

Northern Spain

Saturday 25 November - Friday 1 December 2006

Trip Report

Leaders:

John Muddeman

Ray Nowicki

Saturday 25th November

Most of the group arrive at Gatwick just before 7am, and Ray arrives slightly later due to a lack of communication by the overnight hotel staff that did not inform the courtesy minibus driver that Ray was booked to get on it. After a quick phone call a taxi arrives at the hotel and the hotel pay for the ride, it was their fault! It soon becomes clear that everyone has arrived and we move through to the departure area.

After the flight we meet up with the two remaining group members that travelled from Heathrow and we load up the minibuses and head off towards Loarre. We do see a few birds as we drive through the Barcelona area: Great Cormorant, Grey Heron, Cattle Egret, Yellow-legged and Black Headed Gulls, Mallard, Collared Dove, Common Starling and Common Magpie. It isn't long before we visit a service area for a bio-stop and then continue our long drive towards Loarre. The kilometres pass by and after a while we stop for another break and also enjoy more birds like Lapwing, Marsh Harrier, Kestrel, White Wagtails, Common Buzzard, Southern Grey Shrike and Meadow Pipit. We drive on and still manage to find interesting species including several small groups of White Storks, (about 50 birds in total). Darkness begins to fall but we still manage a selection of birds: Wood Pigeon, Raven, Stonechat and is that a Buzzard or an Eagle Owl on a pylon, we turn around even though we are so close to Loarre only to find it is a Buzzard. We finally arrive at the hotel, unload the luggage into our rooms and later enjoy a meal before having a good night's sleep.

Sunday 26th November

Fine weather to start with and as we leave the hotel to load up we take the chance to study both Common and Spotless Starling species sitting together on a TV aerial nearby. We then move to Castillo de Loarre and see a Griffon Vulture sitting on a rock just below the castle. We park and as we exit the vehicles a Crested Tit calls nearby but proves difficult to see. However we do find several Rock Buntings & a few Cirl Buntings. As we follow a loose flock of birds flying further up we find Yellowhammers, Mistle & Song Thrushes plus Chaffinches in the rocks above us. Nearby we only manage to hear Sardinian Warbler & Short-toed Treecreeper. Woodlarks start to song flight nearby and float down only to disappear in the vegetation. As we approach the Castle a Crested Tit shows well in the Pines, but we are then distracted by the sight of a Wallcreeper as it flies from the Castle to a nearby rock face. We manage to have good telescope views of this much sought after gem before it vanishes behind the cliff face. Meanwhile back near the Castle a pair of Common Crossbill perch on top of the pines giving great views. The Crossbills fly off towards the Castle, settle on the brickwork and appear to peck the stonework. Are they looking for minerals or grit to help with digestion?

Behind us a Rock Sparrow is calling in a tree and at least 2 Firecrest are seen and heard in the scrub, we also manage to set eyes on the elusive Short-toed Treecreeper. A gang of Griffon Vultures drift lazily overhead, it must be getting warmer, and our first group of Crag Martins fly over the cliff face. It is time to move on after all that excitement and have drinks and relax at a nearby bar. Just after our break and as we attempt to return to

the vehicles we marvel at the tameness of a very close Red Kite drifting over us. The Kite moves away slowly and we drive off towards Huesca but stop to look at 150 Red-billed Chough feeding in the fields near the road, we also find Crested Lark and Stonechat before moving on, but then have to stop again near a road junction to view male & female Hen Harriers, the male is much easier to follow against the hillside but they are soon out of view.

A short drive towards Huesca, which we by-pass, and we arrive at Cuarte Lake. A short muddy track takes us to the edge of the lake and we find a good mix of birds including Coot, Mallard, Shoveler, Wigeon, Pochard, Tufted Duck, Little Grebe, Marsh Harriers, Water Rail (heard only) and Yellow-legged Gulls. For some strange reason the lake seems popular with joggers and loud music today. Meanwhile on the surrounding land, Meadow Pipits, Wood Pigeon and Raven are seen but Chiffchaff is heard only. Our next drive takes us into towards Vadiello and this drive becomes very exciting as we travel up the winding, narrow road with magnificent scenery, to find it is raining as we pull into the car park to have our lunch. During lunch we see the occasional Raven and find a few Griffons perched high up on the cliff-face but that is about all. After lunch we walk through a tunnel or two and spread out on the dam area to try and locate Wallcreeper that sometimes use the dam. A Peregrine flies over the cliff-tops and settles in view on a rock. A Gadwall is found on the reservoir along with 2 Mallard and a sizeable charm of Goldfinches feed along the edge of the reservoir but still no Wallcreeper, so we gather up and go for a walk. We pass through tunnels and the rains get heavier but then lighter as we view a rock-face and look for Wallcreeper. As we walk back towards the car park a very colourful Strawberry Tree, laden with ripe fruit, catches our eye but it is too high up to warrant our attention. On our return to the Hotel some of the group go to their rooms whilst others go back into the field to view the nearby Embalse de la Navas and see Pintail, Teal and Merlin before returning.

