

Spain

Extremadura & Gredos

Wed 16th – Wed 23rd May 2018



Trip photos (clockwise from top left): Booted Eagle • Griffon Vulture • European Roller • Ortolan Bunting • Spanish Ibex • Blue Rock Thrush. © tour leader Fernando Enrique/Limosa Holidays

**Report compiled by tour leader:
Fernando Enrique**

Spain | Extremadura & Gredos

Tour Leader: Fernando Enrique
with Chris & Alison Powell, Jane Swift

Daily Diary

Wednesday 16 May

After a trouble-free flight the group arrived on time at Madrid Airport. With luggage collection completed, we headed to the car park then hit the open road, destination Extremadura, skirting Madrid in the early afternoon traffic. Our birding started with opportunistic sightings from the bus as we drove, stopping for an enjoyable 'tapas' style lunch *en route* before reaching Arrocampo for some more serious birding later in the afternoon. As soon as we entered Extremadura, raptors became more common, with Griffon and Black Vultures, plus Red and Black Kites seen from the bus. On arrival at our first birding stop, we were greeted by a calling Little Bittern, good numbers of Purple Heron, Little Egrets and a lone Spoonbill. We drove around the reservoir towards a traditional nesting site of Black-winged Kite. Despite our efforts, we couldn't find it and we had to admit defeat today.

It was soon time to leave, so we boarded the buses once more, seeing our first Iberian Magpies before arriving at our hotel close to Monfragüe in the heart of Extremadura, where Belén and Juan Pedro were waiting for us. After a refreshing shower and a cold beer, we were ready to enjoy "Belen's legendary food", which was one of the highlights of the trip for most of us.

Thursday 17 May

Since the weather forecast was not very promising for the next couple of days, we changed the itinerary and decided that today was the perfect day to visit Monfragüe. After another excellent breakfast, we loaded the van and headed north, towards Monfragüe National Park; probably the place with the highest density of breeding raptors in Europe. According to last counts, there are more than 400 pairs of Griffon Vulture and this area holds the largest Black Vulture colony on Earth, with over 300 pairs. Our first stop was Monfragüe castle, an old XII century fortress atop the ridge, that provides amazing, panoramic views of the area and eye-level encounters with the numerous Griffon Vultures in the area. Our next stop, at Peña Falcon, produced hundreds of Griffon Vultures, Egyptian Vulture, Black Stork and the resident pair of Peregrine Falcon fiercely attacking an immature Golden Eagle, while Rock Bunting, Blue Rock Thrush, Black Redstart, Serin, Crag Martin, Common and Pallid Swifts and Red-rumped Swallows all flew overhead or even below us as we looked down from the viewpoint.

A quick stop at the main bridge, where there is a colony of Alpine Swifts, allowed us great views of these skillful flyers, while a pair of Bonelli's Eagles tried to hunt some of the numerous pigeons in the area. Near Villareal de San Carlos we had very close encounters with Subalpine Warbler, Orphean Warbler and Black-eared Wheatear. With the day slipping by, we drove on further into the park, stopping for lunch at a small picnic area by the Tietar River. Egyptian Vulture, Subalpine Warbler and Black Stork performed well during our lunch break. At Portilla del Tietar, Griffon Vultures and Blue Rock Thrush were everywhere, while a pair of Golden Orioles was very active. A bit further, we had one of the highlights of the trip, as we watched a Spanish Imperial Eagle sitting on the nest. This is a new location near the old traditional site. Monfragüe never disappoints and after a brilliant day we left this lovely area and headed back to our hotel, in order to get a well-deserved rest.

