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SPRING TOUR FOR JOHN AND PAM SMALLWOOD

By Martin Kelsey

ITINERARY

Day 1: Tuesday 10th April

Arrival Madrid Terminal 1: 10.15
Lunch at Portilla del Tietár, Monfragüe
Arrive at Casa Rural El Recuerdo by 17.15

Day 2: Wednesday 11th April

Santa Marta de Magasca region

Day 3: Thursday 12th April

Santa Marta de Magasca, Guadiloba, Tozo

Day 4: Friday 13th April

Sierra Brava, Casas del Hito, Vegas Altas, Palazuelo, Zorita Steppes

Day 5: Saturday 14th April

Arrocampo, Cabaños del Castillo

Day 6: Sunday 15th April

Villuercas mountains, Trujillo. Evening walk Pago de San Clemente

Day 7: Monday 16th April

Jaraicejo, Monfragüe

Day 8: Tuesday 17th April

Belen, Arrocampo, Madrid

TRIP REPORT

Day 1

Martin met John and Pam at Madrid airport mid-morning. It was a sunny, fresh morning, much finer weather than had been experienced in the previous few days. We headed out of Madrid in good time and soon were on the relatively empty A5 motorway heading south-west to Extremadura. We stopped for coffee just off the motorway. The landscape was wonderfully green following the good spring rains and particularly so as we approached the northern side of Monfragüe National Park for our afternoon birding. At the Portilla del Tietár we were rewarded with magnificent view of the female **Eagle Owl** on her nest, with two large grey-downed chicks, about three weeks old. As we watched she walked from the nest ledge, and flew onto a nearby bare tree where she evidently enjoyed the afternoon sun and busied herself preening. As well as **Griffon** and **Black Vultures** overhead, we also saw **Short-toed Eagle**, **Booted Eagle**, **Black** and **Red Kite** and a fine **Black Stork** which glided in front of the cliffs opposite. As we started our pack lunch, we spotted an adult **Spanish Imperial Eagle** gliding into view and it came overhead, soaring, showing the bright whitish forewing edges and crown, which positively glowed in the sunshine.

The Eagle Owl returned to her nest, but not for long, as she then flew further this time, to settle on a boulder in the wooded hillside beside the cliff. There she was mobbed by a pair of **Ravens**, a **Blackbird**, a **Great Tit** and a **Serin**, before she was left in peace and she could doze briefly. It was a wonderful spot and we also enjoyed watching **Blue Rock Thrush** and **Rock Bunting** close by.

We proceeded to our destination, arriving at Casa Rural El Recuerdo in time for tea in the sitting room.

Day 2

After breakfast we headed west from Trujillo, before taking a minor road towards Santa Marta de Magasca. Through a belt of open oak woodland (*dehesa*) we saw the first of many **Woodchat Shrikes** of the day as well as an obliging group of three **Woodlark** on the ground close to the road. Stopping at the start of a belt of plains we quickly found a pair of **Stone Curlew** and a **Great Spotted Cuckoo** in the same field of view. A third Stone Curlew was seen calling from a bank close to a small pond. A displaying **Little Bustard**, giving its short far-carrying call was also seen, the black and white chevron markings on the neck being highly visible. Further along the road, **Pin-tailed Sandgrouse** were heard calling, but none came into view, but we did see two **Black Vulture** on the ground, with a Griffon. We stopped at a good vantage point, where a **Southern Grey Shrike** sang from a tree top and a fine **Booted Eagle** sat nearby on a fence post, drying its wings after a bathe. A smart male **Northern Wheatear** foraged beside the road. **Calandra Larks** sang continuously overhead, whilst two **Great Bustard** males displayed in the distance, their plumage turning white as they adopted their extraordinary lekking posture.

We then headed north of Santa Marta de Magasca to visit a colony of **Montagu's Harriers**, where perhaps twenty birds tumbled and displayed over a field of cereals.

It was a magnificent site. A **Bee-eater** flew overhead, a **Short-toed Lark** sang above us throughout our stay, whilst in the ploughed field beside us a pair of **Black-eared Wheatear** were present. As a shower of rain came our way, we repaired to the village for refreshments, before stopping at the River Tamuja for lunch. Here we watched **Crag Martins** at their nests below the bridge, as well as having excellent views of **Rock Sparrow** and **Cirl Bunting**. Overhead raptors appeared: a pair of **Short-toed Eagles**, a displaying **Bonelli's Eagle**, **Booted Eagle**, both Kites, a high-flying male **Hen Harrier**, a Montagu's Harrier as well as all three species of vulture.

