

Holiday Highlights  
Extremadura  
2 – 9 April 2011

**Leaders:** Darren Rees and Steve Willis

**Guests:** Liz & Donald Tout, Nick Razey, David & Carol Gover and David Turner.

**A BUSTARDLY EXTREMADURA BONANZA!**

**Day 1:** We meet at Gatwick early morning and check-in with little fuss, leaving plenty of time for a spot of breakfast. Our flight is on time and we land in Madrid, early-afternoon. We sample our first Spanish rolls or *bocadillos* for lunch then get our vehicle from the rental company. We are soon taking to the *autovia* for the three-hour drive south and west. The journey is broken with a brief comfort stop mid-way, where we get to put our binoculars on our first Spanish birds. Crested Larks and Corn Buntings are singing, Spanish Sparrows are taking up residence in a storks nest - first of many no doubt. Over the far Holm Oaks are a few raptors – our first Booted Eagle and Black Kite.

As we push further west we also sample some motorway birding Extremaduran style with birds soaring along the way including Kestrel, Black Kite, Montagu's Harrier, Griffon Vulture, White Storks and another Booted Eagle. Finally we arrive at the delightful Vina Las Torres set on a slope overlooking green fields marked out with stone walls, small Olive orchards and Holm Oak woodland. On the approach road are Southern Grey Shrike, Hoopoe and a smart Woodchat Shrike. At the guesthouse to meet us are our friendly hosts Juan Pedro and Belen, and children Marina and Alessandro – it's good to arrive, and for Darren it's good to be back. We all ease into an Extremaduran frame of mind, assisted by the local wine and the acorn liquor – we are confident that the week ahead is going to be very comfortable as well as bird-filled.

**Day 2:** The pre-breakfast stroll around the local lanes at 8.00am. reveals some of the typical bird species that we'll see most days, including Corn Bunting, Spotless Starling, Red-rumped and Barn Swallow. Along the lane are handsome Woodchat Shrikes and immaculate Azure-winged Magpies, and nearby David spots the incomparable Hoopoe – it's even calling out its name. The track winds its way past Olive groves towards a couple of fields that are covered in small yellow flowers and heavily pruned vines. We get first looks at Sardinian Warbler, Thekla Larks, Hawfinch, Serin and Greenfinch – all before breakfast.

After breakfast we head west of Trujillo passing through distinctive Holm Oak *dehesa*, a habitat that covers great swathes of Extremadura. We take the minor road to Santa Marta de Magasca and park at one corner where the *dehesa* gives way to scrubby fields and rolling open country. The air is thick with the song of Calandra and Crested Lark, and we get out and look around. It's always been a good area for birds of the open country and we are not disappointed - the first scan reveals new birds. A male Little Bustard standing proud in the field in front, blowing raspberries and behind on the far ridge a Great Bustard is strutting around with cocked tail looking every inch the aristocrat. A Great-spotted Cuckoo calls and flies to a small tree - through the scope we can see its zany crest and smart wing and tail markings. Distant raptors are lifting in to the air including our first Griffon Vultures. A few darker birds are gliding on heavy, flat, or slightly drooped wings - these are Black Vultures, globally endangered but firmly established here in Extremadura. Amongst them is a large eagle - incredibly it's a juvenile Imperial Eagle!! Then a Montagu's Harrier drifts by, a female, shortly followed by a male. A little later we pick up the distinct nasal call from Pin-tailed Sandgrouse and locate a small group flying over. With Woodchat Shrike on show, there is no shortage of things to look at - we've christened this place 'Happening Corner', and it's happening!

We drive further along the road hoping to locate the sandgrouse that had disappeared over the ridge. From our elevated viewpoint we note Calandra Larks and a single Great Bustard amongst a field of small white flowers. There is no sign of the sandgrouse so we take coffee at a nearby stand of trees. Afterwards we take off down a dirt track hoping for looks at sandgrouse. We scan across to a pool which has a Mallard being harassed by a Little Grebe - five stilts are along the edge, and there's a Northern Wheatear on the fence wire. Above are stacks of Griffons and again there is an eagle amongst them. It separates from the larger birds and starts chasing a kite. It's the Imperial Eagle from earlier and this time everyone is onto it. It shows well through the scope - the rarest eagle in the world!

