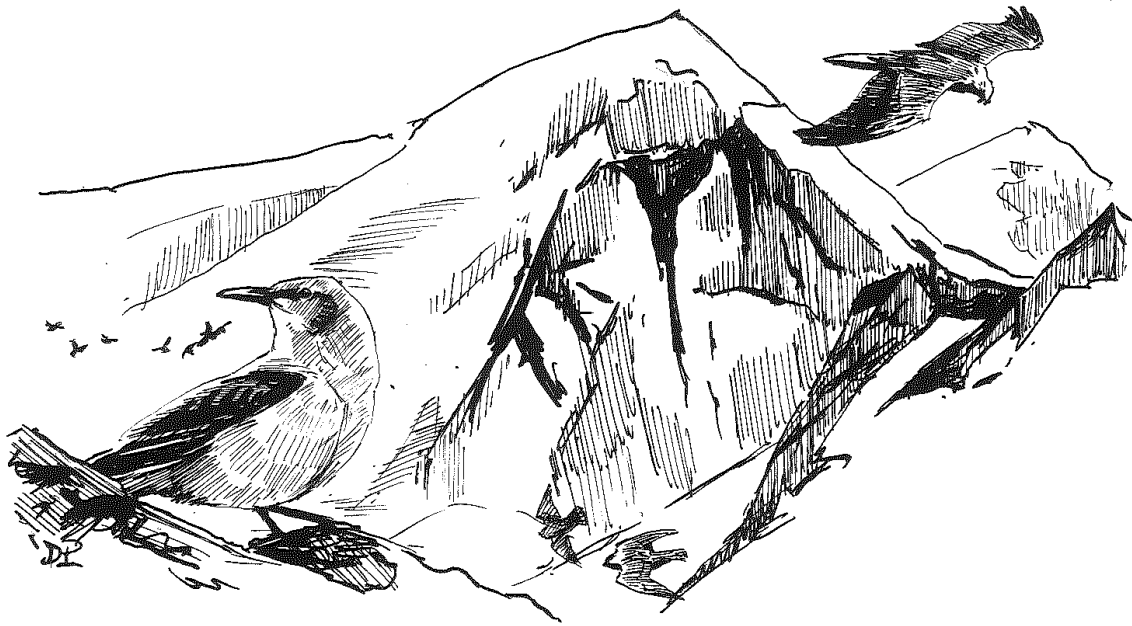


ORNITHOLIDAYS TOUR TO SPAIN – ARAGON & CATALONIA
Cranes, Lammergeiers & Wallcreepers

05 – 12 NOVEMBER 2016



Leader: Steve West

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A Personal Diary

This was Ornitholidays' fifth November Aragon tour, and the second to start in the Pre-Pyrenees and to conclude in the Ebro Delta. For us it was a delightful blend of the classic, oft-visited sites and virtually new and unchartered birding territory. As in the 2015 tour we enjoyed superb sunny weather, and again as a result we also recorded at least 12 species of butterfly – is this to become the new norm?

While Wallcreeper, Lammergeier and thousands of Common Cranes were all crowd-pullers as usual we weren't exactly twiddling our thumbs while waiting for the next bird on the list to appear. There was far too much going on, and the tour participants' constant enthusiasm and eclectic tastes in the manifestations of birds and nature helped to banish any thought of dull moments.

I'm sure everyone on the tour will recall some or all of these stirring sensations and visual treats: two Lammergeiers mating on a rocky ledge in the Sierra de Guara and then sailing alongside the road on which we were driving; a flock of Hawfinches in garden-like surroundings on a sunny afternoon; a herd of Iberian Ibexes and a last-minute Bonelli's Eagle; a first day transfer featuring superb daytime views of Eurasian Eagle Owl, a large flock of Little Bustards and several Stone Curlews; thousands of Common Cranes flying and calling; a superb gorge walk with Alpine Accentor and Northern Goshawk; chasing Bluethroats in the Ebro Delta; looking down on a winter Wallcreeper from atop a dam in a secluded, rocky setting.

Would it be wrong to venture that we all thoroughly enjoyed the magnificent and varied landscapes of northeast Spain – castles, mountains, gorges, steppes, wetlands and forests – all bathed in the sunshine of a superb week in November? And after a day in the field the evenings seemed short in each others' company and in the professional hands of our comfortable hotels and their staff.

Saturday 05 November

With the orange Ornitholidays baggage labels all present and accounted for at Barcelona Airport, we started the tour with a pleasant lunch en-route between Barcelona and Lleida. Then, less than an hour later, we were standing on the edge of open fields watching what we eventually counted as no fewer than 145 Little Bustards! There was sunshine, there were Red Kites, a Western Marsh Harrier, European Serins and Common Skylarks, and so that was a pretty good start to the tour.

There was more to come: not much further along the main road we made another minor diversion and again found what we were looking for - Stone Curlews. We watched a single Stone Curlew from inside the van and after it had decided we were too close we got out and spotted more, six in all. While watching these through the telescopes we also had views of our first Iberian Grey Shrike of the tour – there would be quite a few more in the following days – and we heard an Iberian Green Woodpecker and spotted some Red-legged Partridges.

