

EXTREMADURA

21 – 30 March 2011



Trujillo

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Participants : -

Brian Bates
Andrew Clarke
John Day
Mike Hodgson

Itinerary

Place names in **bold** feature in species checklist

21 March

Group met at Madrid Airport (15.30 hrs). Drive to Trujillo via **Talavera** and Navalmoral on A5-E90 arriving at **Trujillo** 19.00 hrs. Booked into Hostal Emilia for next seven nights – convenient, clean, friendly and good restaurant but limited parking.

22 March

Early am (cool and not light until 07.15) along **Belen** road. Mid-morning : **Rio Magasca** (on A58) east of Trujillo on way to **Sta. Marta** de Magasca. Pm. Sta. Marta and **Monroy** area.

23 March

Early am (again cool) north east to **Deleitosa** (on A5) then on minor roads south via **Retamosa** area arriving at lunch time in the mountain village of **Cabanas** del Castillo. Mid-afternoon return to motorway and detour on **Almaraz** and Saucedilla road to Embalse **Arrocampo**

24 March

Early morning drive on Ex 208 via **Torrejon** to **Monfrague** National Park. Morning spent at **Pena Falcon** view point watching raptors. Afternoon slow drive through Park stopping at various viewpoints including Mirador de la **Tajadilla** and the **Portilla del Tietar**. Late afternoon : drive back to Trujillo in a spectacular thunderstorm.

25 March

Fine but again cool. Drive south east on minor roads (Ex 208 and 355) to **Zorita** and **Madrigalejo** and our first (dry) rice fields. Late am visited agricultural area around **Vegas Altas** and later, across the N430, the village of **Acedera**. Mid-afternoon : a rather unproductive tour round the Embalses of **Orellana** and **Zujar** as a lot of access restrictions and barren expanses of water, before returning via Zorita. Dusk spent watching and photographing Lesser Kestrels at Trujillo bullring.

26 March

Return visit to Monfrague after checking the **Almonte Bridge** (Ex208) this time spending the morning looking down on raptors from the **Castillo** above the Pena Falcon crag. Limited stops also at other sites

visited on 24 March. Mid-afternoon : drive to Embalse Arrocampo, this time visiting the information centre and Hides 1 and 2.

27 March

Early am. Return visit to Sta Marta area. Unfortunately car bogged down as one front wheel sank into a ditch. With much local help and a tow-rope car eventually back on *terra firma* after 45 minutes. Continued eastwards on minor roads into **Llanos de Caceres** area with excellent views of steppe species culminating in stunning views of Montagu's Harriers and Great Bustard at the the **Pulgosa de Guadiloba** on C99/A58. Late afternoon : drove through **Caceres** and Malpartida to **Los Barruecos** wetlands.

28 March

Early start from Trujillo on drive north stopping initially at the **Almaraz orchid site** where *Naked Man*, *Conical* and *Champange Orchids* and *Woodcock* and *Mirror Ophrys* flowering. Continued along A5-E90 towards Talavera then turned north to the **Puerto del Pico** Pass (1352m) in Gredos Mountains. Detour to **Gredos Parador** where spent two hours before continuing to **Avila** over the **Puerto de Menga** Pass (1564m). Main roads from Avila to Segovia followed then minor roads (CL603 and CL231 & 232) to **Sepulveda**. Very picturesque setting, booked for two nights into Vado del Duraton Hotel. Having checked into hotel spent the last daylight hours locating the Dupont's Lark site in the del Rio Duraton NP near the **Ermita de San Frutos**.

29 March

Drove in dark to Dupont's site. Cold and windy with not much birdsong from any species between 07.30 and 09.30 but slightly warmer and some sunshine from 09.30 to 13.00. In all heard 3 – 5 singing Dupont's Lark and managed two brief sightings (and a photograph) of the species.

30 March

Early morning drive in dark to Madrid Airport (06.00 – 08.00).

