

ORNITHOLIDAYS TOUR TO SPAIN - COTO DOÑANA & EXTREMADURA
Spring Tour

06 - 13 APRIL 2016



Leader: Steve West

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A Personal Diary

The birding highlights of this tour were many, here I draw attention to those which appeared to arouse the greatest shows of enthusiasm from the group in general.

- Great Bustards in full display on the plains on our special pre-breakfast sortie
- A male Little Bustard doing its jumping display just as dawn was breaking on the plains
- Spanish Imperial Eagles diving and attacking vultures before our eyes in Monfragüe National Park
- A Short-toed Eagle hunting a snake in the same area as the Imperial Eagles
- White-headed Ducks at the Bonanza pools: males accosting a female and swimming backwards and forwards like little submarines
- A surprise Red-necked Phalarope at the Boianza salt pans
- Watching immaculate-plumaged Penduline Tits from the Roman bridge in Mérida
- A surprise Marbled Duck on the last day of the tour, a species we had missed up until then
- The general birding and “buzz” of our whole day in Monfragüe

06 April

The tour started with a late afternoon arrival of the group at Madrid airport and little else for us to do but to make the drive to our hotel and some welcoming weather on the edge of the Monfragüe National Park. We noted a few interesting roadside birds but we decided that the real count for the trip would not start until the next day. We arrived at our hotel in the evening in time to settle in comfortably and then to enjoy our first meal and, for some, the first of many glasses of wine that would be drunk during the course of the week!

07 April

Sunny, calm weather dominated the outlook for the day, and was ideal for our incursion into the Monfragüe National Park. A quick look at the birds around the hotel grounds and the surrounding fields showed us some of the commonest birds we would be seeing over the next few days: Eurasian Griffon Vulture, Common Wood Pigeon, Eurasian Collared Dove, Common Cuckoo, Crested Lark, Red-rumped Swallow, Woodchat Shrike, Azure-winged Magpie, Spotless Starling and Corn Bunting.

Then we began the day's real business in earnest by making the short drive to enter the confines of the National Park. The first stop was at the well-known and acclaimed Salto del Gitano, an impressive rocky landscape plunging into a watery pedestal. Here we marvelled at the abundance and proximity of Eurasian Griffon Vultures, and picked out some of our first Eurasian Black and Egyptian Vulture in flight. Behind us a Rock Bunting was in song, and cooperated nicely by perching on the rocky pinnacles in front of us, along with a male Black Redstart and the first of several Blue Rock Thrushes we would see during the day. European Serins jingled and jangled while we stood scoping the nesting Black Storks on a rocky island below us, the male making short but determined sulkies to collect nesting material nearby.

We continued on past the park's visitor centre and then pulled off the road to look for some scrubland birds, in particular warblers. We were not disappointed, as before long we had seen a singing male Western Orphee, Subalpine and Sardinian Warblers.

Our next destination was at the far end of the park, the Portilla del Tiétar. Here we were hoping to see the rare and striking Spanish Imperial Eagle, and who knows? Maybe another eagle or two, maybe even the Eagle Owl which we had encountered here sometimes in the past. Things got off to a good start with Booted Eagles sailing overhead before we stopped and then a Spanish Imperial Eagle flying above and in front of the rock face before we had even had time to exit the vehicle! “Quick! Watch that bird while you have it!” I implored. However, I needn't have worried: the Spanish Imperial Eagle gave us several excellent close passes, swooping down and attacking passing Eurasian Griffon Vultures it deemed too close or not humble enough to be inside the boundaries of its territory.

However, these antics did not steal the show as completely as they could have: a Short-toed Eagle glided in to land on a tree in front of us, surveyed the area for a second and then stared at a patch of ground before leaping onto a snake and eventually flying away with half its length still protruding from its beak.

