

**Extremadura  
16 – 24 March 2011**

Honeyguide Tour

Leaders

Chris Durdin  
Martin Kelsey

Itinerary

**Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> 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 17<sup>th</sup> March:** Morning walk on hill above grounds of Finca Santa Marta and afternoon walk on heath above Madroñera.

**Friday 18<sup>th</sup> March:** Walk beside the River Ruercas near Madrigalejo, followed by a visit to the Crane Information Centre at Moheda Alta, picnic lunch and walk through the *dehesa* there. A brief stop en route back near Vegas Altas.

**Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> March:** Visit to heath at Jaraicejo and lunch at Miravete Pass. Afternoon walk beside Rio Tozo to the Tozo reservoir and a brief stop at the Bull Ring, Trujillo.

**Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> March:** Exploring plains around Santa Marta de Magasca.

**Monday 21<sup>st</sup> 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 22<sup>nd</sup> 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 23<sup>rd</sup> March:** Arrocampo reservoir, between Almaráz and Saucedilla, lunch near Valdecañas, afternoon walk on Cerro de Almaráz.

**Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> March:** Early morning departure (06.00) to Madrid to check-in at airport for flight back to UK.

## Daily Diary

### 16th March: Madrid to Finca Santa Marta

The flight from Gatwick arrived at Madrid on time to rather cool, overcast weather. Once the paperwork was completed, we loaded up the two minibuses 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 salads 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 and cloud brushing their peaks.

As we approached Extremadura, the landscape was getting greener, the weather was getting brighter 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.

### 17<sup>th</sup> March: Finca Santa Marta and Madroñera

What a change a day makes with the weather! Today we enjoyed largely clear skies, plenty of sunshine and just light winds. After breakfast we enjoyed a very productive walk through the grounds of the Finca, in almond orchards and olive groves, up to a green path ascending the hill above the property. Swallows and Red-rumped Swallows hawked insects around the buildings as we set off. Within minutes of starting two Short-toed Eagles glided low overhead, heading north, perhaps on migration, as shortly afterwards a third individual also drifted over in the same direction. Our slow pace was perfect for finding spring flowers, such as Yellow Star of Bethlehem and clumps of Undulate Anchusa. The weather was attractive to butterflies as well and we saw several Western dappled Whites and a very fine Green Hairstreak. Birds included several sightings of Hawfinch and the sound of the Iberian race of Green Woodpecker coming from a valley below us. The green track afforded us fine views northward beyond Trujillo and up to the Gredos mountains, looking very clear and it was difficult to believe that they were over a hundred kilometres away. Just off the path we found patches of Conical Orchid and Champagne Orchid in flower, whilst beside the path itself there were several Iberian Fritillary, all close to flowering.

Back at the Finca we had our sandwich lunch and then drove a few kilometres to our afternoon spot, a French Lavender and White Broom heath above the small town of Madroñera. Thekla Larks sang from the top of small Holm Oak bushes and from above, as did a Woodlark, with possibly one of the most beautiful songs of all. There were carpets of Hoop Petticoat Narcissus in flower, as well as many Sand Crocuses. Another Short-toed Eagle drifted over, as did parties of Red Kite, Black Kite and vultures. But pride of place was a Provence

Hairstreak which gave most of us wonderful views as it rested on the path in front of us.

We were back just after 5pm for afternoon tea and the checklist, which was accompanied by the weak song of a Hawfinch which obligingly sat perched on the Almond tree in the car park - clearly visible from the sitting room.

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

### 18<sup>th</sup> March: River Ruercas, Moheda Alta and Vegas Altas

Today we were joined by Bjørn and Ebba from Denmark. A fine sunny morning as we left the Finca, but as we approached our planned first stop, the Sierra Brava reservoir to the south of Zorita, we enter a dense fog bank where visibility was very poor. There was little point in attempting to bird watch at the reservoir, so we switched plans and descended to the rice fields around the town of Madrigalejo. A male Hen Harrier passed by, with a female and a male Marsh Harrier seen just minutes afterwards. We stopped by the River Ruercas and, with far better visibility now, enjoyed a walk alongside the riverine woodland and beside a field of maize stubble. This had attracted feeding flocks of finches, mainly Linnets, but also mixed parties of Common Waxbills and Red Avadavats, both of which afforded us good, prolonged views as they perched on brambles and dead vegetation nearby. Overhead, a migrating flock of 35 Black Kite drifted north. It is always wonderful to see migration actually happening. A Large Psammmodromus lizard basked in the sun and Cetti's Warblers sang from the bankside vegetation.