Species checklist

Greylag Goose *Anser anser*

6 Talavera area

Gadwall *Anas strepera*

3 Barruecos

Mallard *A. platyrhynchos*

seen on most days in suitable habitat although only in single figures

Shoveler *A. clypeata*

3 Arrocampo

Pochard *Aythya ferina*

9 Barruecos

Red-legged Partridge *Alectoris rufa*

6 Sta. Marta ; 2 Orellana ; 1 Almonte Bridge ; 2 Llanos de Caceres ; 2 Segovia area ; 2 Ermita de San Frutos

Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis*

1 Sta. Marta ; 2 Arrocampo ; 1 Madrigalejo area ; 1 Barruecos

Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus*

1 Arrocampo ; 6 Barruecos

Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*

9 - 10 Arrocampo ; 1 Torrejon ; 35 Pena Falcon ; 5 Tajadilla ; 30 Madrigalejo area ; 2 Barruecos

Little Bittern *Ixobrychus minutus*

1 Arrocampo

Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea*

7 Arrocampo ; 1 Torrejon ; 1 Vegas Altas ; 1 Almonte Bridge ; 1 Barruecos

Purple Heron *A. purpurea*

c9 Arrocampo

Great White Egret *A. alba*

4+ Arrocampo

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*

3 Rio Magasca ; 5 Arrocampo ; 30+ Madrigalejo ; 2 Almonte Bridge

Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis*

30+ Talavera area ; 50+ Almaraz area ; 5 Torrejon ; 20+ Zujar ; 200+ Vegas Altas ; 10 Arrocampo area

Squacco Heron *Ardeola ralloides*

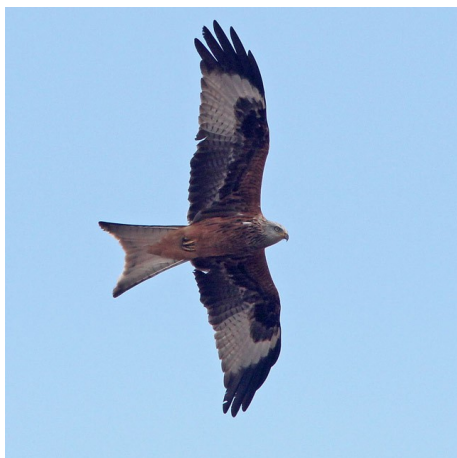
2 Arrocampo

Black Stork *Ciconia nigra*

5+ Retamosa area ; 7 Monfrague NP ; 1 Caceres area

White Stork *C. ciconia*

widespread in agricultural and semi rural areas with nests on all suitable buildings eg. 45+ birds Rio Magasca area ; 25+ Monroy area ; 100+ Zorita area : 18+ nests on church at Acedera ; 30+ nests on artificial sites Barruecos



Red Kite

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Black-shouldered Kite *Elanus caeruleus*

1 Talavera area ; 1 Monroy area

Red Kite *Milvus milvus*

seen almost daily but only in single figures – 3 Rio Magasca ; 1 Deleitosa area ; 1 Madrigalejo area ; 1 Arrocampo ; 2 Caceres area ; 2+ Gredos Parador ; 1 Avila area ; 2 Sepulveda

Black Kite *M. migrans*

seen daily and more common than Red Kite eg. 5 Belen ; 12 Rio Magasca ; 12+ Monfrague NP ; 10+ Zorita ; 5+ Caceres area ; 20+ on drive from Trujillo to Sepulveda ; 3 Sepulveda



Black-shouldered Kite

© B Bates



Black Kite

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Egyptian Vulture *Neophron percnopterus*

2+ Cabanas ; 6+ Monfrague NP including pairs at nest sites ; 3+ Sepulveda area



Egyptian Vulture

© A W Clarke

Griffon Vulture *Gyps fulvus*

seen daily but most common in craggy habitat – 3 Talavera area ; 25+ Rio Magasca area ; 20+ Retamosa area ; 30+ Cabanas ; 200+ Monfrague NP including many pairs at nest sites ; 3 Llanos de Caceres ; 5+ in Gredos Mountains ; 40+ Sepulveda Gorge



Griffon Vultures



© A W Clarke

Black Vulture *Aegypius monachus*

3 Rio Magasca ; 1 Deleitosa area ; 2 Pena Falcon ; 1 Cabanas

Short-toed Eagle *Circaetus gallicus*

1 Retamosa area ; 3 Monfrague NP ; 1 Llanos de Caceres ; 3+ Gredos Parador ; 3+ Sepulveda



Short-toed Eagle

© A W Clarke



Montagu's Harrier

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Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus*

1 Talavera area ; 4 Arrocampo ; pair Madrigalejo area ; pair Vegas Altas ; male being mobbed by a Montagu's Harrier in Orellana/Zujar area

