

HOLIDAY REPORT FOR JULIE, JULIE AND GEOFF

15th March – 22nd March 2017

Birdingextremadura & Casa Rural El Recuerdo



Watching Provence Hairstreak

Itinerary

15th March 2017: Collect from Madrid with stop at Saucedilla and arrival at Casa Rural El Recuerdo

16th March 2017: Plains of Campo Lugar and the rice fields of Palazuelo

17th March 2017: Hills near Zafra, Alconera and Villamesias

18th March 2017: The plains of Santa Marta de Magasca

19th March 2017: Plains of Campo Lugar, Alcollarín and Villamesias

20th March 2017: Monfragüe National Park and heath land near Jaraicejo

21st March 2017: Alange, Sierra de Utrera and Roman Bridge in Mérida

22nd March 2017: Arrocampo Reservoir, Almaraz hill, Valdecañas Reservoir and return to Madrid

Holiday Report

15th March 2017: Collect from Madrid with stop at Saucedilla and arrival at Casa Rural El Recuerdo

Martin met Julie, Julie and Geoff at Terminal One of Madrid airport late morning and we set off for Extremadura, taking first the southern ring road before setting off south-west on the A5 motorway. There was a strong easterly wind but not a cloud in the sky and a very pleasant temperature for the journey. We crossed the dry arable plains of Castilla La Mancha before entering the first signs of the *dehesa* landscape (the holm oak wood pasture) from Talavera onwards, about halfway on our journey. We stopped for lunch at a motorway bar, with the snow-capped Gredos Mountains clearly visible to the north. **Barn Swallows** were building nests under the sunshades over the windows of the building, and **Crested Larks** paraded on the forecourt.

As we continued the journey we also got sightings of **White Stork**, **Black Kite** and **Griffon Vulture**.

We spent about two hours in the farmland near the village of Saucedilla. Here we had excellent views of many of the typical species of the zone, such as **Azure-winged Magpies**, **Southern Grey Shrike**, **Corn Buntings**, **Zitting Cisticolas** and **Spanish Sparrows**. We were delighted with great prolonged views of a **Black-winged Kite** and other raptors seen included **Black Vulture** and a fine male **Marsh Harrier**. Numerous white butterflies were seen, mainly **Western Dappled Whites**.

We reached Casa Rural El Recuerdo by 17.00, thus providing time to settle in and go for a late afternoon walk. This produced new birds like **Woodchat Shrike** as well as **Lesser Spotted Woodpecker** heard.

16th March 2017: Plains of Campo Lugar and the rice fields of Palazuelo

It was a cloudless day today, but with a fresh easterly wind that persisted all day. We set off at 09.00, but stopped after a minute to watch a **Lesser Spotted Woodpecker** drumming on a dead poplar branch at the edge of the village. Once the bird had disappeared, we then headed south, through an initial landscape of olive groves and *dehesa*, to the open plains south of Zorita. Here we took a minor road westwards, finding a place to park (with a brief pause for an engaging **Little Owl**) and shelter on the lee-ward side of the vehicle. From this point of relative comfort we enjoyed a birding feast. A large party of male **Great Bustards** were present in the field in open view and we watched them interacting with one another, picking dropped feathers with curiosity, charging across the field, being pushed on by an inquisitive horse, flying to land closer to us and, best of all, performing the foam-bath display. There were three females within

view which provided a good comparison of size, but even more striking was the presence of a dozen **Little Bustard** (with at least three males in full breeding plumage).

Around us **Calandra Larks** sang, whilst we also saw a **Merlin** and a spectacular view of a **Black Vulture** overhead: Europe's smallest and largest raptors. A **Short-toed Eagle** also glided across. **Lesser Kestrels** hovered over the pasture.

At a second spot, a party of six **Black Stork** wheeled high overhead, whilst at our feet were **Sand Crocuses** and a very smart **Common Swallowtail** butterfly.

After coffee at the edge of the rice fields, we started an exploration of the habitat. Here most of the fields were drying, but we found one with a nice group of **Kentish Plovers**. Four **Common Curlew** flew over. We found a relatively sheltered place for our picnic, where there were flocks of **Tree Sparrows** and **Red Avadavats**.