Monday 27th November

Light winds, sunny & dry, cooler PM. Today we set off towards the famous area called Riglos and en-route see a few Red Kites but as we approach the town we stop to enjoy a large flock of Goldfinches as they fly over the road. We then move further along towards Riglos and stop to look at Griffon Vultures that have perched close to the road. The more we look the more we find, at least 3 Dartford Warblers, Stonechats, a very distant Peregrine over the hills and several of us hear a Green Woodpecker. Then we move to a vantage point to photograph Riglos and its rocks. Along the swollen river below us we see a Grey Heron and nearby a Common Buzzard with very pronounced markings that give it the appearance of wearing a T-shirt! We then drive the short distance to the village, park and walk towards the famous rocks and soon see the first of 10+ Black Redstarts. As we get nearer the cliff at least 2 Wallcreepers are found and then a minimum of 5 Alpine Accentors. We do not move very far for some time as we enjoy good close views of these special birds. At times they are difficult to see as they disappear into nooks and crannies. Above us climbers slowly make their way up the rock-face, the birds are far quicker! Both male & female Sardinian Warblers are seen in the scrub whilst Serin and Linnet drift back and forth. We eventually have our fill of these 'vertical' birds and move to another viewpoint and watch Serins perched in a tree. Above the rocks 2 Peregrines are whizzing around amongst lots of soaring Griffon Vultures. The hills opposite are scanned and an adult Lammergeier appears but is immediately attacked by an adult Golden Eagle at least twice before moving off, allowing the Lammergeier to continue its journey over the hillside and enable us to view it. The Lammergeier goes behind the hill and does not return so we walk back to village and see a Chiffchaff before moving off to have drinks etc. We then push on towards San Juan de la Pena and see a Marsh Harrier and a Great Spotted Woodpecker along the way. The drive up towards San Juan de la Pena is beautiful and thankfully traffic free. We stop near the new buildings and have lunch, it's not long before another Lammergeier appears but drifts away far too quickly and is gone. After lunch we start to explore and find several Common Crossbill nearby, Crested Tit seem to be everywhere, Great Spotted Woodpecker, Blackcaps, Coal Tit and hear a few Goldcrests.

Our walk takes us to a viewpoint that overlooks the snow topped Pyrenees; we then hear the clicking of digital cameras. We walk to another viewpoint and see a Red Squirrel, Long-tailed Tits and Firecrest, and hear yet more Goldcrest. As we walk back to the car park we see evidence that Wild Boar have been feeding in the grassland. We drive a different route back and stop at the old Monastery where another Short-toed Treecreeper allows great views. We start the journey back towards our base and see at least 50 Red Kites going into a roost before we stop to check out an Eagle Owl roost site but hear nothing. On the way back we narrowly miss 3 Wild Boar crossing the road, thank goodness!

Tuesday 28th November

Its change over day and the day starts still and cool with light cloud and rain, after breakfast we load up the vehicles and head southeast. It is not long before we see a group of 100+ Red-billed Chough feeding in the fields, we move on and become aware that Griffon Vultures plus the odd Red Kite seem to be heading for a particular field so we turn off to investigate. We arrive to see the awesome sight of a massive 'rugby scrum' of Griffon Vultures ripping a carcass to pieces with attendant Red Kite and Corvids trying to get their share. It wasn't long before they move on to leave nothing apart from a rib cage. So we turn our attention to the orchard and find Cirl Bunting, Chaffinch and hear Chiffchaff and at least 2 Brambling. Our urge to migrate returns, so we continue our journey and 5 White Storks are noted near Huesca. The next stopping place is the Capdesso rice fields, but a change in land use means they have gone. We do see a few birds of note: Reed Bunting, Lapwing, Corn Bunting and Cattle Egrets. We move along to stop at Laguna de Sarinena, a sizeable body of water and reed bed, and full of birds: our first Greylag Geese, a good mix of duck species, Cattle & Little Egret and at least 10 Marsh Harrier. Another Egret is noticed flying low over the Laguna which turns out to be a Great White Egret, a very nice find. Smaller birds help to add interest with sizeable numbers of Goldfinch and Linnet, with fewer numbers of Serin, Greenfinch, Chiffchaff and Cetti's Warbler. The air is quite cold and so are we, so we decide to move on and seek warmth plus drinks at a bar in Bujaraloz.

