

## Birding Extremadura and Casa Rural El Recuerdo

### REPORT ON SPRING HOLIDAY FOR MARK AND SALLY

#### Itinerary (4<sup>th</sup> April – 11<sup>th</sup> April 2014)

- 4<sup>th</sup> April 2014:** Transfer from Madrid Airport to Casa Rural El Recuerdo
- 5<sup>th</sup> April 2014:** Plains near Campo Lugar, rice fields near Palazuelo and Madrigalejo, Sierra Brava reservoir
- 6<sup>th</sup> April 2014:** Exploring the plains between Trujillo and Santa Marta de Magasca.
- 7<sup>th</sup> April 2014:** Monfragüe National Park
- 8<sup>th</sup> April 2014:** La Albuera lagoon, Alange and Mérida
- 9<sup>th</sup> April 2014:** Heathlands near Jaraicejo, Miravete pass, Valdecañas, Tozo reservoir and Trujillo Plains
- 10<sup>th</sup> April 2014:** Plains near Campo Lugar, rice fields near Vegas Altas, Moheda Alta and Palazuelo
- 11<sup>th</sup> April 2014:** Arrocampo reservoir, Valdecañas and return to Madrid.

#### Trip Report

Apart from rain on the first night, followed by a damp and misty morning on Day 2, the weather throughout was excellent with little or no wind, clear skies and warm.

**Day 1: 4<sup>th</sup> April 2014:** Transfer from Madrid Airport to Casa Rural El Recuerdo.

Mark and Sally arrived in good time at Madrid airport and by 16.00 we started our journey from the airport to Extremadura. With a stop for coffee along the A5 motorway we arrived at Casa Rural El Recuerdo by 19.00. En route we saw good numbers of **White Stork**, several **Black Kite** and a single **Great Spotted Cuckoo** flying over the motorway.

**Day 2: 5<sup>th</sup> April 2014:** Plains near Campo Lugar, rice fields near Palazuelo and Madrigalejo, Sierra Brava reservoir

Birding during the first few hours of the morning was impeded by quite thick mist along the Campo Lugar road. Whilst we could see species like **Calandra Larks** and **Black Kites**, **Great Bustards** appeared as shapes in the mist. Resolving to return later that day, we moved to land at somewhat lower altitude, near the village of Palazuelo. Here visibility across the rice fields was much better. At this time of the year most of the fields were dry and bare earth, ready for sowing in a few weeks' time. However we did find some which were muddier and with pools of water and here we concentrated our efforts.

Several species of waders were found, including a total of about 200 **Black-winged Stilts**, **Ringed** and **Kentish Plovers**, **Dunlin**, **Black-tailed Godwit** and **Little Stint**. A pause beside the River Ruercas produced both **Common Chiffchaff** and **Iberian Chiffchaff** feeding on small mayflies and a singing **Nightingale**. As we left the area, a party of 11 **Spoonbill** flew over.

After a stop for coffee, we continued in an area of rough pasture and rice fields near Madrigalejo. Here, beside a small old gravel working we found a group of nine **Glossy Ibis**, along with **Cattle** and **Little Egret**. A short distance beyond this we had excellent views of a pair of **Black-winged Kites**, in display over a typical habitat for them of large scattered trees and open ground. The nearby rice fields also proved productive for waders with parties of **Avocet** and a group of 12 **Wood Sandpiper**.

We had lunch beside the Sierra Brava reservoir, the visibility now much improved. Small numbers of duck were present, mainly **Shoveler**, whilst a **Gull-billed Tern** flew over.

We then returned to the Campo Lugar road and now enjoyed much better views of a total of 22 **Great Bustard**. **Calandra Larks** were in full song and we also saw a **Golden Eagle** fly up from the ground, its crop full. **Corn Buntings** sang from the fences seemingly every ten metres or so, whilst **Lesser Kestrels** were coming out to hunt. We made a return visit to Sierra Brava reservoir and found two male **Black-eared Wheatears** (one of each "form": black-throated and black-eared) as well as a fine male **Common Redstart**. Despite the unpromising start for the day, we returned to Casa Rural El Recuerdo have seen over 90 species of birds, an excellent first full day in Extremadura.

