

Extremadura

23 – 30 September 2007

Trip Report

Leaders:

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Introduction

Throughout the trip we were blessed with excellent weather which made our visit really enjoyable. However, the high temperatures we experienced did mean that we needed to take regular liquid refreshment during the day (!) and it also meant that once each day warmed up to a certain level, bird activity did slow down considerably. Also, the clear skies probably encouraged passing migrants to keep going.

Having said all that, it really was an excellent trip with stacks of good birds including such things as Great and Little Bustards, numerous Hoopoes, Vultures and other raptors, and a very prolonged sighting of a Spanish Imperial Eagle sat on a rock.

The Finca Santa Marta was an excellent base and the food was good too. It was good to see that it has retained much of its original 'rustic' character and the surrounding land held plenty of birds for our 30 minute pre breakfast strolls.

We hope you enjoyed the tour as much as we did and we look forward to the pleasure of your company on a future *Travelling Naturalist* tour.

DAILY DIARY

Sunday 23 September

The day starts clear and sunny in London but our plane is delayed a little. We all meet at Madrid Airport and after collecting the minibuses head westwards. We enjoy a welcome stop 100km east of Trujillo to stretch our legs, eat snacks and admire the singing Crested Larks in the car park plus a single Black Vulture high overhead. A variety of birds are seen along the route including Stonechat, Hoopoe, Spotless Starlings, Cattle Egrets, Common Buzzard, Black-shouldered Kite and (leader only) Great Bustard. The sight of the Finca Santa Marta looming ahead of us is very welcoming. After a brief buffet with Henri and his team, we head off to Trujillo to have our evening meal before returning to the Finca for a well-earned sleep!

Monday 24 September

A slightly later breakfast is the order of the day after our hectic schedule yesterday and once complete with picnic, we head out along the Santa Marta de Magasca road and stop after a short distance to admire the nearby singing Woodlarks. At the next stop we view a huge vista of dry vegetation and notice a kettle of vultures starting to soar up on the plentiful thermals; Griffons with a few Blacks and a single Egyptian Vulture (the only one of the trip). A dark phase Booted Eagle and several Common Kestrels are noted before we find two Little Bustards in the nearby field but these vanish very quickly into thin air and are not seen again. A large flock of Lapwings fly restlessly over a distant farm as we move along and have the briefest view of a hunting male Hen Harrier before we turn off to explore a farm track. We find 2 Hoopoes feeding next to the fence line so we stop and check out the surrounding land. The grazing sheep and cattle gather near a small pool along with a good number of Yellow Wagtails but the air is getting hotter (31°!). We drive the short distance to Santa Marta de Magasca and find a wonderful place to eat our picnics and have cool drinks outside in the shade.

After lunch we move the short distance to the Rio Tamuja and have stunning views of House & Crag Martins plus Red-rumped Swallows flying just below us.

Our attention is then turned to a male Golden Eagle throwing itself about in full display above the woodland nearby; is he displaying to his mate or a rival?

The air-con is working hard as we travel over the Caceres Plain searching for Bustards and Sandgrouse. A few Red Kites hunt over the parched land whilst numerous Whinchat's & Northern Wheatears sit on the fence wires and we eventually locate four Great Bustards feeding the other side of a field. Flushed with success and relief we start to travel back only to find another four Great Bustards feeding a lot closer to the road. Once back at the Finca we enjoy liquid refreshment and cake during the call over. After this a few of the group watch a calling Rock Sparrow perched nearby. Our evening meal is enjoyed outside in the courtyard allowing us to make the most of such stunning weather.

Tuesday 25 September

Our breakfast is later than we thought but that allows us to enjoy a brief pre-breakfast walk at the Finca. We see a good selection including; Hawfinch, Serin, Linnet, 2 Great-spotted Woodpeckers, Goldfinch, Blackcap, Grey Wagtails, Short-toed Treecreeper and then we head in for breakfast.

