

ORNITHOLIDAYS' TOUR TO PORTUGAL AT LEISURE
Hills, Plains & Lagoons in Spring

06 - 13 May 2012



Leader: Frank McClintock

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A Personal Diary

Sunday 6th May

There are few things I ever want to see less than the airport official who approached me in such a purposeful manner as I waited for the group to arrive off their various planes that Sunday morning ... , "You're waiting for Mr and Mrs Thomas aren't you?", he started off by saying, before dropping his bombshell, "Well, I'm afraid you'll be waiting a long time for them here as they've just been taken in to the Hospital in Faro." What a start! Already dropping like flies, and I hadn't even met them, but I was lucky with Sheila and Frances, whose flights arrived on time, and after refusing to pay the exorbitant airport prices for coffee, we trundled off in The Tank to the hospital to see what we could do to help.

Not much it seemed, as the hospital, busy as it was, had everything under control and there was little we could do but wait for the result of the battery of tests on Mike, but at least Helen knew we were around, and having exchanged phone numbers, I took Sheila and Frances off for a picnic lunch at S. Lourenço Bird Hide



where we watched Red-crested Pochards, Purple Swamphens, some Great Crested Grebes, (one with a surprisingly mature chick), and a couple of pairs of Black-headed Weavers squabbling over the best nesting spots. Just before we left we also had several views of Little Bitterns, both males and females, crash landing in amongst the reeds in front of us.

Returning to the hospital we happily picked up Helen and Mike, who'd been given the all-clear much to everyone's relief, and made our way to the venue for the week, Quinta do Barranco da Estrada, spotting our first Azure-winged Magpies of the week on the way there.

Just as we approached the Quinta a Northern Goshawk flapped lazily over the track in front of us and sailed off down the valley, and it was with the memory of this that we were met with a welcome cup of tea and biscuits, and then it was time to settle in before one of Daniela's mouth-watering meals.

Monday 7th May

The week before had been cold wet and miserable, (April had been the coldest for 100 years in this area), but the forecast for the coming seven days told a different story and there was a fair bit of planning undertaken over our first breakfast together, sorting out what changes we could do to the planned itinerary to make the most of our week. It was agreed early on, that this day would be a restful one with a leisurely morning's walk around one of the next door valleys; after the stresses and early starts for all participants of the day before this was welcomed gratefully, and the week's plan in general was agreed. It was hard to believe as we sat dolled up with raincoats and jerseys eating our croissants that by the end of the week the temperature would double to 38°C ...

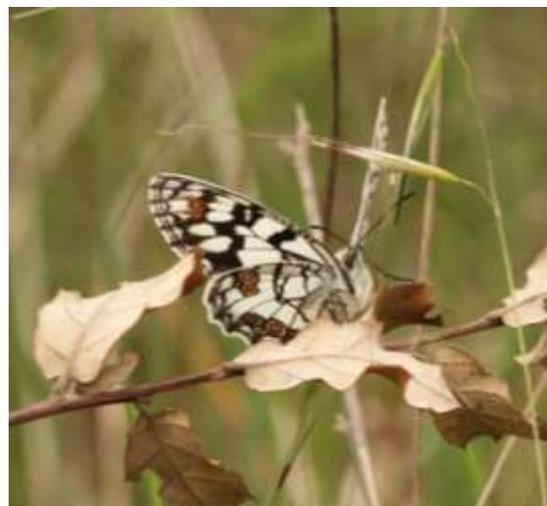
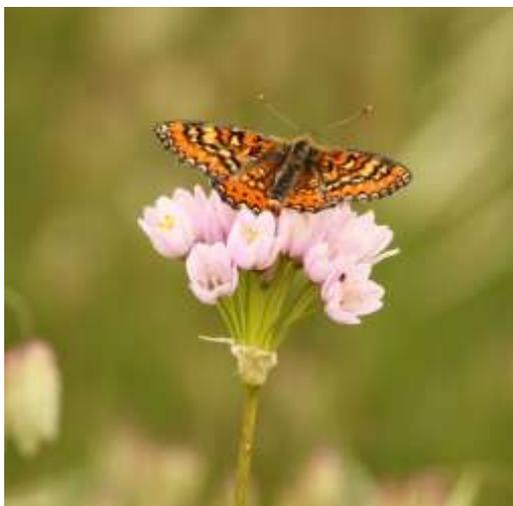
We set off after breakfast down to Cortebrique in a softly falling mild drizzle, but thankfully this cleared just as we arrived, and though it remained overcast, our coats were no longer needed. What was needed however was two pairs of eyes each as we came across an asylum, (or cooch), of Common Cuckoos just as we got down to the valley floor. We all piled out, and though we could never be 100% sure of the exact numbers the consensus of opinion was that there were five within the small grove of trees that we found ourselves watching. Round and round us they flew, cuckooing and cu-cu-cuckooing wildly in the excitement of mating.



