

THE TRAVELLING NATURALIST

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SPAIN

Iberian Lynx Quest

27 February – 5 March 2016

TOUR REPORT

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Local guide: Álvaro (Doñana)

Recently, the Iberian lynx has been officially reclassified as Endangered, rather than Critically Endangered by the IUCN. This improvement in its global status is the fruit of intense conservation efforts, principally in Andalucía, where the last viable populations of the species were found, in the mountains of Andújar and the almost flat lands of Doñana National Park and its hinterland. But considering that the number of animals in the wild still remains at just some 330 animals, now in 5 areas of Spain thanks to reintroduction efforts, rather than just around 120 at its lowest point, still indicate that it is an incredibly rare animal! Indeed, in many ways it is remarkable that there are good chances of going out and actually observing the species in the wild, though it still remains a considerable challenge.

Partially diurnal, unlike most mammals, it often shows a remarkable tolerance to man, walking through its bushy habitats in a near nonchalant way and often ignoring the nearby –and sometimes very close– presence of wildlife enthusiasts. But it can also be extremely frustrating! Sightings are often quite brief and it is frequent to hear that of 20 observers around, just 1 or 2 obtain a sighting of a particular individual at a given time. While this can add to the mystique of the ‘chase’, it can also frustrate, but one needs to remain optimistic until the last minute, just in case...

Saturday 27th February

Seville, Andújar, check-in, El Encinarejo

Following good respective flights, we met at Seville airport slightly earlier than expected and were soon on our way. Following the trend of recent winters, the cold fronts were finally entering later than just 10 or 15 years ago and while it was bright with broken cloud, it was a chilly 7°C at the airport. The long drive was to be punctuated by a comfort stop, but being declined by the group we arrived at our accommodation earlier than expected, allowing us to go straight in for lunch. The changing landscapes and a few birds en route, including White Storks, a few red kites and our first flying western cattle egrets and Eurasian hoopoes, also meant that a bit of shut-eye was possible between highlights for those wanting it after the early flight from the UK.

After our first delicious lunch, and sit-down meals here are very impressive for the quality and quantity of food enjoyed, we check-in, took a short siesta and then went out, almost until dusk nearby. Cool outside given the continuous cloud cover, it was relatively still though, and not too cold.

Winding our way down a tortuous road to the deep valley bottom, flanked en route by rocky western holm and cork oak dehesa (grazed wood pasture) and numerous stone pines, well illustrated how poorly populated the area is and, in conjunction with the it being the large game hunting capital of Spain, allowed me to explain why Iberian lynx survived here compared to most other parts of its former range. It also allowed us to enjoy the abundance of angel's tears narcissi growing on the roadside banks, the first of three native dwarf narcissi growing in the area.

The Jándula River at the bottom is actually quite small in comparison to the tremendous valley it has carved out of the granite bedrock, and very attractive, as well as its relatively clear waters providing important habitat for a wide range of species and humidity for the adjacent riverine scrub. Here we started to see some of the remarkable similarities that exist between Andújar and Doñana, despite looking so physically different and being separated by several hundred km! The Andújar area holds probably the world's highest density of Iberian magpies, with a few flocks noted en route and along the track we gently cruised along parallel to the river, though our first views were rather fleeting.

A short stop en route for a flock of small birds, mainly common chaffinches, also enabled me to hear a barking call, and we jumped out to look for a calling Spanish imperial eagle. But it was not just one rowdy bird, but two pairs, swirling around in a frenzy of aggressive territorial activity, with several chases and short stoops by males on males or females on females, until they finally seemed to establish a truce, and they headed off in opposite directions triumphantly calling as they went! A couple of relatively low passes meant we could easily see the gleaming white leading edge of the wing and pale nape and tail base which characterise the species. What a start!

More, and more-confiding, Iberian magpies kept appearing as we cruised along, while a quick stop by a deep pool revealed that we'd just missed an otter... However, we next stopped to take a good look from a small bridge over the river. A chill breeze meant small bird activity was reduced, but our first European robins, calling Eurasian wren, white and passing grey wagtails and flighty black redstarts. Having heard calls for a bit of walking on the tour, we stretched our legs a little by climbing up the opposite side, and from where we could see that the reservoir just upstream was full – unusual following a near-drought this winter–. With energy levels flagging a bit after a very long day for some, we started our return only to stop again on seeing ripples in the large pool, and got out in time to see two river otters fishing a little, though one disappeared quickly and then the other finally reappeared and swam off up-river and out of sight round behind some rocks. It was 1910h and time to return!

