

ORNITHOLIDAYS TOUR TO SPAIN - ARAGON
Cranes, Lammergeiers & Wallcreepers

07 – 14 NOVEMBER 2015



Leader: Steve West

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A Personal Diary

This was to be Ornitholidays' fourth November Aragon tour, and the first to break new ground by concluding at the Ebro Delta. It was also to break other records – the highest temperatures on record for the month in this part of Spain, and no fewer than 12 species of butterfly to show for it!

The bill-headers Wallcreeper, Lammergeier and Common Crane all provided us with some of the best moments of the tour, moments that I'm sure the participants will savour for a long time to come. There were many others too, such as the two Golden Eagles perched on a pylon by the roadside, flocks of sandgrouse and bustards on the plains, Black Wheatears and Dartford Warblers perching together on rock and bush, Black-winged Kites gliding and hovering at Gallocanta, hundreds upon hundreds of wetland birds in the Ebro Delta, and a Bluethroat or two thrown in.

There were quiet moments too, and sometimes the birds we were looking for were difficult or impossible to locate. This though was rarely if ever a major setback, as at the time we immensely enjoyed the magnificent and varied landscapes of northeast Spain – castles, mountains, gorges, steppes, wetlands and forests – all bathed in the warmth and sunshine of a superb week in November. And after a day in the field the evenings seemed short in each other's company and in the professional hands of our comfortable hotels.

Saturday 07 November

With the group all gathered at sunny Barcelona airport we made our way to our rental vehicle, where two Monk Parakeets looked down upon us from a lofty perch in a palm tree. On our way we munched and crunched on bananas and biscuits and made good time to our first destination to the east of Balaguer, where we started our search for a wintering flock of Little Bustards usually to be found in the area. We failed to find them on our first two stops, but we had not been without birds: Hen Harrier, Western Marsh Harrier, Sparrowhawk and Red Kite all put in an appearance. It was the third stop which produced the goods, with a flock of more than 80 Little Bustards calmly but unanimously walking away from us while pecking at shoots and stretching their wings now and then.

It was a short drive from here to our main destination of the afternoon, an inland lake where we hoped to see a variety of birds of wetland and reed bed before travelling on to our hotel. We were not disappointed as very soon we had seen White Stork, Glossy Ibis, Purple Swamphen (bathed in lovely afternoon light), Green Sandpiper, Common Snipe and several Common Kingfishers. The surrounding reeds and trees also provided us with some interesting birds such as European Green Woodpecker, Cetti's Warbler, Firecrest and Reed Bunting - a Water Pipit on the mud was another noteworthy find.

The November afternoons are short, and on leaving the lake we had little light left for birding, just enough to reach the outskirts of Lleida and to investigate some farmland to see our first Peregrine Falcon of the trip, and to get fleeting looks at Eurasian Hoopoe and Crested Lark. Ensuing was just over an hour's drive to our welcoming hotel at Bierge, in the Sierra de Guara Natural Park.

Sunday 08 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 the birds, with numerous Eurasian Crag Martins wheeling about in front of the rock faces, Eurasian Griffon Vultures perched on the ledges, Sardinian Warblers in the gardens and bushes and a couple of Black Redstarts cavorting about on the house roofs. We eventually had prolonged views of our first Blue Rock Thrush, while only Margaret, Linda and I managed to get a glimpse of a Wallcreeper before it flew out of sight around a rock face. To our frustration it did not appear again, and it was already time to leave, so we put our faith in getting views of this wonderful creature at some point later in the day.

We backtracked to Bierge and many recognized that a quick visit to the hotel's facilities was an opportunity not to be missed! Then it was a drive along very winding roads, through a small village and then to one of the highlights of the day. Before we had time to pull up at our intended parking spot we spotted two adult Lammergeiers circling close, low over the ground and in beautiful warm autumn light. We "jumped" out of the van and watched enraptured as these two magnificent birds circled, gathered height and eventually disappeared from view behind distant crags.

