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Birding Extremadura and Casa Rural El Recuerdo

SPRING TOUR 11th March 2010 – 16th March 2010

Guests: Colin Carter, John Davies and Terry Clark

Guide: Martin Kelsey

Itinerary

11th March 2010: Collection midday at Madrid Airport and transfer to Casa Rural El Recuerdo, Pago de San Clemente, Trujillo with stop at Arrocampo reservoir.

12th March 2010: Monfragüe National Park, River Almonte and Trujillo Bull Ring

13th March 2010: Sierra Brava Reservoir (south of Zorita) and the rice-growing area near Madrigalejo (Casas del Hito, Moheda Alta, Vegas Altas and Palazuelo)

14th March 2010: Plains near Santa Marta de Magasca, Talaván Reservoir, Trujillo and Belén.

15th March 2010: Jaraicejo, the Villuercas Mountains and Trujillo.

16th March 2010: Arrocampo reservoir and Valdecañas, then transfer to Madrid airport.

TRIP REPORT

11th March 2010

Colin, John and Terry arrived ahead of schedule and just after noon we were leaving the airport at Madrid. It was a bright day, with scattered cloud with just a touch of a chill to the air. We took the A5 motorway from Madrid and made excellent progress with very light traffic across the plains of northern Toledo province into Extremadura. **White Storks** a plenty were seen on the drive. We stopped for lunch just off the motorway near Saucedilla, with **Serins** singing in the car park and **Swallows** hawking insects. From there it was just a few minutes to our first birding stop (pausing to admire a fine **Iberian Grey Shrike**): the ramp of one of the hides overlooking the Arrocampo reservoir, with a **Spoonbill** being one of the very first birds seen. Arrocampo acts as a giant cooling pool for the Almaraz power station

and boasts the finest habitat in Extremadura for a range of marsh birds. From the ramp we heard the toy trumpet call of **Purple Swamphen**, the song of **Cetti's Warbler** and **Zitting Cisticola** and watching dozens of **Chiffchaffs** foraging in short sallies from the reed mace. At the next hide we quickly found two very obliging **Purple Swamphen**, and were rewarded by the arrival of a **Squacco Heron**, coming to land nearby. The fine calls of **Penduline Tit** were just about audible and we found a pair feeding on the reed mace seed heads and then had magnificent views of the male singing in a willow tree.

We then explored an area to the north of Saucedilla village. At our first stop along a rather pot-holed road, Colin found a **Black-winged Kite** perched on top of a willow tree and we watched it at length as it preened, before taking off and flying close by. A splendid **Short-toed Eagle** drifted over. Further along we found a newly arrived male **Woodchat Shrike** as well as **Hoopoes**, **Sand Martins** and a pair of **Lesser Kestrels**. Pools in the fields were quite productive, yielding **Teal**, **Shoveler**, **Green Sandpiper** and a party of **Common Snipe**, caught in superb afternoon sunlight.

We made a final stop back at the reservoir and spent several minutes trying to locate a singing **Savi's Warbler**, but the light was deteriorating so we agreed to return to the car and make the final leg of the journey, reaching Casa Rural El Recuerdo just after 7pm with a welcome fire in the hearth and a pre-dinner glass of the local wine.

12th March 2010

It was a fine, clear morning and Colin *et al* enjoyed a short pre-breakfast walk near the house, adding birds like **Red-rumped Swallow** and **Sardinian Warbler** to the holiday list.

After breakfast we headed north to the Monfragüe National Park. En route we saw at least two **Woodchat Shrike** and Colin spotted a **Black Stork** beside a pool in the *dehesa*. Approaching the park itself, we all had good views of a party of four **Wild Boars** clambering their way up a bank.

