

Andalucía

Land of the White Villages

A Greentours Trip Report

27th Feb - 13th March 2014

Led by Amanda Borrows. Daily report and systematic list by Amanda Borrows.

Day 1 Thursday 27th Feb Arrival and transfer to Dos Mares, Tarifa

Due to the different flight times and departure from the various airports we all met up at Malaga airport mid-afternoon, before a steady drive in the sunshine to Dos Mares. The prominent Rock of Gibraltar shone proudly as we drove pass. Once at Dos Mares, we had a bite to eat, before orientating ourselves around the very colourful and decorated environs of the hotel.

Day 2 Friday 28th Feb Alcornocales Natural Park

What a change from yesterday, the morning was overcast and the wind was blowing. The gentle lapping sea in front of the hotel was showing quite a few white horses. The horses were put to good use by the large number of kite-surfers that were exploiting this stretch of the coast. House Sparrows and Spotless Starlings chattered away in the surrounding trees, as we left the kite-surfers and headed towards Alcornocales Natural Park.

Alcornocales Natural Park is a vast area extending around 167, 767ha from Tarifa in the south to the Sierra de Grazalema in the north, which we would be visiting later in the trip. It is named after the acorns of the handsome and beautiful *Quercus suber* that make this area unique. In fact they are the largest cork oak woodlands in Spain. Facinas was our gateway into the park, and a brief stop was made to admire the singing Corn Bunting perched on the barbed-wire fence, before we made a detour to explore this lovely traditionally white village, with its steep cobbled streets. A White Stork was attending to its nest on top of one of the houses as we descended down the street to our connecting route into the park.

Our first stop was near the dam, where we spent the next hour or so exploring. Walking along the road the bushes were very vocal with chattered or song from Sardinian Warblers, Blackcap and Serin. These cheery chaps would sing as they flew around brightening up the day. Swathes of *Aristolochia longa*, *Paronychia argentea*, and *Arisarum vulgare* covered the roadside verges, further along among a rocky wall at the foot of a young *Quercus suber*, the climbing species *Aristolochia baetica* was found. Its gorgeous deep ruby red tubes showing boldly against the grey of the stones. The creamy bushes of *Astragalus lusitanicus* were eventually found hidden among the flowerless bushes on the cliff-side. It was while we were discussing the merits of this flower that Kathleen pointed upwards to the column of birds, Black Kites. Scanning the area there were several small columns of birds spread across the sky, we were watching the start of migration. After trying to count the countless number of Black Kites and soaring Griffons our attention was turned back to flowers. This was short lived, as Kathleen again pointed out the slow soaring of Kites above our heads. At this point there was blue sky, so we stood back and took in the scene above us. The soaring circle of Black Kites was soon

joined by Griffon Vultures, four Short-toed Eagles, and five Red-footed Falcons flew low down.

A smattering of blue caught Amanda's eye as we started walking back to the vehicle; it was a delightful clump of *Scilla monophyllos*. However, it was the small flush next to the car that was the most productive with plants, with carpets of yellow and orange from *Calendula arvensis*, spiked with pink from *Erodium cicutarium*, *Fedia cornucopiae*, *Malva sylvestris* and white from *Bellis annua*.

From here we headed further into the park stopping to look at the vivid blue of *Lithodora diffusa*. A brief stop was made at the Puerta de Ojen Mirador, but it was brief as it was very cold and windy, so we continued towards the shelter of the trees and lunch. Today was a Bank Holiday for Andalucía, so our usual picnic spot was full of cars; instead we found a more sheltered spot, next to a dilapidated oven that was used for bread making! We were miles away from civilization and here among the bramble and ivy was information about a stone oven. Kathleen and Jean were searching for the European form of Speckled Wood, while Amanda tried to prepare lunch, as the wind whistled around, lifting anything it could.

The afternoon saw us explore a woodland trail. We entered an enchanting green spring forest, where *Ranunculus ficaria*, *Mercurialis annua*, and *Euphorbia helioscopia* decorated the rocky woodland floor. Jean found some lovely specimens of *Romulea bulbocodium*, and the strange stemmed *Allium triquetrum*. Climbing plants and various ferns, such as *Polypodium cambricum* clung precariously to bare rock faces, or hung suspended from overhanging branches. Fine specimens of *Bellis sylvestris* decorated the route we were following along the woodland path, while a small colony of *Scilla monophyllos* hid amongst the rocks and *Rubia peregrina*, reminded us not to look too closely in the bushes, before checking it was there! A territorial Large Tortoiseshell held our attention for around twenty minutes, the browns of it dazzling in the sunshine. When we could tear ourselves away, we continued along the footpath, only to find that the water level was too high to cross one of the streams, so we had to return the way we came. This proved quite fruitful as we found *Arisarum proboscideum*, the peculiar Mouse Plant, with its long brown thin tails sticking up, looking like mice scurrying for shelter beneath the foliage.

Returning back to the hotel after an exciting day, we were all looking forward to sitting down, still, to enjoy our delicious spread of food that was laid in front of us.

Day 3

Saturday 1st March

La Janda Environs

Looking out of the window this morning was not a pretty scene. The wind had been so fierce last night that the palm trees looked very sorry for themselves. The strong band of white mist rolling in from the sea, gave us an idea of what weather conditions would be like today. After a hearty breakfast, wet weather gear was packed and we headed off in the direction of our first site, but as we ascended higher the weather got worse, so the plan was changed, we would go inland. Thus we turned round and headed off towards La Janda an area of large flat expanses of agricultural lands dissected by drains.

Our first port of call was along a side road, which produced our first orchids, a wonderful display of the blousy *Ophrys tenthredinifera*. There were around 9 spikes of this superb plant. Another plant that was competing for our attention was *Aristolochia baetica*, as it twisted itself attractively around a rusty iron post, proudly showing off its red-brown 'pipe' that was glowing in the sunshine that was now slowly appearing. Continuing our journey to the fields, we were ever watchful for *Scilla peruviana* along the road sides, but we were too early. Our route took us through the various white villages and at one we stopped to photograph a pair of White Storks nesting on a church next to the cross. The now overcast sky gave the village a startling definition of white, accentuated by the dark green and orange trees, quite amazing.

Alongside the drains, noisy Cetti's Warblers sung from the reeds, and a gorgeous Purple Gallinule delicately spread its feet over the vegetation as it moved along the water-edge, if a bird that size could. Moving on to the dam, a short stop was made to stretch our legs and for toilets. The walk was not very productive, but we did have a stunning spectacle of a group of *Ophrys tenthredinifera*, on top were a mass of red and black caterpillars, chomping merrily away.

Continuing our steady drive, Amanda suddenly did an emergency stop, and flying some distance away was a juvenile Spanish Imperial Eagle, which we all thought were very impressive. A short distant further there was another sudden stop. There sitting on a post next to the car was a beautiful demure Black-shouldered Kite. It was while we were complimenting this bird, that a couple of Spanish birders passed us by. Where we had stopped was a nice area, so we thought we would stop for lunch under the shade of tree, while listening to the honking of distant Common Cranes, which we were hoping to see in the fields later. However, as Amanda started to prepare lunch, one of the Spanish birders was walking quite quickly towards us, so Amanda met him half-way. They had located the juvenile eagle and wanted to know if we would like to see it.

Everyone and everything was packed back into the vehicle and we headed to the other vehicle. Unfortunately, by the time we got there the eagle had flown, reappearing again being mobbed by a Common Buzzard. The comparison of size was incredible. A couple of Short-eared Owls flew around the fields behind us, and as we set off, six honking Common Cranes flew over the road in the distance. Things were starting to hot up with the birds, but lunch was calling, so we found a spot that looked over the agricultural lands and drains below us. After lunch we headed down to the fields, but again due to high water levels we had to turn back and try another way.

The track had been improved and the verges were pink from *Erodium cicutarium* with *Calendula arvensis* and *Pallenis spinosa* along the edge. We stopped to admire a large area of *Narcissus papyraceus* and stretch our legs. The wander produce some nice specimens of *Centaurea pullata*. Further along we stopped to watch a pair of eagles duelling near the car, it was the juvenile Spanish Imperial Eagle we had seen earlier mobbing a juvenile Golden Eagle. We also bumped into the two Spanish birders, who told us that the road ahead was unpassable after the bridge. Thus, after spotting a pair of Great Spotted Cuckoos in a distant tree, we turned round and headed back.

The sun had come out in the afternoon, but as we made our way towards the hotel we noticed the dark clouds and mist hanging along the coast. There was time to freshen up, before the lists and dinner, and reflect over today's findings. We had made the right decision to go inland today.

Day 4 Sunday 2nd March El Cuarton - Zahara - Barbate Woodland Area

The wind had died back, but the white horse manes were still flowing in the sea as we sat down for breakfast. The white bank had dispersed and we could just make out the outline of Africa across the water. This morning we were heading back to El Cuarton. A brief stop was made at the Mirador to watch the various boats crossing the straits of Gibraltar. There were one or two big tankers, but it was the stunning moody composition of the sky that impressed us most.

Moving on, as we had a lot to do today, we had a smart walk up the concrete path for the unusual sundew, *Drosophyllum lusitanicum*, which we did enthuse over. After which was more of a gentle walk back down to the car. Exploration of the cliff side produced scattered bushes

of *Chamaespartium tridentatum*, *Teucrium fruticans*, showy *Erica arborea*, as well as beautiful displays of the lovely pink *Erica australis*. A bit of a surprise was the two spikes of *Gennaria diphylla* that were hiding underneath a *Pistacia terebinthus* bush. Near to the end of the walk the lovely little *Scilla monophyllos* were in abundance.

From here we headed to the coastal area of Barbate, a maritime park of 5,077 hectares. This is a good area for *Dipcadi serotimum*, so stopping before the coastal town of Zahara we explored an area of grassy coastal dunes. Among the low-lying plants that carpeted the sandy area were *Lotus creticus*, large patches *Paronychia argentea* and *capitata*, *Silene littorea*, fine displays of the splendid *Limonium sinuatum*, and *Malcolmia littorea*. Wandering around the sandy area, we found a yellow emerging *Orobanche densiflora*, which seemed to be parasitic on the carpet of *Lotus creticus* that was surrounding it. Kathleen found several flowering *Romulea columnae*, but no *Dipcadi serotimum* was found. Walking back *Reichardia gaditana* that Jean had been interested in littered the edges of the road. Only the leaves of *Pancratium maritimum* were showing. All the time as we were walking around Fan-tailed Warbler were constantly zipping above our heads and Corn Bunting were cheerfully singing, while Linnets fed among the hollows in the dunes.

Lunch was taken at one of the car parks near the coastal Stone Pine Forest, beyond Barbate. While Amanda was preparing the lunch, she suddenly noticed an orchid on the sandy bank, in fact when she started looking harder the bank was covered in orchids. Small colonies of the all green *Gennaria diphylla* orchid was scattered across the woodland sandy bank, dotted among were the blousy pink of *Ophrys tenthredinifera*, while *Ophrys fusca* caused quite a discussion among us as several spikes looked like there were hybrids with *Ophrys tenthredinifera*. We had to then decide whether any were the usual *Ophrys atlantica* and this was all next to the car park, Car Park botanising at its best.