Dinner turned out to be interesting, with other 'lynxing' diners noting how some had seen three Iberian lynx that day (one before dawn and another two, though probably the same individual, at one spot 7 hours apart), and that some had seen one, carrying a rabbit, appear down by the river at 1920h... Grrrr!

Sunday 28th February

Cloudy all day, and chilly, but the stiff breeze all morning relented p.m. to give easier viewing conditions.

With three lynx having been seen along one route the day before, I decided to chance our luck and take a look there, since it's also the area with greatest number of sightings in general in the area!

However, much of the morning was atypical, to say the least. As we drove out towards the main stretch of track with viewpoints we stopped for plenty of small birds en route, including abundant mistle thrushes, a few woodlarks, flighty black redstarts and various Eurasian hoopoes amongst them, but a couple of stops to look for Iberian lynx droppings (as tracks and signs are fun to look at too!), came up blank. Even a rock which always has them was bare... The heavy rain carried by the weather front of the previous few days appeared to have washed the hills clean! Small groups of red and fallow deer were enjoyed as we progressed. We proceeded to the dam, and Les even photographed a couple of Spanish Ibex which were in a small group in the scrub beside the track on the way down. A couple of griffon and black vultures passed over as we returned for lunch.

Repeating the journey again p.m., having left around 15h00 turned up trumps en route with a fine group of mouflon resting on a small hillside with a fine Red Deer stag, while a scan of an adjacent hillside for more red deer there revealed a fine golden eagle perched in the top of an oak! Two more golden eagles passed over as we continued. Another shorter walk along a different part of the same track was again enjoyed by the group, while we arrived to discover that a lynx had been photographed that day, but had only been seen by two people of all those present, and seen for just 20 seconds or so! We still enjoyed the wonderful views and occasional deer and local birds, including flying Iberian green woodpecker, before calling it quits and returning with enough light to search for lynx during the majority of the journey back.

Monday 29th February

Largely sunny all day, a cool N breeze certainly kept the temperature down to normal levels, and indeed it still felt chilly in exposed points, but it was a lovely day.

Sunday having been an official holiday to celebrate Andalucía Day, many were off work on Monday and so we noticed far more people in the countryside than expected. But most of the main sites were still relatively quiet.

We returned slowly out towards the La Lancha track, marvelling again at a shady bank speckled with abundant angel's tears narcissi, and stopping periodically as usual to check for novelties amongst the numerous small birds and small groups of deer present. Red and fallow deer were both noted, abundant mistle thrushes, plenty of red-legged partridge, a couple of gorgeous hoopoes, and on reaching the main viewing area, our first two southern grey shrikes were also enjoyed. Despite the good conditions, raptors were notable by their almost total absence, with just one or two passing griffon vultures, but these were suitably enjoyed of course! A few wild flowers included the tiny narcissus fernandesii daffodil and amongst the bushes, myrtle, shrubby germander and numerous rosemary bushes in flower. A smart male Sardinian warbler popped out almost at our feet at one point. The drive back was a leisurely one too, with a typical stop also turning up a lovely redwing feeding amongst the typical granite boulders of the area in the shade of a western holm oak.

Another excellent lunch was taken back at our base, this time amongst large family groups, with numerous children noticeably present.

Having had enough of that bumpy track, plus the crystal clear weather conditions, we decided to take a look at the focal point of the area and drove to the at the Sanctuary of 'Our Lady of the Peak' ("not of the Head", as translated by Google, ha ha!). Those who wished entered to take a look, while we all reconvened outside, in a surprisingly chill breeze, to enjoy the panoramic views. Despite the difficulties of orientation along the tortuous roads, with a bit of effort we realised we could see almost back to the accommodation,

as well as part of the lower reservoir, and even the Jándula Dam and La Lancha track, thanks to the extra height afforded from this peak.

We spent the rest of the lovely evening down by the Jándula River, where news that one or two lynx had recently sometimes even walked through a series of rocks and across some open grass beside the track, meant that we set up shop to wait for both the otter and lynx at the same time. And though it was not finally to be, with probably far too much disturbance during the day there meaning the animals were keeping their heads down, the near absence of wind meant it was a very pleasant experience. A brief kingfisher flashed past, a great spotted woodpecker was heard tapping away regularly while squeaking Hawfinches also kept us looking, and successfully at one point to keep us occupied.

