

ORNITHOLIDAYS TOUR TO SPAIN – SOUTHERN CATALONIA
Birds, Butterflies & Bouquets

16 – 23 May 2013



Leader: Steve West

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A Personal Diary

Thursday 16th May

The early afternoon arrival of the Ornitholidays tour participants at Barcelona airport was more than punctual and so within a very short time indeed it was time to change footwear and take binoculars out of suitcases to bird around the Llobregat Delta reserve, right on the doorstep of the airport.

Although the reserve wasn't at its best it was still worth a visit to see some ducks like Red-crested Pochard, herons like Little Bittern and Squacco Heron, and waders like Black-winged Stilt, Common Ringed Plover and Little Stint. In or near the marshy vegetation there was also Zitting Cisticola and Common Reed and Great Reed Warblers (the latter heard but not seen). A little patch of Woodcock Orchids near the visitor centre was also a pleasant and most welcome surprise.

The next idea was to walk down to the beach for a seawatch. In fact the only species we saw over the sea was a Sandwich Tern, although the walk was an interesting one for Mediterranean and migrant species such as European Bee-eater, Eurasian Hoopoe, (Iberian) Green Woodpecker, Tree Sparrow, Melodious and Willow Warblers, Whinchat, and Pied Flycatcher. Now that was certainly a good way to whet our appetites for the rest of the week!

From here we drove into the heart of the Montsant Natural Park, to end the day at our lovely secluded village of Morera de Montsant.

Friday 17th May

Our first target of the day was to get good views of the Western Orphean Warbler, which we could all hear singing from the terrace of our hotel, especially seeing that it would be a new species for almost everyone in the group. On our search we came across Cirl Bunting and Melodious Warbler, and eventually we got very acceptable views of the Western Orphean Warbler in full song.

Next on the agenda was a visit to the amazing cliff-top village of Siurana, with blue skies and not a cloud in sight. En-route a male Common Redstart singing from a tree top caught us off guard – it's not a species that's usually in the area in mid-May, but it was very welcome, especially when it let us have such wonderful views. In the same patch of woodland we also detected Short-toed Treecreeper and Firecrest, the former allowing us very good looks, unlike the latter.

We barely had time to exit the van at Siurana before one of our target species, the Red-rumped Swallow, flew overhead. There were two birds in fact, which we ascertained a little later when they flew back into view and spent some time wheeling around in front of the cliffs and the village. Then we came into very close contact with a couple of Firecrests, Eurasian Crag Martins and a Western Bonelli's Warbler, looking very clean and bright in the perfect sunlight.

A gentle walk around this tiny village to admire the scenery and to soak up the relaxing atmosphere ensued. Then there was even more relaxation with a drink on a terrace bar overlooking one of the most scintillating views to be found in this part of the world. The birds around at the time included a male Blue Rock Thrush, and a Common Raven and Peregrine swooping at each other.

We tore ourselves away from this delightful scene and drove to another small village nearby. The wind had picked up by now but nevertheless we enjoyed watching a couple of Rock Sparrows, a male Subalpine Warbler, and a Spotless Starling doing a wonderful imitation of a Eurasian Golden Oriole. A Scarce Swallowtail provided some insect interest.

Our picnic lunch was taken in the shelter of a local hermitage and then we headed off again in search of our afternoon's entertainment. A roadside Tawny Pipit followed by a Woodchat Shrike were the earliest birds to

show well, and a Short-toed Eagle made an appearance before we reached our main destination, within view of yet another tiny, secluded village. Here we saw Skylark, Woodlark and Crested Tit, although our main focus had changed from birds to butterflies, as we had chanced upon a sunny, flowery roadside verge with a number of species including Spotted and Knapweed Fritillaries, Western Marbled White, Black-eyed Blue and Black-veined White.

We retraced our steps back to our hotel at Morera de Montsant, and counted our luck that the passing storm hadn't cut short our afternoon's bird and butterfly watch.

Saturday 18th May

We started early this morning, to be out on the plains of Lleida when the birds were at their best. En-route we had brief fly-by views of a Black-eared Wheatear and a European Turtle Dove, but the thought of breakfast at our destination kept us going. The wait was worth it: we pulled up along a track lined on either side with cereal fields and small almond groves, took out the coffee, croissants and the rest, which we tucked into with zest while watching Little Bustards, Red-legged Partridges, European Rollers, European Bee-eaters and more.

