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EXTREMADURA AND ANDALUCIA



White Stork – one of the iconic birds of Southern Spain, April 2022 © Fernando Enrique Navarrete

EXTREMADURA AND ANDALUCIA

20-27 April 2022

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Introduction

It is difficult to sum up the highlights of our trip in a few words as the birds performed admirably with more noteworthy sightings including Great and Little Bustards, Pin-tailed and Black-bellied Sandgrouse, no less than 5 Spanish Imperial Eagles, Red-knobbed Coot, White-headed Duck and Marbled Duck.

The sheer numbers of some of the 'commoner' species such as Lesser Kestrels, Rollers, bee-eaters, shrikes, larks, warblers and, of course, Corn Buntings is difficult to relate here!

The breeding heron colonies were also amazing and we saw hundreds of marsh terns and waders in Doñana and at the Odiel Marshes.

Equally noteworthy were the Black Wheatear, Blue Rock Thrush, Rock Bunting and young Eurasian Eagle Owls on their nest on the rugged hills of Extremadura.

Trip Diary

Wednesday 20th April

After a trouble-free flight, the group arrived on time at Madrid Airport and with all the luggage collected, we headed to the vehicle hire desk and then hit the open road for Extremadura. We stopped for an enjoyable 'tapas' style lunch en route pausing afterwards to bird briefly around the nearby fields.

Rabbits are plentiful in this area, so it was not very surprising when we found our first immature Spanish Imperial Eagle. The surprise, however, came when a second bird joined it and then an adult showed up as well!

Vultures were everywhere too, with both Cinereous (Black) and Griffon Vultures attending a carcass on the other side of the hills.

Other birds seen included Iberian Grey Shrike and Stonechat though with time slipping away we decide to continue our journey.

Our last stop was at Arrocampo, a large, reed fringed reservoir complete with hides and a small visitor centre. The time we spent there was quite productive with good views of Little Bittern, Purple Heron, Great Egret, Great Reed Warbler and Savi's Warbler.

Finally, we arrived at our lovely hotel just outside of Torrejón El Rubio, a small village less than five miles away from Monfragüe National Park. An excellent headquarters for our next four days of birdwatching in the area.

Thursday 21st April

Our plan was a full day in the Monfragüe National Park with our hotel ideally positioned for accessing this. Monfragüe is, without any doubt, the flagship of natural Extremadura. The national park encompasses a series of low, rocky hills along the Tagus River, with remnant dense Mediterranean forest on its north-facing slopes. We had chosen today to visit the park based on the weather forecast which was predicting a fine day but wasn't so promising for later in the week.....

An early visit to the impressive Peña Falcon is always a wise move, as the site gets very popular, with views out over the river and the large vulture colony. On arrival, it was clear we had timed it perfectly as we largely had the viewpoint to ourselves.

An enjoyable hour or so followed with birds seen including Blue Rock Thrush, Rock and Cirl Buntings, Black Redstart, Short-toed Treecreeper and two nesting Black Storks.

The main draw here, however, are the vultures with all three species seen, though it is more about the spectacle, with several hundred birds soaring over and around the cliff face then peeling off to fly over us as the morning sun produced the lift they required.

We then moved on through the park, with our next stop at a large bridge where hundreds of House Martins nest, the birds wheeling around above and below us in the company of Alpine Swifts.

Our morning coffee stop was followed by a leg stretch along one of the marked routes near the park's visitor centre. Here, we hoped to find a selection of warblers and, after some perseverance, we were rewarded with good views of Sardinian, Western Subalpine and Western Orphean.

Lunch followed at a riverside picnic stop, where we enjoyed eye-level views of a pair of Egyptian Vultures and a pair of Black Kites on their nest.

We carried on through the park, stopping to view an Egyptian Vulture on its nest with the distance and pose of the bird making it look very gannet-like!

The Portilla del Tietar viewpoint gave us further views of Spanish Imperial Eagle with great views of a bird perched on its nest. Several more Blue Rock-Thrushes and Rock Buntings were also seen and a short drive down the road produced nice views of Iberian Magpies, a numerous but somewhat active species!

It was getting late, so we retraced our route, stopping briefly again at the visitor centre before we returned back to the hotel.

