

Coto Donana and Extremadura via Faro.

19-26 March 2013.

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My now almost annual trip to this excellent area of Europe (tenth visit), found me accompanied by two Northumberland stalwarts. Having never been in March before, we expected to see a nice mix of winter visitors, passage migrants and summer arrivals. So it proved.

Combining the two separate areas gave us the most varied habitats and a great number and variety of species. We covered habitats such as coastal wetlands with large reed-beds, saltpans and lakes, to vast, open grass-land steppe, rugged hills and mountains and extensive Oak woodlands.

Easy Jet flights to Newcastle to Faro, Portugal at 2hours 50 mins each way were hassle free. We picked up the hire car after a short delay, as they were cleaning it. I drove off to the nearby Ludo Farm saltpans, proceeding to get it dirty immediately!

Here you can be birding five minutes after leaving the airport! Birds noted included, several displaying Kentish Plover, 5 Greenshank, Black winged Stilts, Dunlin, Red Crested Pochards, Osprey, Booted Eagle, and Common Buzzard. A roost of 26 Spoonbills, several Little Egrets, White Storks, Azure Winged Magpies and a calling Green Woodpecker (later seen), and large flocks of feeding hirundines; Red rumped Swallows, Swallows, House and Sand Martins and a few Common and Pallid Swifts. On pools, Great crested and Little Grebes displayed and called, and several Shelduck, Teal, Tufted Duck and Gadwall noted.

Time was getting on for our drive to the town of Aznalcazar, on the edge of the Donana National Park, where we were to stay for the first two nights in the excellent Hotel Lince. No time this year to call at the marshes at El Rocio

en-route, as darkness began to fall.

The following morning, after a cold start, bright, sunny conditions prevailed and the first stop was at a White Stork tree nesting colony at Villamanrique. Close approach allowed for some nice photographs, as birds courted, built nests and mated, with much bill clattering. A Hoopoe called from below the colony and Sardinian Warblers flitted by. Our first of many migrant Woodchat Shrikes popped up on a fence post, scanning below for prey, as Crested Larks chased each other and sang. The warm sun was welcome after wintery North East England.

We headed south, along the Corredor Verde. Much rain had been falling here throughout March, most welcome by the local farmers and birdlife. However, we found our way blocked by a flooded ford and had to take a detour. It had been the wettest March in Spain for 44 years. Rivers in spate and reservoirs full.

Flocks of Glossy Ibis and Flamingos fed at close range in flooded fields with several Spoonbills and a single Black tailed Godwit.

Back in April 1998 on my first visit here, we saw hundreds of nesting Collared Pratincoles. Today, a single bird appeared, closely followed by six others. Perhaps the first of the incoming breeders? More Ibis totalling around 500 were counted, then a flock of 45 Night Herons circled several times above, looking for a safe roost site in the roadside reeds. More Flamingos, bringing our count to 700-800.

At regular intervals along the quiet road, were newly arrived migrant Woodchat Shrikes. Then we spotted four Common Cranes, the last of the thousands that spend the winter in the area, before heading north. Several Common and Lesser Kestrels were hunting, and migrant Black Kites were present in good numbers, as were Red Kites and Booted Eagles. One,

possibly two Ospreys and a Black Shouldered Kite then seen. A thermal of several dozen White Storks soared to our left.

More species then appeared in the form of six Marsh Harriers, a male Hen Harrier and a Purple Heron, with the Woodchat count increasing. Seven Great White Egrets were counted, all feeding alone, and Purple Gallinules were calling loudly in the roadside reeds and pools. Then a nice surprise in the form of a Wryneck in bushes along the now deteriorating road. Around a hundred Shoveler were counted out on the marsh, and above hawked many hirundines and swifts, including Pallid.

From now on, the surface becomes a sandy track, which used to be a pothole nightmare, until many miles were filled with sand and smoothed over last April. This greatly improving driving conditions along these raised marshland tracks. In the warm sun butterflies began to appear, including several Large Whites, two Clouded Yellows and two Red Admirals and some Painted Ladies.