After a picnic lunch we checked out an area along the river banks, but the normally placid river was swollen with the recent rains and there was little birdlife to be seen. The cork oak *dehesa* was as beautiful as ever, and held the likes of Black Kite, White Stork, Spanish Sparrow and more. Then it was time to retrace our steps, slowly and relaxed, back through the park, and perhaps to some unexpected encounters. These indeed occurred, first with a Wild Boar darting into the bushes from the middle of the road, and then with a splendid adult Bonelli's Eagle at close range and in the best of afternoon lights. Now all that was left was to visit one final viewing area before our return to the hotel after a truly memorable day. This was the "100" steps (a little understatement here would surely help to motivate any doubters to make the climb, surely) up to the remains of a 12th Century fortification and splendid all-round views. Eurasian Crag Martins, vultures, kites and the odd eagle some above, some below and some looking us right in the eye. There were no new species here, but that did not matter, it was being there and then – the sun, the breeze, the birds, the views and the peace - that counted.

08 April

After breakfast we set out on a sunny, somewhat breezy and cool morning, heading south to the plains of Cáceres and surrounds. We stopped at an incredibly picturesque setting of an old stone bridge straddling a river, and struggled a little to get brief views of Cetti's Warbler and Common Whitethroat before moving on.

On the edge of the plains now and a pleasant and welcome find was a very handsome male Black-eared Wheatear, and the first of many groups of Spanish Sparrow we would see that day. As the landscape opened into rolling pastures and grassland the larks began to reveal themselves: first Crested, then Thekla, and later on the boisterously energetic Calandra Lark.

Before long we had found one of the "big four" of these parts, a male Great Bustard seemingly torn between strutting about and keeping a watchful eye out for any potentially dangerous intruders. He was the first of more than 10 Great Bustards we would see during the day, a little distant, but as he was the first he got more than a fair share of our attention.

Montagu's Harrier is always a lovely bird to see, and just a short drive away we managed to see about 10 of these magnificent birds, males and females, flying around one of their favourite fields in what could be termed rather "loose colonial nesting" behaviour. Then, along a bumpy track lined with larks and Corn Buntings we encountered Northern Wheatears, Stonechats and some more Great Bustards, these ones sitting. Resting or trying to avoid our attention? It wasn't obvious, and they had obviously failed if the latter was their intention, because we spent some time trying to find the best viewpoint from which to see as much of them as possible. Eventually they flew, with their heavy, lumbering flight, revealing large white wing bars and a desire for the peace and quiet of the wide open plains.

Now if I said Lesser Kestrel, Pallid Swift, Booted Eagle, White Stork, and Red-rumped Swallow, for example, were all flying around us as we had our lunch sat at a terrace bar on the edge of a large plaza in the historic centre of a picturesque town, would you name that town in one? Trujillo (pronounced *Tru-hill-yo*), for those who are not familiar with the region, is one of those special must-visit towns which even the most avid of birders can be convinced to take a look at. Very few regret it.

After a satisfying lunch break we headed back to a different area of the plains, first of all spotting our first Black-winged Stilts but being unable to find any sandgrouse in any of the places we searched. Never mind, finding the first and only European Rollers of the tour was quite adequate compensation! And then there were the European Bee-eaters, the Eurasian Hoopoes, the occasional Iberian Grey Shrike, Cattle Egrets, Red Kites...No-one was complaining by the time we got back to our hotel, quite the opposite!

09 April

We had already visited the plains the day before but we had devised a great new master plan to try and get views of displaying Great Bustards and with some luck a Little Bustard or two, which had eluded us the

previous day. This was to depart before breakfast and to return to a late breakfast, replete with some wonderful observations already under our collective belt. Would it work out as hoped?

As we got out of the vehicle darkness was slowly dissipating into the realization that daylight was almost upon it. It was a chilly morning for sure, would it be so cool as to dampen the bustards' spirits? Fortunately, the answer came to us in the form of a displaying male Little Bustard! First we heard its distinctive 'raspberry' and then after some searching we could see the bird itself, facing us and jumping, wings outstretched and fluttering, on a grassy slope. This was already reason enough for us to beam broad smiles, what more could we make of the morning?

Seated in the van and on our way to the next stretch of track we didn't get far before we had another memorable encounter. Some large, distinctive shapes broke the near horizon and we watched transfixed as a little bit of bird drama unfolded before our eyes. A male Great Bustard was displaying, intent on "foam-bathing" whereby he virtually turns himself inside-out and struts and whirls around, impressing females and intimidating males all at the same time. Several females stood at some distance, pecking at the ground now and then, feigning disinterest? As one drew closer this spurred the male on to renewed activity, but then again it could have been the appearance of another displaying male on the scene which really ignited him. The males seemed ready to compete for a while, until one gradually distanced himself from the scene with as much dignity as he could. The females stood around... this could take some time yet we thought, as we stealthily took our leave wishing him luck in his amorous pursuits.

