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SPRING TOUR FOR PRISCILLE AND NEIL

By Martin Kelsey

ITINERARY

Day 1: Wednesday 7th May 2008

Arrival Madrid Terminal 1: 11.15
Lunch at Valdecañas
Arrive at Casa Rural El Recuerdo by 17.30

Day 2: Thursday 8th May

Belén Plains

Day 3: Friday 9th May

Rice fields near Madrigalejo
Embalse of Sierra Brava
Zorita Plains

Day 4: Saturday 10th May

Santa Marta de Magasca region

Day 5: Sunday 11th May

Jaraicejo
Villuercas Mountains

Day 6: Monday 12th May

Monfragüe

Day 7: Tuesday 13th May

Arrocampo
Trujillo

Day 8: Wednesday 14th May

Monfragüe castle
Valdecañas
Return to Madrid

TRIP REPORT

Day 1

Priscille and Neil arrived close to schedule at Terminal One at Madrid airport and before midday we were leaving the airport to take the ring-road south of Madrid before joining the motorway south-west to Extremadura. It was a warm, but hazy day and although there were sunny periods, thunder clouds built up during the afternoon. En route, we drove parallel to the Gredos mountains, still showing snow on their peaks, through a landscape that was still green thanks to heavy mid-April rains. Many fields were carpets of wild flowers. As we approached Extremadura, the frequency of sightings of **White Stork** and raptors such as **Black Kite** increased, building our sense of expectation. After a brief stop at a service station, we left the motorway near the town of Almaraz, taking a road south towards the dam of Valdecañas. Two large raptors caught our attention as we approached the dam and eventually finding a safe place to stop, with the birds, thankfully still in view, we enjoyed the wonderful spectacle of a pair of **Spanish Imperial Eagles** in display. At one point, one of the pair was distracted by an intruding eagle, what appeared to be a juvenile, and which was promptly seen off. What a way to start the holiday! South of the river is an area of mixed woodland and here we had lunch, listening to **Golden Orioles** and obtaining brief views of a singing male. **Cirl Buntings** and **Rock Buntings** were also present, whilst overhead we saw a good array of raptors: a distant **Honey Buzzard**, close views of **Egyptian Vulture**, **Griffon Vulture**, **Egyptian Vulture**, **Short-toed Eagle**, a dark phase **Booted Eagle** and a **Common Kestrel**. A fine male **Spanish Sparrow** obliged us with prolonged close views as it perched in a eucalyptus, where an **Azure-winged Magpie** was also nesting. Further on beside the river, we an excellent views of a **Blue Rock Thrush**, whilst the **Spanish Imperial Eagle** passed over another time, as well as a **Short-toed Eagle**.

Pleased with our stop, we completed the journey to Trujillo arriving at Casa Rural El Recuerdo at 5.30, leaving time for a short evening walk, to see **Hoopoes** and **Stonechat**, whilst at dusk a **Red-necked Nightjar** called loudly from the adjacent hillside.

Day 2

We left Casa Rural El Recuerdo to a fresh, bright morning, but with clouds ever threatening rain. After a brief stop in Trujillo, seeing a female **Lesser Kestrel** and scores of swifts, we passed through the little village of Belén and entered the wide plains lying north-east. The colours of the meadow flowers were breathtaking, especially when seen against a dramatic stormy sky. The drive gave us excellent opportunities of studying the larks as they perched on roadside fences or nearby stones, superb views of **Thekla Lark** and **Crested Lark**, as well as the large chunky **Calandra Larks**, which sometimes filled the skies with song. We also watched the song flight of a **Short-toed Lark**. Quite quickly we found a male **Little Bustard**, giving its courtship display call and during the morning we saw several more and witnessed a couple of flight chases between males. No female Little Bustards were seen, they evidently

were apt at concealing themselves, whilst the males were trying hard to be seen!

Our first view of a **Great Bustard** was especially magnificent: a fine male in full foam-bath display, with a female close-by in attendance. Overall a total of 18 **Great Bustards** were seen, including two males reasonably close by which unconcernedly preened in excellent light.

Scanning the fields also yielded **Stone Curlew** and **Little Owl**, whilst raptors were not outclassed: all three vulture species, many **Black Kite** and a few **Red Kite**, **Common Buzzards**, a fine male **Lesser Kestrel**, **Short-toed Eagle**, a couple of **Marsh Harriers** and two ring-tail **Montagu's Harriers**. One of the latter was seen in a chase of small passerine (probably a **Stonechat**). The harrier twisted and turned after the chat, with surprising agility. Exhausted, the passerine dropped to the ground, the harrier pounced and caught it.