After lunch, we continued our slow drive around the rice fields and found one field absolutely teeming with **Water Pipits**, including some in full breeding plumage, as well as Iberian race of **Yellow Wagtail**, as well as a stunning male **Black-eared Wheatear** and a **Bluethroat**.

We made a short stop beside the River Ruercas, there was not much in the riverine vegetation but we were rewarded by a **Bonelli's Eagle** passing over head, being mobbed by a **Common Buzzard** on one occasion.

17th March 2017: Hills near Zafra, Alconera and Villamesias

We made an earlier start than usual as we had a long drive ahead of us, right to the deep south of Extremadura, close to the historic town of Zafra. It was overcast and with a fresh easterly wind as we started, but during the day the weather improved with the skies clearing and the wind easing.

At our first stop we walked along a small drover's trail, past rough pasture and almond groves. **Thekla Larks** sang almost continuously above us, whilst at our feet hundreds of orchids were emerging. We found some excellent specimens of six species: **Sombre** (two species), **Hill Sawfly**, **Conical** and **Pink Butterfly**. We were also delighted to get good views of **Green-striped White** and **Provence Hairstreak** butterflies, whilst on the bird front we watched **Black Redstart** and a **Short-toed Eagle**, which dropped to catch a snake which it quickly afterward sucked up spaghetti like as it flew.

After coffee on Zafra we drove onto Alconera where against a backdrop of a fine stand of **Giant Orchids**, we had our picnic lunch, close to a place where birds came to bathe: **Spanish Sparrows** and **Red-legged Partridge** amongst them, and we had brief views of a **Spanish Festoon** butterfly. We spent an hour or so on the hill nearby, dominated by old olive groves on limestone, where as well as more **Giant Orchids** we found many good specimens of **Hill Orchids** as well as a carpet of **Barbary Nut Iris** in flower.



Provence Hairstreak



Giant Orchids

We completed the afternoon birding at the small reservoir near Villamesias. Our immediate attention went to waders including a fine flock of **Ruff**, several approaching breeding plumage, **Wood Sandpipers** and **Spotted Redshank**. Amongst the duck was a drake **Ring-necked Duck** and at least one female **Great Scaup** and a straggler **Common Crane**, an apparently fit-looking adult, was feeding at the water's edge.

18th March 2017: The plains of Santa Marta de Magasca

It was a day of glorious weather: sunshine, a cloudless sky and just a light wind. We made our first stop on the plains to the west of Trujillo and very quickly found parties of **Black-bellied** and **Pin-tailed Sandgrouse**. We enjoyed superb and prolonged views of both species, including some flight views. Once the **Pin-tailed Sandgrouse** were put up by a **Peregrine**, which came to land in the field in which they had been feeding. Remarkably several returned to the field and we had the amazing sight of an immature **Peregrine** sitting on a small mound of earth with **Pin-tailed Sandgrouse** walking around nonchalantly in front of it.

All the time whilst we were watching these birds, **Calandra Larks** sang above us whilst a **Crested Lark** was often perched just metres from us.

We then made a stop above the River Tamuja and had good views of a **Bonelli's Eagle** soaring over the valley. A **Girl Bunting** and **Dartford Warbler** were amongst several species of small birds present as well. At our coffee stop a male **Spanish Sparrow** tried to impress the females, singing from the barest platform of a flimsy nest. More impressive was a **Short-toed Eagle** which hovered beside the village of Santa Marta de Magasca.



Spanish Sparrow

We then took a short walk beside the River Magasca and then had our picnic lunch there. Several species of butterfly were present here, including **Cleopatras**. Back on the plains we stopped to be quite quickly rewarded by the sight of a male **Montagu's Harrier** wheeling past us and a **Northern Wheatear** on a field of bare earth.

We walked along an old drovers' trail, where **Sand Crocuses** were in flower and **Western Dappled Whites** were present. After a stop to admire the storks beside an abandoned house, we made our final stop on the wonderful granite landscape close to Trujillo. There were several attractive plant species such as **Yellow Toadflax** and **Star of Bethlehem**, as well as many butterflies, but pride of place undoubtedly were two pairs of **Great Spotted Cuckoos**. We soaked up prolonged views of one of the pairs, perched, often partially hidden, in a small holm oak.