Our first stop was the magnificent Peña Falcon, the massive cliff face beside the river Tajo superbly illuminated in the morning sunshine, whilst we shivered in the shade! **Griffon Vultures** wheeled over the crags, whilst many more were perched on ledges. A pair of **Red-billed Choughs** called behind us. We also heard the high-pitched greeting calls of **Black Stork** and watched a bird come into land half way up the rock, its iridescent neck shining bottle-green. A **Spanish Imperial Eagle** made three showings to the right of the crag – the third time being mobbed by a **Peregrine** that had been circling. We also had good views of **Black** and **Egyptian Vultures**, as well as **Blue Rock Thrush** and a plucky **Wren** singing from a rock just below us. Just before leaving we had distant views of a **Black Wheatear** high up on the skyline.

We then drove over to the Portilla del Tiétar, a smaller but no less impressive rock face beside the Tajo's tributary, the Tiétar. We hoped to get more views of Spanish Imperial Eagle here but despite waiting for a couple of hours, we were not to be

lucky. We did however get more good views of all three vultures (including a mating pair of **Egyptian Vultures**), as well as a **Short-toed Eagle** which came into to land on a tree nearby. But pride of place must go to a superb juvenile **Golden Eagle** which coasted along the hillside in front of us, giving us prolonged views in excellent light.

Smaller birds were not overlooked: parties of **Azure-winged Magpie**, **Long-tailed Tits**, a **Short-toed Treecreeper** and the noisy rivalry between two male **Great Spotted Woodpeckers**, resulting in some extraordinarily resonant drumming.

Time was getting on and so we took off to the picnic area of Tajadilla, just as a front was arriving taking away the sunshine and giving us overcast skies for the rest of the day, with a noticeable drop in temperature. Flocks of **Azure-winged Magpies** came to the picnic tables, but we also had to keep checking the skies between mouthfuls as above us were **Egyptian Vultures**, a pair of displaying **Short-toed Eagle**, **Black Stork** and party of eight **Black Kite**.

After lunch we birded in an area of pines, finding a singing **Hawfinch**, as well as **Crested Tit** and a pair of **Cirl Bunting**. As we were driving back we saw the pair of **Short-toed Eagles** on a pylon and then immediately stopped the car and got out to watch an adult **Bonelli's Eagle** glide past close-by.

We made a further stop close to the Tajo river which gave us a chance to have good views of a pair of **Thekla Lark** and a **Black Kite**.

On our way back to Trujillo we enjoyed a short walk beside the River Almonte, picking up **Grey Wagtail** and seeing another pair of **Short-toed Eagle**. Back in Trujillo we completed the day watching the **Lesser Kestrels** on the roof of the Bull Ring with intimate views of the pair-bonding.

13th March 2010

Excellent weather throughout the day, but with just a slight chill on the wind. Colin *at al* enjoyed another productive pre-breakfast walk, with brief views of **Long-eared Owl** not far from the house. Today we headed south driving through Zorita and then across the plains towards the reservoir of Sierra Brava. The banks were thronged with anglers, many of whom had evidently spent the night there. Out in the far distance were thousands of duck, vast rafts of them, but too far to identify, but checking through some closer individuals we picked up **Common Shelduck**, **Gadwall** and **Shoveler** amongst the **Mallard**. A pair of **Great Spotted Cuckoos** had greeted our arrival, perched obligingly nearby to afford us good views. A ruined barn had a few **Lesser Kestrels**. We then drove down onto the rice-growing area of Casas del Hito, en route seeing our first **Red Avadavats** of the day. A first stop to watch a two **Avocet**, also produced a small group of **Wood Sandpiper** and a flock of **Dunlin**. Dozens of **White Wagtail** were feeding on the open muddy paddies. Whilst standing there a party of four **Spoonbill** flew over, a wonderful sight against the clear blue sky; the individuals positioned perfectly equidistant from each other. We reached an embanked pool where we saw another **Spoonbill** as well as small numbers of **Mallard**, **Teal**, **Shoveler** and some **Grey Lag Geese**. Following the embankment we reached a good point to

survey some fields holding large numbers of **Black-headed Gulls**, as well as a flock of **Dunlin**, two **Common Redshank** and a small party of **Greenshank**. There were also two very distant **Kentish Plover** as well as two **Water Pipit**, just getting into breeding plumage. The numbers of **Common Snipe** present (throughout the day) were extraordinary: a hundred in total would be a very conservative estimate indeed. Three **Tree Sparrow** were found, perched huddled together on top of a post. The sky was also checked and near a soaring **Red Kite**, we picked up a pale phase **Booted Eagle**.