Fulfilled, and filled full for the time being, we drove around the drylands looking for more encounters with the local birdlife. Stone Curlews were around in some number, and as usual Calandra Larks wanted to be noticed, singing their jangling, trilling song to make sure the silence was occupied with something. Other birds seen here included Stock Dove, Crested Lark, and of course Corn Bunting. And several more contacts with European Rollers and Little Bustards.

The weather wasn't as bright and warm as it could have been, but we were happy with the birds as we continued on to our next venue, which was going to be a raptor watch near Agramunt. Sure enough, we watched plenty of raptors, and many at close range, with scores of Eurasian Griffon Vultures, large numbers of Black Kites, a couple of Red Kites, several Short-toed Eagles, Booted Eagles and a single immature Golden Eagle, as well as Common Buzzard and Common Kestrel.

After lunch we paid a last visit to a different part of the Lleida plains. What a good move that was! Apart from encountering Eurasian Hobby, Montagu's Harrier, and Alpine Swift we also had really unbeatable and memorable views of a male Little Bustard. And not to mention more European Rollers and European Bee-eaters.

Satisfied with our day's birding we drove back to our hotel to rest up a little before meeting up again for the last of the day's treats: a guided visit and wine tasting at a local wine cellar, where they produce some excellent Priorat wines!

Sunday 19th May

This morning the sun was out, although the wind was also keeping it company. That, however, didn't deter us or dampen our resolve to find some more interesting birds in new and fascinating landscapes.

Our first stop was at the roadside, and after a little patience we had all obtained reasonable to good views of Rock Sparrow, Sardinian Warbler and European Bee-eater. Next came the turn of the Black-eared Wheatear, which was a handsome singing male on a hillside a little further down the road. A small reservoir nearby held a Little Grebe, and at least one Grey Wagtail.

Turning off the "main" road we drove up through forest and fields and kept a keen eye out for birds of prey, especially with the local breeding Bonelli's Eagles in mind. In this way we managed to spot five distant European Honey Buzzards spiralling over a hillside, and shortly after two Bonelli's Eagles, a little closer, but not really close enough for most people's liking. This was in contrast to an adult Egyptian Vulture, which started as a speck in the sky and flew straight towards us and over our heads.

After admiring the unrivalled views and a Short-toed Eagle from a hilltop hermitage we drove down the other side of the hill, stopping first of all to watch three dazzling Eurasian Golden Orioles and a male Blue Rock Thrush, and then a number of Spanish Gatekeepers in a sheltered patch of pinewood.

Our next birding destination was reached after lunch, and was a limestone sierra with views of the sea. And views of some interesting birds too, with Tawny Pipit, Black-eared Wheatear, Dartford Warbler, Rock Bunting, Red-billed Chough, Common Raven, Peregrine and last, but not least, a displaying male Rufous-tailed Rock Thrush.

A quick jaunt down to the nearest stretch of coastline and another go at sea watching revealed three Squacco Herons flying by, but before long the time had come to make our way back to our hotel in Montsant for the last night there.

Monday 20th May

We said our farewells to the staff at the hotel where we had been very well looked after and headed straight for the Ebro Delta. Binoculars were reached for in haste as soon as we got to the first ricefields of the delta, to get good views of the Audouin's Gull and Whiskered and Gull-billed Terns that could be seen from the roadside.

We made our way straight to the northern bay known as the Fangar, and enjoyed freshwater birds on one side, and the birds of the saline, muddy waters of the bay on the other. Among the former were such gems as Purple Heron, Red-crested Pochard, Purple Swamphen, Great Egret, Squacco Heron, Black-winged Stilt and a surprise Great Bittern. Then special mention should go to the little flock of Collared Pratincoles which we thoroughly enjoyed watching on the ground and in flight. On the bay side the main species were Greater Flamingo, Little Tern, Sanderling, Common Redshank and Kentish Plover.

Yellow Wagtails of the local Iberian race were easy to spot, and in the ricefields back along the tarmacked route there were little pockets of Glossy Ibis and Gull-billed Terns, not to mention the almost ubiquitous Whiskered Tern.

The observation tower at the Gola del Migjorn had a good number of the previously-mentioned species, and two new birds for the trip in the form of Pied Avocet and Common Shelduck. Then we entertained ourselves over a relaxed lunch watching a Spotted Flycatcher and trying to identify some of the exotic ducks in the collection of the local campsite.

We couldn't pass by the Riet Vell reserve and the Swarovski hide without at least having a look-in, and in this way we got reasonable views of Little Bittern and Black-crowned Night Heron, as well as the local Tree Sparrows.

