

BIRDING EXTREMADURA



AUTUMN IN EXTREMADURA FOR JOHN, PETER AND KAREN

Casa Rural El Recuerdo and Birding Extremadura

14th – 24th October 2024



Itinerary

14th October 2024: Collection from Madrid, Arrocampo Reservoir and Pago de San Clemente

15th October 2024: Rice fields near Madrigalejo

16th October 2024: Trujillo and plains near Santa Marta de Magasca

17th October 2024: Campo Lugar plains and Alcollarín Reservoir

18th October 2024: Ruercas valley, Guadalupe and Villuercas Mountains

19th October 2024: Heathland and cork oak woodland near Jaraicejo, River Almonte and Trujillo.

20th October 2024: Parque del Principe, Cáceres, Los Barruecos near Malpartida de Cáceres, and pools to east of town.

21st October 2024: Monfragüe National Park and River Almonte

22nd October 2024: La Serena, Cabeza del Buey and Benquerencia de la Serena

23rd October 2024: Ricefields near Madrigalejo and Moheda Alta

24th October 2024: Return to Madrid

TRIP REPORT

14th October 2024: Collection from Madrid, Arrocampo Reservoir and Pago de San Clemente

John, Peter and Karen arrived ahead of schedule at Madrid airport, so we were able to start the onward trip to Extremadura in very good time. The morning rush hour had eased and so the journey around the southern edge of the city was quite straightforward. Groups of **Monk Parakeets** crossed the sky as we drove. Once out on the motorway to Extremadura, we made a stop for breakfast, enjoying a delicious Spanish tortilla and *café con leche* at the Esparteras bar.

From there we crossed the arable plains of La Mancha, seeing **Red Kites** and **White Storks**. Once into Extremadura, the landscape was more varied, with tracts of the *dehesa* wood pasture as well, and the spectacular backdrop of the Gredos Mountains. We stopped at the Arrocampo Reservoir where we had a walk beside the marsh. Parties of **Barn Swallows** were hawking insects. The recent rain had encouraged much activity by ants, creating little ant “volcanoes” – mounds of excavated earth in the form of rings. It was fascinating watching their hardwork, taking goblets of earth from the deep below.

Highlights of the walk included birds of prey, including a **Bonelli’s** and **Booted Eagles**, **Griffon** and **Black Vultures**. Small birds were actively feeding in the shrubs: **Common Whitethroat**, **Common Chiffchaff** and **Blackcap**, amongst others. As we returned to the car, we had a prolonged view of a **Willow Warbler** feeding, perhaps on tiny aphids.

After lunch at the bar in Saucedilla, we made a short drive to the western side of the reservoir. There were large numbers of **Cattle Egrets** around a farm pond. It was then time to move on to Trujillo, where a short expedition was done to the supermarket. We reached Casa Rural El Recuerdo just before 5pm.



Comet C/2023 A3 Tsuchinshan-ATLAS

A short walk before dinner yielded **Black Redstart**. After dinner, we made a short drive to an area of open terrain and were very fortunate to get a clear view of the Comet C/2023 A3 Tsuchinshan-ATLAS. Its magnificent tail was breathtaking and for a few minutes before it become partially obscured by cloud, the bright head was also easily visible. The soundscape was dominated by mole crickets.

15th October 2024: Rice fields near Madrigalejo

Heavy rain during the night persisted into the morning. With some trepidation we set off after breakfast, southwards passing through the town of Zorita where we stopped to refuel. As we entered the plains south of Zorita, the rain was easing and the sky brightened. Indeed, for the whole day, although there were periods of light rain, we managed to do almost all of our birding without getting wet!

We stopped just north of Madrigalejo, as some roosting **Stone Curlews** had been seen from the road. Looking over some rough pasture with scattered trees, we watched the **Stone Curlews** take to the wing, circle and land again. It was a very memorable sight, with at least sixty birds present. We saw our first **Common Cranes** for the day, a group of half a dozen flying in a line. Taking a small road, we stopped to look at an **Iberian Grey Shrike**. A **Hobby** flew over and at the end of the road, we enjoyed the sight of a large flock of **House Martins**, accompanied by **Red-rumped Swallows** and a **Pallid Swift**.