Tuesday 1st March

With an afternoon excursion planned in Doñana, we had time for a dawn exit and short look down by the river again. A heavy ground frost was forming, and it was notably a couple of degrees below zero as we walked out, but the conditions were beautiful and we had it all to ourselves. A short walk was enjoyed by some who had got too hot in the vehicle, while three of us decided to cover just a little more ground in the minibus, though to no avail. But it was a great start to the day and we all stretched our legs at least a little bit before the long drive down to Doñana.

The drive went easily in the largely sunny conditions, and we even noted the three main types of renewable solar energy production systems en route! Standard small and large solar panels, a large thermosolar plant and, finally, several extraordinary looking towers, which appeared to be emitting light, but in fact, were receiving sunlight bounced back by tremendous arrays of mirrors on the ground underneath. Indeed one of these, after Seville, was one of the very first of this type ever built. A few birds were noted too, including red kites, western cattle egrets and common buzzards amongst others.

We reached El Rocío in good time, checking in quickly, and while some headed out for a short walk in the balmy conditions, I headed off to get a picnic lunch but unfortunately found the supermarket closed. Oh well, we had a quick lunch outside the restaurant instead, enjoying the birds flying over, marvelling at the immense ancient wild olives in the square and also enjoying watching how two local horseriders turned up and had a drink and tapas, on horseback, before finally moving off.

Álvaro, our local driving guide turned up sharp at 4 p.m. and we headed off along the N edge of the National Park, and out along the famous Raya Real track. The very warm conditions meant little was moving, so we made quite quickly for a remote visitor's centre, overlooking the edge of the National Park and with several large pools of water. Given the drought that Southern Spain has been suffering this winter, it was no surprise that abundant birds were present here, rather than out on the usually vast areas of shallowly flooded seasonal marsh. Greater flamingos, a variety of ducks, coots, moorhens and little grebes, while a very rare, but confiding red-knobbed coot fed almost underneath us at one point. The first bulky purple swamphens were seen too, and several western marsh harriers passed over while hunting, occasionally causing flurries of activity amongst their potential prey.

The drive back was punctuated by looks at herds of red and fallow deer, a few western yellow wagtails amongst surprising numbers of small birds in the dry grazed 'marsh', a flighty adult male hen harrier and then, once back near more cover, a lovely immature wild boar, which gave great views as it rooted around in an open area, before it trundled across to a few bushes and simply vanished.

All our eyes were set on scrutinising every track, firebreak, gap and shadow as we criss-crossed through the area in the 4 wheel drive minibus, and despite plenty of deer in the pine forests and scrub areas, we headed out shortly before dusk and just in time to avoid being fined (!), under the watchful eyes of a park warden.

Wednesday 2nd March

A very cool, beautiful clear start to the day, with a lovely sunrise visible from the hotel. After our first El Rocío breakfast, a bit more varied than that at Los Pinos, we started with a good look at the birds right in front of the town in the flooded area. A small patch of overgrazed bulrushes were a trove of birds, including an early migrant in the form of a singing sedge warbler, plus a gorgeous male bluethroat which was still wintering. With numerous greater flamingos, glossy ibis, Eurasian spoonbills, a few greylag geese, abundant shoveler, Eurasian teal, black-winged stilts and a few other 'odds and ends', there was certainly no shortage of birdlife to enjoy!

We didn't stay too long though, and soon headed off for a walk through the Doñana woodlands, where native wet boggy woods border much drier stone pine dominated habitats on the stabilised sands. A couple of excellent board walks allow a lovely circular walk, and with true spring conditions, we were accompanied throughout by rich birdsong. A brief hawkfinch kicked off the more unusual birds, but a small group of resting adult black-crowned night herons beside a pool made a fine sight. A few noisy and flighty lesser spotted woodpeckers at various points along the walk, and all the more remarkable considering that the species was unknown here until 10-15 years ago! Another highlight was a briefly seen, but loudly singing Iberian chiffchaff. Indeed, the willows where the chiffchaff was feeding also housed a couple of calling Eurasian bullfinches, a female of which fed just over the boardwalk. While usually not really thought of as migrants in the UK, the closest breeding grounds are in Northern Spain despite good numbers coming to winter, and the exact origin of these birds is unknown.

