

Andalucia

Wildlife at Leisure

A Greentours Trip Report

12th – 19th March 2016

Led by Phil Benstead

12/3 to Benaolan

We slowly drifted into the airport at Malaga and coagulated in fairly good order. Barbara and David were on a delayed flight but Phil and Ken put the wait-time to good use by catching up on the 19 years since they had last seen each other!

Car acquired, we bundled along on quiet roads and quickly accomplished the short distance to Benaolan and settled into the comfort of the excellent Molino del Santo. Phil did some reconnaissance along the river after arrival to re-familiarise himself with a site not visited since 1998... Birds were very evident with plenty of blackcaps, chiffchaffs and Sardinian warblers in the riverside thickets. Cetti's warblers showed well on occasion and overhead the first short-toed eagles appeared. The sun shone and it was rather pleasant to feel warm for a change.

13/3 Benaolan

A leisurely breakfast at 0830 saw us sampling the delightful breakfast buffet, which did indeed include some world-class bacon (just as Ken had promised). It was chilly outside and the mill-race steamed nicely in the early morning sun. No hardship leaving just before ten o'clock then just as the day started to warm up. We walked downhill and crossed the railway and then the river and took the trail south along the river. Birds were reasonably evident. Serins sang to us. Cirl buntings popped up occasionally. A pair of hawfinches were elusive but showed well in flight. Further along the trail we found the first of several firecrests. Scanning the ridges produced a few griffon vultures. Most of the time it was eyes-down for flora though and we managed to find a nice rocky ridge that produced our first *Narcissus (assoanus)* and a single *Fritillaria lusitanica*. Further along we managed a few Spanish bluebells and also *Linaria oblongifolia*. Along the path we found the very occasional *Cistus albidus* flower.

By 1130 it was finally warm enough for the butterflies to get going and we had several fly-by large tortoiseshells as well as rather more obliging green hairstreak and small heath. On the walk back we bumped into scarce swallowtail and failed to get to grips with a possible dappled white. Red admirals emerged.

Lunch on the patio by the river was very pleasant and was interrupted by the arrival of our first Vaucher's rock lizard. Brimstones and Moroccan orangetips buzzed past up the stream. Afterwards we walked up the road behind the hotel bumping into the delightful *Centaurea pullata*

and our first Spanish festoons. We searched in vain for the black wheatears that are normally resident in the small valley before you get to Benaosan proper. At the village we took to the main road for the longer descent back round to the hotel. Under the cliff here we found more rock lizards and a few hummingbird hawk moths whizzed about. One stretch hosted numerous clumps of the very strange *Aphyllanthes monspeliensis*, its curious stiff rush-like leaves topped off by brilliant blue flowers. Back at the hotel we relaxed before checklists and another slap-up feed.

14/3 **Montejaque area**

Today after another great breakfast we got out at 0945 and headed uphill the short distance to the striking Hundidero cave area just above Montejaque. Gorgeous scenery. We parked by the farm of the baying hounds and quickly took to looking at a new set of birds. A pair of black wheatears were appreciated and we also found our first corn buntings on the fence here. Drifting away from the road we started to botanise. Phil soon found the first *Orchis olbiensis* and we even found a few *Ophrys tenthredinifera*.

Slowly working our way downhill towards the failed dam on the piney knoll we noticed a few more birds including our first rock buntings and blue rock thrushes and frustratingly we could hear rock sparrows but not see them. Overhead a few migrating short-toed eagles were apparent in amongst a host of often very close griffon vultures. A sparrowhawk appeared briefly before being escorted from the premises by some very irate local crag martins. Three alpine swifts whizzed through at one point. The piney knoll added little to our botanical haul but the flat area before it produced a few butterflies including our first painted lady and small copper. Walking back uphill on the track we kept an eye out for ibex but to no avail.

Driving on a little further we soon left the limestone karst and popped out into cork oak woodland with understory grazing by the famous Spanish black pigs. Here we added a few new birds as we chugged along – jay and mistle thrush. We checked a ruin along this road but the sun had gone in leaving a possibly interesting site for reptiles rather desolate. Turning back we stopped by the first site again and worked the glorious roadside cliffs. Beautiful rock gardens here with the lovely *Linaria aeruginea* a huge hit, and also some great specimens of *Ranunculus spicatus* and Ken found a single robust spike of an *Ophrys fusca*.

