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**Honeyguide Extremadura
17 – 25 March 2010**

Itinerary

Wednesday 17th March: Arrival in Madrid and travel to Trujillo via A5 motorway, with a stop before Ventas de Retamosa for snacks. Arrived at Finca Santa Marta late afternoon.

Thursday 18th March: Morning visit to Belén Plains and afternoon walk along River Tozo.

Friday 19th March: South to Zorita with a visit across the Zorita Plains and then coffee stop just outside Madrigalejo. Exploring area of Casas del Hito, including visit to Charca del Hito (a large pool), where lunch taken, followed by visit to Sierra Brava reservoir

Saturday 20th March: Visit to heath at Jaraicejo and lunch at Miravete Pass. Afternoon walk on hill above grounds of Finca Santa Marta.

Sunday 21st March: Exploring plains around Santa Marta de Magasca

Monday 22nd March: From Trujillo to Torrejón El Rubío, then to Monfragüe National Park. Stop at Castle and then at car park opposite the crags of Peña Falcón. Lunch at Mirador de Tajadilla, then to the Portilla del Tietár.

Tuesday 23rd March: Free morning in Trujillo, then east towards Villuercas mountains, with lunch on Almonte river near village of Cabañas del Castillo. Visit to village after lunch, with walk along base of cliffs.

Wednesday 24th March: Arrocampo reservoir, between Almaráz and Saucedilla, afternoon walk on Cerro de Almaráz.

Saturday 21st March: Early morning departure (06.45) to Madrid to check-in at airport for flight back to UK.

Daily Diary

17th March: Madrid to Finca Santa Marta

The flight from Gatwick arrived at Madrid on time to welcoming fine and warm weather. Sandy and Marie were waiting in the Terminal having spent a few days in Madrid. After a bit of time spent working out the paperwork for the minibuses, we loaded up and set off shortly after 14.00, taking the ring road around the southern side of Madrid, before leaving it for the motorway south-west to Extremadura. We

stopped just outside Madrid for lunch at the lively bar Las Esparteras, full of lunchtime business, where we enjoyed freshly prepared food and soaked in the atmosphere of being in Spain. Onward on the journey with the impressive Gredos mountains to the north, their slopes covered by snow, testament of the cool and very wet winter experienced here this year.

As we approached Extremadura, the landscape was getting greener and more wooded and more birds like White Storks and Black Kites were being seen.

We reached the Finca at about 18.30, in time for tea to be organised and everyone to settle into their rooms before dinner, by which time a Scops Owl had just started calling.

18th March: Belén Plains and Tozo River

There was some very light rain as we set off but the weather quite quickly improved with warm sunshine most of the afternoon. After breakfast we explored the open plains north-east of the small village of Belén close to Trujillo. At our first stop just outside the village, we enjoyed a superb panorama of the habitat: the mosaic of colours reflecting the rotating land use with darker green fields of cereals, lighter green pastures and fields that had been fallow. From this vantage point we located our first pair of Great Spotted Cuckoos, initially rather distant, but as if they wanted us to see them better, they flew around and passed us closely. Hoopoes were also seen. Shortly afterwards we stopped again in a gateway, and found a pair of Little Owl perched on a pile of stones. Brenda then checked the area behind the owls, and came across a group of Great Bustards, resting and preening on a far slope. Hoop Petticoat Narcissus was flowering in abundance across the field in front of us whilst showy Spanish Sparrows lined-up on the fence beside the road.

We walked for a short distance along a dirt track, finding good numbers of sand crocus in flower as well as a Green-lined White butterfly. At our lunch stop a little bit further along, we found two species of sand crocus growing close together as well as Sawfly Orchid. White Storks were nesting on a clump of dead trees beside a pool. Griffon and Black Vultures drifted overhead whilst a Stripeless Tree Frog was found at the picnic site itself.

We stopped for coffee in the village of Torrecillas de la Tiesa and then stopped to walk along the River Tozo, through open *dehesa* woodland before reaching the small Tozo reservoir. A Great White Egret flew up as we arrived and we were to see at least two more on the reservoir. Amongst the circling vultures above us, were Black Kite, a Booted Eagle and a distant Sparrowhawk, probably the same one which a few minutes later passed close by, giving us excellent views.

On the reservoir, we found three Spoonbill, as well as Great Crested Grebe, duck including Mallard, Shoveler, Teal and Gadwall, some Greenshank and a Black-winged Stilt. A fine Woodchat Shrike sat on the fence in the shade of the holm oaks.