19th March 2017: Plains of Campo Lugar, Alcollarín and Villamesias

Another wonderful day with sunshine and hardly any wind, in fact it became quite hot during the afternoon. We made an early start to be on the plains south of Zorita in good time. With perfect weather conditions and light, we were very pleased to find a group of male **Great Bustards** in active lekking display. During the course of the next hour we watched, sometimes four or five displaying together. The flock of **Little Bustards** that we had found a few days earlier were in the same spot this morning, showing very well in the low morning light. We also watched a male **Hen Harrier** pass over the displaying **Great Bustards**. We were accompanied, as always on the plains by the sound of **Calandra Larks**. We also heard a **Black-bellied Sandgrouse** passing over. Further along the plains we found two **Northern Wheatear** and a total of six **Stone Curlew**, and we enjoyed prolonged views of them.

After coffee outside Campo Lugar, where **Lesser Kestrels** were flying around the old silo building, we headed to the nearby reservoir of Alcollarín. A small group of local people were gathering for a Sunday picnic, but we managed to find plenty of solitude around the lake. There was a good variety of duck, with pride of place to a total of three **Garganey**. A **Booted Eagle** was found perched in a tree and other species included several **Black-necked Grebe**, **Spoonbill**, **Black-tailed Godwit**, **Wood Sandpiper** and both **Common** and **Great Spotted Cuckoos**. At our final stop we also found a first-winter **Gull-billed Tern**.

A very fine **Western Clubtail** dragonfly was found, but less obliging were **Vagrant Emperors**, which were incessantly hunting midges.

We ended the day at the place we had visited two days earlier, the small reservoir near Villamesias. Still present was the drake **Ring-necked Duck** and the **Common Crane**, and there were even more **Ruff** present than earlier, as well as several **Wood Sandpiper** and a **Spotted Redshank**.

20th March 2017: Monfragüe National Park and heath land near Jaraicejo

Another sunny day, at times quite warm, with a fresher breeze picking up in the afternoon. We headed north to the Monfragüe National Park, entering from the northward side via the Portilla del Tiétar. Here there is a pair of **Spanish Imperial Eagle** nesting and we barely had to wait any time before the male arrived to mob a **Griffon Vulture** whilst his mate sat on the nest. He then perched on a rock, affording us classic views of this hugely impressive raptor. The female left the nest to glide around, tussle with a vulture and then collect some nest lining before returning to the nest. With perfect light, we were able to appreciate all the features of this wonderful bird. When the action had subsided, there was plenty to win our attention, A **Short-toed Eagle** perched on a rock and a charming **Subalpine Warbler** singing from the bushes in front of us. On the other side of the road a **Rock Bunting** was also singing. The roadside verges had a nice collection of **Hoop Petticoat Narcissus** as well as **Angel's Tears Narcissus**.

After coffee in the hamlet of Villareal de san Carlos, we parked at the car park near the castle and walked to the Salto de Gitano viewpoint (the layby there being full with bank holiday traffic). Setting off we had sightings of **Egyptian Vulture** and **Black Stork**, with further views of both species at the huge rock face of Peña Falcon once we had arrived there. We were able to see a nesting pair of **Black Stork**, numerous **Griffon** and **Black Vultures**, as well as a **Peregrine**. The smaller birds were also excellent with **Blue Rock Thrush**, **Black Redstart** and **Red-rumped Swallows** topping the bill.

Reluctantly we dragged ourselves away, walked back to the car and then drove to Jaraicejo where we had our picnic at a rather blustery Miravete Pass. Fortunately the wind was less down on the heath land where we walked and watched **Dartford Warblers** and **Thekla Larks** singing. The track descended to a beautiful cork oak glade, with singing **Short-toed Treecreepers** and more **Angel's Tears Narcissus**. We had excellent views of **Black Stork** and a displaying pair of **Short-toed Eagles**. Returning to the car at the end of our walk, a **Woodchat Shrike** was perched on the nearby electricity line.

