

## Birding Extremadura and Casa Rural El Recuerdo

### REPORT ON SPRING HOLIDAY FOR MICHAEL AND ANNE

#### Itinerary (6<sup>th</sup> March – 14<sup>th</sup> March 2014)

- 6<sup>th</sup> March 2014: Transfer from Madrid Airport to Casa Rural El Recuerdo  
7<sup>th</sup> March 2014: Ricefields south of Madrigalejo, Moheda  
Alta and Sierra Brava reservoir  
8<sup>th</sup> March 2014: Exploring the plains between Trujillo and Santa Marta de Magasca.  
9<sup>th</sup> March 2014: Villuercas Mountains  
10<sup>th</sup> March 2014: Plains near Campo Lugar and rice fields near Palazuelo.  
11<sup>th</sup> March 2014: Monfragüe National Park.  
12<sup>th</sup> March 2014: Plains north of Cáceres and Almonte River.  
13<sup>th</sup> March 2014: Arrocampo reservoir and cork oakwoods near Jaraicejo.  
14<sup>th</sup> March 2014: Return to Madrid.

#### Trip Report

##### Day 1: 6<sup>th</sup> March 2014: Transfer from Madrid Airport to Casa Rural El Recuerdo

Michael and Anne's mid-evening flight from Luton reached Madrid on time and we made our way through the evening rush-hour traffic on the city ring road, before heading south-west on the motorway for Extremadura. Just outside Madrid we stopped for dinner at a typical Spanish bar, with fine cured hams hanging above the counter. After that, it was a smooth and easy run on a practically empty road all of the way to Casa Rural El Recuerdo.

##### Day 2: 7<sup>th</sup> March 2014: Rice fields south of Madrigalejo, Moheda Alta and Sierra Brava reservoir

We enjoyed beautiful spring weather today, it being sunny and warm, with very little wind. We headed south, passing the town of Zorita and making the first stop just east of the town of Madrigalejo, set at the edge of land irrigated for rice production. We took a minor road through rough pasture dotted by trees, through to edge of some cereal field. It was an excellent opportunity to become acquainted to farmland birds such as **Iberian Grey Shrikes** and **Corn Buntings**. **Marsh Harriers** quartered damper areas whilst we found a **Little Owl** perched on a gnarled holm oak tree. At the end of the road, in a field of winter wheat a flock of about 60 **Common Cranes**, stragglers remaining after most of the wintering cranes had left, were feeding. At the same time, three **Black Kites**, arriving summer visitors, flew slowly overhead.

We then explored an area of intensive arable farming south of Madrigalejo, where a mosaic of rice and maize stubble and winter wheat presented itself. A

**Quail** called from one field, but proved impossible to find. However we did see several parties of **Black-bellied Sandgrouse**, a female **Great Bustard** and also very good views of a **Stone Curlew**.

Continuing westwards we paid a visit to the Crane Information Centre at Moheda Alta and then had a picnic lunch at the edge of the *dehesa* woodland nearby. There were carpets of wild flowers and **Blackcaps** and **Chiffchaffs** foraged in the branches.



Following lunch we visited the observation tower nearby. From there, looking across onto rice stubble fields, we found two **Common Cranes**, a **Black Stork** and a group of nine **Spoonbill**. There were some small parties of waders also present, such as **Ruff** and **Greenshank**. Nearby was a small pool which we approached carefully and were rewarded with views of two **Black-necked Grebe** as well as a selection of duck in superb breeding plumage: **Pintail**, **Shoveler**, **Pochard**, **Wigeon** and **Mallard**.

To complete the circular route, we drove through *dehesa* woodland westward, beside a steep-sided canal, built as part of the infrastructure for irrigation. At one point we came across a **Roe Deer** drinking in the canal.

We made a final stop beside the large Sierra Brava reservoir. Way out in the middle were huge rafts of duck, predominately wintering **Shoveler**. A pair of **Red-rumped Swallows** perched on a nearby wire, newly arrived from Africa.

### Day 3: 8<sup>th</sup> March 2014: Exploring the plains between Trujillo and Santa Marta de Magasca.

Another sunny clear day which we spent following a small circular route which took us west from Trujillo, through open plains to the village of Santa Marta de Magasca. The predominant bird today was probably the **Corn Bunting**, it was certainly the most abundant, but a focus for us were the larks. Close to the start of the day we were rewarded by the great opportunity to compare simultaneously a **Crested** and a **Thekla Lark**, perched almost side-by-side on the top of a fence. Whilst we watched these, **Calandra Larks** chased each other low over the field which stretched to the sky-line. Beyond there was the back-drop of the snow-covered Gredos Mountains.