Before returning to the hotel we had seen more Great Bustards and no fewer than six Little Bustards, all of which had to be stopped for and admired. Of course there were other birds too, including Calandra Larks, Montagu's Harrier and more. Now that was an excellent way to work up an appetite for breakfast!

We continued our avian adventures by changing our focus from the large and lumbering to the small and agile. Dartford Warblers called, hopped up and in and out of bushes, darted this way and that and eventually we all managed to get good views of them, as well as Thekla Larks and an Egyptian Vulture. A little later we had also seen Western Orphean and Subalpine Warblers before lunch in a bar and then an afternoon visit to the local Arrocampo reservoir, probably the best wetland site for birds in Extremadura.

Here there were good numbers and variety of herons, including Squacco Heron, Great Egret, Purple Heron, and Cattle Egret, as well as Glossy Ibis, Eurasian Spoonbill and Purple Swamphen. Gull-billed Terns flew over the areas of open water, a Common Kingfisher sped like a bullet between perches, and the reeds were home to singing Zitting Cisticolas, and Savi's Warblers; the latter took some searching but were eventually located in our telescopes.

That wasn't quite the lot though, as a surprise Whimbrel stood on the edge of a small pool, and two Black-winged Kites delighted us with beautiful gliding short flights between high tree perches and newly planted saplings. Now with that we were all very happy to return to the hotel and take stock of everything we had seen on the first leg of the tour.

10 April

It was an overcast day which set the scene for our journey southwards, from Extremadura to the Coto Doñana, with stops en-route to get the best birds we could find.

It didn't take us long to reach the Roman bridge in Mérida, the first time we had made this particular detour on this tour in recent years. Apart from the obvious historical and archeological interest surrounding the figure of the bridge itself a short walk along it and over the river proved to be a good birding gambit. Birds we encountered here included Willow Warbler, Cetti's Warbler (seen!), Common Kingfisher, Purple Swamphen and a confiding pair of Eurasian Penduline Tits of which we enjoyed prolonged and close-up views.

After a quick coffee break our next stop was on the edge of a large reservoir. Great Crested Grebes were abundant on the water's surface, while Gull-billed Terns and Alpine Swifts provided airborne entertainment. A Blue Rock Thrush sang to make itself noticed on the rocky crags and we noted the comings and goings of two or more Black Wheatears while doing our best not to be too distracted by the Bonelli's Eagle flying overhead or the singing Thekla Larks perched on bushes or rocks.

We then pushed further south along the dual carriageway and after little more than an hour we turned off the main road to seek out a quiet, attractive spot where we could eat our picnic lunches and perhaps enjoy a few birds or two. We found just the right place which, to some, reminded them of the Pennines – this was probably more to do with the dry stone walls, green fields and the bubbling stream than the birds we saw, birds such as Woodlark, Sardinian and Subalpine Warblers, and Short-toed and Booted Eagles! We arrived at our comfortable hotel set in a bird-rich environment in good time for a spot of relaxation after a day on the road in the company of a surprising variety of birds.

11 April

Today was going to be one of the most “birdy” days of the tour as we were planning to visit some of the most interesting parts of the Coto Doñana Natural and National Park. The weather was changeable, with the possibility of showers, and temperatures ranging from cool to warm.

The birding started in earnest once we reached the green corridor at the edge of the park. Here we saw the first of many Glossy Ibises and White Storks and then an elegant and slightly enigmatic-looking Black-winged Kite perched in a dead tree. Small waterlogged patches within the reeds held Purple Swamphens, Black-winged Stilts and the occasional Great Egret.

Then we reached a large, shallow lagoon bursting with birdlife. Ducks here included Common and Red-crested Pochards and a single male White-headed Duck. Black-necked, Little and Great Crested Grebes were all at various stages of mating or nesting. Close inspection of a line of tamarisk bushes showed them to be housing a number of roosting Black-crowned Night-Herons, and now and then a Squacco Heron would discreetly fly past, as if not really wanting to make a fuss. Everywhere we looked there'd be something to see: flocks of Greater Flamingos, a motionless Eurasian Spoonbill or two, Purple Herons breaking cover close by, Purple Swamphens grunting and honking, a small flock of Whiskered Terns flying overhead.

