

**ORNITHOLIDAYS TOUR TO SPAIN – COTO DOÑANA & EXTREMADURA**  
*Spring Tour*

**04 – 11 APRIL 2013**



**Leader: Steve West**

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A Personal Diary

### Thursday, 4<sup>th</sup> April

The group met at Madrid airport right on schedule, and shortly we were on the fast road to Extremadura. After a tasty lunch of *tapas* we wasted no time in getting to the first birding site, the Arrocampo reservoir, which we reached just as the rain did. Nevertheless, the rain wasn't all that persistent, and in all we did some very interesting initial birding. Our first wetland birds came in the form of Purple Swamphen, plenty of Purple Herons, a single Squacco Heron, Great, Cattle and Little Egrets, White Storks and Great Crested Grebes. In the reeds we could hear and glimpse, or vainly attempt to, Eurasian Reed Warbler and Cetti's Warbler, although the star of the moment must have been the Savi's Warbler, reeling somewhere out there. Here patience and application were the bywords, and our dividends were acceptable views of a Savi's Warbler perched on a bulrush in full singing mode.

A tiny Zitting Cisticola took us some effort to locate, and a Common Kingfisher gave us brief whizz-by views, unlike those of the Iberian Grey Shrike and several Lesser Kestrels, which appeared to be much more birder-friendly. We also tracked down our first Subalpine Warbler of the trip, but for many one of the moments of the day was watching two Black-winged Kites at close range, flying and perched.

Opting for the scenic route to our hotel in Torrejón we trundled along an almost forgotten road, making brief stops whenever encountering an interesting bird. In this way we saw a male Blue Rock Thrush, a flock of Spanish Sparrows, Booted Eagles, Iberian (Azure-winged) Magpies, Woodchat Shrike, some Eurasian Siskins, a male Hen Harrier (a wintering bird in these parts), and a Short-toed Eagle among others. Now wasn't that a good start to the trip, rain or no rain?

### Friday, 5<sup>th</sup> April

Our first stop just before reaching the confines of the Monfragüe National Park was for a female Pied Flycatcher and a Golden Eagle. The latter was a bit of a challenge for some of the party to spot, and then to identify, or to believe that their guide had indeed identified it correctly! As the eagle gradually flew away into a patch of bright sky I stated the possibility of our group seeing five species of eagle that day. It could be done, but would we? The Golden Eagle was a good start, although Chris wanted something better – he wanted all five eagle species perched on a rock together to compare identification features and to make life a bit easier!

Winding our way into the park our first stop was at Salto del Gitano. A rather chill wind that was blowing between the crags but this did give us all a chance to see everyone's warm headgear, and to decide who was most *a la mode*. And who didn't mind wearing a tea cosy as long as their ears were kept warm. This group was enthusiastic, and we birded on and enjoyed it. And it was well worth it: the endemic Spanish Imperial Eagle, the retiring Black Stork, huge Eurasian Black Vultures, Eurasian Griffon Vultures galore, Egyptian Vulture, an insistent Short-toed Treecreeper, and a sleek Blue Rock Thrush were seen by all.

Our next stop was just beyond the bridge adorned with scores of House Martin nests. We got out to watch the comings and goings of the Common House Martins and smaller numbers of Alpine Swifts among them when we saw a couple of raptors flying in our general direction. They were flying in unison, just as Bonelli's Eagles often do: yes, we had just seen eagle number three, the handsome Bonelli's Eagle. We watched these special raptors at leisure, as well as a couple of Eurasian Black Vultures in close company with Eurasian Griffon Vultures, an ideal opportunity for identification practice.

Villarreal de San Carlos was well-placed for a comfort stop and then nearby we had a pleasant walk out of the chill wind, which had not yet abated. Here we obtained excellent views of a Rock Bunting, and somewhat briefer and more intermittent ones of Dartford and Sardinian Warblers, Red-rumped Swallows, Grey Wagtail and European Serin.