Next, we pick up a mixed group of sandgrouse followed by close flybys from a small group of Black-bellied Sandgrouse. Time for lunch. The next site we visit is the narrow ravine at the Rio Magasca, a good place for a bite to eat with some shelter from the cool wind. We enjoy our bocadillos along with Crag Martins, Red-rumped Swallows, Serin, Kingfisher and Short-toed Eagle (for some), and two Black Storks pass over as we leave.

Leaving the picturesque valley we reach the impressive open steppe land further north with stony fields that are again covered with small white and yellow flowers. At one corner where some green cereal fields break up the

vista we stop to watch an aerial display from masterful Montagu's Harriers. Several males are sky-dancing and sparring overhead, and some females join in the fun. On a number of occasions birds land on rocks so we can scope them perched, but it is when they are airborne they are at their sublime best. So elegant and buoyant with rakish profile - a real highlight of the trip, and for many the magic moment - it really doesn't get any better than this.

North of Monroy we stop at a stand of Umbrella Pines set amongst a mixture of farmland and dehesa. The pine trees hold a small colony of White Storks and many are attending nests. As we approach a pale Booted Eagle also lands in the trees - wow! Watching storks is fun - when one partner arrives it starts bouts of bill clapping. We walk down the path to explore the mixed habitat here knowing that Black-shouldered Kites frequent the area. Sadly we don't get to see these but are treated to fantastic shows from a large group of colourful Bee-eaters, both dark and pale Booted Eagles, and our first hovering Short-toed Eagle.

We leave the site but only manage a short distance drive when our eyes catch a bird perched in a tree by the side of the road. We get out and enjoy great looks at our target bird - a Black-shouldered Kite. We even get some hovering and short bursts of displaying with wings held in a 'v' shape - a wonderful finale for the day.

**Day 3:** A pre-breakfast walk is a delight with the first sunlight catching the landscape of fields and small trees in blossom. Woodchat Shrikes are illuminated by the low light and are going about their courting - lots of chatter and head bobbing. Azure-winged Magpies go to and fro, and we get brief looks at a new bird - Woodlark.

After breakfast we leave the hotel at 10.00am and drive north beyond Trujillo, to the series of ridges near Deleitosa, to look at the first group of raptors that are starting to lift into the morning sky. Huge Griffon Vultures are finding the day's first thermals and soaring around. Some are sat on the skyline looking like huge rocks. A Short-toed Eagle is flying across the ridge and we follow it around until it starts to hover - great views through the scope. Another large bird is sat on the skyline - it's a big eagle with a pale breast and smallish head. At the base of the nape it shows a small white patch - blimey! It's a Bonelli's Eagle. We get scope views of the perched bird before it flies and shows its flight markings of a pale body with dark wing patches. Fantastic! Other birds are around - Serin on the fence or Great Spotted Woodpecker on the pole anyone? Not bad for our first impromptu stop.

Morning coffee is taken at a scenic spot where we can scan a rocky cliff face, a stream, and surrounding oak scrub. A Cetti's Warbler and Blackcap are really vocal but refuse to show themselves, but we do see a lovely Subalpine Warbler perched. On the rocky skyline is a Short-toed Eagle perched and scanning around. High above we get our final species of eagle when a young Golden Eagle appears and soars with a smaller Buzzard. That's all the species of eagle found in Spain and we are only on our second day. What a great coffee stop!

We drive to Cabanos Del Castillo, a little village that nestles at the base of two rocky peaks. There is a short walk to the shoulder between the two cliffs where we have our lunch of assorted bocadillos. We see Griffon, Black Vulture, Alpine Swift, Blue Rock Thrush, Black Redstart, Red-rumped Swallow, Crag Martin, Rock Bunting, Wren and two Black Storks. Star birds are a pair of Peregrine that chase around and alight on rocks – at one stage there is a food pass – wow! At the car park a small party of Bee-eaters fly over.

Before we leave for lower ground we check the ridge further south. We've seen Bonelli's Eagle here before and as soon as we park Steve picks up two eagles soaring high with vultures – bingo! Two more Bonelli's. We watch for a while then stroll along the track to see what we find – Woodchat, Raven, Alpine Swifts, Great Tit, Blue Tit and Iberian Marsh Frog.

