

# Northern Spain

**Saturday 24 November - Friday 30 November 2007**

## Trip Report

### Leaders:

Ray Nowicki

Mike Lockwood

A highly successful trip, with a total of 124 species of birds. The weather was kind to us, apart from one windy day, and not one drop of rain fell whilst we were out and about. Unfortunately, this is the recent trend in the area and the Laguna de Gallocanta was all but dry.

The first days provided exceptional views of Lammergeier, Wallcreeper, Alpine Accentor and Great Bustard. In the plains around Gallocanta, the 16,000 Common Cranes performed as ever and we were constantly surprised by the sheer numbers of raptors present. Rock Bunting, Black Wheatear, Calandra Lark and Black-bellied Sandgrouse (but Pin-tailed less so) were all easy to find, unlike the Dupont's Larks that for once evaded us. The final flourish in the Llobregat Delta, with Spoonbill, Night Heron and various waders made the long drive back to Barcelona more than worth it.

### **Day 1 Saturday 24 November: Barcelona Airport – Loarre**

Fine, with light cloud

After a rather false start at the airport, we got away a bit later than usual (after spotting Monk Parakeet in the car-park) and had a fairly uneventful journey to the hotel.

On the way at various points we spotted Yellow-legged Gull, Cormorant, Little Egret, Grey Heron (on the river Llobregat leaving Barcelona), as well as further on, a large number of Lapwings, numerous Red Kites, Buzzards, a single Marsh Harrier and even a Golden Eagle by the road side. At a brief bio-stop near Monzón, where a Stonechat was observed, we continued on through the vineyards (D.O. Somontano) near Barbastro and after a quick trip around the new Huesca ring-road, we were in the hotel by 6.30.

### **Day 2 Sunday 25 November: Castillo de Loarre - Vadiello reservoir – Balsa de Loreto**

Bright and cold, but not windy

For our first full day we made the short drive up to Loarre castle, perched high on the rocks above our village. First of all, though, we stood in the square outside the hotel and admired the Griffon Vultures circling over the village, of which we counted at least 25. On one of the roofs a very black starling was judged to be a Spotless Starling.

On the way up we had a quick stop for a group of finches that included a number of Siskins, before debussing in the car-park next to the castle. Walking towards the castle, we had quick views of Sardinian Warbler, as well as plenty of Robins, Chaffinches and Goldfinches around a puddle near the castle entrance, and the first of a number of Cirl Buntings in the bare almond trees. The trip's first Clouded Yellow was well watched here. As we approached the castle, we had quick views of two Rock Sparrows on the furthest turret and then the first of a number of decent views of Rock Bunting in one of the nearby almond trees. Looking away from the castle, Ray spotted a brief female Blue Rock Thrush, belying its name by perching in a tree; two Crag Martins flew over our heads.

Then, just as we were talking to a couple of local ornithologists and as Mike asked if they'd seen any Wallcreepers, one of these beautiful birds actually flew up off the castle walls. We rushed back and caught brief views as it flew off towards another part of the walls and then off to some nearby rocks.

We decided to enter into castle itself as our ornithologist friends had suggested, but before we could go too far down the path, a full adult Lammergeier flew low over our heads and gave us all perfect views as it slowly cruised over the hillside away from the castle. A good start to the morning!

Once inside the castle walls, we looked around fruitlessly for Alpine Accentor, finding instead only a Robin, Beech Marten excrement and a bunch of the yellow composite *Pallensis spinosa* nicely in flower.

We retreated towards the vans, stopping outside to stake out a Firecrest that was proving rather elusive in the bushes just outside the castle. We made a slight detour through the nearby woods and had good views of Crested Tit and, some of us, of Short-toed Treecreeper.

On the way down from the castle we stopped for restorative drink, and sat in the sun on a terrace watching a group of Red Kites and Ravens circling overhead.

Our next destination was Vadiello reservoir in the heart of the Sierra de Guara Natural Park. Our first stop was for lunch by the roadside overlooking a series of huge cliffs, from where we watched as dozens of Griffon Vultures slid by in the air in front of us and picked up the thermals over the cliff away to our left. We also spotted here a single Peregrine Falcon.

We carried on to the end of the road, parked and just as we were about to move off, Ray spotted another Wallcreeper on the rocks opposite us. This bird then flew across the narrow valley in front of us and land on the cliffs above the path through the tunnels to the dam. Here, we searched for it briefly before it was seen heading over the small cliff-edge and out of sight.