Then came a rather exotic period, in that first of all we observed an unusual songbird that would not be found anywhere in the Collins Bird Guide and which we later identified as a female Black-headed Weaver. That was followed shortly after by a fly past of a small flock of Common Waxbills!

There was still a rare bird that featured high on our wanted list, and which we hadn't yet seen: Red-knobbed Coot. Persistence and a bit of local knowledge paid off here and before we left the site we had found at least two of these birds, feeding at close range.

Then we headed towards the visitor centre located at the heart of the Doñana “marshes”. The winter rains had not come this year and that fact, on top of the drainage of surrounding areas and the overexploitation of the aquifers for intensive agriculture on the edges of the park spoke clearly of the dark (but rainless) clouds looming over the future of this area.

Nevertheless, there were still birds to see in the reed-fringed corridor, the drainage ditches and the patches of open water in the vicinity of the visitor centre itself. We saw Great Reed Warblers, a late male Hen Harrier, flocks of Pied Avocets and many other wader species including Little Ringed and Grey Plovers, Dunlin, Curlew and Green Sandpipers, Spotted Redshank, Black-tailed Godwit and Ruff.

The last stretch of this visit to the natural park area was through a flat, open and quite featureless landscape which, in some years, is under a shallow but life-giving mantle of water. This year it was dry. Birds were not absent though, as the displaying Calandra Larks and Greater Short-toed Larks testified, along with an Iberian Grey Shrike, several Booted Eagles, a colony of Lesser Kestrels, Yellow Wagtails and six Collared Pratincoles. The latter stole the show for most of us, our only regret being that they did not stay around to be admired for longer.

We concluded a rich and bird-packed day by trying out the speed ramps on the way to el Rocío, where we had a quick look at the marshes and took a short but pleasant walk through a shady pinewood before returning to the hotel.

12 April

True to the form of past tours we had a day marked for a visit to the Bonanza salt pans, just the other side of the River Guadalquivir, but a drive of almost two hours. The fact that we do this every year is a good indication that we firmly believe that it is well worth the effort!

A rainstorm hit us on the way down, but by the time we reached our destination it had blown over and we could start birding unhindered. Excellent views of White-headed Duck were one of the main prizes of the day, so we took our time watching the males vying for the attention of any female in the neighbourhood, and we all wondered at this duck's ability to swim in reverse gear! This trait, together with the duck's low profile on the water at times reminded us of a submarine, and was fun to watch.

Visits to the pools with the ducks and the salt pans, with lunch in a nearby tapas bar made for a great day out. The salt pans were a little quieter than normal, but even so we enjoyed close-up views of waders and gulls and got one or two pleasant surprises. As usual Kentish Plover, Little Stint, Curlew Sandpiper and Dunlin delighted us because rarely can one get as close to these birds as at these salt pans. In this way we could admire the intricacies of their plumage, practice our identification skills and even hear their often muffled or contained calls.

Sandwich and Gull-billed Terns, and the handsome and numerous Slender-billed Gull were further additions to the tour list in very quick succession. Then came a welcome surprise as we noticed several Audouin's Gulls, which were probably taking shelter from the bad weather out at sea. An Osprey flew overhead, Common Shelduck and Greater Flamingo were spread over different salt pans and Greater Short-toed Larks and Sardinian Warblers appeared to add some songbird interest. As we were leaving the pans a last look at the waders delivered one of the birds of the day, a delicate Red-necked Phalarope spinning, pecking and delighting its human audience.

More White-headed Ducks at another lake left us with a daily total of more than 25 of this rare species. A drive along the solitary river banks and saltings, with the odd stop or incursion here and there gave us further views of similar birds, as well as Montagu's Harrier, Booted Eagle and Western Marsh Harrier, and a lively group of feeding European Bee-eaters. Then we departed for the return journey to the hotel to reminisce over the list and a drink or two.