**Day 3: 6<sup>th</sup> April 2014:** Exploring the plains between Trujillo and Santa Marta de Magasca.

We continued on the theme of birds of the plains with the first stop this morning on the open country west of Trujillo, on the road to Santa Marta de Magasca. Setting off early to avoid the developing heat haze, we enjoyed good views of a male **Little Bustard** and also a superb group of **Pin-tailed Sandgrouse**, with a couple of **Black-bellied Sandgrouse** with them, providing a good comparison of size and shape. From the same spot we watched two **Stone Curlew** as well as **Great Bustard**. The area was full of the sound of **Calandra Larks**, with both **Crested** and **Thekla Larks** present. We then headed west on the main road to Cáceres, leaving it to take a small road north to Santa Marta de Magasca. Close to the junction we stopped to watch a male **Great Bustard** in display and nearby saw a newly arrived **Roller**. Following a stop to admire the view across the valley of the River Tamuja, we stopped for coffee at the edge of the village, with a colony of **Spanish Sparrows** providing entertainment.

Lunch was beside the River Magasca, a peaceful spot with **Crag Martins** actively feeding close to the bridge. After lunch we made our way slowly across open mixed farming back to Trujillo. We stopped to watch nearly twenty **Montagu's Harriers** quartering and displaying over a cereal crop, at one stage joining forces to mob a pair of young **Bonelli's Eagles**. Nearby we walked along an ancient drovers' trail and found no fewer than five different orchids in flower: **Pink Butterfly**, **Mirror**, **Champagne**, **Bug** and **Sawfly**. Parties of **Spanish Sparrows** flew up onto roadside wires. Reaching Trujillo, we enjoyed the spectacle of **Lesser Kestrels** at the Bull, Ring, where perhaps thirty pairs nest under the old tiles of the roof. We had excellent views of these neat little falcons, as well as **Spotless Starlings**, which also breed there.

#### Day 4: 7<sup>th</sup> April 2014: Monfragüe National Park

Today we headed north, crossing about 50 kilometres of largely *dehesa* landscape, the rolling wooded farmlands typical of the region, before reaching the Monfragüe National Park, marked by the steep rocky ridge striking east-west across the *dehesa*, cut by the River Tagus to form a rocky gorge where we made our first stop at the Salto del Gitano. Here, as mist cleared in the valley, we watched dozens of **Griffon Vultures** on their cliff-face colony, a pair of **Perergrines** and **Black Storks**. Closer at hand were **Blue Rock Thrush**, **Black Redstart** and **Rock Bunting**. Nearby we made a brief stop at the road bridge, home of hundreds of pairs of **House Martins** as well as **Alpine Swifts**. We then crossed the park to stop opposite a smaller cliff, the Portilla del Tiétar. Here we had truly magnificent views of **Spanish Imperial Eagle**. With a bird watched in flight as well as perched preening on a tree at length. In a crevice in the rock face an adult **Eagle Owl** stood guard of its two chicks and we waited until the sun had moved sufficiently for this view to be well illuminated. It was a glorious morning at this site and we were amply rewarded with views of other species too, like **Egyptian Vulture** and **Black Stork**. A **Purple Heron** flew in and spent some time fishing beside the river. We stopped for coffee nearby and then spent some time in the belt of adjacent cork oak woodland. Here we watched a **Lesser Spotted Woodpecker** busy on a dead tree. Newly arrived **Nightingales** sang from the undergrowth.

We stopped for lunch at a picnic site opposite yet another cliff supporting breeding **Griffon Vultures**, also frequented by **Egyptian Vulture** and **Raven**. **Black Vultures** cruised overhead. From here we crossed a scrubby area with scattered trees and we stopped when we heard a **Western Orphean Warbler** singing in a tree beside the road. With patience we got excellent views of this often skulking species.