21st March 2017: Alange, Sierra de Utrera and Roman Bridge in Mérida

The weather seemed on the turn, with foggy patches on our journey out, a fresh westerly wind and sometimes overcast conditions. Just a few minutes into our journey we had a very close views of a delightful **Iberian Hare** which seemed a bit confused in the fog and just wanted to get closer and closer to us! During the day several times the sun did come out and it warmed up. We started the day visiting Alange with a walk from the town along a path with the vast water body of Alange Reservoir on one side and rocky outcrops on another. The place was full of small birds, especially **Serins** and **Goldfinches**, with **Thekla Larks** singing overhead and **Blue Rock Thrushes** on the

top of the rocky crags. We quite quickly found our target, a fine male **Black Wheatear** which we watched for some time as it moved from one outcrop to another.

The fresh breeze lured us onto a coffee break, and we drank our coffee with a magnificent view northwards. We then took a walk on the more sheltered side of the Alange crag, on slopes full of wild olives. Here **Blackcaps** were abundant, as well as more **Blue Rock Thrushes** and **Rock Buntings**. **Sawfly Orchids** were the most common orchid in flower, but we did find a wonderful specimen of **Conical Orchid**, a very tall **Early Spider Orchid** and the first flower out of the highly-localised **Bumblebee Orchid**.

We moved to a hidden valley in the Sierra de Utrera. It was a stunningly beautiful spot of rocky outcrops and low scrub, with broom and lavender. **Iberian Fritillaries** were in perfect bloom, as were large numbers of **Green-winged Orchids** and some **Champagne Orchids**. We had views of a passing **Golden Eagle**, but most memorable were excellent views at last of the **Spanish Festoon**.



Iberian Fritillary

After our picnic there, we completed the afternoon with a visit to the Roman Bridge in Mérida, the longest in the world and over two thousand years old. We had superb views of a **Purple Swamphen** and following a short walk beside the Guadiana river downstream, we spent time watching egrets starting their breeding on a small island. Amongst the numerous **Cattle Egrets** were a few **Black-crowned Night Heron**,

Spoonbill and about 40 **Glossy Ibis**. On our return across the Roman Bridge we had very good views of a foraging male **Penduline Tit**.

22nd March 2017: Arrocampo Reservoir, Almaraz hill, Valdecañas Reservoir and return to Madrid

We set off from Casa Rural El Recuerdo at 09.00, with a chilly westerly wind and rather overcast skies. However the rain held off until lunchtime, giving us the best of the day birding around the Arrocampo area.

As we left Almaraz to proceed to the reservoir, a **Glossy Ibis** flew over the town. We started at the edge of the main marsh near Saucedilla village, with good views of **Purple Swamphen** and **Purple Heron**. A singing **Savi's Warbler** was found, although it was rather distant. Much closer to us was a delightful **Penduline Tit** which was feeding on a reed mace seed head. We had been teased by a calling **Little Bittern**, and at the point of giving up waiting for it to appear, we found it, a female (like a miniature Great Bittern), standing at the edge of a channel. We watched it as it slowly crept back into cover.

After a welcome coffee, we explored the hinterland behind Saucedilla, finding a pair of **Red-crested Pochard** on a small pool, almost covered by **water crowfoot**. A **Green Sandpiper** and **Common Sandpiper** were also present. At the far end of the Arrocampo Reservoir a **Great Egret** stood close to a **Little Egret** providing an excellent comparison. We then briefly visited Charco Salado, a pool surrounded by *dehesa* where there was the spectacle of hundreds of hirundines hawking above the water, and perched on wires. A massive presence.

We then went into the olives on Almaraz Hill where we had a picnic surrounded by orchids: numerous **Naked Man Orchids**, a single but beautiful **Yellow Bee Orchid**, **Mirror Orchids** and **Woodcock Orchids**, as well as many **Conical**, some **Green-winged** and **Champagne Orchids**. We also managed at last a view of a **Hawfinch** perched.

By now the rain was starting and we made a final stop at Valdecañas Reservoir, where four **Shelduck** were added to the trip list and we packed away the tripods and telescopes. It was then time to start the return to Madrid. We stopped for coffee en route and then just as we were approaching the airport, caught a glimpse of two **Monk Parakeets** – the final birds of the holiday.