As we entered a dirt track, a **Northern Wheatear** flew up onto the fence, a passage bird on its way north. We reached an area of high ground and spotted the massive form of a **Black Vulture** coming down to land, the final stages of its flight hidden from us as it dropped behind a rise in the ground. A few seconds later a juvenile **Spanish Imperial Eagle** flew up and we followed it in flight until it started soaring in the distance, being joined by another juvenile of the same species. **Griffon Vultures** also appeared in the sky, but we were never able to get to the right angle to see what the birds (which also included **Red Kite**) had been feeding on.

Following refreshments in the village of Santa Marta de Magasca, we stopped for lunch beside the River Magasca just north of the village. It was a beautiful steep-sided wooded valley with **Crag Martins** nesting under the bridge.



We then headed north and the east on a circuit taking us back towards the town of Trujillo. We made a couple of stops, watching larks again as well as a large flock of about 300 **Golden Plover** flying high over the plains. As we approached Trujillo, the road took us up onto the granite landscape of a batholith, on which Trujillo sits at its highest point. The old part of Trujillo is built on and of granite. We visited the fine Main Square, where people were enjoying the afternoon spring sunshine, the pavement cafes were busy. As people milled about below them, the **White Storks** nesting on the church towers and old palaces, carried on their daily activities which included, whilst we were there, pilferage of neighbour's nest material, courtship and mating. **Lesser Kestrels** glided above us, whilst both **Black** and **Griffon Vultures** as well as a **Short-toed Eagle** also passed overhead.



#### Day 4: 9<sup>th</sup> March 2014: Villuercas Mountains

With another day of fine weather ahead, although with a little bit more of a breeze, we took ourselves eastwards into yet another different landscape, the impressive scenery of the Villuercas Mountains. Our first stop was where the River Almonte has cut a gorge through an ancient fault through the folded ancient sandstones. Impressive cliffs formed a gateway to the east and **Griffon Vultures** were taking advantage of the up-draught beside the rock face. Two **Egyptian Vultures** also appeared as did a pair of **Black Vultures**, appearing much heavier and larger-winged than the Griffons. We also watched a **Great Spotted Woodpecker** nearby. We took a road to a stopping place which gave us the view of the same gateway from the east. As we watched, an adult **Golden Eagle** flapped into view and joined the vultures as they soared above us. A pair of **Short-toed Eagles** also passed overhead.

We continued up a narrow valley with Sweet Chestnut orchards high on its slopes, through two villages (Roturas and Navezuelas) and then proceeded on a narrow steep road which took us up to the highest peak in the range, the Pico de Villuercas, at 1600 metres above sea-level. The view from here was breathtaking, down to the town of Guadalupe with its historic monastery, north to the Gredos Mountains, west towards the plains near Trujillo and south over the rice fields of central Extremadura. At the summit we obtained superb views of **Red-billed Choughs**, carrying nesting material and performing aerial displays. We also had the opportunity of looking down on passing **Griffon Vultures**. There were **Black Redstart** in view as well.



We spent the rest of the afternoon, enjoying the beauty, at a different scale, of cork oak woodland, where a variety of woodland species, such as **Nuthatch** and **Short-toed Treecreepers** were calling, but proving very hard to see. However, nearby rocky outcrops did give us further great views of **Griffon Vultures** and a **Short-toed Eagle**, which perched for a few minutes on top of a crag.

#### **Day 5: 10<sup>th</sup> March 2014: Plains near Campo Lugar and rice fields near Palazuelo.**

The wind was a chilly northerly through much of the day, but nevertheless with clear blue skies, indeed not a single cloud was seen all day! We spent the morning on the plains near the village of Campo Lugar, south of Zorita. This rolling terrain was largely sheep pasture, but with some arable, a fine example of traditional mixed farming practice and the rich birdlife present reflected this. **Corn Buntings** and larks abounded of course, but at our very first stop we found a party of 21 **Little Bustards**, including two males already in breeding plumage. As we stood, three **Black-bellied Sandgrouse** flew in and we were able to watch them on the ground. A **Zitting Cisticola** also sang close by. We stopped a little further on, this time to look at a group of four male **Great Bustards** in one direction, whilst in another a flock of **Little Bustards** treated us to their changing colours of dark and white as they turned in unison in flight. Twos and threes of **Lesser Kestrels** were also coming out to hover over the grassland.