The next stop was to produce one of the most popular sightings of the day. While looking around for our first European Bee-eaters we initially had brief views of a Black-eared Wheatear, and while we were waiting for that to reappear a Western Orphean Warbler broke into song. That was a signal for us to focus our gazes in its direction and to try and entice it closer, which we did. We all got great views of this handsome bird, right down to its pale iris.

Then it was time for lunch. We stopped at a roadside picnic site and had sandwiches and fruit for lunch with views of Red-rumped Swallows, Iberian Magpies and Hawfinches. There were at least a dozen of the latter calling and dashing from Hornbeam to Hornbeam without much consideration for any birders who might be interested in watching them. One such birder was Mary, who eventually got reasonable views of this often elusive bird, even though they were very reluctant to sit still and be view for more than a second or two.

From here it was a short drive to our next destination at la Portilla, and luckily the resident Eurasian Eagle Owl was already under scrutiny. It was much easier to ask birders there when one arrived than to have to scan and scan and spot it ourselves! The adult Eurasian Eagle Owl moved its head now and then, to show that it wasn't stuffed, but this wasn't the only thing going on. We had already had quite stunning views of two Spanish Imperial Eagles, one passing entrails or something similar to its mate, who duly landed to consume the meaty offering. Then the fourth eagle of the day appeared – a Short-toed Eagle – shortly followed by the fifth, a Booted Eagle. Now all we had to do was to get them to sit on the same crag at the same time.

Peter came up with an identification query, which we managed to decipher as Black Redstart and European Serin, and a brief incursion into the *dehesa* beyond the park's limits provided us with views of Red Kite and Common Buzzard, along with White Storks in fields full of little yellow flowers.

Then we retraced our steps, encountering further groups of Hawfinches before having a coffee at Villarreal, and a quick look at the park exhibits. Those of us who dared the dark labyrinth were visibly quite relieved to come out the other side!

Climbing the 151 steps up to the castle of Monfragüe (yes, I counted them, although memory could fail me) to admire the view seemed to be a good idea, and from here we saw Eurasian Griffon Vultures with the odd Eurasian Black and Egyptian Vultures sailing by, some at little more than arm's reach. Here we also spotted a distant Golden Eagle – could it be the same bird as the one we saw in the morning?

### **Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> April**

Apart from the birding, which was excellent, another good thing that happened today was that at some time we all changed our woolly hats for caps or bare heads, a sign that the sun was really winning through.

The birding started on the plains between Trujillo and Cáceres, and what a start it was! Almost immediately we spotted some distant Great Bustards and a small flock of male and female Little Bustards, totalling about 12. We tried to ignore the larks that were singing at the top of their voices for the time being, and when this became impossible we watched Calandra, Crested and Thekla Larks.

We watched Iberian Grey Shrikes, Common Whitethroat and Northern Wheatears, and then spotted at least 60 Pin-tailed Sandgrouse in flight. We tried to spot them on the ground, but whenever they landed it always seemed to be “just over the ridge”. While we were attempting this around 20 Great Bustards flew lumbering past us, over our heads and down into a field where we could not follow, but it was still exciting stuff!

Then we followed a track for further views of Great Bustard, four Little Bustards in flight, and three Black-bellied Sandgrouse, also in flight but in the best of lights. Then Dennis in particular enjoyed the Tawny Pipit that showed well on the side of the track, and before we arrived at Santa Marta we had also come across Woodchat Shrike, Common Cuckoo, and at least three Eurasian Hoopoes.

Here coffee and comfort preceded a lunch stop by a quaint little river with the sun on our faces and very effectively warming the collective cockles. A Bonelli's Eagle sailed towards us and over our heads, and at such a close range that we could savour its presence through our bins while our taste buds savoured the ham

and cheese sandwiches from our picnic bags. Several butterflies were determined to hail the good weather too, and in between munches we managed to identify Small Heath, Clouded Yellow and Painted Lady.

