared the bridge on foot!

With several decent pools of water still left in the riverbed, there was plenty of activity in the area from Eurasian crag martins and European red-rumped swallows overhead, to a mobile common kingfisher, plus fly-past hawfinch and rock sparrow, amongst others. As it warmed and a breeze started, so the local vultures started to move too, with lots of griffons in several groups spiralling up from nearby roosts and our first few cinereous vultures thrown in for good measure. A large flock of corn buntings wheeled around over nearby fields in front, where common stonechats hunted from the fences and our first spotted flycatcher for the day sallied out after insects from a series of low perches.

Working our way through the western holm oak dehesa where the beautiful cadences of woodlark song rang out and Iberian magpies sailed gracefully between the trees, we reached a large area of burnt ground where there had been a significant grass fire, though the tough Retama bushes were already throwing up new shoots amongst the charred standing branches. A delightful whinchat, the first of over half a dozen over the next couple of kilometres, was accompanied by a fine northern wheatear, with plenty more in the burned areas as we progressed. Where the partly singed trees stood at the edge of the burnt area and standing grass, two sparring common redstarts in the bushes were tricky to find, but not so much whinchats and northern wheatears, a couple of European pied flycatchers and a few unidentified leaf warblers feeding deep inside the tree crowns. Continuing out over the adjacent immense swathes of open steppic habitat, a couple of stripy-headed rock sparrows flew quietly down to the ground to feed in full view and a lovely pink-bellied Iberian grey shrike crowned an oak. Thekla's larks were also just about everywhere, from small foraging groups to strongly singing birds, while a fine cluster of griffon vultures crowned a little mound, these apparently sat digesting the remains of a nearby carcass, though they took off and headed down and away from us as soon as we had stopped the car!

Stepping out to get views over a huge vista, the pseudosteppe gave up one of its secrets in the form of 11 huge great bustards stalking through one of the grassy pastures. We tried walking out to get a little closer, though we had only advanced half a field when most disappeared out of sight over a small ridge and the last sat down deep in the abundant dead grass, only its head and upper neck revealing its presence and so we soon backed off and enjoyed the common darter and vagrant emperor dragonflies apparently migrating across the plain. As we neared the vehicle on our return, a surprise group of northern lapwings took off from behind a ridge and cruised past, looking somewhat unlikely as they winged their way high across the exceptionally dry and slightly overgrazed pastures!

Rather different habitat was explored in the Almonte valley at the lovely "Three bridges" after lunch at a shaded picnic table, which was much appreciated given the blazing sun. While there wasn't too great a variety of birds, many hundreds of western house martins were wheeling around some small cliffs as we

arrived and then occupied the sunny face of the bridge when they weren't climbing up en masse when spooked by possible (and unseen) predators. A few small birds in the scrub and trees on the shady side of the valley included blackcaps and European robin, in addition to a rattling Sardinian warbler and restless European pied flycatcher.

A quick trip up to the Miravete Pass was seemingly less rewarding, even though we heard our first short-toed treecreeper and Eurasian jay, but two birds flying at enormous height, with one mobbing the other gave us a western marsh harrier hassling an immature golden eagle, while a smaller raptor shortly before had been a very high booted eagle on active passage heading southwest.

A patch of heathland nearby was naturally rather quiet, being late afternoon, but at least three perky Dartford warblers popped up at different times, with one leading us a dance along a fence as it fed on the many spiderlings using the warm breeze to drift to a new home.

Our final stop was not far from the hotel and something of a 'let's take a quick look, just in case' stop, but surprisingly rewarding it was! The muddy edge was attractive to over a dozen little ringed plover, with a surprise common ringed thrown in for good measure, a green sandpiper fed along the far shore and a common snipe was flushed by a small group of lads going fishing. But it was a repeated "chittering" call overhead that really caught my attention and a superb group of no less than 17 Alpine swifts scythed through the skies above us, calling in excitement as they went!

Returning to the hotel around 6:30 p.m., we had time for a relax before meeting at 8 p.m. for the call-over (lists) for those who wanted to record what we'd enjoyed during the day, before moving to the restaurant for a slightly later than 8:30 p.m. dinner, due to the time taken to record all we'd seen!

## **Tuesday 30 September 2025**

### **Day 3:**

Arroyo Dolaví, Monfragüe: Castillo, Mirador de la Malavuelta, Portilla del Tiétar, Hotel Puerta de Monfragüe, Peñafalcón

A juvenile black stork cruising slowly over the entire length of the car park as we were walking out to the vehicle was a magnificent start to the day!

After a longer day in the car yesterday, we headed quickly up towards the nearby Monfragüe National Park, pausing en route to enjoy a bit of shade down near the bottom of a temporary stream. A decent pool of water still held fish and the piping calls of two or three common kingfishers were regularly heard as they sped both up and downstream from it, occasionally bickering with each other as they went. Both Thekla's and wood-larks were present, singing high over the oak trees on the slopes, while a pale raptor adorning a pylon top was a super juvenile short-toed snake eagle still soaking up the early morning sun, its yellow eyes glaring down at us as we watched with the telescope. Several hawfinches could be heard wheezing and ticking from the surrounding area, with a pair gracing the crown of a nearby narrow-leaved ash for a few seconds before dashing off again, this time fully in view as they dashed off, their white wing patches and tail tip flashing in the sun as they went.