Further on, we found a distant group of **Great Bustards** which seemed to be all males, including birds starting to show display. We took a track which enabled us to approach these birds a bit more closely. From the track we then enjoyed prolonged views of this group of 12 **Great Bustard** males, with several in full display in perfect light. From the same spot in the other direction we could look across a pool in which there were hundreds of **Teal**, along with some **Shoveler**, **Gadwall** and **Mallard**. Carefully searching through this multitude of duck revealed the presence of a pair of **Garganey**, one of the species that Michael was particularly keen for us to find.



Very satisfied with our morning, we stopped for lunch nearby, sitting in the sun, sheltered from the wind, and looking up at a soaring adult **Golden Eagle**.

We devoted the afternoon to a visit to the rice fields near Palazuelo. Most of these fields had been ploughed and some were wet and muddy. A few of these fields were especially attractive to birds, including large flocks of **Black-headed Gulls**. We carefully checked fields for waders and at the first we discovered groups of **Dunlin**, **Little Stint**, **Ringed Plover** and **Little Ringed Plover**. As we looked at these, we came across a small party of **Greenshank**, in amongst which was an adult **Lesser Yellowlegs**, a rarity which had been present in the area all winter. We were able to watch it at length, in excellent light. Further on we came across another field, with a group of **Golden Plover**, some of which were getting into their attractive breeding plumage. There were **several Meadow Pipits** present and at least one **Water Pipit**.

#### **Day 6: 11<sup>th</sup> March 2014: Monfragüe National Park.**

There was a cool breeze at the start of the day, which eased gradually during the day, otherwise it was the same story of clear blue skies and sunshine. We drove north, around Trujillo and then through a landscape dominated by *dehesa* woodland from horizon to horizon until we reached the rocky ridges dominating the Monfragüe National Park, one of the top places in the Europe to watch birds of prey. At our first stop at the Salto del Gitano, we looked across the Tajo (Tagus) River onto the massive cliff face of Peña Falcón. Dozens of **Griffon Vultures** were perched on the rocks whilst others drifted above us. There were also **Black Vultures** and **Egyptian Vultures** present (the latter giving us a superbly close views), thus making up the trio. A **Black Stork** stood on its nest,

close to the water's edge and we also watched others gliding with the vultures, very elegant birds. Smaller birds were also seen, most notably a male **Cirl Bunting** singing close to us as we arrived and a **Blue Rock Thrush**.

We then drove through to a viewpoint in the north of the park, the Portilla del Tiétar. Here we were rewarded almost immediately by the sight of an adult **Spanish Imperial Eagle**. But more was to come. The few people who were present at the viewpoint when we arrived, dwindled to none, leaving us alone in this tranquil but rather dramatic site, with its deeply folded rocks in front of us, reflected in the still water of the river. Whilst we were watching a **Griffon Vulture** chick on its nest with one of its parents, we heard the **Spanish Imperial Eagle** giving a rather quiet barking call. We then realised that it was perched on rocks in front of us, just where a pair of **Ravens** had earlier been removing morsels of meat from some hidden carcass. The eagle was intent in doing the same and we watched as it fed, affording us memorable views.



Other birds: all three vulture species and **Black Stork** were almost performing as supporting actors as there was no real doubt who the star of our visit was!

Time was passing and once the eagle had gone, we back-tracked through the park, to stop at the Tajadilla picnic area for lunch. We looked across onto yet another cliff face, occupied by nesting **Griffon Vultures**. But what was of particular interest was the grove of southern elm trees, just coming into mast around us. This was attracting **Hawfinches** to feed on the tiny elm seeds. One was calling regularly from a large tree close to where we ate, but it was proving impossible to see, from various angles. Finally, by choosing to stand close to the road and looking back at the tree we located the bird, a female. She gave us

excellent views as she busily fed. Soon she was joined by a male which was equally obliging.

Following coffee at Villareal de San Carlos, we stopped at a layby close by, overlooking the Tajo River. As we got out of the car, we spotted an adult **Bonelli's Eagle** soaring high overhead, briefly together with a juvenile of the same species. In an oak tree nearby, a **Subalpine Warbler** was singing. A **Large Tortoiseshell** butterfly was also enjoying the afternoon sun.

