

THE TRAVELLING NATURALIST

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SPAIN

Secret Wilderness of Extremadura

23 – 30 September 2017

TOUR REPORT

Leader: John Muddeman

While most people choose to visit Extremadura in spring, for its remarkable birdlife, landscapes and flowers, it is also a superb destination in autumn and winter, largely for the same reasons! OK, so the number of flowers is minimal (so making it easier to find the fewer butterflies around!), but the numbers of birds is often just as impressive, and the variety still excellent. Indeed, with very few birdwatching visitors, it's a great time to find your own birds, including perhaps rarities, plus spot a fine variety of other wildlife, including rutting deer...



A little owl stares back from its daytime resting site in the steppes

Saturday 23 September

Madrid airport. Transfer via El Pardo, El Gordo and Embalse de Arrocampo to Las Canteras

Superb weather, as for rest of week! Very fine and sunny, with light breeze and max. 31°C.

Our first griffon and cinereous vultures, pied flycatchers, Eurasian blue tits and fly-by hawfinch were all noted as we ate a picnic lunch among numerous noisy weekenders on the edge of Madrid! Several fallow deer browsing on fallen western holm oak acorns were our first mammals.

Reservoirs we visited en route were good and then got better, with mallard, gadwall, northern shoveler and common teal on the first, and the superb addition of five ferruginous ducks on the second! Little ringed plovers, plus single common snipe and dunlin rubbed shoulders with plenty of very variable western yellow wagtails of the Iberian race along a seepage line. In the extensive bulrush beds at another, a few sedge warblers, calling little bitterns, speeding common kingfishers and trumpeting western swamphens were just for starters, moments before two superb male bluethroats dropped out of cover to feed on almost bare ground in front, and frisky willow warblers gleaned the fennel clumps for aphids! As sunset approached and the light conditions got better and better, fly-over black-winged kite and lesser kestrel kept us busy and passing black-crowned night herons, one great, several little and lots of western cattle egrets came in to roost where a juvenile purple heron was also spooked from cover.

We finally pulled ourselves away from the orange and red tinted dusk skies, leaving the night crew of animals to come out in peace, and headed to our accommodation. Even the last stretch of road, now in the total darkness, came up trumps, with a red spot in the road the reflection from the eye of a resting red-necked nightjar, which flicked up in the far reach of the vehicle lights before ghosting off into the night. A superb finale!

Sunday 24h September

Zorita Steppes, Campo Lugar road, Palazuelo Rice Fields

Very fine and sunny, with light breeze; min. 16°C and max. 32°C

Numerous northern wheatears, corn buntings and common stonechats were noted from the start on the steppes, setting the pattern for the rest of the week! Several groups of black-bellied sandgrouse, most coming to drink at a livestock pool, were superb, with an accompanying cast of male hen and female western marsh harriers, a brief peregrine, the first of 13 great bustards, 'cronking' common ravens, groups of calandra larks and a gorgeous spectacled warbler flitting along the road as we progressed, of most note.

A lovely quiet track in a small valley nearby held a superb perched short-toed snake-eagle in a small line of trees where a migrant spotted flycatcher was a slightly odd companion. Two more black-bellied sandgrouse and seven fly-by great bustards were further excellent birds, plus three cherry-red male red avadavats sitting up for an unusually long time in some low bushes.

After our usual late morning coffee and comfort break, the rice fields occupied the rest of the day, with harvesting underway attracting many dozen white storks, western cattle and little egrets and, somewhat surprisingly, hundreds of migrant western yellow wagtails, including some gorgeous males of at least the Iberian, blue-headed and British subspecies. Hundreds of sand martins and a few barn swallows were foraging overhead, with a couple of southern grey shrikes on wires and in trees very evident, as also throughout the trip. Plentiful Iberian magpies were present too in the scrubbiest fringes, with a single Eurasian tree sparrow of note, but the already ploughed paddies were the best, holding large numbers of gulls and waders. Numerous ruff, plentiful black-winged stilts, several common greenshanks, common and spotted redshanks, a flock of ten little stints, a few green sandpipers and common snipes, three black-tailed godwit, a couple of curlew sandpipers and a single wood sandpiper were the most notable. But we were regularly distracted by mobile common kingfishers along the channels and flighty Eurasian hoopoes which burst into view from under the shade of the few trees present. More surprises as we left included a single (panting) female little bustard in some maize stubble and a confiding black stork in rice stubble. This was classy birding!

Monday 25 September

Monfragüe: Castillo, Salto del Gitano, Villareal de San Carlos, La Vueltona, Portilla del Tiétar, Fuente del Francés

Very fine and sunny, with light breeze and max. 31°C

A stiff breeze at height meant many of the roosting vultures were already moving as we arrived, but even beside our first parking spot we spent a long time just taking in many of the other local birds on a rock face above us and in the surrounding Wild Olive scrub! A single black redstart was one of at least five present, with close firecrest and short-toed treecreeper - the latter searching for food on the lichen-covered rocks - best amongst the smaller birds, without ignoring the Eurasian crag martins and red-rumped swallows wheeling overhead! Numerous griffon vultures sailed over and past us, some coming in, their wings scything loudly through the air, as they tried to stall just at landing on the cliff above.

Walking up we could hear a singing cirl bunting, but like the 'ticking' and wheezing hawfinches, this remained almost unseen, except for a brief flight view. The view from the top of the ridge was outstanding, especially for the numerous passing griffon and cinereous vultures, but 11 Eurasian spoonbills were also watched as they migrated high over heading south and small birds in the trees around included more elusive calling Hawfinches. The walk down also produced a single white-rumped swift which sped back and forth a couple of times before disappearing as quickly as it had appeared! Huge cliffs nearby were littered with abundant griffon and a couple of cinereous vultures, plus a single peregrine and a couple of flighty rock buntings.

The coffee stop rewarded us however with a high-flying adult and attendant juvenile Egyptian vulture. Thekla larks require careful ID, but we quickly saw the salient features on two as we progressed and so we continued on to lunch! More hawfinches, plus fly-over great spotted woodpecker over our picnic added further quality. Another viewpoint revealed an abundance of the large vultures and at least two blue rock thrushes, and more passing two-tailed pasha butterflies refused to stop...