We continue our drive and head towards the Rio Ebro but just before we reach Escatron we stop to identify a raptor that is flapping about below the road, a Stonechat makes a quick exit from the bush and a juvenile female Goshawk looks up in disgust as its snack has escaped. It flies a short distance before landing on the nearby rocks to regain its composure before flying off. This sighting more than makes up for the one most of us missed earlier! We travel a little further and enjoy a leg stretch near Escatron, as we look down on the Rio Ebro below us we find distant Little Egrets and Kingfishers, nearby a Crested Lark sings as we board the minibuses and drive off.

It does not take long to reach the Belchite area and we go off-road to explore the fields and surrounding area. We stop close to an inclined field and find a large flock of very mobile Calandra Larks, including one leucistic bird, so we set up the telescopes and not only find these Larks but also see at least 30 Black-bellied Sandgrouse to add to the 11 we saw near Bujaraloz earlier. About 20 Pin-tailed Sandgrouse are noted, yet another Southern Grey Shrike on food alert along with Little Owl. A male Hen Harrier drifts low behind us and then we start to move position to an elevated position further along to have lunch and watch. During lunch a Marsh Harrier floats over the nearby fields which are full of countless Calandra Lark and Skylarks. Suddenly a larger raptor appears, a hunting Adult Golden Eagle. As the Eagle comes nearer it seems relatively unaware of us as it flies by with its head pointing to the ground looking for unsuspecting prey. Not content with one Eagle we scan and locate what appears to be a pair sitting together on a distant pylon and another sitting on a distant building, luckily we have to move on towards Daroca after lunch and as we drive towards the 'distant building' we stop to check this eagle. As if to order it takes off, drifts past us and it turns out to be an immature bird. We move on with the occasional stop to check for birds. At one such stop we find both species of Sandgrouse but we concentrate on a very close group of 6 Pin-tailed Sandgrouse

which seem very relaxed whilst the Black-bellied Sandgrouse are busy flying everywhere but close! The lead vehicle enjoys good views of a perched Merlin but this flies away before the other vehicle can get there. Daroca is not too far away and so we continue our journey and do not stop again until we reach the delightful little city and park near the hotel and start to unload our luggage into our new base. That accomplished the drivers move the vehicles to the hotel car park; this proves interesting as one of the vehicles is wider than the other. It only fits through the small gap between the walls with both wing mirrors folded in, but once achieved it becomes easier with no damage to walls or vehicle paintwork! We gather up before the meal to do the checklist and later enjoy a well earned feast and then sleep.

Wednesday 29th November

The day starts clear and sunny with a cool wind blowing. After breakfast we collect our lunch for the day in a 'hotel provided' mini-rucksack and then set off to the Belchite area again. We turn off at Belchite and head towards the El Planeron Nature Reserve. Just before we reach the reserve we pull off the road into a neglected farm to view 2 Hoopoe that we see fly into a small tree. This move was also very convenient as we manage to lose the Civil Guard that has been following us for some time. A short drive later we turn off to travel along the reserve track and stop to park. We see both species of Sandgrouse flying around but at a distance, we also find 2 Stonechats and notice the ever present Griffon Vultures that we seem to take for granted most days. We start our walk to try and locate the much sought after Dupont's Lark, it is not long before one flies up only to evaporate in the low scrub as it is not seen again. We walk a little further and manage to find another Dupont's Lark only this time we get it right and watch this rarity as it walks slowly in and out of the scrub allowing everyone there to have good, now you see me - now you don't, type of views. Other birds present in the area include Skylark and a small flock of 6 Lesser Short-toed Larks that allow flight views only. Flushed with our success we return toward the vehicles and hear a Dupont's Lark in song and another one calls in reply. We then return to new Belchite for drinks and a brief rest before moving on to old Belchite to have our lunch. The ruins here are a lasting example of mans inhumanity to man during the Spanish Civil War when Franco used Stuka bombers with deadly consequences. The birdlife here is limited but we do find a few specialists like Black Wheatear, Black Redstart and Blue Rock Thrush. The surrounding land produces Buzzard, Red Kite, Sparrowhawk and Grey Wagtail. We move off and head back towards Daroca, seeing Southern Grey Shrike and Red Kite before we turn off towards Tosos and head for the Embalse de las Torcas. A long drive on a stony forest track and we arrive at the car park and immediately find 2 Bonelli's Eagles soaring nearby and these land on a distant crag. The telescopes come out and everyone views these choice raptors. The wildfowl on the water below hardly get a glance from us as the air becomes busy with other raptors. An immature Golden Eagle drifts over quite high, and all except one miss the Goshawk going the other way. A distant raptor is seen that appears to be in partial display flight, as it gets nearer we discover it is a ring-tail Hen Harrier, possibly a very feisty young male! Just to round things off nicely a Sparrowhawk flies over behind the resting Bonelli's Eagles. We climb into the minibuses and drive back along the track on to the tarmac and head back but not before we stop to enjoy an adult Golden Eagle hunting close to the road and another perched Merlin that dashes away far too quickly. A group of Cirl Buntings make it very difficult for any of us to see them as they land in the back of a tree before flying off again into the hedgerow and away. It is not long before we return to Daroca and see at least 30 + Red-billed Chough, 15+ Crag Martin and our sixth Sparrowhawk of the day.