Stomachs rumbling we headed back to base for a civilised sit-down meal before heading off to try and find a way into Ken's secret valley out the back of Montejaque. Sadly it stayed secret but we enjoyed exploring for an hour without managing to find anything too stunning!

15/3 **Grazalema, Puerto de las Palomas and the Libar valley**

Low cloud greeted us in the morning and dogged us for most of the day, making for occasionally rather chilly forays in the field. Our first stop was at the undercliff below the charming town of Grazalema. Here we worked rather hard but found some good flowers. *Narcissus cuatrecasii* was found on the cliff, alongside another yellow *Linaria (platycalyx)* and Ken found our first *Hesperis laciniata*. On the cliff here two male lesser kestrels appeared – our first and last. Walking further along the road paid off with our first *Lathyrus setifolius* and the team found our only *Narcissus papyracea*, only those in the shade were still in mint condition the remainder out in the open being very over.

Driving on we climbed to the pass en route to Zahara – Puerto de las Palomas – here we were almost in the low cloud and it was decidedly chilly. We enjoyed the view though before electing to check the car park we had just driven past, after discovering that someone had just seen an ibex there! We failed to connect with the ibex sadly and only added a fresh *Arisarum vulgare* to our tally of notable plants. Driving back up and over the pass we dropped down towards the reservoir. At one point *Barlia* were frequent by the roadside and we stopped again to enjoy an excellent show of *Orchis olbiensis* together with a scattering of very pale *Ophrys fusca*. A final mirador before a very late lunch down at the banks of the reservoir produced more *Ophrys fusca* and a few sawfly orchids and a good patch of *Romulea*.

After lunch we drove back the quick way and headed back to finally find the road into the Libar valley. This we almost managed without making an error but we were very pleased we had made the effort to get into this beautiful site. Geologically a very striking karstic landscape and the sun even came out for us and produced our first Provence hairstreak. Dropping back down the hill we made plans for the remainder of the week and looked forward to another great dinner at Molino.

16/3 La Cueva di Pileta, Ronda, the Benacoaz road and Montejaque

Preparing for the day of rain that had been forecast all week we made appropriate plans. However the rain fell overnight and we woke to stunning blue skies. We stuck with the programme though and headed up the road to the cave. Whilst the intrepid team enjoyed the interior of the mountain with a bunch of Danes and Canadians, Phil worked the outside. A heavy passage of black kite and short-toed eagles was noted overhead, and at one point bee-eater was heard, but otherwise it was quiet on the slope.

Eventually the team emerged blinking into the sun and we headed off to Ronda for a lightning cultural tour (bull-ring, bridge and tapas lunch). Afterwards with the sun blazing down we headed to the Benacoaz road near Grazalema to search out *Narcissi*. We quickly found roadside *cordubensis* and one field that was an absolute swathe of them. Further along a damp and rather heavily grazed unfenced area held a few *Narcissus bulbocodium* and masses of beautiful *Romulea*, especially in damp seepage areas. Moving back down the road we stopped to check the picnic area – few plants but good views at last of large tortoiseshell.

On our way home we stopped once again at the barking dog farmstead above Montejaque and checked out the flowery ridge near the car park briefly. More *Ornithogalum* evident but nothing new. It would have been nice to have a look at the nearby cliff again but we could not persuade the driver to stop sadly...

17/3 Sierra de las Nieves, Libar Valley and Montejaque

Today we were greeted by blue skies and undoubtedly our warmest day of the tour so far. We headed off past Ronda, today's destination the eagerly anticipated Sierra de las Nieves Natural Park. It proved to be a very nice site indeed. Driving in we searched along the roadside for suitable flora. Barbara eventually spotting the start of a lovely limestone slope that held plenty of *Narcissus assoanus* and *Orchis olbiensis*. Butterflies were quickly on the wing too today and we had our first wall browns here as well as photo opportunities with a nice Moroccan orangetip. Driving

on we stopped further on to search another area briefly, leaving eventually with only fleeting glimpses of crested tit for our trouble.