As we turned to watch them the flowers around us took everyone's breath away, Viper's Bugloss, Poppies and Mallow growing amongst the wheat in the fields and along every verge – at least the rain had kept them fresh for us!

Following this good start, the rest of the walk was surprisingly quiet; a few Corn Buntings, a nice Little Owl pretending to be a roof tile on one of the ruins we walked past, a few European Bee-eaters, a Common Swift and a Woodchat Shrike but most species were taking a mid-morning nap.

On the other hand, as the morning warmed, out came the butterflies and we were lucky enough to see both a Spanish Fritillary and a Spanish Marbled White.





We spent some time watching a Zitting Cisticola patrolling his territory with his bouncing flight, but as we approached the car again we had stunning views of a Common Nightingale singing from an exposed branch. There are not many places where one can see as many Common Nightingales as in this area, and they were to be a daily – and nightly! – occurrence for us throughout the week.

We returned to the Quinta for lunch and a relaxing afternoon to gather our strength for the “at leisure” start the following morning.

Tuesday 8th May

An early start means an EARLY start, and after a “Delicious Daniela” breakfast we left the Quinta for the drive out onto the Plains of the Alentejo, which lie just to the north east. Before we’d gone far we saw crossing the road in front of us an Egyptian Mongoose, and this, together with several Iberian Hares and a few rabbits, constituted the first wild mammals we’d seen during the week.

A quick stop in a café in Castro Verde after an easy hour’s drive, and ten minutes later saw us on a small hill overlooking a wide shallow valley. Straightaway we bagged one of our target species for the day with three female Great Bustards feeding in the early morning light scarcely 200m away, with the added bonus of a White Stork to give us an appreciation of their size.



On the far side of the valley a lone male was displaying. It was very late for this to still be happening, more than likely due to the bad weather we’d experienced during the previous weeks. There were other Great Bustards dotted around the valley also, but these four were the most conspicuous.



Shortly afterwards we also saw a displaying male Little Bustard, who gave us good views before scuttling away head down amongst the grass. This species, though more numerous than its larger cousin, is appreciably more difficult to spot so we were especially grateful to have seen it so early on in the day. We were to



continue to see them throughout the morning and were rarely out of earshot of the male’s distinctive “click” mating call. On a few occasions we also saw them in flight and were lucky enough to hear their whistling display flight, caused by an adaptation of their primary flight feathers.



Moving off the hill and across the valley we came across a solitary Black-winged Stilt patrolling the edge of a small water hole, and then stumbled onto a dispersed host of Spanish Sparrows. Shortly afterwards we passed a lake hidden away in the low hills that dot this landscape and were lucky enough to come across a relative rarity for the area, a Great Egret. Although this was a non-breeding individual – set apart by its bright yellow bill – it was gratifying to have found it, and we enjoyed close,



good views for ten minutes or so before moving on past a million or so newly planted olive trees.

