

ORNITHOLIDAYS' TOUR TO SPAIN - EXTREMADURA
Spring Tour

12 – 19 April 2008



Leaders: Mike Witherick and Roger Lawrence

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A Personal Diary

Saturday, 12 April

The check-in at Heathrow's Terminal 1 was an absolute dream. Fortunately for us, all the chaos was over at the recently opened Terminal 5. Nonetheless, our departure was delayed by an hour whilst the bags of two 'no-show' passengers were located in the baggage hold and off-loaded. At Madrid's immense and ultra modern airport, Sheila had an argument with the end of the 'travelator' and sustained some facial injuries. Fortunately a doctor was in the immediate vicinity and then one of the crew on our flight kindly took her, with Mary G in attendance, off to a medical centre where she was duly cleaned up and treated. Meanwhile, the rest of us collected the baggage and Roger and I completed the paperwork for the hire of the two vehicles. By which time, Sheila was returned to us looking altogether in better shape and able to continue the journey.

Having 'navigated' the southern part of the M40 under Alan's guidance, we made very good speed down the A5, a motorway that ultimately leads into Portugal. There was relatively little traffic. Around the halfway mark, we made a brief stop at a service area for a loo and a drink. During this break, we saw Crested Lark, Griffon Vulture and Red Kite. Other sightings during the drive included good numbers of Barn Swallow, Black Kite, White Stork, Common Buzzard, Red-rumped Swallow and even a couple of Eurasian Hoopoe.

After about three hours, we arrived at our base for the next seven days. The welcome received from Juan Pedro and his wife Belen was most warm, and all in the party immediately fell in love with the ambience of this rural hotel. Once shown to our rooms, we had a little time to freshen up before meeting in the lounge for a pre-dinner drink and canapés. The meal that followed was an excellent one, full of interesting local dishes and helped on its way with some fairly local wine. Afterwards, some of us tarried for a short while in the lounge, but soon there was a unanimous need to make good last night's sleep deficit.

Sunday, 13 April

The early morning was sunny, but there was a bit of a chill in the light wind. Conditions were certainly good for birdwatching and our starter list was quite an impressive one. Before loading up the minibuses with our picnic lunches, and ourselves some of us briefly saw a pair of Great Spotted Cuckoos. We drove first into Trujillo and then out on to the Belen steppes. On the raptor front, we saw Black and Red Kites, Montagu's Harrier, Common Buzzard, Common and Lesser Kestrels. A Black-shouldered Kite put in a brief appearance. A Barn Owl was seen in hunting mode. Good numbers of Griffon Vulture were seen dropping in close to a sheep with all four legs pointing skywards. Was it that the sheep was not yet quite dead that kept them from approaching any more closely? Good numbers of White Stork were seen busily feeding. Woodchat and Southern Grey Shrikes were seen well, the latter showing distinctly pink on the breast. Three Great Bustards were seen in the distance, and a little later one male was seen at close hand from the road. Eventually everyone obtained good views of both Calandra and Crested Larks, both species being there in abundant numbers.

We ate our picnic lunch in the shelter provided by the vehicles. A pair of Wood Lark showed well; there was some debate as to the exact identity of a hovering kestrel (the prevailing opinion was that it was a Lesser) and distant flock of fast-flying Feral Pigeons was briefly thought to be of sandgrouse! After lunch, we explored another part of the Belen steppes. This was not particularly productive, but we did eventually see a Stone-curlew in flight. From the steppes, we then moved on into somewhat higher, 'dehesa' country. New sightings here included Grey and White Wagtails, Red-legged Partridge, Chaffinch and a lone Black Stork.

Eventually, having completed a loop itinerary, we returned to the hotel just before 4pm and enjoyed a reviving cup of tea and some homemade biscuits. We resumed at 4.30pm and walked the lower track for a kilometre or more. Some saw Hobby, most saw Common Cuckoo and all saw Bee-eaters perched on telegraph wires. Other sightings included many Azure-winged Magpies, a few Woodchat Shrikes and Sardinian Warbler.

We concluded the field part of the day at 6pm. This allowed us some 90 minutes of leisure before meeting up in the lounge for log call. Afterwards, we sat down to another interesting meal – the main dish tonight was tuna in a fine sauce containing black olives. Afterwards we chatted at the table for some time and then again in the lounge. It had been a good day's birding with nearly 60 species recorded.