Driving on we found our first roadside Spanish firs – a striking species. Eventually the hostel hove into view and Barbara spotted more *Narcissus*, this time our target species for the site, *hispanicus*. These looked almost like daffodils... Parking up we wandered about up the track bagging numerous butterflies including more Provence hairstreaks and a nice Bath white. Today was easily our most speciose day for butterflies with over ten species recorded.

Ascending to a slight ridge we looked across the valley and were pleased to find a vulture feeding station with at least 150 birds on the ground. Nearby common crossbill and short-toed treecreeper were singing but we failed to spot either in amongst the pines. Damp open areas were festooned with *Romulea* but we found few other plants to add to our tally of notable species.

We took lunch at the picnic site and then relocated to the Libar valley to check the cliff at the entrance to the site. Here we found more *Narcissus cuatrecasii* as we had hoped and also a few more new and interesting species including *Ornithogalum reverchoni*, *Saxifraga bourgeana* and *Senecio petraeus*.

Our last stop of the day was the cliff site above Montejaque and we pottered along without adding greatly to the list of species we had already observed there but perhaps improving on our photos in the late afternoon light. A good day in the field.

18/3 Embalses de Guadalhorce, Fuente de Piedra and Teba Gorge

Our last day in the field was another scorcher, we really have enjoyed superb weather on this tour. Today we headed out towards the pine woodlands on the edge of the large set of reservoirs to the NE (Embalses de Guadalhorce). Here we located the site that in the past has produced another *Narcissus (cantabricus)* but we failed to find any in the area despite an enjoyable search. Whilst searching we found a couple of new butterflies – first a male swallowtail that posed nicely for photos and a number of more active long-tailed blues. Plants were found too with Ken finding some excellent pink butterfly orchids and Phil countering with the delicate brown bells of *Dipcadi serotina*.

With time disappearing we elected to drive to nearby Fuente de Piedra and have lunch before strolling round the nearby ponds. It was nice to be greeted by half a dozen beautifully pink flamingos on the entrance track pool and we quickly started to add a bucket-load of new birds for the trip list. Lunch taken up by the visitor centre (which sadly closed for the siesta period just as we were contemplating exploring it), we headed off to look at the lake. A dry winter meant that the lagoon was very dry but out over the flats there were some decent flocks of flamingos and closer in a roost of gull-billed terns and black-headed gulls. Scanning the dry lakebed also produced lapwing and shelduck.

Most of the action as usual here though was on the trackside pools therefore and our walk produced a nice selection of waders, including numerous little stints. A pair of stone curlew were well-received and we found our first (and last) yellow wagtails here. Phil was pleased to find some dragonflies at last – there were a number of vagrant emperors about here and one red-veined darter. Spanish terrapins were photographed in the trackside ditches. Wandering back

along the entrance road we had time to enjoy the splendid close flamingos and then we headed off to the next site – Laguna Dulce. This roadside lagoon was completely bone-dry – a gloomy reminder of the dessication predicted for this part of Spain in the near-future as the effects of climate change take a stronger grip on the planet. Nearby we had our first marsh harrier from the car.

Our last stop of the day was a quick look at Teba Gorge. This site does not enjoy the best access and a quick look produced a flighty little egret and some fresh tasselled hyacinth. The best sighting came though as we got back to the car where we found a newly-arrived woodchat shrike keeping a haughty lookout.

Before dinner we did a massive round-up of things seen during the tour and then headed into the restaurant to tackle a stupendous amount of rather good paella...

19/3 to Malaga and home

With three different flights to catch we had to leave the hotel in the dark at 0630 and pick up breakfast in the airport. The journey passed uneventfully although the weather took a decided turn for the worst with rain during much of the hour-and-a-half journey and even quite dense fog on mercifully short stretches. Phil tipped the team out at departures and they disappeared into the machine. Thanks all for your patience and good company!