Friday 18 May

After an excellent breakfast we headed east, towards the plains between Trujillo and Caceres, one of the best-preserved grasslands in Europe. A beautiful dehesa forest was our first stop, where several Woodlarks filled the air with their song, while a skulking Sardinian Warbler tested our patience once more. Thekla Lark was common in this habitat so we spent some time talking about the identification of this bird and its separation from Crested Lark in the field. Other birds seen included Southern Grey Shrike, Spanish Sparrow and Hoopoe. As soon as we arrived at the plains, we found two Stone-curlews and a small group of male Great Bustards, one of them displaying due to the presence of a much smaller female. Several small groups of Pin-tailed Sandgrouse allowed good views and a single Black-bellied Sandgrouse joined the party. In the surrounding plains, we found birds like Montagu's Harrier, Calandra and Short-toed Larks amongst many others. But the highlight was a nesting pair of Spanish Imperial Eagle, which provided amazing scope views.

Lunch was taken in the shade of a big hide in the middle of the plains. This area is famous because most of the telegraph poles here are fitted with nest boxes used by Jackdaws, Little Owls, Lesser Kestrels and, best of all, the superb Roller. It didn't take us long to find at least a dozen of these colourful birds. We returned through Santa Marta and onwards to our hotel in search of our last target species of the day, Little Bustard. We were enjoying an aerial fight between a Black Kite and a Montagu's Harrier when we heard a male bustard calling.

After a few seconds, we found the birds displaying in the open and allowing great scope views. With all the target birds found, we returned to the hotel in a very good mood.

Saturday 19 May

After a rainy night, we decided to go west today and avoid the worst of the weather. Our main destination was to be the Embalse de Arrocampo, a large, reed-fringed reservoir complete with hides and a small visitor centre. Several stops were made *en route*, the first of these at an extensive area of scrub in search of some *Sylvia* warblers. Due to rain the previous night, the birds were not very active, with only a few Woodlarks and Crested Larks around but, after a few minutes, we managed to find a cooperative singing Dartford Warbler, plus several Sardinian Warblers and a single Orphean Warbler.

We drove on to stop at the first roadside hide at the Embalse de Arrocampo, with a brief stop to collect a key from the visitor centre quickly allowing us access to it. Birds almost immediately seen included Purple Heron and Western Swamphen, with others added to our list that included another Spoonbill, several Great Egrets, at least four or five noisy Great Reed Warblers, a reeling Savi's Warbler and good views of two Little Bitterns. A family of Black-winged Stilts in one of the pools by the road was a nice addition to the list, but again we failed in our quest for the Black-winged Kite.

After lunch we spent some time near Almaraz looking for orchids; unfortunately it was a bit late in the season and we only found a few Tongue Orchids, Loose-flowered Orchids and very dry Mirror and Yellow Bee Orchids. So we decided to spend the last hour of birding around the hotel, which proved to be a good move since we were able to find a nice selection of birds, including several Golden Orioles, some very cooperative Cuckoos, lots of Iberian Magpies and several warblers. We also found a healthy population of Champagne's Orchid. After another great day, we walked to the hotel in order to enjoy a fantastic wine-tasting, imparted by Juan Pedro.

Sunday 20 May

Although the weather forecast wasn't very promising, we hit the road towards the plains and rice fields south of the hotel. This proved to be a good move, since we managed to avoid the rain for most of the day, while some other birders who went north ended up completely soaked. As soon as we arrive at the Campo Lugar road, we found a flock of a dozen Great Bustards, 20 or so Gull-billed Terns, a female Montagu's Harrier, several Marsh Harriers and one of our main targets here, Black-bellied Sandgrouse, with at least six different birds. A bit further ahead, the pylons were fitted with nest boxes, home to several pairs of Rollers, some of them providing excellent photo opportunities. More Great Bustards were noted in this area, for a grand total of more than 20 birds in the first hour of birding.

We stopped for lunch at Alcollarín reservoir, a brand new reservoir and home to a nice selection of waterbirds. Great Crested and Little Grebes were present in good numbers, along with Gull-billed Tern, Black-headed Gull, Common Sandpiper and Egyptian Goose. The bushes were full of Sardinian and Subalpine Warblers, Woodchat and Southern Grey Shrikes, Spanish Sparrows, Thekla Lark and good numbers of Bee-eaters nesting on the sand banks a few meters away from the road. After lunch, we visited the rice fields around Vegas Altas and, although most of the paddies were dry, some of them had been recently flooded, attracting good numbers of birds. Our main target here was the Collared Pratincole. We found a few of these elegant birds flying around but views were not great, so we decided to move to another reliable place for them. In the reedbeds and channels we found Great and Eurasian Reed Warblers and noisy flocks of Red Avadavats.