We were still buzzing with this experience when a Dartford Warbler, Rock Bunting and Thekla Lark all made their presence felt, and so our attention turned to trying to track them down. The Thekla Lark was easy enough, and perched for Roger and Geoff, the photographers in the group, but the other two were less co-operative. The Dartford Warbler in particular was very skittish, but in the end a special task force led by Linda and Norman managed to obtain reasonable if brief views.

We stopped nearby for a relaxed lunch break and then a short drive took us to our next destination, overlooking 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 flew up and over the chasm towards the dam, then at the last moment veered behind a protrusion and out of sight.

It was surprisingly difficult to relocate, but eventually the Wallcreeper succumbed to our concerted efforts and we all had great views of it clinging to the walls, flashing its crimson wings, and then flying around us onto another wall and putting an end to the show. As we were leaving four Red-billed Choughs flew overhead, calling in their unmistakable fashion.

The last site of the already successful day was at the ruins of a castle on the edge of Huesca. Roger crouched and contorted enthusiastically in his quest to identify the numerous blues (Adonis, Long-tailed and Lang's Short-tailed) and other butterflies still present (in November!) while the birds kept us all entertained. Black Wheatears were unusually confiding, perching prominently on rocks and bushes, while a pair of Stonechats seemed to have a faithful retinue in the shape of at least two Dartford Warblers! It was very strange to watch the Stonechats moving from perch to perch and then to see the Dartford Warblers perching on rocks, on the ground and in bushes but always on their trail!

Other birds here and at other points during this very complete day included Rock Sparrow, European Serin, Common Raven, Peregrine Falcon and Spotless Starling. We retired to our homely hotel very satisfied with the day's catch!

Monday 09 November

An optional pre-breakfast walk was attended by Roger, Geoff and Rebecca, but I had to admit that my timing had been out, seeing that it was still a little too dark. The hotel was obviously in the morning flight path of large numbers of Common Ravens but there was little else to whet our appetite except for the thought of breakfast.

The morning's birding was spent at Riglos and Agüerro, both localities with villages nestled under huge and spectacular rock formations which have to be seen to be believed. Our main aim was to see both Alpine Accentor and Wallcreeper (one rarely can have enough of this bird!), which we did, although under less than optimal conditions, with both species only giving brief views to a small number of the group. Still, that's birding at times.

Other birds we managed to spot in these areas included Peregrine Falcon and, appropriately, Blue Rock Thrush, Eurasian Crag Martin, and Rock Sparrow. From here we departed northwards for views of the Pyrenees proper and a look for some woodland species.

We had our picnic lunches sitting in the sun at a picnic table in the grassy meadow in front of the new monastery at San Juan de la Peña. The forest seemed eerily silent, and as we calmly strolled along shady paths through the woodland, strewn with the autumn's freshly-fallen leaves it seemed even more so. Roger and I were in the vanguard as we came out to the viewpoint with a vast vista of the Pyrenees of Aragon stretching before us. A large black bird flew just over the trees in undulating flight as we reached the viewpoint, and it

struck us both that we had seen the Black Woodpecker which was the main avian attraction of this particular area. Nevertheless, we couldn't assert this as a confirmed sighting, it wasn't such a good one as to annoy the rest of the troop, who hadn't seen it!

Our leisurely walk through the woods gradually brought us into contact with some of its birds, including Siskin, Goldcrest, Coal Tit and a hard-won Crested Tit. At another viewpoint Andrea spotted a Short-toed Treecreeper, which most of us got a glimpse of, and when returning to the vehicle Common Crossbills graced some of us with flight views. We departed in the direction of our hotel and concluded that while the day had been less packed with birds than the previous ones it had been unprecedented in terms of spectacular scenery, and still accompanied by glorious weather.

Tuesday 10 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 had us screeching to a halt to watch a handsome roadside Iberian Grey Shrike, and a more distant Corn Bunting.

Later another stop en-route for a roadside bird was for quite a different category of bird: two Golden Eagles perched on a pylon at less than 100 metres from the road! Of course we stopped and admired these magnificent birds, until they decided that they did not like the attention and flew to perch on a more distant pylon. Now, as Margaret observed, you never get views of Golden Eagles like that in Scotland!