After lunch we explored a track crossing the steppes west of Cáceres. **Lesser Kestrels** were seen on wires and hunting over the plains, whilst we were delighted to see a pair of **Rollers** beside one of the Roller nestboxes, the male courtship feeding the female. A **Tawny Pipit** showed itself well on the track in front of us, whilst more Montagu's Harriers were seen quartering the plains. We ended the journey in a particularly beautiful area, wide open with the grassland flowers forming multi-coloured carpets. More Little Bustards were calling and Great Bustards were seen feeding in the fields. More Pin-tailed Sandgrouse were heard calling and a party of two and then about 20 were seen briefly before settling out of view.

Day 3

Straight after breakfast we headed again to the minor road west of Santa Marta de Magasca to obtain better view of Pin-tailed Sandgrouse. The day started out heavily overcast, but improved during the day. Unlike yesterday, no Rollers were present at the start of the road across the plains, but along the road we saw **Zitting Cisticola**, **Whinchat** and **Northern Wheatear**. A couple of **Montagu's Harriers** were also seen, as well as distant **Great Bustard**. In the area favoured by the sandgrouse, we were delighted to find a flock of 60 **Pin-tailed Sandgrouse** on the ground close to the road. We obtained excellent views, many in the same field of view as a displaying **Little Bustard**. They flew off as a flock, but quickly dispersed into pairs and small groups, heading off in different directions. One male circled back calling and to our surprise returned to land close to us. We had good views of others in flights as well. Further along the road, we had excellent views of a female **Subalpine Warbler**, on passage through the steppe landscape. We came to another area of sheep grazed pasture and picked up a flock of sandgrouse. This time they were **Black-bellied Sandgrouse**. They settled on the ground and were soon joined by another flock, bringing the total to 50 birds. To cap it all a further four Pin-tailed Sandgrouse also flew and settled into view. We also had good views of **Short-toed Lark** close to the track. Following this very productive morning on the plains, we stopped for lunch at the Guadiloba reservoir. Almost immediately we saw two **Black Tern** hawking over the water, as well as a **Collared Pratincole**, **Gadwall** and **Black-winged Stilts**. A **Common Redshank**, **Common Sandpipers** and **Little Ringed Plover** were also present.

We ended the day with a wonderful walk along the Tozo River to a small reservoir. In the dehesa surrounds we saw **Great Spotted Cuckoo**, **Woodlark** and two **Tree Pipits**, **Booted Eagle**, **Short-toed eagle** and several **Black Kite** joined the vultures above, whilst the reservoir itself had many **Black-winged Stilts**, **Common Greenshank**, **Shoveler**, **Gadwall** and a **Great Egret**. Several Spanish Fescion

butterflies were seen and there were fine stands of Barbary Nut Iris, as well as Hoop Petticoat Narcissus. We returned to Casa Rural El Recuerdo just as a storm was breaking.

Day 4

After a quick trip into the nearby small town of Madroñera to find a chemist, we took the road south to Zorita and then towards Madrigalejo. Despite the sunshine over Casa Rural El Recuerdo, we travelled through thick fog on the plains south of Zorita. Thankfully this had lifted somewhat by the time we got to the reservoir of Sierra Brava. Apart from **Great Crested Grebe**, a **Gadwall** and **Common Sandpiper**, there was nothing of note on the reservoir itself, but we did find a splendid male **Black-eared Wheatear** and watched **Common** and **Lesser Kestrel**. A single **Common Pratincole** flew overhead. We drove down to the rice growing area of Casas del Hito. On a few remaining damp fields, there were several **Black-winged Stilts**, as well as **Green Sandpiper** and **Common Redshank**. We checked the large embanked pool there and found two **Red-crested Pochard** and a **Pintail** amongst the scattering of **Mallard**, whilst more Common Pratincoles flew over. However, best bird of all was an obliging **Spotted Crake** which came out to feed in the corner of a field, in exactly the same place where Martin had seen one a month earlier.