The return route takes us through Aldeacentenera and across the open plains of Belen, and there are birds everywhere we scan. A superb Montagu's Harrier pair graces the sky then Steve points out a huge group of vultures that are huddled together on the ground so we stop for a better look. Like a scene out of Africa giant Griffons are joined by even bigger Black Vultures. Next we stop to scan a stony field covered with white flowers where some cattle are grazing. Around us are Crested and Calandra Larks singing, and on the ground are a group of delightful Yellow Wagtails. It's possible to see two different races – both Blue-headed and British Yellow-headed. Further on we stop where some dead trees are marked with White Storks on nests. Cattle Egrets are with the cattle (!) and we see our first distant Little Owl perched on a mound.

But we are looking for considerably bigger birds. Much bigger...at a rise in the road we scan the expanse before us – no luck, but the next rise yields the prize – in the dip below are a group of Great Bustards are walking about, not too concerned by us. Steve finds a Red Fox creeping through the scrubby vegetation – the bustards had better watch out! It seems a great end to the day but as we leave Belen Plains we find a Little Owl on a pile of rocks right by the side of the road – it's a fantastic sight to round off the day.

We drive back to the hotel for dinner, reflecting on a full day of so many new birds, and thinking of what is to come.

**Day 4:** After breakfast at 8.00am we head to world renowned Monfrague National Park that lies north of Trujillo. Before we get near there are multi-coloured treasures by the side of the road: Bee-eaters are perching on a dead tree so we get out for the show. There can be no other species that can compare with these rainbow birds – a dazzling palette that glides on perfectly proportioned wings - truly sent from an unearthly paint-shop paradise. A contender for bird of the week methinks.

Monfrague National Park is an area of deep gorges, forest scrub and wooded slopes that provide ideal territory for a large number of birds of prey, and indeed it has the highest density of breeding raptors in Europe. The rivers Tietar and Tajo carve through a series of wooded ridges and at three or four points have produced breathtaking cliff formations and soon we can see the rocky ridge that marks the south boundary of reserve. As we approach Pena Falcon Rock, at the southern entrance to the park, we notice Griffon Vultures in the air. We park and set up telescopes at the base of the cliff and watch birds that wheel around the rock, noting some sat on the skyline like elderly men. Some birds can be seen on nesting ledges and several of these are with fluffy young. Small birds are singing with Blue Rock Thrush males claiming their territories from the rocky perches, as too are Black Redstarts. But it is the large birds of prey that really catch the eye. Amongst the milling Griffons are lots of Black Kite, Egyptian Vultures, Short-toed Eagle and pale Booted Eagle. A wonderful Peregrine wheels around with Griffons out shining them in the aeronautics department.

After a while we walk the short distance to view the rock at a different angle. From here we can see a Black Stork nest, and both birds are present as they exchange incubating roles – we briefly see two white eggs. Once it is settled we can admire the plumage – green, purple and bronze sheen – everything but black.

Steve announces a big eagle approaching – with white leading edges it can be one thing only – Spanish Imperial Eagle adult – wow!

For a change of pace, we drive to the Rio Tajo for coffee where we can find a shelter from the breeze. Above Alpine Swifts are charging through the air, amongst the throng of House Martins. Hundreds are nesting under the bridge. At nearby Punta de la Cardenal we can usually view the crumbling old bridge but the water level is high after winter rain and snow and is completely

submerged. Not that this bothers the birds though and we get good shows from Griffons, pale Booted Eagle and hovering Short-toed Eagle.

Lunch is at Villarreal, the unofficial centre of Monfrague National Park where there are loos, souvenirs and an exhibition centre. After a picnic we drive the short distance to scan the Tietar cliffs, another rock face busy with Griffons. As we set up we notice Hawfinches feeding in the Wytch Elms and these show well in the telescopes. Raptors include Egyptian Vulture, Black Kite, Short-toed Eagle, and two high Bonelli's Eagles that are displaying. Further along, at a large stand of pines, we take a short walk looking for small birds, but we are frustrated with less than obliging Crested Tit, only catching up with Long-tailed Tits.