Thursday 30th November

A frosty start with ice on the vehicle windows and a cool breeze, but sunshine welcomes us as we leave the hotel after breakfast. We drive SW of Daroca towards the Laguna de Gallocanta area and the first part of the drive is gently uphill along a very twisty road but

we soon reach our destination area for the day. Just past the turning for Gallocanta on the left we turn right and stop to view the farmland containing a good number of (700+) Common Cranes. The air is cool and the threat of fog lies just to the south of our position but we search through the Cranes to find young birds and to watch pairs in display, calling and feeding. We are just far enough away from the Cranes not to bother them and other Cranes fly in but most land out of sight. Luck is with us as the fog begins to fade away allowing other things to come into view, a Red Kite sitting on a pylon for instance. We then move to look at Laguna de Ziada which is very dry, so we stop at some higher ground further along the road and view again. A Little Owl is seen perched on the roof of a deserted building and at least 3,000 Common Cranes are feeding below us. Large flocks of Calandra Larks with some Skylark twist and turn in the sunlight, the Calandra showing their black under wing. Meanwhile, behind us sits a young male Merlin, eventually the sight of all these Larks is too much and it takes off at dramatic speed to catch and eat its breakfast.

We move back along the road to our earlier viewpoint and check the ground for anything new and find an adult Golden Eagle perched on the ground. A tractor makes its way along a track which will pass close to the perched eagle, so we wait and sure enough the Golden Eagle is forced to move, the eagle then lands on a pylon close to the main road. Needless to say we climb back into the vehicles and drive slowly past the resting eagle and continue into the village of Gallocanta and have drinks. After refreshments we take advantage of the vantage point and scan the Laguna below to find our first Shelduck and Curlew feeding in the mud. Good numbers of Mallard and at least 25 Greylag Geese are visible among the 6,000+ Common Cranes. We move on and eventually leave the road to explore farm tracks and find yet more Cranes. Another Merlin is found perched in a field to our left with, on our right, a Southern Grey Shrike. The Merlin does not stay long and dashes off to hunt the masses of Linnets, Goldfinches and Corn Buntings we passed earlier. We then leave the farm tracks and return to tarmac for a short time before heading off again on farm tracks to get closer to the Laguna. We stop at some farm buildings to see another Little Owl and at least 25 Tree Sparrows before turning our attention to the Laguna to look at an immature Greater Flamingo, we then move along to the reed bed and stop to have lunch. A heat haze makes viewing difficult over the Laguna but we manage to see several Marsh Harriers, Reed Buntings, Black-headed Gulls and Griffon Vultures. After lunch we move towards the village and stop to look at a Green Woodpecker and hear another. At least two Zitting Cisticola are seen in this same area. We start to make our way back to Daroca via minor roads and find a close Male Hen Harrier hunting and it is successful in catching an unidentified prey item.

We travel through Used and catch a glimpse of a Sparrowhawk over the wooded hills before finding 27 Red-billed Chough feeding in a field. The road drops down into Daroca and on our return have time to do whatever we want before checklist time. A good collection of birds are found within the city including: 3 Rock Sparrow, Blue Rock Thrush, Dartford Warbler, 20 Crag Martin & 20 Serin.

Friday 1st December

Breakfast is done and dusted quite quickly as we have a long drive ahead and we set off at about 09.30. The weather looks O.K. to start with but we soon notice the mist getting thicker and this turns into fog.