After lunch a cheery party of European Bee-eaters, with Eurasian Hoopoe, Common Cuckoo and Corn Bunting all singing, and Spanish Sparrows hopping about, really made us feel like we were in the Mediterranean now. Back on another stretch of the plains we discovered a Little Owl occupying a nest box, Lesser Kestrels, Booted Eagle and Eurasian Black Vultures. Lastly, and what was probably the spectacle of the day, we saw more than 100 Great Bustards on the ground and in flight, several of which were males locked in combat and mutual intimidation.

It was nice to find a handy parking space in Trujillo and to go for a little stroll around the town. Swifts were notable by their absence so there was no sorting through noisy flocks of flying birds to try and separate out the Pallid Swifts. Nevertheless, the Lesser Kestrels gave us good views, the White Storks perched on historical buildings looked just the part, and Red-rumped Swallows, European Serins, Spotless Starlings and Booted Eagles were all welcome as the supporting cast.

After ice-creams and a quick look at the bull ring, which Dennis had never seen before, we headed for our next adventure. We made an afternoon visit to the plains near Belén where in terms of birds we had a brief encounter with a juvenile Golden Eagle, but little else worthy of mention, and no sign of either Great Spotted Cuckoo or Stone Curlew, which by now were becoming coveted target birds. However, nothing could take away the birding experiences we had already had earlier that day!

### **Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> April**

This day had been set aside at the planning stage to allow us freedom to stray off the beaten birding tracks of Extremadura and to look for something different if we felt the desire. We did. We headed northwards to the western foothills of the Sierra de Gredos and before we got very far we encountered one of our target birds, the Great Spotted Cuckoo. Not one in fact, but rather two; for many the bird of the day, and for Alan possibly the bird of the trip. We watched them from the roadside for a while, tried to get a bit too close for their liking and watched them fly away, but not until everyone had had good views of this striking bird.

Not long after that we made another stop to look for Rock Sparrows where we had encountered them on Ornitholidays' 2012 tour, but we were unfortunate enough to coincide in time and place with a noisy tractor being put to work just where we were hoping to see the birds. So we moved on.

Thekla Lark, Black-eared Wheatear, Woodlark, Blue Rock Thrush, Sardinian Warbler and Subalpine Warbler were the most notable birds we found in one of the more open rocky areas on the hillside we were ascending, but there was no sign of any Black Wheatear, which is one of the birds we were hoping to find. A little further on a stop at a narrow but rushing river revealed a pair of Grey Wagtails and a glimpse of a White-throated Dipper as it darted past.

Winding our way up a narrow road, we had lunch in the woodland, although there were few if any leaves on the trees and little in the way of birds just Long-tailed Tit and Short-toed Treecreeper. Up at the pass a Short-toed Eagle was hovering in front of some dark clouds, and then we decided to check out a small pine wood. Siskins seemed to be quite abundant, but we also heard a Citril Finch somewhere among them. Much patience and screening of Eurasian Siskins was needed before we spotted two Citril Finches, a pleasant surprise and addition to the list! In addition to this surprise we also saw Coal Tit and we eventually outwitted a Crested Tit, which played hide and seek with us for a while.

The skies had brightened up again before we arrived at our next site, near a river, and en-route to the National Park of Monfragüe. The river course was rather too swollen by recent rains though, and the banks were flooded, so we had to change the original plan. The plan B walk was in fact quite interesting, and enabled us to see a pair of Penduline Tits, several Chiffchaffs and Blackcaps, a couple of Nightingales, Cetti's Warbler, an Osprey and a Little Ringed Plover. Nearby there was also another large flock of Hawfinches.

From here we weaved our way back to the hotel via the National Park to re-encounter some of the birds and sights we had seen just two days before, including the normally scarce and often difficult to observe Bonelli's Eagle.

### **Monday 8<sup>th</sup> April**

We were leaving lovely Extremadura today and heading south to Andalusia and the famed Coto Doñana. But we did not intend to drive all the way there without some entertainment en-route! Sure enough, the birds started showing, and even before we got to our first designated stop on the edge of a large reservoir we had had good views of a Male Montagu's Harrier and several European Bee-eaters. At the first real stop we hardly moved far from the car park while watching Alpine Swift, Thekla Lark, Rock Bunting, warblers including a Western Bonelli's Warbler and yet another Bonelli's Eagle flying over our heads. The most sought after bird though, and a species we missed the previous year, was the Black Wheatear. This time we were in luck, as before too long we spotted it perching on rocks, flying in and out of view, and delivering short bursts of display flight.