We seemed to be on a winning streak so I proposed a slightly riskier undertaking to the group: to make a diversion to the south of Lleida to see if a Eurasian Eagle Owl, which I had seen only the day before, would still be in the same general area. They did not need much convincing! We made a rural "shortcut" exiting the main road but with little to report in terms of interesting birds, and before long we pulled up on a quiet road opposite an unimposing rock face with a few shallow ledges, a fallen boulder here and there and with some bushy overgrowth. Not really a place to inspire Wordsworthian verses but good enough, it seemed, for an adult Eurasian Eagle Owl, which stood unblinking and unmoved in the modest shade of a be-bushed overhang. What a sight for birders eyes! In the long, rosy late afternoon light we could see all the details of the owl's plumage, its fierce orange eyes and even its white chin as it puffed it out to call repeatedly over the course of several minutes. Now and then it would also blink or swivel its head to look one way or another, and we watched and took it all in, delighted at our good fortune.

We still had just over an hour's journey before reaching our hotel, so after leaving the Eurasian Eagle Owl on its rocky ledge we made a brief sortie to look for the last few birds of the day in the surrounding area. We had beatable views of a Sardinian Warbler, a Thekla Lark and six Red-billed Choughs, and more than 30 White Storks, most of which were perched on lamp-posts beside the motorway! Then, just before darkness was

complete a few Eurasian Griffon Vultures perched on telegraph poles put the finishing touch to a rare, enjoyable and exceedingly birdie first day.

Sunday 06 November

Our first destination on this new morning was to the medieval walled town of Alquézar, which is worth a visit in itself for its cobbled streets, old buildings and its amazing location, perched as it is on the edge of deep chasms and gorges. After the gasps of admiration and the inevitable scenic shots we started looking at, or for, the birds. They were more difficult to locate than we had hoped for though, and we only had brief views of some Eurasian Crag Martins, a Grey Wagtail and a Black Redstart or two, and an even more tenuous encounter with two “flyovers” which could well have been Alpine Accentors but which we could not officially count as such. A Blue Rock Thrush seemed to form part of the conspiracy too by singing briefly from a hidden perch.

We returned to our hotel at Bierge to enjoy a wholesome breakfast and then to continue with our quest for more birds. It was a drive along very quiet, winding roads, inviting us to stop here and there to sample the birdlife of scrubby hillside, olive and almond groves, coppices and small fields, and silent, near-abandoned villages. We drove through the tiny village of Santo Culo and pulled off the track to admire the views over the surrounding countryside and also, with a bit of luck, to spot a few interesting birds. Eurasian Griffon Vultures flew past, over and around in increasing numbers and after some scanning we set our eyes on a pair of rather distant Lammergeiers, soaring up higher and higher into the sky over a mountain ridge. Now that was good, but we felt it could be bettered and, quite shortly afterwards it was indeed: firstly an immature Lammergeier sailed past in front of us, and then we spotted another two adult Lammergeiers circling and gradually getting closer and closer. We followed them through our binoculars until one, then another, landed on a rocky ledge and started showing signs that they were there for a purpose. And, yes, they mated! It was quite possible that we had just witnessed the conception of one of next year’s new Lammergeiers.

Before leaving the same site we had also seen a Golden Eagle sailing past and soaring into the distance and then just a little later another surprise encounter made us pull off the road to watch: two adult Lammergeiers circling low and close and in wonderful light. Perhaps they were the same birds we had seen earlier, perhaps not; it didn’t matter as we all enjoyed another memorable encounter with this exciting bird.

The next stretch of our journey concluded in the vicinity of a dam. Of course our target bird here could be no other than the famed Wallcreeper, but would we be in luck? A quick scan of the dam itself drew a worrying blank. Then I peered down over the railings at the rock face below and a Wallcreeper flitted its wings, thus revealing itself to my relieved eyes. The group members all took up positions along the dam and looked down through the railings at this little jewel of a bird as it went about its business. Sometimes it was almost hidden, unmoving, its grey and white plumage blending in to the rock face and making it look like just another stone or pebble in the conglomerate rock face. Then it would suddenly go into action mode, hopping and flitting about the rock face, probing with its long slender bill and giving brief views of its crimson-coloured wings. We enjoyed this treat for half an hour or so before making our way back to the vehicle to seek out a sunny picnic spot somewhere nearby.

After our sandwiches and a handful of foraged almonds we centred our attention on the birds once more. We managed to see species such as Sardinian Warbler, Dartford Warbler, Red-billed Chough, Northern Raven, Spotless Starling, Eurasian Sparrowhawk, and at least 30 Rock Sparrows, and we got a fleeting glimpse of a Merlin.

Next on our bird-seeking agenda was a search around an arid, rocky hillside topped with the ruins of a castle. Here a Black Wheatear showed well, first of all looking like a boring little black bird sitting on a rock, and then flying and showing all of us its dazzling white tail and demanding a reappraisal of its visual merits. We also entertained ourselves trying to get reasonably good views of the Thekla Larks which we could hear calling from different spots and there were other creatures too, including Wall Brown and Clouded Yellow butterflies and a long, slender snake, later identified as a Horseshoe Whip Snake, *Hemorrhhois hippocrepis*.