Small parties of **Red Avadavat** flew up from roadside ditches, as well as flighty flocks of **Spanish Sparrow** as we crossed the area. We had excellent views of a pair of **Black-winged Kite** as well as **Marsh Harrier**. As we left the rice area, we found an absolutely stunning **Lapwing** (a common winter visitor) sporting the longest crest we had ever seen for the species! After a coffee stop at Madrigalejo, we proceeded to the village of Vegas Altas. There we watched a party of about ten **Gull-billed Tern** around a damp field, which on closer scrutiny also revealed a **Wood Sandpiper**, two **Ruff**, Common Sandpiper and Common Redshank. Leaving the area, two **Black-bellied Sandgrouse** flew over and a **Great Bustard** with two females were seen in cereals.

We stopped for lunch beside the River Ruercas, with **Nightingales**, **Cetti's Warblers** and a **Great Reed Warbler** singing almost continuously. Collared Pratincoles hawked insects over nearby fields, whilst a **Common Cuckoo** flew over. Crossing rice fields towards Palazuelo, we stopped to look at the roof of a barn where **Tree**, **Spanish** and **House Sparrow** were perched together.

We then crossed the plains south of Zorita, finding a distant Great Bustard, a quick view of a **Yellow Wagtail** and hearing several **Quail**. **Montagu's** and Marsh Harriers quartered the cereals. Returning for a brief final visit to the Sierra Brava reservoir, we were surprised to have as the finale of the day a group of four adult **Common Crane**, flying low overhead calling, before circling higher and higher to the west.

Day 5

After the thunderstorm the previous evening, the day dawned clear and sunny and it remained so all day: getting warm enough by mid-morning to be in shirt-sleeves. We took the motorway up to Almaraz and drove on to the reservoir of Arrocampo. Established to provide cooling water for a power station, the warmer than average

water temperature and lowland setting encourages a luxuriant littoral vegetation of reed mace and some reeds. We started the visit by watching **Penduline Tits** feeding nestlings in their extraordinary and beautiful nest. The adult collected caterpillars, often from neighbouring oak trees, and visited the nest every few minutes. We also had excellent views of **Purple Swamphen** and a male **Little Bittern** (both in the same field of view), **Purple Herons** and a close-by **Savi's Warbler**, singing from atop a reed stem. We drove a track to reach another vantage point and stopped to watch a pristine male **Lesser Kestrel** on the wires to our right and a **Black-winged Kite** on a telegraph post to our left. After seeing more Purple Swamphen and Purple Heron, as well as a flock of **Sand Martin** on wires, we stopped for coffee at the lagoon of Cerro Alto. There was not much at the site itself, but we had good views of **Bee-eater** flying overhead and an obliging pair of **Red-rumped Swallow** close to where we parked the car.

After a stop to look at a wonderful stand of Italian Man Orchids, we drove up into the Villuercas mountains, stopping south of the village of Retamosa at the River Almonte, where it cuts an impressive gorge. Packs of **Alpine Swift** wheeled above the rocks, where there was also a cliff-nesting **House Martin** colony. A few raptors passed over: **Egyptian, Griffon and Black Vulture, Common Kestrel, Short-toed Eagle and Black Kite**, but best of all was an adult **Golden Eagle** which crossed the sky on angled wings, at great speed. Following lunch we visited the village of Cabañas del Castillo. A **Black Wheatear** was quickly found, perched high on the rock face. We also saw **Rock Buntings, Blue Rock Thrush**, a fine **Black Redstart** and a pair of **Peregrine**, the latter affording excellent views, especially of the male perched on a cliff. Returning to the car, we stopped briefly in cork oak woodland just south of the village, where **Short-toed Treecreepers** called and a **Nuthatch** was seen.

Day 6

Clear morning skies heralded another fine day as we returned to the Villuercas mountains, spending a couple of hours in cork oak woodland south of Cabañas del Castillo. It was a very productive spot. The first birds seen were a pair of **Red-billed Chough**, calling and tumbling in the sky above. We obtained excellent views of a singing **Bonelli's Warbler** and later heard a **Western Orphean Warbler**, seeing it briefly in flight. There were also **Crested Tit, Short-toed Treecreeper, Nuthatch and Great Spotted Woodpecker** present. Overhead we watched a pair of **Bonelli's Eagle**, a pair of **Peregrine**, a pair of **Common Kestrel**, a pair of **Egyptian Vulture**, as well as **Griffons**.

From there we headed south and walked through a mixed wood of pine and Pyrenean oak. The place seemed full of Short-toed Treecreepers, as well as Crested Tit, and we also heard a **Green Woodpecker**. The track was very good for butterflies as well, especially Spanish Festoon.