We were back at the Finca a little later than planned to go through the checklists with our tea and biscuits.

19th March: Zorita Plains, Casas del Hito and Sierra Brava

Like yesterday, a day that started damp but got sunnier and warmer during the afternoon.

We headed south, through the town of Zorita and then to Campo Lugar, passing great solar panel farms, to cross the Zorita Plains. Driving slowly and stopping regularly to scan was the approach used to search the wide open landscape. Created, Thekla and Calandra Larks, as well as Zitting Cisticolas were easily found close to the road. A Little Owl played hide-and-seek with us from a bare tree. Further away, on the sky-line we found an impressive male Great Bustard, looking grand and stately indeed with its tail fanned. A pair of Lesser Kestrel was using a nestbox set up for Rollers on an electricity post. We met some birdwatchers who had just found a Stone Curlew and a Little Bustard and luckily both species were still present when we scanned the area they described. Further on we came across a wonderful group of ten Great Bustards, feeding nonchalantly at close range, affording us superb views.

We left the plains and entered an area of irrigated land, used mainly for rice growing. Just outside Madrigalejo we stopped for coffee and then drove along a rather rough track into an area of rice stubble called Casas del Hito. Here we found a flock of Common Crane, about 150 birds, remarkably late for a species which winters here in their thousands, with most birds leaving in late February for Scandinavia. We then stopped for lunch on the embankment of a small pool. From the bank we had a good view of the surrounding plains, seeing the same group of cranes at a distance. We saw a fine male Marsh Harrier, whilst along the bank were parties of non-breeding Red Avadavats. A Bluethroat was seen briefly as returned to the minibuses.

We stopped briefly beside the Sierra Brava reservoir. The ducks there were far too far away to be able to identify, but nearer at hand we watched Lesser Kestrels and a Hoopoe on a ruined farm building.

Back at the Finca, following the checklist and tea, we enjoyed a slide-show by local photographer Steve Fletcher, followed by a presentation by Martin (on behalf of the Spanish Ornithological Society SEO/BirdLife on conservation issues in Extremadura and his son, Patrick on behalf of SEO received a cheque from Chris, as a contribution from the group to continue SEO's work in the region.

20th March: Jaraicejo, Miravete Pass and Finca Santa Marta

As seemed to be the pattern these days, a damp start with the weather brightening steadily during the day, although there was a fresh breeze during the middle part of the day.

After breakfast we drove up the motorway north to Jaraicejo, then taking the old road onto an area of open heath, dominated by broom, lavender and cistus. Thekla Larks were in song when we arrived, as were Corn Buntings, and after just a few minutes we located two or three singing Dartford Warblers. With some patience we ended up getting superb views of one of these birds, very close to the track. Whilst we were watching this bird, an immature Golden Eagle flew past, at quite low altitude. All

three species of vultures (Griffon, Black and Egyptian) were seen passing, albeit distantly.

Entering a cork oak grove, we found good numbers of Angel's Tears narcissus, set in the atmospheric setting of the cork oaks. A Great Spotted Woodpecker was drumming high in a distant tree, whilst Short-toed Treecreepers and Nuthatches were calling closer to us. We also heard a Common Cuckoo.

From the heath we drove through scattered open woodland and had an excellent view of a Short-toed Eagle, initially perched on a pylon and then soaring close by. Nearby we stopped for coffee and then drove to the Miravete pass for lunch. The wind had picked up, making finding a sheltered spot essential – luckily a forester's cabin had a porch that we could use. From there we could watch a procession of Griffon Vultures drifting past.

We returned early to the Finca in order to spend the afternoon walking on the property and then beyond along the ridge to the west. We found the first Champagne and Conical Orchids of the spring, as well as a very fine Iberian Fritillary in full flower.

In the evening, a pre-dinner drinks reception had been organised by our host Henri in his beautiful vaulted sitting room.

21st March: Santa Marta de Magasca

Yet again damp first thing, but although it did clear during the morning, we could never escape threatening skies, which brought upon just after lunch a heavy thunderstorm.

After breakfast we drove west of Trujillo towards the village of Santa Marta de Magasca. We stopped at the edge of open plains, watching Thekla, Crested and Calandra Larks in song, a single Great Spotted Cuckoo and enjoying some excellent views of Iberian Grey Shrike. A Stone Curlew gave its evocative and rather haunting call. A little bit further along the road, we stopped at a high point, overlooking a flower-rich meadow. We did not have to wait long before we saw flying Pin-tailed Sandgrouse, their rapid flight and pointed wings giving them a rather wader-like appearance. For a few minutes one was visible on the ground and although distant, the lack of heat shimmer meant that we had good enough views to note its distinctive plumage well. A Buzzard flew over and this apparently put up a couple of flocks of sandgrouse and for a time we were offered the wonderful sight of a tight group of these birds, flying fast just above the skyline, turning every so often. A pair of Black-bellied Sandgrouse flew past, looking much bulkier than the Pin-tailed.