A quick visit to a small lake on the edge of town revealed nothing of note, except for the fact that when we were leaving we discovered a field with dozens of Stone Curlews. Nice! Then came the turn of our main target bird for the day: the Great Bustard. We drove slowly through wide open expanses scanning this way and that, and before long we had encountered a flock of Great Bustards. The birds were close, the light was excellent and we watched to our heart's content before moving on.

We arrived at a huge salt lake, with some patches of water and abandoned, crumbling buildings. Margaret flushed a Little Owl, without the use of a cistern, and Red-billed Choughs scolded us from a safe distance. The closest patch of water hosted a good number of small waders which, on closer inspection, we could see were all Kentish Plovers, except for a single Dunlin. At the far side of the lake there were several Common Shelduck and a couple of Yellow-legged Gulls to complete the aquatic touch to an otherwise very arid environment.

However, the best part of this visit was yet to come: Pin-tailed and Black-bellied Sandgrouse flew by and around, at times rather tantalizingly, until we caught sight of both species on the ground. We also had a good number of flight views of these attractive birds, and our efforts paid dividends when we observed a large flock of Pin-tailed Sandgrouse on the ground, while Calandra, Lesser Short-toed and Thekla Larks and Skylarks flew noisily this way and that. All this bird activity was a superb lead-in to a tasty lunch of "tapitas" in a local bar before we were ready for the action that the afternoon would bring us.

We drove on towards Daroca, putting more kilometres behind us, and getting a few more birds under our belt: a Great Egret stood out like a sore thumb in an alfalfa field, but not so the Zitting Cisticola which we spotted in the foreground, at least not for Rebecca who informed us all of her struggles to see the bird in question. Norman wisely called a Little Owl and when we backed up there were in fact two perched on a rock and staring at us in unsettled indignation, or something similar. Merlin, Hen Harrier, Western Marsh Harrier, Common Buzzard and Red Kite all featured at some stage of this drive.

We made a quick tour of the Planerón steppe reserve of Belchite, a stronghold for breeding Dupont's Larks but which now were in some other part of Spain, although it is unlikely that anyone knows where exactly. Nevertheless, I suggested, we could at least see the lark's habitat and try to feel its "aura". I looked round at folk, and most faces portrayed the unconvinced expressions of their owners at this suggestion. A nearby patch of field and dryland brought us to another encounter with Black-bellied Sandgrouse and no fewer than two more Golden Eagles. Then at the ruins of Belchite a Blue Rock Thrush adorned the historic site with some significant birding interest.

The day was drawing to a close and we still had some distance to drive, but there was another site nearby that I felt should not be missed. Shortly we turned off the road onto a rather rough track and descended into a

solitary gorge. We walked as the sun started its descent, glancing up at the Eurasian Griffon Vultures on the rocky ledges above and getting glimpses of Black Redstarts, Rock Buntings, Firecrests and excellent views of European Siskins too. A largish accipiter flew tantalizingly close but the brief views we had left us wondering whether it had been a large female Eurasian Sparrowhawk or a Northern Goshawk.

Before leaving the site entirely we decided to check on another patch of hillside in search of the Spanish Ibex which frequented the area. Just then the trumpeting calls of Common Cranes reached our ears, and we looked up to see four of these lovely birds flying towards us from the north, in all likelihood making their way to Gallocanta, where our paths could cross the following day. This provided the lads with a good photo opportunity, although the ibex seemed to be absent. However, just as we were leaving a striking male Spanish Ibex with large horns stood profiled against the fading daylight on a prominent rocky ledge. Now wasn't that a stylish way to make an appearance!

The remainder of the journey was along quiet, scenic country roads where very few tour groups ever set foot. In the last rays of daylight we stopped briefly to look at a dozen or so Eurasian Griffon Vultures perched in a field beside the road, unable now or unwilling to fly, despite our being too close for their liking. We now had one more memory to process before reaching our next hotel at Daroca!