Following a couple of other stops we returned to our first lookout at the Salto del Gitano. **Griffon Vultures** were returning to their nests and we also obtained some good views of a male **Blue Rock Thrush**.

#### Day 5: 8<sup>th</sup> April 2014: La Albuera lagoon, Alange and Mérida

Today took us further afield to the south-west of Extremadura. We started at the large lagoon at La Albuera, one of the few natural water bodies in Extremadura. In newly constructed hides we enjoyed a couple of hours watching the collection of waterfowl including a **Common Shelduck**, **Pintail**, **Pochard**, **Shoveler**, a **Black-necked Grebe**, **Black-winged Stilts**, a large number of **Common Coot**, with **Bee-eaters** passing overhead, as well as the occasional **Marsh Harrier**. We were very pleased to find a pair of **Squacco Heron**, a **Purple Heron** as well as two **Whiskered Tern**. Following coffee, we moved to Alange. Here, beside one of the largest man-made water bodies in Extremadura, we watched the large **Alpine Swift** colony at the dam as well as passing **Gull-billed Terns**. Taking a walk beside the reservoir with a rocky outcrop to our other side, we found two male **Black Wheatears** and also had a couple of sightings of **Bonelli's Eagle**.

To the north of Alange lies Mérida, the capital of Extremadura and what was the capital too of the Roman region Lusitania. It was on the Roman Bridge, the longest remaining in the world, where we spent the rest of the afternoon. Here we had great views of three species of swift: **Alpine**, **Pallid** and **Common Swift**. We found a **Penduline Tit** nest-building in a tree on the bank of the Guadiana river whilst a couple of **Gull-billed Terns** flew nearby. A large **Cattle Egret** colony was situated upstream, and we managed to find a **Black-crowned Night-Heron** standing still at the edge of the gathering.

**Day 6: 9<sup>th</sup> April 2014:** Heathlands near Jaraicejo, Miravete pass, Valdecañas, Tozo reservoir and Trujillo Plains

A calm and warm morning, ideal for starting the day on the broom and lavender heaths near Jaraicejo, north-east of Trujillo. We carefully made our way along a straight dirt road with beautiful habitat on either side. **Dartford Warblers** were active: singing from tops of broom and making short song-flights. We came across a total of four **Spectacled Warblers** as well, like diminutive slender Whitethroats, we had prolonged and close views of a singing bird that seem to favour certain song posts as it worked its way around its territory. The heath also supported a good population of **Thekla Larks** and **Corn Buntings**. We walked down to an area of cork oak woodland, a very attractive habitat with **Nuthatches** and **Short-toed Treecreepers**. Nearby we stopped at the edge of small reservoir where **Nightingales** sang from the trees bordering the parking area and both **Subalpine** and **Sardinian Warblers** were present.

We then made a stop at the Pass of Miravete, affording us views both south onwards to Trujillo and to the north to the Gredos Mountain. Here we had good views of **Cirl Bunting**, **Woodlark** and **Subalpine Warbler** and watched a herd of goats making their way along the drovers trail that were on, a scene that would have taken place countless times over the centuries.

We stopped for lunch at a small valley near the Valdecañas Dam. Here whilst we sat and enjoyed the view, we counted no fewer than ten species of birds of prey: **Spanish Imperial Eagle**, **Booted Eagle**, **Short-toed Eagle**, **Black Kite**, all three vultures, **Common Kestrel**, **Sparrowhawk** and **Montagu's Harrier** (a pair). A **Crested Tit** was also present.

Close by we stopped to search for orchids on the Cerro de Almaráz. The timing was excellent as the early flowering species were still in good condition, whilst others were in fine show. A total of seven species were in flower. We achieved also our first sightings of **Bee-eaters** perched (up until then, all had been fly-overs).