Friday 22nd April

We woke to a damp start to the day and after breakfast set off for the plains between Trujillo and Cáceres. We made good time with the journey taking only around thirty minutes. Our route was to be a circular one entering the plains on the road north towards Santa Marta de Magasca and then heading east to rejoin the road back to Trujillo.

Rain was in the air as we drove along and, unfortunately, accompanied us for the rest of the day. Initial sightings included some of the regions more typical commoner species, such as Iberian Magpie, Crested Lark, Corn Buntings and Iberian Grey Shrike.

Our first hoped for target species quickly followed in the form of a flock of male Great Bustards, over nine birds in total. As we moved further along our intended route these were quickly followed by a Greater Short-toed Lark and a very soggy Little Bustard.



European Roller, April 2022 © Fernando Enrique Navarrete

Before we knew it, the morning had gone and we headed to Santa Marta de Magasca for a welcome coffee and facilities break. We then left Santa Marta de Magasca taking the road towards Cáceres driving along a nest box lined road, hoping to see the species they have primarily been erected for, ie Roller.

The Rollers performed on cue, although they were not as colourful in the rain, with at least six birds sat on wires near the nest boxes, although a large percentage of these boxes are also occupied by Lesser Kestrels.

The weather was getting even worse, so we decided to find shelter in Trujillo, where we enjoyed a wonderful lunch in the main square. We even had the chance to visit the castle, although the rain caught us again on the way down.



Eurasian Eagle Owl chick, April 2022 © Fernando Enrique Navarrete

The day was drawing to a close, so we made one last stop at an Eagle Owl nest, where we enjoyed amazing views of two chicks, before heading back to the hotel and a much-needed warm shower.

Saturday 23rd April

Another rather cold and cloudy start to the day was apparent as we met up for breakfast. We boarded the bus and drove south again in search of some species that we missed the previous day due to the rain.

Once on the plains around Santa Marta, we made regular stops as we travelled along the newly tarmacked road, with highlights including numerous Calandra Larks, Bee-eaters, Hoopoes, Montagu's Harrier, Iberian Grey and Woodchat Shrikes and Common Cuckoo.

At least 5 Great Bustards were also seen and two male Little Bustards performed really well in front of us. We had several sightings of Pin-tailed Sandgrouse in flight and since the weather was better today, lots of vultures were filling the skies.

After a refreshing coffee break, we headed to the village of Jaraicejo, where we stopped at the "Three Bridges", a beautiful valley that acts as a corridor for raptors and other soaring birds. In half an hour there, we saw dozens of Cinereous (Black) and Griffon Vultures, two Black Storks, two Short-toed (Snake) Eagles and a number of smaller raptors including Booted Eagles, Black Kites and Sparrowhawk. There were also hundreds of Spanish Sparrows nesting in a nearby colony.

After another great lunch we visited an area of low Mediterranean shrub in search of more warblers. The habitat had changed dramatically since my last visit but we still managed to find a couple of Western Subalpine Warblers, Western Orphean Warbler and three cooperative Woodlarks. There were also several larks on nearby posts and bushes which proved to be Thekla's, the area being a more expected habitat for this

species.

A quick stop at Puerto de Miravete provided great views of two Crested Tits, several Short-toed Treecreepers and a Black Redstart. On the way down, we also found a cooperative Nightingale singing out in the open, unlike most of its friends.

Once again, the day had slipped away so we headed back to the hotel for a well-deserved brush up and shower before the log and dinner.

Sunday 24th April

Our last morning in Extremadura and after breakfast we packed the minibus and set off to start our journey south to Coto Doñana. We had several stops planned, the first to view more Spanish steppe habitat along the road to Campo Lugar. We travelled along the road making several stops finding a couple of Great Bustards and two groups of Black-bellied Sandgrouse, a species which had eluded us until now. Other species seen included Montagu's and Marsh Harriers, Gull-billed Terns, Short-toed Lark, Rollers and Hoopoes.

As we stopped to buy some sandwiches for lunch, the noise of the Lesser Kestrel colony on a nearby tower roof caught our attention. Nest boxes had been placed around it, providing a safe haven for this declining species.

We then reboarded the bus and headed on towards our next stop the Alange Reservoir which acted as both a lunch stop and a break for the journey, being approximately halfway between Monfragüe and Donana. There was also the added attraction of a possible new bird, Black Wheatear.....