We leave and head for the Monfrague National Park and drive straight to the Castle where most of the group manage the walk to the top of the hill. Once at the top we admire the Griffon Vultures floating past along with masses of Crag & House Martins plus Red-rumped Swallows. A Short-toed Eagle is seen hunting in the distance, next, a single White-rumped Swift dashes past only to return after a few minutes, this time in display flight! We then move to Penafalcon and find good numbers of Griffon Vultures and a single Buzzard flying through. Lunch is taken at the bridge but is delayed due to a group of 15 Alpine Swifts over the water. A short drive takes us to Villarreal de San Carlos for drinks and a bio stop. We then move to the dam and stop to check the pinewood; Long-tailed Tit, Hawfinch, Pied Flycatcher and a very brief Crested Tit are seen. Further along we stop to look at what is left of the lake and find several Red Deer including one walking into the water, an odd partner for the Black Storks and Great-white Egret already in the lake. Below us a constant stream of Azure-winged Magpies pass by allowing us to fully appreciate their colours. A brief look at the Tietar Cliff produced a couple of Blue Rock Thrushes before we return to the Finca for drinks, call over and then our meal.

Wednesday 26 September

Another pre-breakfast walk with plenty of Azure-winged Magpies present, male Cirl Bunting in song, Stonechat, Hoopoes, White Wagtail, 2 Great-spotted Woodpeckers, Grey Wagtail and a Blue Rock Thrush standing on a Storks nest. After breakfast we make a brief stop for fuel before driving to the Valdecanas area where we find Long-tailed Tits, Hawfinch, Pied Flycatcher and Short-toed Eagle. We walk to view the reservoir and locate distant Cormorants, Great-crested and Little Grebes plus our first gulls of the trip; Black-headed and Yellow-legged. We then head off to Almaraz and stop to enjoy drinks and tapas before driving the short distance to view the Embalse de Arrocampo-Almaraz. We finish off the rest of our lunch and then look for wildlife with Marsh Harriers, Red Kite and Grey Herons nearby but Purple Swamphen and Greenshank remain heard only. Our next move takes us to Saucedilla and we find very friendly Pied Flycatcher and a Dartford Warbler waiting for us, further into the marsh we see Willow Warbler, Stonechat, Teal and a passing Booted Eagle. Whilst moving to another area we notice a large kettle of vultures drifting around and we check out another pool and find Mallard, Gadwall and a single Garganey that fly into the main lake. We stop to scan this pool and also find 2 Kingfishers, 3 Common Sandpipers and at least 50 Little Egrets. The scrub nearby holds Corn Buntings, House Sparrows and Southern Grey Shrike. Then we head homeward and once more enjoy cake and drink during the call over but all except a leader miss the Kingfisher dashing past the swimming pool.

Thursday 27 September

Yes, another pre-breakfast walk finds the usual suspects but the highlights include 2 Rock Sparrows and a very confiding Tree Pipit. Post breakfast we travel a short distance south to the Zorita Plains where we stop to view a vast landscape with very few birds apart from a good group of Calandra Larks. We move on and just before we turn off along the Campo Lugar road some of the group see a Little Owl sitting on a rock pile before it flies off. We stop almost straight away after leaving the main road as we find at least 24 Great Bustards in a field. Great views of great birds as we have the luxury of birds in flight, walking and feeding in close proximity to the vehicles. The only other birds found in this area are our first Sand Martins of the trip as well as hunting Marsh Harrier. We then move to the Embalse de Sierra-Brava but find it very busy with fishermen, men in boats and also construction workers but we do see a few birds. These include Great-crested Grebes, Common Sandpiper, White Wagtail, Coots, Black-headed and Yellow-legged Gulls, Sand Martins, Lapwings and Little Egrets all being disturbed by the men in boats!

We head off away from all the hustle and bustle and reach a quiet area near the rice-fields, and our first stop produces Common Redstart, Common Sandpiper, Stonechat, Whinchat's, Northern Wheatears and Shoveler. Further along we flush a Snipe and also see Red Avadavat, Zitting Cisticola, Green Sandpiper and Buzzard. We then take a short drive and view a small lake and soon locate Spoonbill, Black-winged Stilts and Kingfisher along with numerous ducks. Our journey continues and we see 3 Red-legged Partridges, White Storks, 6 Little Bustards, Yellow Wagtails, a Little-ringed Plover and great views of a Booted Eagle before we stop in the village and have drinks. After lunch at the edge of the rice fields we take a slow drive along various tracks and struggle to get everyone to see the restless Tree Sparrows in the farm buildings. We start the drive back but stop briefly to look at the Great Bustard near the Campo Lugar area and again have close views of these magnificent birds before driving back to the Finca and once more enjoy refreshment during the call over and later our meal.