We then moved to the Tozo Reservoir near Trujillo, walking through lush *dehesa* landscape beside a slow-flowing river where **Hood Petticoat Narcissus** were in flower. On the reservoir were a good selection of waterfowl, some **Black-winged Stilts** and a solitary juvenile **Common Crane**. We completed the day with a quick trip onto the plains west of Trujillo where we found and had good views of a pair of **Short-toed Lark**.

**Day 7: 10<sup>th</sup> April 2014:** Plains near Campo Lugar, rice fields near Vegas Altas, Puerto Peña, Moheda Alta and Palazuelo

Today we started along a short stretch of the Campo Lugar road, which we had visited on Day 2, in order to get further sightings of **Great Bustard**. This we did, but especially a prolonged view, albeit rather distant, of a male in full display. A magnificent performance. From there we moved southward, going first of all to the rice fields near Fernando V, where we watched **Bee-eaters** coming to their nesting banks and some sightings of **Collared Pratincole**. More was to come when we continued to explore the fields near the village of Vegas Altas, where we found a party of **Collared Pratincole**, obtaining good views of these elegant birds on the ground as well as perched. We also had an outstanding view of a male Iberian race of **Yellow Wagtail**.

We stopped at the River Gargaligas where a **Great Reed Warbler** was singing, as well as a **Sedge** and **Willow Warbler**. A stork's nest nearby was full of nesting **House Sparrows**. Following coffee, we moved to the rocky gorge of Puerto Peña for lunch, where a highlight was an adult **Bonelli's Eagle** being mobbed by two **Red-billed Choughs**. Six **Black Storks** riding the up-draughts on the cliff face were also spectacular.

Returning to the rice fields, we made a stop at Moheda Alta where we found a single, lame juvenile **Common Crane**, and also enjoyed butterflies and dragonflies on the banks of small pool. There were also large numbers of **Tongue Orchids** coming into flower. We then repeated the route that we had done on Day 2, across the fields near Madrigalejo, watching again the **Black-winged Kites**, where there were still numbers of **Ringed Plover** and **Kentish Plover**, but fewer waders than previously. However, we did find a fine male **Whinchat**. We completed the day near Fernando V where the **Collared Pratincoles** put on a tremendous show and we had a fine series of views in flight.

In the evening we walked at dusk along a lane at Pago de San Clemente, listening to **Scops Owls** and getting a brief view of a **Long-eared Owl**.

**Day 8: 11<sup>th</sup> April 2014:** Arrocampo reservoir, Valdecañas and return to Madrid.

With the car packed, we headed off in good time from El Recuerdo to spend a full morning's birding before the return to Madrid. We made several stops at the Arrocampo Reservoir, getting wonderful views of **Purple Heron**, **Purple Swamphen** and singing **Savi's Warblers**. **Sand Martins** sat on wires beside the car-park, whilst a **Zitting Cisticola** quietly preened taking no notice of all of our presence. **Gull-billed Terns** gave us close fly-bys, whilst a **Squacco Heron** was also seen. To the west of the reservoir we came across a confiding **Great-Spotted Cuckoo** in a children's playground, whilst a few kilometres further on, we came across two pairs of the same, also giving us extraordinarily close views. There were parties of **Great Egrets**, some in breeding condition. However, we had failed, despite much searching, to find Little Bittern and time was running out. We made a final stop at the place near the Information Centre where we had started out that morning. Nothing moved in the main marsh, so we looked down and across a small channel. There, just opposite us we could make out the form of a male **Little Bittern** hidden in the reeds at the water's edge. As we watched, it slowly extended its neck, its bill being pushed into view. Incredibly as we stood, barely metres away, it moved out of the reeds and made three lunges to catch tiny fish. It was an extraordinary view and a breath-taking way to complete our visit.

We made a stop at the edge of Almaráz to admire a colony of **Lax-flowered Orchids** and then stopped for a pick lunch near the Valdecañas Dam. This is a good site for Golden Orioles, but the two or three fluty calls we heard could easily have been produced by the Spotless Starlings present. After final organising of bags and belongings, we got in the car and made it in excellent time to the airport. The tour successfully concluded.