A few gusts of breeze were felt, and almost immediately, a small kettle of vultures formed a little downstream over the valley, circling low over the trees, though these then soon peeled off and headed straight towards us, where they'd somehow detected a thermal was present and started circling almost immediately overhead and quite low. A steady stream of birds was appearing, forming a mesmerising swirl above our heads as they climbed. Most were griffons, but with several cinereous vultures thrown in and the short-toed eagle also joining in on the fun at the end, it made a beautiful sight! We even rounded off with a fine male circling also singing from the side of the same ash tree, it lacking a yellowhammer's cheese to its sandwich and hadn't even made it to the park yet!

We soon entered Monfragüe National Park, stopping first under the 'castle' for a short look at some crags, where various griffons hid remarkably well on ledges, the skies swarmed with common house martins, Eurasian crag martins and red-rumped swallows, a presumably young male blue rock garbled out a poor rendition of its usual song from the boulders and more hawfinches could be heard from deep inside the wild olive groves on the steep slopes.

Small numbers of both griffon and cinereous vultures were on the wing, with abundant hirundines to-ing and fro-ing over the castle watchpoint, from which fabulous views could be had across the surrounding landscapes (over 360° for those who scale the castle stairway), which really stole the show. With some of the vultures cruising past below us over the forest, it was a great opportunity to try and take both photos and video in excellent light. The small red fruits of the gum lentisc bushes here were also highly attractive to small birds, with a constant flow of great and Eurasian blue tits, blackcaps and Sardinian warblers coming in to feed, a couple of furtive willow warblers also present and best of all, a rather shy, but slowly moving garden warbler as well, unlike a much zippier common redstart! Two short-toed snake eagles cruising over again illustrated that they hang around for slightly longer in the autumn than booteds, even though both now winter in some parts of the south of the Iberian peninsula.

After a late comfort stop and drinks break, we headed on through the park to a couple of picnic tables in a small plantation, where extensive views over the river and a dam permit good coverage of the area and its birdlife. It was actually rather quiet, despite numerous calling hawfinches, but a loudly calling lesser spotted woodpecker just as we were about to move on showed the level of possible interest here, even though it vanished without a trace.

The Portilla del Tiétar at the far end, famous for its breeding eagle owl and Spanish imperials (though not of late) was our last main stop, where looking out over the river a good flock of the wintering great cormorants on their famous and now whitewashed rock was seen before they soon headed past upstream, a booted eagle circled high over and small numbers of passerines included single spotted and European pied flycatchers and a quite colourful singing blue rock thrush, despite being in fresh non-breeding plumage.

But it was unusually quiet in the rather hot and still conditions, so after giving it a good look, we wound our way back through the park and back to the hotel for a good pre-dinner break.

**Wednesday 1 October 2025**

#### **Day 4:**

Los Cerralbos, , Alcollarín Reservoir, Campo Lugar road, Sierra Brava Reservoir

With a clear feeling from the group having come over during the first couple of days of the tour that a more relaxed pace was generally appreciated, it seemed sensible to concentrate on fewer sites and to spend longer at each. OK, so I did make a roadside stop to quickly scan a pool on the way, where a couple of Egyptian geese, little grebes and black-winged stilts were present, but a large flock of mobile Spanish sparrows were of most note, but 45 minutes after leaving the hotel we turned off onto a wide track entering vast swathes of grassland or 'pseudosteppe', given its absence of trees, to look for some steppic birds, instead of continuing for another half an hour to the originally planned site. And a good choice it was too!

Ironically, having just said that it would be very unlikely that we would meet other groups at this season, of course, we immediately spotted a car with three occupants peering intently over the fields with their scope and binoculars! Not only that, but it was a colleague from the regional guiding association with his clients and so we rapidly discovered that there were actually two little bustards high up on the slopes, but that they were not easy to see... This was then my second rebuttal in just minutes, since I'd also boldly said that it was extremely unlikely that we'd see the species given that, tragically, the species has suffered a catastrophic decline in Spain through a combination of climate and agricultural changes. The birds in question had walked a little way down and so out of sight, but while we waited for them to reappear, we enjoyed the antics of the local singing calandra and crested larks, plus a single Eurasian skylark (an early returning winter visitor) plus our second northern wheatear and first whinchat of the morning.

A better angle further along the track enabled us to concentrate on a band of parched taller thistle-rich cover high up in the same field, where both were finally seen, even coming up into full view for a short while before stalking back into cover and at least having offered very convincing, albeit long-range views! This wait was actually doubly worthwhile, since it also gave time for a large flock of pin-tailed sandgrouse to fly up, calling noisily, from behind another ridge, with pairs characteristically dropping out of the main flock here and there in display flights as the whole group moved past in front and into better light, before wheeling around several times over the opposite slopes until they finally dropped from view. Fantastic!

More calandra and crested larks, large numbers of corn buntings, a smattering of northern wheatears, whinchats and common stonechats, plus a couple of bouncing zitting cisticolas, all added to the scene as we progressed, though there was very little other variety despite good numbers of birds.

After heading out across some fields, two lumps on a track in front sprouted wings and took off just as I stopped, these being a pair of black-bellied sandgrouse, their ochre-toned upperparts contrasting with their black wingtips and black-bellied white underparts as they 'rowed off' and all too quickly downhill and out of sight, but at least visible from the vehicle! Distant common raven, Eurasian hoopoe and flighty kestrels were small recompense, though a fine Thekla's lark on a barbed wire fence gave great views as we returned along with three passing cinereous vultures as we returned to the road and headed back towards Trujillo.