Monday, 14 April

Clear skies overnight meant a chilly start to the day, but soon the sun was warming our backs. There were two more good omens to start our day – both as we approached Trujillo. The first was seeing seven Great Bustards in flight and the second was escaping the police radar trap (we had been warned by Belen).

Our day's birding was spent in the Monfragüe National Park. Before we reached the park boundary, we made a stop at the bridge over the Almonte where we saw Grey Wagtail, Crag Martin (very well indeed), Zitting Cisticola and Short-toed Eagle. Our next stop was inside the park but at another river crossing – this time the Vid. Here, we enjoyed memorable views of Subalpine Warbler and of Red-rumped Swallows busily building their nests under a bridge. A Common Kingfisher dashed under the bridge, but was only seen by a few of the group. A Spanish Sparrow was seen carrying nesting material to an old woodpecker hole cut in telegraph pole

We made quite a long stop at the Santuario or Castillo de Monfragüe. Having parked the vehicles at the bottom of the ridge, we saw Black Redstart, Blue Rock Thrush and a Rock Bunting. We then climbed the steps leading to the castellated sanctuary and admired the immense views on either side of the ridge. There were plenty of Griffon Vultures, but no Cinereous. As we were leaving, we saw the first of quite a good number of Egyptian Vultures – normally the scarcest of the three vulture species in these parts.

Our next stop was in the gorge-like area known as Penfalcon. A Black Stork was seen guarding its nest. Alpine Swifts patrolled the peaks on which rested good numbers of Griffon Vultures. We also encountered more Blue Rock Thrushes, Rock Buntings, Black Redstarts and Egyptian Vultures. By now, we were beginning to feel distinctly hungry and so made all speed for Villareal, where we took advantage of the generous provision of picnic tables. It felt good to be sitting in some warm sunshine. Afterwards, there was time to walk through this revived small settlement, which, some ten years ago, was totally deserted.

After lunch, we drove to another gorge-like area, which in the past has been good for two species – Eurasian Eagle-Owl and Spanish Imperial Eagle. On the way, Sheila spotted a Black-eared Wheatear. Having emerged from the vehicles, we probably saw three of them, and also added two new species to our tour list – Greater Whitethroat and Eurasian Linnet. But the pull of the next gorge and what it might have to offer proved irresistible. No sooner had we arrived there than, happy to report, we saw two Eagle Owl chicks sunning themselves on a little ledge and a little later two adult Spanish Imperial Eagles. To add to our delight, we saw our first Cinereous Vulture. Common Nightingale song was heard, but the songsters remained hidden in cover on the other side of the river.

Well satisfied with our haul of birds, we headed back to base, reaching there just after 6pm. We called the log at 7.30 and 30 minutes later sat down to another delicious meal. The star dish tonight was black pork and prunes – such tender meat and such lovely flavours! Afterwards, we tried to persuade one of the several local Scops Owls to come a little closer, but none was in a cooperative mood.

Tuesday, 15 April

We awoke to another lovely sunny morning, with a little less nip in the air. We left the hotel a little after 9am to spend most of the day on the Caceres steppes. Our time and patience were well rewarded with good views of most of the special species. The number and elegance of Montagu's Harriers impressed us all.

More Great Bustards were well seen and eventually we both heard and saw Little Bustards. Two Black-bellied Sandgrouse flew over calling, but alas we were not to set eyes on their cousins, the Pin-tailed Sandgrouse. Some European Rollers were seen taking advantage of the nesting boxes provided on some of the pylons. Clearly, Jackdaws also fancied the same accommodation. Great Spotted Cuckoo was seen well. On the ponds we spotted Mallard and Gadwall, Little Grebe and Common Moorhen.

Perhaps not appreciating the scale of the map, we took a very long drive along a badly degraded road in order to reach a possible site for Black Wheatear. Eventually we found somewhere to pull off the road and consumed our picnic lunch. Afterwards, we first explored a small valley with rocky sides. Here there were Blue Rock Thrush, Serin, and Goldfinch. In amongst a flock of Griffon Vultures, we saw our first Sparrowhawk. Several species of butterfly were seen, including the lovely Cleopatra. We then crossed to the other side of the main valley and no sooner had we drawn off the road than Roger spotted the bird we sought – a splendid male Black Wheatear singing his heart out. A Rock Petronia (Sparrow) put in a brief appearance. Alpine Swifts were admired for the aerobatic skills.