We walked along a dirt track, having more excellent views of Calandra Lark, as well as a Woodchat Shrike.

After coffee in Santa Marta de Magasca, we stopped on some high ground for lunch and were rewarded by superb views of male Montagu's Harriers. Some flew close by, settling on fence posts, whilst others performed aerial displays over a cereal field. They were beautifully elegant and buoyant birds. Just as we were completing lunch, heavy drops of rain started to fall and sure enough the storm that had been

darkening the skies to the south had come our way. We climbed into the vehicles and then drove slowly through the rain back to Trujillo, stopping to see a fine male Little Bustard close the road.

Remarkably it had not rained at all at the Finca, so after an early tea and checklist session, the late afternoon was spent resting or pottering around. Some members of the group saw a Green Woodpecker.

In the evening we repaired to Trujillo to see the magnificent town square at night and to enjoy the ambience and good hearty fare provided at La Troya restaurant: local specialities, simple and very tasty. After the meal some of the group watched the last twenty minutes of an exciting Barcelona-Zaragoza football match on the TV in the bar, whilst others were drawn into friendly conversation with the locals! It was a memorable and thoroughly enjoyable evening.

22nd March: Monfragüe National Park

There was a change in the weather with a clear blue sky in the morning and just scattered cloud in the afternoon. We headed north from Trujillo to Monfragüe National Park. The route took us first through the rocky granite terrain around Trujillo, and then through *dehesa* as far as the eye could see, with the only changes being when we dropped down to cross three river valleys: the Tozo, the Almonte and finally the narrow Arroyo de la Vid. After the last crossing we followed the road winding up to the edge of the Monfragüe Park, heralded by a rocky ridge, capped by a small castle and a spectacular gorge through which passed the Tajo river. Our first stop was the castle itself which we reached by climbing up stone steps through groves of wild olive and cork oak. The view from the top was stunning: a vast *dehesa* panorama to the south, whilst to the north the hills of the park, the man-made lakes along the river valley and behind the snow-capped Gredos, perfectly clear. From the top of the escarpment we watched passing Griffon Vultures, as well as a pair of Red-billed Chough. A pair of Red-rumped Swallow delighted us as they preened perched on bare branches nearby. Several Southern Specked Wood butterflies were found. Our next port of call was the famous Peña Falcón and Salto de Gitano (the Gypsy's leap). Here close to the base of the gorge, we enjoyed more views of Griffon Vulture (including birds at the nest, some with chicks), as well as some Black Vultures. A pair of Black Storks stood on a ledge, giving their greeting ceremony in the sunshine the green iridescence on their necks and backs quite spectacular. We also had excellent views of Blue Rock Thrush. At one point, an Egyptian Vulture was mobbed by a Peregrine. Nettle Tree Butterfly was seen very well.

The road then took us over a bridge, crossing the River Tajo. We stopped at Villareal de San Carlos for coffee. Just a few of us saw a juvenile Spanish Imperial Eagle high overhead. House Martins were coming down to collect mud, whilst a very fine male White Wagtail darted after flies.

We continued through to Tajadilla, a lovely picnic spot just downstream from one of the dams along the course of the river Tiétar. It overlooked another rock face with nesting Griffon Vultures. Black Kites were present as well. A Bonelli's Eagle was also seen, soaring overhead before heading south over the cliff. We had magnificent views of Azure-winged Magpies coming down to take crumbs from the picnic tables,

whilst a very smart Subalpine Warbler foraged in the bushes and a confiding Rock Bunting was found near the parked cars.

At the Portilla del Tiétar, the viewpoint directed our gaze onto the wonderful strata of the cliffs opposite, supporting another colony of Griffon Vulture. A pair of Egyptian Vulture stood on the highest part of the rock face, whilst a Great Cormorant swam in the river. We enjoyed the wonderful serenity of the place. A pair of Bonelli's Eagles was watched soaring high in the sky and a Short-toed Eagle flew over.

Pottering along the road, we found Angel Tears and Hoop Petticoat Narcissus growing side-by-side on the bank beside the road, along with Spanish Bluebells and Spanish Milk Vetch.