### **Annotated List of Species Recorded**

**Birds:** An outstanding total of 169 species recorded, thanks to a combination of factors such as excellent weather, good numbers of waders and waterfowl present and the arrival of spring migrants.

1. **Little Grebe:** Seen on pools near Madrigalejo, la Albuera and Tozo.
2. **Great Crested Grebe.** Seen on most days on reservoirs and at La Albuera.
3. **Black-necked Grebe:** One in breeding plumage at La Albuera.
4. **Great Cormorant:** Seen almost every day.
5. **Little Bittern:** A male at Arrocampo on 11<sup>th</sup> April.
6. **Black-crowned Night Heron:** One seen from Roman Bridge, Mérida.
7. **Squacco Heron:** Two at la Albuera and one at Arrocampo.
8. **Cattle Egret:** Seen almost every day, often in large numbers.
9. **Little Egret:** Seen most days in suitable habitat.
10. **Great Egret:** At least six seen at Arrocampo on 11<sup>th</sup> April.
11. **Grey Heron:** Seen every day.
12. **Purple Heron:** One at Monfragüe on 7<sup>th</sup> April, one at La Albuera and several at Arrocampo.
13. **Black Stork:** Seen at Monfragüe, Jaraicejo and six together at Puerto Peña on 10<sup>th</sup> April.
14. **White Stork:** Seen every day.
15. **Glossy Ibis:** Nine near Madrigalejo on 5<sup>th</sup> April and two there on 10<sup>th</sup>.
16. **Spoonbill:** 11 north of Madrigalejo on 5<sup>th</sup> April, one at La Albuera and three near Madrigalejo on 10<sup>th</sup> April.
17. **Grey Lag Goose:** Two at Palazuelo on 5<sup>th</sup> April and one at Arrocampo.
18. **Egyptian Goose:** Two at Tozo Reservoir.
19. **Wigeon:** One on pools near Campo Lugar on 5<sup>th</sup> April and a pair at Tozo.
20. **Gadwall:** Seen on several days.
21. **Teal:** Seen near Campo Lugar and on Tozo.
22. **Mallard:** Seen very day.
23. **Pintail:** Four seen on pools near Campo Lugar and one at La Albuera.
24. **Shoveler:** Seen on several days on most large bodies of water.
25. **Tufted Duck:** A pair on the Tozo reservoir.
26. **Common Pochard:** Seen at La Albuera and at Tozo.
27. **Common Shelduck:** One at La Albuera on 8<sup>th</sup> April.
28. **Black-winged Kite:** A pair near Madrigalejo seen on both visits.
29. **Black Kite:** Seen daily.
30. **Red Kite:** One on plains to west of Trujillo on both visits.
31. **Egyptian Vulture:** Seen at Monfragüe, Valdecañas and plains near Trujillo.
32. **Griffon Vulture:** Seen very day.
33. **Black Vulture:** Seen almost daily.
34. **Short-toed Eagle:** Seen on most days.
35. **Marsh Harrier:** Seen on most days.
36. **Montagu's Harrier:** Seen on plains west of Trujillo and at Valdecañas.
37. **Sparrowhawk:** Seen on several days.
38. **Common Buzzard:** Seen almost daily.
39. **Spanish Imperial Eagle:** Seen in Monfragüe and at Valdecañas.
40. **Golden Eagle:** One seen on Campo Lugar plains on 5<sup>th</sup> April.
41. **Booted Eagle:** Seen on plains west of Trujillo, Monfragüe and near Jaraicejo and Tozo.
42. **Bonelli's Eagle:** Two north of Santa Marta de Magasca, one at Alange and two at Puerto Peña.
43. **Lesser Kestrel:** Seen almost daily.
44. **Common Kestrel:** Seen almost daily.
45. **Peregrine Falcon:** Two at Monfragüe.
46. **Red-legged Partridge:** Seen on most days.