On the track ahead, we spotted a group of feeding Lesser Short Toed Larks and here Calandra Larks were singing and displaying in good numbers. Ditches contained Fan tailed Warblers, Grey Herons and Little Egrets.

As we turned west for the Jose Valverde visitor centre, yet more Flamingos were counted, with hundreds feeding out in the marsh. In the distance, we spotted a nice male Montagu's Harrier hunting along the marsh edge. White Storks were at their nests on buildings here.

Arriving at the centre, we were as ever, alone at this remote Donana outpost, apart from a few centre staff. Very few of the general public make the trip out here, some 50 kilometres from El Rocio, and the other visitor centres. The building houses a good exhibition of birds and wildlife and serves very good coffee and cake! The huge picture windows overlook marshy pools with

nesting colonies of Glossy Ibis and Purple Herons. Many species of duck and wader can be seen too. Birds seen from here on previous visits, have included Penduline Tits, Marbled Teal, Crested Coot and Pin - tailed Sangrouse.

Just to the west are more extensive wetlands , this year containing good water levels. Here we saw Pintail, Mallard , Teal and Gadwall, all in good numbers , as well as Great crested , Little and sixteen Black necked Grebes. Many Red crested Pochard , Shoveler, Pochard and more Flamingos.

Leaving here and turning north, we saw a female Hen Harrier heading in the same direction, then at an old pumping station, a nesting colony of Lesser Kestrels ,which unfortunately did not allow close approach. Fifteen birds were counted. They perched along telegraph wires, returning to the old building as soon as we left.

Several hundred Black winged Stilts were still flocking, not yet paired up for the season, and four more Black tailed Godwits flew by. Flocks of Glossy Ibis , around a hundred in total were noted, and a group of twenty Cattle Egrets flew towards us. Twenty or so Yellow Wagtails foraged in a field, where three Iberian Hares were spotted.

In roadside ditches we saw three Green Sandpipers, more Grey Herons and Little Egrets. Fan tailed Warblers and more Lesser Short Toed Larks. Above us, many Calandras sang. Three more Great White Egrets noted and a Montagu's , two Hen Harriers and seven Marsh Harriers glided by hunting. As we drove back towards the hotel, a total of six Booted Eagles completed a very good day. A good meal, a review of the day's birds and a couple of beers rounded off a good day.

Next morning dawned cold and foggy, but soon cleared as we set off, heading north on the very good, quiet dual carriageway up to Zafra , then north east for the steppe country of La Serena. Great improvements in the Spanish roads

have recently cut journey times considerably. Turning off the main road near Usagre however, we were on traffic free backroads, birding once more. We saw a group of around 150 Griffon Vultures soaring on thermals as the day warmed up. One Black Vulture was spotted with them and a female Montagu's Harrier headed north. Other birds seen along the way at a roadside halt, included a Short toed Eagle, several Lesser Kestrels, six Ravens, Woodchat and Southern Grey Shrikes, Red rumped Swallows, Red legged Partridges. Linnets, Corn Buntings and Crested Larks were very common.

La Serena is one of the best steppe areas remaining in Europe and has recently received some protection, hoping to prevent further degradation of its grassland habitats and associated species. At our first stop, one of these, Great Bustard, was seen immediately not too far from the car. A group of twenty grazed a field eventually taking off, flying below a ridge and out of sight.

Calls alerted us to flocks of both Black Bellied and Pin-tailed Sandgrouse, another speciality of the area. Four Black Bellied and twenty two Pin-tails noted, always landing just out of sight. Then, as we scanned around three male and two female Montagu's were seen hunting, always a joy to watch. Calandra, Crested and Short toed Lark song filled the air and flocks of wintering Meadow Pipits, Linnets and Goldfinches foraged, soon to head off to Northern Europe to breed.