Systematic List Number 1 – Flora

<i>Pteridophyta</i> Maidenhair Fern Rustyback	<i>Adiantum capillus-veneris</i> <i>Ceterach officinarum</i>	Molino del Santo.
<i>Pinaceae</i> Spanish Fir Stone Pine Aleppo Pine	<i>Abies pinapso</i> <i>Pinus pinea</i> <i>Pinus halepensis</i>	Sierra de las Nieves
<i>Cupressaceae</i> Funeral Cypress	<i>Cupressus sempervirens</i>	
<i>Salicaceae</i> Black Italian Poplar White Poplar	<i>Populus x canadensis</i> <i>Populus alba</i>	
<i>Juglandaceae</i> Walnut	<i>Juglans regia</i>	
<i>Fagaceae</i> Holly Oak Cork Oak Lusitanian Oak	<i>Quercus coccifera</i> <i>Quercus rotundifolia (ilex)</i> <i>Quercus suber</i> <i>Quercus faginea</i>	
<i>Moraceae</i> Fig	<i>Ficus carica</i>	
<i>Vitaceae</i> Grape vine	<i>Vitis vinifera</i>	
<i>Loranthaceae</i>	<i>Viscum cruciatum</i>	
<i>Aristolochiaceae</i>	<i>Aristolochia baetica</i>	
<i>Caryophyllaceae</i> Bladder Campion	<i>Silene vulgaris</i> <i>Silene colorata</i>	
<i>Ranunculaceae</i> Stinking Hellebore a buttercup	<i>Helleborus foetidus</i> <i>Ranunculus spicatus</i>	
<i>Paeoniaceae</i>	<i>Paeonia broteroi</i>	leaves only at Sierra de las Nieves
<i>Papaveraceae</i> Corn Poppy Ramping Fumitory	<i>Papaver rhoeas</i> <i>Fumaria capreolata</i> <i>Fumaria officinalis</i>	

Brassicaceae

Hesperis laciniata

Crassulaceae

Wall Pennywort

Umbilicus rupestris
Mucizonia hispida
Sedum sedifforme

Benaojan

Saxifragaceae

Meadow Saxifrage

Saxifraga granulata
Saxifraga globulifera
Saxifraga bourgeana

widespread
leaves only
Libar valley

Rosaceae

Hawthorn

Almond

Blackthorn

Crataegus monogyna
Prunus dulcis
Prunus spinosa

Fabaceae

Spiny Broom

White Broom

Pitch Trefoil

Tangier Pea

Calicotome spinosa/infesta
Lygos monosperma
Ulex parviflorus
Bituminaria bituminosa
Lathyrus setifolius
Lathyrus tingitanus