After coffee in the village of Obando, we called in to visit the Crane Information Centre at Moheda Alta. There we had a tour of the exhibition about the wintering cranes and the ecology of the *dehesa*. The area supports about 30,000 cranes in the winter, the largest concentration in Extremadura. We had a picnic amongst the Holm Oaks, amidst a carpet of early spring flowers: Sand Crocuses, Wild Clary, and a mass of Barbary Nut Iris, which opened in glorious fashion as the afternoon progressed. As we walked through the woodland, there were constantly things to take in: from the overall beauty of the landscape, to the sound of the newly arrived Cuckoo, a pair of Black Stork passing overhead, to butterflies such as the Spanish Festoon, Sawfly Orchids, Common Tree Frogs and Woodchat Shrikes. The walk culminated in a tower hide, from which we could look across fields of rice stubble, haunt in the winter for thousands of cranes and geese, the vast majority having left about three weeks ago. But we did find a total of six Common Cranes in view from the hide including what appeared to be a family party of four, with a juvenile sadly injured.

We returned towards the Finca, stopping just once when Angela spotted a small group of nearby Great Bustards. A fitting finale of the day, at quite close quarters we watched the birds, which then flew off to join another group. We were able to watch the two groups come together and then with great fortune, saw two of the males initiate full display.

It had been a thoroughly rewarding and satisfying day, taking in a good spread of natural history interests, in true Honeyguide style!

### 19<sup>th</sup> March: Jaraicejo, Miravete Pass and Rio Tozo

It was another beautifully clear day, with just the lightest of breezes, so it became quite warm during the day. We headed north-east, past the town of Jaraicejo to explore an area of lavender and broom "heathland". As soon as we had stopped we heard the song of Dartford Warbler and it was not long before we had found one singing on top of a broom bush. During the course of the walk we located six or seven different singing birds, some performing song flights, others singing from the top of bushes near the path. They were accompanied with a background of Corn Bunting and Thekla Lark song, as well as a constant humming of bees. Black and Griffon Vultures drifted overhead, effortlessly, sometimes grouping in spirals on a thermal. As we dropped from the heath into an enchanting Cork Oak woodland, an adult Golden Eagle entered the scene, coming in quite low before ascending to join the circling vultures. Gum Cistus was starting to flower and butterflies such as Small Heath, Swallowtail and Cleopatra flew across the path. In the Cork Oak, the dominant sound was that of Nuthatch, but a male Lesser Spotted Woodpecker also arrived on the scene, affording us excellent views.

After a coffee break nearby, we repaired to the Miravete Pass for our picnic. The views to the north especially were outstanding, the Tiétar valley lying below us, the reservoir of Arrocampo with the impressive backdrop of the snowy Sierra de los Gredos. A Cirl Bunting was found at the pass, Crested Tits were heard and Alpine Swifts passed high over head.

We then descended to the Tozo valley, just ten kilometres from Trujillo, where we enjoyed a very productive afternoon walk beside the river, culminating in views across the small Tozo reservoir. The river was the haunt of Pond Terrapins, Kingfishers and Mallard, and we also found a small Viperine Snake. Above the *dehesa* there were wheeling Black Kites, with a pair of Short-toed Eagle displaying, as well as vultures and buzzards. The Tozo reservoir had an impressive variety of species: Spoonbill, Great White Egret, five species of duck, four species of wader, as well as providing a picturesque setting. Hoop Petticoat Narcissus grew between the rocky outcrops near the river and we found a Stripeless Tree Frog in the grass.

We concluded our day with a short stop at the Bull Ring in Trujillo, where perhaps a dozen Lesser Kestrels were present and a pale-phase Booted Eagle was seen passing overhead.