A few Skylarks here too, another winter visitor to the region. A Little Owl was spotted on some rocks, then we approached a Great Bustard lek site where two groups of birds gathered, twenty five and thirty eight in number. A few were watched displaying, seeming to turn themselves completely inside out in a mass of white feathers, while the females looked on, unimpressed! Suddenly, a flock of some seventy Little Bustards made an nice sight, as they flew in to land, not yet having paired up for the breeding season. This

explained the lack of any calling males. More Sandgrouse of both species sped past, calling, and thirteen more Little Bustards were counted.

At the roadside, a Eucalyptus copse in the otherwise flat, featureless landscape was proving very attractive as a roost site for several species as evening approached. Seven Lesser Kestrels, four Red Kites and four Hoopoes gathered here, as did a few Chiffchaffs and a Robin. Then a Common Buzzard joined them, only to see us and promptly fly off! As the sun set, we headed off to our guest house for the night in the village of Puebla de Alcocer.

Something of a shock here, as they had got their dates wrong and expected us the following evening, but all was sorted and we settled in for the evening.

Next morning dawned wet and foggy but quickly cleared as we drove to an area of rice paddies where birds seen included flocks of Azure winged Magpies and Spanish Sparrows, many hundreds of the latter. Meadow Pipits fed in the damp fields and Cettis Warblers called. A Cuckoo also called and six Black Kites and a dark phase Booted Eagle seen above. Twenty Cattle Egrets and nesting White Storks, a male Stonechat and a Common Snipe added to our list. Also here were dozens of Waxbills and a few Red Avadavats, both of which nest in good numbers.

Onward to a reservoir at Sierra Brava, which proved quiet as we enjoyed a picnic lunch. One highlight was a sky-dancing male Montagu's Harrier and then a pair of Great bustards performed a fly-past. Five Black Kites and a Marsh Harrier were next and eleven Griffons soared in the distance. Several pairs of Great Crested Grebes and Cormorants fished the lake.

A road through some good steppe country followed, where a feeding group of twenty four Great Bustards were found, as many Calandra Larks sang loudly all around us, sparred for territory and chased females. Suddenly a group of Vultures and Kites we assumed had been feeding out of sight on the ground, appeared right over us, two massive Blacks among the Griffons. Two

male Harriers then appeared, a Hen and a Marsh, followed by three Common Buzzards.

We now headed for a different habitat in the wooded hills of the Berzocana Valley, where species seen, included several Short toed Treecreepers, a Nuthatch, a Jay, Great spotted Woodpecker, three Woodchats, Blackcap, Iberian Chiffchaff, Azure winged Magpies, and three Southern Grey Shrikes. In the air, soared a Short toed Eagle and thirty Griffons. Then a Peregrine Falcon appeared from a crag. Red and Black Kites noted and several Crag Martins and Red Rumped Swallows. Blue and Great Tits, Blackbirds and Chaffinches in the woods and a Raven and Booted Eagle above. Further on at another halt, a Woodlark was singing and up to twelve more were found foraging on the ground among the Cork Oaks. Mistle Thrush and a female Black Redstart seen too. In the gathering dusk, we headed towards Trujillo and our next hotel, seeing ten Black Kites and three Red along the way. Also a Stone Curlew was calling as darkness fell.

The next morning was again wet and cold, 5-6 degrees only, as we arrived at the Trujillo bullring, with its famous nesting Lesser Kestrels. The males arrive back from Africa as early as February, in fact a small number never leave Spain and we counted twenty five birds in total. There was much calling and pre-breeding activity, many birds inspecting nesting cavities beneath the roof tiles of the bullring, landing at close range. Nearby pools held several pairs of Little ringed Plover and some feeding Sand Martins and Swallows. We retired to a nearby cafe for a warming coffee or two and some croissants.