Friday 28 September

Today we enjoy a pre-breakfast drive at 07.30 in the hope that the cool air and early start may give us a chance of finding Sandgrouse. Our drive takes us along the Santa Marta de Magasca road and along a rough track but all we find are Southern Grey Shrike, Whinchat's, Northern Wheatears and our first Thekla Larks. Numerous Lapwings and Ravens are busy in the fields but there is not a Sandgrouse to be found. We continue along the track and stop to look at 3 Great Bustard plus a Red Kite in the distance. The thought of breakfast means we start the drive back only to find Red Kites are leaving a roost and on the other side of the road a single Great Bustard stands proudly in a field. After breakfast we leave the Finca and pass through Madroñera into quiet country lanes. We stop to watch a soaring Sparrowhawk and further along a stunning Short-toed Eagle before driving on to Cabaños del Castillo. A few Mistle Thrushes are seen before we reach the village where we park and then start our gentle, up hill walk. Within seconds of reaching the viewpoint our target bird is found, 3 Black Wheatears. It's not always this easy! A good selection of birds was found here including Short-toed Eagles (4+), Blue Rock Thrush, Red-rumped Swallows, Alpine Swifts and Crag Martins. Lunch is our next activity before we move to Deleitosa for drinks. We make a brief stop just outside the village to check the raptor feeding site for activity. Lots of Griffon Vultures sitting on the cliffs but a Black Vulture is dealing with something on the ground and a few Red Kites are searching the area but that is about all so we drive to Trujillo and check on the pools near the bullring. There are plenty of Little Grebes on the water plus a Little Ringed Plover and White Wagtail on the mud before some local walkers scare everything away. We return to the Finca and enjoy the call over before having our meal.

Saturday 29 September

Our pre-breakfast walk gives us another chance of seeing some of the most colourful birds in Europe including lovely Hoopoes. We waste little time after breakfast and head straight for the Monfrague National Park. Several Red Deer are seen as we drive into the park and we stop to explore the Rio Tietar area to find a reasonable number of Griffon Vultures and smaller numbers of Black Vultures. Four Cormorants drift past, a female Blackcap is found in the scrub and 2 Short-toed Eagle fly along the ridge. Time passes all too quickly and it's now time for drinks at Villarreal de San Carlos where Woodlarks sing as if to welcome us into the car park. Refreshed we then move to view the Rio Tajo

and see Black Redstart, elusive Rock Buntings, Long-tailed Tits and more of the 2 Vulture types. We finally move to explore Penafalcon and find the air full of Griffon Vultures plus a handful of Black Vultures; the photo opportunities are incredible though the lighting is not brilliant. Two Short-toed Eagles drift slowly overhead along with a pale phase Booted Eagle. A group of Cormorants rest on one of the islands beside two Black Storks.

We then return to the Finca and hold our last evening call over of the trip. Later we enjoy another fine evening meal.

Sunday 30 September

After breakfast we say our goodbyes to Henri and his team, load up the vehicles and set off for Madrid airport. We do have a couple of stops along the way including one to watch a pair of Black-shouldered Kites with a youngster hunting near the motorway. Other species seen during the journey include Griffon Vultures, Red Kites and a White Stork. The vehicles are dropped off at the airport and we wait for our delayed plane to take off but once in Heathrow we collect our luggage and say our goodbyes.

For security reasons we have not mentioned where we enjoyed prolonged views of an Adult Spanish Imperial Eagle on one of the full days in Extremadura.

SPECIES CHECKLIST

BIRDS

This is the combined list for the whole group. H = heard only; * = New species for tour; Emb. = Embalse (reservoir); FSM = Finca Santa Marta; R. = Río (river); ESB = Emb. De Sierra Brava; Tr = Trujillo; CA = Cerro Alto; MRF = Madrigalejo rice fields; BP = Belén Plains; CdeC = Cabañas del Castillo; ZS = Zorita Steppes; Mon = Monfrague; SMM = Sta. Marta de Magasca; V = Valdecanas; RA = Rio Almonte.

Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>	Distant views of 2 at Emb de V and closer views of 4 at Emb Arrocampo on 26 th then perhaps as many as 40 on a small pond in Tr on 28 th
Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>	Distant birds at Emb de V then 2 at Emb de Arrocampo on 26 th , 5 at ESB on 27 th
Black-necked (Eared) Grebe	<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>	
(Great) Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo sinensis</i>	First noted on 25 th at Mon then at least 45 at Emb de V and a further 15 at Emb de Arrocampo on 26 th and a few were close to Penafalcon Rock on 29 th
Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	Small numbers noted most days
*Great White Egret	<i>Egretta alba</i>	1 at La Higurella viewpoint in Mon on 25 th
Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>	Many seen in cattle and sheep fields daily
Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	First seen on 26 th when at least 50 were at Emb de V and Emb Arrocampo (combined) then noted on the MRF on 28 th and in a couple of locations on 29 th
Black Stork	<i>Ciconia nigra</i>	2 at La Higurella viewpoint in Mon on 25 th and by 29 th it was probably the same 2 individuals that we saw from Penafalcon Rock
White Stork	<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>	Plenty of nests around but no birds seen until 27 th when we probably saw in excess of 200 around the MRF then during the journey to Madrid on 30 th one was seen in flight
(Eurasian) Spoonbill	<i>Platalea leucorodia</i>	A single bird seen on a pool in the MRF on 27 th
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	Not seen until 26 th but then noted in good numbers on the next 2 days especially at the MRF

Gadwall	<i>Anas strepera</i>	3 at Emb de Arrocampo on 26 th then seen the following day on a pool in the MRF
(Common) Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>	A female at Emb de Arrocampo on 26 th was then followed by good numbers on a pool in the MRF on 27 th
*Garganey	<i>Anas querquedula</i>	A single bird was seen on a pool at the Emb de Arrocampo on 26 th
(Northern) Shoveler	<i>Anas clypeata</i>	Just seen on 27 th at ESB and MRF
Black-winged Kite	<i>Elanus caeruleus</i>	A single bird seen along the A5 on 23 rd then during the return journey to Madrid on 30 th , we had great views of a family group of 3 birds hunting from telegraph poles and wires
Red Kite	<i>Milvus milvus</i>	Noted every day with the maximum being 15 on 28 th
Eurasian Black / Monk Vulture	<i>Aegypius monachus</i>	Noted every day, except 30 th , in much smaller numbers than the next species
(Eurasian) Griffon Vulture	<i>Gyps fulvus</i>	Common; seen every day with perhaps as many as 200 on 25 th , 28 th and 29 th
Egyptian Vulture	<i>Neophron percnopterus</i>	A single bird seen at the top of a 'kettle' of vultures on 24 th near St Marta de Magasca
Short-toed Eagle	<i>Circaetus gallicus</i>	Singles seen at Mon on 25 th and at Emb de V on 26 th then at least 4 seen, with one giving <u>very</u> close views, on 28 th near the CdeC and finally, at least 3 in Mon on 29 th
Hen (Northern) Harrier	<i>Circus cyaneus</i>	A male gave the briefest of views on 24 th on the Caceres Plain
(Eurasian) Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>	A single near Tr on 26 th plus a further 4 later that day at Emb de Arrocampo, at least 3 near Madrigalejo on 27 th
Eurasian Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>	One seen briefly at FSM on 26 th , 1 near ESB on 27 th then 2 on 28 th
Common Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>	Seen every day in small numbers with the maximum being 5 or 6 on 29 th
Spanish Imperial Eagle	<i>Aquila adalberti</i>	A superb adult was seen on one of our days; it sat on a rock for a very long time and even refused to move when 2 Griffon Vultures landed on the same rock a very short distance away
Golden Eagle	<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>	2 seen near St Marta de Magasca on 24 th included one in a superb switchback display flight
Booted Eagle	<i>Hieraetus pennatus</i>	3 seen on 24 th including one during lunch in St Marta de Magasca, 2 on 26 th then superb views of a pale phase bird on 27 th near Madrigalejo. On 29 th there was one at Penafalcon Rock and this again was a paleface, oops sorry, that should be pale PHASE bird!
Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	Seen every day in small numbers
Red-legged Partridge	<i>Alectoris rufa</i>	1 briefly on 26 th near Emb de V then 3 well seen near Madrigalejo on 27 th then 5 were glimpsed as we drove to Madrid on 30 th
Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	A few seen on 26 th at Emb de Arrocampo then a single individual was at the pool in Tr on 28 th
Purple Gallinule (Swamp-hen)	<i>Porphyrio porphyrio</i>	Heard at Emb de Arrocampo on 26 th
Common Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>	Seen in good numbers on 26 th , 27 th and 28 th on any fair-sized stretch of water
Little Bustard	<i>Tetrax tetrax</i>	2 along the SMM road on 24 th then 6 well seen near Madrigalejo on 27 th
Great Bustard	<i>Otis tarda</i>	2 lots of 4 seen on the Caceres Plain on 24 th , 24 seen on the Zorita Plain on 27 th then 4