Content with our sightings, we made all speed back to the track where we had started our day's excursion but by a faster and smoother route. We had hoped to catch up with Pin-tailed Sandgrouse, but we were not in luck. The only new species seen was Whinchat. On the way through Trujillo, we made a short detour to the bullring where we saw a remarkable number of Lesser Kestrel and were able to observe at close hand their diagnostic features. Once back at the hotel, we all made for the dining room and a reviving cup of tea and homemade biscuits. Meeting up again at 7.30pm, we passed yet another relaxed and enjoyable evening.

Wednesday, 16 April

The weather forecast for the day promised an 85% chance of rain. In the event, we enjoyed a gloriously sunny day. Most of the morning was spent in the vicinity of Madrigalejo. On the drive there, we saw both Great and Little Bustards, as well as European Roller – again taking advantage of nesting boxes strapped to telegraph posts. At the rice-fields we enjoyed an abundance of Red Avadavats. Some also saw Common Waxbill. Other sightings included Cetti's Warbler (more viewable than usual), Stock Dove and Marsh Harrier (a splendid male). Along the river we saw Great Reed-Warbler, whilst a number of Common Nightingales were heard in full song. Alan and I heard Melodious Warbler.

We then moved to the south of Madrigalejo, where Dinah and Joyce organised a morning coffee stop. We had hoped to see some sandgrouse, but we did not – the habitat looked rather too cultivated. After a couple of tentative tries, we eventually found a track that took us in the direction of Embalse de Sierra Brava. At one pool, we saw a number of Black-winged Stilt, a couple of Common Sandpipers, a Common Snipe and a Little Ringed Plover. Further on, we saw our first Eurasian Turtle Doves. Eventually we found a newly-laid track that led us down to the shores of the reservoir, and this proved to be a perfect place at which to consume our picnic lunches – under the shade of some well placed oak trees and with an excellent view over much of the reservoir.

One of the first birds we saw as we disembarked from the vehicles was a Peregrine Falcon. During the break, we added a number of new species to the tour list. There were impressive numbers of Great Crested Grebe. Along with them was a lone Common Coot. Two Great Egrets were spotted on the far shore, but somewhat surprising was a lone Eurasian Spoonbill.

The afternoon involved making an exploratory loop to the west of the hotel. During this, we heard our first Winter Wren and saw our first European Nuthatch. Perhaps more memorable was getting lost in several settlements! The Spaniards seem to have this happy knack of inviting you into their settlements and then failing to tell you how to get out of them. When it comes to road signs, the Spanish must rank amongst the worst in Europe. The two Marys were divided about this venture into 'unknown' Extremadura – the one was impressed about the variety and quality of the scenery, the other by an absence of walking!

We arrived back at the hotel around 5.30pm and, after a cup of tea; some of us went for a walk along the lower track. Malcolm drew our attention to the calls of Golden Oriole, and some of us managed to glimpse one male. Much more cooperative was the Common Cuckoo that posed for a long while on a fence.

The rest of the day then followed its now established pattern with Roger calling the log in the lounge just before dinner. The main dish tonight was a splendid one involving salmon, asparagus and a local sheep's cheese. There was also a new liqueur to taste – what a wonderful way to end the day!

Thursday, 17 April

Some rain had fallen overnight, but we awoke to cloudy but dry weather, and that is the way it stayed for much of the day. After breakfast, we headed into Trujillo and took the motorway in the direction of Madrid. After some distance we turned off and made our way to an area where vultures are being fed by a local abattoir. There were impressive numbers of Griffon and Cinereous Vultures. Our views of the latter species were particularly good. We then rejoined the motorway, made a quick pit stop at a service area and then made for Saucedilla, where the reservoir supplying cooling water to the nearby nuclear power station has been made into something of a nature reserve – complete with hides. It was here that we spent the remainder of the morning. Probably our most exciting views were of a pair of Little Bittern (initially spotted by Helen) – they showed so well! Also memorable was the Purple Swamphen complete with at least one chick. Purple Herons were clearly intending to nest in the vicinity. There was quite a number of reeling Savi's Warblers, but given the rather windy conditions, they mainly kept cover. The same was also true of Eurasian Reed-Warblers – they remained heard but unseen. Two other sightings were worthy of note, namely our first Sand Martins, skimming close to the surface of the water for insects, and a Common Kingfisher.

It was well after midday when we decided to move in the direction of Monfragüe National Park once more. A fine new road meant that we got there in next to no time. We found somewhere where we could pull off the road and ate our picnic lunches. Afterwards, Malcolm said he had heard an unfamiliar song coming from a nearby tree. In the event, it was the song of the Western Orphean Warbler, which was duly seen by all the party.