47. **Quail:** Heard near Madrigalejo and near Fernando V.
48. **Water Rail:** Heard near Fernando V on 10<sup>th</sup> April.
49. **Moorhen:** Seen on several days.
50. **Purple Swamphen:** Several seen at Arrocampo on 11<sup>th</sup> April.
51. **Common Coot:** Seen on several days.
52. **Common Crane:** Single juveniles seen at Tozo on 9<sup>th</sup> April and Moheda Alta on 10<sup>th</sup> April.
53. **Little Bustard:** Seen on plains west of Trujillo.
54. **Great Bustard:** About 25 seen on Campo Lugar plains on 5<sup>th</sup> April with others also seen on plains west of Trujillo.
55. **Black-winged Stilt:** Seen almost every day. About 250 seen near Palazuelo on 5<sup>th</sup> April.
56. **Avocet:** About 30 near Madrigalejo on 5<sup>th</sup> April.
57. **Stone Curlew:** Two on plains near Trujillo on 6<sup>th</sup> April.
58. **Collared Pratincole:** One near Madrigalejo on 5<sup>th</sup> April but parties of 30+ seen near Vegas Altas and Fernando V on 10<sup>th</sup> April.
59. **Ringed Plover:** 10 present near Palazuelo and 40 near Madrigalejo on 5<sup>th</sup> April and 20 there on 10<sup>th</sup> April.
60. **Little Ringed Plover:** Single figures seen on rice fields and also La Albuera.
61. **Kentish Plover:** Three present near Palazuelo and three near Madrigalejo on 5<sup>th</sup> April and three there on 10<sup>th</sup> April.
62. **Northern Lapwing:** Twelve seen on rice fields on 5<sup>th</sup> April and about four on 10<sup>th</sup> April.
63. **Dunlin:** Six present near Palazuelo and 15 near Madrigalejo on 5<sup>th</sup> April.
64. **Little Stint:** One near Madrigalejo on 5<sup>th</sup> April and three there on 10<sup>th</sup> April.
65. **Ruff:** Three near Madrigalejo on 5<sup>th</sup> April.
66. **Common Snipe:** Four near Madrigalejo on 5<sup>th</sup> April.
67. **Black-tailed Godwit:** 12 present near Palazuelo and six near Madrigalejo on 5<sup>th</sup> April.
68. **Common Redshank:** Four present near Palazuelo and eight near Madrigalejo on 5<sup>th</sup> April and five there on 10<sup>th</sup> April.
69. **Greenshank:** Seen on several days.
70. **Green Sandpiper:** Seen on several days.
71. **Wood Sandpiper:** 15 near Madrigalejo on 5<sup>th</sup> April.
72. **Common Sandpiper:** Singles at La Albuera, near Sierra Brava and at Arrocampo.
73. **Whiskered Tern:** One at La Albuera on 8<sup>th</sup> April.
74. **Gull-billed Tern:** Seen at Sierra Brava reservoir, Alange and Arrocampo.
75. **Black-headed Gull:** Small numbers seen on rice fields and at Alange.
76. **Lesser Black-backed Gull:** Small numbers at Alange. One seen to west of Trujillo.
77. **Black-bellied Sandgrouse:** Seen on plains west of Trujillo and near Campo Lugar.
78. **Pin-tailed Sandgrouse:** A party of about twelve seen on plains west of Trujillo on 6<sup>th</sup> April.
79. **Rock Dove/Feral Pigeon:** seen daily.
80. **Wood Pigeon:** Seen daily.
81. **Collared Dove:** Seen daily.
82. **Great Spotted Cuckoo:** Seen en route from Madrid and on plains west of Trujillo, near Jaraicejo and five near Arrocampo on 11<sup>th</sup> April.
83. **Common Cuckoo:** Seen daily.
84. **Scops Owl:** Heard most evenings at Pago de San Clemente.
85. **Eagle Owl:** Adult with chicks seen in Monfragüe on 7<sup>th</sup> April.