We walked through the tunnels in the cliff up to the dam, where we continued to admire the vast numbers of Griffon Vultures cruising around the cliffs towering above us. We crossed the dam and, just as we were admiring the rosettes of Pyrenean Saxifrage *Saxifraga longifolia*, Mike found two Alpine Accentors on the very same rock. We watched these two birds closely for 10 minutes, before they flew off. Across the dam and further up the track, eagle-eyed Ray spotted a Dipper on the other side of the dam at the water's edge. We continued to wander gently up the track, admiring the increasing numbers of vultures and checking out the Mediterranean scrub with Phoenician juniper *Juniperus phoenicus*, grey-leaved cistus *Cistus albidus*, box *Buxus sempervirens* and turpentine tree *Pistacia terebinthus* with its large livid galls. Mike found another adult Lammergeier flying quite close amongst the many Griffon Vultures.

More fun was to come, however, as on the way back Ray found a Wallcreeper on the dam itself and we then proceeded to spend a highly entertaining 20 minutes watching this bird as it flitted along the dam wall towards us, getting close enough for the photographers to attempt to have their way with it!

Back at the vans two adult Lammergeiers cruised close by across the valley in front of us, as if they were heading into roost on the huge cliffs above us. We, however, had to head away back towards Huesca. On the way some of us had brief views of a Goshawk on a telegraph pole: as we drove past the bird flew off and George remarked that it had not flown off like a Buzzard; Ray, following, later said that he had seen clearly that it was a female Goshawk.

Our final stop was the small reedy Alberca de Loreto, on the outskirts of Huesca, just off the *autovía*. We spent a pleasant 30 minutes in the lengthening shadows, watching as birds began to head into the lagoon or elsewhere to roost. On the lagoon itself we counted small numbers of Teal, Northern Shoveler, Mallard and Gadwall. Coming into roost we counted at least seven Marsh Harriers, including three stunning males, as well as large groups of Starlings, Jackdaws and Corn Buntings, and a group of 14 Common Cranes that flew past without stopping. Also around were Southern Grey Shrike, a brief Hoopoe, our first Song and Mistle Thrushes, Raven and a Cetti's Warbler.

### **Day 3 Monday 26 November: Los Mallos de Riglos - San Juan de la Peña**

Clear skies, but with strong north-west wind

We awoke to find a strong wind and headed off in blustery conditions towards the stunning red conglomerate cliffs (*mallos*) above the village of Riglos. On the way we stopped only briefly as George in Mike's bus spotted a Merlin dashing across the road.

It was still fairly windy as we got into the village of Riglos and parked. We had a first look at the cliffs from the churchyard, but decided to opt for a lower and slightly less steep path as the best way of finding somewhere near the base of the cliffs out of the wind.

We wandered in single-file through the scrub, hearing the odd Sardinian Warbler, and seeing a few other passerines around the village. Once up at the cliff base and somewhat sheltered out of the wind, we scanned the cliffs directly above us and the massive mountain over the other side of the valley at our feet. Ray found a Lammergeier in and amongst the many Griffon Vultures. On the cliff above, Michael spotted two small birds flitting around high up and after collectively sinking to the ground and looking vertically upwards from a prone position, we found that they were indeed a couple of Wallcreepers.

Apart from a few Crag Martins, there was not much else around, and so we decided to head back to the village along the cliff base. Unfortunately, at this point Georgie took a lower path and slipped and twisted her ankle. We all went down to join her and to help her back to the vans, where we diagnosed that a pack of frozen peas was the best thing for it.

So we headed back to Ayerbe, the town on the road between Loarre and Riglos, where we fortunate to find the local medical centre open. Here, the doctor rapidly attended our walking wounded and said she should go off to Huesca for an X-ray. So at this point, we parted company: Mike to Huesca with Georgie, and Ray to San Juan de la Peña with the rest of the group.

Mike and Georgie spent the best part of 4 hours in Huesca hospital, but were very well looked after.

Meanwhile, Ray and the rest of the group drove north until they found a place to enjoy a hot drink. We then moved on towards the rugged cliffs of San Juan de la Peña. As we passed over the Embalse de la Peña, we noted a single Great Crested Grebe and Yellow-legged Gull. During the drive up to the top of the mountain, there were good numbers of Mistle Thrush around. After lunch near the car-park, we walked to a stunning viewpoint looking north towards the snow-clad Pyrenees, and watched as a few Griffon Vultures glided past, along with a single Sparrowhawk. We returned through strangely silent woods, enlivened only by the many Redwings.

As we walked behind the 'new' monastery we had stunning views of a Rock Bunting perched in a tree. From here, we continued along a tarmac road towards another viewpoint, seeing on the way Nuthatch, Short-toed Treecreeper and Crested Tit. From this viewpoint there were Griffon Vultures and Raven on show, as well as a bat flying near the cliff-face. Alas, there was neither hide nor hair (to mix a metaphor or two) of Black Woodpeckers. We headed back to the van and picked up the road south towards home. Our first Fieldfare appeared as we left the area. Our only stop on the way home was near Riglos to take pictures of the rocks lit up by the setting sun.