(Northern) Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	during the early morning trip along the SMM road Seen most days with the maximum being about 300 near SMM on 24 th
Little Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>	A juvenile was on a small gravelly pond near Madrigalejo on 27 th then the following day there was another on the pool in Tr Heard at the Emb de Arrocampo on 26 th only
Common Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>	
Green Sandpiper	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>	One seen briefly on the way to FSM on 23 rd , 1 at MRF on 27 th and one on a pool near Tr on 29 th
Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleuca</i>	At least 4 at Emb de Arrocampo on 26 th , 1 at ESB and another close to Madrigalejo on 27 th , 1 heard in Mon on 29 th
(Common) Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>	1 at MRF and another 3 at a nearby pond on 27 th
Yellow-legged Gull	<i>Larus michahellis</i>	2 at Emb de V on 26 th and then seen in larger numbers at ESB on 27 th
Black-headed Gull	<i>Larus ridibundus</i>	Perhaps 20 in the distance on Emb de V on 26 th and larger numbers the following day at ESB and on the pool in MRF
Rock Dove/Feral Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>	Noted every day
Wood Pigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	Seen in small numbers on the first 4 days and in Mon on 29 th
*Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>	A single bird was seen on the SMM road on 24 th
(Eurasian) Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	Noted every day
Little Owl	<i>Athene noctua</i>	Heard at FSM on 26 th 28 th and 29 th , seen on the Zorita Plain on 27 th
(African) White-rumped Swift	<i>Apus affe</i>	A single bird was briefly but well seen at Mon on 25 th and another was seen on 29 th
Common Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>	2 at Emb de Arrocampo on 26 th and then one flew rapidly across the FSM garden during afternoon tea later that day. Also seen at MRF on 27 th (twice) and at Tr pool on 28 th
(Eurasian) Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>	Regularly encountered especially at FSM where we saw up to 4 individual birds. There were other frequent sightings away from FSM too with birds perching on wires, trees, posts, flying and feeding on the ground.
Great Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>	Noted on 4 days with most of the sightings being at FSM during the early morning strolls
Calandra Lark	<i>Melanocorypha calandra</i>	Only certainly identified on the SMM road on 24 th and on the Zorita Plain on 27 th
Crested Lark	<i>Galerida cristata</i>	Common, widespread and noted every day
Thekla Lark	<i>Galerida theklae</i>	2 seen along the SMM road early on 28 th . No doubt much more numerous than our one definite sighting suggests.
Wood Lark	<i>Lullula arborea</i>	Half a dozen noted on 24 th along the SMM road and then noted singing over FSM on a couple of occasions
European Sand Martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>	2 on the ZS on 27 th close to the ESB where we saw in excess of 100 birds feeding especially around the dam
(Eurasian) Crag Martin	<i>Hirundo rupestris</i>	Common. Noted every day except 23 rd
Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	Far less frequently encountered than its Red-rumped relative! Seen on 23 rd close to Madrid then just one or two seen on 26 th and 27 th