Steve and Karen Fletcher arrived in the evening to share with us some of Steve's wonderful photos of the birds of Extremadura.

### 20<sup>th</sup> March: Santa Marta de Magasca

The warm, clear, settled weather continued today...to the point that we were keen to find shade for our picnic lunch today! Bjørn and Ebba were with us today as well.

After breakfast we drove west of Trujillo towards the village of Santa Marta de Magasca. We stopped at the edge of open plains, where a Black Vulture was found standing in a field close to the road, proving excellent views and demonstrating its sheer size. A male Little Bustard was found partly concealed in last year's growth of thistles, but its diagnostic black and white neck pattern showed well. A second bird was partially visible nearby. Lark song was everywhere, and indeed a constant backdrop for the whole day. At this point there were Thekla and Crested Larks present, with a few more distant Calandra Larks. A little bit further along the road, we stopped at a high point, overlooking a flower-rich meadow. There we had much closer views of Calandras with their highly mimetic song, and distinctive appearance. We did not have to wait long before we heard and then saw flying Pin-tailed Sandgrouse, their rapid flight and pointed wings giving them a rather wader-like appearance. Two landed on the ground, where they had a much more pigeon-like demeanour with their short legs and small heads. From the same spot we found a Woodchat Shrike and a migrant Northern Wheatear.

We then walked along a dirt track, the group straggling out a bit as some resolutely sorted out the identification of a Jersey Buttercup, new to the Honeyguide Extremadura list. The advance party had brief flight views of several Black-bellied Sandgrouse, and was amused by the antics of a young calf showing great curiosity in a Yellow Wagtail. Occasionally Griffon or Black Vultures drifted low overhead. A small pool held six Black-winged Stilts and a few Mallard, as well as two Grey Heron. In damper areas beside the track, Hoop Petticoat Narcissus were in flower.

After coffee in Santa Marta de Magasca, we stopped beside the River Magasca for lunch, appreciating the shade of bank side trees. As well as a few vultures and kites, we also saw a Short-toed Eagle, and fleeting views of a Kingfisher. A clump of Yellow Toadflax grew close to where we parked. We then stopped on some high ground to admire an expansive panoramic view with the Gredos mountains to the north, whilst at our feet we found several Sawfly Orchid in full bloom. A large flock of Goldfinches foraged on dead thistle heads whilst the omnipresent Calandra Lark sang above. Just as we were leaving a fine male Montagu's Harrier drifted across the road and then quartered the fields below us. Further along the road we had quick views of a Little Owl perched on a stone wall.

We concluded the afternoon with a very pleasant foray into the exposed granite outcrop terrain (Los Berrocales) that surrounds Trujillo. Amongst the massive weathered boulders on flat patches of ground we found great spreads of Common Cranesbill, clumps of a spiked Star of Bethlehem, more Yellow Toadflax and Spanish Bluebells. It was a great area for Black Kite and we heard Great Spotted Cuckoo but sadly did not see it.

In the evening we repaired to Trujillo (with some of us seeing an Eagle Owl drift over the road and another one perched on a telegraph post) 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. It was a memorable and thoroughly enjoyable evening.

### 21<sup>st</sup> March: Monfragüe National Park

It was another clear sunny day, although there was a noticeably fresher breeze from the east. We headed north from Trujillo to the 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. Whilst driving, a few of us saw a Spanish Imperial Eagle fly past at quite low altitude, but it was not a safe place to stop for long. 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. From the top of the escarpment we watched passing Griffon Vultures and careful scanning with her telescope by Helen yielded a pair of Spanish Imperial Eagle. Despite the distance, their diagnostic white markings on the leading edge of the wing were easy to see. We also had superb views of a male Blue Rock Thrush. The stone walls provided wonderful refuges for species like Rue-leaved Saxifrage. Our next port of call was the famous Peña Falcón and Salto de Gitano (the Gypsy's leap). As soon as we had arrived it was difficult to decide what to look at: a Spanish Imperial Eagle soaring, a calling Peregrine, Black Storks (including a pair on their nest) and Egyptian Vultures, as well numerous Griffon Vultures. Add to that Black Vulture, Red and Black Kites and Booted Eagle! Perhaps the best approach was simply soak what is one of the most spectacular sites for bird watching in Europe! Several Nettle Tree Butterflies were also seen very well.

