

**ORNITHOLIDAYS TOUR TO SPAIN - ARAGON**  
*Cranes, Lammergeiers and Wallcreepers*

**12 – 19 November 2013**



**Leader: Steve West**

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#### **A Personal Diary**

One of the birding highlights of this tour was more than a thousand trumpeting Common Cranes at Gallocanta, with more on their way the next day and more than a thousand at Sotonera. Surprisingly at Gallocanta we also saw about a dozen Hen Harriers in a single day and three different Merlins.

The star of the next day was supposed to be the eagles – both Bonelli's and Golden – and indeed we saw two Bonelli's Eagles and three Golden Eagles. Nevertheless, what most people will probably recall is the delightful Hawfinch that we eventually left in a bush still gorging itself with berries!

Black Wheatears, many larks, Golden Eagles, Black-bellied Sandgrouse and a flock of more than 100 Pin-tailed Sandgrouse were the birding highlights of our time in the steppes, and a small troupe of Spanish Ibex made for a wonderful non-bird attraction.

Seeing Great Bustards in the rain and later that day three Wallcreepers and two Alpine Accentors at Riglos registered as quite a unique experience and we had the next couple of days to explore the splendid mountain scenery, with Chamois and Lammergeiers, among others, as our main hosts.

#### **Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> November**

The Ornitholidays group met up with me at Madrid Airport. The drive to our hotel in Daroca was an uneventful one; darkness had already fallen by the time we arrived, and the street lights illuminating cobbled streets and city walls of Daroca were perhaps the most memorable sensations of our first few hours together.

#### **Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> November**

The group was keen and raring to go out birding, and that is precisely what we had come here to do. So straight after breakfast we drove to the shores of the Gallocanta lagoon. We could see there was some water in the lagoon, and that there were lots of waterfowl, although for the time being they were too far away to warrant much effort. Nevertheless, Jill showed us how adept she was with a telescope by identifying a distant Eurasian Curlew.

Our first group of Common Cranes greeted us with loud trumpeting and flew up and a little away to join another larger flock feeding on the lakeside fields. Two males and a female Hen Harrier harried one another for a while, and a couple of Red Kites also attracted our attention. A Merlin dashed by and true to its style it couldn't resist terrifying a pipit or two before it disappeared speedily from view. Largish flocks of Common Linnets, European Goldfinches and Corn Buntings were dotted here and there around the fields surrounding the lagoon.

In the same area we unwittingly put up four Black-bellied Sandgrouse, and then a little later two more came into view and landed in a distant field, not to be relocated despite our passing efforts. After a while Kate said jokingly, "Alright, I've done cranes" and, although she hadn't in reality, we took that as a good cue to move on.

The lagoon's visitor centre was open and handy for toilets, and more cranes going to and fro, although we could see that the largest concentration was in front of the distant tower hide. We made our way there, first stopping en route to get views of a Merlin perched in a tree and then a in field, more Hen Harriers, and a largish flock, consisting of more than 100 birds, of Calandra Larks. Six Roe Deer in a field were the openers of our "Other Species" list. This sighting was then followed by mildly successful attempts at approaching a mixed flock of Rock Sparrows and Eurasian Tree Sparrows.

At the tower hide we set up scopes to identify the numerous ducks on the water, seeing small numbers of most of the common species, while all the time, being hailed by trumpeting and restless cranes, some flying

overhead to join their colleagues below us. There was a Common Reed Bunting in a small area of reeds, a single Ruff and European Golden Plover on the edge of the lagoon, and then we spent just a little extra time soaking up the unique atmosphere before moving on.

We sacrificed originality and had lunch as we had done the previous year at a small hermitage, with separate conveniences for ladies and gents (the former the more sheltered enclosure nearby, the latter down the path by the trees).

We then visited a small lake nearby and came across another Merlin, as well as a surprise Barn Swallow, almost certainly the last one we would see this year. There were also Eurasian Coots and a few ducks, although it wasn't long before we were admiring the warmth of a comforting cup of coffee in a local village bar.