Back at the car we had coffee and Kit Kats and Terry spotted a pair of **Penduline Tits** on a bush nearby, which also had a throng of **Spanish Sparrows**. The **Penduline Tits** were in super light and the difference in the size of facial mask between male and female was easily discernable. As we stood there a party of **Grey Lags** headed off toward the Sierra Brava reservoir, it would not be long before they would be heading north for Norway.

Further along we approached a flock of about a hundred **Common Crane** and managed to drive carefully passed without disturbing them, despite them being very close to the road. We entered an open wooded area with large number of tree-nesting **White Stork** and also had good views of **Iberian Grey Shrike**.

We then explored an area south of Madrigalejo, a mixture of small paddies as well as drier arable land. We encountered several parties of **Great Bustard**, having views of them striding on the ground as well as in flight. We also had flight views of a party of nine **Black-bellied Sandgrouse** and enjoyed a prolonged view of a fine male **Hen Harrier** quartering the fields. At our lunch stop we saw a few more **Great Bustard**, including three large males with fine sets of whiskers!

Our next stop was another small pool at Moheda Alta, like the Casas del Hito pool there were not many birds present, but we did find a fine breeding plumaged **Black-necked Grebe**, as well as a female **Common Pochard**. The embankment held a flock of **Red Avadavats** which called constantly to each other in their rather thin high-pitched notes. The rest of the afternoon was spent in the rice fields near Palazuelo. A **Common Waxbill** was seen briefly near the village as well as a **Great White Egret**. We enjoyed a short walk along one of the farm tracks, finding a group of **Little Stint** feeding with a small party of **Kentish Plover**. But pride of place was a wonderful **Bluethroat**, found by Colin as he gallantly walked beside a ditch. The bird gave us magnificent views as it perched on a concrete water channel and hopped about on damp vegetation, its tail cocked.

14th March 2010

Colin *et al* walked before breakfast up the lane before dawn to try to see Barn Owl, but unfortunately had no luck. It was another fine frosty morning heralding yet another glorious day, with just a bite to the north-east breeze. After breakfast we made our first stop on the plains between Trujillo and Santa Marta de Magasca. Here we had two walks along tracks, accompanied the whole time by the song of **Calandra Larks**. We were given several excellent views of **Great Spotted Cuckoos**, including birds being chased by **Magpies**, sitting on nearby fences and one bird feeding on caterpillars on the ground, completely unconcerned of our

presence. Raptors also drifted overhead: **Booted Eagle**, **Red** and **Black Kite**, **Black Vulture** and **Buzzard**. The fields had good numbers of **White Wagtail**, **Meadow Pipit**, groups of **Skylark**, as well as both **Crested** and **Thekla Lark**.

We found several groups of **Great Bustard**, having good views of one group standing close to the skyline on a flower-rich meadow, with at least two of the males just starting to show lekking behaviour.

On the first walk we also heard and had brief views of a **Stone Curlew**, and also heard **Pin-tailed Sandgrouse**. There were parties of **Golden Plover**, some coming into breeding plumage. On the second walk, we had some superb views of **Black-bellied Sandgrouse** flying close by and much more distant views of a large flock of **Pin-tailed Sandgrouse**.

We then drove north of the village of Santa Marta de Magasca to a high plateau where we stopped for coffee. Just as we were getting out of the car a male **Montagu's Harrier** flew close by, settling a couple of times on the ground. Within minutes we were watching two females above us. During our stay three pairs of **Black Vulture** also drifted overhead. It was a magnificent place.