Wednesday 11 November

A pre-breakfast morning walk on the outskirts of Daroca brought us into touch with birds such as Tree Sparrow, Spotless Starling, Eurasian Sparrowhawk, Grey Wagtail, Great Spotted Woodpecker and Cetti's Warbler.

After breakfast we headed straight for the lagoon of Gallocanta. From the car park of a large, empty-looking visitor centre we scanned the few, very shallow patches of water. Distant waders required telescope views, but we made out Ruff and Redshank, while Common Shelduck were easier to pick out from among the multitude of Mallard.

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. However, they were quite flighty; they didn't seem to mind the tractors ploughing the fields but in unison they took flight at our approach. But cranes were not the only focal point on this route, as birds of prey featured well too: Western Marsh Harriers and Hen Harriers quartered the fields and lake shores, and at one point one of the former swooped on what we had taken to be a crow, but which we noticed as it flew off that it had in fact been an adult Goshawk! We stopped and managed to get views of this now distant Goshawk in our telescopes, although soon after this sighting had been entirely eclipsed by another raptor surprise, this time a couple of Black-winged Kites! We watched enthralled as the kites glided and hovered until they in turn became rather distant specks.

The next visitor centre was handy for toilets and for some interesting information, including the fact that the last count the previous week had yielded the highest ever count for November, a stunning 38,000 Common Cranes! We continued our circumnavigation of the lagoon, seeing a mixed flock of Calandra Larks and Skylarks, Iberian Grey Shrike and two Merlins, as well as two distant Great Bustards, merging into the gathering heat haze.

Our picnic lunch was taken in the depths of a scenic dry river bed, where later we uncovered birds such as Dartford Warbler and Rock Bunting, although not without some considerable effort. After a refreshment in a nearby bar we explored a sunny hillside with steppe vegetation. Again, Dupont's Lark would probably be here in the breeding season, although alas not in November. It was a very pleasant afternoon though, so we enjoyed just being out, and we did also see a number of interesting birds, such as Little Owl, Thekla Lark, Rock Sparrow and a kettle of Red Kites.

It was near to dusk, but the birding day was not quite over. We returned to the lagoon and waited among an expectant group of Spanish students and birdwatchers for the magic moment, when the Common Cranes decided en masse that it was time to take up their evening roost in the lagoon itself. According to one local authority this would happen at ten past six. While we were waiting a family group of four Wild Boars waded through the mud on one edge of the lagoon, and then, right on time, the cranes started flying in in formation after formation and landing in the lagoon. Thousands of Common Cranes flew in past us, calling and creating

a special atmosphere in the rosy evening light. We had indeed witnessed a wildlife spectacle comparable to few others in Western Europe.

Thursday 12 November

Today would be spent in transit to our last hotel in the Ebro Delta, passing through striking scenery and all the time looking out for interesting birds. Our first stop was after less than half an hour's driving, and thanks to it we obtained excellent views of Woodlark and many Cirl Buntings. Our route through small, seemingly lost, villages prompted slightly concerned questions about the employment and schooling arrangements for the local inhabitants.

At a second site within another half hour drive our hopeful vigil for Bonelli's Eagle failed to produce any sightings of this rather retiring bird. It wasn't too difficult to manage our slight disappointment, giving the birds we had already seen up to then and the magnificent locations we had visited. So we settled quite gracefully for the observation of several more Spanish Ibis, Great Spotted Woodpecker and Grey Wagtail.

Our drive to the coast was punctuated by a lunch stop in a roadside café, a few birds such as Hen Harrier, and Western Marsh Harrier, and then a last stop at another site for the elusive Bonelli's Eagle. Gnarled olive trunks, dry stone walls, stepping stones over a clear water stream and rounded, rocky mountains made the perfect setting for our quest, but once again we were unsuccessful. Sardinian Warbler and Eurasian Griffon Vulture were perhaps the birds most worthy of note, except for the proud Peregrine Falcon perched atop a lofty crag. Finally we departed to a complete change of scenery, to the rice fields, muddy bays, sandy shores and lagoons of the Ebro Delta.