Naked Man Orchids

Species Lists

Birds

1. **Egyptian Goose:** Seen at Villamesias and Alcollarín.
2. **Wigeon:** Seen at Alcollarín on 19th March.
3. **Gadwall:** Seen at Alcollarín and Charco Salado.
4. **Teal:** Seen at Villamesias, Alcollarín and Charco Salado.
5. **Mallard:** Seen almost every day.
6. **Pintail:** Small numbers present at Alcollarín on 19th March.
7. **Garganey:** Three seen at Alcollarín on 19th March.
8. **Shoveler:** Seen at Villamesias, Alcollarín and Charco Salado.
9. **Tufted Duck:** Seen at Villamesias, Alcollarín and Charco Salado.
10. **Ring-necked Duck:** Drake seen at Villamesias on 17th and 19th March.
11. **Greater Scaup:** Female at Villamesias on 17th and 19th March.
12. **Red-crested Pochard:** A pair at Arrocampo on 22nd March.
13. **Common Pochard:** Seen at Alcollarín and Villamesias.
14. **Shelduck:** Four at Valdecañas on 22nd March.
15. **Red-legged Partridge:** Seen almost daily.
16. **Quail:** Heard near Zafra on 17th March.

17. **Little Grebe:** Seen on most days.
18. **Great Crested Grebe:** Seen on all large water bodies.
19. **Black-necked Grebe:** At least six seen at Alcollarín on 19th March.
20. **Great Cormorant:** Seen daily.
21. **Little Bittern:** A female seen at Arrocampo on 22nd March.
22. **Black-crowned Night Heron:** About four seen at Mérida on 21st March.
23. **Cattle Egret:** Seen almost daily.
24. **Little Egret:** Seen almost daily.
25. **Great Egret:** Seen on rice fields and by large water bodies.
26. **Grey Heron:** Seen most days.
27. **Purple Heron:** About three seen at Arrocampo on 22nd March.
28. **Black Stork:** Six seen over Campo Lugar Plains on 16th March and also seen at Monfragüe and Jaraicejo on 20th March.
29. **White Stork:** Seen daily.
30. **Glossy Ibis:** About 40 seen at Mérida on 21st March and one over Almaráz on 22nd March.
31. **Spoonbill:** Five seen at Villamesias on 17th March, also seen at Alcollarín, Mérida and Charco Salado.
32. **Black-winged Kite:** Seen at Saucedilla on 15th March.
33. **Black Kite:** Seen daily.
34. **Red Kite:** Seen on all but one day.
35. **Egyptian Vulture:** Seen at Monfragüe.
36. **Griffon Vulture:** Seen almost every day.
37. **Black Vulture:** Seen daily.
38. **Short-toed Eagle:** Seen almost every day.
39. **Marsh Harrier:** Seen almost every day.
40. **Hen Harrier:** One male seen on 19th March on Campo Lugar plains.
41. **Montagu's Harrier:** One male seen north of Santa Marta de Magasca on 18th March.
42. **Sparrowhawk:** Seen twice.
43. **Common Buzzard:** Seen almost daily.
44. **Spanish Imperial Eagle:** Pair seen in Monfragüe on 20th March.
45. **Golden Eagle:** One seen at Sierra de Utrera on 21st March.
46. **Booted Eagle:** One seen at Alcollarín on 19th March.
47. **Bonelli's Eagle:** One seen near Palazuelo on 16th March and another at River Tamuja on 18th March.
48. **Lesser Kestrel:** Seen on several days.
49. **Common Kestrel:** Seen almost daily.
50. **Merlin:** One seen on 16th March on Campo Lugar plains.
51. **Peregrine:** One juvenile on Santa Marta de Magasca plains on 18th March and one at Monfragüe on 20th.
52. **Water Rail:** Heard on 16th and 22nd March.
53. **Moorhen:** Seen on several days.