After coffee in Madrigalejo, we ventured onto the arable land to the south. Here we saw at least three **Black-winged Kites**, the first one watched at length as it hovered and then successfully caught a small mammal. We checked a small body of water, where the water level was too high for waders, but a nice selection of duck was present. Clumps of **Autumn Snowflake**, **Autumn Squill** and **Serotine Narcissus** were in flower where we had parked.

We moved into another area of rice fields for our picnic. **Red Avadavats** were nest building and we saw small groups of **Common Crane** and **White Stork**. A male **Yellow-crowned Bishop** was also seen. We completed the afternoon on the rice fields near Palazuelo. Here we found a series of wet muddy fields, with large numbers of **Black-headed Gulls**, egrets and **Glossy Ibis**. There were perhaps 200 **Black-winged Stilts**, as well as a nice supporting cast of waders such as **Spotted Redshank** and **Wood Sandpiper**. As we left, more **Yellow-crowned Bishops** and **Spanish Sparrows** were seen.

The weather closed-in and rain started on our return to base, with the sky darkening. A small group of **Spoonbill** were present on a pond south of Zorita.

We celebrated John's birthday at dinner, enjoying some excellent local wine and ham.

16th October 2024: Trujillo and plains near Santa Marta de Magasca

There had been heavy rain again during the night and the day broke heavily overcast with drizzle. However, as we headed north to Trujillo, the sky brightened up. After a quick shopping trip, we headed to the open plains west of Trujillo. As we parked, **Woodlarks** were singing at the edge of the *dehesa* woodland, whilst on the plains there were **Crested Larks**, **Thekla Larks** and numerous **Calandra Larks**. As we walked down a track three **Skylarks** flew over: so five

species of lark at one site. A distant **Great Bustard** was visible on the skyline on this vast landscape.



The plains

Moving to an area closer to Cáceres, we had a close view of an adult **Spanish Imperial Eagle** being mobbed by **Lapwings**. **Northern Wheatears** were present along the fence line. And everywhere, of course, larks.

We saw a small group of **Great Bustards** in flight and in trying to find a place to view the ground where we believed they might have landed, we had good views of a pair of **Spanish Imperial Eagles**, circling.

We moved north towards the village of Santa Marta de Magasca, seeing yet another **Spanish Imperial Eagle** on the way.

After coffee in the village square, we moved to the Magasca valley. Here the sign that the river had recently been in spate was obvious with flattened vegetation and debris high in the bankside trees. We watched **Griffon** and **Black Vultures** glide over, whilst the valley sides were covered in autumn flowers, especially **Serotine Narcissus**, **Autumn Snowflake** and some **Autumn Buttercup**. Back on the plains we had our picnic with a glorious 360° vista, made even more impressive by the brooding clouds and shafts of sunshine.

The rest of the afternoon was spent along a drover's trail. Here the flowers were again amazing. We saw a flock of 35 **Little Bustards** in flight, but once they had settled it was hard to find more than three or four, so well camouflaged they were in the tall dry vegetation. A group of **Great Bustards** were in the same field. We were entertained by various creatures on the ground: dragonflies, lizards, a giant centipede amongst others. As we left, a group of **Pin-tailed Sandgouse** flew past in excellent afternoon light.

17th October 2024: Campo Lugar plains and Alcollarín Reservoir

There was rain again during the night and the morning appeared damp with low cloud. Fortunately, as we headed southwards through the town of Zorita and onto the plains, the sky was brightening to the south. As we pulled onto the plains, a **Little Owl** was standing on a pile of stones, turning its head sometimes to reveal the “false eyes” on the back. We parked and took a very pleasant walk along a track, affording us superb views across the plains and to the hills to the west, north and east, all brushed by cloud. There was a fresh wind, which made us glad of the extra layers of clothing! We had excellent views of a group of **Great Bustard** in flight and on the ground, saw good numbers of **Calandra Larks**, a **Red Kite** being robbed of its meal by a pair of **Ravens**, a flock of **Common Crane** and, briefly, a **Hen Harrier**. Perhaps most memorable were the shimmering sheets of **Serotine Narcissus**, nodding in the breeze and looking like a dusting of snow.