Hen Harrier *C. cyaneus*

male Madrigalejo area ; male Caceres area

Montagu's Harrier *C. pygargus*

1 mobbing a Marsh Harrier Orellana/Zujar area ; male Sta. Marta ; pair and a male Pulgosa de Guadiloba near Caceres

Sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus*

1 Monfrague NP ; 1 Sepulveda area

Goshawk *A. gentilis*

1 Gredos Parador

Common Buzzard *Buteo buteo*

1 Rio Magasca ; 2 Monroy area ; 2 Sta. Marta ; 1 Zorita area ; 1 Llanos de Caceres ; 1 Talavera area ; 2 Puerto de Menga ; 2 Sepulveda area

Spanish Imperial Eagle *Aquila adalberti*

2 birds seen at Pena Falcon – an immature and an adult on 23rd

Golden Eagle *A. chrysaetos*

1 Madrigalejo area : 1 Caceres area – both immature birds



Booted Eagle

© B Bates



Bonelli's Eagle

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Bonelli's Eagle *A. fasciata*

1 Monfrague Castillo ; pair at nest site in Llanos de Caceres

Booted Eagle *Hieraaetus pennatus*

1 Rio Magasca area ; 1 Pena Falcon ; 1 Tajadilla ; 3 Monfrague Castillo area ; 1 Sta. Marta area ; 1 Gredos Parador

Lesser Kestrel *Falco naumanni*

3 Rio Magasca ; 20+ Trujillo Bullring ; 3 Madrigalejo area ; 15+ Acedera colony ; 8 Zorita area

Kestrel *F. tinnunculus*

single birds seen most days with 3 Talavera area and 2 near Retamosa

Merlin *F. columbarius*

1 Caceres area ; 1 Ermita de San Frutos

Peregrine *F. peregrinus*

2 Cabanas ; 1 Pena Falcon



Lesser Kestrel

© A W Clarke

Water Rail *Rallus aquaticus*

heard Arrocampo

Purple Swamphen *Porphyrio porphyrio*

10+ Arrocampo

Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus*

8 Arrocampo ; 3+ Barruecos

Coot *Fulica atra*

2 Deleitosa area ; 7+ Arrocampo

Great Bustard *Otis tarda*

displaying birds seen at all sites – 3 Belen ; 36 and 9 Sta. Marta area ; 5 Madrigalejo area ; 40 Pulgosa de Guadiloba, Caceres area



Little Bustard

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Little Bustard *Tetrax tetrax*

displaying birds again seen – 1 Belen ; 8 Sta. Marta area ; 2 Caceres area

Common Crane *Grus grus*

11 Vegas Altas

Stone Curlew *Burhinus oedicnemus*

1 Sta. Marta area

Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*

1 Belen

Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus*

7 Rio Magasca area ; 2 Zorita ; 10+ Barruecos

Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*

1 Arrocampo ; 1 Monfrague NP

Green Sandpiper *Tringa ochropus*

seen on a number of days with 4 Sta. Marta area ; 1 Almonte Bridge ; 1 Barruecos

Common Snipe *Gallinago gallinago*

1 Arrocampo ; 3 Barruecos

Black-headed Gull *Chroicocephalus ridibundus*

1 Deleitosa ; 6+ Madrigalejo area ; 1 Arrocampo ; 3 Barruecos

Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus fuscus*

1 Talavera area ; 5 Madrigalejo area ; 3 Sta. Marta area

Black-bellied Sandgrouse *Pterocles orientalis*

2 very distant views Sta. Marta, later better views of 25+ birds including a flock of over 20 birds ; 4 Llanos de Caceres area

Rock Dove *Colomba livia*

birds, including feral pigeons, seen daily in both rural and urban habitats with 30+ in Trujillo area ; 10+ Torrejon, 10+ Talavera area

Woodpigeon *C. palumbus*

birds seen daily in all areas but usually only singly or in pairs

Collared Dove *Streptopelia decaocto*

birds seen daily in all areas and more numerous than Woodpigeon eg. 5 Belen ; 5+ Torrejon ; 25+ Madrigalejo ; 15+ Monfrague Castillo

Great Spotted Cuckoo *Clamator glandarius*

1 Talavera area ; 2 Rio Magasca

Cuckoo *Cuculus canorus*

heard daily but only seen on 28th in Talavera area



Eurasian Eagle Owl

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Eurasian Eagle Owl *Bubo bubo*

adult and young seen at nest site on 24th and 26th at Portilla del Tietar, Monfrague NP