After lunch we drove to Trujillo and spent a while watching the **Pallid Swifts**, amongst the **Common Swifts** in the Main Square. Lesser Kestrels wheeled overhead, whilst a **Red Kite, Black Kite and Booted Eagle** passed overhead. A light evening shower soon passed and after dinner we enjoyed a dusk walk in the village, hearing **Scops Owl and Little Owl** and seeing two **Long-eared Owls** flying over the

lane.

Day 7

Another fine day, which became quite warm by the afternoon. A **Nightingale** was singing strongly in the garden as we left, heading north to the lavender heaths near Jaraicejo. We quickly obtained good views of several **Dartford Warblers** as well as **Thekla Lark**, although Spectacled Warblers initially eluded us. At the edge of a cork oak grove, a skulking passage **Garden Warbler** was of interest. Overhead **Booted Eagles** displayed, giving an unusual double-noted *chit-chit* call. At one time in the sky there were four **Black Stork** and we also saw **Short-toed Eagle** and **Black Vulture**. In the grove a passage **Willow Warbler** was singing, whilst we also heard **Golden Oriole** and **Bonelli's Warbler**. Returning to the heath, we finally got good views of **Spectacled Warbler** as well as a fine singing **Tawny Pipit**.

We had coffee beside the Arroyo de la Vid and then headed west towards Torrejón el Rubio and then to the Monfragüe National Park. Climbing first to the castle, we had superb views of the landscape and also saw a large Ocellated Lizard sunning itself on a boulder. We then stopped at the river crossing to watch **Alpine Swifts**, amongst the throngs of **House Martins**, before stopping for lunch at a picnic site west of the dam. Excellent views were obtained of nesting **Black Kite**, as well as **Egyptian Vultures**. We spent a few minutes in the pines near the dam, where **Cirl Bunting** were singing. Finally reaching the Portilla del Tietár, we missed seeing the Eagle Owl chicks moving on their nesting ledge, but eventually the adult **Eagle Owl** was found, roosting close to the nest.

We completed our visit with a stop at Peña Falcon viewpoint where we enjoyed the spectacle of the circling vultures, joined at times by Black Stork, Black Kite and Booted Eagle.

Day 8

Following an after-breakfast walk in the village, which yielded two **Garden Warblers**, a **Greenfinch**, good views of **Bee-eater** and singing **Woodlark**, we bade farewell to Casa Rural El Recuerdo and headed to Belen Plains. On the way, we took a detour to check the lake behind the Bull Ring at Trujillo and were rewarded by a **Little Grebe**, surprisingly the first of the week. The Belen Plains lie east of Trujillo, a wonderful area and we obtained excellent views of about ten **Great Bustards** (including two displaying males) as well as **Little Bustard** and **Montagu's Harrier**. Clearly much passage migration was underway, as we saw several **Whinchat**, **Northern Wheatear** as well as a female **Whitethroat** and **Willow Warbler** in the roadside verge and fences. We admired the multi-storey **White Stork** tree colony, along with its **Cattle Egret** nests (some of which appeared built within the stork's nests themselves).

From Belen we made a short lunch stop at Arrocampo, watching **Savi's Warbler**, **Purple Heron**, **Purple Swamphen** and a high-hovering **Kingfisher**. From there it was straight onto the motorway for the journey back to the airport for the evening check-in.

BIRDS RECORDED

After a generally late spring, summer migrants started arriving in strength during the week, whilst some winter visitors were still present and an interesting range of passage migrants were also moving through. This combination of factors helped to make the week's total of species an impressive 154, all seen within an hour's distance of Casa Rural El Recuerdo (and most much closer than that).