After a while, we made a slow walk up towards the cliff edge top noting any plants along the way, which turned out to be more orchids of the same, a couple of spikes of which were *Ophrys atlantica*. The number of spikes was well into the hundreds as we reached the top. Other plants noted included *Halimium commutatum*, *Bellis sylvestris*, *Cistus albidua* and *salvifolius*. Reaching the top we stood back to enjoy the creative layering of the *Pinus pinea* canopy spread in front of us. The layering of the branches and structure of the crown, created a multi-layering effect of varying greens, it was enchanting.

After a lovely walk we continued along the road to the lighthouse at Cabo de Trafalgar. However, we were all tired and decided against the long walk to the lighthouse, so we watched the sunset over the sea as we made our way back to the hotel. Amanda had one last stop as she was determined to find *Dipcadi serotimum* and thankfully for Kathleen and Jean she did. There were a few splendid spikes blending beautifully against the mottled background of the sandy area. Once our eye was in, there were hundreds, but they were either just in leaf or poking their heads out between the leaves. The following week would have a fantastic drift of this intriguing plant.

Day 5 Monday 3th March Dos Mares - El Rocío via Laguna Medina

It was a lovely blue sky as we left for our drive to Coto Doñana. We were aiming to reach the small town of El Rocío late afternoon, to see the sunset over the lake and prom along the promenade with the locals.

The journey was broken up with a stop at Laguna Medina. There was little activity on the water, mainly Coot, and Black-headed Gulls squawking and swaying in the wind above the water. Meanwhile, Sand Martins swooped low in front of us, as we walked along the wooden boardwalk, Cetti Warblers deafened us from the near reeds and Fan-tailed Warblers bounced over-head.

We stopped at a tranquil botanical area for lunch, and ate our picnic underneath the impressive canopy shade of *Populus alba*. The garden itself was very quiet apart from the frogs and brush-cutters that were manicuring the area perhaps that is why we could hear no birds. From here El Rocío was a short distance, however the road system has changed. There is now a new road that by-passes this beautiful small town, which did cause a bit of confusion with Amanda. The usual road that runs parallel with the lake had also been closed. The amount of new buildings and roads were a shock for Amanda, would it ruin this amazing area? Apparently, all the work started a year ago due to the increased number of buses tours and weekend traffic.

After a welcome tea, Amanda took Jean and Kathleen for a prom along the boardwalk which follows the imposing lake of the marshland shores that dominates the town. Thereafter, the old part of the town, as twenty years ago (that was the first time Amanda came almost to the date bar three weeks) the town was a village, with no big grand hotel. We explored the side streets and plaza before returning to freshen up, watch the sunset over the lake and head over for some dinner.

Day 6

Tuesday 4th March

Environs of El Rocío

The morning was bright and blue, a bit different to the mornings we had been experiencing around Tarifa. After a continental breakfast we headed out towards Palacio del Acebrón, an old hunting lodge. A Great Grey Shrike flew across the car, so Amanda backed up so we could get a better view of this lovely species.

The sun started to beat down and we set off along the circular walk in the shade of the ancient *Quercus suber* forest. We were actually walking through part of the original forest of Doñana. The sun-rays filtered through the canopy on to the bracken underneath, giving the fern a golden glow, and creating a warm mystical surrounding atmosphere. Before the woodland changed into more of a riparian forest, dominated by Large Grey Willows, known locally as Zaos, Amanda pointed out a clump of *Narcissus bulbocodium*.

After crossing the marsh area, we entered another woodland habitat that had suffered an intense eucalyptus plantation in the middle of the last century. Nowadays, many of the trees have gone due to the removal of this exotic species, thus allowing a lot more light into the area. In turn it was an excellent area to watch basking and duelling Speckled Woods. We spent some time here, observing the European form of this species, admiring the bright chestnut colouring that it displays. The understory had swathes of *Cerintho major*, and one of them was hosting a Western Dappled White. The walk ended at the very large grand building, which is now a museum.

A stop was made at La Rocina for a toilet stop and a look in the hides. We had been told that an otter was around and had been seen from the first hide. Kathleen was admiring the Purple Gallinule while Jean was taking in the colour blends of the Glossy Ibis, as it fed in the sun. We all admired the White Stork Skyscraper, then Amanda whispered, 'Otter'. It was a large animal and was chewing on a fish. We watched this activity until it disappeared beyond the bank out of our sight. We were all excited and chatting happily, until someone walked in and in true British fashion we sat there dead silent before leaving. Plants were scarce, but the delightful yellow *Linaria spartea* brighten up the area, as well as *Fumaria bicolor* and *Leucojum trichophyllum*. Amanda was just about to point out *Misopates orontium*, when the *Romulea columnae* became more interesting as it was in flower.

From here we headed to El Acebuche Visitor Centre for lunch, a good place for the gorgeous Azure-winged Magpie. There were no birds around, but as soon as we opened our bag and started to prepare lunch, a flotilla of Azure-winged Magpie appeared from the surrounding woods. Once the picnic was packed away we headed over to the Visitor Centre, to have a look

for Moorish Gecko in the old Olive tree. Two were basking in the cool afternoon sun, and they allowed us to get quite close so we could see the sucker shaped feet.

After lunch we headed out to another part of the park to try and find a field full of *Narcissus bulbocodium*, if Amanda could remember which road it was. Unfortunately, it wasn't the right road, but we had some interesting plants in flower such as *Halimium halimifolium* and *Halimium commutatum* which we could compare together.

The afternoon was getting on so we returned to the hotel to watch the evening roost of Cattle and Little Egrets, as well as the hundreds of Glossy Ibis. It was while Amanda was watching the roost that several Red Deer, include stags started to cross the marsh, around twenty of them, quite a strange sight. Black-winged Stilts and Bar-tailed Godwits sway back and forth as they walked in the water head down, until the sunset and all you could see was the dark objects moving gently in the sparkling night. We all met up at the local restaurant for our tasty evening meal and a chat about today's and tomorrow's activities. Amanda was slightly late, as she was begin interviewed by the BBC for a Radio 4 programme 'Costing the Earth'.

Day 7 Wednesday 5th March Northern part of Doñana - Coastal areas of Doñana

This morning we were meeting Jose, who would be taking us to explore the Northern part of Doñana. In fact what we didn't realise was that were we going on a Lynx hunt. The population of Lynx had been steadily increasing and sightings were now quite frequent around the buffer zone of the National Park, near El Rocío. For the next hour or so, we followed sandy tracks through the gorgeous Umbrella Pine woodland. At one point we found pug marks, possibly of an animal that passed by last night. Jose pointed out where he had seen a cat a few days before, so we were all excited that we might see a Lynx. The striking *Anchusa azurea* decorated the woodland edges as we followed the various routes, as well as the odd heads of *Narcissus papyraceus*.

At one point Jose stopped the vehicle to take a picture of the spectacular view in front of us. The morning light of the sun was filtering through the young canopy of the pines, creating a fresh Spring green atmosphere, the grey and black of the tree branches accentuating the colour of the sandy forest road. It was a moment where you are absorbed and no-one speaks as the silence only adds to the captivating scene in front. Jose also pointed out *Asparagus acutifolius*, which a lot of the locals were picking at the moment.

Our journey then took us towards the Matalascañas area, which passed through the three main habitats of the park, (dehesa, marismas and wetlands). The first stop was to view a group of Griffon Vultures, feeding on a carcass next to the fence. From there it was a slow drive towards the Jose Antonio Valverde Visitors Centre for a toilet stop and to check the lake, not before stopping for a nearby Great Spotted Cuckoo and Little Owl near the centre. Avocets, Black-winged Stilt and Shoveler roosted, fed or dabbled around the lake.

Moving on three family groups of Common Crane were spotted alongside one of the drains, before Jose stopped, put the telescope up and got us all to look into it. He had pulled out of nowhere a Short-eared Owl roosting in a clump of grass. Trying to find it with the naked eye was very hard, so it was a good call. After that, he pointed out a male Lesser Kestrel sat next to its regular nest-box. The bird would have to find somewhere else this year, as it was inhabited by a pair of Barn Owls. Jose picked out another Barn Owl that had just flown into some *Tamarix africana*. Making our way back two Iberian Hare's obliged us along one of the drains. They have more of a chestnut back compared to our Brown Hare, very lovely.

Lunch was taken in the sun along the promenade, enjoying the bird feast of the lake. Greater Flamingos, Spoonbills, Black-tailed Godwit and Shoveler fed, while Goldfinch, Blackcap and

cheeky sparrows sang from the surrounding trees or bounced around our feet. The rest of the afternoon was in search of the *Narcissus bulbocodium* field. Jose pointed out another road to try, so we were heading there after lunch.

The field of golden halo was a real treat to walk around and admire hundreds of *Narcissus bulbocodium* nodding brightly in the afternoon twilight sun. It was sheer delight to wander around and enjoy the spectacle laid out in front of us. Once we had our fill it was a celebratory tea at El Acebuche Visitor's Centre. The White Storks were busy bill clapping on a nearby tree, but no Moorish Geckos on the tree trunk.

The day ended with us all convening near the lake in front of the hotel to watch the Red Deer cross the marsh. Amanda and Jean watched a Noctule type bat skim around the reeds, and drink from the water before it headed off over the marsh. The egrets and Glossy Ibis started to come in from their feeding grounds like white or dark squadrons in formation before landing rowdy in the bushes. The deer started to cross so we watched them through the telescope, the males of which were impressive as one or two were 6-pointers. The evening glow descended into a blue-black sky and we headed over to the restaurant to enjoy another super meal.

Day 8 Thursday 6th March El Rocío – Benaoján via Lagunas de Espera

It was a cool misty morning as Amanda and Kathleen stood on their balconies looking over the mystical marsh, ice white against the morning pink, the silence only broken by the whistling of the wildfowl. A small flock of Greylag Geese chuckled as they landed on the distant water. '*This is the magic of Doñana*', said Kathleen as she turned to Amanda. After breakfast, we said goodbye to this incredible place, and headed for the northern mountainous regions of the Natural Park Sierra de Grazalema. The area was declared a Biosphere Reserve by UNESCO in 1977 due to its complex and outstanding geology, diverse wildlife and traditional pueblo blanco villages.

The route today would be more traditional, as we would be taking the boat across the Rio Guadalquivir, avoiding the sprawling city of Sevilla, reducing our travelling time by an hour. We had plenty of time as the ferry ran every 10 minutes; it only took 5 minutes to cross. There was even time to watch the old fishermen, scale and gut the fish out of the wooden wheelbarrows. Yep, it was smelly and dirty, but it was a picture of what life has always been like.

Lunch was in the quiet countryside near the Lagunas de Espera. We had to find shade today, as temperatures were soaring, it was already 24°C. However, this did mean that butterflies were on the wing, so Kathleen and Jean went off to watch Spanish Festoon and try and get better views of the very large grasshopper that was whizzing around, while Amanda prepared Lunch.

A short walk to the lake produced a couple of Black-necked Grebes, but otherwise everything was very quiet. We ribboned through dramatic mountainous terrain as we made our journey towards Benaoján, arriving at Molino late afternoon to the hotel. The almond blossom was in full flower, the mountainous hillsides green from lush vegetation, what a contrast to the red rolling arid fields of the central plains we had just travelled through. We settled into our rooms before meeting up for a check list and dinner.