All this before we even get to Zaragoza, not a good start. These conditions continue well beyond Zaragoza but we just carry on clocking up the kilometres. Very little wildlife is viewable until the fog thins later on allowing us to see Buzzard, Griffon Vulture, White Wagtail, Red-billed Chough and Grey Heron, although it was sad to see a dead Beech Marten beside the road.

We arrive at the Delta del Llobregat Nature Reserve near Barcelona airport and have lunch before spreading out to explore what is left of this wildlife oasis. Despite the noise

of aircraft taking off every few minutes the birdlife is amazing. In the wetland areas we find: Little Grebe, Great Cormorant, Grey Heron, Black-crowned Night Heron, Little Egret, Shelduck, Wigeon, Teal, Mallard, Pintail, Shoveler, Pochard, Marsh Harrier, Pheasant, Water Rail, Moorhen, Coot, Lapwing, Golden Plover, Green Sandpiper, Wood Sandpiper, Snipe, Ruff, Black-headed Gull, Mediterranean Gull, Kingfisher, Hoopoe, Black Redstart, Zitting Cisticola, Cetti's Warbler, Chiffchaff, Sardinian Warbler, Long-tailed Tit and Short-toed Treecreeper and Reed Bunting.

On the sea/beach we find: Gannet, Little Egret, Yellow-legged Gull, Audouin's Gull, Black-headed Gull, Sandwich Tern, Razorbill and Tree Sparrow.

We do run into problems as we try to fill up with fuel near the airport when the computer 'says no' and the tills lock-up. It's Friday-night rush hour grid-lock on the roads and John is already late for his check-in but we cannot wait any longer and so drive to the airport. We all make it to check-in and go through to departures!

The trip itself has been a wonderful experience and the weather has been very kind, finishing with 18°C in Barcelona. The birds have been the real stars with a great number of new species for this particular holiday. Hope to see you again some day!

John Muddeman & Ray Nowicki

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BIRD LIST:

This is the combined list for the whole group. * = new species for the tour; h = heard only; m/m = male/s ; f/f = female/s ; Emb. = Embalse (reservoir); R. = río (river). e.r. = en route ; B = Barcelona ; Be = Belchite ; Bu = Bujaraloz ; CLo = Castillo de Loarre ; CRF = Capdesaso Rice Fields ; CuL = Cuarte Lake ; EIP = El Planerón ; ENa = Emb. de las Navas ; ET = Emb. de las Torcas ; Hu = Huesca ; LG = Laguna de Gallocanta ; Da = Daroca ; DLI. = Delta del Llobregat reserve ; Lo = Loarre ; LS = Laguna de Sariñena ; R = Riglos ; RE = R. Ebro, Escatrón ; SJP = San Juan de la Peña ; V = Vadiello

Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>	2 CuL on 26th, 1 LS on 28th and 10+ DLI on 1st.
*Northern Gannet	<i>Morus bassanus</i>	Plenty noted offshore DLI on 1st.
Great Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo sinensis</i>	Common, widespread and seen daily in small
		– moderate number.
Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	Seen in small number daily except n 26th.
Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>	Singles B airport and e.r. on 25th, 3 CRF and 9 LS on 28th. Any at DLI on 1st?
*Black-crowned Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>	Five DLI on 1st (James).
Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	6-7 RE on 28th and plenty DLI on 1st.
*Great Egret	<i>Egretta alba</i>	One LS and another probable RE on 28th.
*Greater Flamingo	<i>Phoenicopterus ruber</i>	A distant immature LG on 30th.
White Stork	<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>	54+ Sencelles and 14 e.r. on 25th and 5 Hu on 28th.
Greylag Goose	<i>Anser anser</i>	c. 12 LS on 28th and c.25 LG on 30th.