54. **Purple Swamphen:** Seen at Mérida and Arrocampo.
55. **Common Coot:** Seen on all large water bodies.
56. **Common Crane:** An adult seen at Villamesias on 17th and 19th March.
57. **Little Bustard:** About a dozen present at Campo Lugar on 16th and 19th March.
58. **Great Bustard:** About 38 seen at Campo Lugar on 16th, two near Santa Marta de Magasca on 18th and 46 at Campo Lugar on 19th March.
59. **Black-winged Stilt:** Seen on several days.
60. **Stone Curlew:** Six seen at Campo Lugar on 19th March.
61. **Little Ringed Plover:** Seen on rice fields and at Villamesias and Alcollarín.
62. **Kentish Plovers:** About eight seen near Palazuelo on 16th March.
63. **Northern Lapwing:** Singles seen on rice fields and at Alcollarín.
64. **Dunlin:** One seen near Palazuelo on 16th March.
65. **Ruff:** At Villamesias, over 40 on 17th March and about a hundred on 19th.
66. **Common Curlew:** Four seen at Palazuelo on 16th March.
67. **Snipe:** Seen on several days.
68. **Black-tailed Godwit:** Two at Alcollarín on 19th March.
69. **Spotted Redshank:** Three at Villamesias on 17th March and also present there on 19th.
70. **Greenshank:** Seen at Alcollarín and Villamesias.
71. **Green Sandpiper:** Seen most days.
72. **Wood Sandpiper:** Three at Villamesias on 17th March and six there on 19th.
73. **Common Sandpiper:** Seen at Villamesias, Alcollarín and Arrocampo.
74. **Gull-billed Tern:** A first winter bird at Alcollarín on 19th March.
75. **Black-headed Gull:** Seen at reservoirs and on the rice fields.
76. **Lesser Black-backed Gull:** Seen almost daily.
77. **Black-bellied Sandgrouse:** Five seen on plains west of Trujillo on 18th March and heard at Campo Lugar on 19th.
78. **Pin-tailed Sandgrouse:** About 40 seen on plains west of Trujillo on 18th March.
79. **Rock Dove/Feral Pigeon:** Seen daily.
80. **Wood Pigeon:** Seen daily.
81. **Collared Dove:** Seen daily.
82. **Monk Parakeet:** Seen in Madrid on 22nd March.
83. **Great Spotted Cuckoo:** Four seen north of Trujillo on 18th March, also seen on 19th March.
84. **Common Cuckoo:** Heard almost daily (from 16th March) and seen on two days.
85. **Scops Owl:** Heard at Pago de San Clemente on 15th March.
86. **Little Owl:** Heard on several days and seen at Campo Lugar on 16th March.
87. **Alpine Swift:** Seen at Mérida, Monfragüe and Alange.
88. **Pallid/Common Swift:** Distant or brief views of swifts in poor light could have been either species.
89. **Kingfisher:** Seen almost daily.
90. **Hoopoe:** Seen daily.
91. **Great Spotted Woodpecker:** Heard on one day.

92. **Lesser Spotted Woodpecker:** Seen at Pago de San Clemente on 16th March and heard on two occasions.
93. **Calandra Lark:** Seen on the plains.
94. **Crested Lark:** Seen almost daily.
95. **Thekla Lark:** Seen almost daily.
96. **Woodlark:** Seen near Jaraicejo on 20th March.
97. **Skylark:** Seen on plains on 16th March.
98. **Sand Martin:** Large numbers at Arrocampo on 15th March and seen on other two days.
99. **Crag Martin:** Seen on several days.
100. **Barn Swallow:** Seen daily.
101. **Red-rumped Swallow:** Seen almost daily.
102. **House Martin:** Seen daily.
103. **Meadow Pipit:** Seen daily.
104. **Water Pipit:** A strong passage through the rice fields on 16th March.
105. **Yellow Wagtail:** Seen on rice fields on 16th March.
106. **Grey Wagtail:** Seen on three days in Pago de San Clemente.
107. **White Wagtail:** Seen daily.
108. **Robin:** Seen most days.
109. **Bluethroat:** One seen on rice fields on 16th March.
110. **Nightingale:** A bird seen briefly at Alange on 21st March.
111. **Black Redstart:** Seen daily.
112. **Stonechat:** Seen daily.
113. **Northern Wheatear:** Seen on plains near Santa Marat de Magasca on 18th March and Campo Lugar on 19th.
114. **Black-eared Wheatear:** One male on rice fields near Palazuelo on 16th March.
115. **Black Wheatear:** One at Alange on 21st March.
116. **Blue Rock Thrush:** Seen at Alange and Monfragüe.
117. **Blackbird:** Seen daily.
118. **Song Thrush:** Seen daily.
119. **Mistle Thrush:** Seen on two days.
120. **Cetti's Warbler:** Recorded every day.
121. **Zitting Cisticola:** Recorded every day.
122. **Savi's Warbler:** One seen at Arrocampo on 22nd March.
123. **Dartford Warbler:** Seen near River Tamuja on 18th March and at Jaraicejo on 20th.
124. **Subalpine Warbler:** seen at Monfragüe on 20th March.
125. **Sardinian Warbler:** Seen daily.
126. **Blackcap:** Seen daily.
127. **Common Chiffchaff:** Seen daily.
128. **Wren:** Seen daily.
129. **Long-Tailed Tit:** Seen on two days.