Day 9 Friday 7th March Benaoján – Montejaque – Sierra de Libar

Today was more of a gentle day with a local morning walk from the hotel. It was a case of wrapping up warm, as the morning was cool, even though the sky was blue. Grey Wagtail called from one of the mossy rocks in the shallow mountain stream that ran beside the hotel,

along with Cetti's Warbler and Wren, while Serin sang from the telegraph wires as we walked down to the river, crossing the railway track.

Walking along the stony track, the olive groves were decorated with sleeping heads of Lesser Celandine waiting for the morning sun. From here Amanda headed up towards the craggy knoll, where a scattering of the delicate and petite *Narcissus assoanus* were showing. She also found *Fritillaria lusitanica* and the minute head of *Neatostema apulum*. There was little butterfly activity, but Jean saw a Spanish Festoon.

Following the track through the oak woodland Firecrest was heard, but unfortunately not seen. However, we had good views of a Short-toed Treecreeper on a low-level branch. From here we headed towards the weir where a delightful clump of *Salvia verbenacea* caught our attention. Taking in the gentle running of the weir we were suddenly aware of a herd of sheep with lambs, one of the local shepherds was bringing them down to water. After watching this scene we headed back to the hotel for lunch. It was an enjoyable walk.

Lunch was outside in the sun and underneath the Weeping Willow, but it was hard to talk against the roaring noise of the brook beside. This year had been a good year for the rain. The afternoon saw us drive up to Montejaque and the mountains behind. Our first stop was to admire the colourful blossom of the Almond trees, looking down on the white village below. A Spanish Festoon was very obliging as it fed from the spread of *Calendula arvensis* at our feet.

Moving on to a steep rocky face, we were thrilled by the outstanding swords of *Narcissus cuatrecasasii* that covered the cliff-side. Opposite were some particularly attractive clumps of *Iris planifolia*, as well as one plant of *Saxifraga granulata*. *Saxifraga bourgaeana* was found while we were examining a gorgeous clump of *Anemone palmata* further along the road.

Moving further up the rocky road, the sheep field held a remarkable sight of *Iris planifolia*, which we just had to stop for. Scanning the area, we also found spikes of *Ophrys fusca* and the red-berried mistletoe *Viscum cruciatum*. Griffon Vultures flew low down over our heads, and we also saw Black Wheatear, a very smart bird. Before we knew it, the sun was setting and it was time to head back, to freshen up and enjoy the delights of our evening meal.

Day 10 Saturday 8th March Fuente de Piedra - Sierra de Libar - Benaolán

It was another blue sky morning, but the wind was still with us. Jean had decided that she wanted to stay behind today to do some painting, so the rest of the group and Amanda headed out to the Greater Flamingo lake of Fuente de Piedra. It was a relatively long journey, via a detour through the white village of Teba. Teba is extraordinary in that the village has links to Robert the Bruce and Black Douglas (Sir James Douglas). It is said that on his way to present the heart of Bruce at the church of the Most Holy Sepulchre, Jerusalem, Black Douglas turned aside to support King Alfonso XI in capturing the strategic Castle of the Stars at Teba but was slain. The casket of the heart was later recovered, but not Black Douglas.

Continuing our journey we passed through undulating countryside with the odd patchwork of vivid green, where the farmer had watered the cereal crop, and large expanses of Olive groves, before we came to the western side of the lagoon. In the distance we could see a pink stream crossing the lake, that of Greater Flamingos. We parked at the Visitor Centre and headed out to the hides.

Lunch was taken inside the visitor centre. After which we explored the car park area, as there is a small colony of *Orchis collina*. The side of the bank were full of leaves, it would be a wonderful show of these superb plants when they come out, but we did get to see four impressive spikes. From here we ventured down to the marshy pools, where several Black-tailed Godwits were probing the waters in their breeding colours. A couple of Little Ringed Plover flew in, and a Yellow Wagtail kept low to the water's edge.

A Clouded Yellow flew by as we were packing our bags in the car, so we followed it to the Rosemary bushes where it had settled. This was a lovely little sheltered spot, where lots of honey-bees were feeding, Clouded Yellows were flying around and then a Green-striped White appeared. Due to the wind, the butterfly stayed in the same spot, which allowed us to get some excellent views.

The day was drawing in so we started to head back to Benaoján, but not before a stop at Lake Dulce. This lake was a bit of a bird feast. Swallows, House Martins and Sand Martins flew over the water at various times, a very large flotilla of Coots; at least 300+ bobbed and washed as well as trying to walk on water during the time we were there. At one point a pair of Ferruginous Duck took flight as this flock of Coot started to descend on them. A Purple Gallinule stalked around the reeds, a bouncing group of sleeping Pochard, Shoveler and two male White-headed Duck hid among the reeds. However, it was the Red-crested Pochard that produced the funniest scene. Through the telescope all you could see were around 70 of these species bobbing like a fair-ground duck on the raucous waves of the lake. Their red head would appear then disappear, but not all together, it was a very amusing sight that would cheer anyone watching.

Eventually we had to leave the bobbing ducks and make the long journey back to see how Jean fared with her painting.

Day 11 Sunday 9th March Acinipo – El Burgo Road –Mirador del Guardian Forestal – Sierra de Alcaparain

Another clear blue morning and after another hearty breakfast we headed out to Acinipo, old Ronda, where still stands the remains of a Bronze Age settlement and Roman theatre. An hour later we were heading for El Burgo and turning a bend we were astounded to see a purple-blue bank, so pulling off the road, we ventured over. It was a sheltered bank of *Iris planifolia*, quite stunning. Among the plants standing out on its own was a single pure white specimen, very attractive. Wandering around Amanda found a small clump of *Paeonia coriacea*, containing a tight bud announcing its arrival. Cirl Bunting was calling.

At the Mirador del Guardian Forestal were more *Iris planifolia*, some *Gagea granatellii*, *Asphodelus fistulosus* and a very small *Lamium amplexicaule*, again plants were scarce. It was decided to have lunch in the car park as it was quite sheltered.

Continuing our journey along the forested road, we scoured the parched landscape for any colour that wasn't purple or blue. The bright *Ranunculus rupestris* made the vehicle stop, as well as the pink of *Moricandia arvensis*, before turning a corner, and 'Wow'. The roadside cliff escarpment was yellow from a superb show of *Narcissus jonquilla*. Looking around, one had to watch where one stood as spikes of *Ophrys fusca* were scattered below the *Narcissus*. Kathleen then found a gorgeous tall clump of the same species, while Jean produced the lovely *Linaria arvensis*.

The dramatic limestone escarpment scenery was stunning, displaying various stages of geological formation. *Iris planifolia* decorated the crisp brown meadows, while Almond blossom serenaded the road verges, contrasting elegantly against the grey of the Olive groves, and the *Narcissus* were a sensation.

Day 12 Monday 10th March Ubrique Road – Benaocaz – Grazalema

Grazalema is a traditional white village (pueblo blanco) located in the north-eastern area of Cadiz province. It nestles amongst the beautiful mountains of the Sierra de Grazalema and the village itself is on the list of obligatory visits on the route of the white villages of Andalucía.

Our journey started through the area of cork oak woodlands, some of which had recently been harvested, displaying their beautiful deep cinnamon colour. Our first stop was near a lovely stand of this magnificent species. Jean went off to photograph the scene, while Amanda and Kathleen searched the roadside banks near the car, which produced a staggering number of *Ophrys fusca*, over a hundred spikes in one small area.

Our next stop was among the *Quercus suber* forest, to see if we could find some plants, but mainly for butterflies as it was sheltered and out of the wind. In particular it was a good place for Cleopatra. Although we didn't find much, we were all absorbed by the warmth and tranquil feel of this woodland, twenty minutes soon turned into forty.

The rest of the morning was along the Ubrique Road, where there was a stupendous display of *Narcissus cordubensis*. Parking the car we walked back to the area so we could have a closer look and examine them. While discussing the merits of this exquisite plant, Amanda suddenly noticed movement and there were two Praying Mantis, fantastic. After a while we moved on towards Benaocaz, stopping for a handsome patch of *Himantoglossum robertianum*, a total of 21 spikes.

Lunch was taken in a sheltered picnic site next to a small trickling brook. Speckled Woods duelled in the sun-lit rays as they filtered down, and Large Tortoiseshells puddled near the water's edge. Chough called from the craggy mountainside, and Griffons soared across. Kathleen also found some *Romulea bulbocodium*.

From here we headed towards Grazalema, briefly stopping to admire the Spanish Black Pigs and the field full of *Narcissus cordubensis* before Grazalema, one of the most stunning of the White Villages in this UNESCO area. After an exploration of this beautiful village, we descended to the rocky knoll below. An odd patch of *Saxifraga granulata*, *Iris planifolia* and *Euphorbia characias*, dotted the bare surroundings. We decided to head back taking in the evening glow as we made our way back through the magnificent landscape, which took on a new appearance and feel in the evening light.

Day 13 Tuesday 11th March Sierra de las Nieves - Juzcar

We woke to more blue sky, there seemed to be little wind, but we were not going to hold our breath as we were heading for altitude today. Gloves and hats were packed as we headed off to the high reaches of Sierra de las Nieves.

It was shortly after we entered the park we were out of the car and admiring a small drift of *Narcissus hispanicus* on a rocky knoll. The scattering of heads were examined to check that *Narcissus minor* wasn't among the assembly as we did find some small and light coloured specimens. By this time Kathleen had wandered off among the camphor smelling *Lavandula latifolia*.

Our next stop was next to *Quercus suber* that most people cannot resist hugging, but it missed out today, just a pat. Wandering along the road Crested Tit was calling, evading viewing for some, as it always moved when Amanda pointed it out. Moving further up we started to climb the mountainous track, which started to open up giving views of the impressive mountainous valley. Two more stops were made for a delightful show of *Narcissus requienii* decorating the grey rocky crevices of the rocky mound. Jean had also found a couple spikes of *Orchis conica* just about to open. Our second stop was to scan the mountainous ridge for Spanish Ibex. Next to our stop were more clumps of *Narcissus hispanicus* on the rocky outcrop, and later we found *Narcissus assoanus* decorating the grey-white rocky outcrops.

Apart from the green of grass and leaves nothing else shone in the mid-day sun, even *Helleborus foetidus* is green! There were some excellent gatherings of this plant and we couldn't decide which would be the best for a picture.

A walk was resumed through the pine woodland before lunch. Out of the wind the birds were livelier with Crested and Cold Tit, Short-toed Treecreeper, Nuthatch, and Great Spotted Woodpecker. The demure *Romulea bulbocodium* littered the moist area and *Narcissus hispanicus* decorated the edge of the woodland stream.