Swift *Apus apus*

4 Monfrague NP ; 15 Arrocampo ; 2 Sepulveda ; 4 Ermita de San Frutos

Pallid Swift *A. pallidus*

5 outskirts of Madrid ; 2 Sta. Marta

Alpine Swift *A. melba*

1 Cabanas ; 12+ Monfrague NP

Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis*

1 Rio Magasca ; 2 Arrocampo ; 1 Zujar ; 1 Llanos de Caceres

Hoopoe *Upupa epops*

4 Belen ; 2 Cabanas ; 2 Torrejon ; 6 Madrigalejo ; 2 Zorita ; 5+ Arrocampo ; 2 Caceres area ; 1 Almaraz ; 2 Puerto de Menga

Great Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos major*

2 Monfrague Castillo ; 1 Ermita de San Frutos ; 3 Portilla del Tietar

Southern Grey Shrike *Lanius meridionalis*

2 Talavera area ; 4+ Sta. Marta area ; 1 Monfrague NP ; 2 Madrigalejo ; 2+ Arrocampo ; 1 Avila area

Woodchat Shrike *L. senator*

5+ Sta Marta area ; 1 Madrigalejo ; 1 Arrocampo ; 1 Barruecos

Golden Oriole *Oriolus oriolus*

heard Zujar Embalse

Jay *Garrulus glandarius*

1 Retamosa area ; 2 Almonte Bridge

Azure-winged Magpie *Cyanopica cyanus*

seen daily between 22nd and 28th usually in large flocks eg. 20+ Sta. Marta ; 30+ Deleitosa ; roost of 60+ Monroy area ; 25+ Pena Falcon ; 10+ Monfrague Castillo ; 10+ Llanos de Caceres ; 35+ Barruecos



Woodchat Shrike

© B Bates



Azure-winged Magpie

© A W Clarke

Magpie *Pica pica*

seen daily between 21st and 29th usually singly or in pairs although with some big daily totals eg. 20+ Talavera area ; 15+ Zorita ; 7 Almonte Bridge ; 2 Puerto de Menga

Chough *Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax*

2 Monfrague Castillo ; 4+ Ermita de san Frutos

Jackdaw *Corvus monedula*

4 Madrid area ; 5+ daily in Trujillo ; 2 Rio Magasca ; 2 Arrocampo ; 5+ Caceres and Avila areas ; 6 Ermita de San Frutos

Carrion Crow *C. corone*

3 Puerto del Pico ; 6+ Ermita de San Frutos/Sepulveda area

Raven *C. corax*

5 Monroy area ; 2 Retamosa ; 1 Torrejon ; 3 Tajadilla ; 2 Madrigalejo ; 3 Sta. Marta area ; 3 Caceres area ; 1 Gredos Parador ; 1 Ermita de San Frutos

Dupont's Lark *Chersophilus duponti*

2 sightings with 4 – 5 birds calling at Ermita de San Frutos site



Calandra Lark

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Calandra Lark *Melanocorypha calandra*

good numbers seen in suitable habitat eg. 20+ Belen area ; 5+ Madrigalejo ; 30+ Sta.Marta area ; 8+ Ermita de San Frutos

Crested Lark *Galerida cristata*

the most numerous and widespread lark (but not all Crested/Thekla Larks specifically identified!). 20+ Belen ; 5+ Deleitosa ; 10+ Monfrague NP ; 15+ Madrigalejo ; 10+ Almonte Bridge ; 20+ Llanos de Caceres ; 12+ Sepulveda/Ermita de san Frutos

Thekla Lark *G. theklae*

1 Monroy area ; 2 Retamosa area (probably more seen but not specifically identified)

Skylark *Alauda arvensis*

4+ Ermita de San Frutos area

Woodlark *Lullula arborea*

2+ Rio Magasca ; 1 Sta. Marta area ; 2 Ermita de San Frutos

Sand Martin *Riparia riparia*

75+ Arrocampo ; 20+ Caceres area

Crag Martin *Ptyonoprogne rupestris*

5 Monroy area ; 2 Cabanas ; 15+ Monfrague NP ; 5+ Ermita de San Frutos

Swallow *Hirundo rustica*

seen daily in all habitats with a maximum of 50+ on 23rd in lowland agricultural area