13 April

In contrast to previous years the group's return flight from Seville airport would not be until late afternoon, which would leave us most of the day to engage in some more birding enterprises. This started with a short walk around the perimeter of the hotel, to get to grips with some of the birds we had on our doorstep but had not dedicated much time to see. In this way we enjoyed views of birds such as Eurasian Tree Sparrow, European Bee-eater, Red-rumped Swallow, Common Waxbill and a singing Western Bonelli's Warbler, obviously a migrant bird passing through and a very welcome addition to our list.

We had decided to cross the river at the Coria river ferry and then explore the other side, if I could remember how to get there! Of course we would be birding en-route, so started at the same lagoon we had visited two days earlier. Here we saw Black-headed Weaver again, as well as most of the species we had seen on our previous visit. A little further along the road we encountered a group of birders looking at birds on some flooded gravel pits and were stunned to see two Marbled Duck swimming gently by and entering a patch of emergent vegetation and concealment. And to our surprise the other birders had not noticed them! If there's a moral to this story then how about "Come with Ornitholidays just to make sure", or something like that.

We managed to locate the ferry and soon we were on the other side of the river watching a Black Stork in a field, seeing a good assortment of Mediterranean birds and many of the wetland birds we had been enjoying for the last couple of days. We narrowly avoided getting stuck in the mud, which would not have been a desirable experience just before planning to go to the airport, but everyone took the whole thing with great doses of humour and bonhomie. A quick van wash and a coffee break were the last noteworthy events before we drove the last kilometres together and finally said our farewells at Seville Airport.

Acknowledgements

A big thank you to all the tour participants, who with their good humour and enthusiasm for many of the birds and landscapes we encountered made this an enjoyable tour to be on and to lead.

Our gratitude also to all the hotel staff for their professional and friendly service.

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July 2016

Weather

We had a minimum of 3°C on one day, but these mostly fell within the range of 6-8°C, with maximums ranging from a cool 14°C to a pleasant 21°C. It was generally sunny and calm for our time in Extremadura, and became more changeable in Andalusia, with some showers, breezes and a short-lived thunder storm on one day while in transit.

Itinerary

06 April	Madrid-Monfragüe
07 April	Monfragüe National Park
08 April	Cáceres plains and Trujillo
09 April	Cáceres plains, Arrocampo
10 April	Via de la Plata, Mérida
11 April	Coto Doñana National Park
12 April	Bonanza saltpans
13 April	Coria del Rio, Seville

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

Greylag Goose	2	1	<i>Anser anser</i>
Common Shelduck	1	3	<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>
Mallard	5	3	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>
Gadwall	3	2	<i>Anas strepera</i>
Northern Pintail	1	1	<i>Anas acuta</i>
Marbled Duck	1	1	<i>Marmaronetta angustirostris</i>
Common Pochard	2	3	<i>Aythya ferina</i>
Red-crested Pochard	2	3	<i>Netta rufina</i>
White-headed Duck	2	3	<i>Oxyura leucocephala</i>
Red-legged Partridge	3	1	<i>Alectoris rufa</i>
Common Quail	-	1h	<i>Coturnix coturnix</i>
Black-necked Grebe	1	2	<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>
Little Grebe	3	1h	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>
Great Crested Grebe	3	3	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>
Great Cormorant	5	2	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>
Black-crowned Night Heron	2	3	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>
Cattle Egret	5	4	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>
Squacco Heron	3	2	<i>Ardeola ralloides</i>
Little Egret	3	3	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>
Great Egret	3	2	<i>Ardea alba</i>
Grey Heron	5	3	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>
Purple Heron	4	3	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>
White Stork	6	3	<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>
Black Stork	2	1	<i>Ciconia nigra</i>
Glossy Ibis	3	4	<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>
Eurasian Spoonbill	3	2	<i>Platalea leucorodia</i>
Greater Flamingo	2	4	<i>Phoenicopterus roseus</i>
Eurasian Griffon Vulture	5	4	<i>Gyps fulvus</i>
Eurasian Black Vulture	4	3	<i>Aegypius monachus</i>
Egyptian Vulture	2	2	<i>Neophron percnopterus</i>
Osprey	1	1	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>
Spanish Imperial Eagle	1	1	<i>Aquila adalberti</i>
Short-toed Eagle	2	1	<i>Circaetus gallicus</i>
Booted Eagle	5	2	<i>Hieraaetus pennatus</i>
Bonelli's Eagle	2	1	<i>Hieraaetus fasciatus</i>
Red Kite	3	1	<i>Milvus milvus</i>
Black Kite	6	3	<i>Milvus migrans</i>
Western Marsh Harrier	3	2	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>
Hen Harrier	1	1	<i>Circus cyaneus</i>
Montagu's Harrier	3	3	<i>Circus pygargus</i>
Common Buzzard	6	2	<i>Buteo buteo</i>
Black-winged Kite	2	1	<i>Elanus caeruleus</i>
Common Kestrel	3	2	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>