Lunch was eaten on one of the picnic benches. After which we headed down towards the warmer climes, finding some shelter and hot spots where our cold layers were shed. One spot proved an ideal place for butterflies. A carpet of *Calendula arvensis* shading underneath an impressive olive persuaded us to stop and explore. This proved very fruitful for butterflies which were short on the ground for this trip. Small Heaths flittered around, Walls basked in the sun on various rocks; Clouded Yellows bounced from one flower head to another, suddenly an excited shout of Provence Hairstreak from Amanda, then Cleopatra but that just flew quickly over our heads, got us looking in all directions. Small Copper finished the small flurry of goodies, before we had to make tracks as the day was starting to draw in. A Goshawk flew over, shortly followed by a Raven.

Our final stop was at the Smurf village of Juzcar, to meet the Smurf's and warm ourselves up with a drink. The day ended with a few 'wows' as we ribboned through the stunning mountainous pass back towards Ronda and Molino, where we were all looking forward to a warm welcome from the staff and another hearty meal.

Day 14

Wednesday 12th March

Ronda - Montejaque

The morning was overcast, the first since we had arrived to Benaoján, as we sat down for another hearty breakfast. At least the wind had abated, but for how long. Ronda was our destination this morning, but before we departed we had time to update the check-lists and mark on the map where we had been over the last week. Ronda (Acinipo) was first declared a city by Julius Caesar in the late 4C AD. When the Moorish troops under the command of Tarik-ibn-Zeyad invaded the region in 8C, one of the first routes they followed was the old Roman one, linking Gibraltar with the Roman settlement of Acinipo. The ruins of Acinipo actually sit 20 Km outside of modern-day Ronda. Modern-day Ronda, which was founded by the Celts, and since has been inhabited by all the big names of Spain's history: Phoenicians, Romans, Arabs and Christians. Ronda today is a town still boasting a medieval layout with a distinctly Islamic flavour. It is also famous for its dramatic escarpments and views, and for the deep El Tajo gorge that carries the Rio Guadalevín through its centre. Visitors make a beeline for the 18th century Puente Nuevo 'new' bridge, which straddles the 100m chasm below, for its unparalleled views out over the Serranía de Ronda Mountains. It is also the birthplace of modern bullfighting, marked by an impressive Bull statue, next to the impressive Bullring.

The morning was spent investigating the old back streets of the old town. Surprisingly, the town was quiet with few tourists, so there was no queuing to get the best view over the gorge, where a beautiful male Blue Rock Thrush was sunning itself on a cliff-ledge and underneath the bridge a clump of bright yellow from *Erysimum cheiri* enlivened the cliff-face. Jean even had time for a quick sketch, before we departed back to the hotel for our picnic lunch. Back at Molino the wind had whipped up so we were allowed to eat lunch in the warmth of the dining area.

The afternoon was spent around the dry rocky knoll area above Montejaque. First was the stunning array of pink, purple and white from the countless spikes of *Orchis olbiensis*, which peppered the grey rocky ground. Amanda counted over a hundred and stopped as the more she clambered around, the more spikes she encountered and lost count. She was also distracted by the swathes of white from the *Narcissus papyraceus* towards the edge of the rocky knoll. A few stands of *Scilla hispanicus* added some colour to the white mass. Meanwhile, Kathleen and Jean were admiring the stunning spikes of *Fritillaria lusitanica* which blended so

well against the craggy terrain. Scrutinizing the ground cover two species of *Gagea* were found, *Gagea pratensis* and *arvensis*, giving an excellent opportunity to compare the two species next to each other. Birdwise, it was very quiet, bar a very noisy gathering of Chough on a rocky plateau on the other side of the rock.

Suddenly, the time had gone and so we had to make our way back to the hotel in time for some packing, and before another substantial meal at Molino.

Day 15 Thursday 13th March Departure

The morning had a cool brisk nip to the air as we stepped out this morning, but Serin and Blackcap were still singing as we said our early morning goodbyes to Benaoján. Our journey to Malaga was relatively straight forward with no hic-ups, but lots of bends as we descended the mountainous sierra to the sunny climes of the coast, temperatures were raising and the flowers were in colourful bloom.

Once the car rental return had been negotiated, we said our goodbyes and left for our planes respectively.

Itinerary

Day 1	Thursday 27th Feb	Arrival & transfer to Dos Mares, Tarifa
Day 2	Friday 28th Feb	Alcornocales Natural Park
Day 3	Saturday 1st March	La Janda Environs
Day 4	Sunday 2nd March	El Cuarton – Zahara – Barbate Woodland Area
Day 5	Monday 3th March	Dos Mares – El Rocío via Laguna Medina
Day 6	Tuesday 4th March	Environs of El Rocío
Day 7	Wednesday 5th March	Northern part of Doñana – Coastal areas of Doñana
Day 8	Thursday 6th March	El Rocío – Benaoján via Lagunas de Espera
Day 9	Friday 7th March	Benaoján – Montejaque – Sierra de Libar
Day 10	Saturday 8th March	Fuente de Piedra – Sierra de Libar – Benaoján
Day 11	Sunday 9th March	Acinipo – El Burgo Road – Mirador del Guardian Forestal – Sierra de Alcaparain
Day 12	Monday 10th March	Ubrique Road – Benaocaz – Grazalema
Day 13	Tuesday 11th March	Sierra de las Nieves – Juzcar
Day 14	Wednesday 12th March	Rhonda – Montejaque
Day 15	Thursday 13th March	Departure

Systematic List Number 1 Plants

FERNS and their allies

Selaginellaceae

Toothed Clubmoss	<i>Selaginella denticulata</i>	the three-fingered moss on wet rocks [Appressed to ground, like big, branched dorsiventrally flattened moss]
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Adiantaceae

Southern Polypody	<i>Polypodium cambricum</i>	Widespread on shady places [Small-medium singly pinnate fern, of triangular outline] widespread on northern facing moist areas
Common Polypody	<i>Polypodium vulgare</i>	

Hypolepidaceae

Bracken	<i>Pteridium aquilinum</i>	common around woodland areas [Familiar tall branched fern]
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Aspleniaceae

Rusty-back Fern	<i>Ceterach officinarum</i>	Widespread
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CONIFERS

Pinaceae

Maritime Pine	<i>Pinus pinaster</i>	scattered records across the trip [Leaves 10-25mm long and 2mm wide, rigid and spiny] commonest of the pines [Distinguished by umbrella shape, huge cones and leaves 2mm wide and 10-20mm long] only recorded during the last week [Typical 2-needle pine, leaves 6-13cm and <1mm wide] mainly around the Sierra areas of the last week [From other 2-needle pines by its short (3-7cm) leaves]
Stone/Umbrella Pine	<i>Pinus pinea</i>	
Aleppo Pine	<i>Pinus halepensis</i>	
Scots Pine	<i>Pinus sylvestris</i>	

Cupressaceae

Atlantic Cedar	<i>Cedrus atlantica</i>	Planted in Sierra de Las Nieves Barbate [Greyish shrub with awl-like leaves in 3s; possibly subsp. <i>macrocarpa</i> in coastal sites]
Prickly Juniper	<i>Juniperus o. oxycedrus</i>	
Phoenician Juniper	<i>Juniperus phoenicea</i>	Barbate [Shrub with overlapping scale-like leaves Subsp. <i>turbinata</i>]

DICOTYLEDONES

Salicaceae

Black Italian Poplar	<i>Salix atrocinerea</i>	El Pilas & Donana area Benaoján Widespread
White Poplar	<i>Populus x canadensis</i>	
	<i>Populus alba</i>	

Juglandaceae

Walnut	<i>Juglans regia</i>	recorded around Benaoján
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Fagaceae

Holly (Kermes) Oak	<i>Quercus coccifera</i>	Common [Shrub or tree with evergreen, holly-like leaves]
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Cork Oak	<i>Quercus suber</i>	Ronda area
Lusitanian Oak	<i>Quercus faginea</i>	Alcornocales Natural Park
<i>Moraceae</i>		
Fig	<i>Ficus carica</i>	Planted – common
<i>Urticaceae</i>		
Small Nettle	<i>Urtica urens</i>	Scattered [More compact nettle, with tassel fruit and small round leaves]
Membranous Nettle	<i>Urtica membranacea</i>	Scattered [Delicate annual stinging nettle with inflated stalks for flower spikes]
Roman Nettle	<i>Urtica pilulifera</i> <i>Parietaria judaica</i>	common over the first week Molino
<i>Loranthaceae</i>		
Red Berry Mistletoe	<i>Viscum cruciatum</i>	common on <i>Crataegus</i> in the second part of the trip [From familiar British mistletoe by its red berries]
<i>Aristolochiaceae</i>		
	<i>Aristolochia longa</i>	scattered records over the first week [Low growing fawn-coloured Dutchman's pipe]
	<i>Aristolochia baetica</i>	common [Evergreen climber with heart-shaped leaves and brownish flowers shaped like Dutchman's pipe]
<i>Polygonaceae</i>		
Water Dock	<i>Rumex acetosella</i>	Ronda, Donana, Alcornocales
Curled Dock	<i>Rumex hydrolapathum</i> <i>Rumex crispus</i>	Donana Benaoján
<i>Chenopodiaceae</i>		
Sea Purslane	<i>Atriplex portulacoides</i>	Barbate [Undershrub with oval grey leaves]
<i>Aizoaceae</i>		
Hottentot-fig	<i>Carpobrotus acinaciformis</i>	La Janda Environs
<i>Caryophyllaceae</i>		
Common Mouse-ear	<i>Cerastium holosteoides</i> <i>Dianthus lusitanus</i>	woodland areas around Benaoján Donana [Typical pink, loosely tufted and with glaucous leaves]
	<i>Paronychia argentea</i>	[Low mat-forming perennial with very prominent silvery stipules and sepals]
Common Chickweed	<i>Paronychia capitata</i> <i>Stellaria media</i>	Sierra del Libar, Molino Gorge, Barbate Scattered [The familiar weed]
White Campion	<i>Silene latifolia</i> <i>Silene littorea</i> <i>Silene colorata</i>	Donana, Benaoján, mainly found around woodlands Barbate, Trafalgar [Slender sticky annual with pink flowers and spatulate leaves] Scattered [Short annual with narrow leaves and showy rose-pink flowers, deep-notched petals]
<i>Ranunculaceae</i>		
Stinking Hellebore	<i>Helleborus foetidus</i>	Sierra de Las Nieves, Alcornocales [Typical hellebore with digitate leaves and pale green flowers]