After coffee in Campo Lugar we headed to the village of Alcollarín. We stopped beside the river, having lovely views of a group of **Common Waxbill** and found a superb **Stripeless Tree Frog**, as well as shield bugs on **Thorn Apple** which grew profusely there. A dark-phase **Booted Eagle** soared overhead. We moved then to the Alcollarín Reservoir, stopping for our picnic in a belt of holm oak. Here there were several **African Grass Blue** butterflies, tiny butterflies taking advantage of the first of the afternoon sunshine. **Red-veined** and **Common Darters**, as well as a **Migrant Hawker** were present too.



Female Red-veined Darter

Returning to the banks of the reservoir, as a squadron of **Griffon Vultures** was streaming overhead, we identified some distant waders, including a **Little Stint**, and our first **Spoonbills** of the day. More **Spoonbills** were visible from the western shore, where we spent the rest of the afternoon. The light was superb, with bands of sunshine and a rather gale-tossed water surface. The most memorable of all was the sight of perhaps five hundred **Little Grebe**, forming

a dense raft on the water surface, with a few **Great Crested** and **Black-necked Grebes** amongst them. This concentration of **Little Grebe** was mesmerising to watch and concluded a fascinating and enjoyable day.

18th October 2024: Ruercas valley, Guadalupe and Villuercas Mountains

It was a fresher day today, the temperature lower than it has been so far, accentuated by a strong westerly wind. Banks of cloud rolled across the sky. We drove south-east, through Zorita, Logrosán and Cañamero. We stopped at the spectacular gorge of the Ruercas River, with sheer smooth quartzite strata on either side of the river. **Blue Rock Thrush** perched on the top of pinnacles and **Crag Martins** hawked insects. A juvenile **Marsh Harrier** flying overhead was unexpected in such habitat. Perhaps most memorable was an immaculate **Common Swallowtail** which sunned itself close to us.



Common Swallowtail

From there it was a short drive to Guadalupe, and we passed below the impressive railway viaduct just before the town. We walked to the main square and entered the basilica for a visit to admire the glorious altar. Afterwards we sat in the sunshine to enjoy a coffee and then walked along one of the attractive little streets leading down from the square.

We stopped to view the monastery first from below and then from above, where the small road into the heart of the mountains left the main road. A **Geniez's Wall Lizard** was basking, appropriately on a low wall. Ascending through mixed woodland, we stopped once we had a wonderful view northwards along the sincline of the Viejas Valley. We walked to the nearby snow well, with **Dartford Warblers** calling from the scrub. A pair of **Common Buzzard** were vocal, and a **Goshawk** flew high overhead.

Rising to the summit, we stopped to have a fabulous view of a **Horseshoe Whip Snake** basking on the road. When it finally decided to move, it did so in a characteristic sideways whip-like action. At the summit we were standing within the cloud ceiling, with misty conditions alternating with clearer skies. The views across the wave-like series of ridges were stunning. There were parties of **Black Redstart**, a **Blue Rock Thrush** and we were lucky enough to find a group of five migrant **Ring Ouzels**, a rare sighting in Extremadura.



Ring Ouzels

From the summit we took the small road northwards, to follow the Almonte River, before heading to Deleitosa and then the motorway south to Trujillo, for a quick visit to the supermarket.

19th October 2024: Heathland and cork oak woodland near Jaraicejo, River Almonte and Trujillo.

It was a calm morning with patches of high cloud. We took the road northwards towards the small town of Jaraicejo, continuing onto a high plateau of lavender and rock rose heath. **Woodlarks** and **Thekla Larks** sang as we arrived and very soon we were getting wonderful views of **Dartford Warbler**. Vultures streamed overhead, heading to the plains to the south of us.