#### **Day 4 Tuesday 27 November: Loarre - Laguna de Sariñena - Los Monegros – Daroca**

Sunny and still with a moderate breeze

We got away very punctually on our transfer day and were soon off the main road (from where we saw at speed a small group of vultures sat in a field) and cruising down the narrow side roads towards the town of Sariñena and its lagoon. We stopped on the way at various times for harriers, Red Kite and other raptors, but were at the information centre overlooking the lagoon by 11.00.

Once a large, fairly saline endorreic (inwardly draining) lagoon, today La Laguna de Sariñena has been 'freshened up' by the run-off from surrounding irrigation projects and as a result it now has vast reed beds and probably a much greater diversity of bird life.

From the terrace of the information centre we had slightly distant views of duck, including Shelduck, Marsh Harriers, Great Crested Grebe and Cormorants, with nearer by on land, Serin, Southern Grey Shrike and Crested Lark.

Once the toilets had been well used and as a group of school kids arrived, we headed off around to the other side of the lagoon to a well-placed hide. Here, as Mike stood guard on the vans, we had good views of Teal, Mallard, Shoveler and Pochard. In a tight knot of birds on the far side of the lagoon, we could make out a Great White Egret, along with Grey Heron, another unidentified egret that wouldn't raise its head and a few Cormorants. Ray had brief views of a Bittern as it leapt out of the reeds, but couldn't manage to get anybody else onto it. A Fan-tailed Warbler provided good entertainment.

From the hide we headed back along the tracks running around the lagoon, stopping for passerines such as Stonechat, Meadow Pipit, Crested Lark and Southern Grey Shrike and a delightful group of six Hoopoes in a field away to our left.

From here it was minor roads again heading south as we entered into Los Monegros, an arid area of rolling plains that straddle the Ebro Valley in the rain shadow of the central Pyrenees. The myriad shades of ochre were magnificent in the sun as we headed south, crossing the new high-speed train line and the motorway as we headed for the village of Bujaraloz, where we aimed to find Great Bustard.

After a false start near the village industrial estate, Ray stopped to say that he had seen a couple of bustard's further back. We returned to the village, and headed east to be surprised by first two male Great Bustards that took off and went to join a much larger group sitting quite calmly in an irrigated field. We all had wonderful views, although at times the sight of literally thousands of Calandra Larks wheeling around in the background provided an alternative attraction.

It was getting late and so we decided to head off to find a sheltered lunch site. After a few kilometres along the narrow roads of this fascinating area, we turned off to La Laguna de la Playa, a vast salt-pan, where we had lunch in the shelter of a ruined barracks.

Amongst the scrub, we tracked down a single Dartford Warbler, as well as a small number of Thekla Larks, looking much darker than the very similar and more familiar Crested Larks. In the distance a flock of around 30 Pin-tailed Sandgrouse whirled around, but alas dropped out of sight; this was to be our only view of these delightful birds.

By three o'clock we were on the road again, along roads with cinema-like straightness heading towards Daroca. Hen Harriers, both male and female, were becoming increasingly common, as were large groups of larks. We stopped to look down over the river Ebro near the town of Escatrón, before heading back up onto the pseudosteppe and the plains around Belchite. We stopped here and there, but the only real find was a group of six Black-bellied Sandgrouse in the shadow of the wind turbines that had sprung up in the area since the previous year's trip. In the end we reached Daroca just as night fell, entering through the gate in the medieval city wall, tired but with the image of the great wide-open spaces of Los Monegros still clear in our memories.

### **Day 5 Wednesday 28 November: Laguna de Gallocanta**

Fine and cold at first, with a light breeze.

The day started very early with a trip to the lagoon before breakfast to see the cranes waking up. We left Daroca at the unearthly hour of 6.30 and drove in darkness and fog along narrow roads and then tracks up to the Ermita overlooking the lagoon. As we got out of the vans, we could hear the distinctive honking calls of the first cranes already voicing their impatience. As the light struggled to pervade the fog, the honking grew stronger and at about 7.40 the first skeins/groups of cranes began to appear out of the mist below us. Eventually, larger straggly groups began passing us on both sides (but never right above us). As well, in front of where we were parked a group of Red-legged Partridges provided the first entertainment of the day, and a group of five ring-tailed Hen Harriers chased and harried each other in the gloom of the morning.

With the temperature dropping as the sun rose, we decided that breakfast was calling and drove back towards Daroca, stopping briefly for a very handsome fox, with a dark tail with a white tip.

After breakfast, Mike and Georgie stayed behind to go to the doctor's, while Ray and the rest of the group fitted into one minibus and headed for the lake.

Whilst waiting to finish the paper work at the doctor's Mike and Georgie had a little tour of the back roads and had good views of a group of Siskins, a male Black Redstart and a Rock Bunting.