Spurred by this success, we then moved to the Eagle Owl site where, despite the strong wind, we were able to watch one of the two chicks devouring a Moorhen, presumably delivered earlier by a caring parent. We then drove through the National Park and at Torrejon, where we turned off the main road to start what we call the 'Monroy loop'. For purely sentimental reasons, I thought we should visit a site, which, a few years ago, was one of the best for seeing Black-shouldered Kite. We spent a little time checking out the area and were just returning to the vehicles when we met two birdwatchers from Switzerland. They told us that a Black-shouldered Kite had been seen there that very morning. Spurred by this information, we turned around and it was only a matter of minutes before we were seeing a bird busily hunting for food. Eventually, it swooped on something and carried it off, presumably to a mate or some young at a nearby nest.

Well pleased with our sightings, we resumed our navigation of the 'loop' and after a little difficulty finding our way through two settlements; we eventually arrived back at the hotel about 6.15pm. The rest of the day passed as usual, but in a particularly pleasant and convivial way,

Friday, 18 April

Today was a typical English April day with sunny periods and short showers, plus a fairly strong wind. In terms of habitats visited, it was very much a matter of steppes and sheltered valleys. On the steppes, we were hoping to encounter sandgrouse, but we hoped in vain. However, we did enjoy good views of Great Bustards (some males in display mode) and a lesser number of Little Bustards. Mary G was pleased to see a whole one of the latter species, not just a neck. Close views of Montagu's Harriers were also appreciated. It was the steppes that produced three of our four additions to the tour list, namely Tawny Pipit, Short-toed Lark and Yellow Wagtail.

We lunched in the valley of the Magascar and this provided a good selection of raptors during one of the sunny periods. The star was a Golden Eagle, but we also saw Booted and Short-toed Eagles, Black Kite and Common Buzzard. The other valley provided us with a pleasant morning coffee stop plus good views of Common Kingfisher, Crag and House Martins, Barn and Red-rumped Swallows.

Bearing in mind our need to pack, we arrived back at the hotel by 5pm. This gave Roger and I time in which to clean the vehicles for their return tomorrow. We were also able to complete an electronic check-in for tomorrow's return flight.

We met up at 7.30pm, called the log, went through tomorrow's timetable and then enjoyed a glass of rose wine before moving through to the dining room for another exquisite evening meal. The chicken was both tender and delicious. Almond liqueur was a new way to round off the evening.

Saturday, 19 April

We awoke to the sound of heavy rain. We left the hotel at 8.15am following a 7.30am breakfast and after taking our sad leave of Juan Pedro and Belen. After some three hours of driving through heavy rain, we reached Madrid's immense airport, having made a stop at km23 for a final fill of diesel. It did not take long to complete the formalities associated with the return of the vehicles and then to use the Fast Bag Drop. We consumed our packed lunches in the great concourse before making our way to the Terminal 4 Satellite. Our flight to London was delayed by 30 minutes and by the time we touched down at Heathrow we were the best part of an hour behind schedule. But the baggage delivery was fast and efficient and within minutes we were saying our farewells and going our own respective ways.

Acknowledgements

Special thanks to Juan Pedro and Belen for making us so welcome and comfortable in their lovely home. Roger and I would also like to thank you all for being such a cohesive and convivial group. It really was a pleasure to be with you. Thank you also to Helen for kindly allowing us to use her photographs for this report. We very much hope that you enjoyed the pioneering 'one-stop' tour of Extremadura.

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May, 2008

Itinerary and Weather

Saturday, 12 April	London Heathrow > Madrid > Trujillo
Sunday, 13 April	Belen steppes > Madronera Vicinity of hotel Sunny periods; some light rain pm. 15°C
Monday, 14 April	Monfragüe National Park Warm and sunny. 20°C
Tuesday, 15 April	Catheres steppes and Almonte valley Warm and sunny. 22°C
Wednesday, 16 April	Environs of Madrigalejo > Embalse de Sierra Brava > Logrosan > Canamero > Garciaz > Madronera Warm and sunny. 25°C
Thursday, 17 April	> Trujillo > Navalmoral > Saucedilla Nature Reserve > Monfragüe > Monroy Overcast, but mainly dry. 16°C
Friday, 18 April	Caceres steppes Cool and windy with some short showers. 15°C
Saturday, 19 April	Trujillo > Madrid > London Heathrow Persistent rain in Spain – and not just on the plains! 12°C