Our last birding arena of the day was at Vadiello, deep in the rocky heart of the Sierra de Guara and with the possibility of locating an Alpine Accentor or two. The fact that it was Sunday and that people would have disturbed the most likely haunts of the accentors (if they were about at all) may have been the reason why we did not spot any accentors here. Nevertheless, we admired the splendid scenery and took pleasure from seeing a Peregrine Falcon flying high over the towering crags, dwarfed by the numerous Griffon Vultures (*What*

else?). By now it was time to make our way back to the hotel, having enjoyed another marvellous birding day and seeing two of the most emblematic bird species of this particular tour.

Monday 07 November

Today we departed northwards for views of the Pyrenees proper and to look for some woodland and alpine birds. After turning off the busy main road the atmosphere and scenery underwent a welcome transformation. The countryside was suddenly peaceful and rural and invited us to amble along looking out for any birds we could see, especially in scrub or fields on the edges of quiet little villages.

Our first stop was for a flock of finches and buntings, but they were moving through faster than we could fix them in our sights. However, we did manage to see a Common Stonechat, an Iberian Grey Shrike and two or three handsome male Cirl Buntings, which was some reward for our efforts. A little later we turned off one quiet road onto an even quieter one, entering a dense, humid forest of pine.

It was chilly out, so hats and gloves were the order of the day as we strolled through the forest. It seemed eerily silent as we slowly made our way along shady paths through the woodland, strewn with the autumn's freshly-fallen leaves. We were looking and listening for forest birds, and eventually found some of the commoner ones such as Goldcrest, Eurasian Nuthatch, Long-tailed Tit and Crested Tit but our main targets such as the Citril Finch and the Black Woodpecker eluded us. Well, virtually so: the Black Woodpecker called many times and from different places, the last one must have been little more than 100 metres from us, although we could not see the bird for the trees.

After a warming coffee, one or two of which were "spiced up", we drove on to the high mountains, eating our picnic lunches on the hoof. Stopping at a site where Wallcreepers had been reported from the day before our visit, we were greeted with Eurasian Crag Martins and a displaying Golden Eagle, which then soared high and was joined by another. A quick look around the bridge revealed no Wallcreepers though, so we moved on.

Up at the border we parked just within France, and I wondered why the French were dithering so much before deciding to take their country back and return things to what they had been like in the last century, with border posts, passport controls and plenty of margin for armed disputes with their neighbours – how unlike them to lag so far behind the British example! That notwithstanding, the birds here were few and far between: we saw alpine House Sparrows, an alpine European Goldfinch, and an alpine Common Magpie! Oh, and two quite distant Alpine Choughs and three Pyrenean Chamois high on the mountain ridges.

We made a short touristy incursion into France and then we made our way back down to the Pre-Pyrenees of Spain. After a brief stop where we dipped on dipper, a flock of Red Kites in a field grabbed our attention, and then we turned off the road where we had in the morning. Searching around the fields again (I was hoping for Rock Buntings) gave us further views of the birds we had seen in the morning and a brief look at a male Sardinian Warbler. Back at the bridge things had livened up, and we saw Little Grebe, a couple of Common Kingfishers and a couple of White-throated Dippers too. Now that was quite a good way to end our day in the Pyrenees.

Tuesday 08 November

With bright spirits and a fond farewell we took leave of our fine hotel in the Sierra de Guara and headed south, for a potential birding bonanza on the Ebro valley plains. Our first noteworthy bird of the day was spotted from inside the moving van: a single Common Crane on the move too. Upon reaching the dry farmland for the birding fun began. Larks were numerous, and we had soon seen mixed flocks of Skylarks and Calandra Larks, with the odd Crested Lark filling the gaps between them. Here we also saw the first Corn Buntings of the tour and had a brief encounter with a Peregrine Falcon, and watched a ringtail Hen Harrier interacting with an obviously larger Western Marsh Harrier.

We were searching and scanning for sandgrouse, and at times that meant following a number of tracks and stopping and staring at rocks or plants in large stony fields. After doing this for some time some of the "rocks" eventually took flight and we were watching a small group of Black-bellied Sandgrouse flying past us. These were then joined by other groups, bringing the total count to just over 30 birds, as well as one single Pin-tailed Sandgrouse. It was a very satisfying, and now we could move on to the next area.

Between sites we spotted a Eurasian Hoopoe and a Golden Eagle. We called in at a small flooded hollow which had little to offer in terms of birds. Then came the turn of what was perhaps our main target bird for the day: the Great Bustard. We drove slowly through wide open expanses scanning this way and that, and before we had time for doubt we had encountered a flock of nine male Great Bustards. The birds were relatively close, the light was excellent and we watched them for a long while before they gradually walked down a little incline and out of our sight.

We had a quick look at a large dry salt lake and saw a single Eurasian Curlew, an Iberian Grey Shrike and some Red-billed Choughs. Then we made a pause for a tasty tapas-style lunch before continuing with the next leg of our journey. This was punctuated by great views of yet another Golden Eagle, but it seemed that afternoon drowsiness had taken its toll and people were slow to respond, either that or we had been spoilt by so many Golden Eagles!

We reached the Spanish Ornithological Society's reserve at Belchite, a stronghold for breeding Dupont's Larks, but which by now were in some other part of Spain, although it is unlikely that anyone knows where exactly. A Little Owl on a wall was good entertainment, especially when focusing on the task of trying to get everyone in the party to see it! At the bombed out ruins of old Belchite we had the briefest of encounters with a Blue Rock Thrush and a rather distant Black Wheatear adorning the historic site. Then we continued on our journey, edging closer to our final destination at Daroca.