We entered a cork oak grove, a magical place with small birds in the canopy: **Firecrests**, **Common Chiffchaffs**, **Nuthatches**. We watched **Short-toed Treecreepers** on the boughs. **Jays** gave their harsh calls. A **Sparrowhawk** glided and flapped over the canopy whilst higher up a **Bonelli's Eagle** made an appearance. The fallen boughs of cork oak were a haven for small insects, lizards and as a substrate for fungi. Dung beetles were active. We had a lovely view of two young **Red Deer** stags.

After a coffee we moved onto the River Almonte south of Jaraicejo. Vultures soared overhead and a pair of **Spanish Imperial Eagle** made a brief appearance. Small birds included **Rock Sparrow**, **Grey Wagtail** and **Linnets**. We completed the afternoon exploring the historic centre of Trujillo, enjoying too the sight of groups of **Crag Martins**, **House Martins** and **Red-rumped Swallows** perched on the walls of the old buildings.



Trujillo

20th October 2024: Parque del Principe, Cáceres, Los Barruecos near Malpartida de Cáceres, and pools to east of town.

We enjoyed a warm and calm day weatherwise, which proved very productive for insects and reptiles. Indeed, before we had set off, we had already seen a **Turkish Gecko** in a small electricity box in the wall. We headed west, stopping at the Parque del Principe in the centre of the Cáceres, the provincial capital. It is a beautiful park, with a grand diversity of trees and it was quite peaceful for a Sunday morning of good weather. We enjoyed several close sightings of **Iberian Magpies**. Indeed nowhere else are they as habituated to people, being normally a rather shy bird.

We stopped for coffee in the small town of Malpartida de Cáceres, and then continued to its western outskirts where there is the area of spectacular granite outcrops, Los Barruecos. A small pool proved rich in water birds including **Spotted Redshank**, **Snipe** and **Black-winged Stilt**. Two species of terrapin were present. Nearby is the Vostell Museum and one of the sculptures so this avant-garde German artist is outside the museum: a MIG fighter jet and two Lada Cars, equipped with storks' nests. The museum is the old wool-washing installation, and we stood on the pool holding the water for the process, looking across to storks' nests on granite boulders. At a nearby marsh we had our lunch, watching **Red-rumped Swallows** and two **Reed Warblers**.



Western Willow Spreadwing

We spent an extremely productive afternoon beside some pools to the east of the town. Here we found no fewer than nine species of dragonfly, including three species of spreadwing. Several species, such as **Small Spreadwing**, **Lesser Emperor** and **Red-veined Darter** were busy ovipositing. A party of **White Stork** circled overhead, and a small group of **Common Cranes** passed close to them. The reptiles present were fascinating: **Geniez's Wall Lizard** and, most exciting, two **Spiny-footed Lizards**.



Spiny-footed Lizard

21st October 2024: Monfragüe National Park and River Almonte

A clear and sunny morning as we crossed an almost endless landscape of *dehesa* north of Trujillo, but as we approached the southern ridge of the Monfragüe National Park, we could see fog curling downwards over the slope of the ridge. We parked on the side of the ridge below the castle and walked through the enchanting misty and mossy trees which grew from the fissures in the rocky outcrops. It was magical. At the castle, there were gaps in the mist, enabling us to look down on the canopy of holm oak, cork oak and wild olives on the southern side of the ridge. Most of the birds recorded were heard rather than seen: **Short-toed Treecreeper**, **Black Redstart** and **Chaffinches**.



Mist near Monfragüe Castle

We returned to the car and made a stop at the Salto de Gitano viewpoint. The top of the massive cliff was still in mist but below that we could see **Griffon Vultures** hunched up disappointingly. **Crag Martins** sought insects close to the cliff.

After coffee at the Villareal de San Carlos hamlet, still rather shrouded in mist we moved north-eastwards in search of clear skies and sunshine. These we found at the Portilla del Tiétar, having seen several **Red Deer** en route. At the viewpoint there, the vultures were barely moving from their enforced stupor: stretching their wings and a few making desultory flights. There was more action as the air warmed-up: **Red Kites** and a **Buzzard** joined the **Black** and **Griffon Vultures** circling above the rock. **Autumn Snowflakes** were growing on the banks and the **Strawberry Trees** bore almost ripe-red fruit, as well as their fresh bell-like flowers.