Yellow Anemone	<i>Anemone palmata</i>	Montejaque, Ronda environs
Virgin's Bower	<i>Clematis cirrhosa</i>	Widespread [Typical <i>Clematis</i> but evergreen]
Lesser Celandine	<i>Ranunculus ficaria</i>	Alcornocales & Ronda areas [Familiar plant]
Lesser Celandine	<i>Ranunculus ficaria</i>	marshy areas [Familiar plant, but here represented by big-flowered subsp. <i>ficariiformis</i>]
Rock Buttercup	<i>Ranunculu srupestris spicatus</i>	Common on rocks second half of trip [typical buttercup, no hairs on leaves]
<i>Paeoniaceae</i>		
	<i>Paeonia coriacea</i>	Sierra de Alcaparain in bud, Sierra de las Nieves [leaves lobed, having a leathery texture]
<i>Papaveraceae</i>		
	<i>Fumaria bicolor</i>	Barbate
Ramping Fumitory	<i>Fumaria capreolata</i>	Widespread
Common Fumitory	<i>Fumaria officinalis</i>	Scattered [Typical non-climbing fumitory]
Field Poppy	<i>Papaver rhoeas</i>	Scattered
Opium Poppy	<i>Papaver somniferum</i>	a small clump near the agricultural fields after the boat crossing, Seville
<i>Brassicaceae (Cruciferae)</i>		
	<i>Alyssum montanum</i>	road to Juzcar [Dwarf herb with narrow crowded grey leaves and dense heads of tiny yellow flowers; sepals 2.5-3.5mm]
	<i>Brassica tournefortii</i>	Donana [Small flowered yellow annual]
	<i>Biscutella auriculata</i>	Alcornocales
Shepherd's-purse	<i>Capsella bursa-pastoris</i>	Widespread [Familiar white cress, triangular fruit]
Hairy Bittercress	<i>Cardamine hirsuta</i>	Scattered [As latter but 4-5 stamens]
Wallflower	<i>Erysimum cheivi</i>	cliffs at Ronda
Sweet Alison	<i>Lobularia maritima</i>	Molino Gorge, Mirador Forestal, Barbate sands, Alcornocales
	<i>Malcolmia lacera</i>	Donana, Barbate [From next by beaded pods]
Sand Stock	<i>Malcolmia littorea</i>	Scattered [Short white-downy perennial; purple flowers and unbeaded pods]
	<i>Moricandia arvensis</i>	Scattered [Hairless cabbage-like perennial with showy violet-purple flowers & linear pods]
White Mustard	<i>Sinapis arvensis</i>	Scattered
Hedge Mustard	<i>Sisymbrium officinale</i>	Scattered [Erect yellow cress with pinnately-lobed leaves & pods appressed to stem]
Pennycress sp.	<i>Thlaspi perfoliatum</i>	Mirador del Guardian Forestal
<i>Resedaceae</i>		
Wild Mignonette	<i>Reseda lutea</i>	Scattered
	<i>Reseda phyteuma</i>	Donana
<i>Droseraceae</i>		
Drosophyllum	<i>Drosophyllum lusitanicum</i>	El Cuarton [Bizarre with big rosettes of linear leaves covered in red-tipped glandular hairs, often perched on rocks]

Crassulaceae

Biting Stonecrop	<i>Sedum acre</i>	Grazalema environs
White Stonecrop	<i>Sedum album</i>	Grazalema environs
	<i>Sedum sediforme</i>	Sierra de Alcaparain (leaves only)
Wall Pennywort	<i>Umbilicus rupestris</i>	Scattered (leaves only & some dead stems)
Common Houseleek	<i>Sempervivum tectorum</i>	Sierra de Alcaparain (leaves only)

Saxifragaceae

Three-lobed	<i>Saxifraga bourgaeana</i>	Montejaque [Like mossy saxifrage, leaves deeply divided into three lobes and white flowers]
Meadow Saxifrage	<i>Saxifraga granulata</i>	Scattered on shady rocks [Kidney-shaped toothed leaves, bulbils at their base and white flowers]

Platanaceae

Plane Tree	<i>Platanus x acerifolia</i>	seen [Roadside tree with alternate palmate leaves, scaling bark]
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Rosaceae

Hawthorn	<i>Crataegus monogyna azarella</i>	Grazalema [Familiar shrub, but here the densely hairy]
Hawthorn	<i>Crataegus monogyna brevispina</i>	Scattered [Familiar shrub, but with leathery hairless leaves]
Almond	<i>Prunus dulcis</i>	mostly planted
Apricot	<i>Prunus armeniaca</i>	mostly planted
Bramble	<i>Rubus fruticosus</i> agg.	common & widespread [Typical bramble, small trefoil leaves]

Fabaceae

	<i>Acacia</i> sp.	Common & widespread [Shrubs with grey willow-like 'leaves' & yellow mimosa blooms]
Judas Tree	<i>Cercis siliquastrum</i>	Benaoján starting to bud
Bean Trefoil	<i>Anagyris foetida</i>	Sierra del Libar & Grazalema
Portuguese Milk-vetch	<i>Astragalus lusitanicus</i>	Alcornocales [Stout herb with pinnate leaves, oblong racemes of white flowers and dark calyces]
Pitch Trefoil	<i>Bituminaria bituminosa</i>	Widespread
Spiny Broom	<i>Calicotome villosa</i>	Alcornocales [Like an elegant gorse, scenting the air with honey, pods hairy]
Carob	<i>Ceratonia siliqua</i>	Widespread
Winged Broom	<i>Chamaespartium tridentatum</i>	El Cuarton [Leafless winged stems, wings 3-lobed at nodes, heads of yellow flowers]
	<i>Cytisus malacitanus</i>	Fuente de Piedra, Sierra des Nieves
	<i>Cytisus grandiflorus</i>	Ronda area, Donana
	<i>Genista triacanthos</i>	La Janda [Low shrub with trefoil leaves, axillary spines and yellow racemes]
Southern Bird's-foot	<i>Lotus creticus</i>	Barbate
Blue Lupin	<i>Lupinus angustifolius</i>	El Rocio road [Blue-spiked lupin]
Yellow Lupin	<i>Lupinus luteus</i>	Donana [Yellow-spiked lupin]
White Broom	<i>Lygos monosperma</i>	common, Barbate, Donana, Grazalema,
	<i>Medicago littoralis</i>	Barbate [Hairy, jagged toothed stipules, spiny fruit]
Sea Medick	<i>Medicago marina</i>	Barbate, Odiel Marshes [White-downy creeping perennial trefoil with yellow heads]
Large Disk Medick	<i>Medicago orbicularis</i>	Barbate [Disk-like fruits]
	<i>Medicago polymorpha</i>	

	<i>Ononis diffusa</i>	Barbate [Flowers 9-11mm & ascending/procumbent habit] Common
Spanish Broom	<i>Spartium junceum</i>	
Teline	<i>Teline monspessulana</i>	La Janda [Tall erect trefoil shrub: yellow flowers and white-woolly fruit]
Hop Trefoil	<i>Trifolium campestre</i>	El Rocio [Small ball-like cluster of flowers]
Small-flowered Gorse	<i>Ulex parviflorus</i>	Widespread and common [Typical gorse, with alternate leaves Subsp. <i>funkii</i>]
Small Gorse	<i>Ulex minor</i>	Donana [Single stem, typical gorse looking]
<i>Oxalidaceae</i>		
Bermuda Buttercup	<i>Oxalis pes-caprae</i>	Widespread and common [Trefoil leaves, yellow umbels of 5-petalled flowers]
<i>Geraniaceae</i>		
Common Stork's-bill	<i>Erodium cicutarium</i>	Widespread in Ronda area [short-beaked subsp. <i>cuticularium</i>] [long-beaked subsp. <i>jacquinianum</i>]
Cut-leaved Crane's-bill	<i>Geranium dissectum</i>	Scattered in Ronda area [Similar to latter, but with smaller flowers and notched petals]
Shining Crane's-bill	<i>Geranium lucidum</i>	Mirador forrestal [Shiny bluntly-lobed palmate leaves; pink flowers]
Dove's-foot Crane's-bill	<i>Geranium molle</i>	Scattered in Ronda area [Like <i>G. dissectum</i> , but wedge-lobed and with more purplish-pink flowers]
Round-leaved Crane's-bill	<i>Geranium rotundifolium</i>	Scattered [Like <i>G. molle</i> , but shallowly-lobed, un-notched petals]
<i>Linaceae</i>		
Pale Flax	<i>Linum bienne</i>	Donana area [Slender pale blue flax]
<i>Euphorbiaceae</i>		
Large Mediterranean	<i>Euphorbia characias</i>	Benoajan, Sierra de Alcaparain [Tall tufted hairy perennial spurge]
Sun Spurge	<i>Euphorbia helioscopia</i>	Common in Ronda area [Familiar weedy spurge, toothed leaves]
Sea Spurge	<i>Euphorbia paralias</i>	Barbate [Fleshy greyish perennial, many oblong leaves]
Petty Spurge	<i>Euphorbia peplus</i>	Benoajan [From Sun Spurge by untoothed leaves]
	<i>Euphorbia segetalis</i>	Trafalgar [Linear-leaved annual with 5 rays, 1-5 times forked and rough fruit]
Wood Spurge	<i>Euphorbia amygdaloides</i>	Barbate, Donana [woodlands]
Annual Mercury	<i>Mercurialis annua</i>	Widespread
<i>Anacardiaceae</i>		
Mastic Tree	<i>Pistacia lentiscus</i>	Scattered in Ronda Area, Donana [Evergreen shrub whose pinnate leaves normally have no terminal leaflet]
Turpentine Tree	<i>Pistacia terebinthus</i>	common & widespread Alcornocales [smell of turpentine, when leaves are crushed]
<i>Rhamnaceae</i>		
	<i>Rhamnus l. lycioides</i>	Scattered [Densely branched 1m spiny shrub, yellow-green flowers]

Malvaceae

Small Tree-mallow	<i>Lavatera cretica</i>	Alcornocales [Like Common Mallow, but broad epicalyx lobes, flowers 2-4cm]
Common Mallow	<i>Malva sylvestris</i>	Alcornocales [Familiar dark pink biennial/perennial]

Thymelaeaceae

Spurge-laurel	<i>Thymelaea tartonraira</i> <i>Daphne laureola</i>	Barbate Sierra de las Nieves [Like short evergreen rhododendron with berry fruit Subsp. <i>latifolia</i> according to <i>Flora Iberica</i>]
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Cistaceae

	<i>Cistus albidus</i>	Alcornocales [Short shrub with oval flat leaves and rose-pink flowers 4-6cm]
Gum Cistus	<i>Cistus ladanifer</i>	Donana [Resembles a much taller (1-2.5m) and sticky aromatic <i>C. monspeliensis</i> white flowers with maroon basal blotch to petals]
Narrow-leaved Cistus	<i>Cistus monspeliensis</i>	Donana (leaves only), [To 0.8m, with long narrow viscid leaves and white flowers]
Sage-leaved Cistus	<i>Cistus salvifolius</i>	Common and widespread [Sage-like leaves and white flowers 3-5cm wide]
	<i>Halimium commutatum</i>	Donana, Barbate forest [From other <i>Halimium</i> sp. by linear leaves (white beneath)]
	<i>Halimium h. halimifolium</i>	Donana, Alcornocales [Differs from <i>H. atriplicifolium</i> in its elliptical leaves]
Common Rockrose	<i>Helianthemum nummularium</i>	Sierra de las Nieves [Familiar yellow-flowered subshrub, whose oblong leaves are white beneath]
	<i>Fumana thymifolia</i>	Alcornocales

Tamaricaceae

	<i>Tamarix africana</i>	Donana [Shrub with scale like leaves, and white spikes]
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Cucurbitaceae

Squirting Cucumber	<i>Echallium elaterium</i>	Alcornocales, Barbate [Coarse bristly scrambler with heart-shaped leaves, yellow flowers and 4-5cm long fruit]
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Cactaceae

Prickly Pear	<i>Opuntia ficus-indica</i>	common & widespread
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Myrtaceae