We arrived back at the hotel this time early enough for me to go off and buy a decent picnic lunch, before Álvaro reappeared at 12:30 hrs. We spent the rest of the day on a meandering drive towards and through part of the vast Coto del Rey estate, plus visiting the outside and courtyard of the lovely Palacio del Rey. Lunch was taken at a small hunting lodge on the edge of the marsh, and with the temperature rising to a little over 20°C, it was a treat! One walk over open ground also produced some interesting butterflies, which were literally emerging as we progressed, including dashing green-striped white, celestial southern common blue, tiny African grass blue, the furry green Provence hairstreak and several exquisite Spanish festoons.

The birds certainly weren't bad either, including migrants in the form of a pair of calling short-toed eagles, a freshly arrived female woodchat shrike and a couple of black kites. But remarkably, and despite looking hard for lynx, one of the most amusing moments of the day was when someone noticed a large dung beetle rolling a large ball of dung along the track. And it was quite amazing how transfixed we became, especially given a second beetle in close proximity, which we weren't sure was either a pirate looking for an easy steal, or the roller's mate...! The show finally came to an end when the roller dropped the ball into a deep horse hoof print, from where it couldn't extract it, so started burying it by moving the sand out from underneath using its shovel-shaped head. The whole burial process must take hours, but as we moved away, it was only given a shout as we finally started to move once back on board, that Álvaro remembered to detour round it. Phew!

Once again we headed out of lynx habitat towards dusk, after a very rich day.

Thursday 3rd March

Looking intensively for Iberian lynx can be almost mind-warping at times (!), so this day has been added to allow a bit more flexibility in the program and the opportunity to see a couple of other possible sites in the greater Doñana area. While it was again sunny, a cooling sea breeze all day helped keep the temperatures down a little, and it was very pleasant!

After a leisurely breakfast and quick check outside the hotel again (the Bluethroat was still present), we headed off towards one of the only other accessible bodies of water in dry years, the Dehesa de Abajo. The intensive and problematic fruit growing operations surrounding Doñana were very much in evidence as we advanced, though the Eurasian and Iberian magpies were locally doing their bit to get some recompense

for losing habitat! Another stop was also vital on a stretch of road where two small grey and white raptors were moving around – a gorgeous pair of black-winged kites, which gave lovely views but were sadly next to a dangerous bit of fast road where we couldn't get out.

The nearby lake though allowed us a good easy walk parallel to the road, enjoying the abundant waterbirds as we progressed, including black-necked and great crested as well as the commoner little grebes. A few calling blackcaps and sedge warblers in the scrub remained unseen, but not so various purple swamphens, and even a fine red-knobbed coot, sporting large waxy-looking knobs above its facial shield. Some high-pitched calls revealed a couple of penduline tits, though it was only Les on his own who had them land in front for the chance of a picture or two. Watching the flamingos up-ending like swans, their long pink legs pedalling to keep them head down, was novel for most!

The nearby visitor's centre was great, and after a relaxing drinks break we took a good long stroll around through the open dehesa rich in the early spring flowers, including patches of the abundant tall spikes of asphodels. A sharp eye was needed though, since we also came across several Iberian Lynx droppings right beside the patch. And some were 'frustratingly' fresh! The walk was fantastic though, taking right past a huge White Stork colony, even though remarkable numbers breed just here, including some in trees just a foot or so above head height of the entrance road, making a fabulous sight. It was actually quite hot by the time we arrived, but drinks to accompany our picnic outside were excellent, even though time had flown by.

Our return was different than planned, since it was too late to go across to near Huelva, and a heart-stopping moment ensued when a couple of us noted a red fox peering back over its shoulder from within scrub en route... Another drive along some local tracks in delightful woodland here produced another, when a half-hidden lynx-sized dog suddenly appeared in front...

After a short break back in El Rocío, we headed down to the main visitors centre for the National Park, again with a little bit of 'lynxing' thrown in. Indeed, it was great to immediately see a female Iberian Lynx of the captive breeding centre on the direct webcam images, but a bit of a surprise to see that she was already nursing young cubs! Now that's early! Outside, more lynx droppings were found adjacent to the board walk, where a pair had been courting a couple of weeks before, though a couple of European crested Tits in the pines were greatly enjoyed.