Our furthest viewpoint takes in the northernmost ridge and water at the Mirador de la Higuera. There are lots of vultures cruising over distant cliffs and other raptors are dotted about. Steve finds a distant eagle and through the scopes we follow intently. Eventually it turns and shows off the white leading edge of the wing – Imperial Eagle. Sadly it refuses to come closer and we have a dinner date. We drive back to Villarreal (after seeing a fantastic Black-eared Wheatear and Subalpine Warbler close to the road) and have our early evening meal. Our final destination is the cliff at Portilla Del Tietar where another steep rock-face provides another ideal site for a group of Griffons, and it has been home for a pair of Eagle Owls for a number of years. It's a species high on everyone's wish-list, and we take our first look in the evening light. We scan the skyline and notice an eagle sat close to an Egyptian Vulture on the ridge. Wow – it has white flecks on its shoulders – an adult Spanish Imperial Eagle!! After great looks it takes to the air for a final fly around above our heads – amazing views.

Meanwhile at a ledge on the rock face something stirs... a bundle of grey fluff twitches and reveals two piercing orange eyes. It's an Eagle Owl chick and there's something bigger behind it, to the left. We can just make out two ear tufts so move over for a better view. Wow! We are looking at an adult owl with young! We watch for the rest of the evening checking out the stretching and head bobbing of the chick while the parent tries to ignore the pestering. All the while the evening is alive with the sounds of birds having their final fling before roosting. A Nightingale sings and Griffons are grunting and hissing at each other like bad tempered neighbours. Finally, in the fading light, the adult Eagle Owl moves to the edge of the ledge and flies across the cliff to land higher up on a pointed rock. After a while scanning around it takes off for the night patrol, flying across the sky and away into the distance- what an end to a fantastic day in Monfrague.

**Day 5:** A lazier day is planned after the rigours of the previous day at Monfrague. After a late breakfast we drive south for the open country around Zorita and Madrigalejo. We can start scanning for birds when we turn onto a minor road to Campo Lugar. At the first stop we look across a stony field that borders a cereal field. Carole finds our quarry – a Great Bustard walks along the fence line giving us wonderful looks in the crisp light. Behind us another male is strutting around, and after a while he turns his wings inside out in the classic pom-pom display – it works and he attracts a female! Elsewhere there are raptors floating around including our first Marsh Harriers (both male and female). A few Little Bustards are on show and a small group of Black-bellied Sandgrouse fly around and land in a distant field. Further along the road we are in for a treat – 16 Great Bustards are close to the road in a green field giving us our best views to date. Some males are strutting and we can even see their whiskers!

After coffee we drive further south to the agricultural area around Madrigalejo – lots of rice fields and ploughed sections irrigated by an extensive canal network. Lots of Cattle Egrets are present with a few Grey Herons and Little Egrets. Southern Grey Shrikes are on the wires and we flush two Stone Curlews from one field. We try and get closer looks but they are very flighty and refuse to settle. Finally we end up at the Embalse de Sierra Brava where we have lunch – birds include Lesser Kestrel, Black Kite, Great-crested Grebes, Whiskered and Gull-billed Tern, Shoveler, Black-headed and Yellow-legged Gulls.

Next is the area of rice fields around the village of Vegas Altas. As we approach the village we look for some Tree Sparrows amongst the many House Sparrows, but they are difficult to watch. We take off down some gravel tracks to explore the series of fields - within a few minutes we are looking at Marsh Harrier and Great Bustards, and listening to Quail. Sadly the latter remains only a 'heard' tick! High above are a much sought after bird – Collared Pratincoles. In flight they are tern-like with elegant swept wings and a buoyant gait. We watch for a while but sadly they don't want to land so we push on to the river.

We drive to the Rio Gargaligas where we look over the river and associated reeds and bushes. Great Reed Warbler, Cetti's Warbler and Nightingales are in full song, and we glimpse the new residents of the region: a colony of Indian Red Avadavats is now established in the larger river valleys that cut through Extremadura and a number are calling from the reeds.