Ten minutes later Frances was lucky enough to get a quick glimpse of a Common Quail before it disappeared behind an old mud wall, and though we all piled out to try to find it again, it had vanished. However, the stop was not without its benefits as we spent the next quarter of an hour watching a Montagu's Harrier quartering the wheat field beside us, and were able to appreciate the intensity with which it searched in and out of the scattered Holme Oaks for anything rash enough not to be aware of its presence.



We were also able to watch one of the five Black-winged Kites that we saw during the day. Despite the numbers we saw indicating otherwise, this is a rare species in Europe, having spread here from Morocco relatively recently.



This area seemed to be a great one for raptors as very soon afterwards we were treated to a quick glimpse of a huge one before it disappeared behind a low hill, and it was identified as a Spanish Imperial Eagle from the photos. Moving on we met up with another drove of Great Bustards and while watching them were treated to a distant view of a pair of Black-bellied Sandgrouse. Crested Larks were seemingly everywhere, along with Corn Buntings singing from any exposed perch, but it was great to also come across a small exaltation of Short-toed Larks, just after we'd stopped for a quick coffee.



At this coffee stop some Spotless Starlings were whistling and popping at us from a small stand of eucalyptus trees and we also saw on the roof a cross between a Spanish Sparrow and a House Sparrow.



The heat was starting to build up quite rapidly by this time and we were glad we'd made the effort of an early start. Most species were beginning to seek shade, so we did the same, opting to follow a track that led us through a pig farm and past a pair of small lakes. European Bee-eaters were making the most of the abundant insect life that came with the pigs and we were lucky enough to have fleeting views of a Eurasian Turtle Dove as well, while on the first lake we came to we saw a Little Ringed Plover patrolling the shore.

We stopped for a picnic lunch in the shade of a few trees, hoping for close views of European Bee-eaters, but in this we were disappointed. Moving on we saw very little for some time until there was a flurry of activity as first a small drove of Great Bustards flew up from the field to our right and then more to the left, followed by a dune, (or grain or gripe), of Black-bellied Sandgrouse. This one measured seven and we counted ourselves lucky to have come across them twice in the same day as they're an extremely well camouflaged species and can only rarely be found. What was more, as we were watching these, a Booted Eagle rose up from the field to our left and thermalled upwards, giving us all a good view of both top and underside.



Having stopped for a short while to admire the stunning view from a volcanic outcrop, we dropped down into a neighbouring village for a soft drink before the last stretch of track before the road home; straightaway we were rewarded with cracking views of a Little Owl perched on the roof of a small ruin and shortly afterwards watched a pair of Black-winged Kites prospecting for a nesting site.

There followed the drive home, during which there was another encounter with a Great Egret at a small lake outside Ourique and a fleeting view of a Montpellier Snake as it crossed the road, and, tired but satisfied, we arrived at 4.30, just in time for tea and biccies.

Wednesday 9th May

It promised to be a hot day, or so the forecast said, and they weren't wrong. Even by 09.30 when we set off it was warm and climbed to 28°C by the time we got back from Paul's Valley, a delightful escape in amongst the hills about half an hour from the Quinta, which was our destination for the morning's walk.

There were quite a few species flitting about on the way there in the car, but unfortunately the heat had built up to such an extent by the time we arrived that most were having their mid-morning nap, and the two valleys we walked down were relatively quiet. Of course we saw all the obvious species such as Red-legged Partridge.



Barn and Red-rumped Swallows, Common Stonechats, Common Nightingales and Zitting Cisticolas were also all there, but the one species we had expected to see here kept its head down right up until the end as we re-approached the vehicle, when, bathing in the stream beside the track, we saw our first Cirl Bunting of the week, a male which was quickly followed by a female.



In between times we had very good, though distant, views of a couple of Common Redstarts disputing territory high up in a Holm Oak, a family group of Long-tailed Tits, (which allowed us to notice the difference between the Iberian and the northern European races), and Mike saw a European Robin, which is a fair rarity in these parts at this time of year. On the way home again we saw a Eurasian Hoopoe and a Mistle Thrush and, once back near the Quinta, a Sardinian Warbler and also our first view of a Subalpine Warbler.