All too soon it was time to return, despite a brief diversion down by the El Rocío lake to enjoy the black-tailed godwits and little ringed plovers, amongst other birds, plus the view across to the church, rounding off an excellent day.

Friday 4th March

Our last day, and to be honest, our hopes weren't that high. Seeing such a rare animal in the wild should always be taken as a real bonus, rather than expected, but we had come so close that it seemed unfair. Oh well, we still had two chances left, with a split day of trips out with Álvaro.

A thick mist was settled out over the open marsh, so we soon decided not to continue to the remote visitors centre again, though we stopped for some time to watch a huge herd of red deer which was returning to the forest for the day after a night out on the marsh! And there must have been at least 400 individuals involved.

Back in the forest a sudden stop by Álvaro produced some excellent fresh Iberian Lynx tracks on a sandy path, with more seen at another site later in the morning. This was getting frustrating! Every twist and turn again requiring close scrutiny, but despite rabbits, there were none of their principal hunters! Out in the Coto del Rey again, a group of wild boar burst from cover, with no less than 17 present in the herd. This included animals of several different ages, including some tiny 'humbugs', and a small group of three

still brown youngsters that got left behind, though these finally progressed more slowly to catch up, clearly using their keen sense of smell to guide them where the main group had rushed off ahead!

The end of the morning ended up very warm and animal life went to ground, so we took another leisurely picnic close to the hotel, this time in the Spanish Ornithological Society building, with views over the marsh. A break was taken once we finally returned to the hotel, and then once again, Álvaro reappeared at 4:30 p.m. for our final drive. It was very warm, still and rather quiet, so we first headed out once more the remote visitors centre. Large numbers of the colourful Iberian and blue-headed races of western yellow wagtail were present alongside the route, and a call of a large group of partridge-like birds close by the track provoked a rapid stop. Pin-tailed sandgrouse! Not only have they recently suddenly become much harder to see in Doñana, but are normally very flighty. But these were close enough to easily see the differences between males and females as they sat and watched us! We also had a second and this time successful shot at seeing the red-crested pochards on the pools, as they had been strangely absent from the Dehesa de Abajo.

A fresh breeze started up and animals started to move, us with them! We headed back to the woods and started looking along the same tracks and gaps as before, over and again. Another large Wild Boar was a good find, though we finally had to call it quits and start heading for the exit. But as I'd said before, you just never know when a lynx might appear, and when I noticed two people on foot, pinned to the trunk of a pine tree intently looking into the forest with binoculars, it didn't take any prompting to look instantly to where they were peering. AND THERE WERE TWO LYNX!

Walking slowly across and away from us through the green carpet of grass under the pines, they gave great views, though given the distance and being in shade meant that it was not easy to see them at times through the mass of trunks in front. Álvaro moved the vehicle forward and most of us could see how one even reached up to scratch a trunk with its front claws and then jumped up onto the shallowly angled trunk as the other passed underneath! They slowly meandered off between the bushes, some people seeing them intermittently for a couple of minutes more, before they finally disappeared. WOW! 6:45 pm on the last day of the tour when we could look for them, and there they had been, 45 minutes before we had to exit!!

We drove round onto another track where they might reappear, and waited, but to no avail, and they'd disappeared without further trace into the seemingly infinite pinewoods of Doñana. Needless to say that we were euphoric, with even more drinks than usual consumed before and over dinner, and with good cause.

Saturday 5th March

After an early light breakfast downstairs, we left just after 7 a.m. and headed round Seville without delay (being a weekend), reaching the airport in good time.

SPECIES LISTS

BIRDS – AVES (H/h = heard only)