For some reason Greater Short-toed Larks eluded us, but we were quite happy to watch the Lesser Short-toed Larks displaying along the beach and to see a number of Pied Flycatchers – very late migrants this year – in the bushes on the approach.

Then we came to the saltpans, and perhaps the single most memorable birding site of the day. There was obviously a lot going on in the tern colony with Common Terns and Little Terns continuously coming and going, and also a small number of distinctive Caspian Terns. There were Greater Flamingos at quite close range, and the selection of waders included Grey Plover, Common Greenshank, Eurasian Curlew and Eurasian Oystercatcher. However, for me, and I think for most of the participants, one of the most memorable images of the day was that of small parties of pink-hued Slender-billed Gulls, some in tight but well-spaced formations flying buoyantly and calling gently in a sky-blue sky. Wonderful!

We could have ended the day on such a high note, and almost did, although the observation towers of l'Encanyissada were on our route out of the delta. Here we made a brief stop and saw Great Reed and European Reed Warblers, Great Egret and Purple Heron, among others. Then it really was time to go to our next lovely rural hotel in els Ports massif.

Tuesday 21st May

After yesterday's excitement we were planning a peaceful day, with a bit of walking and focusing more on the landscape, plants and any butterflies we could find. First off was a pleasant walk through groves of ancient gnarled olive trees with a very Mediterranean feel and a beautiful backdrop of els Ports mountains. This was the place to enjoy flowers and birdsong, and for those who just had to see a bird or two then the

pair of Bonelli's Eagles flying in formation low over the rocky slopes wasn't bad, was it? In fact I would venture that we saw these impressive birds very well indeed, amply compensating for the rather distant views we had had until then.

Throughout the rest of the day we drove short distances through gorgeous mountain scenery, stopping here and there and walking along a river, or glancing at a gorge, or peering up at a mountain peak.

We weren't out to claim a great bird list, but even so on our walks we encountered European Crag Martin, Grey Wagtail, Sardinian Warbler, Firecrest, Spotted Flycatcher, Short-toed Treecreeper, Woodchat Shrike and Rock Sparrow. As it turned out the weather conditions were just a little too cold and windy for butterflies, but we didn't let that little thing detract too much from the enjoyment of our day.

Wednesday 22nd May

Today would be our last full day, and we had some very interesting steppe-land at only an hour's drive away. What was stopping us?

Well, nothing. We were all keen and ready but maybe not quite as ready for the action-packed birding we were to get at our very first stop. A flock of Black-bellied Sandgrouse flying over the road brought us to a screeching halt. In all we saw 15 of these beautiful birds, along with six of their smaller cousins, the Pintailed Sandgrouse. If that was enough, it wasn't all. At the same spot we saw European Turtle Doves, Lesser Kestrels and even a European Honey Buzzard closer than all of us had ever seen one before. Thekla Larks were singing on the hillsides, giving us an opportunity to improve on the views we had had until then, and a Eurasian Hoopoe and two Red-billed Choughs seemed particularly fond of an apparently abandoned farm building.

We drove on, very pleased with the way the morning was going – most of our target birds were already under the belt! In a short time we had also seen a good number of Greater Short-toed (the one we missed in the Ebro Delta), Calandra and Lesser Short-toed Larks, as well as a Whinchat, Tawny Pipit and Yellow Wagtail.

We paid a short visit to the well-known Laguna La Playa, a large salt lake with an abandoned building and saltworks at one end. At first sight there seemed to be little around so I was tempted on to a nearby track in a hopeful search of Little Bustards and Little Owls. It was a minor track, and I was driving along the last 50 metres before it joined a major track, when we got stuck in the mud. And it seemed to be really stuck and not just the "push a little, we get dirty, but we get out" kind of stuck. Pushing seemed to be out of the question so for the next 45 minutes or so I rocked the van backwards and forwards, maybe gaining a metre or two every ten minutes. The strategy seemed to be working - and it did. The van had gone from navy blue to "safari brown" in the process, but nobody had been required to push or to get on their hands and knees in a pool of mud.

With that little adventure behind us we decided it was time for lunch, so we made our way to Sástago. Here the fare was to be a hearty sandwich, a refreshing drink and an ice-cream for all while I nipped off to try and restore the van to its original colour via the local car wash.