Taking our lunches from the bus, we sat below the nearby rock face scanning the tops and crags above us. Blue Rock thrush, Crag Martin and Rock Bunting were all seen, followed by a rather smart Black Wheatear!

The reservoir itself was relatively quiet, Great Crested Grebes, Cormorants, Black-headed Gulls, Gull-billed Terns and a pair of Egyptian Geese seemingly the only birds present on the water.

After lunch, we walked over to the reservoir dam to watch the Alpine Swifts flying into their nests below, around fifty birds in total, which made for a rather impressive sight!

Continuing onwards, we arrived at El Rocio with time to witness the spectacle of hundreds of Greater Flamingos, as well as Spoonbills, Western Swamphen, Glossy Ibis and Whiskered Terns over the marshes, just before a well-deserved dinner.

Monday 25th April

We started the day with a short walk around the grounds of the hotel which overlooked the marshes, allowing us views of the expected species such as Glossy Ibis, Black-

crowned Night Heron, Greater Flamingo, Western Swamphen, Whiskered Tern and many others. Not a bad start!

After that, we headed south through endless strawberry fields to the edge of the protected area. With the national park completely dry due to the lack of rain, we focused our efforts at Dehesa de Abajo, which was teeming with birds. We spent the morning walking along the edge of the lagoon and visited both hides and the visitor centre.

Red-knobbed Coot was a species we were all hoping to see and this is where Fernando's local knowledge came to the fore. Faced with several thousand Coot to search through and with the majority on the other side of the lagoon, a daunting task faced us or so we thought! Scanning patiently, it didn't take long before a nearby Coot was identified as the aforementioned Red-knobbed, just on the edge of the reeds, it's 'red knobs' clearly visible.



Marbled Ducks, April 2022 © Fernando Enrique Navarrete

The coot was, however, not our only target here as three other threatened species are usually present. The first one we found was a male White-headed Duck with its bright blue bill, followed by a small group of 6 Marbled Ducks, probably the most endangered duck in the country. While we were watching them, a Squacco Heron flew in allowing incredible views.

Another two White-headed Ducks were seen from one of the hides, along with a pair of Ferruginous Ducks, completing the duck trifecta we were hoping for. The supporting cast was rather spectacular, with hundreds of White Storks, as well as Black Kite, Black-necked Grebe, Red-crested Pochard, Great Reed Warbler, Western Olivaceous Warbler, Melodious Warbler and Black-headed Weaver to name just a few.

The remainder of the afternoon was spent around La Rocina, one of the last wet forests in the area. Here, we walked through a wonderful jungle of Mediterranean Willow and Narrow-leaved Ash, with Royal Fern and Yellow Iris in the swampy underbrush. This dense vegetation was home to a number of birds during the heat of the day, including Golden Oriole, Melodious Warbler, Short-toed Treecreeper, Common Cuckoo, more than a dozen singing Nightingales and a beautiful male Pied Flycatcher.

With time ticking on and the promise of another wonderful dinner, we turned and headed back to the hotel.



Part of a large flock of Glossy Ibis, April 2022 © Fernando Enrique Navarrete

Tuesday 26th April

With a very promising weather forecast ahead of us, we boarded the bus to head to our first destination, the Odiel Marshes on the outskirts of Huelva, with our first port of call being the saltpans. Driving past the empty dry saltpans, we arrived at the flooded ones which were teeming with birds! Curlew Sandpipers and Dunlin were immediately obvious and offered a good comparison opportunity, with Sanderlings also present.

Greater Flamingos, Greenshank and Ringed Plover were also noted as were several Little Terns and a Caspian Tern.

We moved on and parked near the visitor centre adding a Sandwich Tern, Common Sandpiper and several Whimbrel to the day list, after which we walked out along the edge of the pans to a covered viewing area.

This proved productive with more waders, including Grey Plover and Bar-tailed Godwit, and good numbers of Common Shelducks. A pair of Ospreys was an appreciated and hoped for addition and a smart male Iberian Yellow Wagtail was found frequenting the suda near the viewing area.

We returned to the bus and then drove along the road towards the coast. The pools at the side of the road continued to reveal more waders, though all were species we had already encountered, although a couple of Montagu's Harriers were the first since we had left Extremadura.