Red-rumped Swallow	<i>Hirundo daurica</i>	Regularly sighted throughout the tour in a wide range of locations and habitats
(Common) House Martin	<i>Delichon urbica</i>	Common. Noted every day, except 23 rd , in good numbers
White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba alba</i>	Seen on most days in small numbers
Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>	Regular at FSM with small numbers at other sites
Tawny Pipit	<i>Anthus campestris</i>	3 seen on the plains around SMM on 24 th
Tree Pipit	<i>Anthus trivialis</i>	A single bird landed in a tree at FSM during the pre breakfast stroll on 27 th
Southern Grey Shrike	<i>Lanius meridionalis</i>	Noted on 6 days with the maximum being at least 20 on 27 th on the ZS and at MRF
(Winter) Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodyte</i>	A single sighting on 26 th at FSM and the species was also heard on 25 th , 27 th and 29 th
Blue Rock Thrush	<i>Monticola solitarius</i>	At least 2 seen in Mon National Park on 25 th then seen at FSM on 26 th and at CdeC on 28 th
(Common) Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	Seen every day from 24 th at FSM
Mistle Thrush	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>	At least 2 seen on the way to CdeC on 28th
(Eurasian) Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>	As expected, a rather elusive bird as in the rest of mainland Europe with brief sightings on 5 days
Black Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>	Seen on 25 th & 29 th in Mon
Common Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>	Just seen on 27 th at 2 locations close to Madrigalejo
Whinchat	<i>Saxicola rubetra</i>	Seen every day except 23 rd & 30 th
(Common) Stonechat	<i>Saxicola torquata</i>	Seen every day except 23 rd
Black Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe leucura</i>	What was presumably a family group of 3 at CdeC were, at one time, perched in a small juniper bush with a Blue Rock Thrush!
Northern Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>	At least 50 seen on the plains around SMM on 24 th and also seen in smaller numbers on the final 4 days of the tour
Fan-tailed Warbler	<i>Cisticola juncidis</i>	2 on the Caceres Plain on 24 th were our first, 1 was at Emb de Arrocampo on 26 th and then we encountered a few around the MRF on 27th
Cetti's Warbler	<i>Cettia cetti</i>	Heard and seen at Emb de Arrocampo on 26 th and at MRF the following day
Melodious Warbler	<i>Hippolais polyglotta</i>	A single bird was seen in a small bush on the Caceres Plain on 24 th
Willow Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>	Small numbers noted on the 6 full days in Extremadura
Common Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>	A single sighting at FSM
Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>	A male at FSM on 25 th and a female seen on 29 th in Mon
Common Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia communis</i>	A single sighting on the SMM road on 24 th
Sardinian Warbler	<i>Sylvia melanocephala</i>	Mostly heard giving their rattling calls but also occasionally glimpsed; recorded on 6 days
Dartford Warbler	<i>Sylvia undata</i>	Just a single sighting near Embalse Arrocampo on 26th
Firecrest	<i>Regulus ignicapillus</i>	Heard at Emb de V on 26th
Pied Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula hypoleuca</i>	At least 3 on 25 th in Mon then also seen on 26 th (4) and 28 th (1)
Long-tailed Tit	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>	Noted in small numbers on 5 successive days from 25th
Crested Tit	<i>Parus cristatus</i>	Just a single bird seen in pine forest in Mon on 25th
Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>	Seen in small numbers on 6 consecutive days from 24 th
Blue Tit	<i>Parus caeruleus</i>	Seen in small numbers on 6 consecutive days from 24 th