We made an extra coffee stop to avoid some of the afternoon heat, with more pied flycatchers and a fine Eurasian nuthatch in consequence, although an impromptu stop at a water source was a true revelation! Blackbirds, blackcaps, common chaffinch, long-tailed, great and Eurasian blue tits, our first two garden warblers, several spectacular hawfinches, a spotted (and then bedraggled!) flycatcher, a fine Eurasian jay, and rounding off with willow warblers and a Eurasian greenfinch. A slightly earlier return was also well timed with a fine adult golden eagle circling over the steppe beside our accommodation!

Another restful evening before another fine dinner was once again enlivened by the antics of the numerous Moorish geckos coming out to feed on my beloved moths, and the porch's stripeless tree frogs doing the same. I still got my daily share of moth photos though!

Tuesday 26 September

Cross Corner (Monroy Road), Río Magasca, Santa Marta de Magasca, La Pulgosa, Río Almonte (N of Cáceres), Santiago del Campo - Hinojal agristeppe, Embalse de Talaván, Embalse de arroyo Bremudo, Río Almonte (N of Trujillo)

Very fine and sunny, with light breeze and max. 31°C

We started with a flock of Eurasian spoonbills heading low north over the guesthouse first thing, with three juveniles at a reservoir later in the day feeding frantically in front fun to watch too! Two common whitethroats were in the *Retama* bushes by the entrance gate as well, with another on completely open steppe later, indicating a small 'fall'. In decreasing order of abundance, corn buntings, crested larks, northern wheatears, whinchats, pied flycatchers, willow warblers and southern grey shrikes were all present along the roadside fences and bushes right from the start, and continued throughout the day.

Our first 'proper' stop was in the middle of the parched and overgrazed steppes, so characteristic of the Cáceres province this year, especially given the overgrazing following several years of minimal rain and high

temperatures. If the region receives good rain in autumn and winter, next spring should be spectacular for flowers! A large flock of pin-tailed sandgrouse flying across at distance, despite them dropping down deep into the middle of an inaccessible area, was still impressive! Some 70 to 80 birds, perhaps more. But to then find another 14, briefly on the ground and almost beside us, was terrific, and even bettered when 16 more rose up a little later from further out into the same field! A very distant little owl was our first, though bettered later with a couple more along the route, one almost coming out from under the wheels of the van along one track. The first of a few groups of 'twisling' calandra larks passed close by, while a lone barn swallow drifted past on active migration.

Numerous griffon and scarcer cinereous vultures were also noted almost throughout the day, though a brief female hen harrier, that twice disappeared down small gulleys as we tried to get better views, was our only one.

The Río Magasca valley at first appeared rather quiet, with very few raptors going over, but patience meant that not only did we note our first grey wagtail by one of the remaining pools, but a flurry of alarm calls from some long-tailed tits heralded a circling Eurasian sparrowhawk.

It was time for our daily morning drinks' break, this time at a tiny bar in the middle of a small village where the shade of a mulberry tree was very welcome.

Another stop, to look over another narrow valley produced the first two of the four or five short-toed snake eagles we noted during the day, while we went to a much larger one for lunch under the shade of a bridge. It was rather quieter than hoped here, despite the local red-rumped swallows and Eurasian crags martins wheeling around low overhead, and a couple of common sandpipers along the shores.

The bulk of the afternoon was spent traversing a whole series of dirt tracks in steppe areas in the west of the region. The pounding sun was best avoided outside, and we were happy to slowly explore along stretches of farmers' roads, looking for steppic birds. Their almost complete absence was no real surprise, given the parched and often vegetation-free landscape, but just the scale of the area and its subtle variations were great to watch as we racked up dozens and dozens of northern wheatears (at least three to every stop!), Whinchats, groups of crested and calandra larks often hiding in the shadows of the thistles, and even a few northern lapwings, looking completely out of place in the arid lands, though of course they should have been completely different, with a haze of fresh green grass if the usual autumn rains had materialised...

After another bar and comfort stop, we finally made it round to the Embalse de Talaván, where the low water levels provided ample muddy habitat for any passing waders. Indeed, after a quick check at the two ends of the reservoir, first on foot and then by vehicle, it was the middle area which turned up trumps. Plentiful northern lapwings and little ringed plovers, single dunlin, curlew sandpiper and black-winged stilt, plus four common greenshanks, one of which had us guessing its identity for a while in the heat haze, making for a fun stop!

Another longer stop was made at a small reservoir in a typical cattle-rearing estate not far away, where by staying the vehicle in the shade of a perfectly positioned western holm oak, we enjoyed great views of a delightful scene! The shallow grassy edges where the water was slowly receding were busy not only with a large lock of the local sheep, enjoying the tender green tips, but also with a fine variety of birds. Out in the water little grebes bobbed, and numerous mallard, gadwall and Eurasian teal lined the shallows, including a group of nine moulting northern pintails. The blue streaks of passing common kingfishers occasionally passed them by, while dapper black-winged stilts and northern lapwings stalked the shallows with 'stately' common greenshanks, and energetic western yellow wagtails were feeding friskily around the feet of the livestock. A few pied flycatchers enlivened the surrounding trees, with the occasional passing griffon vulture in the distance and our first two red kites adding further to the scene.

Taking the easiest and fastest, although not the shortest, route back, we were also rewarded as four black storks dropped in to feed at a pool close to the road, and although it was impossible to see them while on foot, they made a fine final sighting for the day from the vehicle!

Wednesday 27 September

Zorita Pools, Alcollarín Reservoirs, Alange, Mérida

High cloud most of day. Cooler for most of morning, c.18°C, rising to 28°C; muggy evening.

Having run out of time on our previous trip down this way, we headed back south, ostensibly to just visit the large and quite new Alcollarín Reservoir. However, I decided to make a little detour on the way down to check another couple of pools, with a few waders to start off the day in consequence, including common greenshank, black-winged stilt and little ringed plover, plus a mobile group of around 20 common linnets.

The main reservoir quickly rewarded us with a few new species for the tour, as well as being set in lovely surroundings. Great crested grebes, a couple of tiny groups of common pochards and, later, a couple of eclipse plumaged red-crested pochards were great finds. With the glut of new species each day already well over, it was clearly going to mainly be special birds that were likely to be added from now on. Indeed, a look across the far side, when the foraging white wagtails below us and local Iberian magpies and even European rabbits on the adjacent slopes allowed us, revealed a large brown bird standing tall amongst the massed common coots and duck. A juvenile greater flamingo, and a rarity to the region, which we enjoyed from much closer shortly afterwards! Ten Eurasian spoonbills moved around nearby, partly moved around by a large juvenile female peregrine stirring things up, although were too far to be able to read the colour ring combinations on two of them... Fortunately, I made up for this in part reading the combination from another different bird on the other side, though its origin isn't known yet! A single Eurasian skylark rose up from nearby grass, one of the very first of the autumn.