Thursday 10th May

The heat promised to be the same as yesterday, but as we were going to be travelling along the western seaboard of Portugal, southwards from the Lagoa Sto. André, we hoped it would seem cooler and in this we were correct as, though it got up to 29°C today, we never felt as baked as we'd been in the valley the day before.

It was an early start again so that we could arrive at the right place overlooking the lagoon with the sun behind us as the sun broke the horizon, so we had a short coffee stop just before we got there in Sto. André itself at the one café that opens at 07.30. Fifteen minutes later we breasted the rise at the trig point to be met with a shore to shore expanse of coots – Mike volunteered to check them out for Red Knobs and the rest of us thought it'd be a great idea - and we'd pick him up next week ...

There was a surprise in store though as we met up with our third Great Egret of the week fishing along the shore line below us. Contrary to the views we'd had of them during the last three days, this species is rare in Portugal and even the latest Collins Bird Guide views their range as outside Portugal. It was nice to have a comparison of size also as a Eurasian Spoonbill was fishing the shallows less than 50m distant.



On the far side of the lagoon there was a stand of Greater Flamingos, and Red-crested Pochards seemed to be as abundant as Mallards, though there were no other species of duck that we could see. Another bird that was conspicuous by its absence was a Purple Heron and this was to remain so, (apart from a fleeting view the next day), for the rest of the week, another victim of the unseasonal weather.



However, one bird that we did see here, and see well, was a Melodious Warbler, one of Portugal's latest arrivals from migration, and a species that had probably only arrived during the previous day or so. This one sang from a selection of its preferred highly visible perches all around us so we were all able to really get the jizz or "general impression, shape and size".

There was also a Savi's Warbler's distinctive sewing-machine-like call from the grass swathe in front of us, but it was extremely difficult to identify exactly where it was coming from, so, after an hour or so at this position we moved a few hundred yards further south along the shore line to where I knew we had a better chance of seeing this elusive bird.

There was a pair of Western Marsh Harriers quartering the reed beds away to the south, some European Serins and European Greenfinches singing on the fence and a Common Tern or two patrolling up and down the lake in front of us, but what we were



really after were the Savi's Warblers. Even though we could hear them clearly, our task wasn't made any easier by their



being mixed up with a large number of European Reed Warblers, but find them, (eventually!), we did and it was a huge success to not only be able to see them clearly, but to also be able to see them within the same frame as European Reed Warblers and to note the differences between these two difficult species.

Following this we set off south along the coast, stopping at Porto Covo to have a look at some Black Redstarts nesting in the cliffs before having a quick cup of coffee in the village.

Sheila and I were both interested to see what was the state of play in the cork oak woodland we'd noticed last September with an infestation of Gypsy Moth, *Lymantria dispar*, a notorious defoliator of hardwood trees. Notwithstanding that I had told the owner of the property of his plight we were pleasantly surprised to find that the trees were in good shape and though we noticed some caterpillars they were exceptionally small, so perhaps my warning last year had served its purpose. We had our picnic lunch in amongst the trees before re-joining the coastal road south, and while there we had good views of a pair of Western Nuthatches at their nest site where an old branch had fallen off an oak. It was interesting to note that it was not, as so often, an old woodpecker nest, but they had "bricked up" the hole in exactly the same manner.





Continuing south across the mouth of the River Mira, it wasn't long before we came to Cabo Sardão. This was an exceptionally interesting cove, with cliffs a hundred feet or more plunging straight down into the sea, but it wasn't just the geology that was interesting as this stretch of coastline also hosts the only White Storks that nest at sea, and there's a small colony of ten nests perched precariously upon the rock stacks just offshore here. It's a great place to observe the activity inside the nests and we were able to note that, though some were still sitting on eggs, there were at least four nests with a pair of chicks each.

Also present were some Rock Doves, a few Alpine Swifts, a pair of cliff-nesting Common Kestrels and a pair of Peregrine Falcons with one nearly-fledged chick, and we spent a happy hour taking it all in

before heading for home.