Whist we stopped for lunch, a huge thunder storm approached and the rain started. We aborted our afternoon plans and instead drove west across the hills to Madroñera, a region which had appeared brighter. However, the storm was intent on following us and reluctantly, but perhaps inevitably, we decided the best thing was to call it a day and we headed back home. Luckily we did, for within minutes of our arrival the heaven's opened and it rained heavily for the rest of the afternoon.

Day 3

Following last night's heavy rain, the day dawned bright and generally remained so through the day, although it was decidedly cool in the morning breeze. We took the road south, towards Zorita and then across the plains to the Sierra Brava reservoir where we made our first stop. Along with several pairs of **Great Crested Grebe** was a single **Black-necked Grebe**. A few **Gull-billed Terns** flew over, whilst a distant **Great Bustard** was also seen on the adjacent steppe. Following a road across rough pasture north of Madrigalejo, we enjoyed superb views of a pair of **Roller**, including watching one "rolling" in a twisting flight downwards to its perch. A female **Marsh Harrier** quartered the ground, past the scattered holm oak trees which supported a colony of White Stork. Crossing rice fields, we approached a small wooded area and we rewarded with good views of a pair of **Black-winged Kite**, one bird in particular affording us prolonged views from its perch. **Quail** called from nearby cultivation as we stood there. Further on a couple of rice fields were flooded, and an excellent array of waders was on view: **Curlew Sandpiper**, **Grey Plover**, **Greenshank**, **Redshank**, **Kentish Plover**, **Ringed Plover**, **Dunlin** and **Little Stint**, as well as **Black-winged Stilt**. Parties of **Gull-billed Terns** rested on the patches of mud, whilst a fine **Black Tern** hawked the area. A flock of **Black-headed Gulls** included two **Lesser Black-backed**. Nearby, in a small embanked area, partially flooded, were a **Spoonbill**, more **Grey Plover**, a **Ruff**, several hundred **Mallard**, two **Red-crested Pochard** and some **Shoveler**.

We left the rice fields for lunch at Puerto Peña, an impressive gorge below the dam of the Garcia Sola reservoir. **Griffon Vultures** were constantly in the air,

whilst we also got good views of **Black Stork**, **Alpine Swifts** and **Golden Oriole**. A **Bonelli's Eagle** was seen briefly and at considerable distance.

Back in the rice fields in the afternoon, and a stop by the road near Vegas Altas, overlooking more flooded fields, this time boasting 35 **Whiskered Terns** and seven or eight **Black Tern**. Behind the village, we found five male **Great Bustard** and saw a flock of four **Black-bellied Sandgrouse** in flight. Concluding the afternoon's visit, near Palazuelo, we walked near the river Ruercas and obtained good views of **Great Reed Warbler** singing, as well as brief views of a **Melodious Warbler**. A fine **Short-toed Eagle** flew over whilst we were there.

After dinner, we walked up the hill behind the village, hearing **Red-necked Nightjar**. But perhaps because of the gusty wind, none obliged us with a view. However we saw a hunting **Barn Owl** and briefly an adult **Long-eared Owl** visiting its fledged chicks, which gave constantly their squeaky gate call.

Day 4

A surprisingly chilly day for the second week of May and the clear morning skies clouded over early on in the day, giving us showers and a stiff breeze. It was a good day for heading to the plains, where we would not be unduly troubled by heat haze. Our first stop was overlooking the plains west of Trujillo, near the village of Santa Marta de Magasca. Within minutes of arriving we saw a fly-pass of two female **Little Bustards** being pursued by a male, the females making a short call in flight. We saw, rather distantly a **Great Bustard** and a **Great Spotted Cuckoo** in flight. Closer to us was a dark phase **Booted Eagle**, perched on a small rock and affording us very good views. We briefly saw a party of four **Pin-tailed Sandgrouse** fly along the horizon behind the eagle, but they quickly dropped out of view. Fine **Spanish Sparrows** perched obligingly on the fence, whilst in the distance a party of about 15 **Black Kite** were seen gathered in a field. We proceeded further along the road and at our next stop, saw two more **Pin-tailed Sandgrouse** take off from nearby and fly away. **Calandra Lark** song filled the sky, whilst the meadows were a truly wonderful mix of colours. Another **Booted Eagle** was seen on the ground. We then took a pleasant walk down a wide dirt track which yielded a party of over 30 **Black-bellied Sandgrouse**: seen well in flight and rather distantly on the ground, a small group of Great Bustards and excellent views of dirt-bathing **Short-toed Larks**.