Ray and southbound minibus began the second part of the day exploring the area to the west of Laguna de Gallocanta. Few Cranes were around, and most seemed restless and so we extended our search and drove along a minor road heading northwest and managed to have good views of groups of Cranes, Red-billed Cough, Little Owl, Linnet, Calandra Lark and a single Rock Sparrow. Despite the cold, it was thirsty work and so we drove towards the village of Gallocanta, seeing a fox in a field on the way, before parking in Gallocanta to wait for the others.

Once reunited in the village of Gallocanta, we repaired to the Allucant hostel for hot drinks and postcards, before resuming our travels around the lake. Heading clockwise around the lake we drove the quiet roads, stopping for more Hen Harriers, a couple of high Golden Eagles seemingly displaying amidst a group of Griffon Vultures and groups of larks. We turned off the road along a track heading for the lake and were immediately surprised by a group of Black-bellied Sandgrouse on our right. We all had plenty of time to get our scopes on a group of at least 80 birds feeding quietly about 100 metres from the vans.

From here it was off to lunch next to a row of rather bare elms near the village of Bello, where the red wine was a perfect complement to the warmish sun and the Tree Sparrows.

After an excellent lunch, we decided against more tracks, and headed along the road to the small permanent freshwater lagoon of Guialguerrero, where we were a bit disappointed to find many Mallard and Coot, but precious little else except a couple of Little Grebes, two Teal, a Reed Bunting and a calling Cetti's Warbler.

By this time it was almost four o'clock and so we set off back to the lake to see what the cranes would be up to at dusk. We went to a small hide on the north-western edge, from where we had excellent views of large numbers of these stately birds preening, wing-stretching and, as the sun disappeared, flying off to feed in the nearby fields. With them were more Mallard, 20 Greylag Geese and more patrolling Hen Harriers. A Water Rail called from the rushes in front of us and a solitary Curlew flew off calling mournfully.

By 5.30, it was getting late and since it had been such a long day, we headed back home.

#### **Day 6 Thursday 29 November: Embalse de las Torcas – El Planerón – Belchite – Embalse de las Torcas**

On our final full day, we headed back the way we had come into Daroca the day before yesterday. First stop was a small reservoir on the river Huervas just beyond Cariñena. Over the other side of the water we could see the low cliffs where the previous year's group had spotted a pair of Bonelli's Eagles and so we settled down to scan the sky and wait. We were kept entertained by a number of Griffon Vultures, Crag Martins, Cormorants, Mallards, a Grey Heron and a group of Crossbills, which like good children, were seen but not heard. But alas, no eagles.

We continued on through the plains to the SEO's (Spanish Ornithological Society) reserve of El Planerón, just beyond the town of Belchite. Just before turning off the road, we found a small group of Black-bellied Sandgrouse close by in a ploughed field.

Once along the main track we drove as far as the lagoon of El Planerón, where we parked and wandered along a track, seeing Black Redstart, Marsh Harrier and a group of Griffon Vultures high in the distance, as well as larks and pipits overhead. After regrouping, we listened in the van to a CD of Dupont's Lark before heading off to do the classic walk along the trail laid out by the SEO. However, despite good training, we didn't really get a sniff of a lark, other than a couple of Lesser Short-toed Larks that flew over. At the end of the trail, we stopped and looked at a Little Owl, Southern Grey Shrike and more Griffon Vultures.

We walked back, picked up Georgie in the van and drove off to old Belchite for lunch, stopping only to view a flooded field where a few passerines tantalizingly just out of range were drinking.

Lunch was taken in the shadow of the ruins of the old town, interrupted only by a quick chat with the Guardia Civil. After lunch the group with Ray moved up towards the ruins and had views of Black Wheatear, Blue Rock Thrush, Black Redstart and Goshawk, whilst Mike and Georgie drove round to the other side of the ruins and saw Black Redstart and Blue Rock Thrush. Once reunited Mike and Georgie tried to find the Black Wheatear, but to no avail.

We decided that we still had time to return to the reservoir. First stop was just as we turned off the tarmac for two very close Golden Eagles flying low over the road. Back at the reservoir, we renewed our eagle hunting, being interrupted by a distant Merlin, Dartford Warbler, more Crag Martins and Griffon Vultures. Pat, David and Irma reported our first Coal Tit, as well as Long-tailed Tits. However, the find of the day was by our two birthday people, Georgie and George: Georgie first spotted a male Iberian Ibex on the crest of a nearby cliff, which unfortunately disappeared rather too quickly. But after some unfruitful searching, George came up with another fine Ibex on a more distant ridge, beautifully outlined against the sky.

From here we drove home into a beautifully blushing sky, back to Daroca.