We made a second visit to the Salto de Gitano, where vultures were watched returning to their nests.

The sun was getting lower in the sky, so we made our way back to the Portilla viewpoint for our final engagement of the day. In the dusk, a **Spanish Imperial Eagle** was gliding over the now quiet rock face and then settled on top of the cliff as bats started to emerge. We ate our picnic dinner soaking in the scene and the sounds. There was a full evening chorus of **Blue Rock Thrush** and **Blackbirds**. A party of **Red Deer** were feeding high on the slope opposite. As light fell, the eagle drifted off to a roosting site out of view, whilst its mate called from its tree-top nest. Soon afterwards, a soft deep hoot came from the cliff face. An **Eagle Owl**. We had to wait a few more minutes to hear the call again, this time louder. It called three times more. Then silence. At about 19.45, we then saw the huge shape of the owl as it flew, gliding most of the time on powerful wings, to the north. As it passed the eagle's nest, the Spanish Imperial Eagle gave a quiet warning bark. Luckily the owl stopped to perch on a tree where it called twice more. There was light enough to see it through the telescope where its ear tufts and thickset shape were discernible. We headed back home, reaching base shortly after 21.00.

#### **Day 7: 12<sup>th</sup> March 2014: Plains north of Cáceres and Almonte River.**

Another sunny but breezy day. Today was focused again on the plains, taking in the area north of Cáceres. We started west of Santa Marta de Magasca, having nice views of **Little Owls** occupying nest boxes places on telegraph poles. Following a long, dirt road, we obtained our best views so far of vultures on the ground, a party of **Griffon** with three **Black Vultures** at quite close range in excellent light. Re-joining a main road, we stopped beside the Almonte River where we watched **Alpine Swifts**, **Crag Martins** and **House Martins** attracted to the great road bridge as a nesting area. On the rocks opposite we found a male **Blue Rock Thrush**, showing its colours magnificently in the sunshine.

At the Talaván reservoir we stopped for a walk where we were accompanied by **Zitting Cisticolas** and **Thekla Larks**, whilst on the water there were a few duck, such as **Mallard**, **Gadwall** and **Teal**. Two graceful **Great Egrets** were also present. Beside the path we found a beautiful specimen of **Green-winged Orchid** (ssp *picta*).



We had lunch beside the reservoir and then drove a bit further north-west to the plains near Hinojal. Here we obtained views of **Pin-tailed Sandgrouse** and a party of **Golden Plover**, preparing for the imminent departure. A delightful pair of **Iberian Hare** entertained us as they chased, fought and then tried to slip out of our view. As we left the area, a newly arrived female **Woodchat Shrike** caught our attention. On the side of the track, Barbary Nut Irises were opening up, a small plant with a flower bearing a beautiful blue tone.



We started a slow return towards Trujillo, making a stop higher upstream on the Almonte River, at a stop overlooking an ancient watermill. As we stood, a **Short-toed Eagle** drifted overhead with the tail of snake hanging from its bill. As we watched it managed to gradually gulp the snake down.

Continuing across the plains, a male **Hen Harrier** accompanied us for a moment, but the highlight came a few kilometres further on when we found a pair of **Great Spotted Cuckoos** perched on the fence just in front of us. Despite two cars, from opposite directions passing on the narrow road beside the birds, the cuckoos stayed put and we were rewarded with superb and memorable views, especially of one descending to the ground to pick up a large caterpillar which it then proceeded to dispatch and swallow when it returned to the wire.

After dinner, we took a stroll along the lane in Pago de San Clemente and at dusk watched a **Long-eared Owl** fly just above above us and then land in a dense pine, where, out of view, it gave its soft, almost murmur-like, single hoot.

#### **Day 8: 13<sup>th</sup> March 2014: Arrocampo reservoir and cork oak woods near Jaraicejo.**

For our final full day, we drove north-east to stop at the Arrocampo reservoir, built to provide cooling water for a power station and boasting a wide fringe of emergent vegetation. At our first stop we watched **Purple Swamphens** (including a family with small chicks) and then we were delighted to get excellent views of a party of two male and a female **Bearded Tit**. At the same

spot a pair of **Ferruginous Duck** flew in to land in a small hidden patch of open water. Throngs of **Sand Martins** were in the sky above us. At another stop, a **Marsh Harrier** flew high above us in spring display, whilst **Spoonbill**, **Great Egret** and **Little Egret** flew across our view over the reeds. Parties of **Coot** foraged, **Cetti's Warblers** chased each other and we got good views of a **Water Pipit** at the edge of the marsh.