Friday 13 November

We were nearing the end of the tour, but there was no doubting that today would be a very "birdy" day indeed. 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 we stopped at a rice field to see some waders: Common Greenshank, Common Redshank, Eurasian Curlew, and numbers of Wood Sandpiper giving us all close-range views, until a Peregrine Falcon flew over spreading a wave of avian terror before it.

We followed the course of the bay itself and surveyed its rich birdlife: groups of Greater Flamingos bunched together in splashes of pink and grey; Common Kingfishers piercing the calm with their calls and bullet-trajectory flights; Zitting Cisticolas and Cetti's Warblers; and then a mixed group of waders, gulls and terns. Sorting through the gulls we found our first Slender-billed Gulls, some with a faint rosy flush, and here we also saw Sandwich Terns, Kentish Plovers, Bar-tailed Godwit and a single Pied Avocet.

Then we turned our attention inland, to a newly-created freshwater wetland zone. On the water we spotted Little Grebe, Purple Swamphen, Common Pochard and Red-crested Pochard, but our main target, the Bluethroat, needed scrutiny of the reed fringes and lakeside vegetation. Little by little we obtained brief and tantalizing views of perhaps two or three different Bluethroats, but for the most part they moved faster than our eye-hand-eye coordination could, so obviously more effort was needed. We rounded a corner in the track and the area looked like a good one to set up a special Bluethroat watch, the birds were here and, importantly, the sun was on our backs. Penduline Tits called rather feebly, and some of us also heard a Moustached Warbler, although we could see neither. However, the Bluethroat finally came into view for long enough to wrench gasps of admiration from everyone, it was in perfect light, out in the open, it stayed there for some time and had quite a lot of blue on it - what more could we ask for?

Pleased with our haul we drove to our next port of call which was the observation tower at the Gola de Migjorn. Usually this is a productive viewing area, with birds on marshes to the north and south. However, on this day there was very little around, just large numbers of rather distant Common Teal, and a couple of hunters walking by below; and there we had a probable explanation for the general scarcity of birds.

Lunch was calling quite emphatically as we drove through some rice fields, and stopped only briefly to see some more waders including our first Black-tailed Godwit and Spotted Redshanks, as well as a number of

Ruff. Annoyingly, my usual lunch venue was closed, and the subsequent process of finding a replacement venue was slow. However, we did manage to see both Common House Martin and Eurasian Crag Martin from the patio, and that added to the Barn Swallows we had seen earlier made it quite a red letter November day for hirundines!

At last we were 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 little pockets of waders, among which we saw Little Stint, Sanderling, Kentish, Grey and Common Ringed Plovers and, approaching the salt works we spotted a small party of Mediterranean Gulls on the bay side, with a couple of Northern Gannets just preceding this on the seaward side. At the salt works itself there was a single salt pan bobbing with crane-necked Slender-billed Gulls - lovely! From here we backtracked and just before heading inland we spotted a solitary Whimbrel, which was a surprise this late in the year. Then, at another reed-fringed wetland, we did our last birding of the day. Apart from the usual range of ducks and herons we also spotted three species of grebe: Great Crested, Little and Black-necked, the latter forming tight little rafts of birds and numbering at least 30. On that positive note we headed back to our hotel for the last night of the tour.

Saturday 14 November

Arrival at Barcelona airport was programmed for around midday, so we just had enough time to take another look along the shores of the northern bay, to see if there was anything to add to yesterday's tally of species. Indeed there was as we saw a Water Pipit and a couple of adult Audouin's Gulls, sitting quite obligingly on prominent perches at the mussel bay. This seemed an appropriate way to take leave of the fruitful Ebro Delta, after just having seen one of its most emblematic species.

We now knuckled down and made for Barcelona airport. But the birding doesn't always end when you think it has: a couple of fly-over Hoopoes gave Rebecca a final chance to catch up on the species she had been keen to see since the first day, and then when I returned the rental vehicle after taking leave of the group at the airport, well, there were two Monk Parakeets in a palm tree. The same tree, the same birds?

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. Furthermore, the positive feedback that you gave about the changes in the tour format, especially the Barcelona arrival and the Ebro Delta finish, was very well received. I sincerely hope that this will not be the last time we meet. Many thanks to Geoff Sharp for allowing me to use his photos in this report.