Next we made our way to a very attractive stony gorge, inhabited by Thekla Larks, Eurasian Griffon Vultures, shy Dartford Warblers and Rock Buntings. Jane stayed by the van to enjoy a bit of the sunshine while the rest of us explored the gorge. Eurasian Griffon Vultures were the dominant note here, with more than 50 birds circling in one of the most productive thermals they had managed to find that day. After making many appreciative remarks of the scenery, seeing some Crested Larks on the farm buildings, and receiving a little lesson on how to differentiate the tricky species pair of Thekla and Crested Larks, we moved on.

We then engaged in a mini tour of a mini village, assessing its possibilities for nightlife fun and games among the rather aged gathering of locals in the village square. After making a couple of quick consultations and receiving patient and detailed directions we managed to find our way out of the village, and we were on our way again, over a stony plateau in search of the last birds of the day. These turned out to be Red-legged Partridge, Great Spotted Woodpecker and Thekla Larks, in an otherwise quiet and still landscape. Still, the views were splendid and the late afternoon sun's rays charged the atmosphere. Relaxed, and satisfied with the day's birding, we drove the relatively short distance back to our hotel.

#### **Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> November**

The first one out today was Andrew, who had been out for a morning walk and had made acquaintance with the local Black Redstarts. Taking leave of our first hotel we headed north and hardly had time to get comfortable before we made our first roadside stop to see an immature Golden Eagle gliding effortlessly over our heads. Another male Hen Harrier flew by, and a Red Kite could not resist trying to get into the act.

Then we turned off the main road and soon made our first, more official-looking, stop. My idea was to look for Cirl Buntings and...before long we had spotted a good number of Cirl Buntings, shy at first but gradually staying around to be watched, and then we spotted the "and...", a Hawfinch! First of all one flew over the road, and unfortunately I was the only one to see it. Luckily, while I was attempting in vain to relocate it Jill had located another Hawfinch, and this one was very cooperative, sitting in a bush and scoffing red berries. We were able to watch this beautiful bird at leisure, probably the only Hawfinch that most of the group members had ever "left standing".

We drove along narrow winding roads with no traffic at all (just as well!), past small farming villages with vineyards, small olive and almond groves and cereal fields. For a while we were following the course of the River Huerva, an attractive tree-lined, trickling, stream. We encountered more Cirl Buntings and another immature Golden Eagle. This time the eagle was perched on a rock, although it was clearly of the opinion that flying off before we could all stare at it through our telescopes was the right thing to do.

As we passed another small village some of the questions forming in people's minds started bubbling to their lips: "Where are all the people?"; "How do they do their shopping?"; "Are they self sufficient?". That kind of question showed an active interest in the human landscape we were passing through. Generally I find the best way of dealing with what can be difficult questions is to avoid having to answer them by finding a bird which then distracts everybody's attention. Luckily we came round a bend and spotted our first Blue Rock Thrush of the trip. It was blue(ish) and on a rock (well, after leaving the roof tile).

In short succession we also saw a male Black Redstart, a Eurasian Sparrowhawk, and a Rock Sparrow among a small party of Linnets. Then we came across a large flock of starlings, but were they Spotless or Common? Even with the birds in the scope view it was hard to tell.

Shortly afterwards we pulled up alongside another stretch of the river, embellished with steep rock faces, pine woods and a ruined hilltop castle. This was our stake out for Bonelli's Eagles, which I told the group often spent a long time sitting on a rock or a bush "philosophizing". After waiting some time, and with no eagles in view, we took a walk through the pinewoods and came across a mixed tit flock as they were working their way through any edible matter they could find in the pine trees. Here most of us got to grips with Crested, Coal, Great, Long-tailed and Blue Tits, Short-toed Treecreeper and Firecrest.

We gradually shifted positions from one lookout to another, coming across a couple of Rock Buntings and being alerted to a flock of Common Cranes passing nearby by their loud calls. Eventually though we hit the jackpot and spotted a Bonelli's Eagle flying and landing on a rock in just the kind of place ideal for telescope views. It took us more than 15 minutes and most of our picnic lunch before we realized that the other Bonelli's Eagle of the pair was also sitting on a rock not far above his mate "Probably having a good long think".

Another Golden Eagle (the third of the day!) flew over before we took our leave and drifted onto the wide open and very windy plains! We dropped off our luggage at the hotel and then without much dallying at all we ventured out once more. Our first stop was a look at the ruins of the old Belchite, a town destroyed in the Spanish Civil War, and a poignant reminder of the ravages of war.