- 1. Little Grebe:** One on pool near Bull Ring, Trujillo on 17th April.
- 2. Great Crested Grebe:** pairs present at Arrocampo, and the reservoirs of Sierra Brava, Tozo and Guadiloba.
- 3. Great Cormorant:** small numbers seen at Monfragüe, Guadiloba and Arrocampo.
- 4. Little Bittern:** Singles seen at Arrocampo on both 14th and 17th April.
- 5. Cattle Egret:** Seen almost daily, with colonies on Belen Plains.
- 6. Little Egret:** Seen at the Tozo reservoir, on the rice fields and at Arrocampo.
- 7. Great Egret:** One at Tozo reservoir on 12th April.
- 8. Grey Heron:** Seen almost daily.
- 9. Purple Heron:** Several seen at Arrocampo on both 14th and 17th April.
- 10. Black Stork:** Seen at Monfragüe on 10th and 16th April, in the Villuercas mountains on 14th April and four together at Jaraicejo on 16th April.
- 11. White Stork:** A common bird seen daily.
- 12. Gadwall:** Pairs present at Tozo reservoir, Sierra Brava and on pool at Casas del Hito on 13th April.
- 13. Mallard:** Seen almost daily.
- 14. Pintail:** One drake on pool at Casas del Hito on 13th April.
- 15. Northern Shoveler:** Pair on Tozo reservoir on 12th April.
- 16. Red-crested Pochard:** Two drakes on pool at Casas del Hito on 13th April.

- 17. Black-winged Kite:** Two seen at Casas del Hito on 13th April and one at Arrocampo on 14th April.
- 18. Black Kite:** Very common and seen every day.
- 19. Red Kite:** Seen almost daily, but less common than previous species.
- 20. Egyptian Vulture:** Seen at Monfragüe, near Santa Marta de Magasca, and in the Villuercas mountains.
- 21. Griffon Vulture:** Seen every day.
- 22. Black Vulture:** Seen almost daily.
- 23. Short-toed Eagle:** Seen every day.
- 24. Marsh Harrier:** Seen near Madrigalejo, the Zorita Plains and at Arrocampo.
- 25. Hen Harrier:** A male seen flying high over Rio Tamuja on 11th April.
- 26. Montagu's Harrier:** Seen in good numbers on the plains near Santa Marta de Magasca and Zorita.
- 27. Common Buzzard:** Seen daily.
- 28. Spanish Imperial Eagle:** Superb views of adult bird soaring in Monfragüe on 10th April.
- 29. Golden Eagle:** One adult over Rio Almonte near Cabañas del Castillo on 14th April.
- 30. Booted Eagle:** Seen daily. Pale phase greatly outnumbering dark phase.
- 31. Bonelli's Eagle:** A displaying bird over Rio Tamuja on 11th April and a pair in Villuercas mountains on 15th April.
- 32. Lesser Kestrel:** Seen every day.
- 33. Common Kestrel:** Seen almost every day.
- 34. Peregrine Falcon:** Good views of a pair at Cabañas del Castillo on 14th April and to the south on 15th April.
- 35. Red-legged Partridge:** Seen most days.
- 36. Quail:** Calling birds recorded almost daily.
- 37. Water Rail:** Heard near pool at Casas del Hito on 13th April.
- 38. Spotted Crake:** Excellent views of one near pool at Casas del Hito on 13th April.

- 39. Moorhen:** Seen almost daily on small farmland ponds.
- 40. Purple Swamphen:** Good views, including an adult with two chicks at Arrocampo.
- 41. Common Coot:** Recorded at Tozo reservoir and Arrocampo.
- 42. Common Crane:** Very late record of four adults circling over Sierra Brava on 13th April.
- 43. Little Bustard:** Calling males and single females seen on plains near Santa Marta de Magasca on 11th and 12th April, and on Belén Plains on 17th April.
- 44. Great Bustard:** Seen, including displaying males on plains near Santa Marta de Magasca on 11th and 12th April, Vegas Altas and Zorita Plains on 13th April and on Belén Plains on 17th April.
- 45. Black-winged Stilt:** Seen almost daily. Good numbers present at Tozo reservoir.
- 46. Stone Curlew:** Three seen near Santa Marta de Magasca on 11th April and heard in the area on 12th April.
- 47. Collared Pratincole:** A small party at Guadiloba reservoir on 12th April and seven near Palazuelo on 13th April.
- 48. Little Ringed Plover:** Seen along Rio Tamuja on 11th April, Guadiloba reservoir on 12th April and on the ricefields.
- 49. Lapwing:** One straggler from winter near Madrigalejo on 13th April.
- 50. Ruff:** Two on rice fields with other passage waders at Vegas Altas on 13th April.
- 51. Common Redshank:** Single birds at Guadiloba on 12th April and Vegas Altas on 13th April.
- 52. Greenshank:** Two birds present on Tozo reservoir on 12th April.
- 53. Green Sandpiper:** One bird on rice fields at Casas del Hito on 13th April.
- 54. Wood Sandpiper:** One birds on rice fields with other passage waders at Vegas Altas on 13th April.
- 55. Common Sandpiper:** Seen at Sierra Brava and at rice fields of Vegas Altas on 13th April.
- 56. Black-headed Gull:** Small numbers present at Guadiloba and Sierra Brava.
- 57. Lesser Black-backed Gull:** Small numbers present at Guadiloba and Sierra Brava.