We then drove north, through the village of Monroy and then to the small reservoir of Talaván. A fine **Woodchat Shrike** was one of the highlights of the drive. There were small numbers of **Mallard** and **Gadwall** on the reservoirs, as well as both **Great Crested** and **Little Grebe**. We stopped for lunch there and were rewarded by the superb sight of a displaying **Golden Eagle** and a very close male **Penduline Tit**.

We stopped briefly at a bridge over the Rio Almonte in the hope of finding early Alpine Swifts, but no joy so we continued to Trujillo to visit the historic Main Square. No sign of Pallid Swifts there either, but one cannot complain seeing **Black** and **Red Kite**, **Black** and **Griffon Vulture**, **Lesser Kestrel**, **White Stork**, **Crag Martin** and **Swallow** whilst sitting enjoying a sunny Sunday afternoon, with some people-watching thrown in to boot!

Our final visit was to the expansive, rolling Belén Plains. Here we came across more scattered groups of **Great Bustard** (bringing our day total to 75 birds), **Hoopoes**, hunting **Lesser Kestrels**, a brief view of a **Merlin** dashing by and longer view of a male **Hen Harrier**. We came across a feeding party of vultures (about 25 **Griffons** and four **Blacks**) at a carcass close to road. A distant group of **Common Cranes**, watched against the backdrop of the snow-covered Gredos mountains was an evocative sight, but best of all was a wonderful party of eight **Little Bustard** feeding close to the road in lovely low evening light. Another group was seen in flight a few minutes later, the white on their wings shimmering against the blue sky.

15th March 2010

No Long-eared Owl on this morning's pre-breakfast walk, but Colin *et al* did see two **Montagu's Harriers** flying northwards, high overhead, clearly on migration.

Despite the forecast suggesting that it would be overcast, it was a bright sunny morning and remained so throughout the day, indeed it was probably the warmest day of the year so far. The conditions were perfect for the first stop on the heath at Jaraicejo and even before we had stopped the car we had seen the first **Dartford Warbler** perched on top of a broom bush. As we walked across the heath, Dartford Warblers were undertaking their jerky little song-flights. **Thekla Larks** too were in good numbers, perched on top of bushes and on the track. A couple of parties of **Black Kite** drifted northwards, like the harriers, also on migration. **Griffon** and **Black Vultures** drifted in a line on the opposite direction. The track descended into a cork oak grove which had a good number of feeding **Chiffchaffs** along the track in the sunshine, as well as an early **Willow Warbler**. A **Firecrest** was also found as were **Nuthatches** and several **Short-toed Treecreepers**.

We made a brief stop beside the Arroyo de la Vid, just in time to have extraordinary views of a **Short-toed Eagle** which soared just a few metres, it felt, above our heads.

We then drove into the Villuercas Mountains, spotting **Mistle Thrushes** in the *dehesa* and then stopping at the River Almonte between Retamosa and Cabañas del Castillo. Here we saw a juvenile **Golden Eagle** drifting slowly overhead and our first glimpse of **Alpine Swift**, amongst a myriad of **House Martins** and **Crag Martins**. At the village of Cabañas del Castillo, we found quickly a female **Black Wheatear** and then had magnificent views of **Alpine Swift**, gliding close by at eye-level. We had a short walk to the base of the crags which stand above the village, reaching a pass that we crossed to enjoy the spectacular view of the valley and ridges to the east. A **Peregrine** was calling and it wheeled and then settled on the cliff face. A very obliging **Rock Bunting** sat on a rock and preened itself in the sunshine, whilst we also found **Blue Rock Thrush** and **Black Redstart**.

We returned to have lunch in the little car park with its magnificent view of the rolling hills to the west, having more sightings of **Alpine Swifts**. Then we headed south, along the side of the ridge, stopping for a walk in cork oak woodland. Another **Peregrine** was very vocal here and we also saw a pair of **Egyptian Vultures**. The woods had **Nuthatch**, **Short-toed Treecreeper**, **Great Spotted Woodpecker** and **Crested Tit**.