Time is getting on so we decide to retrace our steps and head north towards Zorita. We stop at an area where we've watched Great Bustards gathering

in the afternoon, and we are not disappointed. As we park we can see some white pom-poms in the distance, and through the telescopes we can see several males displaying. Over twenty males are dotted across a big area, all strutting or contorting into white puffballs! What a fitting end to a bustard filled day – bring on the tennis.....

**Day 6:** For the early risers there is a pre-breakfast sortie to the plains. We've seen sandgrouse flying around but are hoping to see them on the ground. We leave the hotel at 7.15am in order to catch the dawn rising over the steppes near Santa Marta De Magasca. When we arrive at a likely stony field that is covered in small white daisies, it's fair to say it's a bit nippy. The Calandra Larks don't seem to mind and the air is filled with their particular dawn chorus. Behind us the sun is lifting above Trujillo and adding to the mood. A Great Bustard flies across the scene and we scan the ground for sandgrouse. As a flock of Merino Sheep move across we can see a few heads of sandgrouse peeping up from the skyline. Eventually more and more come into view and the lifting light catches the russet coloured and white markings. Pin-tailed Sandgrouse. After a while a Red Kite flaps low over the field and the sandgrouse take to the air revealing the full extent of the size of the flock. They charge around in a tight group before landing again on the edge of our view. Next, more Great Bustards come into view – strutting males with one thing on their mind. And so the show starts.....at one time a male bustard in full sail moves behind the flock of sandgrouse on the floor – what a marvellous juxtaposition of birds – certainly something Darren had never seen! For a further half an hour we watch two males in full pom-pom display doing what they do best for the ladies – all the while we and the sandgrouse gaze on....

Back at 'Happening Corner' there is just enough time to scan to see if anything else has dropped in – Little Bustards are again blowing raspberries. On the way back we add stilts and Little Ringed Plover to the ever-growing species list.

After breakfast we drive north to Jaraicejo to an area of scrub favoured by assorted warblers. As we approach three Bee-eaters are on wires below the road adding some colour to morning. Walking along the track that cuts between a few Holm Oaks and bushy white Broom in flower, we can't help notice the wind is strong enough to make the bushes rock. We do manage some nice birds though, with good looks at Dartford Warbler, Orphean Warbler, Woodchat and Southern Grey Shrikes

Afterwards we drive through the dehesa to the Rio Tozo, a short distance to the south. A walk to our lunch spot along the river is a delight picking

through the birds and the flowers of the Holm Oaks and pasture. A Stonechat pair is showing and six Purple Herons fly along the river. Two Short-toed Eagles are circling overhead and one is carrying a snake (at a safe distance Carol!). At the furthest point the view opens out to look over a secluded lake, busy with birdlife. From the shade of Holm Oaks we scan the assorted wildfowl that includes Gadwall, Mallard, Teal, and some dodgy white domestic geese. There are lots of Great-crested Grebes and waders include Spoonbills, Black-winged Stilts and Greenshank, Steve finds some Garganey including two neat drakes. Most unusual visitors are two cranes that are walking with the storks, gradually disappearing into the dehesa. The landscape, flowers and birds gets the vote for magic moment from Steve.

We leave and head for the vans as some relaxation time in Trujillo beckons. Before free-time we check the water treatment facility that usually harbours a new species – although we were thinking along the lines of a wader or two, the water level is very high and there is no mud to attract shorebirds. We do get Little Grebe and add Coot to the list though.

And so to late afternoon, and some free time to spend in the charming centre of Trujillo, where we can explore the streets, Castillo and Plaza Major of this historic medieval town. Before we get to the town centre there's time to check the Lesser Kestrels at the bullring. We can see them landing on the red roof and going in and out of gaps in the tiles. The flight display is sensational with pale winged birds milling above our heads in the blue sky – something to rival the Montagu's Harriers from previous days – well, almost.

Next is some free time to walk around the magnificent Plaza Major complete with bill clapping storks atop the bell towers. Everyone walks the narrow streets that connect to the castle then returns for an alfresco meal in a restaurant overlooking the square – bring on the Pallid Swifts. A popular choice for magic moment of the week.