We then continued along the road to the village of Santa Marta de Magasca, stopping to admire two very obliging **Woodlarks** on a telegraph wire. South of the village we stopped for coffee beside the Rio Tamuja. **Crag Martins** nested below the span of the bridge, and we also saw **Short-toed Eagle**, and a **Raven** carrying a nestling bird, being mobbed furiously by **Azure-winged Magpies**, whilst a **Black Kite** attempted to take the prey from the **Raven**.

Further south, we took a road leading across the plains north of Cáceres. We enjoyed the fine spectacle of about a dozen **Montagu's Harriers** rising and descending over a cereal field. Along the road we saw **Great Bustard**, **Little**

Bustard, four more **Pin-tailed Sandgrouse**, as well as **Roller**, **Short-toed Lark**, a fine **Black-eared Wheatear** and a **Tawny Pipit**. We also had excellent views of a **Great Spotted Cuckoo** feeding along the roadside verge and brief views of a **Quail** which flew up from the verge into a field of taller grass, a tiny rotund dark bird, with whirring wings.

Joining a main road, we drove onto the reservoir near Talaván. Here we had superb views of a **Golden Eagle**, perched for a long time on a rock in a field, and then flying off, being mobbed furiously by a **Common Kestrel**, which was totally dwarfed by the eagle. We had our lunch at this spot, listening to **Great Reed Warbler** and **Little Grebe**, interrupted only by the sight of a **Hobby** dashing through.

Finally we visited the River Almonte south of Monroy, where we watched a pair of **Black Wheatear** bringing food to nestlings and also had amazing views of two **Short-toed Eagles**, flying over the nearby ridge at close range, as well as **Black Stork** and **Egyptian Vulture**. An angler on the bank provided some distraction, almost every ten minutes he was landing yet another sizeable Barbel.

Day 5

The day dawned clear and still, ideal conditions to venture to the lavender and broom heath near Jaraicejo. The extensive habitat was purple tinged with the lavender in full bloom, with yellow gorse and white rockrose adding variety. **Corn Buntings** and **Thekla Larks** sang as we arrived and within minutes we had located the first of about four singing **Spectacled Warblers**. The views of this diminutive warbler were outstanding. Soon afterwards we also had good views of singing **Dartford Warblers**. Descending into a cork oak grove, we found **Short-toed Treecreeper**, **Nuthatch** and heard a **Crested Tit**. Overhead soared **Black** and **Griffon Vulture** and **Common Cuckoos** passed over the treetops.

We then stopped for coffee beside the Arroyo de la Vid stream, listening to **Nightingales** and watching **Grey Wagtails** bringing food to their young. Martin had good views of a **Western Orphean Warbler** and nearby we watched a pair of **Sardinian Warblers** feeding fledglings.

We then drove east to the Villuercas mountains, making our first stop at the gorge of the Rio Almonte. It was a very attractive stop and soon we had found a singing **Cirl Bunting**, watched a **Nightingale** singing from a telegraph wire and good views were obtained of a **Melodious Warbler**. **Griffon Vultures** were taking off from the cliffs, and rising in weak thermals. Higher up the hillside we saw a **Rock Sparrow** perched on a fence, alongside young **Barn Swallows** and a **House Sparrow**.

Our lunch stop was further south, in a zone of cork oak, where we could see the cliffs above us. A pair of **Peregrine** appeared and we 'scoped one perched on a cliff. **Nuthatches** were present, as was male **Great Spotted Woodpecker**

which collected acorns from the ground and took them to hammer into the bark of a cork oak. We had brief views of **Crested Tit**.

Cloud gathered and some rain fell, as we made our way up to the highest point of the Villuercas mountains, north of the town of Guadalupe. Intermittent cloud meant that sometimes we were in mist and sometimes we had great views over the ridges and valleys making up the mountain range. Our sought-after Red-tailed Rock Thrush never materialised, but we had good views of **Egyptian Vulture**, **Black Redstart** and **Rock Bunting**. **Robins** and **Wrens** sang from the scrub and even a **Nightingale** was heard distantly. Time ran out however, and we descended, through the belts of Pyrenean Oak, Sweet Chestnut and Pine to reach the main road back to Trujillo.