Back in the van we skirted the reservoir and then rejoined the main road before making a detour to a lunch spot. The nice little spot we found for a picnic the previous year was still there. A Cirl Bunting was only heard. Further along the road we ascended and gained great views over the surrounding countryside of pines, farmsteads and mountains, and all agreed that it was a beautiful spot indeed.

Several more male Montagu's Harriers en-route were noteworthy, and before too long we were at our hotel in Villamanrique on the edge of the National Park of Doñana. There was still some time for birding, so after a short break and a bit of freshening up we made a sortie to get to grips with some local wetlands and their birds. After negotiating a few lurking potholes we drew up alongside a heronry, or perhaps it was an egretty? There were Cattle Egrets, Little Egrets, Night Herons, Glossy Ibises and Eurasian Spoonbills all clinging onto tree branches in a large social and mixed gathering. We enjoyed this sight for a while before moving on to the next attraction. We didn't have to wait long: a little group of waders contained a winter plumage Spotted Redshank, several Black-winged Stilts and a Common Greenshank, and on the open water of the Dehesa de Abajo there were large numbers of Greater Flamingos, small groups of Red-crested Pochard, and a couple of Red-knobbed Coots.

Two Collared Pratincoles flew by, prompting an enthusiastic "What's next Steve" by Dennis. Well, is a Long-tailed Duck good enough? A female Long-tailed Duck was in among the Common Pochard and is a rarity in this area.

### **Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> April**

Hooray! We're off to the seaside today! Well, down to Matalascañas resort for a spot of sea-watching to see if we could pick up any marine species. There were enough telescopes in the group for most of us to get reasonable views of Northern Gannet, Great Skua, Sandwich Tern, and Lesser Black-backed Gull, although no sign of any shearwaters.

Nearby, the Acebuche reserve was pleasant and inviting. We had a brief sojourn in one of the hides overlooking an area of open water, reeds and bulrush and heard at least three Savi's Warblers, and saw at least two. Red-crested Pochard, Purple Gallinule with chick, Yellow Wagtail, Crested Tit, Eurasian Hoopoe, Iberian Magpie, Little Grebe and Red-rumped Swallow were all noted and enjoyed.

El Rocío was our next port of call, with the marsh promenade with the marshes on one side and the Wild West sandy streets of El Rocío on the other. Here we saw a single Greylag Goose, Black-winged Stilt, Glossy Ibis, Greater Flamingo, Eurasian Spoonbill, Gull-billed and Whiskered Terns.

It was close to lunch time by the time we were on the road again so we stopped at a recreation area in the National Park, in the shade of pine trees and surrounded by lush vegetation. Here we could hear a Great Reed Warbler, but it was obviously determined not to come into the open for us to see it. Instead we saw Penduline Tits, European Reed Warbler, Cetti's Warbler, Little Egret and in the sky Booted Eagles and Red Kite.

Next we drove to the Valverde visitor centre and the marshes proper. We saw beautiful summer-plumaged Black-necked Grebes and there were also Red-crested Pochard, Purple Heron, Eurasian Spoonbill, Greater Flamingo and Glossy Ibis. At the welcoming visitor's centre the comings and goings and general bustle of the heronry was an avian spectacle in itself. Then there were also some other, new birds for the trip, such as Pied Avocet and a lovely male Garganey beside his female companion.

Refreshed, we followed the tracks between the marshes stopping here and there whenever encountering something of interest; in other words we stopped quite a lot! Several Collared Pratincoles flew over the track in front of us, and Black-necked Grebes toyed around the water's edge. Dark clouds threatened rain, but except for a few drops they kindly refrained from spoiling the party. Along this stretch we saw Northern Lapwings and Whimbrels, Black-winged Stilts and both Greater Short-toed and Lesser Short-toed Larks on the path in front of the vehicle, with trilling Calandra Larks dotted here and there.