	<i>Eucalyptus sp</i>	seen [Large trees with flaking bark, grey leaves]
Common Myrtle	<i>Myrtus communis</i>	Scattered [Opposite-leaved evergreen aromatic shrub]

Araliaceae

Ivy	<i>Hedera helix</i>	Ronda area [Familiar evergreen climber with lobed leaves]
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Apiaceae (Umbelliferae)

Wild Carrot	<i>Daucus carota</i>	Alcornocales [Familiar coarse herb, divided bracts' flat inflorescence]
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Field Eryngo	<i>Eryngium campestre</i>	Molino Gorge [Wide branched spiny perennial, trifold basal leaves and greenish heads 10-15mm]
Giant Fennel	<i>Ferula communis</i>	Scattered
Alexanders	<i>Smyrniium olusatrum</i>	Common in Ronda area, Sierra de las Nieves [Stout widely branched with divided glossy leaves and rounded umbels of yellow green flowers]
Knotted Hedge Parsley	<i>Torilis nodosa</i>	Donana [Small white umbel, oval burred fruits]
<i>Ericaceae</i>		
Strawberry-tree	<i>Arbutus unedo</i>	Donana, [Ever-green tree with lanceolate leaves & warty berries]
Ling	<i>Calluna vulgaris</i>	Donana, El Cuarton [Familiar heather, differing from an <i>Erica</i> by its overlapping scale-like leaves]
Tree Heath	<i>Erica arborea</i>	common [1-4m tall, but otherwise a typical white-flowered heath, oval flowers]
Spanish Heath	<i>Erica australis</i>	El Cuarton [Tall heath with red-pink tubular-bell flowers]
Dorset Heath	<i>Erica ciliaris</i>	Donana [<80cm, ovate leaves in whorls of 3, fringed in cilia and with revolute margins]
<i>Primulaceae</i>		
Scarlet Pimpernel	<i>Anagallis arvensis</i>	Barbate & Ronda area, of both [Subsp. <i>arvensis</i> familiar red weed & subsp. <i>coerulea</i> Bright blue]
Shrubby Pimpernel	<i>Anagallis monelli</i>	Alcornocales (perennial all seen had bright blue 1cm flowers)
<i>Plumbaginaceae</i>		
Thrift	<i>Armeria macrophylla</i>	Donana
Winged Sea-lavender	<i>Limonium sinuatum</i>	Barbate sands
<i>Oleaceae</i>		
Ash	<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>	Alcornocales [Familiar tree with opposite pinnate leaves and black buds]
Manna Ash	<i>Fraxinus angustifolia</i>	Alcornocales [Similar to above but brown buds]
Olive	<i>Olea europaea</i>	Common and widespread [Familiar evergreen tree with greyish narrow leaves]
	<i>Phillyrea angustifolia</i> <i>Phillyrea latifolia</i>	Scattered [From next by uniform leaves] Alcornocales [Resembles a scentless myrtle with dimorphic leaves]
<i>Apocynaceae</i>		
Oleander	<i>Nerium oleander</i>	common [Shrub with long leathery leaves, and gaudy pink flowers]
	<i>Vinca difformis</i>	Common and widespread [Scrambling plant with opposite leathery leaves and blue-white flowers]
<i>Rubiaceae</i>		
Cleavers	<i>Galium aparine</i>	Common [Familiar coarse clambering weed]

	<i>Galium verticillatum</i>	Alcornocales [Delicate, whorls of 6-7 leaves and white flowers 1-1.5mm across]
Wild Madder	<i>Rubia peregrina</i>	common & widespread [Resembles coarse evergreen cleavers with black berries]
Field Madder	<i>Sherardia arvensis</i>	Common [Like compact pink/lavender blue bedstraw]
<i>Boraginaceae</i>		
Borage	<i>Borago officinalis</i>	Scattered [Popular herb, Blue, star-like, nodding flowers, oval bristly leaves]
Honeywort	<i>Cerinthe major</i>	Donana [Grey with white swellings, and nodding yellow flowers with reddish (or whitish) base]
Blue Hound's Tongue	<i>Cynoglossum creticum</i>	Alcornocales
	<i>Echium boisseri</i>	Scattered [Tall bristly, not in flower]
Purple Viper's-bugloss	<i>Echium plantagineum</i>	Widespread and common [Typical bugloss, with big violet-blue funnel-like flowers]
Viper's Bugloss	<i>Echium vulgare</i>	Donana
Large Blue Alkanet	<i>Anchusa azurea</i>	Donana
Heavenly Blue	<i>Lithodora diffusa</i>	Alcornocales [Bright blue open flowers on a sprawling evergreen]
Yellow Gromwell	<i>Neotostema apulum</i>	Benaoján [small tight cluster head]
	<i>Nonea vesicaria</i>	Fuente de Piedra [Bristly herb with red-brown flowers]
<i>Verbenaceae</i>		
Lantana	<i>Lantana comosa</i>	Scattered [Prickly shrub with oval leaves and heads of orange and yellow flowers]
<i>Lamiaceae (formerly known as Labiatae)</i>		
Henbit	<i>Lamium amplexicaule</i>	Jarden Botanico [Annual pink dead-nettle, long flowers]
Toothed Lavender	<i>Lavandula dentata</i>	Alcornocales [Grey lavender, toothed linear leaves]
Spike Lavender	<i>Lavandula latifolia</i>	Sierra de las Nieves [typical lavender smells strongly of camphor]
French Lavender	<i>Lavandula stoechas</i>	Scattered [Linear-lanceolate leaved shrub, flower spikes with purple tassel]
Green Lavender	<i>Lavandula viridis</i>	Alcaparain [Green/white form of <i>L. stoechas</i>]
Water mint	<i>Mentha aquatica</i>	Scattered [Patch-forming strong-smelling mint]
Rosemary	<i>Rosmarinus officinalis</i>	Common [Familiar fragrant shrub with blue-white flowers]
Silver Sage	<i>Salvia sclarea/argentea</i>	Grazalema [Robust, white felted, leaves irregularly indented foliage rosette seen]
Wild Clary	<i>Salvia verbenaca</i>	locally common [Herb with wrinkled leaves, often pinnately-cut; spikes of dense purple or blue and white whorls]
Tree Germander	<i>Teucrium fruticans</i>	El Cuarton [White-felted evergreen shrub to 2.5m, blue flowers with lower lip only]
Felty Germander	<i>Teucrium polium</i>	Scattered [Dense felted subshrub with wrinkled leaves and white heads]
Wood Sage	<i>Teucrium scordonia</i>	Alcornocales, woodlands
<i>Scrophulariaceae</i>		
Common Snapdragon	<i>Antirrhinum majus</i>	Sierra del Libar & Benaojan [Typical pink snapdragon] Subsp. <i>tortuosum</i>]

Lesser Toadflax	<i>Antirrhinum siculum</i> <i>Linaria arvensis</i> <i>Linaria oblongifolia</i> <i>Linaria spartea</i>	Barbate forest Sierra de Alcaparain [small tiny blue flower] Barbate [small yellow snapdragon] Donana [Yellow toadflax with linear, blunt and rather distant leaves]
Common Toadflax	<i>Linaria vulgaris</i>	Barbate
Weasel's Snout	<i>Misopates orontium</i>	Donana
Pale Speedwell	<i>Veronica cymbalaria</i>	Ronda area [Decumbent annual, lobed leaves and white flowers]

Orobanchaceae

<i>Orobanche densiflora</i>	Barbate [Stout yellowish, dense spike of many flowers parasitic on <i>Fabaceae</i>]
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Acanthaceae

Bear's Breech	<i>Acanthus mollis</i>	in leaf at Benaoján
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Plantaginaceae

Buck's-horn Plantain	<i>Plantago coronopus</i>	Common [From other plantains by its pinnately-lobed leaves]
Ribwort Plantain	<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>	Scattered leaves [Familiar plantain]

Caprifoliaceae

Honeysuckle	<i>Lonicera perichlymenum</i>	Scattered [Familiar deciduous climber, leaves <u>not</u> fused in pairs. Subsp. <i>hispanica</i>]
Laurustinus	<i>Viburnum tinus</i>	locally common [Shrub to 3m, opposite hairy leaves, white tubular flowers in dense heads]

Valerianaceae

Fedia	<i>Fedia cornucopiae</i>	Common and widespread [Regularly branched, rather succulent annual with slightly 2-lipped purple flowers, marked with pink on tube]
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Dipsacaceae

Common Teasel	<i>Dipsacus fullonum</i>	Common [Familiar tall biennial]
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Asteraceae (Compositae)

Corn Chamomile	<i>Anthemis arvensis</i>	Scattered [Field mayweed]
Annual Daisy	<i>Bellis annua</i>	Scattered [Very like common daisy, but tiny, annual and with lilac-tinged heads only 5-15mm across]
Southern Daisy	<i>Bellis sylvestris</i>	Common & widespread [From last by three prominent veins]
Field Marigold	<i>Calendula arvensis</i>	Widespread [Like small-headed orange Pot Marigold]
	<i>Calendula suffruticosa</i>	Barbate [Woody-based marigold: narrow oblong few-toothed leaves & 3-4cm yellow heads fleshy ssp. <i>algarbiensis</i>]
Plymouth Thistle	<i>Carduus pycnocephalus</i>	Scattered [Typical slender leafy thistle with many small rose-purple heads]
Common Star-thistle	<i>Centaurea calcitrapa</i>	La Janda [Much-branched, pinnate-lobed leaves & purple heads with long-spined yellow bracts]
	<i>Centaurea pullata</i>	Common and widespread [3-5cm blue-purple solitary heads surrounded by leaves, no spiny bracts]

Globe-headed Thistle	<i>Centaurea sphaerocephala</i>	Barbate
Crown-daisy	<i>Chrysanthemum coronarium</i>	Widespread [Tall 2-pinnate herb with yellow (or yellow and white subsp <i>bicolour</i>) heads 3-6cm wide]
Chicory	<i>Cichorium intybus</i>	Donana
	<i>Cirsium arvense</i>	Donana
Canadian Fleabane	<i>Conyza canadensis</i>	El Rocio [Tall very leafy, with many tiny white heads and narrow-oblong leaves]
Sunflower	<i>Helianthus annuus</i>	Alcornocales
Scented Mayweed	<i>Matricaria recutita</i>	Alcornocales
	<i>Pallenis spinosa</i>	Scattered La Janda & Donana
(no common name)	<i>Reichardia gaditana</i>	Barbate [Coarse dandelion-like herb, clasping leaves without white pimples, rays red beneath]
	<i>Santolina rosmarifolia</i>	Barbate [Aromatic whitish evergreen subshrub, linear toothed leaves & yellow buttons]
French Ragwort	<i>Senecio gallicus</i>	Alcornocales [Small-headed annual ragwort, pinnate leaves with distant lobes; bold golden daisy flowers]
Common Groundsel	<i>Senecio vulgaris</i>	Common [Familiar weed]
Milk Thistle	<i>Silybum marianum</i>	Scattered [Robust weakly spiny thistle with white veins, and long-spiny involucre]
Prickly Sow-thistle	<i>Sonchus asper</i>	Alcornocales [Thistle-like annual with milky sap, and many small dandelion-like heads]
Smooth Sow-thistle	<i>Sonchus oleraceus</i>	Scattered [Similar to <i>S. asper</i> , but almost without prickles]
	<i>Taraxacum sp</i>	Common [A typical dandelion]