Benaojan

Euphorbiaceae

Sun Spurge

Large Mediterranean Spurge

Euphorbia helioscopia
Euphorbia characias

Malvaceae

Common Mallow

Malva sylvestris

Cistaceae

Grey-leaved Cistus

Sage-leaved Cistus

Narrow-leaved Cistus

Gum Cistus

Cistus albidus
Cistus salvifolius
Cistus monspeliensis
Cistus ladanifer

Cactaceae

Prickly Pear

Opuntia ficus-indica

Araliaceae

Ivy

Hedera helix

Apiaceae

Alexanders

Giant Fennel

Smyrniium olusatrum
Ferula communis

Primulaceae

Blue Scarlet Pimpernel

Anagallis arvensis subsp. foemina

Apocynaceae

Oleander

Vinca difformis
Nerium oleander

Boraginaceae

Borage	<i>Borago officinalis</i>	
Large Blue Alkanet	<i>Anchusa azurea</i>	
Purple Viper's Bugloss	<i>Echium plantagineum</i>	
<i>Lamiaceae (Labiatae)</i>		
French Lavender	<i>Lavandula stoechas</i>	
Rosemary	<i>Rosmarinus officinalis</i>	3
<i>Scrophulariaceae</i>		
Snapdragon	<i>Antirrhinum majus</i>	
	<i>Linaria aeruginea</i>	cliffs
	<i>Linaria oblongifolia</i>	Benaolan
	<i>Linaria platycalyx</i>	
	<i>Scrophularia sambucifolia</i>	Libar valley
<i>Compositae</i>		
Southern Daisy	<i>Bellis sylvestris</i>	
Marigold	<i>Calendula arvensis</i>	
	<i>Centaurea pullata</i>	
	<i>Senecio petraeus</i>	Libar valley
MONOCOTYLEDONS		
<i>Liliaceae</i>		
	<i>Aphyllanthes monspeliensis</i>	Benaolan
	<i>Asphodelus aestivus</i>	
	<i>Dipcadi serotina</i>	Embalses
	<i>Fritillaria lusitanica</i>	
Tassel Hyacinth	<i>Muscari comosum</i>	Teba Gorge
Common Grape Hyacinth	<i>Muscari neglectum</i>	
	<i>Ornithogalum reverchonii</i>	Libar valley
	<i>Ornithogalum umbellatum</i>	
Star-of-Bethlehem	<i>Scilla hispanicus</i>	
Spanish Bluebell		
<i>Agavaceae</i>		
Century Plant	<i>Agave americana</i>	
<i>Amaryllidaceae</i>		
Rush-leaved Jonquil	<i>Narcissus assoanus (requienii)</i>	
	<i>Narcissus bulbocodium</i>	Benacoaz
	<i>Narcissus cordubensis</i>	Benacoaz
	<i>Narcissus cuatrecasii</i>	Libar and Grazalema
	<i>Narcissus hispanicus</i>	S. d. I. Nieves
	<i>Narcissus papyracea</i>	Grazalema
<i>Iridaceae</i>		
Barbary Nut	<i>Gynandriris sisyrinchium</i>	
	<i>Romulea gaditana</i>	
<i>Araceae</i>		
Friar's cowl	<i>Arisarum vulgare</i>	
<i>Arecaceae (Palmae)</i>		
Dwarf Fan Palm	<i>Chamaerops humilis</i>	
<i>Orchidaceae</i>		
Dull Bee Orchid	<i>Ophrys fusca</i>	

Sawfly Orchid
Pink butterfly Orchid

Ophrys tenthredinifera
Orchis papilionacea
Orchis olbiensis

2 dates
reservoirs
widespread

Systematic list of birds

Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>	Small numbers on the river at Benaojan.
Little egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	One in Taba Gorge.
Grey heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	A few on the reservoirs and rivers.
Greater flamingo	<i>Phoenicopterus ruber</i>	At least 750 at Fuente de Piedra, a few gave great views on the pools by the entrance road.
Shelduck	<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>	10+ at Fuente de Piedra.
Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>	A few males at Fuente de Piedra.
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	Montejaque (the failed reservoir) and a few en route to Malaga on the last morning.
Shoveler	<i>Anas clypeata</i>	Fuente de Piedra (30+).
Black kite	<i>Milvus migrans</i>	Migrants noted overhead on two dates only.
Griffon vulture	<i>Gyps fulvus</i>	Frequently encountered. At least 150 over a baited site in the Sierra de las Nieves.
Short-toed eagle	<i>Circus gallicus</i>	Common, noted on nearly all the days, with peak day counts of 10+ migrants over the cave car park whilst the team were underground.
Marsh harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>	Just one male near Fuente de Piedra.
Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>	Several noted during the week (three dates).
Booted eagle	<i>Hieraetus pennatus</i>	Benaojan (2).
Lesser kestrel	<i>Falco naumanni</i>	Two males on the cliffs below Grazalema.
Common kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	Common and widespread.
Red-legged partridge	<i>Alectoris rufa</i>	Two in the Sierra de las Nieves.
Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	Recorded only at Fuente de Piedra.
Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>	Recorded only at Fuente de Piedra.
Black-winged stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>	Small numbers at Fuente de Piedra.
Avocet	<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>	Small numbers at Fuente de Piedra.
Stone curlew	<i>Burhinus oedicephalus</i>	Pair at Fuente de Piedra.
Little ringed plover	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>	Small numbers at Fuente de Piedra.
Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	Only recorded at Fuente de Piedra (6).
Little stint	<i>Calidris minuta</i>	Small numbers at Fuente de Piedra.
Curlew sandpiper	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>	One at Fuente de Piedra.
Dunlin	<i>Calidris alpina</i>	One at Fuente de Piedra.
Common snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>	One at Fuente de Piedra.
Common redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>	Small numbers at Fuente de Piedra.
Green sandpiper	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>	Single bird at Fuente de Piedra.
Wood sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>	One at Fuente de Piedra.
Common sandpiper	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>	One at Fuente de Piedra.
Black-headed gull	<i>Larus ridibundus</i>	Good numbers at Fuente de Piedra.
Yellow-legged gull	<i>Larus michahellis</i>	Malaga.
Lesser black-backed gull	<i>Larus fuscus</i>	One adult at Fuente de Piedra.
Gull-billed tern	<i>Gelochelidon nilotica</i>	Small numbers at Fuente de Piedra.
Rock dove	<i>Columba livia</i>	Widespread.
Woodpigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	Only a few in the Sierra de las Nieves.
Collared dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	Common and widespread.
Pallid swift	<i>Apus pallidus</i>	Malaga airport.
Alpine swift	<i>Apus melba</i>	Just three briefly above Montejaque.
[European bee-eater]	<i>Merops apiaster</i>	Heard migrating over the cave entrance near Benaojan on day 4.
Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>	Just one whilst driving!
[Green woodpecker]	<i>Picus viridis</i>	Only heard above Montejaque.
Great spotted woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>	Scattered records, mostly heard only.