We then drove all the way to the south of the range, climbing to reach the highest point (1600 metres), close to the town on Guadalupe. This is sometimes a wintering site for Alpine Accentor, but despite a search we failed to find any, but we heard **Wren**, **Robin**, **Sardinian** and **Dartford Warbler** in the dwarf high altitude scrub. Despite the paucity of birds, the views were breathtaking – north to the snow-clad Sierra de los Gredos, east into Toledo province and south towards Andalucía.

The day was concluded sitting in the square of Trujillo, enjoying a drink, hoping to see Pallid Swifts. Martin had gone for a few minutes to fill the tank of the car and just as he returned to join the team the long-awaited **Pallid Swifts** appeared...perfect timing! Several times they came over, showing well in the early evening sunshine.

16th March 2010

An early breakfast at 7a.m. and then just as the car was being loaded for the return to Madrid, Martin heard a **Lesser Spotted Woodpecker** drumming. Heading down the lane, Colin located the bird high on a dead branch in a poplar. An excellent start to the day!

Another fine sunny day, but with a fresher breeze which picked up mid-morning whilst we were at our first port of call, the reservoir of Arrocampo. We heard at least three **Savi's Warblers** singing at the first stop we made (two more than five days earlier) but only brief and distant glimpses were obtained, although the **Purple Swamphens** were more obliging. At the next stop, Martin and John found a male **Little Bittern** sitting right out in the open. Several **Barn Swallows** hawked over the reeds, one appearing quite reddish-buff below. A couple of **Reed Buntings** were also present. Onward to the next stop, we paused to watch two **Great White Egrets** flying low over the vegetation. A **Sedge Warbler** was singing from the vegetation, but remained out of sight. **Bearded Tits** (a local rarity) were heard and then at least three were seen moving from one island of reeds to another. A female **Bluethroat** appeared right on the track and then flew to perch on nearby reeds, its tailed cocked characteristically. We lingered on to have some coffee, a good move because just when we had cups in hand an **Osprey** appeared, hovering over the water. We had tremendous views of it, watching it dive eventually and reappear shortly afterwards with a large fish in its talons. What a bonus!

We returned to the first stop and were rewarded by a very close view of a **Purple Heron** flying overhead, what a great morning it had been!

We then headed up the Valdecañas valley for a brief visit, stopping to look at some emerging orchids (conical and naked man) before exploring the area near the Valdecañas dam. It was excellent for raptors: all three species of vulture, as well as what appeared to be a passage of **Red Kite**, as well as a **Short-toed Eagle** and two **Black Storks**. We came across a party of **Hawfinch** coming down to drink in a stream and as we were enjoying an early lunch a pair of **Red-billed Choughs** flew past and a **Grey Wagtail** sang from a nearby eucalyptus tree. The valley was a fitting place to finish the tour: raptors in the sky, rocky outcrops and bird song set against a blue sky.

List of species seen

Generally good weather and an excellent mixture of winter birds and early spring migrants helped us reach an excellent total of **147 species of birds**. These are listed below.

1. **Little Grebe:** Singles seen at Arrocampo on 11th March and at Talaván on 14th March.
2. **Great Crested Grebe:** Seen most days on suitable water bodies.
3. **Black-necked Grebe:** One in summer plumage on pool at Moheda Alta on 13th March.
4. **Great Cormorant:** Seen most days.
5. **Little Bittern:** One male at Arrocampo on 16th March.
6. **Squacco Heron:** One at Arrocampo on 11th March.
7. **Cattle Egret:** Common and seen daily.
8. **Little Egret:** Seen almost daily.
9. **Great White Egret:** One near Palazuelo on 13th March and at least three at Arrocampo on 16th March.
10. **Grey Heron:** Seen almost daily.
11. **Purple Heron:** One at Arrocampo on 16th March.
12. **Black Stork:** About eight seen in Monfragüe on 12th March (with one seen near Rio Almonte on same day), one near Santa Marta de Magasca on 14th May and two at Valdecañas on 16th March.
13. **White Stork:** Common and seen daily.
14. **Spoonbill:** Two at Arrocampo on 11th March and five at Casas del Hito on 13th March.
15. **Grey Lag Goose:** A small party flying over Arrocampo on 11th March and about 50 at Casas del Hito on 13th March.
16. **Common Shelduck:** Two on Sierra Brava on 13th March.
17. **Gadwall:** Single figures seen at close range at Sierra Brava reservoir (there were bound to be many more at distance) on 13th March and six at Talaván on 14th March.
18. **Teal:** Three near Arrocampo on 11th March, small numbers at Sierra Brava on 13th March and two at Talaván on 14th March.
19. **Mallard:** Seen daily.
20. **Shoveler:** Singles near Arrocampo on 11th March and about six on Sierra Brava on 13th March.