MONOCOTYLEDONES

Liliaceae

Three-stemmed Leek	<i>Allium triquetrum</i>	Alcornocales [Slightly drooping white flowers and triangular stem]
	<i>Asparagus acutifolius</i>	Ronda area [Branched and woody with whitish stems and clusters of 10-30 spine-tipped equal-sized cladodes (leaf-like branches)]
Common Asphodel	<i>Asphodelus aestivus</i>	Common & widespread [Stout wide branched head of pinkish-white flowers, capsules 5-7mm and basal tuft of long tough strap-shaped leaves]
White Asphodel	<i>Asphodelus albus</i>	Common Ronda environs [Differs from last in its simple spike of white flowers]
Hollow-leaved Asphodel	<i>Asphodelus fistulosus</i>	Scattered in Donana [Slender perennial, 16-24mm white flowers and hollow cylindrical leaves]
Dipcadi	<i>Dipcadi serotinum</i>	Barbate [Resembles a bluebell but with 1-sided raceme of brownish flowers]
	<i>Fritillaria lusitanica</i>	Ronda area [Typical slender fritillary with linear leaves and nodding brownish flowers, mottled/chequered green on outside]
	<i>Gagea arvensis</i>	Ronda environs [Resembles tiny yellow crocus with hairy flower-stalks and lower stem leaves opposite]
Meadow Gagea	<i>Gagea pratensis</i>	Ronda environs [From <i>G. arvensis</i> by its flower-stalks being hairless]

Spanish Bluebell	<i>Gagea granatellii</i> <i>Hyacinthoides hispanicus</i>	Sierra de Alcaparain Scattered in Ronda area [From 'our' bluebell by its erect spike and blue anthers]
Common Grape-hyacinth	<i>Muscari neglectum</i>	Donana [Typical grape-hyacinth, but rather dwarfed]
Butcher's Broom	<i>Ruscus aculeatus</i>	common [Low evergreen shrub with ovate 1-4cm spine-tipped 'leaves' (branches)]
Spanish Butcher's-broom	<i>Ruscus hypophyllum</i>	common [Differs in its 5-9cm cladodes, and not spine-tipped]
One-leaved Squill	<i>Scilla monophyllos</i>	Alcornocales, Barbate [Like tiny bluebell with one basal leaf and spike of 4-12 flowers]
Spanish Bluebell	<i>Scilla hispanica</i>	Sierra de Alcaparain [medium sized one sided infl]
Common Smilax	<i>Smilax aspera</i>	Common [Clamberer with cordate leaves with some prickles on leaves, stalks and/or stems]

Agavaceae

Century Plant	<i>Agave americana</i>	Common alien [Huge rosettes of grey spear-shaped leaves and last year's tall stems bearing saucer-sized heads]
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Amaryllidaceae

Three-leaved Snowflake	<i>Leucojum trichophyllum</i>	Donana [Elegant snowflake, usually 3 linear leaves and 2-4 nodding white broad bells, tinged in pale pink]
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NB: Narcissus identification still somewhat dubious – splitting

	<i>Narcissus cuatrecasasii</i>	Sierra del Libar [From jonquils by its 2-keeled glaucous leaves and almost scentless flowers]
Spanish Daffodil	<i>Narcissus hispanicus</i>	Sierra de Las Nieves [Typical daffodil, flowers evenly deep yellow 4-6.5cm; leaves glaucous, spirally twisted & 8-12mm wide. Among the population there are distinctly smaller forms that some regard as <i>Narcissus minor</i>]
Jonquil	<i>Narcissus jonquilla</i> <i>Narcissus cordubensis</i>	Sierra de Alcaparain Ubrique road
Paper-white Narcissus	<i>Narcissus papyraceus</i>	very common & widespread [Glaucous flat-leaved narcissus with umbels of up to 20 pure white fragrant flowers]
Rush-leaved Jonquil	<i>Narcissus assoanus</i>	Frequent in Ronda area [Tiny jonquil, thread-like leaves 1-2mm wide, 1-2 flowers (tube 1-2cm)]
Sea Daffodil	<i>Narcissus bulbocodium</i> <i>Pancreatium maritimum</i>	Donana Barbate only leaves found [Only broad grey daffodil leaves at time of our visit]

Dioscoreaceae

Black Bryony	<i>Tamus communis</i>	Common [Unarmed climber with cordate leaves]
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Iridaceae

Stinking Iris	<i>Iris foetidissima</i>	Alcornocales [Sword-like foetid leaves only at time of visit]
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	<i>Iris planifolia</i>	Ronda environs [Leaves 1-3cm wide, channelled (not sword-like), arranged in fan, 1-3 bluish flowers]
Yellow Flag	<i>Iris pseudacorus</i>	Donana [Familiar yellow Iris (sword leaves and beardless falls)]
Romulea	<i>Romulea bulbocodium</i>	Sierra de Alcaparain & Sierra de Las Nieves [Crocus-like, lilac or white flowers with yellow throat (25-35mm); leaves rush-like]
	<i>Romulea clusiana</i>	Barbate [Best thought of as a coastal variant of <i>R. bulbocodium</i> , but flowers 35-45mm long]
Sand Crocus	<i>Romulea columnae</i>	Barbate & Donana [Similar, but flowers only 10-12mm long]
<i>Arecaceae (Palmae)</i>		
Dwarf Fan-palm	<i>Chamaerops humilis</i>	Common [Bushy palm to 4m with fan-shaped leaves]
<i>Araceae</i>		
Large Cuckoo Pint	<i>Arum italicum</i>	Common in lvs [Like big Cuckoo Pint. Subsp. <i>neglectum</i>]
<i>Typhaceae</i>		
Lesser Reedmace	<i>Typha angustifolia</i>	around wetland areas [Typical reedmace with leaves 3-6mm wide]
<i>Orchidaceae</i>		
Giant Orchid	<i>Himantoglossum robertianum</i>	Ronda environs [Stout and fragrant, with many greenish-purple flowers]
Two-leaved Gennaria	<i>Gennaria diphylla</i>	El Cuarton, Barbate [Short orchid with 2 alternate oval leaves clasping stem and 1-sided spike of small green flowers]
Sombre Bee Orchid	<i>Ophrys fusca</i>	common & widespread [Green sepals, 15-23mm brown lip, no ù mark]
Sawfly Orchid	<i>Ophrys tenthredinifera</i>	Alcornocales, Barbate [Round pale pink sepals, and large square labellum with a wide straw-yellow margin]
Atlas Orchid	<i>Ophrys atlantica</i>	Barbate
Fan-lipped Orchid	<i>Orchis collina</i>	Fuente de Piedra [Few flowered spikes, olive-brown flowers, pink centre to labellum]
	<i>Orchis conica</i>	Sierra de Las Nieves
	<i>Orchis olbiensis</i>	Ronda area [Leaves sometimes spotted, spikes of pale pink flowers with 3-lobed labellum 7.5-13mm and upward pointing spur 13-19mm long. <i>FE</i> says this is simply a subspecies of <i>O. mascula</i>]

Systematic List Number 2

Birds

The taxonomic nomenclature & systematic order follows both that of Collins: Bird Guide 2nd edition. During the two week period a total of 163 species was recorded. The numbers indicate the dates on which a species was seen.

Black-necked Grebe	<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>	several individuals were recorded around the brackish waters of Doñana (5), as well as at Lagunas de Espera (6) & Fuente de Piedra (8)
Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>	common around waterbodies (4 – 6 & 8)
Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>	recorded on Lagoon Medina & Lagunas de Espera (8 & 11)
Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>	individuals recorded occasionally around water bodies (2, 5 & 7)
Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>	frequent seen everyday in the first part of the trip
Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	common & everyday in the first week of the trip, then infrequent during the second week found along river beds
Great White Egret	<i>Egretta alba</i>	recorded around the lagoons & marsh areas at El Rocío (4 – 5)
Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	most days in the first half of the trip, but not in the second half
White Stork	<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>	common, but only recorded in the first week of the trip
Glossy Ibis	<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>	only recorded in the first week of the trip, with a small group flushed from the drains around La Janda & very common at Coto Doñana over 300+ coming into roost at night
Spoonbill	<i>Platalea leucorodia</i>	regularly seen during the first half of the trip, common at Coto Doñana (2 – 6)
Greater Flamingo	<i>Phoenicopterus ruber</i>	common at Coto Doñana & Fuente de Piedra (3 – 6, & 8)
Greylag Goose	<i>Anser anser</i>	small numbers recorded around Coto Doñana (5 – 6)
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	common & widespread around water bodies
Gadwall	<i>Anas strepera</i>	recorded at Coto Doñana & Fuente de Piedra (4 – 5 & 8)
Pintail	<i>Anas acuta</i>	small number around at Doñana (3 – 6)
Shoveler	<i>Anas clypeata</i>	the commonest of the waterfowl species for the trip, recorded in large numbers at Coto Doñana & Fuente de Piedra (3 – 6 & 8)
Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>	recorded at Coto Doñana & Fuente de Piedra (3 – 6 & 8)
Pochard	<i>Aythya farina</i>	recorded at Coto Doñana & Fuente de Piedra (4 – 6 & 8)
Red-crested Pochard	<i>Netta rufina</i>	only recorded at Lagunas Dulce, a small group were bob, bob, bobbing along, to the crashing waves of this small lagoon (8)
Ferruginous Duck	<i>Aythya nyroca</i>	a pair were recorded in front of a large group of Coot at Lagunas Dulce (8)
Tufted Duck	<i>Aythya fuligula</i>	individuals recorded at Coto Doñana & Fuente de Piedra (4, 6 & 8)
White-headed Duck	<i>Oxyura leucocephala</i>	we were very lucky to record this species, only individuals were seen at Fuente de Piedra & Lagunas Dulce (8)
Griffon Vulture	<i>Gypus fulvus</i>	common, seen nearly every day, often in large numbers