We turned back to head to the hotel in a different direction and drove through lots of interesting marsh and grassland habitat, and where with hardly any stops we saw Great Spotted Cuckoo and Northern Pintail, in addition to many of the species we had already seen. We even spotted several Stone Curlews, which at last seemed to have found a relatively dry patch of field somewhere in southern Spain!

### **Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> April**

Following the previous year's successful experience we made the drive to the Bonanza salt pans in search of some of the waders, terns and gulls that we hadn't yet seen. On arrival our very first stop was a pretty one indeed, with a largish group of elegant Slender-billed Gulls placidly swimming and preening, all dressed in their smart breeding plumage and displaying different shades of subtle pink. Lovely!

We spent the next couple of hours walking and birding the salt pans and enjoying close views of a large number of waders, including Curlew Sandpiper, Little Stint, Kentish and Ringed Plovers, Dunlin, Whimbrel, Ruddy Turnstone, as well as Little Terns, a single Mediterranean Gull, and unbeatable views of Sardinian Warbler, a thing that Chris had specially requested. We also encountered Red Kite and Booted Eagle, had excellent views of Lesser Short-toed Larks, and before leaving we had also seen a Caspian Tern, keeping company with the Slender-billed Gulls we had seen earlier.

The next part of the itinerary was a visit to a nearby lagoon on the edge of the pinewoods. We set up scopes and peered out from behind the viewing screen and before long Chris A announced in a happy tone, "Oh, I've got a White-headed Duck". And she had indeed! A lovely male, relaxed and at a good distance for us all to see well. A coordinated count ensued and between us we counted a total of 11 White-headed Ducks on the lagoon, along with the usual Common and Red-crested Pochard. Glynn then spotted a Squacco Heron along the water's edge, which generated some interest as it was only our second of the trip.

After ice-creams and refreshments we made our way back to our hotel for an earlier afternoon for those who wanted to rest. But this group was insatiable, so while I got round to making final preparations and doing a bit of unwinding, all the others went off together for a walk along the sandy tracks under the pine woods near the hotel. After FC Barcelona's victory over Paris Saint Germain and Chris's birthday celebrations that evening things did seem to have come to a sweet conclusion.

### **Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> April**

The morning trip to Seville airport took us about an hour. Mary and I sitting in the front of the van saw some little birds on the roadside, probably Common Waxbills, although there is no way of knowing for sure. Then the guide and the group, except Glynn who was travelling by train, said their farewells outside the terminal, and that was the end of another successful Ornitholidays Extremadura and Doñana tour. Will we see you here next year?

### **Acknowledgements**

Many thanks to the staff at both hotels, both in the restaurants and behind reception, for being so helpful, attentive and for adjusting to our needs when requested. This was a very pleasant and enthusiastic group, so I would like to thank all the participants for helping things go so well. Thanks also to the intangible forces that held off the rain and provided us with almost ideal conditions for being out in the lush, green countryside. Many thanks to Derek Allnutt for the photographs used in this report.

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### **Itinerary**

04 April Madrid > Arrocampo reservoir > Torrejón el Rubio  
05 April Monfragüe National Park  
06 April Cáceres plains > Trujillo > Belén plains  
07 April Sierra de Gredos > Monfragüe National Park  
08 April Alange > Sierra Morena > Villamanrique de la Condesa  
09 April Matalascañas > El Rocío > Valverde Centre  
10 April Bonanza saltpans > Tarelo Lake  
11 May Seville Airport

### **Weather**

We arrived after the wettest March in recent history in southern Spain and were very lucky to get just the extreme tail tip of the rain on our first day in Extremadura. Although it was quite overcast to start with, and the first couple of days were woolly hat days, with temperatures ranging from 7°C to 14°C, warm sunny periods became more prevalent after day two. Later on in the week we experienced warm temperatures reaching up to 23°C. On balance, in the course of the week we had mostly sun and cloud, with comfortable to quite warm temperatures, which were ideal for being out and birding in.