There was one last area we really had to visit before ending what had already been an action-packed day. It was a beautiful area we had visited on previous tours and where we had either seen or missed the enigmatic Bonelli's Eagle, as well as Iberian Ibex. Today would be similar, because we would either see them or not... After some time scrutinising the hillsides and woodland, seeing lots of vultures but little else it appeared that this time we would draw a blank. In fact we were heading back along the way we had come to drive the final lengths to our hotel when I decided to stop the vehicle and have one last scan. Ah! That "one last scan"! "Iberian Ibex" I declared, "two, no three, on the hillside over there". We all set our gazes on the Ibex and little by little we spotted another, and then another, until we reached a total of nine Iberian Ibex, including a large male, who was showing clear interest in enjoying some feminine company. As we stood watching the Ibex Matt asked me "Steve, is that an eagle over there?" And it was, and not just any old Golden Eagle, but rather a precious Bonelli's Eagle. Good one Matt! We all watched as the eagle sailed over a ridge and out of view, and there seemed to be nothing else we could ask for before arriving at our next hotel.

Wednesday 09 November

After breakfast we headed straight for the lagoon of Gallocanta. From the fields on the shores we scanned the few, very shallow patches of water. A dozen Common Shelduck were easy to pick out from among the multitude of Mallard, but there didn't seem to be any other duck species present.

We had already seen groups of Common Cranes on distant fields, and now by following a track around part of the lagoon we came into closer contact with large numbers of them. As usual they were quite flighty, so we were able to dedicate much of our attention to some of the other birds in the fields and grassy patches. We came across a quaint group of Red-legged Partridges, Red Kites, Eurasian Sparrowhawk, Common Buzzard and three Hen Harriers, including one male which spent several minutes flying along the road, enabling us to drive parallel to it. The information centre was closed (again) and so we continued around the other side of the lagoon before encountering works and having to accelerate our programme. On this stretch we found three Roe Deer and a large lark flock which included lots of Common Skylarks and probably more than 400 Calandra Larks!

Transferring our attention to a very different setting we travelled to a delightful gorge formed by the dry River Pedo. Here we enjoyed a picnic and a gentle walk in striking, solitary surroundings. There was wildlife too: in this area we saw two Red Foxes, Dartford Warblers, Rock Buntings (at last!), Rock Sparrows, a "difficult" Alpine Accentor, Eurasian Griffon Vultures, and a fine female Northern Goshawk which had obviously been the source of agitation for a couple of Red-billed Choughs which had been calling quite loudly for the last 10 minutes or so.

Very relaxed and satisfied with our experiences we then drove through stunning countryside views to the vicinity of a religious monument. Our first stop here was by a small river bridge and in just a short time we had seen Grey Wagtail, a Firecrest and a Long-tailed Blue, as well as other butterflies. An afternoon coffee is

rarely a bad idea, especially when there are Hawfinches in the neighbourhood. So we drank our teas and coffees out on the terrace and then set about locating the Hawfinches we could hear calling. This we did, and in what a fashion! First a couple flew overhead, followed by a few more, then a flock of a dozen or so, and then we located some perched in bare branches near the treetops, and were all able to enjoy the view of this often elusive bird – our final count was in excess of 50 Hawfinches.

The afternoon was wearing on and so we returned to Gallocanta to make our parting shot, another look at the Common Cranes flocking around the lagoon. This time there were more birds, easily more than 1,000, mostly grouped together at one end of the lagoon. They were restless, and so gave us wonderful views of their trumpeting and swaying masses as hundreds took to flight in unison.

Thursday 10 November

Today would be spent in transit to our last hotel in the Ebro Delta, passing through striking scenery that few bird tour participants would ever see, and all the time looking out for interesting birds and other wildlife. It was mid-morning before we made our first stop, to survey green and wooded hillsides. Common Crossbills flew past us calling, but we could not get a visual fix on them, and apart from that and some fleeting Rock Buntings we saw few birds.

Soon we had pulled into a small village and parked in the main square, it was cool, but getting warmer, and everywhere was bathed in sunshine. The views were spectacular, and we were happy to be out and to be going for a walk. Walking out of the village we followed a path upriver, towards its source. Although we saw a few tits, including Crested Tit, and heard a Green Woodpecker, birds were no longer our main focus, as we had discovered a great sun trap which was obviously appealing to a good number and variety of butterflies too. On our gently-paced walk we identified Small Copper, Comma, Speckled Wood, Clouded Yellow, Pale Clouded Yellow, Painted Lady, Red Admiral, Common Blue, Mazarine Blue and Silver-studded Blue, and also saw three Red Squirrels and a Common Wall Lizard. And remember, this was November!

The point where we decided to turn back was also where the path narrowed into a gorge flanked by towering cliffs where Peregrines and Eurasian Griffon Vultures patrolled. Common Chiffchaff, Great Spotted Woodpecker, Rock Sparrow and a couple of Eurasian Siskin were seen by some of the group before we entered a local café for our pre-ordered lunches. We then continued along winding roads with tiny hilltop villages, past miles and miles of dry stone walling and depopulated landscapes, undertaking the still lengthy journey towards a complete change of scenery – the rice fields, muddy bays, sandy shores and lagoons of the Ebro Delta.