At the smaller azud, apart from the colour-ringed spoonbill, a few waders were feeding along the exposed shoreline, including, to our delight, a Temminck's stint. While there has been a good passage of the species through Extremadura this autumn, it was excellent to see it in close proximity to little stint, it looking more like a diminutive common sandpiper (which it also paused next to on occasions), than anything else. Two black storks circling over made me look twice, since they formed part of a migrating flock including two red and one smart black kite as well!

With the cloudy and still conditions, we had been able to cover almost the entire site with relative ease, and so on hearing some news from a friend, we decided to head further south still and take a late lunch looking for a specialist crag-dweller. We stopped en route to take in a passing adult golden eagle, and shortly after arriving, a superb male black wheatear popped out and gave fine and quite extended views before disappearing for good! With a couple of blue rock thrushes and Thekla larks also present for good measure and long range views over an adjacent reservoir and valley making it a pleasant stop, it was well worth the drive! And all the more so when we decided to look down the valley instead, and particularly so when a male northern goshawk cruised past and several Alpine Swifts powered past at height!

Being here also meant one thing. Going to Mérida to see where urban downtown is sliced in two by the Guadiana river and its green parks. And who better to meet there, albeit briefly, than The Urban Birder himself, David Lindo. It was a great surprise and all the more rewarding for us when some of his clients found a male little bittern perched out in the bulrushes! The river and adjacent habitats are locally famous as a corridor though, and common kingfishers, two low passing cinereous vultures, singing European serin and Cetti's warblers (as well as various fish and introduced terrapins!) just shows how diverse it can be!

Thursday 28 September

Monroy Road, Los Cerralbos, Trujillo, siesta (!), Puerto de Miravete, Valdecañas Dam, Arrocampo until after sunset.

Hot and sunny, max. 31°C

With so much having been seen already, in the light of the forecast for a hot afternoon we modified the

plans for the day, and made another bash at seeing steppic birds in the morning, followed by a siesta and then a trip to incorporate varied hilly and reservoir habits in the afternoon and evening. And it worked a treat!

The usual common suspects were out on the steppe again first thing near our guesthouse, though best was finding at least 75 pin-tailed sandgrouse on the ground close to the second group we'd found a few days before. They were partly obscured by grass, and remained relaxed about us except for a few sun-catching wing-stretching movements we witnessed (a sign of getting the wing muscles ready for imminent flight if necessary). It was difficult to see them clearly though, so we went to another 'classic' location, down another very dusty track to search for both species of sandgrouse. And we hit the jackpot! Small groups of both black-bellied and pin-tailed sandgrouse were either resting on the ground or moving around noisily in small mobile flocks. Indeed, we watched their comings and goings for well over an hour, enjoying the chance to hear them over and over again, and to study the plumages of males, females and juveniles when on the ground. A grey male harrier which suddenly dropped down to rest for a moment on a distant field stopped my heart for a moment, but it was 'just' a gorgeous male hen harrier, and not a male pallid such as one seen in the south of the region the day before! Also, bizarrely, or first new bird for the trip this day were two common ringed plovers, which flew low over the area calling repeatedly, before heading off south!

We finally tore ourselves away and headed for a break in the pretty nearby city of Trujillo. Indeed, while everyone went off for a walk and drink, I set about refuelling and cleaning the minibus. With a few little extras to boost the picnic we were off again, this time returning to the guesthouse for picnic in the shade there, before taking a couple of hours' break afterwards.

It was still hot as we left, but by keeping to the shade in a mountain pass with a light breeze, it was very pleasant. Birds were thin on the ground, but a few 'odds and ends' included a Eurasian sparrowhawk which had spooked a flock of Iberian magpies, a couple of passing Eurasian jays, a Sardinian warbler and view down towards the Arrocampo reservoir. Continuing down alongside the Tagus we again detoured off and down a little side valley, again standing out in the shade for comfort. Griffon and cinereous vultures, another Eurasian sparrowhawk, calling hawfinches, European robin, blackcap and a few other birds kept us busy, while out above an impressive dam nearby was great for the views, though birds were again scarce. A single subalpine warbler popped up over the edge and actually sat out in a bush long enough for us to admire, before vanishing into the scrub again.

It felt different back down at the main reservoir this time, and fewer birds were active, though plenty were calling. a female bluethroat was where the males had been almost a week earlier, though she quickly disappeared. common kingfishers, western swamphens, water rails, little bitterns and Eurasian reed warblers all called from the bulrush beds, but largely refused to show this time! We made our way round to another hide quite quickly, jamming into luck when a superb Eurasian wryneck dropped off an adjacent fence to feed on the short turf nearby. After several minutes it finally flew off, leaving us to turn to the little, western cattle and a great egret coming to roost, and black-crowned night herons coming out of their roosts to find fishing spots! A moulting male hen harrier floated gracefully over shortly before dusk, showing how migrant and wintering birds were moving through and into the region.

We returned mainly in the dark, with a moth-hunting red-necked nightjar over the road twice in front at one point an excellent sighting!

Friday 29 September

Campo Lugar, across to Sierra Brava, Palazuelo Rice Fields; Las Canteras late p.m.

High cloud until 11 am. Hot & sunny afterwards, max. 32°C

We decided to go for variety again, and with the lure of some possible Eurasian dotterel, which we'd looked for the previous Sunday without success (not surprisingly, as we'd been to the wrong site!), it seemed like a good option. But would they still be around, with at least two other negative reports from the area during the week?

We started with a check of some fishing / shooting ponds, where two pairs of ferruginous ducks were a terrific sight, and common kingfishers, gadwall, northern shoveler, common sandpipers and other commoner species got us off to a flying start. Indeed, we lingered here for a while, enjoying the terrific views in the still relatively cool conditions. The parched and rather bare surrounding steppe was just like everywhere else it seemed, though a gorgeous little owl sitting right out on a pile of slabs, was a delight, as were a couple of always-impressive flitting Eurasian hoopoes. The usual crested larks, northern wheatears and whinchats caught our eyes, but nothing else moved, until we finally drew up to our turning spot at the brow of the hill. And there, 40 or more yards away, three small plovers were running across the ground in full view. This was clearly the same group of Eurasian dotterel seen almost week before, though was one less than the maximum number seen, and some 500 metres further on from where first sighted! All were juveniles in differing states of moult, but they performed wonderfully, allowing extended views and the chance to congratulate ourselves on persisting and relocating them! We eventually pulled ourselves away as the sun decided to break through and returned to a nearby village for a drink at a bar where a few moths were again present to photograph.