The afternoon was interesting, but a little more subdued than the morning's adventure. We drove along a long track mostly in search of Black Wheatear, which we eventually came across towards the end of the trajectory. European Roller, European Bee-eater, Sardinian Warbler, Short-toed and Booted Eagles and Egyptian Vulture were among some of the other birds we also saw in the afternoon.

After crossing to the right bank of the River Ebro we started ambling back to our welcoming rural hotel, although there was still one more surprise in store for us. This time it was a pleasant one indeed: first one then two Golden Eagles gliding and soaring not far above our heads for about 10 minutes. Wonderful! And a fine note to finish on. Even if we don't count the superb evening meal that Jordi and Helena had prepared for us that evening.

Thursday 23rd May

An unhurried drive took us back to Barcelona airport on time, and with nothing more to say than our thanks and farewells.

Acknowledgements

We are grateful to all the participants in this tour for their continuous enthusiasm for the birds, scenery, food and most other aspects of this tour. A big thank you also to the staff at both hotels, who worked hard and conscientiously to help us form part of the character of this tour. Thank you also to Ian Elliot for allowing us to use his photographs in this report.

A special note

The food we had at both hotels really deserves a mention of its own. First Tomas's culinary creations during our stay in Montsant were exceptional in the way that they made common-sounding ingredients really stand out, bringing an "mmmm!" to our lips every time. Jordi at els Ports spent a lot of time in the kitchen, and it was obviously time well spent. I'm sure most of us will remember his sea bass for many years to come.

This excellent food coupled with the wines of Priorat, Montsant and other renowned wine-growing regions would normally be justification enough for this tour to earn distinction as a "gourmet tour". However, we don't really want that, as for us the birds (and butterflies, flowers and scenery) will always come first. That notwithstanding, pleasant rural hotels in great locations, excellent food and wine, friendly and efficient service all make for one of the best mise-en-scènes we can think of.

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August 2013

Weather report

For the most part the weather was cool and unsettled, with many sunny and windy spells, the odd stormy episode and many cloudy periods. Maximum temperatures remained fairly steady, at between 15°C and 20°C but we had memorable sunshine and warmth during some very pleasant and productive birding sessions. On the whole we were happy not to have to deal with temperatures ranking into the 30's, and although the days with less agreeable weather conditions affected butterfly activity substantially they hardly affected our birding activity at all.



Woodcock Orchid

CHECKLIST OF BIRDS SEEN DURING TOUR

No of days recorded	Abundance Scale (max for any one day)
1 2h means seen on 1 day and heard on 2 other days	1 = 1 - 4 2 = 5 - 9 3 = 10 - 100 4 = > 100

SPECIES	No of days recorded	Abundance Scale	SCIENTIFIC NAME
The sequence and nomenclature of this list follow Collins Bird Guide 2nd Edition 2010.			
Common Shelduck	2	1	<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>
Mallard	4	3	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>
Gadwall	2	2	<i>Anas strepera</i>
Red-crested Pochard	2	3	<i>Netta rufina</i>
Common Pochard	2	2	<i>Aythya ferina</i>
Red-legged Partridge	1	1	<i>Alectoris rufa</i>
Common Quail	- 1h	1	<i>Coturnix coturnix</i>
Little Grebe	3	2	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>
Great Crested Grebe	2	2	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>
Great Cormorant	1	2	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>
Great Bittern	1	1	<i>Botaurus stellaris</i>
Little Bittern	2	1	<i>Ixobrychus minutus</i>
Black-crowned Night Heron	1	1	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>
Cattle Egret	1	3	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>
Little Egret	2	2	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>
Squacco Heron	3	2	<i>Ardeola ralloides</i>
Great Egret	1	1	<i>Ardea alba</i>
Grey Heron	3	3	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>
Purple Heron	1	2	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>
White Stork	1	2	<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>
Glossy Ibis	1	2	<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>
Greater Flamingo	1	4	<i>Phoenicopterus roseus</i>
Eurasian Griffon Vulture	4	3	<i>Gyps fulvus</i>
Egyptian Vulture	2	1	<i>Neophron percnopterus</i>
Golden Eagle	2	1	<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>
Short-toed Eagle	4	1	<i>Circaetus gallicus</i>
Booted Eagle	2	1	<i>Hieraaetus pennatus</i>
Bonelli's Eagle	2	1	<i>Hieraaetus fasciatus</i>
Red Kite	1	1	<i>Milvus milvus</i>
Black Kite	3	3	<i>Milvus migrans</i>
Western Marsh Harrier	1	1	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>
Montagu's Harrier	1	1	<i>Circus pygargus</i>
Common Buzzard	3	1	<i>Buteo buteo</i>
European Honey Buzzard	2	2	<i>Pernis apivorus</i>
Common Kestrel	6	2	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>
Lesser Kestrel	1	2	<i>Falco naumanni</i>
Eurasian Hobby	1	1	<i>Falco subbuteo</i>
Peregrine Falcon	2	1	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>
Common Moorhen	3	2	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>
Eurasian Coot	2	3	<i>Fulica atra</i>
Purple Swamphen	1 1h	2	<i>Porphyrio porphyrio</i>
Little Bustard	1	3	<i>Tetrax tetrax</i>
Eurasian Oystercatcher	1	1	<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>
Pied Avocet	1	2	<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>
Black-winged Stilt	3	3	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>
Stone Curlew	1	2	<i>Burhinus oedicnemus</i>
Collared Pratincole	1	3	<i>Glareola pratincola</i>
Common Ringed Plover	2	2	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>