Red-rumped Swallow *Cecropis daurica*

5 Belen ; 2 Retamosa ; 10+ Monfrague NP ; 5+ Llanos de Caceres



Crag Martin

© A W Clarke

House Martin *Delichon urbicum*

seen daily in Trujillo ; 8 Monroy area ; 5 Monfrague NP ; present in Avila and Sepulveda areas

Coal Tit *Periparus ater*

2+ Gredos Parador

Crested Tit *Lophophanes cristatus*

2+ Gredos Parador

Great Tit *Parus major*

4 Monroy area ; 3 Retamosa ; 8+ Monfrague NP ; 2 Barruecos ; 2+ Gredos Parador

Blue Tit *Cyanistes caeruleus*

5 Retamosa ; 4 Monfrague NP ; 2 Zujar ; 1 Almonte Bridge ; 2 Barruecos ; 3 Gredos Parador

Cetti's Warbler *Cettia cetti*

2+ Rio Magasca ; 1 Retamosa ; 5 Arrocampo ; 2 Madrigalejo ; 1 Zujar ; 2 Barruecos

Long-tailed Tit *Aegithalos caudatus*

2 Gredos Parador area

Nuthatch *Sitta europaea*

1 Monfrague Castillo ; heard Gredos Parador

Short-toed Treecreeper *Certhia brachydactyla*

2 Monfrague NP ; 1 Gredos Parador

Wren *Troglodytes troglodytes*

heard more often than seen on 4 days

Goldcrest *Regulus regulus*

4+ Gredos Parador

Willow Warbler *Phylloscopus trochilus*

2 Zujar

Chiffchaff *P. collybita*

1 Rio Magasca ; 1 Retamosa area ; 1 Madrigalejo area ; 2 Monfrague NP ; 1 Arrocampo

Sedge Warbler *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*

heard Arrocampo

Savi's Warbler *Locustella luscinioides*

6+ Arrocampo

Fan-tailed Warbler *Cisticola juncidis*

1 Sta. Marta ; 5+ Arrocampo ; 4+ Madrigalejo ; 1 Almonte Bridge ; 3+ Barruecos ; 1 Almaraz Orchid site

Blackcap *Sylvia atricapilla*

1 Rio Magasca ; 1 Cabanas ; 5+ Monfrague NP ; heard Almonte Bridge ; 1 Almaraz Orchid site



Subalpine Warbler

© A W Clarke

Subalpine Warbler *S. cantillans*

1 Portilla del Tietar ; heard in Zujar area

Sardinian Warbler *S. melanocephala*

2+ Retamosa ; 1 Sta. Marta area ; heard Almaraz Orchid site

Robin *Erithacus rubecula*

2 Rio Magasca ; 3+ Gredos Parador, otherwise heard more often than seen

Black Redstart *Phoenicurus ochruros*

1 Rio Magasca ; 2 Retamosa ; 6+ Cabanas ; 5+ Monfrague NP ; 2+ Gredos Parador ; 1 Sepulveda

Redstart *P. phoenicurus*
male Monfrague NP

Black Wheatear *Oenanthe leucura*
1 Retamosa ; 1 Cabanas

Northern Wheatear *O. oenanthe*
4 Sta. Marta area ; 3 Monfrague NP ; 2 Vegas Altas ; 1 Caceres area ; 1 Sepulveda ; 1 Ermita de San Frutos

Black-eared Wheatear *O. hispanica*
male Ermita de San Frutos

Whinchat *Saxicola rubetra*
1 Caceres area

Stonechat *S. torquatus*
2 Belen ; 1 Monroy area ; 1 Retamosa ; 2 Madrigalejo ; 8+ Vegas Altas ; 5 Almonte Bridge ; 2 Arrocampo ; 3+ Barruecos ; 1 Puerto del Pico ; 2 Ermita de San Frutos



Blue Rock Thrush

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Blue Rock Thrush *Monticola solitarius*
3 Cabanas ; 6 Monfrague NP ; 1 Gredos Parador

Blackbird *Turdus merula*
seen daily in small numbers – 1 Sta. Marta ; 2 Retamosa ; 2 Monfrague NP ; 2 Vegas Altas ; 2 Zujar area ; 2 Almonte Bridge ; 4 Caceres area ; 2 Avila area ; 2 Sepulveda area

Song Thrush *T. philomelos*
single birds seen or heard on 5 days

Mistle Thrush *T. viscivorus*
1 Talavera area ; 1 Sta. Marta ; 1 Deleitosa area ; 1 Retamosa ; 1 Vegas Altas area ; 3 Sepulveda area