We had our picnic at the Tajadilla viewpoint and then moved to the Tagus river where we enjoyed a short walk beside the mixed forest on the north-facing slope of the castle ridge. The highlight of this was a wonderful sighting of up to five **Two-tailed Pashas**, several resting whilst others were gliding around or chasing rivals. We paused again at the Salto de Gitano to take in the spectacular sight of the cliff in full sunshine and vultures gliding close to us.



River Almonte

The afternoon was nicely rounded-off with a walk beside the River Almonte. **Western Willow Spreadwings** were common in the vegetation by the path. We enjoyed the spectacle of a young **Golden Eagle** flapping past and then slowly rising on a thermal, eventually to be joined by a young **Spanish Imperial Eagle** and an adult. It was excellent to see the two species together, especially as there were several mid-air tumbles as the slightly smaller **Spanish Imperial Eagles** tried to mob the **Golden Eagle**. It was a wonderful reward for our patience!

22nd October 2024: La Serena, Cabeza del Buey and Benquerencia de la Serena



La Serena

We had a slightly earlier start than usual to make the long drive to the extreme south-east of Extremadura. We crossed the amazing wide expanse of La Serena, a vast plain rimmed by rocky hills. Here millions of **Serotine Narcissus** flowered as blankets across the fields, like a dusting of snow. We saw a group of **Great Bustards**, standing sentinel on the skyline. We took a short walk along a drovers' trail, **Calandra Larks** singing above us and a field full of sheep that were convinced that we were bringing them feed.

At Cabeza del Buey we stopped for a coffee and met Antonio who escorted us to his small farm on the hillside north of the town. We walked through his olive groves, seeing trenches that had been used by Republican soldiers during the Spanish Civil War. He pointed out the location on the plains of a Civil War airstrip that would bring in supplies to the beleaguered forces and civilian population at Cabeza del Buey. The food was stored in a cave excavated by soldiers into the bedrock within Antonio's farm. It was here that Antonio and his son have started a business to ripen cheeses in the cave, the only such venture in the whole of Extremadura. Antonio showed us the shelves of cheeses in this extraordinary cave. We then enjoyed a wonderful tasting of no fewer than 15 cheeses, accompanied by four wines (three of them from Extremadura). His passion about his cheese was infectious. We learnt a great deal about both the history of Spain and how this cave now produces award-winning cheese, all carefully selected from local producers.

As we stood outside the cave afterwards, enjoying a glass of Cava, a **Spanish Imperial Eagle** was sky-dancing above us.



The cheese cave

We bade farewell to Antonio and then drove to Benquerencia de la Serna for a short walk up to the magnificent castle. In the sunshine we watched several **Black Wheatears** and **Blue Rock Thrush**. As memorable was the amazing views across the landscape, which Karen enjoyed by walking higher up into the castle.

23rd October 2024: Ricefields near Madrigalejo and Moheda Alta

It was a very mild morning with clear skies, signalling a day of warm sunshine. As we left Pago de San Clemente, we saw a **Hawfinch** perched on the top of a dead tree, our first clear view of one this week. We headed south of Zorita and made an impromptu stop to enjoy the sight of five **Great Bustards** feeding in a nearby field in excellent light.



Great Bustard

Passing by the Sierra Brava reservoir, we made a quick stop at rice fields south of the dam, where we saw our first **Common Cranes** of the day, a hunting male **Hen Harrier** and a newly arrived **Water Pipit**. We then stopped beside the River Ruercas, where a **Booted Eagle** flew overhead and **Yellow-crowned Bishops** were present in the emergent vegetation. Onto the rice fields near Palazuelo, we saw more groups of **Common Cranes**, as well as **White Storks**. It was stopping to watch a large party of **Common Cranes** that we became aware of a flurry of alarmed **Common Snipe** and just seconds later a fine male **Pallid Harrier** swung into view. Very different in behaviour to the **Hen Harrier** seen earlier, this bird sped low overground and then swung upwards and down again, in the fashion of a hunting falcon. From the same spot we also had a superb view of a male **Bluethroat**.