Driving back across open steppe in the heat towards another large reservoir was seemingly pointless until Theo suddenly spotted a Eurasian stone-curlew standing just yards from the road! Better still, when we reversed, at least 4 more suddenly appeared from behind small stone mounds and clumps of vegetation, so we moved quickly on to reduce further disturbance. The reservoir itself, despite its huge size and reputation for harbouring enormous numbers of wintering duck, was exceptionally quiet. Perhaps due to the numerous fishermen present?

We started back-tracking, pausing beside some irrigated fields where sheep were feeding on a green 'lawn' with plentiful blue-headed (yellow) wagtails feeding around their feet, but soon moved on to eat lunch in shade near a small river where hundreds of Spanish Sparrows hid, albeit noisily, in the willows!

With the rice harvest continuing apace, it was no surprise to find a couple more small patches of paddies had been ploughed-in, the main one of these being discovered as a mixed flock of spotted redshank, common greenshank and single sanderling sped off from the most interesting paddy we'd discovered the Sunday before and dropped in there. We finally worked our way round, coming to a group of fields simply crawling with birds, though the distance and heat meant it was impossible to do a really good job on everything present. That said, a remarkable number of common greenshanks and spotted redshanks were present, with some 60+ of the former and 40+ of the latter present, plus a superb variety of other waders, including black-winged stilts, ruffs, green sandpipers, six common ringed and three little ringed plovers, four common redshanks, one wood sandpiper and numerous northern lapwings and common snipes. Another pool as we left held 13 little stints and ten Kentish plover for good measure! It was also good to see how a lesser black-backed gull, colour-ringed on one leg, but with the code largely obscured, was actually able to be tracked down as a French bird thanks to a photo, ringed as a chick in 2011, but only seen on three more occasions since!

Saturday 30 September

Monfragüe, drive to Madrid airport with picnic lunch en route

Very fine & sunny. Max. 31°C on drive, 28°C Madrid.

After our normal 8 a.m. breakfast for 9 a.m. departure, we added a little for packing the vehicle and indeed last minute cleaning of accumulated rubbish (!) and dust before departing shortly afterwards. We headed north and straight to the main viewpoint in Monfragüe first. Amongst large numbers of perched griffon Vultures, with a couple of cinereous vultures for comparison, a peregrine was the star here, even performing an (unsuccessful) attack run on a couple of spotless starlings. A Eurasian wren also popped out in front, being the first seen by the group and blue rock thrush, Eurasian crag martin, a brief black redstart and passing red-rumped swallows presented a fine scene.

Another stop shortly ahead by the bridge provided us with another excellent scene of perhaps 200 Alpine swifts "chittering" overhead in swirling groups, as well as the opportunity to watch quite large groups of

pigeons flying past, many of these being wild-type rock doves and allowing us a few moments to discuss a little about their real situation (i.e. me trying to leave established dogma behind, ha ha!).

Moving on again, another stop for one possibility ended up in another, as a couple of Dartford warblers in the adjacent Gum Cistus scrub called and then flew across, one even going into its butterfly-like song flight before plunging deep into cover. A few red deer beside the road were noted as we continued to a shaded viewpoint overlooking one of the dams and amongst pines. While larger raptors were numerous over the valley, there was little variation, with just the two large vultures present once again, but birds in the trees included male common chaffinch, passing calling firecrest, a discrete female cirl bunting, a calling lesser spotted woodpecker.

We now moved on again, this time to the last main stop, with some time to spend while waiting for one of its most famous occupants to appear. But on hearing that the pair had left, after being sat out on the top just ten minutes before we arrived, was not good news! We spent a very enjoyable 90 minutes waiting, with a distant large eagle turning round and disappearing for good no sooner than we'd got a scope on it, and the innumerable griffon and plenty of cinereous vultures again cruising back and forth, often in sizeable groups, keeping us busy watching (and listening, as they cut their way loudly through the air during their entry runs to the crag in front)! Close red-rumped swallows, passing blackcap and Sardinian warbler, calling blue rock thrush and a red kite or two kept us busy, but we finally had to call it quits and start the run back to the airport.

With time limited, we kept going until reaching the first roadside service station after 2 p.m., where we stopped to buy drinks and use the facilities, place ate our picnics outside. And it was here, at nowhere special in particular, that the bogey bird of the trip decided to cruise past at height - a Spanish imperial eagle! It just kept going though, so it was a further bonus when I saw another displaying high over the adjacent agristeppe, this time while travelling up the motorway. While we couldn't stop, it was still slightly fitting that it should have been the 150th bird species for the tour, not only an impressive total for the time of year, but full of birds of special note, and as noted later, particularly of extended high quality observations.

We reached Terminal 4 of Madrid airport after a superb early autumn tour. Apart from the wildlife, with the good weather throughout, tasty food, pleasant (one-centre) accommodation in a rural setting and enjoyable company, what could have been better?!

SPECIES LISTS

Please note that the following bird list follows the online IOC World List (version 7.3).

BIRDS – AVES

GEESE, SWANS & DUCKS - Anatidae

Northern Shoveler *Spatula clypeata* : Common on larger water bodies and noted in moderate number on 5 days.

Gadwall *Mareca strepera* : Noted Embalse de Valdecañas on 23rd, a pair+ Embalse de Arroyo Bremudo on 26th, plenty Embalse de Alcollarín on 27th.

Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos* : Common and widespread and noted daily except on 24th.

Northern Pintail *Anas acuta* : 9 Embalse de Arroyo Bremudo on 26th.

Eurasian Teal *Anas crecca* : Widespread in moderate number on larger pools and reservoirs; noted on 5 days.

Red-crested Pochard *Netta rufina* : 2 Embalse de Alcollarín on 27th.

Common Pochard *Aythya ferina* : 5 Embalse de Alcollarín on 27th.

Ferruginous Duck *Aythya nyroca* : 5 Emb. de Arrocampo on 22nd, 4 Campo Lugar on 29th.