After lunch and with time running short (we did get carried away!) we returned back towards the Coto Doñana and our next destination, El Palacio del Acebrón near El Rocío. We entered the park and drove along the entrance track. Nightingales were singing

around us and as drove through the more open heathland area, we found a couple of very cooperative Woodchat Shrikes.

We arrived at our destination where we walked through an area of largely coniferous woodland, where several Iberian Chiffchaffs were heard singing, two of which gave us some good views after some searching. A Short-toed Treecreeper and at least five Melodious Warblers were also seen, though pride of place must go to a pair of Crested Tits that performed really well for us.

On the way back to El Rocío we lucked in on an adult Spanish Imperial Eagle, while looking for the elusive Lesser Spotted Woodpecker, which finally decided to show a couple of miles further down the road. Not a bad way to end a brilliant day with around 90 species!

Wednesday 27th April

We only had limited time this morning, so we decided to pay a quick visit to the western edge of the El Rocío marshes in search of a couple of birds that we hadn't seen yet. Although we missed one of the target birds, we had great views of several Great Reed Warblers and the only Turtle Dove and Garden Warbler of the trip.

Soon after, we headed back to our first destination of this part of the trip, the Dehesa de Abajo, where once again we connected with birds such as Marbled Duck, Ferruginous Duck, Red-knobbed Coot, Avocet and, as usual, lots of Flamingos.

With such an amazing supporting cast, we concluded our visit and reluctantly tore ourselves away and headed off to the airport, where we said goodbye to Jane, and finally to Santa Justa with ample time to say our farewells after a very enjoyable and successful trip to Extremadura and Doñana.

Thanks to all party members for such a good trip, made even more enjoyable by the great birds, your humour and enthusiasm and we look forward to seeing you all again on another Limosa tour very soon!

ANNOTATED LIST OF BIRDS RECORDED

Greylag Goose *Anser anser*

Seen daily in Doñana.

Egyptian Goose *Alopochen aegyptiaca*

Two at Alange reservoir and one at El Rocío.

Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna*

At least 20 birds at the Odiel Marshes.

Northern Shoveler *Anas clypeata*

Small numbers noted on four dates.

Gadwall *Anas strepera*

A pair on a small pond near Santa Marta. Seen daily during our time in Doñana.

Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*

Common and widespread. Seen daily.

Marbled Teal *Marmaronetta angustirostris*

Six birds at Dehesa de Abajo on 25th and two on 27th.

Red-crested Pochard *Netta rufina*

Common in Doñana and the Odiel marshes.

Common Pochard *Aythya ferina*

Seen daily during our time in Doñana.

Ferruginous Duck *Aythya nyroca*

A pair on 25th and another one on the last day.

White-headed Duck *Oxyura leucocephala*

Two males and one female at Dehesa de Abajo.

Red-legged Partridge *Alectoris rufa*

Two birds on the plains near Santa Marta. Heard on several dates.

Quail *Coturnix coturnix*

Several birds heard on three dates.

Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis*

Common on most wetlands.

Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus*

Common and easily seen on the wetlands of Coto Doñana.

Black-necked Grebe *Podiceps nigricollis*

Good numbers noted at Dehesa de Abajo on different dates.

Greater Flamingo *Phoenicopterus roseus*

Hundreds in Doñana and the Odiel marshes.

Black Stork *Ciconia nigra*

Six birds at Monfragüe and three near Santa Marta.

White Stork *Ciconia Ciconia*

Very common, seen on most days.

Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus*

Very common bird in Doñana.

Eurasian Spoonbill *Platalea leucorodia*

Common in Coto Doñana and the Odiel Marshes.

Little Bittern *Ixobrychus minutus*

Male and female seen at Arrocampo.

Black-crowned Night Heron *Nycticorax Nycticorax*

Good numbers at Dehesa de Abajo and the northern edge of Doñana National Park.

Squacco Heron *Ardeola ralloides*

Single birds noted on two dates.

Western Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis*

Very common, seen daily.

Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea*

Seen on most wetlands and rivers.

Purple Heron *Ardea purpurea*

Several birds at Arrocampo and common in Doñana.

Great Egret *Egretta alba*

Small numbers at Arrocampo and Doñana.

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*

Common, seen on most wetlands.

Great Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*

Seen at Alange Reservoir and Doñana.

Western Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*

Three different breeding pairs seen at Odiel Marshes.

Black-winged Kite *Elanus caeruleus*

A single bird on route during our first day.