Moheda Alta is a private reserve that encompasses 150 hectares of dehesa forest, rice paddies and a small lake. This variety of habitat attracts a great diversity of birds, especially in the winter, when thousands of cranes and ducks visit the place. Unfortunately, we had limited time, so we decided to focus our efforts on the small lake in one of the corners of the reserve. Here we added a couple of new species to our list, including a pair of Little Terns and several Little Ringed Plovers. And our target here, Collared Pratincole, provided excellent views. With the storm heading in our direction, we called it a day and headed back to our hotel for another fantastic dinner.

Monday 21 May

We awoke to a sunny and promising day. Although it was mostly a travel day, we stopped several times along the way. The first of these was an early stop at Peña Falcon, which provided good views of all the usual birds, especially vultures and two pairs of nesting Black Storks. After we left Plasencia, we drove along the Jerte valley, cherry capital of Spain, where a quick stop to buy some local produce was much appreciated by all. Lunch stop was scheduled at the scenic Puerto de Tornavacas, a mountain pass with excellent views of the Jerte Valley and home to a nice selection of birds, including Melodious Warbler, Common Whitethroat, Western Bonelli's Warbler, Cirl Bunting and a flyover Golden Oriole. Griffon Vultures and Booted Eagles were taking advantage of the sunny conditions and soaring against the snow-capped mountains.

After lunch, we drove a few miles into the mountains to an area of alpine meadows and broom, the perfect habitat for our target species here. It didn't take long until we found our first Red-backed Shrike of the trip, a nice male followed by a female. Several singing Ortolan Buntings joined the show and sang from just a few meters away, allowing great photo opportunities. Other birds common in the area were Woodlark, Whitethroat and Dunnock, the latter a mountain bird this far south. We arrived with ample time at Parador de Gredos, an emblematic building and the first Parador in Spain. We decided to visit the nearby pine woodlands, where we found a nice array of new birds typical of higher altitude forest, including Firecrest, Pied Flycatcher, Coal Tit, Crested Tit and Nuthatch. After a very demanding day, we enjoyed a lovely dinner and went to bed early.

Tuesday 22 May

After a fantastic breakfast, we headed towards the mountains. This area is home to many species that are impossible to find at lower elevations in Extremadura. The first surprise of the morning was the number of Red-backed Shrikes, a species that is apparently expanding its range in central Spain. We found three pairs of these beautiful birds in the same meadow. Sadly, one of the males was hit by a car in front of us. Another surprise was the high density of breeding Common Whitethroats, that seemed to be everywhere. Good numbers of Dartford Warbler, Ortolan Bunting, Rock Bunting and Woodlark were also present. Above the treeline, the landscape changed dramatically and the bird community was also different, with birds such as Northern Wheatear, Dunnock, Black Redstart and Common Rock Thrush. Once we arrived at La Plataforma, we were welcomed by several Dunnocks, Rock Buntings and a pair of Common Rock Thrushes feeding around the cars. After taking some pictures, we took the trail that leads to the alpine meadows and broom areas further up. Several Spanish Ibex and a couple of Schreiber's Lizards were nice additions to our list, while the first Skylarks of the trip filled the air with their song.

We stopped for lunch at a nearby torrent, an area favoured by a group of male Iberian Ibex. At least 20 of these magnificent beasts joined us for lunch, with one of them getting really close to us. Near the waterfall we found the only Water Pipit of the trip, catching insects in a small patch of snow and providing great views. On a sunny slope covered with broom we waited for the star of the show - the Bluethroat - and after a few minutes we managed to get amazing 'scope views of a displaying male. We stopped several times on the way to the hotel, where we arrived with some extra time for a nice cold beer before our last dinner.