We were joined by Steve and Karen Fletcher and, as well as the other visitors also present there, many pairs of eyes continually scanned the skies but there was no appearance of the Spanish Imperial Eagle by the time we needed to move on.

On the way back we stopped on a small road to see the attractive lily that Chris had found yesterday afternoon and then we returned to Finca Santa Marta for tea and checklist.

23rd March: Trujillo and Cabañas del Castillo

Starting overcast, the weather gradually improved during the day. The group spent the morning at leisure in Trujillo, with the beautiful medieval town square as the starting point, from which the narrow cobbled streets led up to the castle and old part of the town. This is dominated by the old granite-built palaces and large churches, testimony to the wealth brought back from South America by the conquistadores born in Trujillo. The same buildings with their old tiled roofs support one of Spain's most important colonies of Lesser Kestrel as well as pairs of Pallid Swift.

At 12.30, we left Trujillo and headed to the Villuercas mountains, a lovely series of ridges to the east of the *dehesa* and plains that we had been exploring over the last few days. We stopped for lunch at a crossing of the Rio Almonte, where the river passes through a narrow gorge. As well as Griffon Vultures, we saw Grey Wagtails and Common Kestrel. Yellow Toadflax and Meadow Saxifrage were in flower and a Small Copper butterfly was seen. Nearby is the tiny village of Cabañas del Castillo, perched at the base of one of a pair of crags, on the top of which sits an ancient castle. We walked through the village, then along a path leading to the old church and a gap between the crags, to afford one a magnificent view of the valley to the east. A Black Wheatear was briefly seen by just a few of us, before disappearing from view behind a rock near the church, whilst a Peregrine on a lofty perch was also seen. The rocks above the village also held Black Redstarts and Blue Rock Thrushes. From the vantage point overlooking the valley behind the village, we could watch passing Griffon Vultures as well as Alpine Swift, Short-toed Eagle and Egyptian Vulture. Juniper and Dwarf Sheep's Bit were found growing. We returned to the Finca on a cross-country road through the *dehesa*, the highlight of the journey being a large flock of Rock Sparrows and a very fine Woodchat Shrike.

24th March: Arrocampo and Cerro de Almaráz

Generally an overcast day, and feeling fresher, but with some sunny spells as well. We visited the reservoir of Arrocampo, an expanse of water fringed by reed mace, lying between the towns of Almaráz and Saucedilla. At our first stop we saw several Purple Herons in flight, as well as a Great White Egret and a distant Osprey, which was spotted by David. Zitting Cisticolas provided excellent views in the vegetation just in front of us. At our second stop, we had even better views of Purple Heron as well as our first sightings of Purple Swamphen. A Savi's Warbler sang nearby, but proved elusive, as did a Reed Warbler. However, we did find up to three Penduline Tits which generally gave good views as they foraged on the reed mace seed heads or perched in a willow tree or adjacent giant reeds. A Squacco Heron also flew past and landed amongst the vegetation, merging cryptically in it. We went to have coffee in a bar in the centre of Saucedilla, beside the old church, where we watched a few Lesser Kestrel, but most were out feeding out in the countryside. Later we could see no fewer than 14 hovering over the fields.

We drove through an agricultural zone to the north where we found a pair of Black-winged Kite perched on a tree. Lunch was beside a smaller pool of water, close to which were a pair of Black-winged Stilts. We then made a final stop at Arrocampo to obtain better views of Purple Swamphen and finally get a view of a Sav's Warbler singing.

We completed the afternoon with a very pleasant foray onto part of the limestone hill nearby (Cerro de Almaráz) where we found several species of Orchid (Naked man, Conical, Mirror, Yellow Bee and Champagne). Some of us saw Hawfinch in the olives there and a fine Short-toed Eagle flew over. Storm clouds were forming as we returned to the Finca where we had our final afternoon tea and checklist call-over.

21st March: Finca Santa Marta to Madrid

As we set off at 06.50 for the airport, just as dawn was breaking. We had quite a good run to the airport, apart from some congestion on the Madrid ring-road, arriving in time for the check-in and farewells.

Systematic list – Birds

A summary of sightings contributed by the whole group at the daily "call-over"

Little Grebe A pair at Arrocampo on 24th march and one seen on a pool on 23rd.

Great Crested Grebe Present at reservoirs such as Tozo, Sierra Brava and Arrocampo as well as the Tiétar river, Monfragüe.