Spotless Starling *Sturnus unicolor*
seen daily in good numbers in both rural and semi-urban habitats eg. 100+ Talavera to Tujillo ; 30+ Belen ; 30+ Almaraz area ; 70+ Orellana area ; 50+ Arrocampo

Dunnoek *Prunella modularis*
2 Puerto del Pico

Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea*
1 Retamosa area

White Wagtail *M. alba alba*
1 Rio Magasca ; 2 Monroy area ; 4 Retamosa ; 1 Llanos de Caceres ; 1 Avila area ; 1 Ermita de San Frutos

Meadow Pipit *Anthus pratensis*
4 Sta. Marta ; 1 Deleitosa ; 15 Madrigalejo ; 4 Arrocampo ; 10+ Barruecos area

Cirl Bunting *Emberiza cirlus*
3+ Mirador de la Tajadilla, Monfrague NP

Rock Bunting *E. cia*

1 Cabanas ; 2 Monfrague NP ; 5 Gredos Parador

Corn Bunting *E. calandra*

20+ seen daily in rural habitat, but only 5+ at Ermita de San Frutos

Chaffinch *Fringilla coelebs*

2 Rio Magasca ; 3 Retamosa ; 5+ Monfrague NP ; 2 Almonte Bridge ; 4 Caceres area ; 2 Puerto del Pico

Greenfinch *Carduelis chloris*

3 Monroy area ; 2 Retamosa ; 1 Zuñar

Goldfinch *C. carduelis*

5 – 10 seen daily in all habitats

Crossbill *Loxia curvirostra*

8+ Gredos Parador

Linnet *Acanthis cannabina*

4 – 5 seen daily in Extremadura, with 4 seen at Sepulveda

Serín *Serinus serinus*

20+ recorded daily except at Ermita de San Frutos where only 5 noted

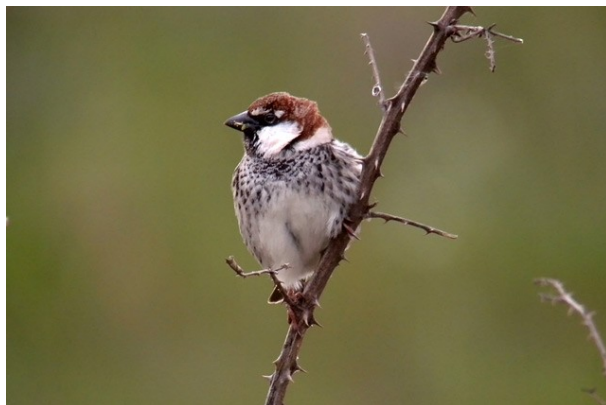
Hawfinch *Coccothraustes coccothraustes*

1 Retamosa ; 3+ Mirador de la Tajadilla, Monfrague NP



Rock Bunting

© A W Clarke



Spanish Sparrow

© M S Hodgson

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*

seen daily with large numbers in towns and villages

Spanish Sparrow *P. hispaniolensis*

large flocks seen in some rural areas eg. 100+ Belén ; 30+ Madrigalejo (in White Stork's nest) ; 20+ Llanos de Cáceres

Tree Sparrow *P. montanus*

5+ Vegas Altas

Rock Sparrow *Petronia petronia*

1 Ermita de San Frutos

Red Avadavat *Amandava amandava*

10+ Vegas Altas

Mammals and amphibians

Rabbit	<i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i>	1 Torrejón area
Iberian Hare	<i>Lepus granatensis</i>	2 Sta. Marta
Red Fox	<i>Vulpes vulpes</i>	1 Madrigalejo ; 1 Ermita de San Frutos
Roe Deer	<i>Capreolus capreolus</i>	1 Sepulveda
Red Deer	<i>Cervus elaphus hispanicus</i>	3 Monfrague NP
Chamois	<i>Rupicapra rupicapra</i>	8 Puerto del Pico pass (1352m)
Iberian Water Frog	<i>Rana perezi</i>	3+ Vegas Altas

Butterflies

Swallowtail
Large White
Small White
Green-striped White
Bath White
Clouded Yellow
Holly Blue
Red Admiral
Small Heath
(Southern) Speckled Wood

J C Day

April 2011



near Cabanas

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Extremadura

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Pena Falcon Monfrague NP

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Big Boys Toys?

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