Lesser Kestrel	3		3	<i>Falco naumanni</i>
Water Rail	-	1h	1	<i>Rallus aquaticus</i>
Common Moorhen	4		2	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>
Eurasian Coot	4		3	<i>Fulica atra</i>
Red-knobbed Coot	1		1	<i>Fulica cristata</i>
Purple Swamphen	4		3	<i>Porphyrio porphyrio</i>
Great Bustard	2		3	<i>Otis tarda</i>
Little Bustard	1		2	<i>Tetrax tetrax</i>
Pied Avocet	2		3	<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>
Black-winged Stilt	4		4	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>
Collared Pratincole	1		2	<i>Glareola pratincola</i>
Little Ringed Plover	1		1	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>
Kentish Plover	1		2	<i>Charadrius alexandrinus</i>
Northern Lapwing	2		2	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>
Dunlin	2		3	<i>Calidris alpina</i>
Curlew Sandpiper	2		3	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>
Little Stint	1		2	<i>Calidris minuta</i>
Green Sandpiper	2		1	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>
Common Sandpiper	2		1	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>
Common Redshank	2		3	<i>Tringa totanus</i>
Spotted Redshank	1		2	<i>Tringa erythropus</i>
Common Greenshank	2	1h	2	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>
Black-tailed Godwit	1		2	<i>Limosa limosa</i>
Whimbrel	1		1	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>
Red-necked Phalarope	1		1	<i>Phalaropus lobatus</i>
Ruff	2		2	<i>Philomachus pugnax</i>
Black-headed Gull	3		2	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>
Slender-billed Gull	1		4	<i>Chroicocephalus genei</i>
Yellow-legged Gull	3		3	<i>Larus michahellis</i>
Audouin's Gull	1		1	<i>Larus audouinii</i>
Lesser Black-backed Gull	2		1	<i>Larus fuscus</i>
Sandwich Tern	1		2	<i>Sterna sandvicensis</i>
Gull-billed Tern	3		3	<i>Gelochelidon nilotica</i>
Whiskered Tern	2		2	<i>Chlidonias hybridus</i>
Feral Pigeon (Rock Dove)	7		3	<i>Columba livia</i>
Common Wood Pigeon	6		2	<i>Columba palumbus</i>
Eurasian Collared Dove	6		3	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>
Common Cuckoo	4	2h	1	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>
Common Swift	6		4	<i>Apus apus</i>
Pallid Swift	1		2	<i>Apus pallidus</i>
Alpine Swift	2		2	<i>Apus melba</i>
Eurasian Hoopoe	5	1h	3	<i>Upupa epops</i>
Common Kingfisher	2		1	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>
European Bee-eater	6		3	<i>Merops apiaster</i>
European Roller	1		1	<i>Coracias garrulus</i>
Great Spotted Woodpecker	-	1h	1	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>
Crested Lark	6		3	<i>Galerida cristata</i>
Thekla Lark	3		2	<i>Galerida theklae</i>
Woodlark	1		1	<i>Lullula arborea</i>
Greater Short-toed Lark	2		2	<i>Calandrella brachydactyla</i>
Calandra Lark	4		3	<i>Melanocorypha calandra</i>
Common Sand Martin	2		2	<i>Riparia riparia</i>
Eurasian Crag Martin	4		3	<i>Ptyonoprogne rupestris</i>
Barn Swallow	6		3	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>
Red-rumped Swallow	6		3	<i>Cecropis daurica</i>
Common House Martin	6		4	<i>Delichon urbica</i>
Meadow Pipit	1		1	<i>Anthus pratensis</i>