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Common Shelduck	<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>	13+ LG on 30th and noted DLI on 1st.
Eurasian Wigeon and	<i>Anas penelope</i>	8 CL on 26th, c.20 LS on 28th, h ET on 29th seen DLI on 1st.
Common Teal 30th	<i>Anas crecca</i>	8 ENa on 26th, lots LS on 28th, c.20 LG on and plenty DLI on 1st.
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	Noted daily in moderate to large number at many sites, except just 2 on 25th and none on 27th.
Northern Pintail on	<i>Anas acuta</i>	One f ENa on 26th, a pair LS on 28th, 3 ff ET 29th and a few DLI on 1st.
Northern Shoveler on	<i>Anas clypeata</i>	6+ CuL on 26th, lots LS on 28th and lots DLI 1st.
Common Pochard DLI	<i>Aythya farina</i>	12 CuL on 26th, c.30 LS on 28th and several on 1st.
*Gadwall	<i>Anas strepera</i>	A pair V on 26th and 5 LS on 28th.
*Tufted Duck	<i>Aythya fuligula</i>	One m + 3 ff CuL on 26th.
*Ferruginous Duck	<i>Aythya nyroca</i>	A probable at DLI on 1st was just too distant to rule out a possible hybrid.
Red Kite	<i>Milvus milvus</i>	Noted each full day in variable number, including c.50 in the Huesca area on 27th.
Eurasian Griffon Vulture	<i>Gyps fulvus</i>	Also seen each full day, including 100s on 26th.
Lammergeier	<i>Gypaetus barbatus</i>	Single adults Ri and SJP on 27th.
Hen (Northern) Harrier	<i>Circus cyaneus</i>	A 'pair' e.r. on 26th, a 'pair' Bu on 28th, a m e.r. and a ringtail ET on 29th and a m LG on 30th.
Western Marsh Harrier on	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>	Noted daily except on 29th, with max. c.10 LS 28th and 10+ DLI on 1st.
Eurasian Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>	Singles Lo and RE on 28th, 6+ various sites on 29th, and singles e.r. and Da on 30th.
*Northern Goshawk	<i>Accipiter gentilis</i>	Single females S of Bu and near RE on 28th and one (Mike) ET on 29th.
Common (Eurasian) Buzzard 1st, inc. max	<i>Buteo buteo</i>	Small numbers seen daily, except on 7-8 on 28th.
Golden Eagle on	<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>	One briefly Ri on 27th, 3 adults + 1 juv. Bu on 28th, an adult + a juv ET on 29th and 1 ad LG 30th were superb.
*Bonelli's Eagle	<i>Hieraaetus fasciatus</i>	A superb pair ET on 29th.
Common (Eurasian) Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	Widespread and seen daily in small – moderate number.
Merlin and	<i>Falco columbarius</i>	One En on 26th, 1 Be on 28th, a f ET on 29th 2 mm LG on 30th.
Peregrine	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	A m V on 26 th and 1 Lo and 2 Ri on 27th.
Red-legged Partridge	<i>Alectoris rufa</i>	Just 2 e.r. and 4 Be on 28th.
*Common Pheasant	<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>	Three ff DLI on 1st (James).
Common Crane	<i>Grus grus</i>	An estimated 5-6000 at LG on 30th.
Water Rail DLI	<i>Rallus aquaticus</i>	One bird calling CuL on 26th and 2-3 calling on 1st.
Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	Only noted DLI on 1st.
Common Coot a	<i>Fulica atra</i>	Moderate number CuL on 26th and LS on 28th, few ET on 29th and plenty DLI on 1st.
[Northern] Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	Plenty e.r. on 25th and e.r. and at LS on 28th, 8