More flocks of Common Cranes gathered in the skies, being blown off their desired course by the strong winds and trying to regroup and maintain their course. We headed off to some nearby fields to search for sandgrouse, and held on to our hats!

Actually, like Jane, most people were wise to remove their hats and leave them in the van! Our search along the dusty tracks did give us most of the desired fruits though, with Black-bellied Sandgrouse first of all and then a few more with a single Pin-tailed Sandgrouse keeping them company.

Last of all on our busy agenda was another short drive to a site where we usually see Black Wheatear. We walked around the site with some sense of urgency, as the sun was close to setting and the birds seemed to be eluding us. Not so – as we returned to where the van was parked we spotted one, two and then three Black Wheatears on an old tiled roof, gathering for their evening sojourn and rounding off our day very nicely.

### **Friday 15<sup>th</sup> November**

We were all well-prepared for our pre-breakfast outing to the Planerón reserve this morning. At the back of our minds were the echoes of the Dupont's Lark's song, a bird which breeds in these parts, but which then virtually disappears from birders' radar. Not surprising then that our walk on the windy side gave us no views of this or much else for that matter, apart from a brief glimpse of a Dartford Warbler and Crested and Thekla Larks. On the other hand we had worked up a healthy appetite for breakfast, and the reflections of the morning sun on the red cliffs and soil is always at least a little bit magical.

After breakfast we started off along the River Martín area, first stopping at a gorge after spotting a couple of Iberian Grey Shrikes and Red-billed Choughs by the roadside. Here we took a short walk to look at the Neolithic cave paintings as well as to try and spot a few birds, which came in the form of Eurasian Griffon Vultures, Rock Doves, Red-billed Choughs and a single Black Wheatear.

The next stop was for some dinosaur footprints, which had been there for 135 million years, so didn't seem likely to disappear before we got there. Then there was another mix of culture and birds, as we stopped at the foot of an old rather rundown monastery, and watched Eurasian Crag Martins wheeling around in the calm of the leeward side, a male Blue Rock Thrush perched on the highest part of the building, a couple of Firecrests in the pinewoods, and a few other songbirds. I tried to get Tony or Steve to drink from the fountain of love, but they were not to be tempted, maybe because their beloved wives were watching the procedures! Toni, however, was more of a sport – we'll have to wait for her report on the fountain's effects!

Our picnic lunch was taken on the banks of the River Ebro, where we were hoping to see Eurasian Penduline Tit and a few other species. Tony was keen on seeing a Eurasian Penduline Tit, but he was also resigned “It’s always too windy!” he said, and this time he was right. A walk around the meander in the River Ebro revealed a few birds – Great Egret, Eurasian Tree Sparrows, European Goldfinches, a calling Cetti’s Warbler – and then a coffee break got us back into gear for the rest of the day.

Heading back to the drylands we travelled through an irrigated area abounding in birds of prey, with about a dozen Western Marsh Harriers, Hen Harrier, Common Buzzard, Red Kite and an immature Golden Eagle. The latter was flying low and would soon be over the road, so I saw my chance, accelerated and managed to keep astride of the bird as it approached the van and gave everyone good close range views.

The last task that absorbed us in this area was to try and get better views of the Pin-tailed Sandgrouse and perhaps a lark or two. We accomplished the sandgrouse bit, and in style! From the van we spotted a large clump of dark-looking rocks in a field, and when the rocks started moving it became quite clear that we had spotted quite a large flock of Pin-tailed Sandgrouse, and at a good range. We watched them pecking and stretching their wings for some time from the van and then edged out of the van to get scope views. Shortly after that the Pin-tailed Sandgrouse also did their own edging, away from us, down a slope and out of view! Nevertheless, we had all had good views of more than a 100 Pin-tailed Sandgrouse, so nobody was going to complain.

We then had an optional late visit to listen out for an owl or two, thinking in particular of the elusive and coveted Eagle Owl. It was optional, but no-one wanted to miss it. We drove down into a gully and were preparing to wait for dusk to creep in and descend into darkness, hoping that an Eagle Owl or two would call and pose for us before it was too dark to see it. We did not have that good fortune, although a group of seven Spanish Ibex scaling the rocks at close range were adequate compensation and ensured that we did not leave empty-handed.