GROUSE, PHEASANTS & allies - Phasianidae

Red-legged Partridge *Alectoris rufa*

GEESE, SWANS & DUCKS - Anatidae

Greylag Goose *Anser anser*

Gadwall *Anas strepera*

Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*

Northern Shoveler *Anas clypeata*

Eurasian Teal *Anas crecca*

Red-crested Pochard *Netta rufina*

Common Pochard *Aythya ferina*

GREBES - Podicipedidae

Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis*

Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus*

Black-necked Grebe *Podiceps nigricollis*

FLAMINGOS - Phoenicopteridae

Greater Flamingo *Phoenicopterus roseus*

STORKS - Ciconiidae

White Stork *Ciconia ciconia*

IBISES & SPOONBILLS - Threskiornithidae

Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus*

Eurasian Spoonbill *Platalea leucorodia*

HERONS & BITTERNs - Ardeidae

Black-crowned Night Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax*

Western Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis*

Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea*

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*

CORMORANTS - Phalacrocoracidae

Great Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*

HAWKS, EAGLES & allies - Accipitridae

Black-winged Kite *Elanus caeruleus*

Red Kite *Milvus milvus*

Black Kite *Milvus migrans*

Griffon Vulture *Gyps fulvus*

Cinereous/Monk/Black Vulture *Aegypius monachus*

Short-toed Eagle *Circaetus gallicus*

Western Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus*

Hen Harrier *Circus cyaneus*

Common Buzzard *Buteo buteo*

Spanish Imperial Eagle *Aquila adalberti*

Golden Eagle *Aquila chrysaetos*

Booted Eagle *Hieraaetus pennatus*

FALCONS & allies - Falconidae

Lesser Kestrel *Falco naumanni*

Common/Eurasian Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus*

RAILS, CRAKES & COOTS - Rallidae

Water Rail *Rallus aquaticus*

Purple Swamphen *Porphyrio porphyrio*

Common Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus*

Red-knobbed Coot *Fulica cristata*

Eurasian/Common Coot *Fulica atra*

CRANES - Gruidae

Common Crane *Grus grus*

STILTS & AVOCETS - Recurvirostridae

Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus*

PLOVERS & LAPWINGS - Charadriidae

European Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria*

Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius*

SANDPIPERS, SNIPES & allies - Scolopacidae

Common Snipe *Gallinago gallinago*

Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa*

Green Sandpiper *Tringa ochropus*

GULLS, TERNS & SKIMMERS - Laridae

Black-headed Gull *Chroicocephalus ridibundus*

Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus fuscus*

SANDGROUSE - Pteroclididae

Pin-tailed Sandgrouse *Pterocles alchata*

PIGEONS & DOVES - Columbidae

Rock Dove / Feral Pigeon *Columba livia*

Common Wood Pigeon *Columba palumbus*

Eurasian Collared Dove *Streptopelia decaocto*

OWLS - Strigidae

Little Owl *Athene noctua*

SWIFTS - Apodidae

Pallid Swift *Apus pallidus*

KINGFISHERS - Alcedinidae

Common Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis*

HOOPOES - Upupidae

Eurasian Hoopoe *Upupa epops*

WOODPECKERS - Picidae

Lesser Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos minor*

Great Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos major*

Iberian Green Woodpecker *Picus sharpei*

SHRIKES - Laniidae

Southern Grey Shrike *Lanius meridionalis*

Woodchat Shrike *Lanius senator*

CROWS, JAYS & MAGPIES - Corvidae

Iberian Magpie *Cyanopica cooki*

Eurasian Magpie *Pica pica*

Red-billed Chough *Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax*

Western Jackdaw *Corvus monedula*

Northern Raven *Corvus corax*

TITS & CHICKADEES - Paridae

European Crested Tit *Lophophanes cristatus*

Great Tit *Parus major*

Blue Tit *Cyanistes caeruleus*

PENDULINE TITS - Remizidae

Eurasian Penduline Tit *Remiz pendulinus*

SWALLOWS & MARTINS - Hirundinidae

Sand Martin *Riparia riparia*

Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica*

Eurasian Crag Martin *Ptyonoprogne rupestris*

Common House Martin *Delichon urbicum*