## 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
Greylag Goose	1	1	<i>Anser anser</i>
Common Shelduck	1	1	<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>
Mallard	5	4	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>
Gadwall	2	3	<i>Anas strepera</i>
Northern Pintail	1	1	<i>Anas acuta</i>
Northern Shoveler	3	3	<i>Anas clypeata</i>
Gargany	1	1	<i>Anas querquedula</i>
Red-crested Pochard	3	3	<i>Netta rufina</i>
Common Pochard	3	3	<i>Aythya ferina</i>
White-headed Duck	1	3	<i>Oxyura leucocephala</i>
Long-tailed Ducl	1	1	<i>Clangula hyemalis</i>
Red-legged Partridge	1	1h	<i>Alectoris rufa</i>
Little Grebe	1	2	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>
Great Crested Grebe	3	2	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>
Black-necked Grebe	1	2	<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>
Northern Gannet	1	1	<i>Morus bassanus</i>
Great Cormorant	5	2	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>
Black-crowned Night Heron	3	3	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>
Cattle Egret	4	3	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>
Little Egret	4	2	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>
Squacco Heron	2	1	<i>Ardeola ralloides</i>
Great Egret	3	2	<i>Ardea alba</i>
Grey Heron	6	3	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>
Purple Heron	2	2	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>
White Stork	7	3	<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>
Black Stork	1	1	<i>Ciconia nigra</i>
Glossy Ibis	3	3	<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>
Eurasian Spoonbill	3	3	<i>Platalea leucorodia</i>
Greater Flamingo	3	3	<i>Phoenicopterus roseus</i>
Eurasian Griffon Vulture	6	4	<i>Gyps fulvus</i>
Egyptian Vulture	3	2	<i>Neophron percnopterus</i>
Eurasian Black Vulture	2	2	<i>Aegypius monachus</i>
Osprey	1	1	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>
Golden Eagle	2	1	<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>
Spanish Imperial Eagle	1	1	<i>Aquila adalberti</i>
Short-toed Eagle	5	1	<i>Circaetus gallicus</i>
Booted Eagle	6	2	<i>Hieraaetus pennatus</i>
Bonelli's Eagle	4	1	<i>Hieraaetus fasciatus</i>
Red Kite	4	1	<i>Milvus milvus</i>
Black Kite	7	3	<i>Milvus migrans</i>
Western Marsh Harrier	3	1	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>
Hen Harrier	1	1	<i>Circus cyaneus</i>
Montagu's Harrier	2	2	<i>Circus pygargus</i>
Common Buzzard	6	2	<i>Buteo buteo</i>
Eurasian Sparrowhawk	1	1	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>
Black-winged Kite	1	1	<i>Elanus caeruleus</i>
Common Kestrel	6	2	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>
Lesser Kestrel	2	3	<i>Falco naumanni</i>
Peregrine Falcon	2	1	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>
Common Moorhen	4	2	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>
Eurasian Coot	3	3	<i>Fulica atra</i>