		LG on 30th and lots DLl on 1st.
[European] Golden Plover	<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>	C.20 DLl on 1st.
Eurasian Curlew	<i>Numenius arquata</i>	Five LG on 30th.
Green Sandpiper	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>	Several DLl on 1st.
*Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>	Three DLl on 1st (James).
Common Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>	50+ DLl on 1st.
*Ruff	<i>Philomachus pugnax</i>	One DLl on 1st.
Yellow-legged Gull	<i>Larus (cachinnans) michahellis</i>	One – six daily from 25th – 28th, plus plenty DLl on 1st.
*Audouin's Gull	<i>Larus audouinii</i>	A few offshore DLl on 1st.
Black-headed Gull	<i>Larus ridibundus</i>	Several near B on 25th, 1 ad LS on 28th, 2 LG on 30th and plenty DLl on 1st.
*Mediterranean Gull	<i>Larus melanocephalus</i>	One DLl on 1st.
*Sandwich Tern	<i>Sterna sandvicensis</i>	A few DLl on 1st.
*Razorbill	<i>Alca torda</i>	C.6 DLl on 1st.
Pin-tailed Sandgrouse	<i>Pterocles alchata</i>	15-20 + another 6 in the Be area on 28th, plus c. 20 EIP on 29th.
Black-bellied Sandgrouse	<i>Pterocles orientalis</i>	11 Bu and 30+ in the Be area on 28th, 25+ EIP on 29th and 3 in flight LG on 30th.
Rock Dove/Feral Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>	Noted daily in variable number, with plenty of wild-type Rock Doves at most non-urban sites.
[Common] Wood Pigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	Widespread though not abundant; noted daily except on 30th.
Eurasian Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	Common, widespread and noted daily.
Monk Parakeet	<i>Myiopsitta monachus</i>	One flying e.r. near B and another h DLl on 1st.
Little Owl	<i>Athene noctua</i>	Singles e.r. and Be 28th and 2 LG on 30th.
Common Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>	Two distantly RE on 28th but 1 or 2 close DLl on 1st.
[Eurasian] Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>	Two Be on 29th and 1 DLl on 1st.
Great Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>	4-5 SJP on 27th, 1 LS on 28th and 1 Da on 30th.
Green Woodpecker	<i>Picus viridis</i>	Singles h Ri and SJP on 27th and 1 seen and another h LG on 30th.
Calandra Lark	<i>Melanocorypha calandra</i>	1000s Bu on 28th, 100s Be and area on 29th and 1000s LG on 30th; a leucistic bird near Bu on 28th was an unusual sight.
Lesser Short-toed Lark	<i>Calandrella rufescens</i>	Rather poor, due to a stiff breeze on the steppes: h Be area on 28th and 6 in flight EIP on 29th.
Dupont's Lark	<i>Chersophilus duponti</i>	One on the ground and another in flight, plus one singing and another calling EIP on 29th.
Crested Lark	<i>Galerida cristata</i>	Quite common and widespread; seen each full day small to moderate number, especially on roadsides and in arable and steppe areas.
Wood Lark	<i>Lullula arborea</i>	Just two briefly CLo on 26th.
[Eurasian] Sky Lark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>	Heard e.r. on 26th, then plenty on arable and steppe areas from 28th – 30th.
Eurasian Crag Martin	<i>Hirundo rupestris</i>	Four CLo on 26th, 9 Ri on 27th, c. 15 Da on 29th and c.20 there on 30th.
White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>	Common, widespread and noted daily. All were ssp. alba.
Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>	One h Ri on 27th, 1 LS on 28th and singles EIP and Be on 29th.
Meadow Pipit	<i>Anthus pratensis</i>	Common and widespread and noted daily except on 1st.
Southern Grey Shrike	<i>Lanius meridionalis</i>	Two+ e.r. on 25th, 2 CuL on 26th, 4-5 various sites on 28th, 1 e.r. on 29th and 1 LG on 30th.
[Winter] Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	Heard V and 1 Lo on 26th plus 1 Ri on 27th.

Alpine Accentor	<i>Prunella collaris</i>	5 Ri on 27th.
Hedge Accentor [Duncock]	<i>Prunella modularis</i>	One CLo on 26th plus 1 Ri on 27th.
Blue Rock Thrush	<i>Monticola solitarius</i>	Two Be on 29th and 1 m Da on 30th.
Common [Eurasian] Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	Widespread in small number and noted on 5 days.
Redwing	<i>Turdus iliacus</i>	Just 2 SJP on 27th.
Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>	Just 2 CLo on 26th and single Lo on 28th and Be on 29th.
Mistle Thrush	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>	A few daily from 25th – 28th; max 10+ on 27th.
European Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>	Seen daily except on 25th in small - moderate
Black Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>	Widespread in small number and seen daily except on 25th.
Common Stonechat	<i>Saxicola torquata</i>	Widespread in small number and seen daily.
Black Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe leucura</i>	Two mm Be on 29th.
Zitting Cisticola [Fan-tailed Warbler]	<i>Cisticola juncidis</i>	Two LG on 30th and several DLI on 1st.
Cetti's Warbler	<i>Cettia cetti</i>	Heard LS on 28th and a few DL on 1st.
Common Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>	Widespread in small number and seen daily except on 25th.
Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>	Two Lo on 26th and 27th plus 2+ SJP on 27th.
Sardinian Warbler	<i>Sylvia melanocephala</i>	One seen and others h CLo on 26th, a f + 1 h Ri on 27th, h RE on 28th, 1+ Be on 29th and a few
Dartford Warbler	<i>Sylvia undata</i>	DLI no 1st.
Firecrest	<i>Regulus ignicapillus</i>	3+ Ri on 27th and 1 Da on 30th.
Goldcrest	<i>Regulus regulus</i>	Two CLo and h V on 26th and 3 SJP on 27th.
Long-tailed Tit	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>	plenty h SJP on 27th.
Coal Tit	<i>Parus ater</i>	Heard V on 26th, 2-3 SJP on 27th and several DLI on 1st.
Crested Tit	<i>Parus cristatus</i>	Four+ SJP on 27th.
Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>	Two CLo on 26th and 5-6 seen and plenty h SJP on 27th.
Blue Tit	<i>Parus caeruleus</i>	Surprisingly scarce: ones and twos at various sites from 26th – 28th and on 1st.
Eurasian Nuthatch	<i>Sitta europaea</i>	Also surprisingly scarce: noted on 26th, 27th and 30th.
Wallcreeper	<i>Tichodroma muraria</i>	Two+ SJP on 27th.
Short-toed Treecreeper	<i>Certhia brachydactyla</i>	One CLo on 26th and 2 Ri + 1 SJP on 27th were a superb total.
and		One seen + 1 h CLo on 26th, 2-3 SJP on 27th
Eurasian Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>	noted DLI on 1st.
Black-billed [Common] Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>	Two SJP on 27th and h Da on 30th.
Red-billed Chough	<i>Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax</i>	Noted daily in small - large number.
Eurasian [Western] Jackdaw	<i>Corvus monedula</i>	Noted each full day moderate - large number; max 150 on 26th and c. 115 on 28th.
e.r.		A few e.r. on 25th, 1+ SJP on 27th and plenty on 1st.
Carrion Crow	<i>Corvus corone</i>	A few each full day and e.r. on 1st.
Common Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>	Noted daily in small – moderate number; max c. 20 on 28th.
Common [European] Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	Common, widespread and noted daily except on 30th.
Spotless Starling	<i>Sturnus unicolor</i>	Common, widespread and noted daily except on