GROUSE, PHEASANTS & allies - Phasianidae

Red-legged Partridge *Alectoris rufa* : Small numbers noted on 3 days, and also heard Monfragüe on 30th.

GREBES - Podicipedidae

Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis* : Widespread on larger pools and reservoirs and seen on 5 days, max. 300+ Embalse de Alcollarín on 27th.

Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus* : 300+ Emb. de Alcollarín on 27th, 200+ Emb. de Sierra Brava on 29th.

FLAMINGOS - Phoenicopteridae

Greater Flamingo *Phoenicopterus roseus* : 1 juvenile Embalse de Alcollarín on 27th.

STORKS - Ciconiidae

Black Stork *Ciconia nigra* : Excellent numbers this year: 1 Palazuelo Rice Fields on 24th, 4 Río Almonte N of Trujillo on 26th, 2(-4) Embalse de Alcollarín on 27th, 2 Las Canteras on 28th and 4 Palazuelo Rice Fields on 29th.

White Stork *Ciconia ciconia* : Except for lots in the Palazuelo Rice Fields on 24th and 29th, a few e.r. on 23rd.

IBISES & SPOONBILLS - Threskiornithidae

Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus* : 16+ Palazuelo on 26th, and 17 there on 29th.

Eurasian Spoonbill *Platalea leucorodia* : 11 over Monfragüe on 25th, 11(or 12) over Las Canteras and 3 juvs Embalse de Arroyo Brejudo on 26th, 10 + 2 Embalse de Alcollarín on 27th.

HERONS & BITTERNs - Ardeidae

Little Bittern *Ixobrychus minutus* : Several heard Embalse de Arrocampo on 23rd & 28th, 1 male Mérida on 27th.

Black-crowned Night Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax* : 4 Embalse de Arrocampo on 23rd and 6+ there on 28th.

Western Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis* : Common beside larger reservoirs and along valleys, e.g. Embalse de Arrocampo+ on 23rd and 28th, Palazuelo Rice Fields on 24th and 29th, etc.

Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea* : Noted in small to moderate number daily at numerous sites.

Purple Heron *Ardea purpurea* : One juvenile Embalse de Arrocampo on 23rd.

Great [White] Egret *Ardea alba* : Moderate numbers of this formerly rare bird: Singles Embalse de Arrocampo on 23rd and 29th, Palazuelo on 24th and 29th, 6 Embalse de Alcollarín on 29th.

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta* : Frequent and widespread around wetlands; noted on 8 days.

CORMORANTS - Phalacrocoracidae

Great Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo* : Common at wetlands and noted on 6 days.

OSPREYS - Pandionidae

Western Osprey *Pandion haliaetus* : A distant perched bird Embalse de Arrocampo on 30th.

HAWKS, EAGLES & allies - Accipitridae

Black-winged Kite *Elanus caeruleus* : 2 Embalse de Arrocampo on 23rd were terrific.

Egyptian Vulture *Neophron percnopterus* : An adult plus a juvenile high over Monfragüe on 25th.

Griffon Vulture *Gyps fulvus* : Abundant, widespread and seen daily in moderate to large number.

Cinereous Vulture *Aegypius monachus* : Frequent, widespread and seen daily in small to moderate number.

Short-toed Short-toed Eagle *Circaetus gallicus* : Small numbers still noted widely on 6 days, max. 4-5 on 26th.

Spanish Imperial Eagle *Aquila adalberti* : The last new bird for the tour, with separate single adults en route along the A5 on 30th.

Golden Eagle *Aquila chrysaetos* : An adult Las Canteras on 25th, and another near Alange on 27th.

Eurasian Sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus* : Singles Río Magasca on 26th, Puerto de Miravete & Valdeañás Dam on 28th, 1 Palazuelo on 29th.

Northern Goshawk *Accipiter gentilis* : A juvenile male Alange on 27th.

Western Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus* : Common, widespread at and near wetlands and noted on 5 days, max. 8+ on 23rd.

Hen Harrier *Circus cyaneus* : Adult males Campo Lugar Road on 24th, Los Cerralbos & Emb. de Arrocampo on 28th and a female Monroy Road on 26th.

Red Kite *Milvus milvus* : 3-6 daily at various sites 26th - 30th.

Black Kite *Milvus migrans* : A late juvenile over the Emb. de Alcolarán on 27th.

Common Buzzard *Buteo buteo* : Quite common, widespread and noted daily except on 25th, max. 6+ on 24th.

BUSTARDS - Otidae

Great Bustard *Otis tarda* : 22 Campo Lugar area on 25th and 4 there on 29th.

Little Bustard *Tetrax tetrax* : A female Palazuelo area on 25th.

RAILS, CRAKES & COOTS - Rallidae

Water Rail *Rallus aquaticus* : Several heard and one briefly in flight Embalse de Arrocampo on 23rd, one heard Embalse de Alcolarán on 27th, plenty heard Embalse de Arrocampo on 29th.

Western Swamphen *Porphyrio porphyrio* : At Embalse de Arrocampo 4+ on 23rd & 1 seen and lots heard on 29th.

Common Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus* : Several Embalse de Arrocampo on 23rd & 29th, and a few Mérida on 28th.

Eurasian Coot *Fulica atra* : Noted most large reservoirs on 23rd and 27th-29th.

CRANES - Gruidae

Common Crane *Grus grus* : An early pair flying over Embalse de Arrocampo at dusk on 24th.

STONE-CURLEWS & THICK-KNEES - Burhinidae

Eurasian Stone-curlew *Burhinus oedicnemus* : 5+ Campo Lugar Road on 29th were great after failing at roosts!

STILTS & AVOCETS - Recurvirostridae

Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus* : 200+ Palazuelo+ on 24th, 1 Emb. Talaván + 2 Emb. Arroyo Bremujo on 26th, 2 Zorita pools on 27th and lots Palazuelo+ on 29th.

PLOVERS & LAPWINGS - Charadriidae

Northern Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus* : Common, widespread and seen daily, except on 5th, at numerous, especially wetland sites.

Common Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula* : 2 Los Cerralbos on 28th and 6 Palazuelo on 29th.

Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius* : Common and widespread at wetlands; noted daily except 25th and 30th, max. 15 Emb. Valdecañas on 23rd and 15 Emb. Arroyo Bremujo on 26th.

Kentish Plover *Charadrius alexandrinus* : 2 Palazuelo on 25th and 10 there on 29th.

Eurasian Dotterel *Charadrius morinellus* : 3 Campo Lugar on 29th were superb!