### **Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> November**

It was a rainy day we set out into this morning, and so it was fortunate that we had already had a good dose of steppeland birds and that we could drive towards our next hotel with peace of mind.

That being said, we were in the area where Great Bustards regularly spent the winter months, so the only decent thing to do was to look for them, wasn’t it? After a little searching along some muddy tracks we managed to locate a small group of these big birds, with two of them showing well (the other six rather hunched up and huddled together), although not looking too amused about the weather! Neither were we, and after exploring the ways of birding in the rain and keeping dry with the help of a van we made our way to a lovely warm cup of coffee.

Not long after that we had recruited the help of a hide (hide design critique was the topic of the moment) to add to that of the van to keep us dry while we watched a good variety of ducks on a small lake, including Red-crested Pochard and Black-necked and Little Grebes. But no Eurasian Penduline Tit (this time it wasn’t too windy but rather too wet).

We drove the rest of the way to our hotel, had our lunch there and by the time we set off again the rain had stopped. I had a feeling that that was going to be a sign of impending good fortune for the group, and I don’t think I missed the mark. We walked along the base of the cliffs at Riglos, at first catching a frustrating glimpse of a Wallcreeper which went into a crack and didn’t seem to come out again. We moved on around the cliffs and suddenly caught sight of one of the gems of Spanish birding, a Wallcreeper, busy scaling the rock face at a comfortably close range and height for all there to enjoy. Soon we noticed that there was a second Wallcreeper below it, so take your pick Ladies and Gentleman! Which Wallcreeper were you going to watch?

“Right, now where are the Alpine Accentors?” asked Tony. To which Toni replied, “Now, let’s not get greedy!” We were all satisfied with our Wallcreepers when we started to make our slow descent, but before reaching the bottom we almost stumbled upon two Alpine Accentors. They made their own easy progress about the rock face and we happily watched them for some time before we completed our descent.

“Well done for turning what was a difficult day into a great one” said Tony. “Well done Wallcreepers!” I said to myself.

### **Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> November**

For today Jill in particular was keen on seeing Alpine Choughs, so I thought we would go to a place where they were *infallible*. Now, if there’s one thing I’ve learnt about birds and birding over the years is that you should never say that a bird is 100%, guaranteed, or *infallible*. But Alpine Choughs at a ski resort in Aragon? How could they possibly fail?

We made good time on the almost empty roads and were soon walking around the ski resort. It was completely devoid of skiers (the season hadn’t started yet) and...how could it be? There were also no Alpine Choughs! None on the roofs, none around the car park...Someone vented their anger by throwing a snowball at Tony, maybe it’s best not to mention who.

Then we drove the short distance to another resort, and it was with some relief that I announced a flock of choughs on a snowy hillside. We watched the birds through our telescopes, satisfied that they were indeed Alpine Choughs, even though they weren’t exactly eating out of our hands. A few Chamois perched majestically on the slopes, giving us their finest profile views. A flock of Fieldfare also flew into view. “I get them in my garden” said Kate; Fieldfare, not Chamois, of course.

Griffons started to take flight as we did with the arrival of the Sunday morning trippers. Down the valley we stopped by the roadside and saw our first two Lammergeiers of the trip, rapidly sailing over the top of a mountain. Yet further down the road we stopped to check a river for White-throated Dipper. We didn’t see the dipper, but among the Eurasian Griffon Vultures that had gathered to circle over our heads we also watched an immature Lammergeier, soon joined by an adult, making that our fourth Lammergeier of the morning. Then a Golden Eagle sailed over and away, presenting us with ideal opportunities to get to grips with raptor flight silhouettes.

Then many of us indulged in a tasty tapas lunch before we continued our homeward route, via a good birding spot or two. Before too long we were making the ascent to San Juan de la Peña, and enjoying the marvellous views of the snow-covered Pyrenees stretching out to the north and bathed in sunlight and blue skies, with the clouds retreating to cover small patches of hillside.

Here a walk through the pinewoods was on the books. At our own easy pace we saw Bullfinch, Crested Tit, Goldcrest, Eurasian Nuthatch, and a treecreeper species, probably Short-toed Treecreeper. I also saw a large black bird darting away into the woods, and heard the distant calls of a Black Woodpecker, but this time this particular avian highlight was to elude us.