Wednesday 23 May

We only had limited time this morning so we decided to spend our last couple of hours along Rio Tormes and the meadows near Hoyos del Espino. Before that, we made a quick stop in search of Rock Sparrow, a bird that had eluded us on the previous days. This time we managed to find at least six birds sat on a wire near the hotel. After a short drive, we arrived at Rio Tormes, where we found a nice selection of forest birds, including good numbers of Crossbill, Goldcrest, Firecrest, Crested Tit, Pied Flycatcher, Iberian Green Woodpecker and Cirl Bunting. With all packed and bus loaded, we drove out to Madrid. Roadside birds included Red Kites, Black Kites, several Cuckoos and Corn Buntings.

Successfully navigating Madrid we arrived at the airport with ample time to say our farewells and relax before the flight back to the UK and the end of a very enjoyable and successful trip to Extremadura and Gredos. Thanks to all party members for such good humour, enthusiasm and some exceptional birding skills too! I look forward to seeing you all again on another Limosa tour very soon!

ANNOTATED LIST OF BIRDS RECORDED
(143 Species)

Egyptian Goose *Alopochen aegyptiacus*

A female with five goslings on 18th

Gadwall *Mareca strepera*

Three on 18th and a couple on 20th

Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*

Common and widespread. Seen on most days.

Red-legged Partridge *Alectoris rufa*

Small numbers noted on five dates, usually near the road

Common Quail *Coturnix coturnix*

One briefly seen in flight near Santa Marta and several heard

Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis*

A few birds at Alcollarin reservoir

Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus*

Good numbers at Alcollarin reservoir

Black Stork *Ciconia nigra*

A total of 11-12 birds on three dates in Extremadura, including several nesting pairs

White Stork *Ciconia ciconia*

Very common, seen on most days

Eurasian Spoonbill *Platalea leucorodia*

Two birds seen at Arrocampo

Little Bittern *Ixobrychus minutus*

Two birds seen at Arrocampo and several heard

Western Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis*

Very common, seen daily

Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea*

Seen on most wetlands and rivers

Purple Heron *Ardea purpurea*

Common at Arrocampo

Great Egret *Egretta alba*

At least 3 birds at Arrocampo

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*

Common, seen on most wetlands

Great Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*

A few birds seen at Arrocampo

Egyptian Vulture *Neophron percnopterus*

Five birds in our first visit to Monfragüe with another two on the second visit

Griffon Vulture *Gyps fulvus*

Very common, seen daily. Huge numbers in Monfragüe

Cinereous (Black) Vulture *Aegypius monachus*

Common, seen daily. Good numbers in Monfragüe

Short-toed Snake Eagle *Circaetus gallicus*

A total of 5 birds seen on three dates

Booted Eagle *Hieraaetus pennatus*

One of the most common raptors with several birds seen daily

Spanish Imperial Eagle *Aquila adalberti*

A female sitting on the nest at a new site in Monfragüe. A breeding pair and an immature bird on the plains between Trujillo and Cáceres

Golden Eagle *Aquila chrysaetos*

An immature bird chased by the local pair of Peregrines at Peña Falcon

Bonelli's Eagle *Aquila fasciata*

One pair near the bridge in Monfragüe and another pair the next day at Rio Almonte

Eurasian Sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus*

One bird briefly seen on the way to La Plataforma

Western Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus*

Small numbers seen at Arrocampo, Campo Lugar and the plains of Santa Marta

Montagu's Harrier *Circus pygargus*

At least 10-12 birds near Santa Marta, including a melanistic bird and on female at Campo Lugar