Short-toed Treecreeper	<i>Certhia brachydactyla</i>	Occasionally seen, mostly at FSM, on 5 days
Eurasian Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>	Seen or heard on 25 th , 26 th & 29 th
Iberian Azure-winged Magpie	<i>Cyanopica cooki</i>	Common. Noted every day except 23 rd . On the way to CdeC on 28 th we must have encountered hundreds in the dehesa forest!
(Black-billed) Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>	Seen every day
(Western) Jackdaw	<i>Corvus monedula</i>	Seen every day except 23 rd
(Common) Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>	At least 20 around cattle along the SMM road on 24 th and also seen on the following 5 days including occasionally at FSM
Spotless Starling	<i>Sturnus unicolor</i>	Seen every day
Corn Bunting	<i>Miliaria calandra</i>	At least 8 along the SMM road on 24 th then also seen 26 th , 27 th , 28 th and 30 th
Rock Bunting	<i>Emberiza cia</i>	2 seen flying into scrub as we ate lunch in Mon on 29 th
Cirl Bunting	<i>Emberiza cirius</i>	2 on 24 th and 1 on 26 th at FSM and also seen
(Common) Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	Noted on 5 days in widely separated areas
(European) Serin	<i>Serinus serinus</i>	2 on 25 th , 14 on 28 th & 5 on 29 th all at FSM
(European) Greenfinch	<i>Carduelis chloris</i>	A couple at FSM on 25 th and then heard there on 27 th
(European) Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	Noted in small numbers every day from 24 th
(Common) Linnet	<i>Carduelis cannabina</i>	3 or 4 on 25 th at FSM and also noted on 28 th
Hawfinch	<i>Coccothraustes coccothraustes</i>	3 at FSM on 25 th were our first and also seen later that day in Mon. A few were seen on the following 2 days
Red Avadavat	<i>Amandava amandava</i>	Perhaps as many as 20 seen on 27 th at MRF
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	Noted every day
Tree Sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>	At least 6 seen at MRF on 27 th
Rock Sparrow (Petronia)	<i>Petronia petronia</i>	Noted on 24 th , 25 th and 27 th at FSM
MAMMALS		
Common Mole	<i>Talpa europaea</i>	Signs noted on 28 th & 29 th
Wild Boar	<i>Sus scrofa</i>	Disturbed ground and tracks at FSM on 29 th were obviously the work of this species
Common Pipistrelle	<i>Pipistrellus pipistrellus</i>	Seen in the half-darkness at FSM on 4 occasions
Red Fox	<i>Vulpes vulpes</i>	Tracks seen on 27 th & 29 th at FSM where, on the latter date, one was heard barking in response to the estate's dog
Red Deer	<i>Cervus elaphus</i>	At least 20 seen on 25 th and 30 on 29 th in Mon where stags were heard calling hinds during their rut
European Rabbit	<i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i>	Singles noted on 24 th near SMM and on 27 th at ESB
AMPHIBIANS		
Iberian Water Frog	<i>Rana perezi</i>	Just noted on 24 th and 27 th
REPTILES		
Moorish Gecko	<i>Tarentola mauretanicus</i>	1 in the dining room at FSM on 24 th & 26 th
Spanish Terrapin	<i>Mauremys leprosa</i>	Seen on 24 th and 26 th
Horseshoe Whip Snake	<i>Coluber hippocrepis</i>	A dead individual was seen in CdeC on 28 th
FISH		
Common Carp	<i>Carpus carpio</i>	Noted on 25 th , 26 th & 29 th
BUTTERFLIES		
Swallowtail	<i>Papilio machaon</i>	Seen on 4 days

Large White
Small White
Western Bath White
Clouded Yellow
Small Copper
African Grass Blue
Holly Blue
(Spanish) Brown Argus
Two-tailed Pasha
Large Tortoiseshell
Cardinal
Meadow Brown
Speckled Wood
Mediterranean Skipper

Pieris brassicae
Artogeia rapae
Pontia daplidice
Colias croceus
Lycaena phlaeas
Zizeeria knysna
Celastrina argiolus
Aricia [agestis] cramera
Charaxes jasius
Nymphalis polychloros
Argynnis Pandora
Maniola jurtina
Pararge aegeria
Gegenes nostradamus

Seen on 3 days
Seen on 5 days
Seen in good numbers on 3 days
Seen in small numbers on 5 days
Seen on 26th & 28th
Just noted on 27th near MRF
Seen on 3 days
Seen on 4 days
Seen on 3 days from 25th
Just a single one seen on 25th
1 or 2 on 27th then lots on 28th
Noted on 4 days
Seen on 25th, 27th & 28th
Just noted on 27th at MRF

MOTHS

Hummingbird Hawk-moth

Macroglossum stellatarum

Noted on 3 days including at FSM

DRAGONFLIES

Keeled Skimmer
Long Skimmer
Lesser Emperor Dragonfly
Banded Groundling
Red-veined Darter

Orthetrum coerulescens
Orthetrum trinacria
Anax parthenope
Brachythemis leucosticta
Sympetrum fonscolombei

1 seen on 24th
Numerous on 26th at Emb de Arrocampo
Just noted on 26th at Emb de Arrocampo
Numerous at Emb de Arrocampo on 26th
Noted in small numbers on 26th

OTHER INSECTS

Field Cricket
Red-winged Grasshopper
Blue-winged Grasshopper
Egyptian Grasshopper
Praying Mantis sp.

Gryllus campestris
Oedipoda germanica
Oedipoda caeruleascens

1 on 28th was our only record
Noted on 4 days
Noted on 5 days
2 seen on 27th
Seen on at least 2 days

OTHER TAXA

Red Signal Crayfish

Procambarus clarkia

Numerous at MRF on 27th

Ray Nowicki & Mike Read, October 2007

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