Day 6

A hot, sunny day was forecast and perfect for visiting the Monfragüe National Park. We took the road north of Trujillo, passing through kilometre and kilometre of *dehesa* woodland, before reaching the rocky escarpment heralding the southern edge of the national park. We drove up to a small car park at the base of the cliffs, climbing steps to reach an old Moorish castle. The views were spectacular, both of the landscape as well as the flypast of **Griffon** and **Black Vultures**, especially those that were flying below us. **Red-rumped Swallows** also passed close-by. From there we descended and then stopped opposite the tall cliffs of Peña Falcon, famous for its **Griffon Vulture** colony. We were not disappointed: scores of vultures were in the air whilst others stood beside nests or perched, with wings outstretched, on outcrops. Crossing the River Tajo, we stopped by the bridge, home of hundreds of **House Martins** and a few pairs of **Alpine Swifts**, which gave superb views as they flew close-by. We continued to survey another outcrop nearby where after a few minutes of enjoying good views of a **Subalpine Warbler**, we were rewarded by the sight of a pair of **Bonelli's Eagles** passing overhead.

We then drove through the park, passing areas cleared of old eucalyptus plantations where natural regeneration is restoring the typical Mediterranean scrub. We heard a **Western Orphean Warbler** singing from a clump of holm oak trees. Stopping the car, we got out and stood by the roadside, surprising a female Wild Boar with about ten small stripy piglets. They had probably been sun-bathing. The warbler though eluded us. We had lunch nearby, in the shade of trees, whilst **Egyptian Vultures** and **Black Stork** soared overhead. We then stopped at a viewpoint called the Portilla del Tietár, where another cliff face stood on the opposite bank of the Tietár river. As well as more **Griffon Vultures**, we found two large **Eagle Owl** chicks, resting in a shady patch. Nearby three **Black Stork** chicks, still white and downy, but showing some black feathers on their wings, waited on their nest for food. Passing the spot where we had seen the Wild Boar, the **Western Orphean Warbler** was still singing. This time we managed to get views of the bird, as it made its way towards the top of the tree it was in.

We made a return visit to the castle, in the vain hope of White-rumped Swift, but the visit paid off with superb views of **Red-billed Chough** and the wonderful

spectacle of a displaying pale-phase **Booted Eagle**, doing somersaults in the air, diving and coming out to the plunge with an extraordinary light, wing fluttering flight.

That evening the conditions seemed fine for a Red-necked Nightjar and a group from the house headed up the lane to wait at the edge of the olive groves. Patience was rewarded by a sight of a **Red-necked Nightjar** coming in low overhead after it had been calling nearby.

Day 7

In contrast with yesterday, the cooler weather returned and we had a few showers. This did not affect our birding through, as the calm conditions meant that the reed beds of Arrocampo would be attractive, and the good infrastructure of hides there would allow us shelter from any passing shower. This different habitat from the rest of the tour enabled us to see a new array of species, and the hides offered us good viewing conditions. Particularly memorable was watching a small colony of **Purple Heron**, with birds collecting nest material close-by, enabling us to appreciate the wonderful patterning on their necks. From the same hide a party of feeding **Little Terns** was also watched. For a while a **Great White Egret** stood beside a **Little Egret**, the former's neck appearing as long as its body, whilst the Little Egret barely reached its belly. **Purple Swamphens** fed on green shoots nearby, whilst a **Spoonbill** waded at the back of the pool. From another hide, we had a brief glimpse of three **Bearded Tits** and located a distant singing **Savi's Warbler**, **Great Reed** and **Reed Warblers**. A much closer one was seen near another hide, which also proved a great position to watch the coming and going of **Little Bitterns**. We made a brief visit to a large, reed-fringed pool in an area of grazing land, and saw no fewer than three adult **Black-winged Kites** in the air at the same time. Another bird had been seen earlier from one of the hides.

We returned to Trujillo for the afternoon, to visit the old medieval square and watch the swifts, including **Pallid Swift**, **Lesser Kestrel** and **White Stork** in the setting of the fine granite churches and palaces.