21. **Common Pochard:** One on pool at Moheda Alta on 13th March.
22. **Black-winged Kite:** One near Arrocampo on 11th March.
23. **Black Kite:** Seen from 12th March in double figures almost every day. Birds clearly on passage passing north on 15th March.
24. **Red Kite:** Seen daily in single figures, although about 20 seen near Santa Marta de Magasca on 14th March, with some birds thought to be on passage.
25. **Egyptian Vulture:** About seven seen at Monfragüe on 12th March, a pair seen in the Villuercas mountains on 15th march and at Valdecañas on 16th March.
26. **Griffon Vulture:** Seen daily from 12th March, with over a hundred in Monfragüe and over 25 on a carcass on Belén Plains on 14th March.
27. **Black Vulture:** Seen almost daily with about 25 seen in Monfragüe and four at a carcass with above species on Belén Plains.
28. **Short-toed Eagle:** Seen almost daily with about five seen at Monfragüe and a similar number seen during the day on 15th March.
29. **Marsh Harrier:** About eight seen at Arrocampo on 11th March and at least three on the rice fields on 13th March. Also present at Arrocampo on 16th March.
30. **Hen Harrier:** Two males and a ringtail seen on the rice fields on 13th March and two males seen on plains on 14th March.
31. **Montagu's Harrier:** Four north of Santa Marta de Magasca on 14th March and two flying high over Pago de San Clemente early morning on 15th March.
32. **Sparrowhawk:** One seen near Arrocampo on 11th March and two in the Villuercas mountains on 15th March.
33. **Common Buzzard:** Seen daily with about twenty seen on 14th March.
34. **Spanish Imperial Eagle:** One adult in Monfragüe on 12th March.
35. **Golden Eagle:** One juvenile in Monfragüe on 12th March, an adult at Talaván on 14th March and a juvenile in Villuercas mountains on 15th March.
36. **Booted Eagle:** A total of five seen between 13th and 15th March.
37. **Bonelli's Eagle:** One adult in Monfragüe on 12th March.
38. **Osprey:** One at Arrocampo on 16th March.

39. **Lesser Kestrel:** Seen everyday apart from 16th March, especially at Trujillo and on the plains.
40. **Common Kestrel:** Seen daily.
41. **Merlin:** One on Belén Plains on 14th March.
42. **Peregrine Falcon:** One at Monfragüe on 12th March and two seen in Villuercas mountains on 15th March.
43. **Red-legged Partridge:** Seen or heard almost daily.
44. **Moorhen:** Seen in suitable habitat.
45. **Purple Swamphen:** About six seen at Arrocampo on 11th March and also seen there on 16th March.
46. **Common Coot:** Seen at on reservoirs: Arrocampo, Sierra Brava and Talaván.
47. **Common Crane:** 110 at Casas del Hito on 13th March and about 20 over Belén Plains on 14th March.
48. **Little Bustard:** A total of about 55 seen on Belén Plains on 14th March.
49. **Great Bustard:** 28 seen on arable land near Vegas Altas on 13th March and 75 in total on plains near Trujillo (Santa Marta de Magasca and Belén) on 14th March.
50. **Black-winged Stilt:** One seen en route from Madrid on 11th March was the only sighting.
51. **Avocet:** Six at Casas del Hito on 13th March.
52. **Stone Curlew:** One heard and seen briefly near Santa Marta de Magasca on 14th March.
53. **Little Ringed Plover:** Six on rice fields on 13th March.
54. **Kentish Plover:** Two at Casas del Hito and about 12 near Palazuelo on 13th March.
55. **Golden Plover:** 12 near Santa Marta de Magasca on 14th March.
56. **Lapwing:** Seen on rice fields on 13th March and on plains near Santa Marta de Magasca on 14th March.
57. **Little Stint:** A flock of 20 near Palazuelo on 13th March.
58. **Dunlin:** About 50 at Casas del Hito on 13th March.