Red Kite *Milvus milvus*

Small number seen on three dates

Black Kite *Milvus migrans*

Common. Seen daily

Common Buzzard *Buteo buteo*

A few birds seen on most days

Great Bustard *Otis tarda*

At least 10 birds on the 18th and 20 birds on 20th

Little Bustard *Tetrax tetrax*

Several males heard and one seen on 18th and two males near Campo Lugar

Western Swamphen *Porphyrio porphyrio*

Several seen and many heard at Arrocampo

Common Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus*

Seen on most wetlands

Eurasian Coot *Fulica atra*

Seen on most wetlands

Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus*

Three birds at Arrocampo

Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius*

A pair seen at Moheda Alta

Common Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*

One bird at Arrocampo

Green Sandpiper *Tringa ochropus*

One bird at Moheda Alta

Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*

Seen at Arrocampo and Alcollarín

Collared Pratincole *Glareola pratincola*

Several birds flying over the rice paddies near Vegas Altas and two more at Moheda Alta

Black-headed Gull *Chroicocephalus ridibundus*

Up to 20 birds seen Alcollarín

Gull-billed Tern *Gelochelidon nilotica*

Seen at Arrocampo and near Campo Lugar

Little Tern *Sternula albifrons*

Two birds seen at Moheda Alta

Pin-tailed Sandgrouse *Pterocles alchata*

A total of 14 birds on the plains between Trujillo and Cáceres

Black-bellied Sandgrouse *Pterocles orientalis*

One bird in flight near Santa Marta and seven near Campo Lugar

Rock Dove *Columba livia*

Seen daily

Common Wood Pigeon *Columba palumbus*

Common throughout the trip

European Turtle Dove *Streptopelia turtur*

A couple of birds seen and several heard

Eurasian Collared Dove *Streptopelia decaocto*

Seen daily

Common Cuckoo *Cuculus canorus*

Heard or seen on six dates. Some of them allowing fantastic views in front of the hotel

Little Owl *Athene noctua*

Five birds on the Cáceres plains and a single bird at Campo Lugar

Alpine Swift *Tachymarptis melba*

Good numbers around the bridge in Monfragüe

Common Swift *Apus apus*

Several flocks were seen during the trip

Pallid Swift *Apus pallidus*

Several flocks were seen during the trip

European Roller *Coracias garrulous*

Up to 15 birds seen between Trujillo and Cáceres and a few more near Campo Lugar

Common Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis*

Two birds seen on 19th and one on 20th

- European Bee-eater** *Merops apiaster*
Very common. Seen and heard daily
- Eurasian Hoopoe** *Upupa epops*
Common. Seen and heard daily
- Great Spotted Woodpecker** *Dendrocopos major*
Several birds heard in the Gredos mountains
- Iberian Green Woodpecker** *Picus sharpie*
Two birds seen around Hoyos del Espino
- Lesser Kestrel** *Falco naumanni*
Very common in Extremadura
- Common Kestrel** *Falco tinnunculus*
Common, seen almost daily
- Peregrine** *Falco peregrinus*
Two birds at Peña Falcon
- Red-backed Shrike** *Lanius collurio*
One pair at Puerto de Tornavacas and three males and two females on the way to La Plataforma
- Southern Grey Shrike** *Lanius meridionalis*
Small number seen on various dates
- Woodchat Shrike** *Lanius senator*
Very common, seen daily in Extremadura
- Eurasian Golden Oriole** *Oriolus oriolus*
More often heard than seen, we managed to get brief views of several birds
- Eurasian Jay** *Garrulus glandarius*
Small numbers seen almost daily
- Iberian Magpie** *Cyanopica cooki*
Common, seen daily in Extremadura
- Eurasian Magpie** *Pica pica*
Very common. Seen daily
- Western Jackdaw** *Coloeus monedula*
Common, seen almost daily
- Carrion Crow** *Corvus corone*
Common on the Gredos mountains
- Northern Raven** *Corvus corax*
One or two birds almost daily
- Coal Tit** *Pariparus ater*
The most common tit in the mountains
- European Crested Tit** *Lophophanes cristatus*
Good numbers in the mountains
- Eurasian Blue Tit** *Cyanistes caeruleus*
Common
- Great Tit** *Parus major*
Common
- Woodlark** *Lullula arborea*
Heard almost daily and we managed to get good views of several birds in Monfragüe and near Jaraicejo, plus a few distant birds in the mountains
- Eurasian Skylark** *Alauda arvensis*
Good number seen on the way up from La Plataforma
- Thekla Lark** *Galerida theklae*
Seen daily in Extremadura
- Crested Lark** *Galerida cristata*
Common, seen daily
- Greater Short-toed Lark** *Calandrella brachydactyla*
Several birds seen near Santa Marta and Campo Lugar
- Calandra Lark** *Melanocorypha calandra*
Very common in Extremadura
- Sand Martin** *Riparia riparia*
A few birds at Arrocampo
- Barn Swallow** *Hirundo rustica*
Very common. Seen daily
- Eurasian Crag Martin** *Ptyonoprogne rupestris*
Common. Seen daily