We took a small track nearby where we found a **Black-winged Kite**, rather distant but settled for a long time on a dead tree. Back to the reservoir, we made a final stop to listen to a newly-arrived **Savi's Warbler** and a fine **Purple Heron** flew in to land quite close to us where it stood for several minutes in glorious sunshine. Just as we were leaving, like a final poignant farewell, a group of four **Common Cranes** flew overhead, circling for a moment directly overhead, but not making a sound.

We stopped at the Mirevete Pass for lunch. It was quite windy, but it did not deter a **Woodlark** from singing on a wire in view of our picnic. We then descended to belts of cork oak woodland near Jaraicejo. We heard several **Short-toed Treecreepers** but only managed to get a brief glimpse of one. **Nuthatches** were also singing and as we drove to the area we saw a **Dartford Warbler** on top of a broom bush.

We stopped in Trujillo to buy some slices of the famous Iberian ham and then ended our day watching at close quarters the colony of **Lesser Kestrels** on the old Bull Ring. It had clouded over, but the birds were splendid in the soft afternoon light.



## Day 9: 14<sup>th</sup> March 2014: Return to Madrid.

We left as planned at 06.00, hearing **Scops Owl** calling as we got into the car and drove non-stop to the airport. We reached there at 08.50 for a quick check-in for the flight back to Luton.

### Annotated List of Birds Seen

A total of **144 birds species** were recorded during the holiday.

1. **Wigeon** Small numbers (double-figures) at Sierra Brava on 7<sup>th</sup> March, with two at Moheda Alta as well.
2. **Gadwall** Seen at Sierra Brava, Campo Lugar and Talaván.
3. **Teal** Seen at Campo Lugar, Talaván and Arrocampo.
4. **Mallard** Seen almost every day.
5. **Pintail** About 20 at Moheda Alta on 7<sup>th</sup> March.
6. **Garganey** Two at Campo Lugar on 10<sup>th</sup> March.
7. **Shoveler** Thousands at Sierra Brava on 7<sup>th</sup> March and also present at Campo Lugar, Talaván and Arrocampo.
8. **Common Pochard** Small numbers at Moheda Alta and Campo Lugar.
9. **Ferruginous Duck** A pair at Arrocampo on 13<sup>th</sup> March.
10. **Red-legged Partridge** Seen or heard almost daily.
11. **Pheasant** A female near Madrigalejo on 7<sup>th</sup> March.
12. **Quail** Heard near Madrigalejo on 7<sup>th</sup> March.
13. **Little Grebe** Seen on most days.
14. **Great Crested Grebe** Seen at Arrocampo, Sierra Brava and Talaván reservoirs.
15. **Black-necked Grebe** Two at Moheda Alta on 7<sup>th</sup> March.
16. **Great Cormorant** Seen on most days.
17. **Cattle Egret** Seen most days, including large numbers in the rice fields.
18. **Little Egret** Seen most days.
19. **Great Egret** Seen at Moheda Alta and Talaván, as well as Arrocampo.

20. **Grey Heron** Seen almost every day.
21. **Purple Heron** One at Arrocampo on 13<sup>th</sup> March.
22. **Black Stork** One at Moheda Alta on 7<sup>th</sup> March and several seen at Monfragüe.
23. **White Stork** Seen every day.
24. **Glossy Ibis** One at Moheda Alta on 7<sup>th</sup> March.
25. **Spoonbill** Nine at Moheda Alta on 7<sup>th</sup> march and one at Arrocampo on 13<sup>th</sup> March.
26. **Black-winged Kite** One near Arrocampo on 13<sup>th</sup> March.
27. **Black Kite** Seen every day.
28. **Red Kite** Seen almost every day.
29. **Egyptian Vulture** Three pairs seen in Villuercas Mountains and several in Monfragüe.
30. **Griffon Vulture** Seen almost every day.
31. **Black Vulture** Seen almost every day.
32. **Short-toed Eagle** Seen on most days.
33. **Marsh Harrier** Seen almost every day, especially on rice fields and at Arrocampo.
34. **Hen Harrier** A male and a female on rice fields on 7<sup>th</sup> March and a male north of Santa Marta de Magasca on 12<sup>th</sup> March.
35. **Common Buzzard** Seen almost every day.
36. **Spanish Imperial Eagle** Two juveniles seen near Santa Marta de Magasca on 8<sup>th</sup> March and a pair in Monfragüe National Park on 11<sup>th</sup> March.
37. **Golden Eagle** One in Villuercas Mountains on 9<sup>th</sup> March and one at Campo Lugar on 10<sup>th</sup>.
38. **Bonelli's Eagle** An adult and a juvenile at Monfragüe on 11<sup>th</sup> March.
39. **Lesser Kestrel** Seen almost every day.
40. **Common Kestrel** Seen almost every day.