### **Day 7 Friday 30 November: Daroca – Delta del Llobregat – Barcelona Airport**

As our flight was not leaving until the evening, we had time to make good use of our day travelling back to the airport. After some extremely complicated navigating through a maze of building work on the outskirts of Barcelona Airport, we finally made it into the car park of the Remolar-Filipines reserve in the Llobregat delta (after quick views of Pochard and Tufted Duck on the lake to the left of the entry road). We parked next to the small reception centre and had lunch in the sunshine.

First stop was a screen-cum-hide overlooking a small marsh (after having a mixed group of Yellow-legged and Mediterranean Gulls pass overhead), where we spotted Lapwing and our first Snipe, Ruff and Green Sandpiper. As well, a Migrant Hawker, our only dragonfly for the trip, was circling over the path. At that point, Ray and Mike both heard a short thin call: a stampede to the next screen-cum-hide was then provoked by Ray saying that he'd seen and heard a small group of 4 Penduline Tits, which had gone that way! Alas, no more was heard of these extremely agreeable small birds.

From here, we carried along the track to a third screen giving even better views of the large (for a river delta all but chewed up by vast amounts of infrastructures) wetland of the Remolar-Filipines. Plenty of ducks – Mallard, Shoveler, Gadwall, Widgeon and Teal and large groups of Lapwing and Golden Plover were at once obvious.

Better was to come though, as we slightly retraced our steps to a proper hide, where we sat and began to make some excellent new records. A Eurasian Spoonbill was feeding in distinctive fashion right in front of the hide, whilst wader-wise we also found more Ruff and Green Sandpipers, but also a solitary Wood Sandpiper, two Spotted Redshanks mixed in with a group of Lapwings, and a group of 6 Dunlins. Marsh Harriers plied the sky, Little Grebes ducked and dived, and Kingfishers zipped around just in front of the hide. Suddenly a female Merlin flashed across right in front of us, disturbing the Widgeon dozing on the grass barely 20 m away.

We moved onto the final hide, where we caught up with Ray and George and a group of over 20 Night Herons dozing in the vegetation just 20 m to the left of the hide, as well as two female Pintails trying hard to look like the surrounding Mallards. George reported a largish rail, which he later confirmed as a Purple Swamp-hen.

And with that we decided that enough was enough; after a slight moment of hesitation we realised that it wasn't really worth heading down to the beach as we had to be out of the reserve area by 5 o'clock sharp. So we headed off to the airport, made some very protracted goodbyes and Mike headed off into the night as the group climbed the stairs to prepare for their long wait in the departure lounge.

## Species lists

### BIRDS

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); Ri = 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. LdG = Laguna de Guailguerrero.