Picnic lunch secured and a subsequent comfort stop with drinks break over, we started off towards the south, even though the sun was starting to heat things up notably.

Two surprises awaited me at the Alcollarín Reservoir, which was almost totally empty of water (!) following its near total draining to try and eradicate an exotic and highly invasive catfish species, but a couple of pools left way down below us held a remarkable number of birds! Single great crested grebe, black stork and greylag goose, plus a few Eurasian spoonbills and great egrets, but plenty of little egrets and a remarkable number of grey herons were noted as we crossed the dam, but we left the counting for later! The second surprise was to see that the picnic site had been turned into a closed-off works area with several work vehicles scattered about and one of the picnic tables occupied by the workmen themselves on lunch break! Not to worry, though, as they kindly allowed us to park (in the shade) as normal and use the other table where we enjoyed a fine spread!

That said, we had already seen that the small upper reservoir retained plenty of water but had a quite broad, bare muddy edge surrounding it, with abundant birds present, so as the group ate, I started checking and counting. A superb flock of spotted redshanks and my first northern pintail of the autumn were the most unusual finds, but numerous little grebes, black-winged stilts, northern lapwings, Eurasian teals, common snipes, green and common sandpipers, common greenshanks and northern shovelers formed a wonderful mix! A couple of long-tailed tits were noted in the adjacent trees, while griffon vultures cruised overhead once I had gone to make myself a sandwich or two and the group took over watching all the birds!

We carefully checked the area under the dam on our return, noting the same as before, plus more Eurasian spoonbills and a couple of common kingfishers, though no rarer birds were found and we needed to move on again.

Entering the extensive rice fields nearby revealed that harvesting had actually recently begun on some of it and so we cruised the little roads until I finally spotted a pair of glossy ibis in flight, which came in to land. A good track led out towards them, where much to our delight, we literally hit the birding jackpot! Two rice fields had recently been harvested, with farmers having moved onto the adjacent ones and they had fortunately mashed the straw back in, rather than burning the leftover straw, leaving a muddy, shallowly flooded field, perfect for birds and us!! A huge flock of glossy ibis was actually present, turning the field black in places (and despite the wonderful colourful shoulder patches on the birds in the sun) and resting black-headed gulls and dapper black-winged stilts formed the bulk of the rest, but there were far more species to enjoy! Plenty of ruff, including one quite white-headed individual fed amongst the ibis, while little ringed, common ringed and three Kentish plovers sneaked amongst the still standing stubble. Three spotted

and a few common redshanks, a couple of common greenshanks, a small flock of dunlin, plus a single curlew sandpiper (excellently found by Robin), a couple of wood sandpipers and a still colourful black-tailed godwit made it something of a wader bonanza, while two Eurasian spoonbill juveniles, a juvenile greater (very scarce in the region), and single lesser black-backed gull and white stork provided a superb supporting cast! Indeed, a few more white storks flew over later, as did my first common crane of the autumn, its lovely black, grey, white and red head pattern clearly visible as it circled over over peering down to see if it could land somewhere quiet! With a good number of northern shoveler and a couple of juvenile northern pintail, western marsh harriers occasionally marauding and sending everything temporarily skywards, western yellow and white wagtails and even a fine Iberian grey shrike nearby, it truly was something of a bonanza, even if a bit warm out under the blazing sun!

We returned again in good time for a rest before call-over and dinner and a lovely sunset during the former!

**Thursday 2 October 2025**

**Day 5:**

Almaraz, Emb. de Arrocampo, siesta, Salto del Gitano

We left as usual at 9 a.m., heading back towards Madrid and after c. 45 minutes turned off into the low sierras near Almaraz. The wooded slopes and olive orchards here in spring are liberally sprinkled with orchids, but obviously not now and after a short walk, we had only heard a couple of red-legged partridge fly off and heard a range of other calling birds, including rock and ciril buntings, though this was somewhat redeemed with a colourful blue rock thrush or two and, when back at the vehicle a close brief common redstart and to round off, a lovely calling lesser spotted woodpecker, which moved up through a large close fig tree before finally flying off and giving most of us good views.

It was surprisingly warm and very still down at the nearby Arrocampo reservoir, though despite giving chase to four herons coming in on migration, just as we arrived, as they finally turned to enter the extensive bulrush beds, we could see that they were greys and not the hoped-for purples. But hey ho, at least we tried! This also led us past a couple of small fields with sprinklers running, where half a dozen western yellow wagtails and a fine glossy ibis fed at close range and a typically flighty Eurasian hoopoe 'butterflied' past us and into some fruit trees.

Looking over a seemingly impenetrable wall of tall bulrushes at the reservoir itself was indeed less productive than hoped, but calling water rail and purple swampheens gave us hope and as raptors started to move overhead, we enjoyed griffon and cinereous vultures (once again!), red kites (again!) and a western marsh harrier.

After giving it a good wait, we headed off into town for a refreshment and comfort stop, where, despite roadworks, we found a bar with an outside terrace from where we could enjoy a remarkable gathering of barn swallows and common house martins. A few sand martins were also present, though we only noted one well, but it was the sudden appearance of a gleaming white swallow which really caught our eye, though it danced acrobatically past us along with a small group of normally coloured birds before we could run for the cameras!