- Common House Martin** *Delichon urbicum*
Common. Seen daily
- Red-rumped Swallow** *Cecropis daurica*
Small numbers seen daily
- Cetti's Warbler** *Cettia cetti*
Heard almost daily with a few birds seen
- Long-tailed Tit** *Aegithalos caudatus*
Small family parties were seen on three dates
- Western Bonelli's Warbler** *Phylloscopus bonelli*
Seen daily in the mountains
- Great Reed Warbler** *Acrocephalus arundinaceus*
Several seen and heard at Arrocampo
- Eurasian Reed Warbler** *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*
Several seen and heard at Arrocampo
- Melodious Warbler** *Hippolais polyglotta*
Seen on most days, very common in the mountains
- Savi's Warbler** *Locustella luscinioides*
One briefly seen and several heard at Arrocampo
- Zitting Cisticola** *Cisticola juncidis*
Seen daily
- Eurasian Blackcap** *Sylvia atricapilla*
Common
- Western Orphean Warbler** *Sylvia hortensis*
Fantastic views of two or three birds in Monfragüe plus several heard on various dates
- Common Whitethroat** *Sylvia communis*
Very common in the mountains
- Dartford Warbler** *Sylva undata*
One male near Jaraicejo and several singing birds up in the mountains
- Subalpine Warbler** *Sylvia cantillans*
Several birds seen at Monfragüe
- Sardinian Warbler** *Sylvia melanocephala*
The most common warbler of the trip, seen daily
- Firecrest** *Regulus ignicapilla*
Abundant in the mountains
- Goldcrest** *Regulus regulus*
Several seen around Hoyos del Espino on the last day
- Eurasian Wren** *Troglodytes troglodytes*
Heard and seen on most dates
- Eurasian Nuthatch** *Sitta europaeus*
Several seen around El Parador and Hoyos del Espino
- Short-toed Treecreeper** *Certhia brachydactyla*
A few seen at Monfragüe and we had very good numbers in the mountains
- Spotless Starling** *Sturnus unicolor*
Very common, seen daily
- Common Blackbird** *Turdus merula*
Common
- Mistle Thrush** *Turdus viscivorus*
A few birds seen in Extremadura
- European Robin** *Erithacus rubecula*
Seen only in the mountains
- Bluethroat** *Luscinia svecica*
Great views of a male singing in the Gredos mountains
- Common Nightingale** *Luscinia megarhynchos*
Very common, heard daily with several birds seen
- European Pied Flycatcher** *Ficedula hypoleuca*
Several males seen around El Parador and Hoyos del Espino
- Black Redstart** *Phoenicurus ochruros*
Common, seen daily
- Common Rock Thrush** *Monticola saxatilis*
At least three pairs seen near La Plataforma

Blue Rock Thrush *Monticola solitaria*

Common in Monfragüe

European Stonechat *Saxicola rubicola*

Very common. Seen daily

Northern Wheatear *Oenanthe oenanthe*

Breeding birds seen in the mountains

Black-eared Wheatear *Oenanthe hispanica*

Two males and one female at Monfragüe and another bird on the way to the mountains