41. **Peregrine Falcon** Seen in Villuercas Mountains and in Monfragüe.
42. **Water Rail** Heard at Arrocampo.
43. **Moorhen** Seen at Arrocampo.
44. **Purple Swamphen** Several at Arrocampo.
45. **Common Coot** Seen at Sierra Brava and Arrocampo.
46. **Common Crane** 60 near Madrigalejo and two at Moheda Alta on 7<sup>th</sup> March and four overhead at Arrocampo on 13<sup>th</sup> March.
47. **Little Bustard** A total of about 60 seen at Campo Lugar on 10<sup>th</sup> March.
48. **Great Bustard** One near Madrigalejo on 7<sup>th</sup> March and a total of 16, including displaying males seen at Campo Lugar on 10<sup>th</sup> March.
49. **Black-winged Stilt** Seen on rice fields near Madrigalejo and Palazuelo.
50. **Stone Curlew** Two near near Madrigalejo on 7<sup>th</sup> March.
51. **Ringed Plover** About 20 near Palazuelo on 10<sup>th</sup> March
52. **Little Ringed Plover** About ten near Palazuelo on 10<sup>th</sup> March.
53. **Golden Plover** About 300 on plains north of Santa Marta de Magasca on 8<sup>th</sup> March, on rice fields near Palazuelo on 10<sup>th</sup> March and 30 near Hinojal on 12<sup>th</sup> March.
54. **Lapwing** Seen on most days.
55. **Dunlin** About 40 near Palazuelo on 10<sup>th</sup> March.
56. **Little Stint** About 10 near Palazuelo on 10<sup>th</sup> March.
57. **Ruff** About eight at Moheda Alta on 7<sup>th</sup> March.
58. **Common Snipe** Seen on rice fields and at Arrocampo.
59. **Spotted Redshank** One at Moheda Alta on 7<sup>th</sup> March.
60. **Greenshank** Two at Moheda Alta and about six near Palazuelo.
61. **Lesser Yellowlegs** One near Palazuelo on 10<sup>th</sup> March.
62. **Green Sandpiper** Six near Palazuelo on 10<sup>th</sup> March.

63. **Common Sandpiper** One at Madrigalejo on 7<sup>th</sup> March.
64. **Black-headed Gull** Seen on the rice fields.
65. **Lesser Black-backed Gull** Seen on the rice fields.
66. **Black-bellied Sandgrouse** About 20 near Madrigalejo on 7<sup>th</sup> March and 15 near Campo Lugar on 10<sup>th</sup> March.
67. **Pin-tailed Sandgrouse** Seen near Santa Marta de Magasca on 8<sup>th</sup> March and at Hinojal on 12<sup>th</sup> march.
68. **Feral Pigeon** Seen daily.
69. **Wood Pigeon** Seen almost daily.
70. **Collared Dove** Seen daily.
71. **Scops Owl** Calling at Pago de San Clemente on 14<sup>th</sup> March.
72. **Tawny Owl** Heard in Villuercas Mountains on 9<sup>th</sup> March
73. **Eagle Owl** Seen at Monfragüe on 11<sup>th</sup> March.
74. **Little Owl** Seen or heard almost daily.
75. **Long-eared Owl** One seen at Pago de San Clemente on 12<sup>th</sup> March.
76. **Alpine Swift** Seen at Almonte River on 12<sup>th</sup> March.
77. **Kingfisher** Brief views on several days.
78. **Hoopoe** Seen almost daily.
79. **Green Woodpecker** Calling in Villuercas Mountains on 9<sup>th</sup> March.
80. **Great Spotted Woodpecker** Recorded in Villuercas Mountains and Monfragüe.
81. **Lesser Spotted Woodpecker** Heard drumming at Pago de San Clemente on 13<sup>th</sup> March.
82. **Calandra Lark** Seen almost daily
83. **Crested Lark** Seen almost daily.
84. **Thekla Lark** Seen almost daily.
85. **Woodlark** Seen at Mirevete Pass on 13<sup>th</sup> March.