?Ring-necked parakeet?	<i>?Psittacula?</i>	Two parrots over the road near the airport in the first minutes of the tour may well have been this species...
Calandra lark	<i>Melanocorypha calandra</i>	One over the road en route to Embalses de Guadalhorce for Phil only.
Crested lark	<i>Galerida cristata</i>	Abundant in open agricultural habitats.
Woodlark	<i>Lullula arborea</i>	Frequently encountered but not seen well.
Crag martin	<i>Ptyonoprogne rupestris</i>	Nearly recorded daily.
Red-rumped swallow	<i>Hirundo daurica</i>	Single bird hawking over Molino del Santo on one day only.
Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	Widespread.
House martin	<i>Delichon urbica</i>	Widespread, though less common than swallow.
Water pipit	<i>Anthus spinoletta</i>	Single at Fuente de Piedra.
Spanish wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava</i>	A few at Fuente de Piedra.
Grey wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>	Widespread.
White wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>	Widespread.
Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	Widespread.
Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>	Widespread.
Black redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochuros</i>	Widespread.
Stonechat	<i>Saxicola torquata</i>	Widespread.
Black wheatear	<i>Oenanthe leucura</i>	A well watched pair above Montejaque, occasionally other birds seen in suitable habitat in the mountains.
Blue rock thrush	<i>Monticola solitarius</i>	Regularly encountered in suitable habitat.
Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	Widespread.
Song thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>	Noted on two dates.
Mistle thrush	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>	Widespread, but seemingly scarce.
Cetti's warbler	<i>Cettia cetti</i>	Widespread, frequently heard.
Dartford warbler	<i>Sylvia undata</i>	Single above Montejaque.
Sardinian warbler	<i>Sylvia melanocephala</i>	Ubiquitous.
Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>	Widespread.
Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>	Widespread.
Firecrest	<i>Regulus ignicapillus</i>	Frequently heard but only seen well on the first day at Benaosan.
Long-tailed tit	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>	Noted in small numbers on three dates.
Crested tit	<i>Parus cristatus</i>	Several calling birds in the Sierra de las Nieves – only seen poorly.
Blue tit	<i>Parus caeruleus</i>	Widespread.
Great tit	<i>Parus major</i>	Widespread.
Nuthatch	<i>Sitta europaea</i>	Only seen along the river at Benaosan, others heard elsewhere.
[Short-toed treecreeper]	<i>Certhia brachydactyla</i>	Heard only in the Sierra de las Nieves.
Woodchat shrike	<i>Lanius senator</i>	Single bird at the mouth of the Teba Gorge.
Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>	Common in oak woodland throughout.
Chough	<i>Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax</i>	Common over high crags and cliffs.
Jackdaw	<i>Corvus monedula</i>	Fuente de Piedra.
Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>	Only a few seen and heard.
Spotless starling	<i>Sturnus unicolor</i>	Widespread in small numbers.
House sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	Widespread.
[Rock sparrow]	<i>Petronia petronia</i>	Only heard on one small cliff face above Montejaque.
Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	Widespread.
Serin	<i>Serinus serinus</i>	Widespread.
Greenfinch	<i>Carduelis chloris</i>	Surprisingly scarce, recorded on a few dates.
Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	Widespread.