Not to be outdone, though and despite the rapidly rising temperatures, we took a back road nearby and headed off to another small reservoir in the hopes of more mud and birds! A pale bird sneaking out from behind a few large holm oaks was a beautiful adult black-winged kite and though flying around and only landing at range, before moving on again a couple of times, we enjoyed good views, even if it was too far to photograph. A displaying common buzzard changed tack to stoop on the kite, which easily eluded it, but also permitted us to discover that there were actually two kites in flight simultaneously! Not only that, but a surprise adult Spanish imperial eagle appeared from nowhere soon afterwards, cruised low overhead, giving terrific views as it passed, though unfortunately didn't circle until some way away, but showing off its gleaming white forewing blaze in the process. Great!

The reservoir itself was actually almost full, and so rather empty of birds, though three common sandpipers on a log, a couple of noisy kingfishers, a shoal of fish in the adjacent irrigation channel and even Eurasian otter spraint and a tiny, freshly emerged African grass blue butterfly kept us more than occupied and indeed delayed us long enough for a black-winged kite to appear and perched in the top of an olive off to one side, twice, giving good views in the scope and before it finally flew off to hide in the dappled shade of a large western holm oak further away.

Lunch, a little later than usual, was taken at a nearby bar, after which and given the hot sunny conditions, we headed back to the hotel for a good break before going out again at 7 p.m. back up to the edge of Monfragüe.

Quite a few people were present, but with plenty of bird activity, including a few griffons passing below us and the chance to stand in the shade, despite the heat, we also had the chance to enjoy a few local blue rock thrushes, black redstarts, a rock bunting or two and also the local pair of peregrine falcons, which gave a fine display, both perched and in the air, including, at dusk as the light was disappearing, a repeated series of dives accompanied by loud alarm calls, over the top of the crag behind us, though we never could see why...

We got back and headed straight for a later dinner, but after another excellent day!

**Friday 3 October 2025**

**Day 6:**

Almonte bridge, La Pulgosa, Río Tamuja, Sta Marta de Magasca, Almonte bridge II, Monroy, Emb. Sotillo

Another very fine, calm and cool start to the day, though the forecast was for it to get slightly warmer in the afternoon, which it did, topping 30°C, though with thin cloud coming in mid-afternoon and a moderate breeze, it felt cooler than the day before.

We still hadn't seen a few characteristic birds of the area, so plans were hatched to cover not only a couple of specific sites to try and see them, but also cover new areas and landscapes in the process.

Heading west, we passed pylon after pylon adorned with still roosting griffon vultures, but no other raptors, nor when we took a small detour. A couple of calandra larks off to one side were surviving on the plains despite huge areas covered with solar farms, while a bluebird beside a telegraph pole was... An insulator! And one of a flock along the roadside, ha ha!

It was still cool enough to take a walk down towards the Almonte along a stretch of old road, with the bonus that there were plenty of birds en route. Thekla's larks sang from the slopes and overhead, the first of several willow warblers delicately picked aphids from the spindly fennel stems, Sardinian warblers rattled from the bushes and wild olive trees where blackcaps fed on the tiny fruits. A few hawfinches whistled and ticked from the scrub and a little group of rock sparrows shreeped from a small stone bridge before bounding off down the little valley. With the river already well in view lower down, it was something of a relief when I spotted a fine male black wheatear on jagged rocks a little above the water's edge. This hopped and fluttered about, giving us excellent prolonged views, both as it fed in the shade and then, after disappearing round the corner for a little while, when it reappeared and flew past us, in stages, up the opposite slope of the valley. Magnificent!

We climbed back out, with a lovely male "Norwegian blue rock thrush" enjoyed in the morning sunlight on the way, noting how the temperature was rising sharply under the clear skies, soon reaching civilisation where a restorative drink was enjoyed and a few picnic fundamentals acquired.

The Cáceres steppes are vast, yet a series of European roller boxes -their occupants sadly for us already in sub-Saharan Africa- still retain interest, particularly as a few are now home to some of the dwindling population of little owls out on the pseudosteppes. A couple of northern wheatears were spotted first along

the roadside and wires, but as a fine male western marsh harrier floated across the depression behind, our attention was firmly fixed on a delightful and very spotty little owl embellishing the top of one of the boxes, before it finally flew off and disappeared into a some “dog’s teeth”, the local name for the jagged slate and shale rock outcrops poking up out of the grass.

It was now quite hot, with an overexcited minibus thermometer marking 40°C at our next stop in the sun, but not before enjoying a seemingly endless string of northern wheatears, common stonechats and whinchats in the adjacent fields and on the roadside fences as we progressed!

Stopping at a large hide overlooking a huge swathe of local fields, we opened up to enjoy the cool conditions inside, even though there was literally not a bird to be seen apart from numerous vultures passing overhead! Indeed, it was the perfect moment to enjoy lunch, with over a hundred of the vultures apparently following suit a little later as they dropped over a little ridge down to unseen carrion beyond. We sped along to try to get a view, though the lie of the land meant that it was impossible. Still, two groups circled up and drifted past and then over us as we watched from the vehicle.

A series of stops at river crossing on the way back gave very different results, with one providing terrific views of two short-toed snake eagles in flight, a fine group of acrobatic Eurasian crag martins very close and a smart adult Spanish imperial eagle to finish! The next was devoid of birds and too hot without shade, while the third was also surprisingly quiet, but at least a few male violet dropwing dragonflies were spotted along the edge of one of the pools, adding a splash of colour!