All in all a highly successful day with the weather kind to us and the birds even kinder!

Friday 11th May

As the week progressed so the early starts had been getting later and this was no exception as we left the Quinta to head south towards our first stop of the day, the highest point in southern Portugal, Foia, at seven o'clock. However, before we even got going we had a success in the Quinta's car park as I found our first European Turtle Dove of the week calling from the old eucalyptus tree.

Feeling pleased with ourselves we set off – and had another success within a few kms. Seeing a Golden Oriole flash past we quickly pulled up above a small valley with the sun just breaking the horizon behind us, in which perfect light we had wonderful views during the next twenty minutes or so as first the male and then the female





foraged among the young cork trees below. What made these views even better was that Flora went past in her school bus as we were there and saw what we were looking at; she'd regaled us every evening with how many she'd seen that day, casting considerable doubt upon our birding skills in not having seen one to date, so it was with some satisfaction that we piled aboard again, knowing that at dinner that night we'd be able to look her fair and square in the eye!

It was forecast to be cooler today, and, as Foia lies at 950 m above sea level, we were all toggled up for a chilly start, but it wasn't that bad, and what was even better, the cloud level was high so visibility was perfect.

We were hoping for a Dartford Warbler up here, but, though

we heard one chattering away, it was buried deep inside a bramble bush and we failed to get a view. What we did see however were several more Melodious Warblers and a very



good view of a Common Whitethroat, quite a rarity this far south and easily confused with a female Sardinian – which we also saw, so it was nice to differentiate between them both, the red eye-ring of the Sardinian and the rufous wings of the Common Whitethroat easily seen by all of us.



As we turned around to head back towards the car we were startled to see a Rufous-tailed Rock Thrush, startled as this is normally considered too low an elevation for them, preferring an elevation a good 600 m higher under normal circumstances. This one was probably on migration. Unfortunately it was perched up-sun of us so views and photos were low in quality, but the red belly and white back were clearly visible even against the light.

Woodlarks were singing as we neared the car and, searching for better views of the Rufous-tailed Rock Thrush, we also saw for an instant a Blue Rock Thrush and had a very close encounter with a gorgeous Rock Bunting sitting on a fence surrounding the radar station.



Dropping down the hill from the highest point we had a short coffee break overlooking a valley where we were serenaded by European Serins and wooed by (Grey) Wagtails - and had our eardrums fractured by frogs croaking away in a small water tank beside the café. Carrying on we fell right down to the coast and into a fierce northeasterly wind, surprisingly absent from the mountain we'd just descended.

We'd planned on a leisurely lunch overlooking the sea, but as we had to hang onto the sides of the car and struggled not to be blown over the cliff we gave it up as a bad job and moved on down to Europe's most south westerly point at Sagres.

Luckily the wind died away as we got to Vila do Bispo and started down the dirt track that leads to the Beliche Hedge and Plain. Plenty of Corn Buntings and Stonechats on the first part but nothing more really of interest till we got down to the farm buildings at the edge of the Plain where we came across a few Short-toed Larks, then some Red-billed Choughs and finally a few Little Bustards. This population of Little Bustards is a tiny remnant of the widespread diversity of this species in times gone past so we were particularly lucky to have come across them.

The final "great" bird of the area was a species that I've never seen down here in the past, a Common Skylark, unmistakably identified as it stood its ground on the track in front of us and then rose, trilling, into the air.



On the way home we had a quick glimpse of a Purple Heron near Aljezur, one of the first arrivals of this species from migration, and though we tried to find it in amongst the reeds that fringed the stream bed we were unlucky. We arrived back at the Quinta at half past four, tired but satisfied with a truly magical day's birding.

Saturday 12th May

Today was a local walk down the Santa Clara Valley, and we decided on a later start – and unfortunately paid the price with most birds having gone down on what was a hot and airless morning, overcast and with the threat of a thunderstorm. The temperature was 38° and distinctly uncomfortable.