Red-knobbed Coot	1		1	<i>Fulica cristata</i>
Purple Swamphen	2		2	<i>Porphyrio porphyrio</i>
Great Bustard	1		4	<i>Otis tarda</i>
Little Bustard	1		3	<i>Tetrax tetrax</i>
Pied Avocet	2		3	<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>
Black-winged Stilt	3		3	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>
Stone Curlew	1		1	<i>Burhinus oediconemus</i>
Collared Pratincole	3		1	<i>Glareola pratincola</i>
Little Ringed Plover	1		1	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>
Common Ringed Plover	1		2	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>
Kentish Plover	1		2	<i>Charadrius alexandrinus</i>
Grey Plover	-	1h	1	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>
Northern Lapwing	1		2	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>
Ruddy Turnstone	1		2	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>
Sanderling	1		3	<i>Calidris alba</i>
Dunlin	1		3	<i>Calidris alpina</i>
Curlew Sandpiper	1		3	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>
Little Stint	1		2	<i>Calidris minuta</i>
Common Sandpiper	3		1	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>
Green Sandpiper	1		1	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>
Common Redshank	1		1	<i>Tringa totanus</i>
Spotted Redshank	1		1	<i>Tringa erythropus</i>
Common Greenshank	3		2	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>
Whimbrel	2		1	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>
Great Skua	1		1	<i>Stercorarius skua</i>
Black-headed Gull	2		3	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>
Slender-billed Gull	1		3	<i>Chroicocephalus genei</i>
Mediterranean Gull	1		1	<i>Ichthyophaga melanocephala</i>
Yellow-legged Gull	3		3	<i>Larus michahellis</i>
Lesser Black-backed Gull	1		1	<i>Larus fuscus</i>
Little Tern	1		2	<i>Sterna albifrons</i>
Sandwich Tern	1		1	<i>Sterna sandvicensis</i>
Gull-billed Tern	1		1	<i>Gelochelidon nilotica</i>
Caspian Tern	1		1	<i>Hydropogon caspia</i>
Whiskered Tern	1		2	<i>Chlidonias hybridus</i>
Black-bellied Sandgrouse	1		1	<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	6		2	<i>Columba palumbus</i>
Eurasian Collared Dove	7		3	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>
Great Spotted Cuckoo	2		1	<i>Clamator glandarius</i>
Common Cuckoo	5	1h	2	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>
Eurasian Eagle Owl	1		1	<i>Bubo bubo</i>
Little Owl	1		1	<i>Athene noctua</i>
Common Swift	6		3	<i>Apus apus</i>
Alpine Swift	2		2	<i>Apus melba</i>
Eurasian Hoopoe	6		2	<i>Upupa epops</i>
Common Kingfisher	1		1	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>
European Bee-eater	5	1h	3	<i>Merops apiaster</i>
European Green Woodpecker	-	1h	1	<i>Picus viridis</i>
Great Spotted Woodpecker	1	1h	1	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>
Crested Lark	7		3	<i>Galerida cristata</i>
Thekla Lark	4		2	<i>Galerida theklae</i>
Woodlark	1		1	<i>Lullula arborea</i>
Greater Short-toed Lark	1		2	<i>Calandrella brachydactyla</i>
Lesser Short-toed Lark	2		2	<i>Calandrella rufescens</i>
Calandra Lark	2		3	<i>Melanocorypha calandra</i>
Common Sand Martin	3		3	<i>Riparia riparia</i>
Eurasian Crag Martin	3		2	<i>Ptyonoprogne rupestris</i>
Barn Swallow	7		3	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>
Red-rumped Swallow	5		2	<i>Cecropis daurica</i>
Common House Martin	7		3	<i>Delichon urbica</i>
Tawny Pipit	1		1	<i>Anthus campestris</i>