Our next stop at a couple of old fish-rearing pools was ‘on spec’ in the hopes of finding something interesting, and interesting it was! A 16-strong flock of Eurasian spoonbills were feeding frantically on one side as two juvenile greater flamingos were dozing on the other. A scattering of ducks, including mallard, plentiful gadwall and Eurasian teal, a northern pintail and our first and only common pochard for the trip. The muddy edges were also excellent for waders, with plenty of black-winged stilt, northern lapwing, little ringed plovers and common snipe, plus two common greenshank and three spotted redshanks. This was clearly spotted redshank week in Extremadura!

The green grassier edges were also interesting for smaller birds, where in addition to the usual white wagtails, a western yellow wagtail and my first meadow pipits -winter visitors here- were creeping about feeding constantly, seemingly freshly arrived. There was also a fine suite of the commoner small birds present in the scrubber and wooded habitats at this time of year, including European stonechat, European pied flycatcher, Cetti’s warbler, common chiffchaff, crested and Thekla’s lark, plus an Iberian grey shrike. As always, however, an eye needs to be kept on the sky as well, with the usual local trio of cinereous and griffon vultures plus red kite all drifting over for good measure as well!

Once again, it was quite hot, so we called it a day quite early for everyone to get back for a good rest before call-over and dinner at the usual times.

**Saturday 4 October 2025**

### **Day 7:**

Monfragüe: Portilla del Tiétar, pinewood + La Vueltona, siesta, Salto del Gitano, Torrejón el Rubio

Our last full day started at just 11°C or so, with an autumn chill in the air and fabulous light, as particularly enjoyed by David while making his videos. That said, it rose to 30°C by the afternoon and stayed very warm until after sunset, despite a notable breeze!

A quick check en route in the middle of the Monfragüe failed to produce our hoped-for quarry, but David was ecstatic over the light on a perched griffon he was recording, which then opened its wings, solar panel style, before pirouetting round to just really complete the whole sequence! We quickly pushed on though, knowing that every minute counts first thing in the morning, especially with direct sunshine directly illuminating the crag we were heading to and raising the temperature correspondingly.

First one, then a second and then even a third great egret along the river suggested that something had changed significantly over the past few days since we'd visited the park and with singles and a couple of groups of three birds periodically passing us in flight as we enjoyed the views at the Portilla del Tiétar, it was quite a surprise, as they are generally very scarce within the park's boundaries. However, backing up the idea of a significant change in birdlife having occurred were our first two common firecrests, peeping and fly-catching in the western holm oaks beside the parked van, then a few more of these multi-coloured sprites in and beside the viewpoint up the road! Lots of griffons were already on the wing when we arrived, with more perched individuals lining the crest of the rocky ridge in front, including a single interloper cinereous vulture. Indeed, there was a constant movement of griffons plus a few cinereous overhead as we watched, even to the point of falsely leading us to think that nothing else was going to appear amongst them at all!

Numerous other birds were present, including calling red-legged partridge at the start, a fine singing blue rock thrush, a cloud of western house martins, Eurasian crag martins and European red-rumped swallows swirling constantly in front of the crag opposite and lots of other small birds in the strawberry tree-rich scrub. Blackcaps and common chiffchaffs, one or two of the latter even singing tentatively during the morning and rattling Sardinian warblers formed the bulk!

It was very pleasant standing in a light breeze watching out over the river as the ever-changing "birdscape" unfolded before us, though we were just about to leave when a Spanish birder called out "Águila". A smart juvenile Spanish imperial eagle glided downriver towards us and then as it started circling up, was joined by another, a second-year bird in moult, making a fine comparison! This latter bird then even made a couple of long passes in front, cruising low over the slopes opposite before finally circling up and drifting away into the sun and out over the nearby ridge. Superb!

Time had really moved on now, so we hopped back on board the van and headed off for refreshments and a comfort break at a nearby bar, this being wonderfully interrupted by an unusually very confiding and very colourful male common redstart and a perched two-tailed pasha, one of Europe's most spectacular butterflies, brilliantly found by Robin!

Rest over, we headed back to the pine plantation, where no sooner had we got out than a couple of crested tits were heard calling, but these frustratingly simply vanished without a trace. A quiet wait ensued, but with our first short-toed treecreeper (finally) appearing and watched by all at close range, plus great spotted woodpecker and even a coal tit heard not far away, there was clearly more new to enjoy. The pine canopy was surprisingly active with birds, including a healthy group of loudly 'peeping' and very agitated common firecrests which came in when I tried to imitate a nearby Eurasian nuthatch, their excitement pulling in common chaffinch, great tit and several common chiffchaffs as a result. There was still no sign of the crested tits though, until just at the last second, as we were turning to leave, Robin suddenly saw a silent bird eyeing us up from the smallest pine right beside us! Good views were had by all, even though it soon lost interest and gradually disappeared back into the depths of the plantation. Single high-flying booted and short-toed snake eagles once we were back out more into the open were good finds as well!

A leisurely (i.e., a little bit slow) tapas-style lunch was taken back at our drinks stop, complete with a distant black stork cruising along the river of most note before we again returned to the pine woodland, though this time there was little raptor activity and so we decided to start heading back for a siesta.

Just after 7 p.m., we started the short drive back up to the Salto del Gitano, though this time it was heaving with weekenders, making it difficult to park and with a strong breeze blowing, the vultures remained high in the skies rather than down below us where the photos would have had a background! However, the pair of peregrines was still present, along with two squabbling rock buntings, adding to the day's variety.