The road then took us over a bridge, crossing the River Tajo. We stopped at Villareal de San Carlos for coffee and to pick up leaflets from the Information Centre for the National Park.

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 and Azure-winged Magpies came down to take crumbs from the picnic tables. At one point a couple of Red Deer was found browsing just metres away amongst the cistus.

The wonderful visit concluded in memorable fashion at the Portilla del Tiétar, the viewpoint directed our gaze onto the strata of the cliffs opposite, supporting another colony of Griffon Vulture. The highlights here was a delightful female Otter and her two kits playing in the shade beside the river, at one point whilst a

pair of Spanish Imperial Eagle were soaring, calling and mobbing a Griffon Vulture. Black Storks circled and wheeled in front of the cliff, whilst a Subalpine Warbler sang from the bank of tree heath and cistus. What a magnificent way to spend an hour ending as Hilary described "her best day's bird watching ever".

### 22<sup>nd</sup> March: Trujillo and Cabañas del Castillo

A freshening easterly wind, but no rain today and it became sunnier as the afternoon progressed. As we assembled at the vans after breakfast, a male Lesser Spotted Woodpecker arrived calling in the Almond tree above us. The same tree that a Hawfinch had sang from whilst we were doing the checklist a few days ago...what a tree! 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. Chris spotted a pair of Black Wheatear almost as soon as we had started eating and minutes later a Bonelli's Eagle glided overhead. Other birds in this beautiful spot included Grey Wagtail, a singing Serin, Griffon Vultures and three Black Stork. Yellow Toadflax and Meadow Saxifrage were in flower, as well as the very attractive yellow daisy *Prolongoa pectinata*. 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 a gap between the crags, to afford one a magnificent view of the valley to the east. 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. Juniper and Dwarf Sheep's Bit were found growing. We returned to the Finca on a cross-country road through the *dehesa*, taking the opportunity to photo free-range goats, cattle and Iberian pigs.

We returned to Finca Santa Marta for tea and checklist and before dinner, Marcelino Cardalliaguet (Extremadura representative of the Spanish Ornithological Society) gave an illustrated talk on bird conservation in Extremadura and received a cheque from Malcolm, as a contribution from the group to continue SEO's work.

### 23<sup>rd</sup> March: Arrocampo and Cerro de Almaráz

There was a strong easterly wind today with always the threat of rain, which fortunately did not materialise until we were ready to return to the Finca at the

end of the day. 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 quite quickly saw several Purple Herons in flight, as well as a delightful pair of Squacco Herons, standing motionless out of the wind. Nearby was a flock of Spanish Sparrows which also obliged with uncharacteristically prolonged views. After some initial brief glimpses of Purple Swamphen, we all eventually obtained superb views of one, perched right out in the open on the *Typha*. An Osprey also appeared, holding itself stationary in the wind. We walked to a second hide, watching Marsh Harriers en route as well as more Purple Herons. The wind had not abated by the time we reached there, but we did manage to see two Northern Wheatear. We went to have coffee in a bar in the centre of Saucedilla, beside the old church, where we had brief views of Lesser Kestrel (which nest on the church), but most were out feeding out in the countryside. A lady from the Town Hall kindly opened the church for us for a visit. We concluded our visit with a final stop to view the reservoir from close to the main road. Here we could hear Savi's Warblers singing and careful scanning by Hilary succeeded in locating one bird, which most of us managed to see, despite it being very restless because of the wind. Some also saw a Black-winged Kite perched and then flying from across the reservoir. Two Spoonbill were also seen. Grape Hyacinth was coming into flower and we also found some Sawfly Orchids.

We drove past the dam at Valdecañas for lunch beside a bridge in a deep valley. Thankfully it was a sheltered spot and as well as Hawfinches and Griffon Vultures we were able to some quick botanising finding Kermes Oak and Gum Mastic.