Linnet	<i>Carduelis cannabina</i>	Widespread.
Common crossbill	<i>Loxia curvirostra</i>	Heard only in the Sierra de las Nieves. A few glimpsed in flight the next day above the Embalses de Guadalhorce.
Hawfinch	<i>Coccothraustes coccothraustes</i>	Benaolan (2).
Cirl bunting	<i>Emberiza cirlus</i>	Seen well in small numbers around Benaolan and in the Sierras de las Nieves. Heard elsewhere.
Rock bunting	<i>Emberiza cia</i>	A few above Montejaque and one in the Sierra de las Nieves.
Corn bunting	<i>Miliaria calandra</i>	Common in coastal regions and on the plains (eg around Fuente de Piedra).

Systematic list of butterflies

Swallowtail	<i>Papilio machaon</i>	A lovely fresh male on the last day above the Embalses de Guadalhorce.
Scarce swallowtail	<i>Iphiclides podalirus</i>	One on the first day along the river at Benaolan. This southern subspecies is sometime split from the Central European form.
Spanish festoon	<i>Zerynthia rumina</i>	Three on the walk above the hotel on the first day and amazingly none thereafter.
Large white	<i>Pieris brassicae</i>	Noted on three dates.
Small white	<i>Artoeidea rapae</i>	Only noted on the dry slopes above the Embalses de Guadalhorce.
Bath white	<i>Pontia daplice</i>	One in the Sierra de las Nieves.
Moroccan orangetip	<i>Antocharis belia</i>	Small numbers on three dates. The European race <i>euphenoides</i> is increasingly split out as Provence orange tip.
Clouded yellow	<i>Colias crocea</i>	Scattered records on three dates.
Brimstone	<i>Gonepteryx rhamni</i>	A few.
Green hairstreak	<i>Callophrys rubi</i>	One along the river at Benaolan on the first day.
Provence hairstreak	<i>Tomares ballus</i>	Colonies found in the Libar Valley and the Sierra de las Nieves
Small copper	<i>Lycaena phlaeas</i>	Scattered records.
Long-tailed blue	<i>Lampides boeticus</i>	A few noted on the dry ridge above the Embalses de Guadalhorce on the last day.
Geranium bronze	<i>Cacyreus marshalli</i>	Ken found one in the garden at Molino del Santo.
Holly blue	<i>Celastrina argiolus</i>	One fleetingly at Molino del Santo.
Large tortoiseshell	<i>Nymphalis polychloros</i>	Frequently encountered but only seen well enough to photograph in the picnic area on the Banacoaz road.
Red admiral	<i>Vanessa atalanta</i>	Scattered records.
Painted lady	<i>Cynthia cardui</i>	Scattered records.
Small tortoiseshell	<i>Aglais urticae</i>	Ken had one in the Sierra de las Nieves.
Small heath	<i>Coenonympha pamphilus</i>	Widespread.
Speckled wood	<i>Pararge aegeria</i>	Scattered records.
Wall brown	<i>Lasiommata megera</i>	A few on the last two days.

Systematic list of Mammals

[Iberian mole]	<i>Talpa occidentalis</i>	Plenty of sign in the mountains.
[Wild boar]	<i>Sus scrofa</i>	Sign only.
Rabbit	<i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i>	Widespread.

Systematic list of Reptiles and amphibians

Spanish water frog	<i>Rana perezi</i>	Two individuals in the ponds at Molino del Santo – on just one night.
Spanish terrapin	<i>Mauremys leprosa</i>	Fuente de Piedra.
Moorish gecko	<i>Tarentola mauretanic</i>	Molino del Santo (1).
Vaucher's wall lizard	<i>Podarcis vaucheri</i>	Widespread.
Spanish psammmodromus	<i>Psammmodromus hispanicus</i>	Only seen on the last two days.

Systematic list of Odonata

Red-veined darter	<i>Sympetrum fonscolombii</i>	One at Fuente de Piedra.
Vagrant emperor	<i>Hemianax ephippiger</i>	Several obviously breeding at Fuente de Piedra – a surprise.