SANDPIPERS, SNIPES & allies - Scolopacidae

Common Snipe *Gallinago gallinago* : Small - moderate numbers at main wetland sites; noted 5 days, max. 20+ 29th.

Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa* : Three Palazuelo on 25th.

Spotted Redshank *Tringa erythropus* : 10+ Palazuelo on 25th and 40+ there on 29th.

Common Redshank *Tringa totanus* : 3-4 Palazuelo on 25th and 4 there on 29th.

Common Greenshank *Tringa nebularia* : 4 Palazuelo on 25th, 4 Emb. Talaván + 2 Embalse de Alcolarán on 26th, 3 Casar de Cáceres on 28th, and 10+ Palazuelo on 29th.

Green Sandpiper *Tringa ochropus* : Moderate numbers at wetland sites on 5 days; max. 10+ on 24th and 29th.

Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola* : Singles Palazuelo on 24th and 29th.

Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos* : 2 Río Almonte + 1 Emb. Arroyo Bremujo on 26th, 1 Embalse de Alcolarán on 27th and 5+ Campo Lugar+ on 29th.

Ruff *Calidris pugnax* : 90 Palazuelo on 24th and lots there on 29th.

Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea* : 1 juv Embalse de Talaván on 26th.

Temminck's Stint *Calidris temminckii* : 1 Embalse de Alcollarín on 27th.

Sanderling *Calidris alba* : 1 Palazuelo on 29th.

Dunlin *Calidris alpina* : 1 Emb. de Valdecañas on 23rd, 1 Embalse de Talaván on 26th & 3 Zorita pools on 29th.

Little Stint *Calidris minuta* : At Palazuelo 10 on 24th and 13 on 29th, plus 2 Embalse de Alcollarín on 26th.

GULLS, TERNS & SKIMMERS - Laridae

Black-headed Gull *Chroicocephalus ridibundus* : Variable numbers noted on five days at wetland sites; max. 100+ Palazuelo on 24th and 29th.

Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus fuscus* : Abundant Palazuelo+ on 23rd and plenty there again on 29th, plus small numbers at other sites on 3 days.

SANDGROUSE - Pteroclididae

Pin-tailed Sandgrouse *Pterocles alchata* : 100+ Monroy Road on 26th, 75 there again on 28th when also 20 Los Cerralbos.

Black-bellied Sandgrouse *Pterocles orientalis* : A total of 27 Campo Lugar area on 24th and 23+ Los Cerralbos on 28th.

PIGEONS & DOVES - Columbidae

Rock Dove *Columba livia* : Noted daily; in addition plenty of obvious feral pigeons, wild type rock doves were seen at a few sites on various days.

Common Wood Pigeon *Columba palumbus* : Small numbers at a few sites on 5 days.

Eurasian Collared Dove *Streptopelia decaocto* : Common, widespread and noted daily in variable number.

OWLS - Strigidae

Little Owl *Athene noctua* : 3 various sites Monroy Road - Talaván steppes on 26th and 2 Campo Lugar on 28th.

NIGHTJARS - Caprimulgidae

Red-necked Nightjar *Caprimulgus ruficollis* : Singles after dark near Las Canteras en route on 23rd & 28th.

SWIFTS - Apodidae

Alpine Swift *Tachymarptis melba* : 5+ Alange on 27th and 200+ Monfragüe on 30th.

Pallid Swift *Apus pallidus* : 1 Trujillo on 28th.

White-rumped Swift *Apus caffer* : 1 Monfragüe Castle on 25th.

KINGFISHERS - Alcedinidae

Common Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis* : Remarkably frequent and widespread; noted 7 days and max. 8+ on 24th and similar numbers 28th and 29th.

HOOPPOES - Upupidae

Eurasian Hoopoe *Upupa epops* : Common, widespread and noted in small to moderate number daily at numerous sites; max. 10+ on 24th, 26th and 29th.

WOODPECKERS - Picidae

Eurasian Wryneck *Jynx torquilla* : A great find was 1 Embalse de Arrocampo on 28th.

Lesser Spotted Woodpecker *Dryobates minor* : One called briefly Monfragüe on 30th.

Great Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos major* : Singles seen and heard Monfragüe on 25th.

FALCONS & allies - Falconidae

Lesser Kestrel *Falco naumanni* : Definitely identified individuals were 2 Emb. de Arrocampo on 23rd.

Common Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus* : Common, widespread and noted daily except on 23rd, but some of these records will relate to Lesser Kestrels!

Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus* : Singles Campo Lugar on 24th, Monfragüe on 25th and 30th, and a large juvenile female Embalse de Alcollarín on 27th.

AFRICAN & NEW WORLD PARROTS - Psittacidae

Monk Parakeet *Myiopsitta monachus* : Heard El Pardo on 23rd.

SHRIKES - Laniidae

"Iberian" Grey Shrike *Lanius meridionalis* : Common, widespread and noted daily in small to moderate number; max.

15+ on a few days.

CROWS, JAYS & MAGPIES - Corvidae

Eurasian Jay *Garrulus glandarius* : Singles Monfragüe on 25th and 30th, and 2+ Puerto de la Miravete on 28th.

Iberian Magpie *Cyanopica cooki* : Common, widespread and seen daily in variable number.

Eurasian Magpie *Pica pica* : Common, widespread and seen daily in variable number, though less numerous than Iberian Magpie.

Western Jackdaw *Coloeus monedula* : Quite common and widespread, and noted in variable number daily except on 23rd and 26th.

Northern Raven *Corvus corax* : Widespread in moderate number; noted 5 days with 10+ daily 24th - 26th.

TITS & CHICKADEES - Paridae

Eurasian Blue Tit *Cyanistes caeruleus* : Widespread in small number; noted daily except on 24th.

Great Tit *Parus major* : Also widespread in small number and noted daily.

LARKS - Alaudidae

Woodlark *Lullula arborea* : One Monfragüe on 25th and several heard singing on 26th.

Eurasian Skylark *Alauda arvensis* : One Emb. de Alcollarín on 27th.

Thekla Lark *Galerida theklae* : Two Monfragüe on 25th, heard Río Magasca on 26th and 2+ Embalse de Alcollarín on 27th.

Crested Lark *Galerida cristata* : Abundant, widespread and noted daily.

Calandra Lark *Melanocorypha calandra* : Abundant Campo Lugar area on 24th, plenty Monroy Road on 26th and Trujillo steppes on 28th, and a few Campo Lugar on 29th.