59. **Common Snipe:** Four near Arrocampo on 11th March and well over a hundred seen on rice fields on 13th March.
60. **Common Redshank:** Four seen on rice fields on 13th March.
61. **Greenshank:** Nine seen on rice fields on 13th March.
62. **Green Sandpiper:** Three near Arrocampo on 11th March and one on rice fields on 13th March.
63. **Wood Sandpiper:** About six seen in flight at Casas del Hito on 13th March.
64. **Common Sandpiper:** One on rice fields on 13th March.
65. **Black-headed Gull:** Over 300 on rice fields on 13th March and about 200 seen near Santa Marta de Magasca on 14th March.
66. **Lesser Black-backed Gull:** About 15 on rice fields on 13th March and over ten near Santa Marta de Magasca on 14th March.
67. **Black-bellied Sandgrouse:** Nine seen near Vegas Altas on 13th March and seven near Santa Marta de Magasca on 14th March.
68. **Pin-tailed Sandgrouse:** 45 seen near Santa Marta de Magasca on 14th March.
69. **Rock Dove/Feral Pigeon:** See daily.
70. **Wood Pigeon:** Seen daily.
71. **Collared Dove:** Seen daily.
72. **Great Spotted Cuckoo:** Two seen near Sierra Brava reservoir on 13th March and ten seen near Santa Marta de Magasca on 14th March. One heard at Arrocampo on 16th March.
73. **Little Owl:** One seen near Arrocampo on 11th March and two on Belén Plains on 14th March.
74. **Long-eared Owl:** One at Pago de San Clemente on 13th March.
75. **Alpine Swift:** Five seen in the Villuercas mountains on 15th March.
76. **Pallid Swift:** Six seen in Trujillo on 15th March.
77. **Kingfisher:** One at Arrocampo on 11th March and 16th March.
78. **Hoopoe:** Seen almost daily, often in double figures.

79. **Green Woodpecker:** One flying across the road in outskirts of Madrid on 11th March.
80. **Great Spotted Woodpecker:** Seen almost daily.
81. **Lesser Spotted Woodpecker:** One seen drumming in Pago de San Clemente on 16th March.
82. **Calandra Lark:** Seen on plains near Santa Marta de Magasca and Belén on 14th March.
83. **Crested Lark:** Seen almost daily.
84. **Thekla Lark:** Seen almost daily.
85. **Woodlark:** Seen almost daily.
86. **Skylark:** About 50 seen on plains near Santa Marta de Magasca on 14th March.
87. **Sand Martin:** Seen at Arrocampo on 11th and 16th March and on rice fields (about 50 seen) on 13th March.
88. **Crag Martin:** Seen almost daily.
89. **Barn Swallow:** Seen daily.
90. **Red-rumped Swallow:** Seen almost daily.
91. **House Martin:** Seen almost daily.
92. **Meadow Pipit:** Seen daily.
93. **Water Pipit:** Two seen on rice fields on 13th March.
94. **Grey Wagtail:** Seen on Rio Almonte on 12th March, in Villuercas mountains on 15th March and one singing at Valdecañas on 16th March.
95. **White Wagtail:** Seen daily (over 100 seen on rice fields on 13th March).
96. **Wren:** Recorded almost daily.
97. **Robin:** Seen almost daily.
98. **Bluethroat:** One near Palazuelo on 13th March and one at Arrocampo on 16th March.
99. **Black Redstart:** Seen daily.
100. **Stonechat:** Seen daily.