Cormorant Present at reservoirs such as Tozo and Arrocampo as well as the Tiétar river, Monfragüe.

- Squacco Heron** One seen at close quarters at Arrocampo on 24th March.
- Cattle Egret** Seen almost daily, with a flock of over a 100 on rice fields at Casas del Hito on 19th March.
- Little Egret** Singles seen on rice fields and at Arrocampo.
- Great White Egret** Three at Tozo on 18th March and one seen at Arrocampo on 24th March.
- Grey Heron** Seen almost every day.
- Purple Heron** At least six seen at Arrocampo on 24th March.
- Black Stork** About ten seen at Monfragüe on 22nd March and two near Cabañas del Castillo on 23rd March.
- White Stork** Common throughout the week, around towns and villages, as well as in the fields.
- Spoonbill** Three at Tozo on 18th March.
- Grey Lag Goose** Five at Casas del Hito on 19th March.
- Gadwall** Seen on Tozo on 18th March.
- Teal** Seen on Tozo reservoir and near Arrocampo.
- Mallard** Seen daily.
- Pintail** Two or three seen at Casas del Hito on 19th March.
- Shoveler** Small numbers seen at Tozo, Casas del Hito and Arrocampo.
- Black-shouldered Kite** Two at Arrocampo on 24th March.
- Black Kite** Double figures seen everyday.
- Red Kite** Single figures seen everyday, especially over dehesa and the plains.
- Egyptian Vulture** Generally seen in pairs at Jaraicejo, the plains near Santa Marta de Magasca, Monfragüe (6-8 seen) and Cabañas del Castillo.
- Griffon Vulture** Good numbers seen almost everyday, especially at Monfragüe on (over 100 seen).
- Black Vulture** Seen almost daily, and double figures at Monfragüe.
- Short-toed Eagle** Seen almost daily, often in pairs.

Marsh Harrier About five on the rice fields on 19th March and three at Arrocampo on 24th March.

Montagu's Harrier At least six on the plains near Santa Marta de Magasca on 21st March.

Sparrowhawk Singles at Tozo and Jaraicejo.

Common Buzzard Seen daily.

Spanish Imperial Eagle A juvenile seen briefly at Monfragüe on 22nd March.

Golden Eagle An adult over the heath at Jaraicejo on 20th March.

Bonelli's Eagle A total of three seen in Monfragüe on 22nd March.

Osprey One at Arrocampo on 24th March.

Lesser Kestrel Seen almost daily.

Common Kestrel Seen almost daily in single figures.

Merlin One on Belén Plains on 18th March and one near Santa Marta de Magasca on 21st March

Peregrine Singles in Monfragüe and at Cabañas del Castillo.

Red-legged Partridge Seen most days.

Moorhen Small numbers on rice fields and Arrocampo.

Purple Swamphen At least five birds at Arrocampo on 24th March.

Coot Present at the reservoir of Arrocampo.

Common Crane A very late wintering flock of 150 at Casas del Hito on 19th March.

Little Bustard A male on Zorita plains on 19th March and one near Santa Marta de Magasca on 21st March.

Great Bustard 8 on Belén Plains on 18th March, 11 on Zorita Plains on 19th March and two near Santa Marta de Magasca on 21st March.

Stone Curlew One on Zorita Plains on 19th March and three near Santa Marta de Magasca on 21st March.

Black-winged Stilt Seen almost daily on small pool near Trujillo, also at Arrocampo.

Little Ringed Plover Two on wet fields at Casas del Hito on 19th March.

Golden Plover A total of thirty seen on Zorita Plains and near Madrigalejo on 19th March

Lapwing Very few of this winter visitor still present: single figures on Tozo on 18th March and about six on rice fields on 19th March.

Dunlin A flock of about 50 at Casas del Hito on 19th March.

Snipe Single figures on Tozo and rice fields.

Greenshank Four at Tozo on 18th March.

Green Sandpiper Single birds seen at Tozo, rice fields and Arrocampo.

Common Sandpiper Single birds at Tozo and sierra Brava.

Black-headed Gull Small groups on Belén and rice fields.

Lesser Black-backed Gull Small groups seen almost daily.

Black-bellied Sandgrouse Two seen near Santa Marta de Magasca on 21st March

Pin-tailed Sandgrouse About 50 seen near Santa Marta de Magasca on 21st March.

Rock Dove/Feral Pigeon Seen daily

Woodpigeon Small numbers seen daily.

Collared Dove Seen daily.

Great Spotted Cuckoo Seen almost daily, generally in pairs.