Day 8

Our final morning dawned fine and we decided to make a return visit to the castle at Monfragüe, to give us another opportunity for White-rumped Swift. Although one had been reported a few days earlier, it was still a bit soon in the season for the small breeding population to have arrived. Although we did not see this target species, we were rewarded with very close fly-bys of two **Honey Buzzard**, as well as **Alpine Swift**, **Common Swift**, a **Griffon Vulture** flying side-by-side with a **Black Vulture** at close range, **Red-billed Chough** and **Rock Bunting**. To complete the morning we made a second visit to the woodland near the dam at Valdecañas, where as well as good views of **Golden Oriole**, we also found **Hawfinch**, **Spotted Flycatcher**, **Cirl Bunting**, **Sardinian Warbler** and **Egyptian Vulture**. Sadly, time was running out so we joined the motorway and reached the airport in good time for the check-in and review of our species list for the tour, confirming its success with a final total of 156

species, an excellent result indeed, especially considering the periods of poor weather than had limited to a minor respect our plans during the week.

SPECIES LIST

1. **Little Grebe:** Single or pairs on small pools in plains near Trujillo.
2. **Great Crested Grebe:** Pairs present at Arrocampo, and the reservoirs of Sierra Brava and Talaván.
3. **Black-necked Grebe:** Single bird at Sierra Brava reservoir on 9th May.
4. **Great Cormorant:** Two at Arrocampo on 13th May.
5. **Little Bittern:** Several males and a female seen at Arrocampo on both 13th May.
6. **Black-crowned Night Heron:** At least two at Arrocampo on 13th May.
7. **Cattle Egret:** Seen daily.
8. **Little Egret:** Seen on the rice fields and at Arrocampo.
9. **Great Egret:** Four at Arrocampo on 13th May.
10. **Grey Heron:** Seen almost daily.
11. **Purple Heron:** Several seen at Arrocampo on 13th May.
12. **Black Stork:** Seen at Puerto Peña on 9th May, Rio Almonte on 10th May and at Monfragüe.
13. **White Stork:** A common bird seen daily.
14. **Spoonbill:** One at the pool near Madrigalejo on 9th May and one at Arrocampo on 13th May.
15. **Gadwall:** Pairs present at Talaván and Arrocampo.
16. **Mallard:** Seen almost daily.
17. **Northern Shoveler:** One at pool near Madrigalejo on 9th May.
18. **Red-crested Pochard:** Two drakes on pool near Madrigalejo on 9th May.
19. **Honey Buzzard:** One over Valdecañas on 7th May and two at Monfragüe on 14th May.

20. **Black-winged Kite:** Two seen near Madrigalejo on 9th May and four at Arrocampo on 14th May.
21. **Black Kite:** Very common and seen every day.
22. **Red Kite:** Seen almost daily, but much less common than previous species.
23. **Egyptian Vulture:** Seen almost daily.
24. **Griffon Vulture:** Seen every day.
25. **Black Vulture:** Seen almost daily.
26. **Short-toed Eagle:** Seen almost every day.
27. **Marsh Harrier:** Seen on Belén Plains, near Madrigalejo, the Cáceres Plains and at Arrocampo.
28. **Montagu's Harrier:** Seen in good numbers on the plains near Santa Marta de Magasca, as well as Belén and Vegas Altas.
29. **Sparrowhawk:** Singles in Villuercas mountains and at Monfragüe.
30. **Common Buzzard:** Seen almost daily.
31. **Spanish Imperial Eagle:** Superb views of displaying pair at Valdecañas on 7th May and an intruding juvenile also present.
32. **Golden Eagle:** One adult at Talaván on 10th May.
33. **Booted Eagle:** Seen daily. Pale phase outnumbering dark phase about 2:1.
34. **Bonelli's Eagle:** A distant bird at Puerto Peña on 9th May and a pair at Monfragüe on 12th May.
35. **Lesser Kestrel:** Seen every day.
36. **Common Kestrel:** Seen almost every day.
37. **Hobby:** Brief views of one at Talaván on 10th May.
38. **Peregrine Falcon:** A pair in Villuercas mountains on 11th May.
39. **Red-legged Partridge:** Seen most days.
40. **Quail:** Calling birds recorded almost daily and one flushed from side of road on plains north of Cáceres on 10th May.
41. **Water Rail:** Heard at Arrocampo on 13th May.