SWALLOWS & MARTINS - Hirundinidae

Sand Martin *Riparia riparia* : 3 Embalse de Arrocampo on 23rd and 150+ Palazuelo on 24th.

Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica* : C. 12 Palazuelo on 24th, 1 Monroy Road 26th and 2 Embalse de Alcollarín on 27th.

Eurasian Crag Martin *Ptyonoprogne rupestris* : Abundant Monfragüe on 25th, several various sites on 26th, plenty Embalse de Alcollarín+ on 27th, plenty on 28th and plenty Monfragüe on 30th.

Common House Martin *Delichon urbicum* : Still common, widespread and noted daily from 25th.

Red-rumped Swallow *Cecropis daurica* : Common & widespread: noted daily in small-moderate number from 24th.

CETTIA BUSH WARBLERS & Allies - Cettiidae

Cetti's Warbler *Cettia cetti* : Heard in dense riverside and streamside sites on 5 days, but 2 seen well Mérida on 27th and 2+ seen Embalse de Arrocampo on 28th.

BUSHTITS - Aegithalidae

Long-tailed Tit *Aegithalos caudatus* : 3 briefly El Pardo on 23rd, 12+ Monfragüe on 25th, singles Mérida on 27th and Puerto de Miravete 28th.

LEAF WARBLERS & allies - Phylloscopidae

Willow Warbler *Phylloscopus trochilus* : Particularly common still this autumn, with small-moderate numbers noted widely and daily.

REED WARBLERS & allies - Acrocephalidae

Sedge Warbler *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus* : 3 Embalse de Arrocampo on 23rd, and heard there again on 28th.

Eurasian Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus scirpaceus* : 1 Embalse de Arrocampo on 24th, and 1+ there again on 30th.

CISTICOLAS & allies - Cisticolidae

Zitting Cisticola *Cisticola juncidis* : Uncommon and only noted, though widely, in small number on 5 days.

SYLVIID BABBLERS - Sylviidae

Eurasian Blackcap *Sylvia atricapilla* : 1 male Las Canteras on 24th, 8+ Monfragüe on 25th & 1+ there on 30th.

Garden Warbler *Sylvia borin* : 2 Monfragüe on 25th & 2 Palazuelo on 29th.

Common Whitethroat *Sylvia communis* : 2 Las Canteras + 1 La Pulgosa on 26th.

Dartford Warbler *Sylvia undata* : 3+ Monfragüe on 30th.

Spectacled Warbler *Sylvia conspicillata* : 1 super bird Campo Lugar road on 24th.

Subalpine Warbler *Sylvia cantillans* : 1 juvenile Valdecañas Dam on 28th.

Sardinian Warbler *Sylvia melanocephala* : Ones and twos daily from 24th, except on 29th, inc at Las Canteras.

CRESTS & KINGLETS - Regulidae

Firecrest *Regulus ignicapilla* : One beauty seen and another heard Monfragüe on 25th, heard Río Magasca on 26th and heard again Monfragüe on 30th.

WRENS - Troglodytidae

Eurasian Wren *Troglodytes troglodytes* : Just heard Monfragüe on 25th plus 1 seen there on 30th.

NUTHATCHES - Sittidae

Eurasian Nuthatch *Sitta europaea* : One Monfragüe on 25th.

TREECREEPERS - Certhiidae

Short-toed Treecreeper *Certhia brachydactyla* : Just one seen and another heard Monfragüe on 25th.

STARLINGS & RHABDORNIS - Sturnidae

Spotless Starling *Sturnus unicolor* : Abundant, widespread and seen daily in variable number.

THRUSHES - Turdidae

Common Blackbird *Turdus merula* : Widespread; 1-3 seen daily from 24th.

CHATS & OLD WORLD FLYCATCHERS - Muscicapidae

Spotted Flycatcher *Muscicapa striata* : 1 Campo Lugar on 24th, 2 Monfragüe 25th, 1 Emb. Arroyo Bremudo on 26th, 1 Embalse de Alcollarín on 27th and 1 Embalse de Arrocampo on 29th.

European Robin *Erithacus rubecula* : Odd birds heard various sites on 3 days, plus 3 seen Monfragüe on 25th.

Bluethroat *Luscinia svecica* : 2 males Embalse de Arrocampo on 23rd and a female there on 28th.

European Pied Flycatcher *Ficedula hypoleuca* : Widespread in small-moderate number and noted daily.

Black Redstart *Phoenicurus ochruros* : 5+ Monfragüe on 25th and 1 + heard there on 30th.

Common Redstart *Phoenicurus phoenicurus* : Small numbers of migrants present widely: 1-2 daily 24th - 27th.

Blue Rock Thrush *Monticola solitarius* : 3+ Monfragüe on 25th and 2+ there on 30th, plus 3+ Río Almonte on 27th.

Whinchat *Saxicola rubetra* : Impressive numbers of migrants: noted daily except on 25th and 30th, max. 30+ on 24th and 20+ on 26th.

European Stonechat *Saxicola rubicola* : Excellent numbers of migrants: common, widespread and seen daily.

Northern Wheatear *Oenanthe oenanthe* : Abundant, widespread and seen daily at numerous sites; 100s seen on 26th.

Black Wheatear *Oenanthe leucura* : A fine male Alange on 27th.

OLD WORLD SPARROWS & SNOWFINCHES - Passeridae

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus* : Common, widespread and seen daily.

Spanish Sparrow *Passer hispaniolensis* : Large numbers present locally; mainly heard and noted on 5 days.

Eurasian Tree Sparrow *Passer montanus* : One Palazuelo on 24th and 3+ there on 29th.

Rock Sparrow *Petronia petronia* : Two Monfragüe on 25th and 2 Río Magasca on 26th.

WAXBILLS, MUNIAS & allies - Estrildidae

Common Waxbill *Estrilda astrild* : 9 Embalse de Arrocampo on 23rd and 5+ there on 28th, 1 Mérida on 27th, and 1 Monfragüe on 30th.

Red Avadavat *Amandava amandava* : 3 males Palazuelo area on 24th and lots there on 29th.

WAGTAILS & PIPITS - Motacillidae

Western Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava* : Common and widespread on passage. Noted daily except on 25th and 30th, max. 1000+ Palazuelo area on 24th; specifically identified birds were mostly *flava*, but also included single male *flavissima* on 24th and 26th and several *iberiae* on 24th.

Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea* : Heard Monfragüe on 25th, 1 Río Magasca on 26th, 1 Emb. de Alcollarín & 2 Mérida on 27th, and 1 Monfragüe on 30th.

White Wagtail *Motacilla alba* : 2 Emb. de Valdecañas on 23rd, 1 Santa Marta de Magasca and 2 Emb. de arroyo bremudo on 26th, 6+ Embalse de Alcollarín on 27th and 1 Campo lugar on 29th.

Tawny Pipit *Anthus campestris* : 4 Trujillo steppes on 26th and 2 Campo Lugar road on 28th.

FINCHES & allies - Fringillidae

Common Chaffinch *Fringilla coelebs* : Several Monfragüe on 25th & 1 male on 30th, plus 1 Río Magasca on 26th.

Hawfinch *Coccothraustes coccothraustes* : Small numbers on 5 days, though mainly Monfragüe on 25th & 30th.

European Greenfinch *Chloris chloris* : 1+ El Pardo on 23rd, 5+ Monfragüe on 25th, 1 Las Canteras on 26th and 2 Mérida on 27th.

Common Linnet *Linaria cannabina* : 20+ Zorita on 27th.

European Goldfinch *Carduelis carduelis* : Small numbers, including a few flocks, noted on 5 days.

European Serin *Serinus serinus* : Heard Mérida on 27th and 2 Puerto de Miravete on 28th.

BUNTINGS, NEW WORLD SPARROWS & allies - Emberizidae

Corn Bunting *Emberiza calandra* : Abundant and present daily in open areas.

Rock Bunting *Emberiza cia* : 2 Monfragüe on 25th, 2 Puerto de Miravete on 28th and heard Monfragüe on 30th.

Cirl Bunting *Emberiza cirlus* : Singles seen Monfragüe on 25th and 30th, heard singing Río Magasca on 25th.

MAMMALS - MAMMALIA

RABBITS & HARES - Leporidae

European Rabbit *Oryctolagus cuniculus* : 4 various sites on 23rd and 1 Emb. de Alcollarín on 27th.

Iberian Hare *Lepus granatensis* : 1 Las Canteras on 25th.

MICE, RATS, VOLES & GERBILS - Muridae

Southern Water Vole *Arvicola sapidus* : A large vole, presumably this species, crossed the river at Mérida on 27th.

MONGOOSES - Herpestidae

Egyptian Mongoose *Herpestes ichneumon* : 1 dead on road on 25th.

DOGS & allies - Canidae

Red Fox *Vulpes vulpes* : 1 La Pulgosa on 26th.

VESPER BATS - Vespertilionidae

Bat sp/p : Small bats of (an) unknown species seen flying at Las Canteras and a colony of possible Kuhl's Pipistrelle at another site 23rd-26th.

DEER - Cervidae

Red Deer *Cervus elaphus* : Plenty Monfragüe on 25th, 3+ Río Almonte on 26th and heard Valdecañas Dam on 28th.

Fallow Deer *Dama dama* : 4 El Pardo on 23rd, heard Monfragüe on 25th and 2+ near Valdecañas Dam on 28th.

REPTILES - REPTILIA

New World Terrapins - Emydidae

Red-eared Terrapin *Trachemys scripta* : 1+ Mérida on 27th.

Old World Terrapins - Geoemydidae [=Bataguridae]

Spanish Terrapin *Mauremys leprosa* : One Campo Lugar on 24th and 2 Río Magasca on 26th.

Geckos - Gekkonidae

Moorish Gecko *Tarentola mauritanica* : Abundant at Las Canteras, and the nightly moth slaughter was 'enjoyed' over dinner most days!

Colubrid Snakes - Colubridae

Montpellier Snake *Malpolon monspessulanus* : 1 fine specimen beside the car Emb. de Arroyo Bremudo on 26th.

AMPHIBIANS - AMPHIBIA

Stripeless/Mediterranean Tree Frog *Hyla meridionalis* : Up to three resident individuals at Las Canteras were noted most days!

Iberian Water Frog *Pelophylax perezi* : Abundant in the Palazuelo rive fields on 24th and 29th.

BUTTERFLIES - LEPIDOPTERA (A very poor autumn due to the drought)

Mallow Skipper *Carcharodus alceae*

Common Swallowtail *Papilio machaon*

Bath White *Pontia daplidice*

Clouded Yellow *Colias crocea*

Cleopatra *Gonepteryx cleopatra*
Lang's Short-tailed Blue *Leptotes pirithous*
Holly Blue *Celastrina argiolus*
Spanish Brown Argus *Aricia cramera*
Two-tailed Pasha *Charaxes jasius*
Cardinal *Argynnis pandora*
Wall Brown *Lasiommata megera*
Meadow Brown *Maniola jurtina*
Great Banded Grayling *Brintesia circe*

MOTHS - LEPIDOPTERA (plenty, despite the drought, the geckos and tree-frogs!)

The commonest and/or most notable included (with some others in pictures below):

Vestal *Rhodometra sacraria*
Tiger moth sp. *Cymbalophora pudica*
Grass Processionary Moth *Thaumetopoea herculeana*

DAMSELFLIES & DRAGONFLIES - ODONATA

HAWKERS & EMPERORS - Aeshnidae

Migrant Hawker *Aeshna mixta*
Blue Emperor *Anax imperator*
Lesser Emperor *Anax parthenope*
Broad Scarlet *Crocothemis erythraea*
Red-veined Darter *Sympetrum fonscolombii*

OTHER SELECTED TAXA

Red Signal Crayfish *Procambarus clarkii*

LARGER FISH - PISCES

Common Carp *Cyprinus carpio*
Barbel sp *Barbus sp.*
Eastern Mosquito Fish *Gambusia holbrooki*
American Large-mouthed Bass *Micropterus salmonoides*
Sun Perch *Lepomis auritus*

Assorted Photographs (all © John L. Muddeman)



(Mostly) Black-bellied Sandgrouse



(Mostly) Pin-tailed Sandgrouse



Eurasian Wryneck



Short-toed Snake-eagle



Eurasian Dotterel



Little Owl



Eurasian Stone-curlew



Uresiphita gilvata



Microloxia herbaria



Crambid moth.



Pale Shoulder *Acontia lucida*



Vestal *Rhodometra sacraria*



Crambid moth



Thaumetopoea herculeana



Great Dart *Agrotis crassa*



Pyrusta despicata