The rain was clearing as we now headed west into good woodland and steppe habitats and the sun broke through. At our first stop we heard a calling Cuckoo, saw Thekla Larks displaying and singing, Woodlarks, three Hoopoes, a Woodchat Shrike, Blackcap and four Booted Eagles. Then several Kites, both Red and Black and Common Buzzard appeared. A pair of Great spotted

Cuckoos were heard, then flew from a nearby wood, calling as they flew.

I was heading for a raptor watching hotspot, which had turned up trumps the previous year and again, it proved superb. As the sun warmed up the day nicely, out came the birds of prey! Eight each of Common Buzzard and Black Kite appeared, several Red Kites too. Then a pair of immature Spanish Imperial Eagles displaying together, the male gaining height, then plunging down only to soar upwards again, then repeating the spectacle.

Immediately to their left in the sky, was a pair of adult Golden Eagles . We were thrilled as the male began his roller-coaster display flight too, also gaining height, then stooping to quickly soar upwards once more. Great stuff! Slightly overshadowed, but still wanting to show off his skills in the air to the circling female nearby, was a Black Stork soaring in slow motion with head and neck up-stretched in display. Not a common sight at all.

Twenty five Griffons glided on thermals above and two Black Vultures joined them, with to the right, several Booted Eagles of both light and dark colour phases and yet more Black Kites. Nowhere else in Europe rivals this area for raptor watching.

Dragging ourselves reluctantly away from this spot, we dropped down to the River Tamuja , where a lucky stop saw yet another eagle species appear as a Bonelli's Eagle circled very low nearby, then flew right past us, giving great views. A Booted Eagle, then some Griffons, Black and Red Kites also in the air here.

Lunch beckoned and in a cool breeze, a likely spot was found with good views over open steppe country. As we ate, birds seen included an Egyptian Vulture feeding on a sheep carcass with two Ravens. A hunting female Hen Harrier , a Little Owl and some Lesser Kestrels inspecting a row of nest boxes put up on telegraph poles for them and the yet to arrive, Rollers. Many Calandras and

Crested Larks too in the area.

The well known area of rough tracks west of Santa Marta was our next destination. This superb area always produces memorable birding. The track, never the best of surfaces, was littered with many large, water-filled potholes after heavy rain and proved to be impassable this year in anything other than a four-wheel drive vehicle. We negotiated with care, around five kilometres, then had to turn and head back at two thirty feet long, deep-water filled craters. No way our hire car could cope with that. Later, back at our guest house, the birdwatcher-owner confirmed that no one was attempting the route this year.

However, on those five kilometres we saw some good birds. A sole male Great Bustard strutted his stuff with no females to watch. A pair of calling Stone Curlews were watched on the ground, then a third flew, also calling. A dark Booted Eagle flew in and landed on a rock nearby, giving great 'scope views. Calandra Larks sang all around, by far the commonest lark of the region.

Next, seven Black bellied Sandgrouse flew in, calling and landed, this time in view. Close to the car, were ninety Golden Plover, feeding up before their northward migration.

The rain now returned, hammering down as we left the area, returning to the main road and heading north towards Talavan. Here, a hide at a small lake provided shelter and birding in the deluge. A pair of Penduline Tits fed in reed mace right in front of the hide, giving nice views. A Stonechat sang in the rain and a Common Sandpiper noted. On the lake were Great crested Grebes and Gadwall. The stream which feeds the lake, was a torrent.

On the way to the village we were staying in, we paused at a tree nesting White Stork colony, as the rain stopped. We were staying at a self-catering cottage in Torrejon el Rubio, an excellent base for the area. On arrival, a bit of

a scare ensued , as the car keys had gone missing and after a twenty minute search they thankfully were found, having fallen into one of the cases, which had been carried into the house! Not good for the blood pressure!

Next day would see us spend the whole time in the famous Monfrague National Park, which once again, proved what an amazing place it is.