**Day 7:** After breakfast we climb aboard the vans and head north hoping to see a few new species. As we pass the ridge above Jaraicejo we notice that there is no sign of the wind that scuppered our Spectacled Warbler viewing previously. We decide to take a five minute detour and check again – bingo! The first bird we see and hear is a Spectacled Warbler male sat atop a Broom bush proclaiming his territory. Check out that eye-ring! Dartford Warblers are also singing and we get looks at a couple of birds. Other birds include Thekla Lark, Northern Wheatear, Booted Eagle and kites.

Onwards to the Embalse de Arrocampo at Almaraz for some wetland birding. As we approach the area a Black-shouldered Kite is sat on a pylon close

to the road but when we park it takes to the air only to start a bout of flight display. It lands close by in a Holm Oak canopy in full view – wonderful. Parking on the causeway at the edge of the water, we have views all around – a great place for morning coffee and there are lots of birds around us: Marsh Harriers, Bee-eaters, Cormorants, Purple Heron, Cattle Egrets, and Gull-billed Tern for starters. Three bonus birds are Great Egret, Common Crane and Osprey that are all flying about giving great views (and great photos from Don).

Other birds are trickier to see: Great Reed, Cetti's and Savi's Warblers are all singing their chugging, explosive and reeling calls respectively. You'd think they'd want to be seen with vocal performances like that, but we only get glimpses of birds darting into reeds and bushes. Two Bearded Tits are a bit more helpful and fly over our heads, long tails dangling as they go.

We are hoping that strange larger birds might be more obvious but the reeds can hide all things - we get a quick flight glimpse at the strange Purple Swamp Hens that have recently colonized the area. Other birds include Kingfisher, Griffon, Black-headed Gulls and close Black Kites overhead.

We next travel to Monfrague National Park, for another look for elusive eagles. At the northern entrance, close to the Portilla Del Tietar, we stop short of the cliff and scope the wooded slope where we suspect Spanish Imperial Eagles nest. It's the perfect place to relax and eat our lunch and listen to singing Nightingales, Blackcaps and Short-toed Tree-creepers. Lots of Griffons are on the wing looking like they're enjoying themselves rather than looking for carrion. Then a large dark eagle appears high overhead and starts interacting with the vultures. We walk to the cliff-face for closer looks at the many Griffons on ledges, and checking out nest site of the Eagle Owl. A group of birders are already trained on the adult bird resting in the shade of the rock cavity. Everything is just as it should be, so best check out the ice creams at Villarreal.

We end the birding at Monfrague with a final stop at Pena Falcon rock. There is some respite from the hot sun as we position ourselves in the shade of the rocks. The view in the late afternoon sun is arresting. Lots of Griffons are wheeling around and many more are on ledges and prominent rocks. Amongst the soaring Griffons are Egyptian Vultures and Black Kites. Ravens and Choughs make an appearance and the small birds have their parts to play. In front on rocks and branches below us are Blue Rock Thrush, Rock Bunting, Red-rumped Swallows, Black Redstart and Short-toed Treecreeper – the latter giving us wonderful looks after avoiding us all week and Nick gets a great photograph of the tiny bird in flight (Nick's magic moment!)

It's a fitting end to our time in Monfrague - nobody wants to leave and we vote Pena Falcon our worthy 'place of the week.'

**Day 8:** We have our last breakfast and say our goodbyes to Vina Las Torres, leaving for a lunchtime flight home from Madrid. The drive to the airport is largely uneventful along the autovia and we arrive on time at 9.30am. It has been another great Extremadura trip with many highlights for us to recall:

The 'Bird of the Week' vote is shared with the Eagle Owl mum and chick, and the unforgettable Great Bustards and their strutting amongst the flowery plains. Third place are the masterful Montagu's Harriers.

'Place of the Trip' votes go to Pena Falcon at Monfrague National Park with the spectacular Cabanos De Castillo coming an honourable second.

Everyone has their own 'Magic Moment', from walking through the scented dehesa to watching bustards display across the sunny steppes, and seeing the Eagle Owl and chick at Monfrague. What a selection of images to conjure with. Favourite Spaniards are Juan Pedro, Belen and children. We all agree that the free concerts given by Marina and Alessandro should have an honourable mention in the brochure - our thanks to all.