CHECKLIST OF BIRDS SEEN DURING THE 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
Little Grebe	4	1	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>
Great Crested Grebe	2	3	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>
Little Bittern	1	1	<i>Ixobrychus minutus</i>
Great Cormorant	3	1	<i>Phalacrocorax phalacrocorax</i>
Cattle Egret	7	3	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>
Little Egret	3	1	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>
Great Egret	2	1	<i>Egretta alba</i>
Grey Heron	7	1	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>
Purple Heron	1	1	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>
Black Stork	5	1	<i>Ciconia nigra</i>
White Stork	6	3	<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>
Eurasian Spoonbill	1	1	<i>Platalea leucorodia</i>
Gadwall	4	1	<i>Anas strepera</i>
Mallard	6	2	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>
Black-shouldered Kite	2	1	<i>Elanus caeruleus</i>
Black Kite	7	3	<i>Milvus migrans</i>
Red Kite	7	2	<i>Milvus milvus</i>
Egyptian Vulture	2	2	<i>Neophron percnopterus</i>
Griffon Vulture	7	3	<i>Gyps fulvus</i>
Cinereous (Black) Vulture	4	2	<i>Aegypius monachus</i>
Short-toed Eagle	3	1	<i>Circaetus gallicus</i>
Marsh Harrier	2	1	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>
Montagu's Harrier	4	3	<i>Circus pygargus</i>
Eurasian Sparrowhawk	1	1	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>
Common Buzzard	7	1	<i>Buteo buteo</i>
Spanish Imperial Eagle	1	1	<i>Aquila heliaca</i>
Golden Eagle	1	1	<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>
Booted Eagle	6	1	<i>Hieraetus pennatus</i>
Lesser Kestrel	5	3	<i>Falco naumanni</i>
Common Kestrel	7	2	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>
Eurasian Hobby	1	1	<i>Falco subbuteo</i>
Peregrine Falcon	1	1	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>
Red-legged Partridge	5	1	<i>Alectoris rufa</i>
Common Quail	- 4h	1	<i>Coturnix coturnix</i>
Common Moorhen	3	1	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>
Purple Swamphen	1	1	<i>Porphyrio porphyrio</i>
Common Coot	1	1	<i>Fulica atra</i>
Little Bustard	3	2	<i>Tetrax tetrax</i>
Great Bustard	6	3	<i>Otis tarda</i>
Black-winged Stilt	3	2	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>
Stone-curlew	1	1	<i>Burhinus oediconemus</i>
Little Ringed Plover	1	1	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>
Northern Lapwing	1	1	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>
Common Snipe	1	1	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>
Green Sandpiper	1	1	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>
Common Sandpiper	1	1	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>
Black-headed Gull	1	1	<i>Larus ridibundus</i>
Yellow-legged Gull	2	2	<i>Larus cachinnans</i>