Common Cuckoo Recorded almost daily, especially near the Finca.

Scops Owl Heard most evenings (and some mornings) at the Finca.

Little Owl Two seen on Belén Plains on 18th March and one on Zorita Plains on 19th March.

Pallid Swift Seen at Trujillo on 23rd March and 24th March.

Alpine Swift Several at Cabañas del Castillo on 23rd March.

Kingfisher One on Tozo on 18th March, also on Rio Almonte on 23rd March and Arrocampo on 24th March.

Hoopoe Commonly seen everyday.

Green Woodpecker Heard and seen at the Finca on 21st and 22nd March.

Great Spotted Woodpecker Heard and seen several times during the week.

Lesser Spotted Woodpecker Heard drumming at the Finca on 19th March.

Calandra Lark Seen on visits to open plains at Belén, Zorita and near Santa Marta de Magasca.

Crested Lark Common and seen daily.

Thekla Lark Seen on Beén, Zorita, Jaraicejo and near Santa Marta de Magasca.

Woodlark Heard and sometimes seen several times at the Finca.

Sand Martin Seen at Arrocampo on 24th March.

Crag Martin Common near bridges and in rocky areas in Monfragüe, in the Villuercas mountains and also present in Trujillo.

Swallow Common every day.

Red-rumped Swallow Seen almost daily.

House Martin Seen almost every day.

Meadow Pipit Small numbers seen almost daily.

Grey Wagtail Two present on Rio Almonte on 23rd March.

White Wagtail Seen every day.

Wren Recorded daily.

Robin Recorded at the Finca only until 20th March.

Bluethroat One at Casas del Hito on 19th March.

Black Redstart seen at Monfragüe and Cabañas del Castillo.

Stonechat Common and seen every day.

Northern Wheatear One on Zorita Plains on 19th March.

Black Wheatear Two birds at Cabañas del Castillo on 23rd March.

Blue Rock Thrush Seen in Monfragüe and Cabañas del Castillo.

Blackbird Seen daily.

Song Thrush	Seen at the Finca until 22nd March.
Mistle Thrush	Singles seen near the Finca. at Monfragüe and in the Villuercas.
Cetti's Warbler	Present in rice fields and at Arrocampo.
Zitting Cisticola	Present on Zorita Plains, the rice fields and at Arrocampo.
Savi's Warbler	Two singing at Arrocampo on 24th March.
Reed Warbler	One singing at Arrocampo on 24th March.
Dartford Warbler	Excellent views at Jaraicejo on 20th March and at Arrocampo on 24th March.
Subalpine Warbler	Good views of two at Monfragüe on 22nd March and one at Rio Almonte on 23rd March.
Sardinian Warbler	Seen almost daily.
Blackcap	Seen daily and in good numbers around Finca.
Willow Warbler	One singing at Casas del Hito on 19th March.
Chiffchaff	Small numbers seen, generally close to water.
Long-tailed Tit	Small numbers seen on several days.
Blue Tit	Seen almost daily.
Great Tit	Seen daily.
Penduline Tit	Three seen at Arrocampo on 24th March.
Short-toed Treecreeper	Seen and heard almost daily, especially around the Finca.
Southern Grey Shrike	Seen daily.
Woodchat Shrike	Seen almost daily.
Jay	Seen near Cabañas del Castillo on 23rd March.
Azure-winged Magpie	Common and seen everyday.
Magpie	Common and seen every day.
Red-billed Chough	Two at Monfragüe castle on 22nd March.
Jackdaw	Common and seen everyday.

Raven	Seen almost daily.
Spotless Starling	Common every day.
House Sparrow	Common every day.
Spanish Sparrow	Flocks on the rice fields, plains and at Arrocampo.
Tree Sparrow	Two or three at Casas del Hito on 19th March.
Rock Sparrow	A flock of over 50 seen near Rio Almonte between Retamosa and Aldeacentenera on 23rd March.
Red Avadavat	Small flocks on the rice fields on 19th March.
Chaffinch	Small numbers seen every day.
Serin	Seen every day, often in song-flight.
Greenfinch	Seen daily near the Finca.
Goldfinch	Small flocks seen daily.
Linnet	Seen daily.
Hawfinch	Recorded every morning at the Finca.
Cirl Bunting	One at Cabañas del Castillo on 23rd March.
Rock Bunting	Seen well at Monfragüe on 22nd March and at Cabañas del Castillo on 23rd March.
Corn Bunting	Seen daily. One of the commonest birds of the plains.