Yellow Wagtail	2	2	<i>Motacilla flava</i>	
Grey Wagtail	1	1	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>	
White Wagtail	5	2	<i>Motacilla alba</i>	
Common Nightingale	1	5h	2	<i>Luscinia megarhynchos</i>
Black Redstart	1	1	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>	
Northern Wheatear	2	2	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>	
Black-eared Wheatear	1	1	<i>Oenanthe hispanica</i>	
Black Wheatear	1	1	<i>Oenanthe leucura</i>	
Common Stonechat	4	2	<i>Saxicola rubicola</i>	
Blue Rock Thrush	2	1	<i>Monticola solitarius</i>	
Mistle Thrush	2	2	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>	
Common Blackbird	4	2	<i>Turdus merula</i>	
Blackcap	5	2	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>	
Common Whitethroat	1	1	<i>Sylvia communis</i>	
Western Orphean Warbler	2	1	<i>Sylvia hortensis</i>	
Sardinian Warbler	3	2h	2	<i>Sylvia melanocephala</i>
Subalpine Warbler	5	2	<i>Sylvia cantillans</i>	
Dartford Warbler	1	1	<i>Sylvia undata</i>	
Zitting Cisticola	3	1h	2	<i>Cisticola juncidis</i>
Savi's Warbler	1	1h	1	<i>Locustella luscinioides</i>
Cetti's Warbler	4	2h	2	<i>Cettia cetti</i>
European Reed Warbler	-	2h	2	<i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>
Great Reed Warbler	1	1h	1	<i>Acrocephalus arundinaceus</i>
Western Bonelli's Warbler	1	1	<i>Phylloscopus bonelli</i>	
Willow Warbler	1	1	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>	
Eurasian Wren	1	2h	1	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>
Great Tit	6	2	<i>Parus major</i>	
European Blue Tit	5	2	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>	
Long-tailed Tit	2	2	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>	
Bearded Reedling	-	1h	1	<i>Panurus biarmicus</i>
Eurasian Penduline Tit	1	1	<i>Remiz pendulinus</i>	
Eurasian Nuthatch	1	1h	1	<i>Sitta europaea</i>
Short-toed Treecreeper	-	2h	1	<i>Certhia brachydactyla</i>
Iberian Grey Shrike	2	1	<i>Lanius meridionalis</i>	
Woodchat Shrike	6	2	<i>Lanius senator</i>	
Azure-winged Magpie	6	3	<i>Cyanopica cyanus</i>	
Common Magpie	5	3	<i>Pica pica</i>	
Eurasian Jay	1	1	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>	
Western Jackdaw	2	2	<i>Corvus monedula</i>	
Carrion Crow	2	2	<i>Corvus corone</i>	
Common Raven	4	2	<i>Corvus corax</i>	
Spotless Starling	7	3	<i>Sturnus unicolor</i>	
House Sparrow	6	3	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	
Spanish Sparrow	3	4	<i>Passer hispaniolensis</i>	
Eurasian Tree Sparrow	1	1	<i>Passer montanus</i>	
Common Rock Sparrow	-	1h	1	<i>Petronia petronia</i>
Common Chaffinch	3	2	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	
Common Linnet	6	3	<i>Carduelis cannabina</i>	
European Goldfinch	6	3	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	
European Greenfinch	1	2	<i>Carduelis chloris</i>	
European Serin	5	2	<i>Serinus serinus</i>	
Cirl Bunting	-	1h	1	<i>Emberiza cirlus</i>
Corn Bunting	7	3	<i>Miliaria calandra</i>	
Rock Bunting	1	1	<i>Emberiza cia</i>	
Common Waxbill	2	2	<i>Estrilda astrild</i>	
Black-headed Weaver	2	1	<i>Ploceus melanocephalus</i>	

MAMMALS

Red Fox	3	1	<i>Vulpes vulpes</i>
Iberian Hare	1	1	<i>Lepus granatensis</i>
Rabbit	2	2	<i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i>
Red Deer	2	2	<i>Cervus elaphus</i>
Wild Boar	1	1	<i>Sus scrofa</i>

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