Gull-billed Tern	2		2	<i>Gelochelidon nilotica</i>
Black-bellied Sandgrouse	2		1	<i>Pterocles orientalis</i>
Stock Dove	3		1	<i>Columba oenas</i>
Common Wood-Pigeon	7		1	<i>Columba palumbus</i>
Eurasian Collared-Dove	9		2	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>
Eurasian Turtle-Dove	1		1	<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>
Common Cuckoo	3	4h	1	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>
Great Spotted Cuckoo	6		1	<i>Clamator glandarius</i>
Barn Owl	1		1	<i>Tyto alba</i>
Scops Owl	-	3h	1	<i>Otus scops</i>
Little Owl	2		1	<i>Athene noctua</i>
Eurasian Eagle-Owl	2		1	<i>Bubo bubo</i>
Common Swift	4		2	<i>Apus apus</i>
Alpine Swift	4		3	<i>Apus melba</i>
Common Kingfisher	3		1	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>
European Bee-eater	6		3	<i>Merops apiaster</i>
European Roller	2		1	<i>Coracias garrulus</i>
Eurasian Hoopoe	7		3	<i>Upupa epops</i>
Great Spotted Woodpecker	-	1h	1	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>
Calandra Lark	4		3	<i>Melanocorypha calandra</i>
Greater Short-toed Lark	1		1	<i>Calandrella brachydactyla</i>
Crested Lark	7		3	<i>Galerida cristata</i>
Wood Lark	1		1	<i>Lullula arborea</i>
Sand Martin	1		2	<i>Riparia riparia</i>
Crag Martin	5		3	<i>Ptyonoprogne rupestris</i>
Barn Swallow	7		3	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>
Red-rumped Swallow	4		2	<i>Hirundo daurica</i>
House Martin	6		2	<i>Delichon urbica</i>
Tawny Pipit	1		1	<i>Anthus campestris</i>
Yellow Wagtail	1		1	<i>Motacilla flava</i>
Grey Wagtail	2		1	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>
White Wagtail	5		1	<i>Motacilla alba</i>
Winter Wren	2	2h	1	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>
Common Nightingale	-	4h	2	<i>Luscinia megarhynchos</i>
Black Redstart	1		1	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>
Whinchat	1		1	<i>Saxicola rubetra</i>
European Stonechat	7		3	<i>Saxicola torquata</i>
Northern Wheatear	5		1	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>
Black-eared Wheatear	1		1	<i>Oenanthe hispanica</i>
Black Wheatear	1		1	<i>Oenanthe leucura</i>
Blue Rock-Thrush	2		1	<i>Monticola solitarius</i>
Eurasian Blackbird	6		2	<i>Turdus merula</i>
Mistle Thrush	3		1	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>
Cetti's Warbler	2		1	<i>Cettia cetti</i>
Zitting Cisticola (Fan-tailed Warbler)	5		1	<i>Cisticola juncidis</i>
Savi's Warbler	1		1	<i>Locustella luscinioides</i>
Eurasian Reed-Warbler	-	1h	1	<i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>
Great Reed-Warbler	1		1	<i>Acrocephalus arundinaceus</i>
Subalpine Warbler	1		1	<i>Sylvia cantillans</i>
Sardinian Warbler	5		1	<i>Sylvia melanocephala</i>
Blackcap	1		1	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>
Greater Whitethroat	2	1h	1	<i>Sylvia communis</i>
Long-tailed Tit	2		1	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>
Eurasian Blue Tit	5		1	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>
Great Tit	6		1	<i>Parus major</i>
European Nuthatch	1		1	<i>Sitta europaea</i>
Golden Oriole	1	2h	1	<i>Oriolus oriolus</i>
Southern Grey Shrike	5		3	<i>Lanius meridionalis</i>
Woodchat Shrike	6		2	<i>Lanius senator</i>
Eurasian Jay	1		1	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>
Azure-winged Magpie	6		3	<i>Cyanopica cyana</i>

Eurasian Magpie	7	3	<i>Pica pica</i>
Eurasian Jackdaw	5	3	<i>Corvus monedula</i>
Common Raven	6	2	<i>Corvus corax</i>
Spotless Starling	7	3	<i>Sturnus unicolor</i>
House Sparrow	7	2	<i>Passer domesticus</i>
Spanish Sparrow	6	3	<i>Passer hispaniolensis</i>
Rock Petronia (Rock Sparrow)	1	1	<i>Petronia petronia</i>
Red Avadavat	1	3	<i>Amandava amandava</i>
Common Waxbill	1	1	<i>Estrilda astrild</i>
Chaffinch	6	1	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>
European Serin	5 1h	2	<i>Serinus serinus</i>
European Greenfinch	2	1	<i>Carduelis chloris</i>
European Goldfinch	7	3	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>
Eurasian Linnet	3	1	<i>Carduelis cannabina</i>
Cirl Bunting	1 1h	1	<i>Emberiza cirrus</i>
Rock Bunting	1	1	<i>Emberiza cia</i>
Corn Bunting	7	3	<i>Miliaria calandra</i>

MAMMALS

Red Fox	<i>Vulpes vulpes</i>
Rabbit	<i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i>
Red Deer	<i>Sus scrofa</i>
Egyptian Mongoose	<i>Herpestes ichneumon</i>

REPTILES

European Pond Terrapin	<i>Emys orbicularis</i>
Stripe-necked Terrapin	<i>Mauremys leprosa</i>
Iberian Wall Lizard	<i>Podarcis hispanica</i>
Green Lizard	<i>Lacerta viridis</i>

BUTTERFLIES

Small Heath	Cleopatra
Large White	Red Admiral
Marbled White	Wall Brown
Clouded Yellow	Small Copper
Brown Argus	

This list represents those birds and other animals seen by party members of the group.



Montagu's Harrier



Griffon Vulture



Egyptian Vulture



Short-toed Eagle



Great Bustard



Red-legged Partridge



Corn Bunting



Rock Bunting



Black Redstart



Stonechat



Sardinian Warbler



Eurasian Linnet



Azure-winged Magpie



Eurasian Hoopoe



Monfragüe National Park



Viña Las Torres

**Front cover: Great Bustard
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