We completed the afternoon with a real highlight, 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, Champagne and Hill – the latter being an exciting new find for Honeyguide), whilst a Short-toed Eagle sat during our entire stay on a nearby pylon. The first drops of rain fell as we reassembled for the trip back to the Finca where we had our final afternoon tea and checklist call-over.

#### 24<sup>th</sup> March: Finca Santa Marta to Madrid

As we set off at 06.00 for the airport. An Iberian Hare narrowly got missed being run over as it sat in the headlights on the main road just as we set off! We had quite a good run to the airport, apart from some congestion on the Madrid ring-road, arriving in good 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**            Pairs seen on several days, generally on small pools.

- Great Crested Grebe** Four seen on Tozo reservoir on 19<sup>th</sup> March and a pair at Arrocampo on 23<sup>rd</sup> March..
- Cormorant** Seen almost every day, including several parties in skeins, presumably leaving their local wintering quarters for colonies elsewhere.
- Squacco Heron** A pair seen at close quarters at Arrocampo on 23<sup>rd</sup> March.
- Cattle Egret** Seen almost daily, with a large flock at Arrocampo on 23<sup>rd</sup> March.
- Little Egret** Singles seen on rice fields and at Arrocampo.
- Great White Egret** One at Tozo reservoir on 19<sup>th</sup> March.
- Grey Heron** Seen every day.
- Purple Heron** At least ten seen at Arrocampo on 23<sup>rd</sup> March.
- Black Stork** Two seen over Moheda Alta on 18<sup>th</sup> March, several at Monfragüe on 21<sup>st</sup> March and four or five in Villuercas mountains on 22<sup>nd</sup> March.
- White Stork** Common throughout the week, around towns and villages, as well as in the fields.
- Spoonbill** Two at Tozo on 19<sup>th</sup> March and two at Arrocampo on 23<sup>rd</sup> March.
- Gadwall** Seen on Tozo on 19<sup>th</sup> March and Arrocampo on 23<sup>rd</sup> March.
- Teal** Seen on Tozo reservoir on 19<sup>th</sup> March.
- Mallard** Seen almost daily.
- Shoveler** Singles seen at Tozo and Arrocampo.
- Common Pochard** One male at Tozo on 19<sup>th</sup> March.
- Black-shouldered Kite** One at Arrocampo on 23<sup>rd</sup> March.
- Black Kite** Double figures seen everyday and a migrating party of about 35 seen over the rice fields on 18<sup>th</sup> March.
- Red Kite** Single figures seen everyday (bar one), especially over *dehesa* and the plains.
- Egyptian Vulture** One over the Finca on 17<sup>th</sup> March, about six seen at Monfragüe and a pair seen at Cabañas del Castillo.

<b>Griffon Vulture</b>	Good numbers seen everyday, especially at Monfragüe on 21 <sup>st</sup> March (over 100 seen).
<b>Black Vulture</b>	Seen daily, and double figures at Monfragüe.
<b>Short-toed Eagle</b>	Seen almost daily.
<b>Marsh Harrier</b>	Several on the rice fields on 18 <sup>th</sup> March and at Arrocampo on 23 <sup>rd</sup> March.
<b>Hen Harrier</b>	A male and female seen on rice fields on 18 <sup>th</sup> March.
<b>Montagu's Harrier</b>	A male on the plains near Santa Marta de Magasca on 20 <sup>th</sup> March.
<b>Sparrowhawk</b>	A single seen at Monfragüe on 21 <sup>st</sup> March.
<b>Common Buzzard</b>	Seen daily.
<b>Spanish Imperial Eagle</b>	Five adults seen at Monfragüe on 21 <sup>st</sup> March.
<b>Golden Eagle</b>	An adult over the heath at Jaraicejo on 19 <sup>th</sup> March.
<b>Bonelli's Eagle</b>	An adult over Rio Almonte on 22 <sup>nd</sup> March.
<b>Booted Eagle</b>	Pale phase birds seen on three occasions during the week.
<b>Osprey</b>	One at Arrocampo on 23 <sup>rd</sup> March.
<b>Lesser Kestrel</b>	Seen almost daily.
<b>Common Kestrel</b>	Seen almost daily in single figures.
<b>Merlin</b>	One seen on journey down from Madrid on 16 <sup>th</sup> March.
<b>Peregrine</b>	Seen over Tozo on 19 <sup>th</sup> March and at Monfragüe on 21 <sup>st</sup> March.
<b>Red-legged Partridge</b>	Several sightings.
<b>Water Rail</b>	Heard at Arrocampo on 23 <sup>rd</sup> March.
<b>Moorhen</b>	Recorded on River Ruercas (rice fields) and Arrocampo.
<b>Purple Swamphen</b>	At least five birds at Arrocampo on 23 <sup>rd</sup> March.
<b>Coot</b>	Present at the reservoir of Arrocampo.
<b>Common Crane</b>	A total of seven seen near Moheda Alta on 18 <sup>th</sup> March.