We walked up to a ridge and stood there absorbing the elements of one of those special moments: the magnificent views, the sunshine and the isolated clouds like tussocks on the hillsides, the Eurasian Griffon Vultures sailing by above and below us at a distance where you could hear the wind blowing through their feathers. Then to end the day we made a relaxed retreat to the vehicle and the drive back to our hotel.

That evening while doing the list Steve asked why Wallcreepers have red on their wings. “Why are Blue Tits blue?” was my brilliant reply.

### **Monday 18<sup>th</sup> November**

We set out this morning to more cloudy skies with spots of rain, but nothing drastic enough to alter our day’s programme. We had decided to give Vadiello a try, but after some waiting and staring at rock faces and the skyline we decided to try and find better sport elsewhere.

Our route took us along winding roads into the rural heart of the Sierra de Guara, past tiny villages with their prominent churches, past gullies and streams, patches of evergreen oakwoods, and here and there small olive and almond groves. Always to the backdrop of the Guara Mountains, which were now lightly sugared with snow.

A small party of Eurasian Griffon Vultures were sitting close to the roadside, on some boulders with outstretched wings, drying off after the morning's drizzle. Tony keenly snapped them up with his camera and Jane was happy that she spotted them before the last one eventually took off from its perch.

After lunch the weather brightened, as seems to have been the tonic over the last few days. We walked around the cobbled streets of the medieval walled town of Alquézar, enjoying the fabulous views but also out to spot a few birds in the process. A Blue Rock Thrush was quite forthcoming, as were Black Redstart, Blackcap and a Eurasian Sparrowhawk chasing the aforementioned Black Redstart (it didn't get it). At one stage Kate and Steve lagged behind a little after spotting one of the few Grey Wagtails we saw on the trip.

Then we drove to what would be our last birding site in the area, the Sotonera lagoon, known as a stopover site for Common Cranes passing over this part of the Pyrenees. The tracks were muddy and looked rather too ominous for the passage of our van, so we decided to walk and enjoy it. And that seemed to have been the right move – large flocks of Common Cranes began passing overhead and landing in a nearby field, and in all there were probably as many here as we had seen at Gallocanta.

We also spotted a Peregrine Falcon, Hen Harrier and Western Marsh Harrier and then we decided to give the Eurasian Penduline Tit our best shot. After all, it wasn't raining or too windy, right Tony? Well, the Eurasian Penduline Tits were there, we could hear their calls coming from the reedbed, and even at very close range, but they were keeping too low down for us to see them well. One or two of us caught glimpses or partial views, and then when I tried to herd them a little a party of at least eight Eurasian Penduline Tits flew up and away, in the opposite direction! Now didn't that make one want to bless their little face masks? Andrew saw them quite well, but I think it's better if we don't ask Tony about his experience.

## **Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> November**

We had a road breakfast because we wanted to get some final birding in before arriving at Barcelona Airport. Everyone had their binoculars handy and their good shoes on, as I had assured them that there were no more rocks or muddy paths to be negotiated.

Ehem! I really am sorry about that one folks! But when I started walking across that bare ground towards the Monk Parakeet nests on the edge of Lleida I really thought that there would be no problem with mud. Really!

We saw several Monk Parakeets flying around and perched, but by then the main focus of the group had shifted from the birding to how best to restore some form of decency to their mud-clogged footwear! I also registered a number of sidelong, slightly accusative glances.

There was another stop for birds on the edge of Lleida city, and it was a very productive one. We had excellent views of a Black-winged Kite, a Green Sandpiper and a Common Snipe, and flight views of an Iberian Green Woodpecker, muddy shoes or not.

From Lleida the drive to Barcelona airport was via a car wash and a lightning visit to one of the Llobregat Delta reserves. There was no time to enter the reserve proper, but standing near the entrance enabled us to have good views of Tufted Duck, another duck that could have been juvenile Scaup and a flock of Common Waxbills, a naturalized species in these parts.

Now all that remained was the farewell at Terminal 2 at Barcelona Airport and the quest for tissues or wet wipes to bring some of the original shine back to people's shoes.