The day was thankfully dry and bright and warmed up considerably. We set off, after a good breakfast , seeing hundreds of House Martins feeding over the village. Our first halt was below the castle overlooking the pinnacle of rock known as Penafalcon , where 2-3 Hawfinches flew into a nearby tree. Short toed Treecreeper, Great and Blue Tits , Thekla Larks and Woodlarks sang, then a pair of Egyptian Vultures circled above us heading for Penafalcon. Griffons began appearing in the air , leaving their roost sites and circling, before heading out, past the castle and over the woods and plains below ,to search for food. A few Black Kites too were on the wing.

Moving on to the viewpoint opposite Penafalcon , we found it , as is usually the case now, to be very busy with mostly Spanish tourists, but some German and French too . Some parking their large camper-vans lengthways in the limited parking space! Then a cavalcade of vintage cars arrived , in a noisy, exhaust fume filled parade! After a quick look at the assembled vultures, they thankfully moved on. The popularity of this National Park has greatly increased in recent years and hopefully awareness of the need to preserve it has too. I was suprised to see as many people in March.

Dozens of Griffons either perched on the towering cliffs, or sallied out into the air, soaring above us at close range. Two more pairs of Egyptian Vultures , one pair in a tree were spotted. A pair of Black Storks whose traditional nest site had been taken over by Griffons, were watched mating at their new site on the cliffs. Two or three Rock Buntings sang but kept away from the crowds, a Jay called below us in bushes and Long tailed Tits foraged, these much greyer in

appearance than the ones at home. Short toed Treecreeper sang. At least six Blue Rock Thrushes were in the area, with males song- fighting out from the rocks. Black Redstarts too were singing and Cormorants fished the lake below. Around fifteen Black Kites and a Red appeared , as did several Crag Martins and Red rumped Swallows. A familiar call alerted us to an incoming Peregrine which swept in to land in a cliff-side tree.

Heading now to the main bridge over the Tajo River, we parked up and right on que , as last year, a Bonelli's Eagle appeared circling above us . As we watched, It's mate joined it in the air before they drifted out of sight. Two Black Vultures and a number of Griffons flew past us and several Black Kites followed.

A good viewpoint for lunch was found, and again proved very productive. As Thekla Larks sang, we watched three Short toed Eagles another Bonelli's Eagle, Booted Eagle and Black Vulture, Egyptian Vulture and around eighty Griffons. Butterflies were emerging here as the sun was out, and I saw a dozen Small Heaths, a Small Copper and several Western Dappled Whites.

Last visit, the Tajadilla Reservoir was all but dry. Today a rushing, flooded torrent ran below us. A flock of Azure Winged Magpies at the picnic tables came in very closely , as we shared some food with them , around twenty five in total. Above, Black Vultures glided by and on the cliffs, Griffons sat at their nests or gathered in groups on the clifftop. Another Egyptian Vulture perched nearby, this early summer migrant back in good numbers. Linnets, Wrens and Robins reminded us of home. Several Crag Martins and Red rumped Swallows hawked for insects.

The Park boundary lies just beyond its last significant crag, the Tietar. Here last year, a pair of Spanish Imperial Eagles chose this cliff for their nesting site and once again, they gave us a fantastic display! Here too is another colony of Griffons, and they share the crag with the eagles in an uneasy peace. As we

watched the male Imperial, he picked up speed and stooped towards the rocks to actually hit a sitting Griffon and knock it clean off its perch! Then he circled several times, before with outstretched talons, sped for a soaring Griffon. The vulture flipped over to touch talons and see off the eagle. Then the female eagle appeared and the two circled above us, calling, before she swooped up to land on top of the cliff, giving great 'scope views. Also in the air here were two Booted Eagles, Black Kites and a dozen Red rumped Swallows.

On the edge of the Park, is an area of superb oak forest which is great birding country. At least twenty five Black Kites were gathering as evening approached, looking for a last meal before roosting, a few Red kites too. Several Hoopoes were seen and heard and a female Redstart glimpsed. Short toed Treecreepers and Serins, Long tailed Tits and Bullfinch noted. Sardinian Warblers and Crested Larks were common, and a Woodlark seen. A Cuckoo called as we left the area.