Common Swifts, European Serins, Eurasian Collared Doves, European Goldfinches and White Storks in the village started us off, but the walk itself produced nothing really spectacular, though we did have good views of a European Turtle Dove and saw a few glimpses of Golden Orioles. The latter seemed to be calling from every point of the compass, but as always were difficult to spot.



On the way home we came across a pair of Short-toed Eagles soaring above the hills and being mobbed by a few Alpine Swifts, but all in all it was a disappointingly empty morning and the walk in the hot, muggy atmosphere tired us more than it would have done normally.

Sunday 13th May

Everyone was scheduled on flights late in the afternoon so in the morning there were the last walks around the Quinta, during which we had impressive sightings of “Charly”, the Quinta’s resident Ocellated Lizard, when he came out of his rock-wall home to bask on the lawn.

Following an early lunch we set off for a last few hour’s birding at Salgados, a brackish lake on the south coast three quarters of an hour from the airport. We were only there for little over an hour, but the detour paid huge dividends with an impressive list of species to round off the week.



There appeared to be only two species of ducks, Mallards and a few Northern Shovelers, and we saw our first Great Cormorant of the week here too, but the real gold of this venue were obviously the waders and shore birds. Eurasian Spoonbills and Greater Flamingos were the most obvious species, and we saw a few Purple Swamphens also, but there were also Black-winged Stilts, Pied Avocets, four species of Plover, (Little Ringed, Common Ringed, Kentish and Grey), Sanderlings, a couple of thousand Dunlin, a Little Tern,



Curllew and Common Sandpipers, Common Redshank, Common Greenshank, a few Bar-tailed Godwits and four Whimbrel also, while over in the distance on the far shore, Mike and Helen were clever enough to spot three or four Collared Pratincoles.



It was a truly magical way to finish off what was a wonderful week's birding and it was, literally, with tears in our eyes that we bade each other a hurried goodbye at the airport a short while later.

Acknowledgements

As the Group Leader and host for the week I would like to give my thanks on behalf of us all to Daniela and our staff who beavered away behind the scenes so efficiently. The food was always to an excellent standard and our early starts were always happily handled. I'd also like to thank Nigel and his team for organising the week in the first place! Without their organisation it'd never have happened.

I hope that you will take away with you happy memories of this week, the countryside, bird species and wildflowers of the area and a heightened understanding of the Montados and the threat to their continued existence - remember, always check for the cork!

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June 2012

Weather

The weather throughout the week was distinctly warmer than normal, with a high of 38°C with little rain or wind - apart from the one day on the coast near Sagres where we had difficulty staying on our feet. The average temperature was 26°C.

Note though that the previous five weeks had seen the area's coldest April for over 100 years ...

CHECKLIST OF SPECIES SEEN DURING THE TOUR

No of days recorded	Abundance Scale (max for any one day)
1 2h means seen on 1 day and heard on 2 other days	1 = 1 - 4 2 = 5 - 9 3 = 10 - 100 4 = > 100

The sequence and nomenclature of this list follow Collins Bird Guide 2nd Edition 2010.