42. **Moorhen:** Seen almost daily on small farmland ponds.
43. **Purple Swamphen:** Good views at Arrocampo.
44. **Common Coot:** Recorded at Talaván reservoir and Arrocampo.
45. **Little Bustard:** About ten males recorded on Belén plains on 8th May and also near Santa Marta de Magasca on 10th May.
46. **Great Bustard:** 18 seen, including a displaying male, on Belén plains on 8th May, six at Vegas Altas and Zorita Plains on 9th May and about ten near Santa Marta de Magasca on 10th May.
47. **Black-winged Stilt:** Seen almost daily.
48. **Stone Curlew:** One on Belén Plains on 8th May.
49. **Collared Pratincole:** About 40 seen on rice fields on 9th May.
50. **Ringed Plover:** About 6 near Madrigalejo on 9th May.
51. **Little Ringed Plover:** A pair near Madrigalejo on 9th May.
52. **Kentish Plover:** 12 near Madrigalejo on 9th May.
53. **Grey Plover:** 8 near Madrigalejo on 9th May.
54. **Dunlin:** About 10 near Madrigalejo on 9th May.
55. **Curlew Sandpiper:** One near Madrigalejo on 9th May.
56. **Little Stint:** About 10 near Madrigalejo on 9th May.
57. **Ruff:** One near Madrigalejo on 9th May.
58. **Common Redshank:** About four near Madrigalejo on 9th May.
59. **Greenshank:** About six near Madrigalejo on 9th May..
60. **Common Sandpiper:** About four near Madrigalejo on 9th May.
61. **Whiskered Tern:** 35 near Vegas Altas on 9th May.
62. **Black Tern:** One near Madrigalejo on 9th May and seven at Vegas Altas.
63. **Gull-billed Tern:** Present at Sierra Brava and on the rice fields on 9th May.
64. **Little Tern:** About five feeding at Arrocampo on 13th May.
65. **Black-headed Gull:** Small numbers present on the rice fields.

66. **Lesser Black-backed Gull:** Two on the rice fields on 9th May.
67. **Black-bellied Sandgrouse:** Two on Belén Plains on 8th May, four at Vegas Altas on 9th May and over 30 near Santa Marta de Magasca on 10th May.
68. **Pin-tailed Sandgrouse:** Eight seen near Santa Marta de Magasca (at three locations) on 10th May.
69. **Rock Dove/Feral Pigeon:** Seen daily.
70. **Wood Pigeon:** Seen daily.
71. **Collared Dove:** Seen daily.
72. **Turtle Dove:** Seen near Madrigalejo on 9th May and heard at Monfragüe.
73. **Great Spotted Cuckoo:** A total of four seen near Santa Marta de Magasca on 10th May.
74. **Common Cuckoo:** Heard and sometimes seen almost daily.
75. **Barn Owl:** One hunting near Pago de San Clemente on 9th May.
76. **Scops Owl:** Heard most evenings at Pago de San Clemente and seen at roost on 12th and 13th May.
77. **Eagle Owl:** Excellent views of two chicks in Monfragüe on 12th May
78. **Little Owl:** Seen on Belén Plains and near Santa Marta de Magasca. Heard in evenings.
79. **Long-eared Owl:** One seen in flight in evening of 9th May at Pago de San Clemente and begging calls of chicks heard.
80. **Red-necked Nightjar:** Heard most evenings and one seen on 12th May at Pago de San Clemente.
81. **Alpine Swift:** Seen Puerto Peña and Monfragüe.
82. **Common Swift:** Seen daily.
83. **Pallid Swift:** Seen in Trujillo on 13th May.
84. **Kingfisher:** One seen at Pago de San Clemente on 11th May and at least three seen at Arrocampo on 13th May.
85. **Bee-eater:** Seen daily.

86. **Roller:** Several on the rice fields and a pair near Santa Marta de Magasca on 10th May.
87. **Hoopoe:** Common and seen daily.
88. **Great Spotted Woodpecker:** One in Villuercas mountains on 11th May and in Monfragüe on 12th May
89. **Calandra Lark:** Common on open plains.
90. **Short-toed Lark:** Seen on Belén Plains and near Santa Marta.
91. **Crested Lark:** Common and seen daily.
92. **Thekla Lark:** Seen almost daily.
93. **Woodlark:** Seen near Santa Marta de Magasca and heard near Jaraicejo and Monfragüe.
94. **Sand Martin:** Seen on rice fields, Valdecañas and Arrocampo.
95. **Crag Martin:** Seen almost daily.
96. **Barn Swallow:** Common and seen daily.
97. **Red-rumped Swallow:** Seen almost daily.
98. **House Martin:** Common and seen daily.
99. **Tawny Pipit:** One seen near Santa Marta de Magasca on 10th May.
100. **Grey Wagtail:** Pair at arroyo de la Vid near Jaraicejo and also Rio Almonte in Villuercas mountains.
101. **White Wagtail:** Seen almost daily.
102. **Wren:** Recorded almost daily.
103. **Robin:** Seen in the Villuercas and Monfragüe.
104. **Nightingale:** Heard and sometimes seen almost daily.
105. **Black Redstart:** Seen in Villuercas mountains and Monfragüe.
106. **Stonechat:** Common and seen daily.
107. **Northern Wheatear:** One at Arrocampo on 13th May.
108. **Black-eared Wheatear:** One male near Santa Marta de Magasca and a pair near Talaván on 10th May.