86. **Little Owl:** Heard in evenings at Pago de San Clemente and seen on plains west of Trujillo.
87. **Long-eared Owl:** Seen briefly leaving roost in Pago de San Clemente on 10<sup>th</sup> April.
88. **Alpine Swift:** Seen in Monfragüe, Alange, Mérida and Puerto Peña.
89. **Common Swift:** Seen on several days.
90. **Pallid Swift:** Seen from Roman Bridge. Mérida.
91. **Kingfisher:** Seen on rice fields, along River Magasca and near Roman Bridge Mérida.
92. **Bee-eater:** Seen from 7<sup>th</sup> April, flying high over Monfragüe, progressively getting lower, with good views at colony near Fernando V on 10<sup>th</sup> April.
93. **Roller:** One seen on plains near Santa Marta de Magasca on 6<sup>th</sup> April.
94. **Hoopoe:** Seen daily.
95. **Green Woodpecker:** One flying across road between Trujillo and Santa Marta de Magasca on 6<sup>th</sup> April.
96. **Great Spotted Woodpecker:** Heard in Monfragüe.
97. **Lesser Spotted Woodpecker:** seen in Pago de San Clemente and Monfragüe on 7<sup>th</sup> April.
98. **Calandra Lark:** Seen almost daily. Very common on plains.
99. **Short-toed Lark:** Seen on plains west of Trujillo and on Campo Lugar plains.
100. **Crested lark:** Seen daily.
101. **Thekla Lark:** Seen almost daily.
102. **Woodlark:** Seen near Jaraicejo and at La Albuera.
103. **Sand Martin:** Seen at la Albuera, Arrocampo and on rice fields.
104. **Crag Martin:** Seen almost daily.
105. **Barn Swallow:** Seen daily.
106. **Red-rumped Swallow:** Seen daily.
107. **House Martin:** Seen daily.
108. **Meadow Pipit:** Small numbers seen on plains at Campo Lugar and west of Trujillo on 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> April.
109. **Yellow Wagtail:** One flying over Sierra Brava on 5<sup>th</sup> April and several seen on rice fields on 10<sup>th</sup> April. All of Iberian race.
110. **Grey Wagtail:** Seen on River Magasca and Monfragüe.
111. **White Wagtail:** Seen almost daily.
112. **Wren:** Seen almost daily.
113. **Robin:** Seen/heard in Monfragüe, Puerto Peña and Valdecañas.
114. **Nightingale:** Seen or heard almost daily.
115. **Black Redstart:** Seen in Monfragüe.
116. **Common Redstart:** One male at Sierra Brava on 5<sup>th</sup> April.
117. **Stonechat:** Seen daily.
118. **Whinchat:** A male near Sierra Brava on 10<sup>th</sup> April.
119. **Northern Wheatear:** Seen almost daily.
120. **Black-eared Wheatear:** Two males seen at sierra Brava on 5<sup>th</sup> April.
121. **Black Wheatear:** Two males seen at Alange on 8<sup>th</sup> April.
122. **Blue Rock Thrush:** Seen in Monfragüe, Alange and Puerto Peña.
123. **Blackbird:** Seen daily.
124. **Mistle Thrush:** Seen in Monfragüe and near Jaraicejo.
125. **Cetti's Warbler:** Seen or heard almost every day.
126. **Zitting Cisticola:** Seen almost daily.
127. **Savi's Warbler:** Several males singing at Arrocampo on 11<sup>th</sup> April.
128. **Sedge Warbler:** Singing on River Gargaligas on 10<sup>th</sup> April and at Arrocampo.
129. **Reed Warbler:** Singing at Mérida and at Arrocampo.