58. Gull-billed Tern: Recorded at Sierra Brava, on the rice fields (13th April) and at Arrocampo (14th April).

59. Black Tern: Two birds at Guadiloba on 12th April.

60. Black-bellied Sandgrouse: Group of about 50 seen west of Santa Marta de Magasca on 12th April and two at Vegas Altas on 13th April.

61. Pin-tailed Sandgrouse: Heard east of Santa Marta de Magasca on 11th April and over 20 seen west of the village later that day. Excellent views of about 60 on the ground west of the village on 12th April, with a further four seen at the same site as the Black-bellied Sandgrouse.

62. Rock Dove/Feral Pigeon: Seen daily.

63. Wood Pigeon: Seen almost daily.

64. Collared Dove: Seen daily.

65. Great Spotted Cuckoo: Two near Santa Marta de Magasca on 11th April and three seen on 12th April near Santa Marta de Magasca and Tozo reservoir.

66. Common Cuckoo: Heard and sometimes seen almost daily.

67. Scops Owl: Heard on evening of 15th April at Pago de San Clemente.

68. Eagle Owl: Excellent views of adult and two chicks in Monfragüe on 10th and 16th April.

69. Little Owl: A total of five seen near Santa Marta de Magasca on 12th April and also seen on Belén Plains. Heard most evenings.

70. Long-eared Owl: Two birds seen in flight in evening of 15th April at Pago de San Clemente

71. Alpine Swift: Seen at Cabañas del Castillo and Monfragüe.

72. Common Swift: Seen daily.

73. Pallid Swift: Seen in Trujillo.

74. Kingfisher: Heard at Rio Tamuja and seen at Arrocampo.

75. Bee-eater: Seen daily, with numbers building up significantly during the week. Had been a slow spring for this species.

76. Roller: A pair west of Santa Marta de Magasca on 11th April.

77. Hoopoe: Common and seen daily.

78. **Green Woodpecker:** Heard near Berzocana on 15th April.
79. **Great Spotted Woodpecker:** Seen at Monfragüe, Tozo reservoir and the Villuercas.
80. **Calandra Lark:** Common on open plains.
81. **Short-toed Lark:** Seen near Santa Marta de Magasca and Zorita.
82. **Crested Lark:** Common and seen daily.
83. **Thekla Lark:** Seen near Santa Marta de Magasca and Jaraicejo.
84. **Woodlark:** Seen near Santa Marta de Magasca, Tozo Reservoir, Villuercas and also heard most nights from El Recuerdo.
85. **Sand Martin:** Seen at Casas del Hito and Arrocampo.
86. **Crag Martin:** Seen almost daily.
87. **Barn Swallow:** Common and seen daily.
88. **Red-rumped Swallow:** Seen daily, although in lower numbers than usual.
89. **House Martin:** Common and seen daily.
90. **Tawny Pipit:** Seen near Santa Marta de Magasca on 11th April, one singing on a perch at Jaraicejo on 16th April and seen on Belén Plains on 17th April.
91. **Tree Pipit:** Two in dehesa near Tozo Reservoir on 12th April.
92. **Meadow Pipit:** Singles seen on plains near Santa Marta de Magasca on 11th and 12th April and one on Zorita plains on 13th April.
93. **Yellow Wagtail.** One seen on Zorita plains on 13th April.
94. **Grey Wagtail:** One on Rio Almonte near Cabañas del Castillo on 14th April.
95. **White Wagtail:** Seen almost daily.
96. **Wren:** Singing daily at Casa Rural El Recuerdo.
97. **Robin:** Seen in the Villuercas.
98. **Nightingale:** Heard and sometimes seen almost daily.
99. **Black Redstart:** Seen at Cabañas del Castillo.
100. **Stonechat:** Common and seen daily.