The other speciality of Tietar crag is Eagle Owl , seen most visits, but despite a good search ,we could not find one. However, driving back past here later that evening, we stopped as a good crowd of Spanish birders had gathered , and with local knowledge, had located an owl! A superb adult Eagle Owl dozed in its chosen hiding place, allowing good 'scope views. A fitting end to a brilliant day.

Our penultimate day saw us leaving the area, and heading off south , through Trujillo and on towards Merida and Portugal. Along the way several stops were made , giving us some good birds such as four Short toed Eagles, Lesser Kestrels, Booted Eagles and Buzzards. At one stop, a few pairs of Subalpine Warblers had territories in broom scrub, with singing males seen well and Theklas song flighting. At another stop on a high ridge overlooking wooded plains, we saw large flocks of Calandra Larks feeding and heading north . Two flocks of over one hundred birds each. Also flocks of Meadow Pipits and

Goldfinches . Here too were Griffons, two Short toed Eagles, two Common Buzzards, several Ravens and ten Lesser Kestrels. Swallows were heading north. From the grass below our viewpoint, a Short toed Lark rose to briefly sing and a Jay seen.

Near the Portugese border, in rain showers, we saw Stonechats, more Thekla Larks, Crag Martins, Two Cuckoos, Hoopoe, Southern Grey shrikes, Woodchats and twenty Griffon Vultures. Yet another Short toed Eagle came into view. Along the roadside we saw two hovering Black winged Kites and pulled up at a convenient lay-by to enjoy them. Only one had been seen in Spain on this trip, so these were a welcome addition . Four Montagu's Harriers , including a nice male hunting among Oak trees were also spotted.

Our final night was spent at a very nice hotel in the village of Pias. The owner gave us the local forecast on his p.c. for the next day's weather and accompanied us to a village restaurant to translate, as the owner/chef spoke no English. Very helpful of him to do that.

Up early next morning and hundreds of House Martins were feeding over the village. White Storks were at nests and a Hoopoe and four Black winged Stilts seen. We had today, to head for the coast and our homeward flight from Faro. We hadn't travelled very far , when a shout went up as a Great spotted Cuckoo had been seen in a roadside tree. It was joined by another as we photographed it. Driving on, we saw good numbers of Woodchat and Southern Grey Shrikes, Lesser Kestrels and Red rumped Swallows, Azure winged Magpies and Corn Buntings. Pausing briefly at a local rubbish tip which attracted hundreds of White Storks, around thirty Cattle Egrets, twenty plus Black Kites, two Red Kites, five Common Buzzards and over fifteen hundred gulls, mostly Yellow Legged.

Heading into the steppe country of the Alentejo region of Portugal, we stopped at a site that has in the past, produced Bustards. Again , in a field we

found a group of eleven Great Bustards feeding. Nearby, a colony of Lesser Kestrels , twenty five birds in total, were nesting in an abandoned farm building. Some were out hunting , hovering over the grassland. Calandra Larks sang all around us and a Red legged Partridge was close to the car. A Quail was calling nearby.

Then a nice surprise, as a juvenile Spanish Imperial Eagle was seen on the ground, appearing to be chasing rabbits, running after them. It then flew up in to a nearby bare tree, giving good 'scope views, before eventually flying off low to the north west. Several Stonechats were seen and two Stone Curlews were heard calling.

Our last birding of the holiday was once again, at the marshes at Faro. Similar species seen to our earlier visit , with a flock of ninety Avocets being the highlight. Six Little ringed Plover, a dozen Kentish, three Sanderling and fifty Dunlin were among the waders seen. A Green Woodpecker was seen well on a tree top, as Cettis Warblers called and we took the chance to pack up our birding gear and reluctantly head for the airport.