Given the low light conditions and high levels of disturbance, we jumped in the van and went the short distance to the Torrejón el Rubio reservoir. OK, so we saw nothing more than bats fly past within close range and a silhouette plover feeding along the waterline, but it was a fine evening and once the last light

had almost completely gone, we headed back to the hotel for our final meal, which, despite coinciding with numerous other visitors came through quite fast and we headed back to our room not too late for a good night's rest.

**Sunday 5 October 2025**

**Day 8:**

Arrocampo area, El Gordo, El Pardo (lunch), Madrid Airport

Another mild, dead calm and cool morning greeted us. After breakfast, we quickly packed the van and started the journey to Madrid, but with a clear objective in mind, Arrocampo Reservoir, to try and see one or two of the special birds new for the trip that occur there in cooler conditions than during our last visit!

Hundreds of barn swallows, common house martins and even a few sand martins again lined the wires nearby, but not only in Saucedilla, but also in Almaraz before we'd arrived, making a wonderful sight. Not only that, but just as we arrived at the entrance to the main entrance track, fortune had it that one of the swallows on the wire was a white one!! This time it stayed and we enjoyed close-range great views and excellent photo opportunities before it spooked and danced off amongst hundreds of normally-plumaged individuals of its species. Technically leucistic rather than albino, with a darker throat and eye, but still fascinating to see!

The bulrush beds at a different spot from last time were again tall and 'impenetrable' to the eye, but birds were calling here to keep us attentive, including yelling little bitterns, grunting and wailing purple swamphens and pumping and sharming water rails, though it was only a few colourful purple swamphens that, while moving from one spot to another, rose clumsily in flight just above the vegetation for a few metres before crashing awkwardly back down again and out of sight, giving us all great views. A single little bittern rose and crossed over a broad channel for a lucky couple in the group, though the raptor-like calls of a Eurasian wryneck emanating repeatedly from a nearby patch of low trees were not backed up with views of their perpetrator! A few common reed warblers called quietly from the depths of the vegetation and the Merlin App showed at least a couple of the group that a Eurasian penduline tit was also present and calling a little distantly, but it too refused to show.

A few minutes at the hide we'd been to on the last visit revealed no new birds, but a beautiful, freshly-emerged cardinal fritillary was greatly enjoyed by all as it fed on the false yellowhead (*Dittrichia viscosa*) flowers beside the track.

Time to move on, we headed up to the motorway and commenced the remainder of the journey back. With an hour to spare, however, we took another detour off towards the still shrinking remains of the vast Valdecañas reservoir in case there was anything to see. Remarkably, despite numerous fishermen having driven in their cars to the remotest corners all around the edge, and despite the enormous distance to the opposite side of the reservoir, a group of large birds could be seen resting and in the scope we could confirm these as a flock of juvenile greater flamingos! Not only that, but there were two other flocks as well, with at least 42 birds present, a massive group for Extremadura, even though the species is currently expanding in range and numbers quite fast. A group of large gulls moving across the water could also just be made out to be most adult yellow-legged gulls, an uncommon species in the region.

After a picnic, goods and comfort stop, we headed to our picnic spot, once again by the river Manzanares on the edge of Madrid, though being a fine Sunday afternoon, it was hooching with picnickers and we had to make do with a table in the sun! It was a great place to have lunch, though and leaving slightly earlier than planned meant that we reached the airport well in time, with a little over two hours before the group's flight out.

I would like to thank you all for making this such an enjoyable and rewarding tour! Your easy-going nature and broad interests, combined with interesting early autumn conditions, meant that we actually travelled a little less than usual and so spent a little more time in the field rather than in the vehicle, working a little

harder than normal for some of the birds, but with excellent results. Apart from Monfragüe, the region is very quiet at this time of year for other visitors, with the added bonus that just about everything we see we find for ourselves, making it a very rewarding experience.

Cover images by John Muddeman

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# Checklist for Secret Wilderness of Extremadura



	Common Name	Scientific Name	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	Day 6	Day 7	Day 8
	<b>BIRDS</b>									
1	Greylag goose	<i>Anser anser</i>				✓				
2	Egyptian goose	<i>Alopochen aegyptiaca</i>				✓		✓		
3	Northern shoveler	<i>Spatula clypeata</i>				✓				
4	Gadwall	<i>Mareca strepera</i>	✓			✓		✓		
5	Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓		
6	Northern pintail	<i>Anas acuta</i>				✓		✓		
7	Eurasian teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>				✓		✓		
8	Common pochard	<i>Aythya ferina</i>						✓		
9	Red-legged partridge	<i>Alectoris rufa</i>		✓	H		H		H	
10	Alpine swift	<i>Tachymarptis melba</i>		✓						
11	Greater flamingo	<i>Phoenicopterus ruber</i>				✓		✓		✓
12	Little grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>		✓		✓	H	✓		H
13	Great crested grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>				✓				
14	Rock dove / Feral pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
15	Common wood pigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
16	Eurasian collared dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓
17	Pin-tailed sandgrouse	<i>Pterocles alchata</i>				✓				
18	Black-bellied sandgrouse	<i>Pterocles orientalis</i>				✓				
19	Common crane	<i>Grus grus</i>				✓				
20	Great bustard	<i>Otis tarda</i>			✓					
21	Little bustard	<i>Tetrax tetrax</i>			✓					
22	Alpine swift	<i>Apus melba</i>						✓	✓	
23	Water rail	<i>Rallus aquaticus</i>					H			H
24	Common moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>				✓	✓			H
25	Eurasian coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>		H		✓		✓		