Species	No of days recorded	Abundance Scale	Scientific Name
Mallard	4	4	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>
Gadwall	2	1	<i>Anas strepera</i>
Northern Shoveler	1	1	<i>Anas clypeata</i>
Red-crested Pochard	2	3	<i>Netta rufina</i>
Common Pochard	1	1	<i>Aythya ferina</i>
Red-legged Partridge	4	3	<i>Alectoris rufa</i>
Common Quail	1	1	<i>Coturnix coturnix</i>
Little Grebe	3	2	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>
Great Crested Grebe	3	2	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>
Great Cormorant	1	1	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>
Little Bittern	1	1	<i>Ixobrychus minutus</i>
Cattle Egret	4	4	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>
Little Egret	4	2	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>
Great Egret	2	1	<i>Casmerodius albus</i>
Grey Heron	3	3	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>
Purple Heron	1	1	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>
White Stork	6	4	<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>
Glossy Ibis	1	1	<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>
Eurasian Spoonbill	2	2	<i>Platalea leucorodia</i>
Greater Flamingo	2	3	<i>Phoenicopterus roseus</i>
Spanish Imperial Eagle	1	1	<i>Aquila adalberti</i>
Short-toed Eagle	2	1	<i>Circaetus gallicus</i>
Booted Eagle	2	1	<i>Hieraaetus pennatus</i>
Black Kite	1	1	<i>Milvus migrans</i>
Western Marsh Harrier	1	1	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>
Montagu's Harrier	1	3	<i>Circus pygargus</i>
Common Buzzard	2	2	<i>Buteo buteo</i>
Northern Goshawk	1	1	<i>Accipiter gentilis</i>
Black-winged Kite	1	2	<i>Elanus caeruleus</i>
Common Kestrel	3	3	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>
Lesser Kestrel	1	3	<i>Falco naumanni</i>
Peregrine Falcon	1	1	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>
Common Moorhen	4	3	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>
Eurasian Coot	3	5	<i>Fulica atra</i>
Purple Swampphen	2	1	<i>Porphyrio porphyrio</i>
Little Bustard	2	3	<i>Tetrax tetrax</i>
Great Bustard	1	3	<i>Otis tarda</i>
Pied Avocet	1	3	<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>
Black-winged Stilt	3	3	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>
Collared Pratincole	1	1	<i>Glareola Pratincola</i>
Little Ringed Plover	2	2	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>
Common Ringed Plover	1	2	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>
Kentish Plover	1	1	<i>Charadrius alexandrinus</i>
Grey Plover	1	2	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>
Ruddy Turnstone	1	1	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>
Sanderling	1	2	<i>Calidris alba</i>
Dunlin	1	4	<i>Calidris alpina</i>
Curlew Sandpiper	1	1	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>
Common Sandpiper	1	1	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>

Common Redshank	1	1	<i>Tringa totanus</i>	
Common Greenshank	1	1	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>	
Bar-tailed Godwit	1	1	<i>Limosa lapponica</i>	
Whimbrel	1	1	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>	
Black-headed Gull	2	1	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>	
Yellow-legged Gull	3	2	<i>Larus michahellis</i>	
Lesser Black-backed Gull	4	4	<i>Larus fuscus</i>	
Little Tern	2	1	<i>Sterna albifrons</i>	
Sandwich Tern	1	1	<i>Sterna sandvicensis</i>	
Common Tern	1	1	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>	
Black-bellied Sandgrouse	1	2	<i>Pterocles orientalis</i>	
Feral Pigeon (Rock Dove)	6	4	<i>Columba livia</i>	
Common Wood Pigeon	6	2	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	
Eurasian Collared Dove	8	3	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	
European Turtle Dove	2	2h	1	<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>
Common Cuckoo	1	4h	2	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>
Little Owl	4	1	<i>Athene noctua</i>	
Common Swift	5	3	<i>Apus apus</i>	
Alpine Swift	2	1	<i>Apus melba</i>	
Eurasian Hoopoe	5	2h	2	<i>Upupa epops</i>
European Bee-eater	7	3	<i>Merops apiaster</i>	
European Green Woodpecker	1	2h	1	<i>Picus viridis</i>
Great Spotted Woodpecker	2	1	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>	
Common Skylark	1	1	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>	
Crested Lark	4	3	<i>Galerida cristata</i>	
Thekla Lark	1	1	<i>Galerida theklae</i>	
Woodlark	5	1h	3	<i>Lullula arborea</i>
Greater Short-toed Lark	2	2	<i>Calandrella brachydactyla</i>	
Calandra Lark	1	2	<i>Melanocorypha calandra</i>	
Barn Swallow	8	4	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	
Red-rumped Swallow	8	3	<i>Hirundo daurica</i>	
Common House Martin	7	4	<i>Delichon urbica</i>	
Tawny Pipit	1	1	<i>Anthus campestris</i>	
White Wagtail	8	1	<i>Motacilla alba</i>	
Yellow Wagtail	1	2	<i>Motacilla flava</i>	
Grey Wagtail	1	2	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>	
European Robin	1	1h	1	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>
Black Redstart	1	1	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>	
Common Nightingale	5	3h	1	<i>Luscinia megarhynchos</i>
Common Redstart	1	1	<i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>	
Black Redstart	1	1	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>	
Black-eared Wheatear	1	1	<i>Oenanthe hispanica</i>	
Common Stonechat	7	3	<i>Saxicola torquata</i>	
Blue Rock Thrush	1	1	<i>Monticola solitarius</i>	
Rufous-tailed Rock Thrush	1	1	<i>Monticola saxatilis</i>	
Mistle Thrush	1	1	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>	
Common Blackbird	8	3	<i>Turdus merula</i>	
Blackcap	3	1h	2	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>
Common Whitethroat	1	1	<i>Sylvia communis</i>	
Sardinian Warbler	4	2	<i>Sylvia melanocephala</i>	
Subalpine Warbler	1	2h	1	<i>Sylvia cantillans</i>
Dartford Warbler	-	1h	1	<i>Sylvia undata</i>
Zitting Cisticola	8	3	<i>Cisticola juncidis</i>	
Cetti's Warbler	-	5h	1	<i>Cettia cetti</i>
Savi's Warbler	1	1	<i>Locustella luscinioides</i>	
European Reed Warbler	1	1	<i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>	
Melodious Warbler	3	2	<i>Hippolais polyglotta</i>	
Iberian Chiffchaff	1	1	<i>Phylloscopus ibericus</i>	
Winter Wren	5	2h	2	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>
Great Tit	-	3h	1	<i>Parus major</i>
European Blue Tit	5	1h	2	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>
Crested Tit	1	1	<i>Lophophanes cristatus</i>	
Long-tailed Tit	1	2	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>	