Egyptian Vulture *Neophron percnopterus*

Six birds at Monfragüe and one on the Santa Marta plains.

Eurasian Griffon Vulture *Gyps fulvus*

Very common, seen daily in Extremadura. Huge numbers in Monfragüe.

Cinereous (Black) Vulture *Aegypius monachus*

Common, seen daily in Extremadura. Good numbers in Monfragüe.

Short-toed (Snake) Eagle *Circaetus gallicus*

One to four birds noted on four dates.

Booted Eagle *Hieraetus pennatus*

One of the most common raptors with several birds seen daily.

Spanish Imperial Eagle *Aquila adalberti*

Two 2cy birds and an adult on the first day, one adult on the nest in Monfragüe, one bird on the Santa Marta plains and another adult in Doñana.

Bonelli's Eagle *Aquila fasciata*

One adult bird in Monfragüe.

Eurasian Sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus*

One bird near Jaraicejo.

Western Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus*

Small numbers seen daily.

Montagu's Harrier *Circus pygargus*

Small numbers were recorded on three dates.

Red Kite *Milvus milvus*

Small numbers noted on five dates.

Black Kite *Milvus migrans*

Common. Seen daily.

Common Buzzard *Buteo buteo*

A few birds seen on most days.

Great Bustard *Otis tarda*

A total of 14 birds on the Santa Marta plains and two at Campo Lugar.

Little Bustard *Tetrax tetrax*

One of the highlights of the trip. We saw a total of 6 different males on three dates.

Water Rail *Rallus aquaticus*

A couple of birds heard at Arrocampo.

Western Swamphen *Porphyrio porphyrio*

Several heard and one seen at Arrocampo. Common at Coto Doñana.

Common Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus*

Seen on most wetlands.

Red-knobbed Coot *Fulica cristata*

Two or three pairs at Dehesa de Abajo.

Eurasian Coot *Fulica atra*

Seen on most wetlands.

Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus*

Small numbers in Extremadura and very common in Coto Doñana and the Odiel Marshes.

Pied Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta*

A couple of birds at Odiel Marshes and six birds during our visit to Dehesa de Abajo on our last day.

Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*

One of the most common waders at the Odiel Marshes.

Common Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*

Very common at the Odiel Marshes.

Kentish Plover *Charadrius alexandrinus*

Small numbers at the Odiel Marshes.

Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus*

Good numbers at the Odiel Marshes.

Eurasian Curlew *Numenius arquata*

One at the Odiel Marshes.

Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica*

Common at the Odiel Marshes.

Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa*

A flock of 50+ birds at El Rocío.

Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea*

Good numbers, some already in summer plumage, on the saltpans at the Odiel Marshes.

Dunlin *Calidris alpina*

Easily seen at Odiel Marshes.

Little Stint *Calidris minuta*

A few birds at Odiel Marshes.

Sanderling *Calidris alba*

Common at the Odiel marshes.

Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*

Small numbers noted on two dates.

Ruddy Turnstone *Arenaria interpres*

Small numbers at Odiel Marshes.

Common Redshank *Tringa tetanus*

Good numbers at Odiel Marshes.

Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*

A dozen or so birds were noted in the Odiel Marshes.

Black-headed Gull *Chroicocephalus ridibundus*

Seen at the Odiel Marshes.

Yellow-legged Gull *Larus michahellis*

Seen at the Odiel Marshes.

Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus fuscus*

Several at the Odiel Marshes.

Gull-billed Tern *Gelochelidon nilotica*

Ten or so birds seen at Arrocampo.

Caspian Tern *Hydroprogen caspia*

A single bird at the Odiel Marshes.

Sandwich Tern *Sterna sandvicensis*

Seen at the Odiel Marshes.

Little Tern *Sternula albifrons*

Very common at the Odiel Marshes.

Whiskered Tern *Chlidonias hybrida*

Amazing sighting of hundreds of birds flying over the marshes in Coto Doñana.

Black Tern *Chlidonias niger*

Very common on passage this year, with flocks of 50+ birds at El Rocio.

Pin-tailed Sandgrouse *Pterocles alchata*

A flock of 12 birds on the plains between Trujillo and Caceres.

Black-bellied Sandgrouse *Pterocles orientalis*

Eleven birds at Campo Lugar.

Rock Dove *Columba livia*

Seen daily.