Kentish Plover	1	2	<i>Charadrius alexandrinus</i>	
Grey Plover	1	1	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>	
Sanderling	1	2	<i>Calidris alba</i>	
Little Stint	1	1	<i>Calidris minuta</i>	
Common Sandpiper	2	1	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>	
Common Redshank	1	1	<i>Tringa totanus</i>	
Common Greenshank	1	1	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>	
Eurasian Curlew	1	1	<i>Numenius arquata</i>	
Black-headed Gull	2	3	<i>Larus ridibundus</i>	
Slender-billed Gull	1	3	<i>Larus genei</i>	
Yellow-legged Gull	5	3	<i>Larus michahellis</i>	
Audouin's Gull	1	3	<i>Larus audouinii</i>	
Little Tern	1	3	<i>Sterna albifrons</i>	
Sandwich Tern	1	1	<i>Sterna sandvicensis</i>	
Common Tern	1	3	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>	
Gull-billed Tern	1	3	<i>Gelochelidon nilotica</i>	
Caspian Tern	1	2	<i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>	
Whiskered Tern	1	3	<i>Chlidonias hybridus</i>	
Black-bellied Sandgrouse	1	3	<i>Pterocles orientalis</i>	
Pin-tailed Sandgrouse	1	2	<i>Pterocles alchata</i>	
Feral Pigeon (Rock Dove)	6	3	<i>Columba livia</i>	
Stock Dove	1	1	<i>Columba oenas</i>	
Common Wood Pigeon	7	2	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	
Eurasian Collared Dove	7	3	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	
European Turtle Dove	2	1h	1	<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>
Common Cuckoo	-	1h	1	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>
Common Swift	7	3	<i>Apus apus</i>	
Alpine Swift	2	1	<i>Apus melba</i>	
Eurasian Hoopoe	4	1	<i>Upupa epops</i>	
European Bee-eater	6	2	<i>Merops apiaster</i>	
European Roller	2	2	<i>Coracias garrulus</i>	
(Iberian) Green Woodpecker	1	1h	1	<i>Picus viridis</i>
Great Spotted Woodpecker	2	1	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>	
Common Skylark	1	1	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>	
Crested Lark	4	2	<i>Galerida cristata</i>	
Thekla Lark	1	1h	2	<i>Galerida theklae</i>
Woodlark	2	1h	1	<i>Lullula arborea</i>
Greater Short-toed Lark	1	3	<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	2	3	<i>Riparia riparia</i>	
Eurasian Crag Martin	3	3	<i>Ptyonoprogne rupestris</i>	
Barn Swallow	7	3	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	
Red-rumped Swallow	1	1	<i>Hirundo daurica</i>	
Common House Martin	7	3	<i>Delichon urbica</i>	
Tawny Pipit	3	1	<i>Anthus campestris</i>	
Yellow Wagtail	3	2	<i>Motacilla flava</i>	
Grey Wagtail	3	1	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>	
White Wagtail	5	2	<i>Motacilla alba</i>	
European Robin	2	3h	2	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>
Common Nightingale	2	5h	3	<i>Luscinia megarhynchos</i>
Common Redstart	1	1	<i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>	
Black Redstart	6	2	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>	
Black-eared Wheatear	3	1	<i>Oenanthe hispanica</i>	
Black Wheatear	1	1	<i>Oenanthe leucura</i>	
Common Stonechat	5	2	<i>Saxicola rubicola</i>	
Whinchat	2	1	<i>Saxicola rubetra</i>	
Blue Rock Thrush	2	1	<i>Monticola solitarius</i>	
Rufous-tailed Rock Thrush	1	1	<i>Monticola saxatilis</i>	
Mistle Thrush	6	2	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>	
Common Blackbird	7	3	<i>Turdus merula</i>	
Blackcap	1	2h	1	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>
Western Orphean Warbler	2	3h	1	<i>Sylvia hortensis</i>