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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December 2015

Itinerary and weather

Saturday 07 November	Barcelona, Estany D'Ivars, Lleida, Bierge Maximum 23°C, calm and sunny.
Sunday 08 November	Alquézar, Sierra de Guara, Montearagón Maximum 24°C, calm and sunny.
Monday 09 November	Riglos, Agüero, San Juan de la Peña Maximum 24°C, calm, fog descended pm.
Tuesday 10 November	Los Monegros, Belchite, Daroca Maximum 24°C, calm, fog lifted pm.
Wednesday 11 November	Gallocanta, Rio Piedra, Blancas Maximum 25°C, calm.
Thursday 12 November	Rio Huerva, Els Ports, Deltebre Maximum 20°C, calm, fog in parts.
Friday 13 November	Ebro Delta north and south Maximum 16°C, breezy am, clearing and calm pm
Saturday 14 November	Ebro Delta, Barcelona. Sunny and clam.



Common Cranes



Lammergeier



Purple Swamphen



Alquézar

Front cover: Riglos

All photographs © G Sharp

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 2nd Edition 2010.

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

Little Stint	1		2	<i>Calidris minuta</i>
Wood Sandpiper	1		3	<i>Tringa glareola</i>
Common Sandpiper	1		1	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>
Green Sandpiper	3		1	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>
Common Redshank	2		3	<i>Tringa totanus</i>
Spotted Redshank	1		3	<i>Tringa erythropus</i>
Common Greenshank	2		3	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>
Black-tailed Godwit	1		1	<i>Limosa limosa</i>
Bar-tailed Godwit	1		2	<i>Limosa lapponica</i>
Eurasian Curlew	1		2	<i>Numenius arquata</i>
Whimbrel	1		1	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>
Common Snipe	2		2	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>
Ruff	2		3	<i>Philomachus pugnax</i>
Black-headed Gull	2		4	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>
Slender-billed Gull	1		3	<i>Chroicocephalus genei</i>
Mediterranean Gull	1		2	<i>Ichthyaeetus melanocephalus</i>
Audouin's Gull	1		1	<i>Ichthyaeetus audouinii</i>
Yellow-legged Gull	5		4	<i>Larus michahellis</i>
Lesser Black-backed Gull	1		3	<i>Larus fuscus</i>
Sandwich Tern	1		2	<i>Thalasseus sandvicensis</i>
Black-bellied Sandgrouse	1	1h	3	<i>Pterocles orientalis</i>
Pin-tailed Sandgrouse	1		3	<i>Pterocles alchata</i>
Feral Pigeon (Rock Dove)	7		3	<i>Columba livia</i>
Common Wood Pigeon	3		3	<i>Columba palumbus</i>
Eurasian Collared Dove	7		3	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>
Monk Parakeet	1		1	<i>Myiopsitta monachus</i>
Little Owl	2		1	<i>Athene noctua</i>
Eurasian Hoopoe	2		1	<i>Upupa epops</i>
Common Kingfisher	2		3	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>
(Iberian) Green Woodpecker	1	1h	1	<i>Picus viridis (sharppei)</i>
Great Spotted Woodpecker	2		1	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>
Common Skylark	3		3	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>
Crested Lark	5		2	<i>Galerida cristata</i>
Thekla Lark	3		2	<i>Galerida theklae</i>
Woodlark	1		1	<i>Lullula arborea</i>
Lesser Short-toed Lark	1		2	<i>Calandrella rufescens</i>
Calandra Lark	2		3	<i>Melanocorypha calandra</i>
Eurasian Crag Martin	3		2	<i>Ptyonoprogne rupestris</i>
Barn Swallow	1		1	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>
House Martin	1		1	<i>Delichon urbica</i>
Water Pipit	1		1	<i>Anthus spinoletta</i>
Meadow Pipit	7		2	<i>Anthus pratensis</i>
Grey Wagtail	2	1h	1	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>
White Wagtail	7		3	<i>Motacilla alba</i>
Dunnock	2	2h	1	<i>Prunella modularis</i>
Alpine Accentor	1		2	<i>Prunella collaris</i>
European Robin	7		3	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>
Black Redstart	6		2	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>
Bluethroat	1		2	<i>Luscinia svecica</i>
Black Wheatear	1		1	<i>Oenanthe leucura</i>
Common Stonechat	6		1	<i>Saxicola rubicola</i>
Blue Rock Thrush	3		1	<i>Monticola solitarius</i>
Song Thrush	5		2	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>
Mistle Thrush	4		1	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>
Common Blackbird	4		2	<i>Turdus merula</i>
Blackcap	2		1	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>
Sardinian Warbler	4		2	<i>Sylvia melanocephala</i>
Dartford Warbler	4		2	<i>Sylvia undata</i>
Cetti's Warbler	2	2h	2	<i>Cettia cetti</i>
Moustached Warbler	-	1h	1	<i>Acrocephalus melanopogon</i>
Zitting Cisticola	2		1	<i>Cisticola juncidis</i>
Common Chiffchaff	2	2h	2	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>
Goldcrest	3		1	<i>Regulus regulus</i>