101. **Black Wheatear:** One at Monfragüe on 12th March and one at Cabañas del Castillo on 15th March.
102. **Blue Rock Thrush:** Five or six seen in Monfragüe on 12th March and similarly in the Villuercas mountains on 15th March.
103. **Blackbird:** Seen almost daily.
104. **Song Thrush:** Seen daily. Over 40 seen around Pago de San Clemente on 13th March.
105. **Mistle Thrush:** About six seen in Villuercas mountains on 15th March.
106. **Cetti's Warbler:** Seen at Arrocampo on 11th and 16th March and on rice fields on 13th March.
107. **Zitting Cisticola:** Seen at Arrocampo on 11th and 16th March and on rice fields on 13th March.
108. **Savi's Warbler:** One singing at Arrocampo on 11th March and at least three there on 16th March.
109. **Sedge Warbler:** One singing at Arrocampo on 16th March.
110. **Dartford Warbler:** Several in song at Jaraicejo on 15th March.
111. **Sardinian Warbler:** Seen almost daily.
112. **Blackcap:** Seen almost daily.
113. **Common Chiffchaff:** Seen daily.
114. **Willow Warbler:** One at Jaraicejo on 15th March.
115. **Firecrest:** One at Jaraicejo on 15th March.
116. **Bearded Tit:** Three at Arrocampo on 16th March.
117. **Long-tailed Tit:** Seen at Monfragüe on 12th March.
118. **Crested Tit:** One in Monfragüe on 12th March and two seen in Villuercas on 15th March.
119. **Blue Tit:** Seen almost daily.
120. **Great Tit:** Seen almost daily.
121. **Nuthatch:** Seen at Jaraicejo and the Villuercas mountains on 15th March.

122. **Short-toed Treecreeper:** Seen almost daily.
123. **Penduline Tit:** Two at Arrocampo on 11th March, two at Casas del Hito on 13th March and one at Talaván on 14th March.
124. **Iberian Grey Shrike:** Seen almost daily.
125. **Woodchat Shrike:** Seen at Arrocampo on 11th March, near Monfragüe on 12th March and near Santa Marta de Magasca on 14th March.
126. **Jay:** Seen in Monfragüe on 12th March, in the Villuercas mountains on 15th March and at Valdecañas on 16th March.
127. **Azure-winged Magpie:** Seen daily.
128. **Magpie:** Seen daily.
129. **Red-billed Chough:** Pairs at Monfragüe on 12th March and at Valdecañas on 16th March.
130. **Jackdaw:** Seen daily.
131. **Raven:** Seen almost daily.
132. **Spotless Starling:** Seen daily.
133. **House Sparrow:** Seen daily.
134. **Spanish Sparrow:** Seen almost daily.
135. **Tree Sparrow:** Three seen on rice fields on 13th March.
136. **Common Waxbill:** One seen on rice fields on 13th March.
137. **Red Avadavat:** Many seen on rice fields on 13th March.
138. **Chaffinch:** Seen daily.
139. **Serin:** Seen daily.
140. **Greenfinch:** Seen on two days.
141. **Goldfinch:** Seen daily.
142. **Linnet:** Seen almost daily.
143. **Hawfinch:** Seen at Monfragüe on 12th March and at Valdecañas on 16th March.
144. **Cirl Bunting:** Seen almost daily.

145. **Rock Bunting:** Seen at Monfragüe on 12th March, in the Villuercas on 15th March and at Valdecañas on 16th March.
146. **Reed Bunting:** Two or three seen at Arrocampo on 11th and 16th March.
147. **Corn Bunting:** Seen daily.

Mammals seen include:

Wild Boar: Near Monfragüe 12th March

Iberian Hare: Jaraicejo 15th March

Rabbit: Pago de San Clemente

Red Deer: Monfragüe National Park 12th March.

Butterfly list:

Holly Blue

Green-striped White

Small White

Large Tortoiseshell

Small Copper

Other wildlife:

Stripeless Tree Frog

Iberian Pool Frog