Pallid Harrier

It was time for coffee, so we returned to Madrigalejo for an excellent and welcome stop. Driving eastwards, we stopped in the *dehesa* of Moheda Alta. Here there was a stunning carpet of **Autumn Buttercup** in flower. This was a great stop for our picnic, with a **Woodlark** singing overhead. We watched a **Great Potter Wasp** gathering clay, as well as a smaller potter wasp species. **Epaulet Skimmers** were also present.



Moheda Alta

Nearby was the water body we had visited a few days earlier but we returned to explore its banks for dragonflies. There was an amazing number of **Violet Dropwings** and **Broad Scarlets**, as well as some very fresh **Red-veined Darters**.



Violet Dropwing

We conclude the afternoon at the rice fields of Vegas Altas. We didn't manage to find Black Perchers, but we had put in considerable effort, the conditions were excellent, so perhaps it was simply too late in the season for them. It was though a very pleasant conclusion of the afternoon, and the other dragonflies there kept us royally entertained.

24th October 2024: Return to Madrid

We left under mantle of stars at 04.45 for our return to Madrid. It was a straight run through (there were no places open for a coffee) and it was smooth-running until the Madrid ring road when we met the rush-hour traffic. Despite that we arrived at Terminal at exactly the hour that was planned: 08.00, ready to check-in for the flight home.

LIST OF BIRDS SEEN

1. **Mute Swan:** One on lake in Trujillo.
2. **Egyptian Goose:** Seen almost everyday.
3. **Grey Lag Goose:** A small party at Moheda Alta on 24th October.
4. **Wigeon:** Seen at Alcollarín and Moheda Alta.
5. **Gadwall:** Seen at Moheda Alta and Alcollarín.
6. **Teal:** Seen most days.
7. **Mallard:** Seen almost every day.
8. **Pintail:** Seen at Alcollarín.
9. **Shoveler:** Seen on four days.

10. **Common Pochard:** Seen at Moheda Alta on 15th October.
11. **Red-legged Partridge:** Seen at Monfragüe.
12. **Little Grebe:** Seen most days. The huge rafts at Alcollarín was one of the highlights of the holiday.
13. **Great Crested Grebe:** Seen on four days.
14. **Black-necked Grebe:** Seen at Alcollarín.
15. **Great Cormorant:** Seen most days.
16. **Little Bittern:** Heard at Arrocampo on 14th October.
17. **Squacco Heron:** One seen briefly on the rice fields on 15th October.
18. **Cattle Egret:** Seen on three days.
19. **Little Egret:** Seen most days.
20. **Great Egret:** Seen on most days.
21. **Grey Heron:** Seen almost every day.
22. **White Stork:** Seen on almost every day, including migrating parties.
23. **Glossy Ibis:** Seen on the rice fields.
24. **Spoonbill:** Seen on the rice fields and Alcollarín Reservoir.
25. **Griffon Vulture:** Seen almost every day.
26. **Black Vulture:** Seen almost daily.
27. **Spanish Imperial Eagle:** Three seen on the plains on 16th October, two over the River Almonte on 19th and three over the River Almonte on 21st and one at Cabeza del Buey on 22nd.
28. **Golden Eagle:** One over River Almonte on 21st October.
29. **Booted Eagle:** Seen on four days.
30. **Bonelli's Eagle:** Seen at Arrocampo, near Jaraicejo and at Benquerencia.
31. **Red Kite:** Seen every day.
32. **Marsh Harrier:** Seen almost every day in a great variety of habitats.
33. **Hen Harrier:** One seen near Campo Lugar and another on rice fields near Casas del Hitos.
34. **Pallid Harrier:** A male seen near Palazuelo rice fields on 23rd October.
35. **Common Buzzard:** Seen almost every day.
36. **Sparrowhawk:** Seen on two days.
37. **Goshawk:** One seen in Villuercas Mountains on 18th October.
38. **Black-winged Kite:** Three near Madrigalejo on 15th October and two on 22nd October.
39. **Common Kestrel:** Seen almost every day.
40. **Peregrine Falcon:** One seen at Arrocampo.
41. **Hobby:** One seen near Madrigalejo on 15th October.
42. **Water Rail:** Heard on two days.
43. **Moorhen:** Seen on several days.
44. **Common Coot:** Seen on three days.
45. **Common Crane:** Seen on five days with increasing numbers through the week.
46. **Little Bustard:** A flock of 35 seen on plains north-west of Trujillo on 16th October. A small group seen on La Serena on 22nd.
47. **Great Bustard:** Seen on four days, including almost thirty on 16th October and a close group of five south of Zorita on 23rd October.
48. **Black-winged Stilt:** Over 200 on the rice fields on 15th October. Seen also on 20th at Malpartida de Cáceres.
49. **Stone Curlew:** About 60 seen near Madrigalejo on 15th October.
50. **Ringed Plover:** Seen at Alcollarín Reservoir.