- 101. Whinchat:** Passage birds seen on plains near Santa Marta de Magasca on 11th and 12th April and on Belén plains on 17th April.
- 102. Northern Wheatear:** Passage birds seen almost daily in open landscapes.
- 103. Black-eared Wheatear:** Seen on the plains near Santa Marta de Magasca on 11th April, at Sierra Brava reservoir on 13th April and on Belén Plains on 17th April.
- 104. Black Wheatear:** Male at Cabañas del Castillo on 14th April.
- 105. Blue Rock Thrush:** Seen at Monfragüe and Cabañas del Castillo, as well as being heard at Casa Rural El Recuerdo.
- 106. Blackbird:** Seen daily.
- 107. Mistle Thrush:** Seen in dehesa near Santa Marta de Magasca as well as the Villuercas.
- 108. Cetti's Warbler:** Recorded at Monfragüe, the rice fields and Arrocampo.
- 109. Zitting Cisticola:** Recorded on plains near Santa Marta de Magasca, the rice fields and Arrocampo.
- 110. Savi's Warbler:** Several seen singing at Arrocampo on 14th and 17th April.
- 111. Sedge Warbler:** Seen and heard at Arrocampo on 14th and 17th April.
- 112. Reed Warbler:** Recorded at Arrocampo and Palazuelo.
- 113. Great Reed Warbler:** Singing birds at Arrocampo and Palazuelo.
- 114. Dartford Warbler:** Excellent views on the heath at Jaraicejo on 16th April.
- 115. Spectacled Warbler:** Good views on the heath at Jaraicejo on 16th April.
- 116. Subalpine Warbler:** One female on roadside in plains west of Santa Marta de Magasca on 12th April and Monfragüe on 16th April.
- 117. Sardinian Warbler:** Seen almost daily.
- 118. Western Orphean Warbler:** Heard and briefly seen in the Villuercas near Cabañas del Castillo on 15th April.
- 119. Common Whitethroat:** Female on passage on Belén Plains on 17th April.
- 120. Garden Warbler:** Passage birds at Jaraicejo on 16th April and Pago de San Clemente on 17th April.
- 121. Blackcap:** Seen at Palazuelo, in the Villuercas and at Jaraicejo.

- 122. Bonelli's Warbler:** One singing near Cabañas del Castillo on 15th April and one at Jaraicejo on 16th April.
- 123. Chiffchaff:** One feeding in willows at Arrocampo 14th April.
- 124. Willow Warbler:** Passage birds seen almost daily.
- 125. Long-tailed Tit:** Seen on several days.
- 126. Crested Tit:** Seen in cork oakwood and pines in Villuercas on 15th April.
- 127. Blue Tit:** Seen daily.
- 128. Great Tit:** Seen daily.
- 129. Nuthatch:** Recorded in the Villuercas mountains and Jaraicejo.
- 130. Short-toed Treecreeper:** Recorded in the Villuercas mountains and Jaraicejo.
- 131. Penduline Tit:** Adult feeding nestlings at Arrocampo on 14th April.
- 132. Golden Oriole:** Heard at Jaraicejo on 16th April.
- 133. Southern Grey Shrike:** Seen almost daily.
- 134. Woodchat Shrike:** Seen daily.
- 135. Jay:** Seen in Monfragüe and the Villuercas.
- 136. Azure-winged Magpie:** Common and seen daily.
- 137. Magpie:** Common and seen daily.
- 138. Red-billed Chough:** A pair seen near Cabañas del Castillo on 15th April.
- 139. Jackdaw:** Common and seen almost daily.
- 140. Raven:** Common and seen daily.
- 141. Spotless Starling:** Common and seen daily.
- 142. House Sparrow:** Common and seen daily.
- 143. Spanish Sparrow:** Seen almost every day.
- 144. Tree Sparrow:** Seen in the ricefields near Palazuelo and Vegas Altas.
- 145. Rock Sparrow:** A pair at Rio Tamuja near Santa Marta de Magasca.

- 146. Red Avadavat:** Common in reed-filled ditches in rice fields and seen at Arrocampo.
- 147. Chaffinch:** Seen almost daily.
- 148. Serin:** Common and seen daily.
- 149. Greenfinch:** One seen at Monfragüe and also in Pago de San Clemente.
- 150. Goldfinch:** Common and seen daily.
- 151. Linnet:** Recorded in rice fields, Cabañas del Castillo and Jaraicejo.
- 152. Cirl Bunting:** Recorded at Rio Tamuja, Villuercas mountains and Jaraicejo.
- 153. Rock Bunting:** Seen at Monfragüe and Cabañas del Castillo.
- 154. Corn Bunting:** Common and seen daily.