## **BIRDS**

Little Grebe  
Great Crested Grebe  
Cormorant  
Cattle Egret  
Little Egret  
Great Egret  
Grey Heron  
Purple Heron  
Black Stork  
White Stork  
Common Crane  
Gadwall  
Mallard  
Shoveler  
Teal  
Garganey  
Black-shouldered Kite  
Black Kite  
Red Kite  
Egyptian Vulture  
Griffon Vulture  
Black Vulture  
Marsh Harrier  
Montagu's Harrier  
Common Buzzard  
Spanish Imperial Eagle  
Golden Eagle  
Booted Eagle  
Bonelli's Eagle  
Short-toed Eagle  
Lesser Kestrel  
Common Kestrel  
Peregrine  
Merlin  
Red-legged Partridge  
Moorhen  
Purple Swamp Hen  
Coot  
Little Bustard  
Great Bustard  
Black-winged Stilt  
Stone Curlew  
Little Ringed Plover  
Greenshank  
Black-headed Gull  
Lesser Black-backed Gull  
Yellow-legged Gull  
Gull-billed Tern

Whiskered Tern  
Pin-tailed Sandgrouse  
Black-bellied Sandgrouse  
*Feral*/Rock Dove  
Woodpigeon  
Collared Dove  
Great Spotted Cuckoo  
Cuckoo  
Scops Owl (h)  
Barn Owl (h)  
Eagle Owl  
Little Owl  
Common Swift  
Pallid Swift  
Alpine Swift  
Common Kingfisher  
Hoopoe  
Bee-eater  
Calandra Lark  
Crested Lark  
Thekla Lark  
Woodlark  
Crag Martin  
Swallow  
Red-rumped Swallow  
House Martin  
Sand Martin  
Meadow Pipit  
White Wagtail  
Grey Wagtail  
Yellow Wagtail  
Wren  
Robin  
Black Redstart  
Stonechat  
Northern Wheatear  
Black-eared Wheatear  
Blue Rock Thrush  
Blackbird  
Song Thrush  
Mistle Thrush  
Cetti's Warbler  
Fan-tailed Warbler  
Savi's Warbler  
Dartford Warbler  
Subalpine Warbler  
Sardinian Warbler  
Blackcap  
Orphean Warbler

Willow Warbler  
Chiffchaff  
Long-tailed Tit  
Blue Tit  
Great Tit  
Bearded Tit  
Nuthatch (h)  
Short-toed Treecreeper  
Southern Grey Shrike  
Woodchat Shrike  
Azure-winged Magpie  
Magpie  
Chough  
Jackdaw  
Raven  
Spotless Starling  
House Sparrow  
Spanish Sparrow  
Tree Sparrow  
Rock Sparrow  
Red Avadavat  
Chaffinch  
Serin  
Greenfinch  
Goldfinch  
Siskin  
Linnet  
Hawfinch  
Rock Bunting  
Corn Bunting

## **MAMMALS**

Rabbit  
Brown Hare  
Red Deer  
Red Fox  
Greater Horseshoe Bat

## **BUTTERFLIES**

Common Swallowtail  
Spanish Swallowtail  
Spanish Festoon  
Clouded Yellow  
Cleopatra  
Orange Tip  
Large White  
Small White  
Small Copper  
Holly Blue

Adonis Blue  
Painted Lady  
Red Admiral  
Large Tortoiseshell  
Spanish Speckled Wood  
Wall Brown  
Small Heath  
Giant Peacock Moth

## **PLANTS**

(compiled by David Turner)

Holm Oak  
Cork Oak  
Catchfly  
Peony  
Common Poppy  
Navelwort  
Judas Tree  
Broom  
White Spanish Broom  
Narrow-leaved Lupin  
Yellow Lupin  
False Acacia  
Sage-leaved Cistus  
Gum Cistus  
Prickly Pear  
Giant Fennel  
Tree Heath  
Champagne Orchid  
Scarlet Pimpernel  
Purple Viper's Bugloss  
French Lavender  
Nettle-leaved Figwort  
Milk Thistle  
Hoop Petticoat Narcissus  
Barbary Nut  
Gladiolus sp  
Asphodel  
Star of Bethlehem  
Bee Orchid  
Sawfly Orchid