My highlights were:

- Flocks of trumpeting Cranes at Gallocanta and Sotonera
- Spanish Ibex near Lécera
- Beautiful views and "touchable" flyby Griffons at San Juan de la Peña
- Three Wallcreepers (two at close range) at Riglos after a rainy and snowy morning
- A Hawfinch feeding on berries
- A flock of more than 100 Pin-tailed Sandgrouse
- A Golden Eagle flying alongside the van

### **Acknowledgements**

Our thanks to all the participants on this tour for their good humour, impeccable tour discipline and high energy levels! Despite the fact that there were a couple of optional outings in early morning or late afternoon, no-one at all decided to stay behind! Additionally, adverse weather conditions when they occurred were taken in their stride. The hotels were up to their usual standards of professional service, with clean comfortable rooms, good food and wine, and a smile or two to help us on our way. Thanks also to Tony for allowing me to use his photos in this report.

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December 2013

### **Weather summary**

We started with the concern that temperatures (up to 25°C the previous week) were too high and that wintering birds like Wallcreeper would have no reason to come down from mountains. We needn't have worried! The highest temperature we had was on the first day, with 15°C, then things got progressively cooler, going down to as little as 2°C on one day. We had strong north-westerly and northerly winds while in the steppes, and rainy mornings (with some snow) for the next three mornings. Nevertheless, the rain was generally not heavy and by midday we got growing patches of fresh blue sky and even delightful sunshine.



**Black Redstart**



**Merlin**



**Eurasian Griffon Vulture**



## 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

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

SPECIES	No of days recorded	Abundance Scale	SCIENTIFIC NAME
Common Shelduck	1	3	<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>
Mallard	4	4	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>
Gadwall	2	3	<i>Anas strepera</i>
Northern Pintail	2	2	<i>Anas acuta</i>
Northern Shoveler	3	3	<i>Anas clypeata</i>
Eurasian Wigeon	2	1	<i>Anus penelope</i>
Eurasian Teal	2	3	<i>Anas crecca</i>
Red-crested Pochard	1	3	<i>Netta rufina</i>
Common Pochard	3	2	<i>Aythya ferina</i>
Tufted Duck	1	1	<i>Aythya fuligula</i>
Red-legged Partridge	2 1h	2	<i>Alectoris rufa</i>
Black-necked Grebe	1	1	<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>
Little Grebe	2	1	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>
Great Crested Grebe	1	2	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>
Great Cormorant	6	3	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>
Cattle Egret	2	3	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>
Great Egret	2	1	<i>Ardea alba</i>
Grey Heron	3	2	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>
White Stork	2	3	<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>
Lammergeier	1	1	<i>Gypaetus barbatus</i>
Eurasian Griffon Vulture	6	3	<i>Gyps fulvus</i>
Golden Eagle	4	1	<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>
Bonelli's Eagle	1	1	<i>Hieraetus fasciatus</i>
Red Kite	7	3	<i>Milvus milvus</i>
Western Marsh Harrier	5	3	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>
Hen Harrier	5	3	<i>Circus cyaneus</i>
Common Buzzard	8	2	<i>Buteo buteo</i>
Eurasian Sparrowhawk	6	1	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>
Black-winged Kite	1	1	<i>Elanus caeruleus</i>
Common Kestrel	7	2	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>
Merlin	1	1	<i>Falco columbarius</i>
Peregrine Falcon	2	1	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>
Water Rail	- 1h	1	<i>Rallus aquaticus</i>
Eurasian Coot	2	3	<i>Fulica atra</i>
Common Crane	3	4	<i>Grus grus</i>
Great Bustard	1	2	<i>Otis tarda</i>
European Golden Plover	1	1	<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>
Northern Lapwing	4	3	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>
Green Sandpiper	1	1	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>
Common Redshank	1	1	<i>Tringa totanus</i>
Eurasian Curlew	1	1	<i>Numenius arquata</i>
Common Snipe	2	1	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>
Ruff	1	1	<i>Philomachus pugnax</i>
Black-headed Gull	1	1	<i>Larus ridibundus</i>
Yellow-legged Gull	2	2	<i>Larus michahellis</i>
Black-bellied Sandgrouse	2	3	<i>Pterocles orientalis</i>
Pin-tailed Sandgrouse	2	4	<i>Pterocles alchata</i>
Feral Pigeon (Rock Dove)	8	3	<i>Columba livia</i>
Common Wood Pigeon	8	3	<i>Columba palumbus</i>
Eurasian Collared Dove	7	3	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>