**Little Bustard** Two near Santa Marta de Magasca on 20<sup>th</sup> March.

**Great Bustard** 14 near Vegas Altas on 18<sup>th</sup> March.

**Black-winged Stilt** Two on Tozo reservoir and six on pool near Santa Marta de Magasca

**Lapwing** Very few of this winter visitor still present: single figures at Moheda Alta on 18<sup>th</sup> March and Tozo on 19<sup>th</sup> March.

**Snipe** One at Tozo on 19<sup>th</sup> March.

**Greenshank** About four at Tozo on 19<sup>th</sup> March.

**Green Sandpiper** Five seen on Rio Ruercas on 18<sup>th</sup> March and singles on Tozo and at Arrocampo.

**Common Sandpiper** Single bird at Sierra Brava on 18<sup>th</sup> March.

**Black-headed Gull** Seen almost daily with about a thousand present at Moheda Alta on 18<sup>th</sup> March.

**Lesser Black-backed Gull** One on plains near Santa Marta de Magasca.

**Black-bellied Sandgrouse** About ten near Santa Marta de Magasca on 20<sup>th</sup> March

**Pin-tailed Sandgrouse** Two seen near Santa Marta de Magasca on 20<sup>th</sup> March.

**Rock Dove/Feral Pigeon** Seen daily

**Woodpigeon** Small numbers seen daily.

**Collared Dove** Seen daily.

**Great Spotted Cuckoo** Just heard once, on afternoon of 20<sup>th</sup> March.

**Common Cuckoo** Recorded almost daily, especially near the Finca.

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

**Eagle Owl** Two seen briefly on way to Trujillo on evening of 20<sup>th</sup> March.

<b>Little Owl</b>	One seen briefly near Santa Marta de Magasca on 20 <sup>th</sup> March.
<b>Long-eared Owl</b>	Heard during night of 20 <sup>th</sup> March from the Finca.
<b>Pallid Swift</b>	Seen almost daily over the Finca and at Trujillo.
<b>Alpine Swift</b>	Several over Miravete Pass on 19 <sup>th</sup> March and at Cabañas del Castillo on 22 <sup>nd</sup> March.
<b>Kingfisher</b>	One on Tozo on 19 <sup>th</sup> March, also on Rio Magsaca on 20 <sup>th</sup> March.
<b>Hoopoe</b>	Commonly seen everyday.
<b>Green Woodpecker</b>	Heard at the Finca on 17 <sup>th</sup> and 18 <sup>th</sup> March.
<b>Great Spotted Woodpecker</b>	One at Miravete Pass on 19 <sup>th</sup> March.
<b>Lesser Spotted Woodpecker</b>	Seen at Jaraicejo on 19 <sup>th</sup> March and subsequently almost everyday at the Finca.
<b>Calandra Lark</b>	Seen near Santa Marta de Magasca on 20 <sup>th</sup> March.
<b>Crested Lark</b>	Common and seen daily.
<b>Thekla Lark</b>	Seen on heath above Madroñero, near Santa Marta de Magasca and Jaraicejo.
<b>Woodlark</b>	Heard and sometimes seen several times at the Finca and also at Moheda Alta, near Santa Marta de Magasca and Jaraicejo.
<b>Skylark</b>	One near Santa Marta de Magasca on 20 <sup>th</sup> March.
<b>Sand Martin</b>	Seen at Arrocampo on 23 <sup>rd</sup> March.
<b>Crag Martin</b>	Common near bridges and in rocky areas in Monfragüe, in the Villuercas mountains and also present in Trujillo.
<b>Swallow</b>	Common every day.
<b>Red-rumped Swallow</b>	Seen daily.
<b>House Martin</b>	Seen every day.
<b>Meadow Pipit</b>	Small numbers seen almost daily.
<b>Yellow Wagtail</b>	One near Santa Marta de Magasca on 20 <sup>th</sup> March.