Friday 11 November

We were now on the last birding day of the tour, and we were certainly going to get a lot of birds before the show was over. The rice fields that make up most of the Ebro Delta had been harvested and churned up by the special tractors for the job, and the resulting dark, oozy substrate was obviously a huge attraction for vast numbers of herons, egrets and gulls, especially Little and Great Egrets, Grey Heron and Glossy Ibis.

Approaching the northern bay called el Fangar on a pre-breakfast visit we started birding in earnest. Here were small flocks of Greater Flamingos, several Great Egrets, five Pied Avocets, Whiskered Terns in winter plumage and several Slender-billed Gulls, all on the bay side. Then, turning our attention to the freshwater channel, rice fields and wetlands we encountered an even greater variety. Common Redshank, Common Greenshank, Green Sandpiper and several Common Kingfishers were all quite evident and seen from the van. Then we walked around a reed-fringed lake and had some of the best birding moments of the day. First of all we saw Purple Swamphens feeding or standing alert, bathed in the glorious morning sunshine. Then came numerous Common Snipe, and several Barn Swallows, unusual for this time of the year, and on the water there were both Little and Great Crested Grebes. In the reeds and tamarisks we picked up Cetti's Warbler, Zitting Cisticola and several Reed Buntings while searching intensively for the coveted Bluethroat. We had already heard one calling and another singing before Alan alerted us to one picking about on a muddy patch on the edge of some reeds. Great! We were lucky that the bird was more interested in something else rather than us, so we had good views of this little gem, and not those "speeding away" views which are quite typical when you come across them at close quarters. We walked a little more, saw another Bluethroat briefly on the path, and then decided we had done enough exercise to work up an appetite for breakfast.

After breakfast we made our way towards an observation tower near the mouth of the River Ebro, passing one rice field after another, many of which were packed with gulls, Glossy Ibises, Grey Herons, egrets, Northern Lapwings and other waders, including Spotted Redshank.

At the tower itself we had extensive views, and with the aid of a telescope we were able to see a lot of ducks, mostly Common Teal but also Gadwall, Common Shelduck and a single Red-crested Pochard. There were also 15 Greylag Geese and out to sea Northern Gannets were passing by and diving for fish.

Back through the rice fields and a turf farm we spotted a compliant Merlin, a single Northern Pintail and then stopped to overlook rice fields teeming with waders, both large and small. There were Spotted Redshank and Ruff, as well as a small flock of Wood Sandpipers, some Common Ringed Plovers and numerous Little Stint and Dunlin. While looking through the latter we picked up a subtly different bird and were able to watch it well and long enough to identify it as a winter plumage Broad-billed Sandpiper. Now that's a rarity in these parts, and it was a new species for almost everyone in the group – that kind of surprise is always welcome!

Next we stopped along the beach, the intention being to get to grips with the Lesser Short-toed Larks that can usually be found here. Let's just say that we saw them, although the "getting to grips" part will have to be left for another day. From here La Tancada lagoon was well worth a quick visit: a quick estimate gave us a total of more than 4,000 Greater Flamingos crowded into one corner of the lagoon! We also saw two Black-necked Grebes, Common Pochard and Northern Shoveler.

After a short survey of the nearby salt pans and the stretches of open water en-route to our lunch venue we were soon back out in the field to make the most of our last afternoon. We travelled slowly down the long sandy spit separating the Alfacs Bay from the Mediterranean, birding all the time. In this way we found three Audouin's Gulls, a single Bar-tailed Godwit, Grey Plover, Sanderling and Sandwich Tern. Doubling back we eventually encountered a pocket of beach-going waders, made up of Common Ringed Plover, Dunlin, Little Stint and more than 50 Kentish Plovers.

The day was nearing its end, so the best birding option would be to go back to the bay we had visited in the morning. As we were passing close to the hotel would anybody like to go back to the hotel now? No takers.

So back at the bay we were set on seeing what we could in the freshwater complex which had given us so much to enjoy in the morning. The late afternoon was different, but also very enjoyable: small flocks of Purple Swampheens were emerging from the reeds and even standing on the paths, almost loitering! No fewer than three Water Rails darted across the path in front of us, and some of us again had brief views of Bluethroats, but also three Eurasian Hoopoes, and Common Kingfishers and Cetti's Warblers galore. So the last day was like the first – superb!

Saturday 12 November

Arrival at Barcelona airport was programmed for mid-morning so we had no other choice today than to drive to the airport and to daydream, perhaps. Then to say our farewells, bon voyage, and hope that everyone will enjoy many more Ornitholidays' tours.

Acknowledgements

Thank you to all the participants on this autumn Aragón and Catalonia tour. Your often vocalized enthusiasm for the birds and landscapes we encountered in the course of the week was encouraging and heartening.

We are also grateful to all the staff at the different hotels for their professional service and flexibility, especially in making the meal times more amenable to our personal agenda and hunger pangs!