- Little Grebe** *Tachybaptus ruficollis*. One at LS on 27<sup>th</sup>, 3 LdeG on 28<sup>th</sup> & 4 DLI on 30<sup>th</sup>.  
**Great Crested Grebe** *Podiceps cristatus*. One on 26<sup>th</sup>, 2 e.r. on 27<sup>th</sup> & 3 ET on 29<sup>th</sup>.  
**Great Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax carbo sinensis*. Seen every day, max of 60 on the 30<sup>th</sup>.  
**Grey Heron** *Ardea cinerea*. Seen most days with max of 20 on the 30<sup>th</sup>.  
 \*(Eurasian) **Spoonbill** *Platalea leucorodia*. Two on the 30<sup>th</sup> at DLI.  
**Cattle Egret** *Bubulcus ibis*. 3 e.r. on 24<sup>th</sup>, 1 LS on 27<sup>th</sup> and 1 DLL on 30<sup>th</sup>.  
**Black-crowned Night Heron** *Nycticorax nycticorax*. 30 at DLI on the 30<sup>th</sup>.  
**Little Egret** *Egretta garzetta*. 15 e.r. on 24<sup>th</sup> and 2 DLI on 30<sup>th</sup>.  
**Great Egret** *Egretta alba*. Single at LS on 27<sup>th</sup>.  
**Greylag Goose** *Anser anser*. 8 LS on 27<sup>th</sup> and 23 at LG on the 28<sup>th</sup>.  
**(Common) Shelduck** *Tadorna tadorna*. One LS on 27<sup>th</sup> and 6 DLI on 30<sup>th</sup>.  
**(Eurasian) Wigeon** *Anas penelope*. 7 at DLI on 30<sup>th</sup>.  
**Gadwall** *Anas strepera*. Singles on 25<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup> at CuL & LS. 30 at DLI on 30<sup>th</sup>.  
**(Common) Teal** *Anas crecca*. Seen on 4 days with a max of 50 at DLI on the 30<sup>th</sup>.  
**Mallard** *Anas platyrhynchos*. Seen most days with the max recorded at LG on 28<sup>th</sup>.  
**(Northern) Pintail** *Anas acuta*. Two at DLI on the 30<sup>th</sup>.  
**(Northern) Shoveler** *Anas clypeata*. Seen at 3 sites with a max of 30 at DLI on the 30<sup>th</sup>.  
**(Common) Pochard** *Aythya ferina*. Recorded at LS on the 27<sup>th</sup> & at DLI on the 30<sup>th</sup>.  
**Gadwall** *Anas strepera*. Singles on the 25<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup> and 30 at DLI on the 30<sup>th</sup>.  
**Tufted Duck** *Aythya fuligula*. Two at DLI on the 30<sup>th</sup>.  
**Red Kite** *Milvus milvus*. Anything up to 20 birds recorded every day.  
**(Eurasian) Griffon Vulture** *Gyps fulvus*. Seen most days, sometimes in high numbers.  
**Lammergeier** *Gypaetus barbatus*. One at CLo on 25<sup>th</sup>, two at V on 25<sup>th</sup> & one R on 26<sup>th</sup>.  
**Hen (Northern) Harrier** *Circus cyaneus*. 3 on the 27<sup>th</sup>, 22 on the 28<sup>th</sup> & a single on 29<sup>th</sup>.  
**Western Marsh Harrier** *Circus aeruginosus*. Seen each day with a max of 10 on the 27<sup>th</sup>.  
**(Eurasian) Sparrowhawk** *Accipiter nisus*. Seen each day with a max of 6 on the 29<sup>th</sup>.  
**(Northern) Goshawk** *Accipiter gentilis*. Females at V on 25<sup>th</sup> & at Be on the 29<sup>th</sup>.  
**Common Buzzard** *Buteo buteo*. Anything up to 12 birds recorded every day.  
**Golden Eagle** *Aquila chrysaetos*. Two e.r. 24<sup>th</sup>, pair LG 28<sup>th</sup> & pair ET on 29<sup>th</sup>.  
**Common Kestrel** *Falco tinnunculus*. Anything up to 15 birds recorded every day.  
**Merlin** *Falco columbarius*. Singles on 3 days with 2 seen on the 29<sup>th</sup>.  
**Peregrine** *Falco peregrinus*. Singles at V on 25<sup>th</sup>, at R on 26<sup>th</sup> and at Bu on 27<sup>th</sup>.  
**Red-legged Partridge** *Alectoris rufa*. Seen on 4 days with a max of 25 on the 28<sup>th</sup>.  
**Water Rail** *Rallus aquaticus*. Heard only at LG on 28<sup>th</sup> & at DLI on 30<sup>th</sup>.  
**(Common) Moorhen** *Gallinula chloropus*. Seen on 3 days, a max of 6 at DLI on 30<sup>th</sup>.  
**(Common) Coot** *Fulica atra*. Seen on 4 days, a max of 30 at DLI on 30<sup>th</sup>.  
 \***Purple Swamp-hen** *Porphyrio porphyrio*. A great find at DLI on the 30<sup>th</sup>.  
**(Common) Crane** *Grus grus*. Seen at CLo, V, CuL on 25<sup>th</sup> and 10-15,000 at LG on 28<sup>th</sup>.  
 \***Great Bustard** *Otis tarda*. 37 at Bu on 27<sup>th</sup> were a nice bonus.