51. **Little Ringed Plover:** Seen on three days.
52. **Kentish Plover:** Seen at Alcollarín Reservoir.
53. **Northern Lapwing:** Seen almost every day.
54. **Dunlin:** Seen on rice fields and at Alcollarín.
55. **Little Stint:** Seen at Alcollarín Reservoir.
56. **Common Snipe:** Seen on four days.
57. **Black-tailed Godwit:** Two seen on rice fields on 23rd October.
58. **Common Redshank:** Seen on rice fields on 15th October.
59. **Spotted Redshank:** Seen on rice fields and at Malpartida de Cáceres.
60. **Greenshank:** Seen on rice fields, Alcollarín and Malpartida de Cáceres.
61. **Green Sandpiper:** Seen on four days.
62. **Wood Sandpiper:** Seen on the rice fields on 15th October.
63. **Common Sandpiper:** Seen on four days.
64. **Black-headed Gull:** Seen on five days.
65. **Lesser Black-backed Gull:** Seen on four days.
66. **Black-bellied Sandgrouse:** Seen on the Campo Lugar plains.
67. **Pin-tailed Sandgrouse:** Seen on plains between Trujillo and Cáceres.
68. **Feral Pigeon:** Seen daily.
69. **Wood Pigeon:** Seen most days.
70. **Stock Dove:** A small group on plains north-west of Trujillo on 16th October.
71. **Collared Dove:** Seen daily.
72. **Little Owl:** Seen on Campo Lugar plains and heard at Pago de San Clemente.
73. **Alpine Swift:** One seen near Santa Marta de Magasca on 16th October.
74. **Pallid Swift:** Seen at Alcollarín and near Santa Marta de Magasca.
75. **Monk Parakeet:** Seen in Madrid.
76. **Kingfisher:** Seen most days.
77. **Hoopoe:** Seen almost every day.
78. **Great Spotted Woodpecker:** Seen near Jaraicejo on 19th October.
79. **Lesser Spotted Woodpecker:** Heard near Jaraicejo.
80. **Calandra Lark:** Seen on the plains.
81. **Crested Lark:** Seen almost every day.
82. **Thekla Lark:** Seen most days.
83. **Woodlark:** Seen on plains west of Trujillo, at Jaraicejo and at Moheda Alta.
84. **Skylark:** Seen at Arrocampo and plains west of Trujillo.
85. **Crag Martin:** Seen most days.
86. **Barn Swallow:** Seen at Arrocampo and the River Almonte.
87. **Red-rumped Swallow:** Seen on four days.
88. **House Martin:** Seen on five days.
89. **Water Pipit:** One seen at Casas del Hitos on 23rd October.
90. **Meadow Pipit:** Seen almost daily.
91. **Grey Wagtail:** Seen on five days.
92. **White Wagtail:** Seen on several days.
93. **Wren:** Seen on several days.
94. **Robin:** Seen almost daily.
95. **Bluethroat:** Seen on the rice fields on 23rd October.
96. **Black Redstart:** Seen almost daily.
97. **Stonechat:** Seen daily.
98. **Whinchat:** One seen on rice fields on 15th October.