130. **Crested Tit:** Heard at Miravete Pass.
131. **Blue Tit:** Seen most days.
132. **Great Tit:** Seen daily.
133. **Nuthatch:** Seen at Monfragüe.
134. **Short-toed Treecreeper:** Seen at Jaraicejo.
135. **Penduline Tit:** Seen at Mérida and Arrocampo.
136. **Iberian Grey Shrike:** Seen daily.
137. **Woodchat Shrike:** Seen almost daily.
138. **Jay:** Seen at Monfragüe.
139. **Azure-winged Magpie:** Seen daily.
140. **Magpie:** Seen daily.
141. **Jackdaw:** Seen most days.
142. **Raven:** Seen daily.
143. **Spotless Starling:** Seen daily.
144. **House Sparrow:** Seen daily.
145. **Spanish Sparrow:** Seen daily.
146. **Tree Sparrow:** Seen on rice fields.
147. **Common Waxbill:** Seen near Mérida.
148. **Red Avadavat:** Seen on rice fields.
149. **Chaffinch:** Seen on several days.
150. **Serin:** Seen daily.
151. **Greenfinch:** Seen almost every day.
152. **Goldfinch:** Seen daily.
153. **Linnet:** Seen daily.
154. **Hawfinch:** Seen on three days.
155. **Cirl Bunting:** Seen near Santa Marta de Magasca.
156. **Rock Bunting:** Seen at Monfragüe and Alange.
157. **Corn Bunting:** Seen daily.

Butterflies

1. Swallowtail
2. Spanish Festoon
3. Small White
4. Western Dappled White
5. Green-striped White
6. Orange Tip
7. Clouded Yellow
8. Cleopatra
9. Provence Hairstreak
10. Small Copper
11. Holly Blue
12. Brown Argus
13. Common Blue

14. Nettle-tree Butterfly
15. Large Tortoiseshell
16. Red Admiral
17. Painted Lady
18. Small Heath
19. Speckled Wood
20. Wall Brown
21. Mallow Skipper

Dragonflies

1. Western Clubtail
2. Vagrant Emperor
3. Darter sp, probably Red-veined.

Mammals

1. Red Deer
2. Roe Deer
3. Iberian hare
4. Rabbit

Herptiles

1. Pond Terrapin
2. Spanish Wall Lizard
3. Moorish Gecko
4. Stripeless Tree Frog

Orchids

1. Giant Orchid
2. Bilunulata Sombre Orchid
3. Bumble Bee Orchid
4. Sombre Orchid
5. Early Spider Orchid
6. Yellow Bee Orchid
7. Woodcock Orchid
8. Mirror Orchid
9. Sawfly Orchid
10. Hill Orchid
11. Conical Orchid
12. Champagne Orchid
13. Green-winged Orchid
14. Naked Man Orchid
15. Pink Butterfly Orchid

Overall Highlights

Birds

- Displaying Great Bustards
- Black-bellied Sandgrouse on the ground
- Spanish Imperial Eagle
- Booted Eagle perched

Butterflies

- Spanish Festoon
- Provence Hairstreak

Orchids

- Sombre
- Early Spider

Mammal and Amphibian

- Iberian Hare
- Stripeless Tree Frog

Plants

- Angel's Tears Narcissus
- Iberian Fritillary
- Barbary Nut Iris

Place

- Sierra de Utrera