Corn Bunting and	<i>Emberiza calandra</i>	25th. 15+ e.r. on 26th, plenty Lo and CRF on 28th
Yellowhammer	<i>Emberiza citrinella</i>	plenty LG on 30th.
Rock Bunting	<i>Emberiza cia</i>	Six+ e.r. and 1+ ENa on 26th. 15-20 CLo on 26th, 1+ Ri on 27th and 1 LG on 30th.
Cirl Bunting	<i>Emberiza cirlus</i>	A pair CLo on 26th, 2h Ri on 27th, a m Lo on 28th and 6+ ET on 29th.
[Eurasian] Reed Bunting 3-4 LG on	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>	One CuL on 26th, 1 CRF on 28th and 30th.
Common Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	Plenty daily from 26th – 29th.
Brambling	<i>Fringilla montifringilla</i>	Just 2h near Lo on 28th.
European Serin	<i>Serinus serinus</i>	A few daily except on 1st; max c.20 Da on 30th.
European Greenfinch	<i>Carduelis chloris</i>	One h Ri on 27th and 3 seen and others h LS on 28th.
European Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	Quite common, widespread and seen on each full day.
Common Linnet	<i>Carduelis cannabina</i>	Common, widespread and seen on each full day.
*Common Crossbill	<i>Loxia curvirostra</i>	A pair CLo on 26th and 12+ SJP on 27th.
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	Noted every day and generally common.
Eurasian Tree Sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>	25+ LG on 30th including a 'half' melanistic bird.
Rock Sparrow	<i>Petronia petronia</i>	Three CLo on 26th and 3 Da on 30th.

MAMMALS

Wild Boar	<i>Sus scrofa</i>	3 crossing the road e.r. back to Lo on 27th and tracks crossing the LG on 30th.
Red Squirrel	<i>Sciurus vulgaris</i>	One beauty SJP on 27th.
Iberian Hare	<i>Lepus granatensis</i>	One e.r. on 26th.
European Rabbit	<i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i>	One Be on 29th.

BUTTERFLIES:

Large White	<i>Pieris brassicae</i>	One Be on 29th.
Small White	<i>Artogeia rapae</i>	Common, widespread and seen daily.
Clouded Yellow	<i>Colias croceus</i>	Several Ri on 27th, lots on 29th and 1 LG on 30th.
Peacock	<i>Inachis io</i>	One e.r. on 27th.
Red Admiral at	<i>Vanessa atalanta</i>	One Bu on 28th and several on 29th, especially Be.
Painted Lady	<i>Vanessa cardui</i>	Five+ various sites on 29th and 2 LG on 30th.
Speckled Wood	<i>Pararge aegeria aegeria</i>	One of this ssp. Be on 29th.
Wall Brown	<i>Lasiommata megera</i>	One+ Ri on 27th.

OTHER INSECTS:

Hummingbird Hawk-moth	<i>Macroglossum stellatarum</i>	One feeding at Da early on 1st.
Migrant Hawker	<i>Aeshna mixta</i>	A m Be on 29th.
Ruddy Darter	<i>Sympetrum sanguineum</i>	A few at EIP on 29th.
Yellow-winged Darter	<i>Sympetrum flaveolum</i>	A m at EIP on 29th.
Blue-winged Grasshopper	<i>?Oedipoda caeruleascens</i>	One V on 26th, 1 Be on 29th and 2 Da on 30th.