A.S. Jack.

SELECTED SPECIES LIST;

Black necked Grebe - 19 , Donana .

Red crested Pochard - 61 , Donana and Faro Marshes.

Great white Egret -14, Donana.

Cattle Egret – 402, Donana

Purple Heron -6, Jose Valverde Centre, Donana.

Night Heron - 60+ , Corredor Verde, Donana.

White Stork – several thousand ,all areas commonly seen.

Black Stork – 6 , Monfrague/ Sta. Marta incl. 1 displaying and a pair mating.

Glossy Ibis – 1,600, Donana.

Spoonbill – 147, Donana and Faro Marshes.

Greater Flamingo – 2,500 , Donana.

Griffon Vulture – 883 , Monfrague + many other areas.

Black Vulture – 22, Monfrague.

Egyptian Vulture -11, Monfrague, incl. Mating /display.

Short toed Eagle – 18 , most areas. Display noted.

Booted Eagle- 27 , most areas. Display seen.

Spanish Imperial Eagle – 5, Monfrague , Sta Marta and Alentejo. Display seen.

Golden Eagle – Sta. Marta pair displaying.

Bonellis Eagle – 4, Monfrague.

Osprey -3, Donana.

Black Kite -169, all areas.

Red Kite- 27, Caceres region.

Black winged Kite-3 , Donana and Alentejo, Portugal

Marsh Harrier – 30 , Donana and passage birds seen on the plains of Extremadura.

Hen Harrier- 8 Donana / Caceres region –winter visitor.

Montagu's Harrier-21 Caceres region/Alentejo . Display noted.

Goshawk-1.

Sparrowhawk – 1.

Peregrine- 4 , coastal and on territory Inland.

Lesser Kestrel- 120+ all areas. Several nesting colonies.

Purple Gallinule- 40+, Donana.

Common Crane – 4 Donana.

Great Bustard – 135, incl display. La Serena/ Caceres area / Alentejo, Portugal.

Little Bustard – 87, La Serena .

Avocet – 100+ , Faro Marshes

Stone Curlew – 4 , Sta. Marta. Caceres.

Collared Pratincole – 7, Donana.

Kentish Plover – 41, Faro Marshes.

Black bellied Sandgrouse – 14 ,La Serena.

Pin-tailed Sandgrouse – 69, La Serena.

Great Spotted Cuckoo-4 , Sta Marta/ Alentejo.

Eagle Owl, 1 adult, Tietar Cliffs, Monfrague.

Alpine Swift-2 Rio Almonte bridge, Caceres region.

Hoopoe- 42+ , commonly seen in most areas.

Bee Eater – heard twice , not seen.

Wryneck – 1, Donana.

Lesser Short toed Lark - 12, Donana.

Short toed Lark – 2.

Calandra Lark – 1,000+ , all areas of suitable habitat.

Thekla Lark – 28. Monfrague /Berzocana.

Woodlark – 22 , Monfrague/ Berzocana.

Crag Martin – 45, Monfrague.

Red Rumped Swallow, 55. Seen in most areas.

Spanish Wagtail – 34, Donana.

Black Redstart – 8, Monfrague.

Blue Rock Thrush – 11, Monfrague.

Subalpine Warbler – 5 singing males .

Iberian Chiffchaff – 2. Talavan, Caceres.

Penduline Tit – pair at Talavan ,Caceres.

Short toed Treecreeper - 11, widespread of sites.

Woodchat Shrike – 80+ . Passage birds in Donana. Birds on territory in Extremadura.

Southern Grey Shrike – 27 , Extremadura/ Alentejo.

Azure winged Magpie - 200 +, widespread in all areas.

Chough – 2.

Raven – commonly seen in many areas.

Spotless Starling – widespread and very common.

Hawfinch – 2-3, Monfrague.

Rock bunting – 4, Monfrague.

Cirl Bunting – 2.

Corn Bunting - widespread and very common.