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*

Very common

Spanish Sparrow *Passer hispaniolensis*

Very common on the plains between Trujillo and Cáceres, with smaller number elsewhere

Rock Sparrow *Petronia petronia*

Several pairs nesting around El Parador

Common Waxbill *Estrilda astrild*

Small numbers around Vegas Altas

Red Avadavat *Amandava amandava*

Several small flocks seen around Vegas Altas

Dunnock *Prunella modularis*

Very common above the treeline in the mountains

“Iberian” Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava iberiae*

A common breeding bird in the Gredos mountains

Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea*

Seen on fast flowing streams on most days

White Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea*

Seen almost daily

Water Pipit *Anthus spinoletta*

Great views of a bird near La Plataforma

Common Chaffinch *Fringilla coelebs*

Common in forested areas

Hawfinch *Coccothraustes coccothraustes*

Two birds in flight at Puerto de Tornavacas

European Greenfinch *Chloris chloris*

Smaller numbers than on previous year, still recorded almost daily

Common Linnet *Linaria cannabina*

Common

Common [Red] Crossbill *Loxia curvirostra*

Several seen near Hoyos del Espino and along Río Tormes

European Goldfinch *Carduelis carduelis*

Seen daily

European Serin *Serinus serinus*

Very common, seen daily

Corn Bunting *Emberiza calandra*

Bird of the trip! Very common, seen daily.

Rock Bunting *Emberiza cia*

Several birds seen at Monfragüe and common above the treeline in the mountains

Ortolan Bunting *Emberiza hortulana*

Two or three males at Puerto de Tornavacas, plus several males singing along the road to La Plataforma and several pairs feeding near the car park

Cirl Bunting *Emberiza cirlus*

Small numbers recorded on four dates

MAMMALS

European Rabbit *Oryctolagus cuniculus*
Red Fox *Vulpes vulpes*
Red Deer *Cervus elaphus*
Spanish Ibex *Capra pyrenaica*

REPTILES & AMPHIBIANS

Iberian Green Frog *Pelophylax perezi*
Natterjack Toad *Epidalea calamita*
Moorish Gecko *Tarentola mauritanica*
Iberian Wall Lizard *Podarcis hispanica*
Large Psammmodromus *Psammmodromus algirus*
Ocellated Lizard *Timon lepidus*
Schreiber's Green Lizard *Lacerta schreiberi*
Viperine Snake *Natrix maura*
Spanish Terrapin *Mauremys leprosa*

BUTTERFLIES

Large White *Pieris brassicae*
Small White *Artogeia rapae*
Western Bath White *Pontia daplidice*
Common Orange Tip *Anthocaris cardamines*
Clouded Yellow *Colias crocea*
Small Copper *Lycaena phlaeas*
Common Blue *Polyommatus icarus*
Red Admiral *Vanessa atalanta*
Painted Lady *Vanessa cardui*
Small Tortoiseshell *Aglais urticae*
Spanish Marbled White *Melanargia ines*
Meadow Brown *Maniola jurtina*
Speckled Wood *Pararge aegeria*
Common Wall Brown *Lasiommata megera*

DRAGONFLIES

Iberian Bluetail *Ischnura graellsii*
Common Bluet *Enallagma cyathigerum*
Blue-eye *Erythromma lindenii*
Blue Emperor *Anax imperator*
Lesser Emperor *Anax parthenope*
Broad Scarlet *Crocothemis erythraea*
Broad-bodied Chaser *Libellula depressa*
Black-tailed Skimmer *Orthetrum cancellatum*
Red-veined Darter *Sympetrum fonscolombii*

ORCHIDS

Green-winged Orchid *Anacamptis morio*
Champagneux's Orchid *Anacamptis champagneuxii*
Loose-flowered Orchid *Anacamptis laxiflora*
Early Purple Orchid *Orchis mascula*
Tongue Orchid *Serapias lingua*