Golden Eagle	<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>	sub-adult being mobbed by a juvenile Spanish Imperial Eagle, giving some excellent views to show contrast between the two species (1)
Spanish Imperial Eagle	<i>Aquila adalberti</i>	several sightings of this species, a juvenile around La Janda (1); several birds at Doñana (4 - 5)
Short-toed Eagle	<i>Circaetus gallicus</i>	only four recorded amongst large groups of migrating Black Kite (28)
Bonelli's Eagle	<i>Hieraaetus fasciatus</i>	only one individual recorded around the Benaoján area (7)
Red Kite	<i>Milvus milvus</i>	only recorded on a couple of days at Doñana & Lagunas de Espera (5 - 6)
Black Kite	<i>Milvus migrans</i>	300+ were recorded migrating on (28), there after regular sightings of small groups or individuals across the course of the trip
Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>	occasionally seen but in low numbers or individuals during the first half of the trip
Hen Harrier	<i>Circus cyaneus</i>	one female seen on migration around La Janda (1)
Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>	this common species was recorded infrequently across the trip (1, 4 - 5, & 8)
Goshawk	<i>Accipiter gentilis</i>	a lovely male glided above our heads as we were searching for butterflies (11)
Black-shouldered Kite	<i>Elanus caeruleus</i>	a couple of fantastic sightings of this appealing little bird (1 & 5)
Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	common, seen or heard everyday
Lesser Kestrel	<i>Falco naumanni</i>	a small group at the ruin farm buildings Coto Doñana (5)
Red-footed Falcon	<i>Falco vespertinus</i>	five were recorded following the migrating Black Kites (28)
Peregrine	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	a female chasing prey around the mountains at Montejaque (7)
Red-legged Partridge	<i>Alectoris rufa</i>	only recorded on three days (1, 5 - 6)
Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	regularly seen around open water bodies
Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>	regularly seen around open water bodies, often in large numbers particular at Lagunas Dulce (500+) (8)
Purple Gallinule	<i>Porphyrio porphyrio</i>	this fantastically colourful large bird was recorded around reedbeds at La Janda, Coto Doñana & Fuente de Piedra (1, 4 - 5 & 8)
Common Crane	<i>Grus grus</i>	first heard & 6 individuals flying around the agricultural fields at La Janda (1); family groups at Coto Doñana (5)
Avocet	<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>	small numbers recorded around Coto Doñana & Fuente de Piedra (5 - 6 & 8)
Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>	a common bird around Coto Doñana & Fuente de Piedra (3 - 6 & 8)
Little Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>	a pair were recorded at Fuente de Piedra (8)
Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	only recorded a couple of times (5 & 8)
Green Sandpiper	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>	a pair were flushed from one of the brackish dykes at Doñana (5)
Redshank	<i>Tringa tetanus</i>	recorded around marshy & brackish areas at Doñana (3 & 5)

Black-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa limosa</i>	very frequent around the lakes at El Rocío (3 – 6); & Fuente de Piedra (8) some coming into breeding plumage
Bar-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa lapponica</i>	individuals at the lake at El Rocío (3)
Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>	spotted feeding around the marshes at Coto Doñana (3)
Black-headed Gull	<i>Larus ridibundus</i>	recorded around brackish water areas (2 – 6 & 8)
Yellow-legged Gull	<i>Larus michahellis</i>	one of the commoner gulls, although only occasionally seen over the two weeks, particularly in the first half of the trip
Lesser Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus fuscus</i>	recorded on several days around water bodies (2 – 3 & 8)
Rock Dove/Feral Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>	common & widespread seen everyday
Woodpigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	occasionally recorded on several days over the holiday
Collared Dove areas	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	common & widespread seen most days around urban
Great Spotted Cuckoo	<i>Clamator glandarius</i>	wow, what a bird, two were sitting in a distant tree at La Janda (1), but Jose pointed out a lovely bird next to the van in some Tamarisk (5)
Short-eared Owl	<i>Asio flammeus</i>	this species was first recorded flying over the fields at La Janda (1); but then Jose pulled a roosting bird out of the bag, how he spotted it . . . this allowed us to get some good views of the bird through the telescope (5)
Barn Owl	<i>Tyto alba</i>	Jose pointed out that an old Kestrel box had now been taken over by two sleeping Barn Owls (the male Kestrel was perched above them, but they were not stirring; & then Jose pointed out an individual in a bush, that wasn't there when we passed earlier (5)
Little Owl	<i>Althene noctua</i>	an cheeky individual was trying to hide behind some branches as Jose pulled the van up to where it normally perches (5)
Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>	several individuals during the morning passing through over the coast (1)
Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>	this species was recorded twice, both from a vehicle, & both times Kathleen missed maybe next time (1 & 5)
Greater Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>	heard on the (4); but seen flying around the pine woodlands at Sierra de las Nieves (11)
Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>	recorded the once around the fields in Doñana (5)
Crested Lark	<i>Galerida cristata</i>	very common seen or recorded most days over the holiday
Woodlark	<i>Lullula arborea</i>	only recorded the once along the Ubrique Road (10)
Calandra Lark	<i>Melanocorypha calandra</i>	unfortunately this lovely lark was only heard around the agricultural fields on the way back to El Rocío (5)
Sand Martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>	regularly recorded over the trip
Crag Martin	<i>Hirundo ruestris</i>	recorded around the cliffs & mountain habitat at Montejaque (8 – 9)
Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	common seen everyday
House Martin	<i>Delichon urbica</i>	occasionally this species was recorded during the trip (3 – 5 & 8)
Meadow Pipit	<i>Anthus pratensis</i>	agricultural areas (5, 8 & 10)
White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>	a common species frequently recorded over the two weeks

Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava</i>	recorded feeding around the water-edge at Fuente de Piedra (8)
Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>	seen regularly alongside the stream at Molina de Santo
Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	occasionally this species was recorded during the trip (4 - 5, 9 & 11)
Dipper	<i>Cinclus cinclus</i>	seen regularly alongside the stream at Molina de Santo
Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>	a common species frequently recorded over the two weeks
Black Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochrurus</i>	a common species recorded nearly everyday
Black Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe leucura</i>	this gorgeous bird was found around the upper rocky areas of the 'Sierra' days (7 - 9)
Whinchat	<i>Saxicola rubetra</i>	recorded around agricultural or rocky areas (28 - 1, 5 - 6)
Stonechat	<i>Saxicola rubicola</i>	a common species recorded everyday
Blue Rock Thrush	<i>Monticola solitarius</i>	only recorded on the cliffs near the New Bridge at Ronda (12)
Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>	heard the once in the afternoon around Doñana (5)
Mistle Thrush	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>	recorded on one day in the woody area of Grazalema (13)
Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	a common species recorded everyday
Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>	a common species recorded everyday
Sardinian Warbler	<i>Sylvia melanocephala</i>	a common species recorded everyday
Sedge Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i>	one was heard singing as we reached the VC in the northern part of Doñana (5)
Zitting Cisticola	<i>Cisticola juncidis</i>	a common species frequently recorded over the first week, particularly around reed-beds
Cetti's Warbler	<i>Cettia cetti</i>	a common species frequently recorded over the two weeks, around riparian vegetation
Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>	a common species recorded everyday
Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>	frequently recorded over the two weeks in most habitats
Coal Tit	<i>Parus ater</i>	only recorded in the latter part of the trip in the Pine Woodlands at Sierra de las Nieves (11)
Blue Tit	<i>Parus caeruleus</i>	frequent over the two weeks
Crested Tit	<i>Parus cristatus</i>	this species was first heard but not seen amongst the pines on the (5); but lovely views were taken at Sierra de las Nieves near the <i>Quercus suber</i> roadway (11)
Long-tailed Tit	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>	recorded near the Pine Woodlands at the information centre near El Rocío (4)
Nuthatch	<i>Sitta europaea</i>	woodland areas (1 & 11)
Short-toed Treecreeper	<i>Certhia brachydactyla</i>	some lovely views of this species around the Quercus woodlands (5, 7 & 11)
Iberian Grey Shrike	<i>Lanius meridionalis</i>	this lovely bird was seen over two days, but with brief views due to the park guides moving us on in Coto Doñana (4 - 5); apparently we were in Lynx territory & we not allowed to stop the car, even for a couple of minutes!
Azure-winged Magpie	<i>Cyanopica cookie</i>	small flocks of this beautiful bird were ready seen at Doñana

Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>	individuals recorded with the Azure-winged Magpies around the car park of the information centre near El Rocío (4 - 5)
Jackdaw	<i>Corvus monedula</i>	occasionally over the two week trip (1 - 3 & 8)
Chough	<i>Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax</i>	recorded most days in the latter part of the trip around mountainous areas
Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>	frequent over rocky areas of the trip
Common Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	several individuals were mixed in with the Spotless Starlings feeding in the agricultural fields in the Northern part of Doñana (5)
Spotless Starling	<i>Sturnus unicolor</i>	a common species recorded everyday
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	a common species recorded everyday
Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	a common species recorded everyday
Linnet	<i>Carduelis cannabina</i>	occasionally recorded (1, 5 - 8 & 10))
Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	a common species recorded everyday
Greenfinch	<i>Carduelis chloris</i>	a regularly species recorded most days
Serin	<i>Serinus serinus</i>	a common species recorded everyday
Cirl Bunting	<i>Emberiza cirlus</i>	only heard on a couple of occasions (9 & 10)
Corn Bunting	<i>Emberiza calandra</i>	recorded most days around agricultural areas

Systematic List Number 3

Butterflies

The taxonomic nomenclature & systematic order follows both that of *Collins: Butterflies of Europe, Tolman & Lewington*. During the two week period a total of 28 species was recorded. The numbers indicate the dates on which a species was seen.

Papilionidae

Spanish Festoon *Zerynthia rumina* mainly seen in the latter part of the trip (5 - 11)

Pieridae

Large White *Pieris brassicae* only a couple of sightings for this species across the two weeks

Small White *Artogeia rapae* only the once at Lagunas de Espera (7)

Western Dappled White *Euchloe crameri* only one individual was seen Palacio del Acebrón (4)

Green-striped White *Euchloe belemia* a fresh lovely specimen feeding on the Rosemary at Fuente de Piedra car park (8)

Clouded Yellow *Colias crocea* common & widespread, seen most days

Brimstone *Gonepteryx rhamni* only seen the one day around woodland

Cleopatra *Gonepteryx cleopatra* a lovely male whizzed by as we were admiring a Provence Hairstreak (11)

Lycaenidae

Provence Hairstreak *Tomares ballus* only the one towards the latter part of the trip, which caused a flurry of excitement (11)

Small Copper *Lycaena phlaeas* frequently seen over across the two weeks

Brown Argus *Aricia agestis* possible this species in a sheltered area next to the road (10)

Nymphalidae

Large Tortoiseshell *Nymphalis polychloros* one of the commonest butterflies of the trip

Red Admiral *Vanessa atalanta* recorded twice across the two weeks (2 & 5)

Small Tortoiseshell *Aglais urticae* Kathleen spotted an individual (6)

Comma *Polygonia c-album* recorded the once at Palacio del Acebrón (4)

Satyridae

Small Heath *Coenonympha pamphilus* recorded in the latter part of the trip most days around the dry grassland areas

Speckled Wood *Pararge aegeria* this species was of the European colouration, recorded in sunny woodland clearings or rides

Wall Brown *Lasiommata megera* recorded twice to the end of the trip (10 & 11)

Systematic List Number 4

Mammals

Wild Boar	<i>Sus scropha</i>	evidence of this species was found in all habitats we visited
Otter	<i>Lutra lutra</i>	probably a male from the first hide at La Rocina (10)
Iberian Hare	<i>Lepus granatensis</i>	two animals were spotted near the marsh lands (11)
Red Deer	<i>Cervus elaphus</i>	common around Doñana
Fallow Deer	<i>Dama dama</i>	small numbers seen in a mixed herd with Red Deer (11)
Lynx	<i>Lynx pardinus</i>	unfortunately only footprints were found of this elusive animal along a sandy track (11)

Systematic List Number 5

Reptiles

Moorish Gecko	<i>Terentola mauritanica</i>	two individuals were spotted basking in the hollow of the old olive tree next to the El Acebuche Centre (10)
Iberian Wall Lizard	<i>Podarcis hispanica</i>	recorded most days at Molina