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February 2017

Itinerary and weather

| | |
|-----------------------|--|
| Saturday 05 November | Barcelona, Lleida, Bierge Temperature range 10°C - 17°C, cloudy, breezy, spots of rain. |
| Sunday 06 November | Alquézar, Sierra de Guara, Montearagón Temperatures 3°C - 14°C, breezy, sunny. |
| Monday 07 November | Pyrenees and high Pyrenees, France Temperatures 0°C - 10°C, cloudy and sunny spells, breezy. |
| Tuesday 08 November | Los Monegros, Belchite, River Huerva, Daroca Temperatures 3°C - 11°C, windy, sunny and cloudy. |
| Wednesday 09 November | Gallocanta, gorge and religiously significant building. Temperatures 5°C - 14°C, windy, sunny and cloudy. |
| Thursday 10 November | Daroca, Maestrazgo, Deltebre Temperatures -0.5°C - 18°C, sunny, breezy at times. |
| Friday 11 November | Ebro Delta north and south Temperatures 11°C – 24°C, sunny, mostly breezy. |
| Saturday 12 November | Ebro Delta, Barcelona. Warm and sunny. |

CHECKLIST OF BIRDS SEEN DURING 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 |

| SPECIES | No of days recorded | Abundance Scale | SCIENTIFIC NAME |
|--|---------------------|-----------------|--------------------------------|
| The sequence and nomenclature of this list follow Collins Bird Guide 2nd Edition 2010. | | | |
| Greylag Goose | 1 | 3 | <i>Anser anser</i> |
| Common Shelduck | 2 | 3 | <i>Tadorna tadorna</i> |
| Mallard | 4 | 4 | <i>Anas platyrhynchos</i> |
| Gadwall | 1 | 2 | <i>Anas strepera</i> |
| Northern Pintail | 1 | 1 | <i>Anas acuta</i> |
| Northern Shoveler | 1 | 3 | <i>Anas clypeata</i> |
| Eurasian Teal | 1 | 4 | <i>Anas crecca</i> |
| Red-crested Pochard | 1 | 1 | <i>Netta rufina</i> |
| Common Pochard | 1 | 1 | <i>Aythya ferina</i> |
| Red-legged Partridge | 5 | 2 | <i>Alectoris rufa</i> |
| Black-necked Grebe | 1 | 1 | <i>Podiceps nigricollis</i> |
| Little Grebe | 2 | 2 | <i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i> |
| Great Crested Grebe | 1 | 2 | <i>Podiceps cristatus</i> |
| Northern Gannet | 1 | 2 | <i>Morus bassanus</i> |
| Great Cormorant | 3 | 3 | <i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i> |
| Cattle Egret | 2 | 3 | <i>Bubulcus ibis</i> |
| Little Egret | 2 | 3 | <i>Egretta garzetta</i> |
| Great Egret | 1 | 3 | <i>Ardea alba</i> |
| Grey Heron | 3 | 3 | <i>Ardea cinerea</i> |
| White Stork | 1 | 3 | <i>Ciconia ciconia</i> |
| Glossy Ibis | 1 | 4 | <i>Plegadis falcinellus</i> |
| Greater Flamingo | 1 | 4 | <i>Phoenicopterus ruber</i> |
| Lammergeier | 1 | 2 | <i>Gypaetus barbatus</i> |
| Eurasian Griffon Vulture | 6 | 3 | <i>Gyps fulvus</i> |
| Golden Eagle | 3 | 1 | <i>Aquila chrysaetos</i> |
| Bonelli's Eagle | 1 | 1 | <i>Hieraaetus fasciatus</i> |
| Booted Eagle | 1 | 1 | <i>Hieraaetus pennatus</i> |
| Red Kite | 5 | 3 | <i>Milvus milvus</i> |
| Western Marsh Harrier | 4 | 3 | <i>Circus aeruginosus</i> |
| Hen Harrier | 2 | 1 | <i>Circus cyaneus</i> |
| Common Buzzard | 6 | 1 | <i>Buteo buteo</i> |
| Eurasian Sparrowhawk | 4 | 1 | <i>Accipiter nisus</i> |
| Northern Goshawk | 1 | 1 | <i>Accipiter gentilis</i> |
| Common Kestrel | 7 | 2 | <i>Falco tinnunculus</i> |
| Merlin | 2 | 1 | <i>Falco columbarius</i> |
| Peregrine Falcon | 3 | 1 | <i>Falco peregrinus</i> |
| Water Rail | 1 | 1 | <i>Rallus aquaticus</i> |
| Common Moorhen | 1 | 3 | <i>Gallinula chloropus</i> |
| Eurasian Coot | 1 | 4 | <i>Fulica atra</i> |
| Purple Swamphen | 1 | 3 | <i>Porphyrio porphyrio</i> |
| Common Crane | 2 | 4 | <i>Grus grus</i> |
| Great Bustard | 1 | 2 | <i>Otis tarda</i> |
| Little Bustard | 1 | 4 | <i>Tetrax tetrax</i> |
| Pied Avocet | 1 | 2 | <i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i> |
| Stone Curlew | 1 | 2 | <i>Burhinus oedicnemus</i> |
| Kentish Plover | 1 | 3 | <i>Charadrius alexandrinus</i> |
| Common Ringed Plover | 1 | 3 | <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i> |
| Grey Plover | 1 | 2 | <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i> |
| Northern Lapwing | 2 | 3 | <i>Vanellus vanellus</i> |
| Sanderling | 1 | 3 | <i>Calidris alba</i> |