Firecrest	1	1h	1	<i>Regulus ignicapillus</i>
Eurasian Wren	-	3h	1	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>
Great Tit	3		2	<i>Parus major</i>
Coal Tit	1		1	<i>Periparus ater</i>
European Blue Tit	4		1	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>
Crested Tit	1		1	<i>Lophophanes cristatus</i>
Long-tailed Tit	2	1h	2	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>
Eurasian Penduline Tit	-	1h	1	<i>Remiz pendulinus</i>
Eurasian Nuthatch	-	1h	1	<i>Sitta europaea</i>
Wallcreeper	2		1	<i>Tichodroma muraria</i>
Short-toed Treecreeper	1	1h	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	4		3	<i>Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax</i>
Western Jackdaw	3		2	<i>Corvus monedula</i>
Carrion Crow	5		2	<i>Corvus corone</i>
Common Raven	4		3	<i>Corvus corax</i>
Common Starling	2		4	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>
Spotless Starling	4		2	<i>Sturnus unicolor</i>
House Sparrow	7		3	<i>Passer domesticus</i>
Eurasian Tree Sparrow	2		2	<i>Passer montanus</i>
Rock Sparrow	5		3	<i>Petronia petronia</i>
Common Chaffinch	6		3	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>
Common Linnet	6		3	<i>Carduelis cannabina</i>
European Goldfinch	4		3	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>
European Greenfinch	3		2	<i>Carduelis chloris</i>
Eurasian Siskin	6		3	<i>Carduelis spinus</i>
European Serin	2		1	<i>Serinus serinus</i>
Common Crossbill	1		1	<i>Loxia curvirostra</i>
Common Reed Bunting	2		2	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>
Cirl Bunting	1		2	<i>Emberiza cirius</i>
Rock Bunting	4		2	<i>Emberiza cia</i>
Corn Bunting	3		3	<i>Miliaria calandra</i>

MAMMALS

Iberian Ibex	2		1	<i>Capra pyrenaica</i>
Wild Boar	1		1	<i>Sus scrofa</i>
European Hare	1		1	<i>Lepus europaeus</i>
European Rabbit	1		1	<i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i>
Red Fox	1		1	<i>Vulpes vulpes</i>

BUTTERFLIES & MOTHS

Large White				<i>Pieris brassicae</i>
Small White				<i>Pieris rapae</i>
Bath White				<i>Pontia daplidice</i>
Clouded Yellow				<i>Colias croceus</i>
Long-tailed Blue				<i>Lampides boeticus</i>
Lang's Short-tailed Blue				<i>Leptoptes pirithous</i>
Common Blue				<i>Polyommatus icarus</i>
Adonis Blue				<i>Polyommatus bellargus</i>
Speckled Wood				<i>Pararge aegeria</i>
Painted Lady				<i>Vanessa cardui</i>
Red Admiral				<i>Vanessa atalanta</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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