- (Northern) Lapwing** *Vanellus vanellus*. 300 e.r. on 24<sup>th</sup>, few on 27<sup>th</sup> & 100 on 30<sup>th</sup> DLI.
- (European) Golden Plover** *Pluvialis apricaria*. At least 60 at DLI on the 30<sup>th</sup>.
- (Eurasian) Curlew** *Numenius arquata*. Single at LG on the 28<sup>th</sup>.
- Green Sandpiper** *Tringa ochropus*. Five at DLI on the 30<sup>th</sup>.
- \*Wood Sandpiper** *Tringa glareola*. Single at DLI on the 30<sup>th</sup>.
- Spotted Redshank** *Tringa erythropus*. Single at DLI on the 30<sup>th</sup>.
- (Common) Snipe** *Gallinago gallinago*. One CRF on 27<sup>th</sup> & 7 at DLI on 30<sup>th</sup>.
- Dunlin** *Calidris alpina*. 11 at DLI on the 30<sup>th</sup>.
- Ruff** *Philomachus pugnax*. 7 at DLI on the 30<sup>th</sup>.
- Yellow-legged Gull** *Larus (cachinnans) michahellis*. 20 e.r. on 24<sup>th</sup>, singles on 4 days.
- Lesser Black-backed Gull** *Larus fuscus*. Single at DLI on 30<sup>th</sup>.
- Black-headed Gull** *Larus ridibundus*. 30 e.r. on 24<sup>th</sup>, 10 at LS on 27<sup>th</sup> & 40 DLI on 30<sup>th</sup>.
- Mediterranean Gull** *Larus melanocephalus*. 30 at DLI on the 30<sup>th</sup>.
- Pin-tailed Sandgrouse** *Pterocles alchata*. 30 at Laguna la Playa on the 27<sup>th</sup>.
- Black-bellied Sandgrouse** *Pterocles orientalis*. 6 Be on 27<sup>th</sup>, 80 LG on 28<sup>th</sup>, 15 EIP 29<sup>th</sup>.
- Rock Dove/Feral Pigeon** *Columba livia*. Feral types each day but real ones at V on 25<sup>th</sup>.
- (Common) Wood Pigeon** *Columba palumbus*. Seen every day with max of 200 e.r. 24<sup>th</sup>.
- Eurasian Collared Dove** *Streptopelia decaocto*. Seen every day with max of 50 on 27<sup>th</sup>.
- Monk Parakeet** *Myiopsitta monachus*. 3 at B on the 24<sup>th</sup> and 11 at B on the 30<sup>th</sup>.
- Little Owl** *Athene noctua*. 2 at LG on 28<sup>th</sup> & 1 at EIP on 29<sup>th</sup>.
- Common Kingfisher** *Alcedo atthis*. Up to 3 seen at DLI on the 30<sup>th</sup>.
- (Eurasian) Hoopoe** *Upupa epops*. 2 at Cul on 25<sup>th</sup>, 8 at LS on 27<sup>th</sup> & 2 Be on 29<sup>th</sup>.
- Great Spotted Woodpecker** *Dendrocopos major*. Two heard but 1 seen on the 26<sup>th</sup>.
- Calandra Lark** *Melanocorypha calandra*. 3,000 at Bu on the 27<sup>th</sup>, a few on 2 days.
- Lesser Short-toed Lark** *Calandrella rufescens*. 3 seen at EIP on the 29<sup>th</sup>.
- Crested Lark** *Galerida cristata*. Seen in small on 27<sup>th</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>.
- Thekla Lark** *Galerida theklae*. 5 seen at Laguna la Playa on the 27<sup>th</sup>.
- (Eurasian) Sky Lark** *Alauda arvensis*. 1,000 at Bu on the 27<sup>th</sup>, a few on 2 days.
- Eurasian Crag Martin** *Hirundo rupestris*. A few seen on 25<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup>.
- White Wagtail** *Motacilla alba ssp. Alba*. Common and seen every day, Max count 20.
- Grey Wagtail** *Motacilla cinerea*. One ET on 29<sup>th</sup>, 2 at DLI on 30<sup>th</sup>.
- Meadow Pipit** *Anthus pratensis*. Common and seen most days, Max count 6.
- Southern Grey Shrike** *Lanius meridionalis*. Small numbers on most days, Max count 5.
- (Winter) Wren** *Troglodytes troglodytes*. Heard only on 2 dates, seen on the 27<sup>th</sup> at LS.
- Dipper** *Cinclus cinclus*. One singing near the dam at V on the 25<sup>th</sup>.
- Alpine Accentor** *Prunella collaris*. Two near the dam at V on the 25<sup>th</sup>, 1 at R on 26<sup>th</sup>.
- Hedge Accentor** [Dunnoch] *Prunella modularis*. Small numbers on 4 dates.
- Blue Rock Thrush** *Monticola solitarius*. One 25<sup>th</sup> at CLo. 1 Be and ET on 29<sup>th</sup>.
- (Common) Blackbird** *Turdus merula*. Common and seen most days.
- Redwing** *Turdus iliacus*. At least 200 at SJP on the 26<sup>th</sup>.
- Song Thrush** *Turdus philomelos*. Singles seen on 3 days only.
- Mistle Thrush** *Turdus viscivorus*. At least 80 at SJP on the 26<sup>th</sup>. A few on 2 days.
- Fieldfare** *Turdus pilaris*. Minimum of 20 at SJP on the 26<sup>th</sup>.
- (European) Robin** *Erithacus rubecula*. Small numbers seen on most days.
- Black Redstart** *Phoenicurus ochruros*. Singles most days with a max of 3 on the 29<sup>th</sup>.
- Common Stonechat** *Saxicola torquata*. Seen most days with a max of 6 on the 27<sup>th</sup>.
- Black Wheatear** *Oenanthe leucura*. Single male seen on the 29<sup>th</sup> at Be.
- Zitting Cisticola** *Cisticola juncidis*. 4 LS on 27<sup>th</sup>, 1 LG on 28<sup>th</sup> and 2 DLI on 30<sup>th</sup>.
- Cetti's Warbler** *Cettia cetti*. At least 5 birds heard but none seen.
- Common Chiffchaff** *Phylloscopus collybita*. Recorded in small numbers on 5 days.