Sardinian Warbler	3	1h	2	<i>Sylvia melanocephala</i>
Subalpine Warbler	2		2	<i>Sylvia cantillans</i>
Dartford Warbler	1		1	<i>Sylvia undata</i>
Cetti's Warbler	1	1h	2	<i>Cettia cetti</i>
European Reed Warbler	2		1	<i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>
Great Reed Warbler	1	1h	1	<i>Acrocephalus arundinaceus</i>
Melodious Warbler	4	1h	2	<i>Hippolais polyglotta</i>
Zitting Cisticola	3	1h	2	<i>Cisticola juncidis</i>
Willow Warbler	2		1	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>
Western Bonelli's Warbler	3	2h	2	<i>Phylloscopus bonelli</i>
Common Chiffchaff	-	1h	1	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>
Firecrest	3	1h	2	<i>Regulus ignicapillus</i>
Eurasian Wren	1	1h	1	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>
Spotted Flycatcher	2		2	<i>Musicapa striata</i>
Pied Flycatcher	2		1	<i>Ficedula hypoleuca</i>
Great Tit	5	1h	2	<i>Parus major</i>
Coal Tit	2	2h	2	<i>Periparus ater</i>
European Blue Tit	7		3	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>
Crested Tit	1	1h	1	<i>Lophophanes cristatus</i>
Long-tailed Tit	1	2h	2	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>
Eurasian Nuthatch	1		1	<i>Sitta europaea</i>
Short-toed Treecreeper	2	2h	2	<i>Certhia brachydactyla</i>
Eurasian Golden Oriole	1		1	<i>Oriolus oriolus</i>
Woodchat Shrike	5		2	<i>Lanius senator</i>
Common Magpie	5		3	<i>Pica pica</i>
Eurasian Jay	6		2	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>
Red-billed Chough	2	1h	3	<i>Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax</i>
Western Jackdaw	2		3	<i>Corvus monedula</i>
Carrion Crow	2		2	<i>Corvus corone</i>
Common Raven	4		1	<i>Corvus corax</i>
Common Starling	2		2	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>
Spotless Starling	6		3	<i>Sturnus unicolor</i>
House Sparrow	7		3	<i>Passer domesticus</i>
Eurasian Tree Sparrow	3		2	<i>Passer montanus</i>
Rock Sparrow	3		2	<i>Petronia petronia</i>
Common Chaffinch	3	2h	2	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>
Common Linnet	3		2	<i>Carduelis cannabina</i>
European Goldfinch	7		3	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>
European Greenfinch	5	1h	2	<i>Carduelis chloris</i>
European Serin	7		3	<i>Serinus serinus</i>
Cirl Bunting	4	1h	2	<i>Emberiza cirlus</i>
Rock Bunting	-	1h	1	<i>Emberiza cia</i>
Corn Bunting	6		3	<i>Miliaria calandra</i>



Els Ports

BUTTERFLIES

Papilionidae

Scarce Swallowtail

Pieridae

Black Veined White

Clouded Yellow

Lycaenidae

Green Hairstreak

Black-eyed Blue

Common Blue

Nymphalidae

Wall Brown

Western Marbled White

Spanish Gatekeeper

Painted Lady

Marsh Fritillary

Spotted Fritillary

Knapweed Fritillary

Red Admiral

Iphiclides podalirius

Aporia crataegi

Colias crocea

Callophrys rubi

Glaucopsyche melanops

Polyommatus icarus

Lasiommata megera

Melanargia occitanica

Pyronia bathseba

Cynthia cardui

Euphydryas aurinia

Melitaea didyma

Melitaea phoebe

Vanessa atalanta



Western Marbled White



Bath White



Spanish Gatekeepers



Marsh Fritillary

MAMMALS

Red Fox
European Rabbit
Brown Hare

Vulpes vulpes
Oryctolagus cuniculus
Lepus europaeus

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



Montsant



Siurana



Audouin's Gull



European Bee-eater



Whistered Tern



Tawny Pipit



White Stork on nest



Spotless and Common Starlings



European Roller



Little Bittern

Front cover: Little Bustard

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