Wood Pigeon *Columba palumbus*

Common throughout the trip.

Turtle Dove *Streptopelia turtur*

Another bird that is becoming more difficult to find each year. We saw a single bird at El Rocio.

Collared Dove *Streptopelia decaocto*

Seen daily.

Common Cuckoo *Cuculus canorus*

Several heard and seen on various dates.

Eurasian Eagle-owl *Bubo bubo*

Fantastic views of two chicks on the nest near Trujillo.

Tawny Owl *Strix aluco*

Heard calling near Dehesa de Abajo.

Alpine Swift *Tachymarptis melba*

Good numbers at Monfragüe and Alange.

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*

Half a dozen birds seen between Trujillo and Cáceres and a five more near Campo Lugar.

Common Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis*

Three birds were seen well along Rio Almonte near Santa Marta.

European Bee-eater *Merops apiaster*

Very common. Seen and heard daily.

Eurasian Hoopoe *Upupa epops*

Common. Seen and heard daily.

Eurasian Wryneck *Jynx torquilla*

One heard near El Acebrón.

Lesser Spotted Woodpecker *Dryobates minor*

Great views of one male in Doñana.

Lesser Kestrel *Falco naumanni*

Common in Extremadura and Doñana.

Common Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus*

Common, seen almost daily.

Iberian Grey Shrike *Lanius meridionalis*

Small numbers seen daily in Extremadura and Doñana.

Woodchat Shrike *Lanius senator*

Very common, seen daily.

Eurasian Golden Oriole *Oriolus oriolus*

We had great views of two different males. Heard on most days.

Iberian Magpie *Cyanopica cooki*

Great views of one of the most iconic birds in the region and particularly numerous in Extremadura.

Eurasian Magpie *Pica pica*

Very common. Seen daily.

Western Jackdaw *Coloeus monedula*

Common, seen almost daily.

Northern Raven *Corvus corax*

Small numbers seen daily.

European Crested Tit *Lophophanes cristatus*

One pair in Extremadura and one pair near El Acebron.

Great Tit *Parus major*

Seen or heard daily.

Eurasian Blue Tit *Cyanistes caeruleus*

Seen or heard daily.

Woodlark *Lullula arborea*

Good views of several birds near Jaraicejo and a very cooperative bird in Doñana.

Crested Lark *Galerida cristata*

Common, seen daily.

Thekla Lark *Galerida theklae*

Small numbers noted on three dates in Extremadura.

Greater Short-toed Lark *Calandrella brachydactyla*

A few birds on the Santa Marta plains.

Calandra Lark *Melanocorypha calandra*

Very common in Extremadura with smaller number in the Doñana area.

Sand Martin *Riparia riparia*

Good numbers noted on five dates.

Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica*

Very common. Seen daily.

Crag Martin *Ptyonoprogne rupestris*

Seen daily in Extremadura, numerous in Monfragüe.

House Martin *Delichon urbicum*

Seen daily. Especially common at Monfragüe, where several thousand were noted.

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*

Seen at Monfragüe and at Palacio del Acebrón.

Willow Warbler *Phylloscopus trochilus*

Scarcer than on previous visits. Single birds on two dates.

Iberian Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus ibericus*

Two or three birds were seen very well at Palacio del Acebrón.

Great Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus arundinaceus*

Very common and vocal at Coto Doñana, some of them providing great views.

Eurasian Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*

Several seen and heard at Arrocampo and Doñana.

Western Olivaceous Warbler *Iduna opaca*

Several birds heard and at least two seen around Dehesa de Abajo.

Melodious Warbler *Hippolais polyglotta*

Relatively common on the last three days of the trip, with several birds noted each day.

Savi's Warbler *Locustella luscinioides*

Two birds seen and one more heard at Arrocampo and a few heard at Coto Doñana.

Zitting Cisticola *Cisticola juncidis*

Seen daily.

Eurasian Blackcap *Sylvia atricapilla*

Only one bird seen at La Rocina.

Garden Warbler *Sylvia borin*

One bird seen at El Rocio.

Western Orphean Warbler *Sylvia hortensis*

Three birds seen along the “Yellow Trail” in Monfragüe and a couple near Jaraicejo.

Dartford Warbler *Sylva undata*

A couple of birds at Monfragüe.