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26	Western swamphen	<i>Porphyrio porphyrio</i>					H			✓
27	Black-winged stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>				✓		✓		
28	Northern lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
29	Kentish plover	<i>Charadrius alexandrinus</i>				✓				
30	Common ringed plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>		✓			✓			
31	Little ringed plover	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	
32	Black-tailed godwit	<i>Limosa limosa</i>				✓				
33	Ruff	<i>Philomachus pugnax</i>				✓				
34	Curlew sandpiper	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>							✓	
35	Dunlin	<i>Calidris alpina</i>				✓				
36	Common snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓		
37	Common sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleuca</i>	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓		
38	Common redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>				✓				
39	Wood sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>				✓				
40	Green sandpiper	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>	✓	✓		✓		✓		
41	Spotted redshank	<i>Tringa erythropus</i>				✓		✓		
42	Common greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>	✓			✓	✓	✓		
43	Black-headed gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>		✓	✓			✓	✓	
44	Lesser black-backed gull	<i>Larus fuscus</i>				✓	✓			✓
45	Yellow-legged gull	<i>Larus michahellis</i>								✓
46	Black stork	<i>Ciconia nigra</i>		✓	✓	✓			✓	
47	White stork	<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>	✓			✓				✓
48	Great cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>			✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
49	Little bittern	<i>Ixobrychus minutus</i>								H
50	Grey heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
51	Great egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>				✓			✓	
52	Little egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓	
53	Western cattle egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>				✓	✓			
54	Glossy ibis	<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>				✓		✓		
55	Eurasian spoonbill	<i>Platalea leucorodia</i>	✓	✓		✓		✓		
56	Black-winged kite	<i>Elanus caeruleus</i>					✓			
57	Cinereous vulture	<i>Aegypius monachus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
58	Griffon vulture	<i>Gyps fulvus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
59	Short-toed snake eagle	<i>Circaetus gallicus</i>			✓	✓		✓	✓	
60	Booted eagle	<i>Hieraetus pennatus</i>		✓					✓	✓

61	Spanish imperial eagle	<i>Aquila adalberti</i>	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	
62	Golden eagle	<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>		✓						
63	Western marsh harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
64	Eurasian sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>		✓			✓		✓	✓
65	Red kite	<i>Milvus milvus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
66	Common buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓
67	Little owl	<i>Athene noctua</i>						✓		
68	Eurasian hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
69	Common kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>	H	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
70	Eurasian wryneck	<i>Jynx torquilla</i>					H			H
71	Great spotted woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>			✓				H	
72	Lesser spotted woodpecker	<i>Dryobates minor</i>			H		✓			
73	Eurasian kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
74	Peregrine falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>					✓		✓	
75	Eurasian blue tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>	H	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
76	Great tit	<i>Parus major</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
77	Eurasian penduline tit	<i>Remiz pendulinus</i>								✓
78	Calandra lark	<i>Melanocorypha calandra</i>				✓		✓		
79	Woodlark	<i>Lullula arborea</i>	H	✓	H		H	H	H	H
80	Eurasian skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>				✓	H			
81	Thekla's lark	<i>Galerida theklae</i>		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	
82	Crested lark	<i>Galerida cristata</i>	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓
83	Zitting cisticola	<i>Cisticola juncidis</i>	✓	H		✓	✓	✓		✓
84	Eurasian reed warbler	<i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>		H					✓	
85	Sand martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>					✓			✓
86	Eurasian crag martin	<i>Ptyonoprogne rupestris</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
87	Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>		✓		✓				✓
88	European red-rumped swallow	<i>Cecropis daurica</i>	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
89	Common house martin	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
90	Willow warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
91	Common chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>					✓	✓	✓	H
92	Cetti's Warbler	<i>Cettia cetti</i>	H	H		H	✓	H	H	✓
93	Long-tailed tit	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>			✓	✓	✓		H	
94	Common reed warbler	<i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>								H
95	Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓

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96	Garden warbler	<i>Sylvia borin</i>			✓				✓	
97	Sardinian warbler	<i>Curruca melanocephala</i>	✓	H	✓	H	✓	✓	H	✓
98	Common whitethroat	<i>Curruca communis</i>					✓			
99	Dartford warbler	<i>Curruca undata</i>		✓						
100	Western subalpine warbler	<i>Curruca iberiae</i>		✓						
101	Common firecrest	<i>Regulus ignicapilla</i>							✓	
102	Eurasian nuthatch	<i>Sitta europaea</i>			H				✓	
103	Short-toed treecreeper	<i>Certhia brachydactyla</i>							✓	
104	Eurasian wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>			H		✓			
105	Spotless starling	<i>Sturnus unicolor</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
106	Mistle thrush	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>					✓			✓
107	Eurasian blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	✓	✓	✓		H	✓	✓	✓
108	Spotted flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>	✓	✓	✓				✓	
109	European robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>		H	✓			H	H	
110	European pied flycatcher	<i>Ficedula hypoleuca</i>	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	
111	Common redstart	<i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>		✓	✓			✓	✓	
112	Black redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>			✓	✓	✓		H	
113	Blue rock thrush	<i>Monticola solitarius</i>		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	
114	Whinchat	<i>Saxicola rubetra</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓		
115	European stonechat	<i>Saxicola rubicola</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	H	✓
116	Northern wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>		✓		✓		✓		
117	Black wheatear	<i>Oenanthe leucura</i>						✓		
118	Common waxbill	<i>Estrilda astrild</i>				✓	✓		✓	✓
119	House sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
120	Spanish sparrow	<i>Passer hispanicus</i>		✓		✓	✓			
121	Rock sparrow	<i>Petronia petronia</i>		✓			✓	✓	✓	
122	Grey wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>		✓				✓	✓	
123	Western yellow wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava</i>	✓			✓	✓	✓		
124	White wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	
125	Western yellow wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava</i>	✓			✓	✓	✓		H
126	White wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	
127	Meadow pipit	<i>Anthus pratensis</i>						✓		
128	Common chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	
129	Hawfinch	<i>Coccothraustes coccothraustes</i>		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	
130	European greenfinch	<i>Chloris chloris</i>	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓	