- 109. Black Wheatear:** Pair feeding young near Rio Almonte south of Monroy on 10th May.
- 110. Blue Rock Thrush:** Seen at Valdecañas, Monfragüe and Puerto Peña.
- 111. Blackbird:** Seen daily.
- 112. Mistle Thrush:** Seen in *dehesa* near Madroñera, Monfragüe and the Villuercas.
- 113. Cetti's Warbler:** Recorded at Monfragüe, the rice fields and Arrocampo.
- 114. Zitting Cisticola:** Recorded on Belén plains, near Santa Marta de Magasca, the rice fields and Arrocampo.
- 115. Savi's Warbler:** Several seen singing at Arrocampo on 13th May.
- 116. Reed Warbler:** Recorded at Arrocampo and the rice fields.
- 117. Great Reed Warbler:** Singing birds at Arrocampo, Talaván and the rice fields.
- 118. Melodious Warbler:** Recorded on rice fields and in Villuercas mountains.
- 119. Dartford Warbler:** Excellent views on the heath at Jaraicejo on 11th May.
- 120. Spectacled Warbler:** Excellent views on the heath at Jaraicejo on 11th May.
- 121. Subalpine Warbler:** Good views in Monfragüe.
- 122. Sardinian Warbler:** Seen almost daily.
- 123. Western Orphean Warbler:** Recorded near Jaraicejo and Monfragüe
- 124. Blackcap:** Recorded at Valdecañas, in the Villuercas and at Monfragüe.
- 125. Spotted Flycatcher:** One at Valdecañas on 14th May.
- 126. Long-tailed Tit:** Seen on several days.
- 127. Crested Tit** Recorded at Jaraicejo and the Villuercas.
- 128. Blue Tit:** Seen daily.
- 129. Great Tit:** Seen daily.
- 130. Bearded Tit:** Three at Arrocampo on 13th May.

131. **Nuthatch:** Recorded in the Villuercas mountains and Jaraicejo.
132. **Short-toed Treecreeper:** Recorded in the Villuercas mountains and Jaraicejo. Heard in Monfragüe and Valdecañas.
133. **Golden Oriole:** Seen at Valdecañas, Puerto Peña, Pago de San Clemente and Monfragüe.
134. **Southern Grey Shrike:** Seen almost daily.
135. **Woodchat Shrike:** Seen daily.
136. **Jay:** Seen in Monfragüe, Valdecañas and the Villuercas.
137. **Azure-winged Magpie:** Common and seen daily.
138. **Magpie:** Common and seen daily.
139. **Red-billed Chough:** Recorded at the castle Monfragüe.
140. **Jackdaw:** Common and seen almost daily.
141. **Raven:** Common and seen almost daily.
142. **Spotless Starling:** Common and seen daily.
143. **House Sparrow:** Common and seen daily.
144. **Spanish Sparrow:** Seen almost every day.
145. **Tree Sparrow:** Seen in the rice fields.
146. **Rock Sparrow:** One in Villuercas mountains on 11th May, also in Monfragüe.
147. **Red Avadavat:** Common in reed-filled ditches in rice fields.
148. **Chaffinch:** Seen almost daily.
149. **Serin:** Common and seen daily.
150. **Greenfinch:** Seen almost daily.
151. **Goldfinch:** Common and seen daily.
152. **Linnet:** Seen almost daily.
153. **Hawfinch:** About four seen at Valdecañas on 14th May.
154. **Cirl Bunting:** Recorded at Valdecañas and Villuercas mountains.

155. Rock Bunting: Seen at Valdecañas, Monfragüe and Villuercas.

156. Corn Bunting: Common and seen daily.