Western Subalpine Warbler *Sylvia cantillans*

At least four different males were seen at Monfragüe, three near Jaraicejo and one in Alange.

Sardinian Warbler *Sylvia melanocephala*

Small numbers seen or heard daily.

Common Firecrest *Regulus ignicapilla*

One seen in Monfragüe.

Eurasian Wren *Troglodytes troglodytes*

Heard and seen on most days in Extremadura.

Eurasian Nuthatch *Sitta europaea*

A couple of birds noted at Monfragüe.

Short-toed Treecreeper *Certhia brachydactyla*

Heard and seen at Monfragüe and Palacio del Acebrón.

Spotless Starling *Sturnus unicolor*

Very common, seen daily.

Common Blackbird *Turdus merula*

Common, seen daily.

Mistle Thrush *Turdus viscivorus*

One seen near Santa Marta.

Common Nightingale *Luscinia megarhynchos*

Common in both Monfragüe and the Coto Doñana, unsurprisingly heard with only a few seen.

European Robin *Erithacus rubecula*

One seen at Monfragüe.

European Pied Flycatcher *Ficedula hypoleuca*

A male provided great views at La Rocina.

Black Redstart *Phoenicurus ochruros*

Common in Monfragüe.

Blue Rock Thrush *Monticola solitaria*

Common in Monfragüe, with smaller numbers at Alange.

European Stonechat *Saxicola rubicola*

Very common. Seen daily.

Northern Wheatear *Oenanthe oenanthe*

Common migrant, noted on three dates.

Black Wheatear *Oenanthe leucura*

One male at Alange Reservoir.

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*

Very common.

Spanish Sparrow *Passer hispaniolensis*

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

Rock Sparrow *Petronia petronia*

One near Santa Marta and a few in the Jaraicejo area.

Black-headed Weaver *Ploceus melanocephalus*

Great views of several males and females at Dehesa de Abajo.

Western Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava*

Very common in Doñana and the Odiel Marshes.

White Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea*

Small numbers recorded on most dates.

Hawfinch *Coccothraustes coccothraustes*

Single birds noted on two dates.

Common Chaffinch *Fringilla coelebs*

Common in forested areas.

European Serin *Serinus serinus*

Very common, seen daily.

European Greenfinch *Chloris chloris*

Seen daily.

European Goldfinch *Carduelis carduelis*

Seen daily.

Common Linnet *Linaria cannabina*

Noted on most dates.

Corn Bunting *Emberiza calandra*

One of the most common birds of the trip. Seen daily.

Rock Bunting *Emberiza cia*

Half a dozen birds at Monfragüe and a singing male at Alange Reservoir.

Cirl Bunting *Emberiza cirlus*

Three birds seen at Monfragüe and one near Jaraicejo.

MAMMALS

Red Deer *Cervus elaphus*

European Rabbit *Oryctolagus cuniculus*

BUTTERFLIES

Large White *Pieris brassicae*

Small White *Artogeia rapae*

Western Bath White *Pontia daplidice*

Clouded Yellow *Colias crocea*

Small Copper *Lycaena phlaeas*

Long-tailed Blue *Lampides boeticus*

Southern Brown Argus *Aricia cramera*

Red Admiral *Vanessa atalanta*

Painted Lady *Vanessa cardui*

Queen of Spain Fritillary *Issoria lathonia*

Spanish Marbled White *Melanargia ines*

Small Heath *Coenonympha pamphilus*

Speckled Wood *Pararge aegeria*

Small Skipper *Thymelicus sylvestris*

DRAGONFLIES

Iberian Bluetail *Ischnura graellsii*

Common Winter Damselfly *Sympecma fusca*

Lesser Emperor *Anax parthenope*

Vagrant Emperor *Anax ephippiger*

Black-tailed Skimmer *Orthetrum cancellatum*

Red-veined Darter *Sympetrum fonscolombii*

REPTILES & AMPHIBIANS

Spanish Terrapin *Mauremys leprosa*

Moorish Gecko *Tarentola mauritanica*

Large Psammodromus *Psammodromus algirus*

Andalusia Wall Lizard *Podarcis vaucheri*

Iberian Green Frog *Pelophylax perezi*

ORCHIDS

Champagne's Orchid *Anacamptis champagneuxii*

Loose-flowered Orchid *Neotinea laxiflora*

Tongue Orchid *Serapias lingua*