Red-rumped Swallow *Cecropis daurica*

BUSHTITS, LONG-TAILED TITS - Aegithalidae

Long-tailed Tit *Aegithalos caudatus*

LARKS - Alaudidae

Calandra Lark *Melanocorypha calandra*

Crested Lark *Galerida cristata*

Thekla Lark *Galerida theklae*

Woodlark *Lullula arborea*

Eurasian Skylark *Alauda arvensis*

CISTICOLAS & allies - Cisticolidae

Zitting Cisticola *Cisticola juncidis*

OLD WORLD WARBLERS - Sylviidae

Cetti's Warbler *Cettia cetti*

Sedge Warbler *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*

Common Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita*

Iberian Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus ibericus*

Blackcap *Sylvia atricapilla*

Sardinian Warbler *Sylvia melanocephala*

CRESTS & KINGLETS - Regulidae

Firecrest *Regulus ignicapilla*

WRENS - Troglodytidae

Eurasian Wren *Troglodytes troglodytes*

NUTHATCHES & WALLCREEPER - Sittidae

Eurasian Nuthatch *Sitta europaea*

TREECREEPERS - Certhiidae

Short-toed Treecreeper *Certhia brachydactyla*

STARLINGS - Sturnidae

Spotless Starling *Sturnus unicolor*

THRUSHES - Turdidae

Common Blackbird *Turdus merula*

Redwing *Turdus iliacus*

Song Thrush *Turdus philomelos*

Mistle Thrush *Turdus viscivorus*

OLD WORLD CHATS & FLYCATCHERS - Muscicapidae

European Robin *Erithacus rubecula*

Bluethroat *Luscinia svecica*

Black Redstart *Phoenicurus ochruros*

European Stonechat *Saxicola rubicola*

Blue Rock Thrush *Monticola solitarius*

OLD WORLD SPARROWS & allies - Passeridae

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*

Rock Sparrow *Petronia petronia*

ACCENTORS - Prunellidae

Dunnock / Hedge Accentor *Prunella modularis*

WAGTAILS & PIPITS - Motacillidae

Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava*

Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea*

White Wagtail *Motacilla alba*

Meadow Pipit *Anthus pratensis*

FINCHES & allies - Fringillidae

Common Chaffinch *Fringilla coelebs*

European Serin *Serinus serinus*

European Greenfinch *Carduelis chloris*

European Goldfinch *Carduelis carduelis*

Common Linnet *Carduelis cannabina*

Hawfinch *Coccothraustes coccothraustes*

BUNTINGS, NEW WORLD SPARROWS & allies - Emberizidae

Corn Bunting *Emberiza calandra*

MAMMALS - MAMMALIA

RABBITS & HARES - Leporidae

European Rabbit *Oryctolagus cuniculus*

Iberian Hare *Lepus granatensis*

CATS - Felidae

Iberian Lynx *Felis pardina*

DOGS & allies - Canidae

Red Fox *Vulpes vulpes*

WEASELS & allies - Mustelidae

Eurasian Otter *Lutra lutra*

PIGS - Suidae

Eurasian Wild Boar *Sus scrofa*

DEER - Cervidae

Red Deer *Cervus elaphus*

Fallow Deer *Dama dama*

CATTLE, ANTELOPE, SHEEP & GOATS - Bovidae

Spanish Ibex *Capra pyrenaica*

Mouflon *Ovis orientalis*

REPTILES - REPTILIA

Geckos - Gekkonidae

Moorish Gecko *Tarentola mauritanica*

Wall/Typical Lizards - Lacertidae

Large Psammodromus *Psammodromus algirus*

Iberian Wall Lizard *Podarcis hispanica*

AMPHIBIANS - AMPHIBIA

Typical Frogs - Ranidae

Iberian Water Frog *Rana perezi*

BUTTERFLIES - LEPIDOPTERA

Swordtails, Birdwings, Swallowtails & Festoons - subf: Parnassiinae

Spanish Festoon *Zerynthia rumina*

Typical Whites - subf: Pierinae

Large White *Pieris brassicae*

Small White *Pieris rapae*

Green-striped White *Euchloe belemia*

Western Dappled White *Euchloe crameri*

Yellows & Sulphurs - subf: Coliadinae

Clouded Yellow *Colias crocea*

Blues & Opals - subf: Polyommatainae

African Grass Blue *Zizeeria knysna*

Southern Common Blue *Polyommatus (icarus) celina*

Vanessids & smaller Fritillaries - subf: Nymphalinae

Red Admiral *Vanessa atalanta*

Painted Lady *Vanessa cardui*

Browns, Ringlets & Satyrs - subf: Satyrinae

Speckled Wood *Pararge aegeria*

MOTHS - LEPIDOPTERA

HAWK-MOTHS - SPHINGIDAE

Hummingbird Hawkmoth *Macroglossum stellatarum*

DAMSELFLIES & DRAGONFLIES - ODONATA

DRAGONFLIES - ANISOPTERA

Vagrant Emperor *Anax ephippiger*

CHASERS, SKIMMERS & DARTERS - Libellulidae

Red-veined Darter *Sympetrum fonscolombii*

OTHER SELECTED INSECTS - INSECTA

Scarab Beetle sp. *Scarabaeus (Ateuchetus) cicatricosus*