99. **Northern Wheatear:** Seen on two days.
100. **Black Wheatear:** At least four seen at Benquerencia castle on 23rd October.
101. **Blue Rock Thrush:** Seen in Villuercas Mountains, Monfragüe and Benquerencia.
102. **Blackbird:** Seen daily.
103. **Ring Ouzel:** Five present in Villuercas Mountains on 18th October.
104. **Mistle Thrush:** Seen near Jaraicejo.
105. **Song Thrush:** Seen on two days.
106. **Cetti's Warbler:** Recorded most days.
107. **Zitting Cisticola:** Seen on most days.
108. **Reed Warbler:** Two at Malpartida de Cáceres on 20th October.
109. **Dartford Warbler:** Seen or heard on four days.
110. **Sardinian Warbler:** Recorded every day.
111. **Common Whitethroat:** Seen at Arrocampo.
112. **Blackcap:** Seen most days.
113. **Common Chiffchaff:** Recorded almost every day.
114. **Willow Warbler:** One at Arrocampo on 14th October.
115. **Firecrest:** Seen on two days.
116. **Long-tailed Tit:** Seen on three days.
117. **Crested Tit:** Heard in the Villuercas Mountains.
118. **Blue Tit:** Seen most days.
119. **Great Tit:** Seen most days.
120. **Nuthatch:** Recorded on two days.
121. **Short-toed Treecreeper:** Recorded on three days.
122. **Iberian Grey Shrike:** Seen almost daily.
123. **Jay:** Seen on three days.
124. **Iberian Magpie:** Seen daily.
125. **Magpie:** Seen almost daily.
126. **Jackdaw:** Seen on three days.
127. **Raven:** Seen daily.
128. **Spotless Starling:** Seen daily.
129. **House Sparrow:** Seen daily.
130. **Spanish Sparrow:** Seen on several days.
131. **Tree Sparrow:** Seen on the rice fields on 23rd October.
132. **Rock Sparrow:** Seen on three days.
133. **Common Waxbill:** Seen on three days.
134. **Red Avadavat:** Seen on the rice fields.
135. **Yellow-crowned Bishop:** Seen on the rice fields.
136. **Chaffinch:** Seen most days.
137. **Serin:** Seen on several days.
138. **Greenfinch:** Seen on two days.
139. **Goldfinch:** Seen on five days.
140. **Linnet:** Seen on three days.
141. **Bullfinch:** Heard at Malpartida de Cáceres.
142. **Hawfinch:** Seen on four days.
143. **Rock Bunting:** Seen in Monfragüe.
144. **Corn Bunting:** Seen most days.

MAMMALS SEEN

1. Red Fox
2. Red Deer
3. Rabbit
4. Pipistrelle Bat sp.

REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS SEEN

1. Natterjack Toad
2. Stripeless Tree Frog
3. Iberian Water Frog
4. European Pond Terrapin
5. Spanish Terrapin
6. Moorish Gecko
7. Turkish Gecko
8. Spiny-footed Lizard
9. Large Psammodromus
10. Western Psammodromus
11. Geniez's Wall Lizard
12. Horseshoe Whip Snake
13. Montpellier Snake

BUTTERFLIES SEEN

1. Common Swallowtail
2. Large White
3. Small White
4. Bath White
5. Clouded Yellow
6. Brimstone
7. Cleopatra
8. Small Copper
9. Lang's Short-tailed Blue
10. African Grass Blue
11. Southern Brown Argus
12. Common Blue
13. Red Admiral
14. Two-tailed Pasha
15. Speckled Wood
16. Wall Brown
17. Meadow Brown

DRAGONFLIES SEEN

1. Small Spreadwing
2. Migrant Spreadwing
3. Western Willow Spreadwing
4. Blue-eye
5. Iberian Bluetail
6. Migrant Hawker

7. Lesser Emperor
8. Epaulet Skimmer
9. Long Skimmer
10. Common Darter
11. Red-veined Darter
12. Broad Scarlet
13. Violet Dropwing

OTHER WILDLIFE

Signal Crayfish

Giant Centipede

Hummingbird Hawkmoth

Green Tiger Beetle

Dung beetles

Great Potter Wasp

Eumenes subpomiformis (another potter wasp)

PLANTS

Autumn Snowflake

Autumn Squill

Sea Squill

Serotine Narcissus

Autumn Buttercup