<b>Grey Wagtail</b>	Two present on Rio Almonte on 22 <sup>nd</sup> March.
<b>White Wagtail</b>	Seen every day.
<b>Wren</b>	Recorded daily.
<b>Robin</b>	Recorded daily.
<b>Black Redstart</b>	Seen at Monfragüe and Cabañas del Castillo and almost daily near the Finca.
<b>Stonechat</b>	Seen almost every day.
<b>Northern Wheatear</b>	One near Santa Marta de Magasca on 20 <sup>th</sup> March and two at Arrocampo on 23 <sup>rd</sup> March.
<b>Black Wheatear</b>	A pair at Rio Almonte on 22 <sup>nd</sup> March.
<b>Blue Rock Thrush</b>	Seen in Monfragüe and Cabañas del Castillo and heard at the Finca on 19 <sup>th</sup> March.
<b>Blackbird</b>	Seen daily.
<b>Song Thrush</b>	Seen at the Finca and elsewhere daily.
<b>Mistle Thrush</b>	Singles seen near Tozo, Santa Marta de Magasca and Valdecañas
<b>Cetti's Warbler</b>	Present in rice fields and at Arrocampo.
<b>Zitting Cisticola</b>	Present on the rice fields, near Santa Marta de Magasca and at Arrocampo.
<b>Savi's Warbler</b>	At least two singing at Arrocampo on 23 <sup>rd</sup> March.
<b>Dartford Warbler</b>	Excellent views at Jaraicejo on 19 <sup>th</sup> March.
<b>Subalpine Warbler</b>	Singing at Monfragüe on 21 <sup>st</sup> March.
<b>Sardinian Warbler</b>	Seen almost daily.
<b>Blackcap</b>	Seen daily and in good numbers around Finca.
<b>Chiffchaff</b>	Small numbers seen, generally close to water.
<b>Long-tailed Tit</b>	Recorded on just two days.
<b>Blue Tit</b>	Seen daily.

<b>Great Tit</b>	Seen daily.
<b>Short-toed Treecreeper</b>	Seen and heard almost daily, especially around the Finca.
<b>Iberian Grey Shrike</b>	Seen almost daily.
<b>Woodchat Shrike</b>	Seen almost daily.
<b>Jay</b>	One seen briefly near Cabañas del Castillo on 22 <sup>nd</sup> March.
<b>Azure-winged Magpie</b>	Common and seen everyday.
<b>Magpie</b>	Common and seen every day.
<b>Jackdaw</b>	Common and seen everyday.
<b>Raven</b>	Seen daily.
<b>Spotless Starling</b>	Common every day.
<b>House Sparrow</b>	Common every day.
<b>Spanish Sparrow</b>	Seen almost daily near the Finca, as well as on the rice fields, plains and at Arrocampo.
<b>Tree Sparrow</b>	Two or three at Moheda Alta on 18 <sup>th</sup> March.
<b>Common Waxbill</b>	Small flock on rice fields on 18 <sup>th</sup> March.
<b>Red Avadavat</b>	Small flocks on the rice fields on 18 <sup>th</sup> March.
<b>Chaffinch</b>	Small numbers seen every day.
<b>Serin</b>	Seen every day, often in song-flight.
<b>Greenfinch</b>	Seen almost daily near the Finca.
<b>Goldfinch</b>	Small flocks seen daily.
<b>Linnet</b>	Seen almost daily.
<b>Hawfinch</b>	Recorded every day at the Finca, as well as at Monfragüe and Valdecañas.
<b>Cirl Bunting</b>	One at Miravete Pass on 19 <sup>th</sup> March
<b>Corn Bunting</b>	Seen daily. One of the commonest birds of the plains.