Monk Parakeet	1		3	<i>Myiopsitta monachus</i>
Eurasian Hoopoe	1		1	<i>Upupa epops</i>
(Iberian) Green Woodpecker	1		1	<i>Picus viridis (sharpei)</i>
Great Spotted Woodpecker	2		1	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>
Common Skylark	4		3	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>
Crested Lark	6		2	<i>Galerida cristata</i>
Thekla Lark	3		2	<i>Galerida theklae</i>
Calandra Lark	4		4	<i>Melanocorypha calandra</i>
Eurasian Crag Martin	3		1	<i>Ptyonoprogne rupestris</i>
Barn Swallow	1		1	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>
Meadow Pipit	5		3	<i>Anthus pratensis</i>
Grey Wagtail	2		1	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>
White Wagtail	6		2	<i>Motacilla alba</i>
Dunnock	1	1h	1	<i>Prunella modularis</i>
Alpine Accentor	1		1	<i>Prunella collaris</i>
European Robin	5		1	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>
Black Redstart	6		2	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>
Black Wheatear	1		1	<i>Oenanthe leucura</i>
Common Stonechat	3		2	<i>Saxicola rubicola</i>
Blue Rock Thrush	3		1	<i>Monticola solitarius</i>
Song Thrush	3		2	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>
Fieldfare	1		3	<i>Turdus pilaris</i>
Mistle Thrush	5		2	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>
Common Blackbird	6		2	<i>Turdus merula</i>
Blackcap	1		1	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>
Sardinian Warbler	-	3h	1	<i>Sylvia melanocephala</i>
Dartford Warbler	3		1	<i>Sylvia undata</i>
Cetti's Warbler	1	2h	1	<i>Cettia cetti</i>
Common Chiffchaff	5		2	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>
Goldcrest	-	1h	2	<i>Regulus regulus</i>
Firecrest	3		2	<i>Regulus ignicapillus</i>
Winter Wren	1	3h	1	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>
Great Tit	4	1h	2	<i>Parus major</i>
Coal Tit	2		2	<i>Periparus ater</i>
European Blue Tit	4		2	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>
Crested Tit	2		1	<i>Lophophanes cristatus</i>
Long-tailed Tit	2	1h	2	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>
Eurasian Penduline Tit	1		2	<i>Remiz pendulinus</i>
Eurasian Nuthatch	2		1	<i>Sitta europaea</i>
Wallcreeper	1		1	<i>Tichodroma muraria</i>
Short-toed Treecreeper	2		1	<i>Certhia brachydactyla</i>
Iberian Grey Shrike	2		1	<i>Lanius meridionalis</i>
Common Magpie	7		3	<i>Pica pica</i>
Eurasian Jay	2		1	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>
Red-billed Chough	5		3	<i>Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax</i>
Alpine Chough	1		3	<i>Pyrrhocorax graculus</i>
Carrion Crow	7		2	<i>Corvus corone</i>
Common Raven	5		1	<i>Corvus corax</i>
Common Starling	7		4	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>
Spotless Starling	6		3	<i>Sturnus unicolor</i>
House Sparrow	7		3	<i>Passer domesticus</i>
Eurasian Tree Sparrow	2		3	<i>Passer montanus</i>
Rock Sparrow	4		3	<i>Petronia petronia</i>
Common Chaffinch	7		3	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>
Common Linnet	5		4	<i>Carduelis cannabina</i>
European Goldfinch	7		3	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>
European Greenfinch	2		1	<i>Carduelis chloris</i>
Hawfinch	1		1	<i>Coccothraustes coccothraustes</i>
Common Reed Bunting	2		2	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>
Cirl Bunting	1		3	<i>Emberiza cirlus</i>
Rock Bunting	3		1	<i>Emberiza cia</i>
Corn Bunting	4		3	<i>Miliaria calandra</i>
Common Waxbill	1		3	<i>Estrilda astrild</i>

## **MAMMALS**

Roe Deer  
Spanish Ibex  
Chamois  
European Rabbit  
Red Fox  
Eurasian Red Squirrel

*Capreolus capreolus*  
*Capra pyrenaica hispanica*  
*Rupicapra rupicapra*  
*Oryctolagus cuniculus*  
*Vulpes vulpes*  
*Sciurus vulgaris*

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



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