130. **Great Reed Warbler:** One singing at River Gargaligas on 10<sup>th</sup> April.
131. **Dartford Warbler:** Several males singing at Jaraicejo.
132. **Spectacled Warbler:** Four males singing at Jaraicejo on 9<sup>th</sup> April.
133. **Subalpine Warbler:** Seen on several days.
134. **Sardinian Warbler:** Seen daily.
135. **Western Orphean Warbler:** One singing in Monfragüe on 7<sup>th</sup> April.
136. **Blackcap:** Seen almost daily.
137. **Iberian Chiffchaff:** One feeding by River Ruercas on 5<sup>th</sup> April.
138. **Common Chiffchaff:** One feeding by River Ruercas on 5<sup>th</sup> April.
139. **Willow Warbler:** Singing at La Albuera on 8<sup>th</sup> April and River Gargaligas on 10<sup>th</sup> April.
140. **Long-tailed Tit:** Seen on several days.
141. **Crested Tit:** Seen at Valdecañas on 9<sup>th</sup> April.
142. **Blue Tit:** Seen daily.
143. **Great Tit:** Seen daily.
144. **Nuthatch:** Recorded at Monfragüe and Jaraicejo.
145. **Short-toed Treecreeper:** Seen on several days.
146. **Penduline Tit:** Male nest-building near Roman Bridge, Mérida on 8<sup>th</sup> April.
147. **Iberian Grey Shrike:** Seen daily.
148. **Woodchat Shrike:** Seen daily.
149. **Jay:** Seen in Monfragüe, Jaraicejo and Valdecañas.
150. **Azure-winged Magpie:** Seen daily.
151. **Magpie:** Seen daily.
152. **Red-billed Chough:** A pair at Puerto Peña on 10<sup>th</sup> April.
153. **Jackdaw:** Seen almost daily.
154. **Raven:** Seen daily.
155. **Spotless Starling:** Seen daily.
156. **House Sparrow:** Seen daily.
157. **Spanish Sparrow:** Seen daily.
158. **Tree Sparrow:** Seen on rice fields.
159. **Common Waxbill:** Near Madrigalejo on 10<sup>th</sup> April.
160. **Red Avadavat:** Seen on rice fields.
161. **Chaffinch:** Seen most days.
162. **Serin:** Seen almost daily.
163. **Greenfinch:** Seen almost daily.
164. **Goldfinch:** Seen daily.
165. **Linnet:** Seen almost daily.
166. **Hawfinch:** Brief views in Monfragüe and Valdecañas.
167. **Cirl Bunting:** Seen on several days.
168. **Rock Bunting:** Seen in Monfragüe and Alange.
169. **Corn Bunting:** Seen daily.

### **Mammals**

1. Red Deer
2. Rabbit
3. Iberian Hare

### **Butterflies**

1. Swallowtail
2. Spanish Festoon

3. Small White
4. Bath White
5. Western Dappled White
6. Orange Tip
7. Clouded Yellow
8. Cleopatra
9. Small Copper
10. Holy Blue
11. Black-eyed Blue
12. Brown Argus
13. Nettle-tree Butterfly
14. Large Tortoiseshell
15. Red Admiral
16. Painted Lady
17. Small Heath
18. Speckled Wood
19. Wall Brown

### **Dragonflies**

1. Blue-eye Damselfly (Mérida 8<sup>th</sup> April)
2. Iberian Blue-tail (Mérida 8<sup>th</sup> April)
3. Lesser Emperor or Vagrant Hawker (Arrocampo 11<sup>th</sup> April)
4. Broad-bodied Chaser (Moheda Alta 10<sup>th</sup> April)
5. Red-veined Darter (Moheda Alta 10<sup>th</sup> April)

### **Orchids**

1. Pink Butterfly Orchid
2. Bug Orchid
3. Conical Orchid
4. Naked Man Orchid
5. Champagne Orchid
6. Lax-flowered Orchid
7. Mirror Orchid
8. Yellow Bee Orchid
9. Early Spider Orchid
10. Woodcock Orchid
11. Sawfly Orchid
12. Giant Orchid
13. Tongue Orchid