| | | | |
|----------------------------|------|---|-----------------------------------|
| Ruddy Turnstone | 1 | 3 | <i>Arenaria interpres</i> |
| Dunlin | 1 | 4 | <i>Calidris alpina</i> |
| Broad-billed Sandpiper | 1 | 1 | <i>Limicola falcinellus</i> |
| Little Stint | 1 | 3 | <i>Calidris minuta</i> |
| Wood Sandpiper | 1 | 3 | <i>Tringa glareola</i> |
| Common Sandpiper | 1 | 2 | <i>Actitis hypoleucos</i> |
| Green Sandpiper | 1 | 2 | <i>Tringa ochropus</i> |
| Common Redshank | 1 | 3 | <i>Tringa totanus</i> |
| Spotted Redshank | 1 | 3 | <i>Tringa erythropus</i> |
| Common Greenshank | 1 | 3 | <i>Tringa nebularia</i> |
| Bar-tailed Godwit | 1 | 1 | <i>Limosa lapponica</i> |
| Eurasian Curlew | 3 | 2 | <i>Numenius arquata</i> |
| Common Snipe | 1 | 3 | <i>Gallinago gallinago</i> |
| Ruff | 1 | 2 | <i>Philomachus pugnax</i> |
| Black-headed Gull | 1 | 4 | <i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i> |
| Slender-billed Gull | 1 | 3 | <i>Chroicocephalus genei</i> |
| Audouin's Gull | 1 | 1 | <i>Ichthyophaga audouinii</i> |
| Yellow-legged Gull | 1 | 4 | <i>Larus michahellis</i> |
| Lesser Black-backed Gull | 1 | 2 | <i>Larus fuscus</i> |
| Sandwich Tern | 1 | 2 | <i>Thalasseus sandvicensis</i> |
| Whiskered Tern | 1 | 3 | <i>Chlidonias hybrida</i> |
| Black-bellied Sandgrouse | 1 | 3 | <i>Pterocles orientalis</i> |
| Pin-tailed Sandgrouse | 1 | 1 | <i>Pterocles alchata</i> |
| Feral Pigeon (Rock Dove) | 7 | 3 | <i>Columba livia</i> |
| Common Wood Pigeon | 6 | 3 | <i>Columba palumbus</i> |
| Eurasian Collared Dove | 7 | 3 | <i>Streptopelia decaocto</i> |
| Eurasian Eagle Owl | 1 | 1 | <i>Bubo bubo</i> |
| Tawny Owl | - 1h | 1 | <i>Strix aluco</i> |
| Little Owl | 1 | 1 | <i>Athene noctua</i> |
| Eurasian Hoopoe | 2 | 1 | <i>Upupa epops</i> |
| Common Kingfisher | 2 | 3 | <i>Alcedo atthis</i> |
| Black Woodpecker | - 1h | 1 | <i>Dryocopus martius</i> |
| (Iberian) Green Woodpecker | - 1h | 1 | <i>Picus viridis (sharppei)</i> |
| Great Spotted Woodpecker | 3 1h | 1 | <i>Dendrocopos major</i> |
| Common Skylark | 2 1h | 3 | <i>Alauda arvensis</i> |
| Crested Lark | 3 | 2 | <i>Galerida cristata</i> |
| Thekla Lark | 2 | 1 | <i>Galerida theklae</i> |
| Woodlark | 1 | 1 | <i>Lullula arborea</i> |
| Lesser Short-toed Lark | 1 | 1 | <i>Calandrella rufescens</i> |
| Calandra Lark | 2 | 4 | <i>Melanocorypha calandra</i> |
| Eurasian Crag Martin | 2 | 1 | <i>Ptyonoprogne rupestris</i> |
| Barn Swallow | 1 | 2 | <i>Hirundo rustica</i> |
| Meadow Pipit | 6 | 2 | <i>Anthus pratensis</i> |
| Grey Wagtail | 2 | 1 | <i>Motacilla cinerea</i> |
| Yellow Wagtail | 1 | 1 | <i>Motacilla flava</i> |
| White Wagtail | 6 | 3 | <i>Motacilla alba</i> |
| White-throated Dipper | 1 | 1 | <i>Cinclus cinclus</i> |
| Alpine Accentor | 1 | 1 | <i>Prunella collaris</i> |
| European Robin | 5 | 2 | <i>Erithacus rubecula</i> |
| Black Redstart | 7 | 2 | <i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i> |
| Bluethroat | 1 | 1 | <i>Luscinia svecica</i> |
| Black Wheatear | 2 | 1 | <i>Oenanthe leucura</i> |
| Common Stonechat | 5 | 2 | <i>Saxicola rubicola</i> |
| Blue Rock Thrush | 1 1h | 1 | <i>Monticola solitarius</i> |
| Song Thrush | 6 | 2 | <i>Turdus philomelos</i> |
| Mistle Thrush | 5 | 3 | <i>Turdus viscivorus</i> |
| Common Blackbird | 6 | 2 | <i>Turdus merula</i> |
| Blackcap | 2 1h | 2 | <i>Sylvia atricapilla</i> |
| Sardinian Warbler | 3 1h | 1 | <i>Sylvia melanocephala</i> |
| Dartford Warbler | 2 1h | 1 | <i>Sylvia undata</i> |
| Cetti's Warbler | 1 1 | 2 | <i>Cettia cetti</i> |
| Zitting Cisticola | 1 1 | 1 | <i>Cisticola juncidis</i> |
| Common Chiffchaff | 1 1h | 3 | <i>Phylloscopus collybita</i> |