Yellow Wagtail	3		2	<i>Motacilla flava</i>
Grey Wagtail	3		1	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>
White Wagtail	6		2	<i>Motacilla alba</i>
White-throated Dipper	1		1	<i>Cinclus cinclus</i>
European Robin	1	1h	1	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>
Common Nightingale	2	1h	1	<i>Luscinia megarhynchos</i>
Black Redstart	4	1h	2	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>
Northern Wheatear	2		2	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>
Black-eared Wheatear	2		1	<i>Oenanthe hispanica</i>
Black Wheatear	1		1	<i>Oenanthe leucura</i>
Common Stonechat	5		2	<i>Saxicola rubicola</i>
Blue Rock Thrush	4		1	<i>Monticola solitarius</i>
Mistle Thrush	5		2	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>
Common Blackbird	7		2	<i>Turdus merula</i>
Blackcap	5		2	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>
Common Whitethroat	2		1	<i>Sylvia communis</i>
Western Orphean Warbler	1		1	<i>Sylvia hortensis</i>
Sardinian Warbler	6	1h	2	<i>Sylvia melanocephala</i>
Subalpine Warbler	4		2	<i>Sylvia cantillans</i>
Dartford Warbler	1		1	<i>Sylvia undata</i>
Cetti's Warbler	1	4h	2	<i>Cettia cetti</i>
Savi's Warbler	2		1	<i>Locustella luscinioides</i>
European Reed Warbler	1	1h	1	<i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>
Great Reed Warbler	-	1h	1	<i>Acrocephalus arundinaceus</i>
Zitting Cisticola	4		2	<i>Cisticola juncidis</i>
Western Bonelli's Warbler	1		1	<i>Phylloscopus bonelli</i>
Common Chiffchaff	2		2	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>
Winter Wren	-	3h	1	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>
Pied Flycatcher	1		1	<i>Ficedula hypoleuca</i>
Great Tit	6	1h	2	<i>Parus major</i>
Coal Tit	1		2	<i>Periparus ater</i>
European Blue Tit	7		2	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>
Crested Tit	1	1h	1	<i>Lophophanes cristatus</i>
Long-tailed Tit	3	1h	2	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>
Eurasian Penduline Tit	2		1	<i>Remiz pendulinus</i>
Eurasian Nuthatch	2		1	<i>Sitta europaea</i>
Short-toed Treecreeper	3	1h	1	<i>Certhia brachydactyla</i>
Iberian Grey Shrike	4		1	<i>Lanius meridionalis</i>
Woodchat Shrike	7		2	<i>Lanius senator</i>
Iberian Magpie	7		3	<i>Cyanopica cooki</i>
Common Magpie	6		2	<i>Pica pica</i>
Eurasian Jay	2		1	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>
Western Jackdaw	2		3	<i>Corvus monedula</i>
Carrion Crow	4		1	<i>Corvus corone</i>
Common Raven	5		2	<i>Corvus corax</i>
Spotless Starling	7		3	<i>Sturnus unicolor</i>
House Sparrow	7		3	<i>Passer domesticus</i>
Spanish Sparrow	3		3	<i>Passer hispaniolensis</i>
Common Chaffinch	5		3	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>
Common Linnet	3		2	<i>Carduelis cannabina</i>
European Goldfinch	7		3	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>
European Greenfinch	5		2	<i>Carduelis chloris</i>
Eurasian Siakin	1		1	<i>Carduelis spinus</i>
Citril Finch	1		1	<i>Carduelis citrinella</i>
European Serin	6		2	<i>Serinus serinus</i>
Hawfinch	2		3	<i>Coccothraustes coccothraustes</i>
Rock Bunting	2		1	<i>Emberiza cia</i>
Corn Bunting	7		3	<i>Miliaria calandra</i>

**MAMMALS**

Iberian Hare	1	1	<i>Lepus granatensis granatensis</i>
Rabbit	1	1	<i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i>
Red Deer	1	1	<i>Cervus elaphus</i>

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



**Greater Flamingos**



**Eurasian Spoonbills**





**Iberian Grey Shrike**



**Penduline Tit**



**Eurasian Griffon Vultures**



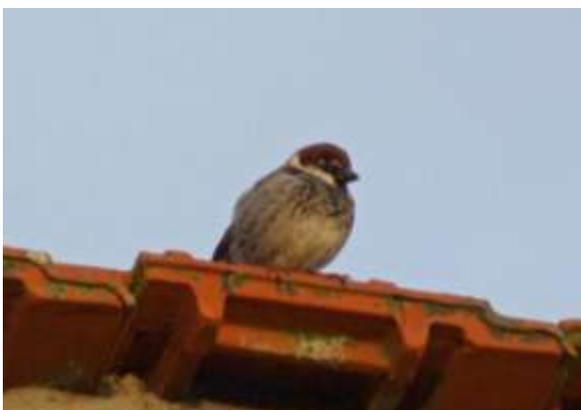
**Slender-billed Gull**



**Thekla Lark**



**White-headed Duck**



**Spanish Sparrow**



**Spotless Starling**

**Front cover: Great Bustards**

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