Eurasian Nuthatch	1	1h	1	<i>Sitta europaea</i>
Short-toed Treecreeper	-	1h	1	<i>Certhia brachydactyla</i>
Iberian Grey Shrike	4		3	<i>Lanius meridionalis</i>
Woodchat Shrike	2		1	<i>Lanius senator</i>
Azure-winged Magpie	8		4	<i>Cyanopica cyana</i>
Eurasian Jay	8		2	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>
Western Jackdaw	2		2	<i>Corvus monedula</i>
Red-billed Chough	1		2	<i>Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax</i>
Carrion Crow	4		3	<i>Corvus corone</i>
Common Raven	2		1	<i>Corvus corax</i>
Spotless Starling	8		3	<i>Sturnus unicolor</i>
Eurasian Golden Oriole	2	2h	1	<i>Oriolus oriolus</i>
House Sparrow	8		3	<i>Passer domesticus</i>
Spanish Sparrow	1		3	<i>Passer hispaniolensis</i>
Common Chaffinch	5		2	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>
Common Linnet	4		3	<i>Carduelis cannabina</i>
European Goldfinch	8		3	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>
European Greenfinch	4	2h	2	<i>Carduelis chloris</i>
European Serin	7		2	<i>Serinus serinus</i>
Corn Bunting	8		3	<i>Miliaria calandra</i>
Cirl Bunting	1		1	<i>Emberiza cirlus</i>
Rock Bunting	1		1	<i>Emberiza cia</i>
Black-headed Weaver	1		1	<i>Ploceus melanocephalus</i>
Mammals				
Iberian Hare	1		2	<i>Lepus granatensis</i>
European Rabbit	2		2	<i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i>
Egyptian Mongoose	1		1	<i>Herpestes ichneumon</i>
Invertebrates				
Spanish Marbled White				
Small Copper				
Spanish Festoon				
Meadow Brown				
Clouded Yellow				
Egyptian Grasshopper				

This list represents those birds and other animals seen by party members of this tour.