86. **Skylark** Seen on plains on 10<sup>th</sup> March.
87. **Sand Martin** Large numbers at Arrocampo on 13<sup>th</sup> March.
88. **Crag Martin** Seen almost daily.
89. **Barn Swallow** Seen daily.
90. **Red-rumped Swallow** Seen at Sierra Brava and Monfragüe.
91. **House Martin** Seen almost daily.
92. **Meadow Pipit** Seen almost daily.
93. **Water Pipit** Seen on rice fields and at Arrocampo.
94. **White Wagtail** Seen almost daily.
95. **Alpine Accentor** Two at Montánchez on 1<sup>st</sup> March.
96. **Robin** Seen almost daily.
97. **Black Redstart** Seen almost daily.
98. **Stonechat** Seen almost daily.
99. **Northern Wheatear** One on plains on 8<sup>th</sup> March and another on 12<sup>th</sup> March.
100. **Blue Rock Thrush** Seen in Monfragüe and on River Almonte.
101. **Blackbird** Seen daily.
102. **Song Thrush** Seen almost daily
103. **Redwing** One over Pago de San Clemente on 12<sup>th</sup> March.
104. **Mistle Thrush** Seen in Villuercas Mounatish and near Santa Marta de Magasca.
105. **Cetti's Warbler** Recorded almost daily.
106. **Zitting Cisticola** Seen almost daily.
107. **Savi's Warbler** One singing at Arrocampo on 13<sup>th</sup> March
108. **Dartford Warbler** One on heath near Jaraicejo on 13<sup>th</sup> March.
109. **Subalpine Warbler** One at Monfragüe on 11<sup>th</sup> March.

110. **Sardinian Warbler** Seen on several days.
111. **Blackcap** Seen almost daily.
112. **Common Chiffchaff** Seen almost daily.
113. **Wren** Seen or heard almost daily.
114. **Long-tailed Tit** Recorded almost daily.
115. **Crested Tit** Heard and seen briefly in Villuercas Mountains on 9<sup>th</sup> March,
116. **Blue Tit** Seen almost daily.
117. **Great Tit** Seen almost daily.
118. **Bearded Tit** Two males and a female at Arrocampo on 13<sup>th</sup> March.
119. **Nuthatch** Singing in Villuercas Mountains and at Jaraicejo.
120. **Short-toed Treecreeper** Recorded in Villuercas Mountains, Monfragüe and near Jaraicejo.
121. **Iberian (Southern) Grey Shrike** Seen almost daily.
122. **Woodchat Shrike** One near Hinojalñ on 12<sup>th</sup> March.
123. **Jay** Recorded on several days.
124. **Azure-winged Magpie** Seen daily.
125. **Magpie** Seen daily.
126. **Red-billed Chough** A pair on Pico de Villuercas on 9<sup>th</sup> March.
127. **Jackdaw** Seen on several days.
128. **Raven** Seen almost daily.
129. **Spotless Starling** Seen daily.
130. **House Sparrow** Seen daily.
131. **Spanish Sparrow** Seen almost daily.
132. **Tree Sparrow** Seen on the rice fields.

- 133.     **Red Avadavat**     Seen on the rice fields.
- 134.     **Common Waxbill**   Seen on rice fields
- 135.     **Chaffinch**    Seen daily.
- 136.     **Serin**    Seen daily.
- 137.     **Greenfinch**   Seen on several days.
- 138.     **Goldfinch**   Seen almost daily.
- 139.     **Linnet**        Seen almost daily
- 140.     **Hawfinch**    Seen in Villuercas Mountains and in Monfragüe.
- 141.     **Cirl Bunting**   Seen singing at Monfragüe.
- 142.     **Rock Bunting**    Seen in Villuceras Mountains.
- 143.     **Reed Bunting**    Seen near Madrigalejo and Arrocampo.
- 144.     **Corn Bunting**    Seen almost daily.

**Mammals seen**

Red Deer  
 Roe Deer  
 Iberian Hare

**Butterflies seen**

Small Copper  
 Western Dappled White  
 Green-striped White  
 Small White  
 Cleopatra  
 Red Admiral  
 Large Tortoiseshell  
 Wall Brown  
 Nettle Tree Butterfly  
 Small Heath  
 Holly Blue  
 Common Swallowtail