131	Common linnet	<i>Linaria cannabina</i>			✓		✓	✓		✓
132	European goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	
133	European serin	<i>Serinus serinus</i>		✓					✓	✓
134	Corn bunting	<i>Emberiza calandra</i>		✓	H	✓	✓	✓		
135	Rock bunting	<i>Emberiza cia</i>			✓		✓		✓	
136	Cirl bunting	<i>Emberiza cirlus</i>			✓					
	<b>MAMMALS</b>									
1	European rabbit	<i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i>	✓		✓					
2	Pipistrelle sp.	<i>Pipistrellus sp.</i>							✓	
3	Mouflon	<i>Ovis gmelini</i>					✓			
4	Eurasian wild boar	<i>Sus scrofa</i>	✓							
5	Red deer	<i>Cervus elaphus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
6	Western roe deer	<i>Capreolus capreolus</i>	✓					✓		
7	Fallow deer	<i>Dama dama</i>	✓				✓			
	<b>REPTILES &amp; AMPHIBIANS</b>									
1	Spanish terrapin	<i>Mauremys leprosa</i>		✓			✓	✓		
2	Moorish Gecko	<i>Tarentola mauritanica</i>		✓		✓	✓			
3	Iberian water frog	<i>Pelophylax perezi</i>							H	
4	Large Psammodromus	<i>Psammodromus algirus</i>						✓		
	<b>BUTTERFLIES &amp; MOTHS</b>									
1	Common swallowtail	<i>Papilio machaon</i>								✓
2	Small white	<i>Pieris rapae</i>			✓				✓	✓
3	Bath white	<i>Pontia daplidice</i>			✓		✓	✓	✓	
4	Clouded yellow	<i>Colias crocea</i>				✓		✓	✓	
5	Cleopatra	<i>Gonepteryx cleopatra</i>							✓	
6	Spanish brown argus	<i>Aricia crameri</i>			✓	✓		✓		
7	Lang's short-tailed blue	<i>Leptotes pirithous</i>			✓					
8	African grass blue	<i>Zizeeria knysna</i>					✓			
9	Small copper	<i>Lycaena phlaeas</i>			✓					
10	Two-tailed pasha	<i>Charaxes jsius</i>			✓				✓	
11	Cardinal fritillary	<i>Argynnis pandora</i>								✓
12	Meadow brown	<i>Maniola jurtinus</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	

13	Tree grayling	<i>Hipperchia stailinus</i>			✓					
14	Great banded grayling	<i>Brintesia circe</i>				✓				
15	Tiger moth sp.	<i>Cymbalophora pudica</i>				✓				✓
16	Grass processionary moth	<i>Thaumetopoeia herculeana</i>		✓				✓		
17	Grass eggar	<i>Lasiocampa trifolii</i>	✓							
	<b>DRAGONFLIES</b>									
1	Iberian bluetail	<i>Ischnura graellsii</i>						✓		
2	Long skimmer	<i>Orthetrum trinacria</i>						✓		
3	Red-veined darter	<i>Sympetrum fonscolombii</i>				✓		✓		
4	Common scarlet darter	<i>Crocothemis erythraea</i>				✓				
5	Violet dropwing	<i>Trithemis annulata</i>						✓		
	<b>OTHER SELECTED 'STUFF'</b>									
1	Blue-winged grasshopper	<i>Aedipoda cf caeruleascens</i>		✓	✓					
2	Praying mantis	<i>Mantis religiosa</i>	✓							
3	Common carp	<i>Cyprinus carpio</i>	✓							
	<b>SELECTED PLANTS</b>									
1	Umbrella pine	<i>Pinus pinea</i>								
2	Autumn squill	<i>Scilla autumnalis</i>								
3	Sea Squill	<i>Drimia maritima</i>								
4	Gum tree species	<i>Eucalyptus spp</i>								
5	Western holm oak	<i>Quercus (ilex) rotundifolia</i>								
6	Cork oak	<i>Quercus suber</i>								
7	Western strawberry tree	<i>Arbutus unedo</i>								
8	Narrow-leaved ash	<i>Fraxinus angustifolia</i>								
9	Wild olive	<i>Olea europaea</i>								
10	Autumn merendera	<i>Colchicum filifolium</i>								
11	Three-leaved snowflake	<i>Acis trichophyllum</i>								