| | | | | |
|-----------------------|---|----|---|--------------------------------------|
| Goldcrest | 1 | 1 | 1 | <i>Regulus regulus</i> |
| Firecrest | 1 | 1 | 1 | <i>Regulus ignicapillus</i> |
| Eurasian Wren | 2 | 2 | 1 | <i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i> |
| Great Tit | 4 | 4 | 2 | <i>Parus major</i> |
| Coal Tit | 3 | 3 | 1 | <i>Periparus ater</i> |
| European Blue Tit | 4 | 4 | 1 | <i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i> |
| Crested Tit | 2 | 2 | 1 | <i>Lophophanes cristatus</i> |
| Long-tailed Tit | 3 | 3 | 2 | <i>Aegithalos caudatus</i> |
| Eurasian Nuthatch | 2 | 2 | 1 | <i>Sitta europaea</i> |
| Wallcreeper | 1 | 1 | 1 | <i>Tichodroma muraria</i> |
| Iberian Grey Shrike | 4 | 4 | 1 | <i>Lanius meridionalis</i> |
| Common Magpie | 6 | 6 | 3 | <i>Pica pica</i> |
| Eurasian Jay | 2 | 2 | 2 | <i>Garrulus glandarius</i> |
| Red-billed Chough | 6 | 6 | 3 | <i>Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax</i> |
| Alpine Chough | 1 | 1 | 1 | <i>Pyrrhocorax graculus</i> |
| Western Jackdaw | 2 | 2 | 3 | <i>Corvus monedula</i> |
| Carrion Crow | 4 | 4 | 2 | <i>Corvus corone</i> |
| Common Raven | 5 | 5 | 2 | <i>Corvus corax</i> |
| Common Starling | 6 | 6 | 4 | <i>Sturnus vulgaris</i> |
| Spotless Starling | 5 | 5 | 3 | <i>Sturnus unicolor</i> |
| House Sparrow | 6 | 6 | 3 | <i>Passer domesticus</i> |
| Eurasian Tree Sparrow | 1 | 1 | 1 | <i>Passer montanus</i> |
| Rock Sparrow | 5 | 5 | 3 | <i>Petronia petronia</i> |
| Common Chaffinch | 5 | 5 | 3 | <i>Fringilla coelebs</i> |
| Common Linnet | 5 | 5 | 3 | <i>Carduelis cannabina</i> |
| European Goldfinch | 7 | 7 | 3 | <i>Carduelis carduelis</i> |
| Eurasian Siskin | 1 | 1 | 1 | <i>Carduelis spinus</i> |
| European Serin | 3 | 3 | 2 | <i>Serinus serinus</i> |
| Hawfinch | 1 | 1 | 3 | <i>Coccothraustes coccothraustes</i> |
| Common Crossbill | - | 1h | 1 | <i>Loxia curvirostra</i> |
| Common Reed Bunting | 1 | 1 | 2 | <i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i> |
| Cirl Bunting | 2 | 2 | 1 | <i>Emberiza cirlus</i> |
| Rock Bunting | 2 | 2 | 1 | <i>Emberiza cia</i> |
| Corn Bunting | 2 | 2 | 2 | <i>Miliaria calandra</i> |

MAMMALS

| | | | | |
|-----------------|---|---|---|------------------------------|
| Iberian Ibex | 1 | 1 | 2 | <i>Capra pyrenaica</i> |
| Roe Deer | 1 | 1 | 1 | <i>Capreolus capreolus</i> |
| European Rabbit | 1 | 1 | 1 | <i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i> |
| Red Fox | 1 | 1 | 1 | <i>Vulpes vulpes</i> |
| Red Squirrel | 1 | 1 | 1 | <i>Sciurus vulgaris</i> |

OTHER SPECIES

| | | | | |
|-----------------------|--|--|--|---------------------------------|
| Common Wall Lizard | | | | <i>Podarcis muralis</i> |
| Horseshoe Whip Snake | | | | <i>Hemorrhis hippocrepis</i> |
| Small White | | | | <i>Pieris rapae</i> |
| Clouded Yellow | | | | <i>Colias croceus</i> |
| Pale Clouded Yellow | | | | <i>Colias hyale</i> |
| Small Copper | | | | <i>Lycaena phlaeas</i> |
| Long-tailed Blue | | | | <i>Lampides boeticus</i> |
| Common Blue | | | | <i>Polyommatus icarus</i> |
| Mazarine Blue | | | | <i>Polyommatus semiargus</i> |
| Silver-studded Blue | | | | <i>Plebejus argus</i> |
| Speckled Wood | | | | <i>Pararge aegeria</i> |
| Painted Lady | | | | <i>Vanessa cardui</i> |
| Red Admiral | | | | <i>Vanessa atalanta</i> |
| Comma | | | | <i>Polygonia c-album</i> |
| Wall Brown | | | | <i>Lasiommata megera</i> |
| Hummingbird Hawk-moth | | | | <i>Macroglossum stellatarum</i> |

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

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