**Blackcap** *Sylvia atricapilla*. A pair at Be on the 29<sup>th</sup>.  
**Sardinian Warbler** *Sylvia melanocephala*. Recorded in small numbers on 5 days.  
**Dartford Warbler** *Sylvia undata*. Singles at R on 26<sup>th</sup>, Laguna la Playa 27<sup>th</sup>, ET 29<sup>th</sup>.  
**Firecrest** *Regulus ignicapillus*. Singles at CLo & V 25<sup>th</sup>, SJP 26<sup>th</sup>, plus 2 heard only.  
**Goldcrest** *Regulus regulus*. One or more heard at SJP on 26<sup>th</sup>.  
**Long-tailed Tit** *Aegithalos caudatus*. 15 at V on 25<sup>th</sup> & 2 at ET on 29<sup>th</sup>.  
**Coal Tit** *Parus ater*. Single seen at ET on the 29<sup>th</sup>.  
**Crested Tit** *Parus cristatus*. One CLo on 25<sup>th</sup> & 6 at SJP on 26<sup>th</sup>.  
**Great Tit** *Parus major*. Small numbers seen on 4 days.  
**(Eurasian) Penduline Tit** *Remiz pendulinus*. 4 heard only at DLI on the 30<sup>th</sup>.  
**Eurasian Nuthatch** *Sitta europaea*. At least 4 seen at SJP on the 26<sup>th</sup>.  
**Wallcreeper** *Tichodroma muraria*. 1 at CLo & 1 at V on 25 and 3+ at R on 26<sup>th</sup>.  
**Short-toed Treecreeper** *Certhia brachydactyla*. 1 at CLo on 25<sup>th</sup> & 2 at SJP on 26<sup>th</sup>.  
**Eurasian Jay** *Garrulus glandarius*. One SJP on 25<sup>th</sup> and 3 ET on 29<sup>th</sup>.  
**(Common) Magpie** *Pica pica*. Common, widespread and seen daily.  
**(Red-billed) Chough** *Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax*. 20 e.r. on 27<sup>th</sup>, fewer on two days.  
**(Western) Jackdaw** *Corvus monedula*. Common, widespread and seen daily.  
**Carrion Crow** *Corvus corone*. Common, widespread and seen daily.  
**Common Raven** *Corvus corax*. Common, widespread and seen daily in fewer numbers.  
**(Common) Starling** *Sturnus vulgaris*. Common, widespread and seen daily.  
**Spotless Starling** *Sturnus unicolor*. Common, widespread and seen daily.  
**Corn Bunting** *Emberiza calandra*. Common, widespread and seen most days.  
**Rock Bunting** *Emberiza cia*. Small numbers seen on 3 days.  
**Cirl Bunting** *Emberiza cirlus*. Small numbers seen on 4 days.  
**(Common) Reed Bunting** *Emberiza schoeniclus*. 2 at LdG on 28<sup>th</sup> & 1 at DLI on 30<sup>th</sup>.  
**(Common) Chaffinch** *Fringilla coelebs*. Common, widespread and seen daily.  
**(European) Serin** *Serinus serinus*. Small numbers on 3 days, max of 12 on 30<sup>th</sup>.  
**(European) Greenfinch** *Carduelis chloris*. 2 on 26<sup>th</sup> + 30<sup>th</sup> & single on 28<sup>th</sup>.  
**(Eurasian) Siskin** *Carduelis spinus*. Single on 25<sup>th</sup> at CLo with flock of Goldfinches.  
**(European) Goldfinch** *Carduelis carduelis*. 50+ on the 25<sup>th</sup> at CLo, fewer on 5 days.  
**(Common) Linnet** *Carduelis cannabina*. Common, widespread and seen daily.  
**(Common) Crossbill** *Loxia curvirostra*. Heard only on the 29<sup>th</sup> at ET.  
**House Sparrow** *Passer domesticus*. Common, widespread and seen daily.  
**(Eurasian) Tree Sparrow** *Passer montanus*. At least 20 LG on the 28<sup>th</sup>.  
**Rock Sparrow** *Petronia petronia*. 2+ at CLo on 25<sup>th</sup> & one at LG on the 28<sup>th</sup>.

## MAMMALS

**Red Fox** *Vulpes vulpes*. 2 at LG on the 28<sup>th</sup>.  
**Wild Boar** *Sus scrofa*. Evidence seen at SJP on 26<sup>th</sup> & LG on 28<sup>th</sup>.  
**European Rabbit** *Oryctolagus cuniculus*. One beside road near LG on the 28<sup>th</sup>.  
**Beech Marten** *Martes foina*. Evidence seen at CLo on the 25<sup>th</sup>.  
**Spanish Ibex** *Capra pyrenaica*. 2 males at ET on the 29<sup>th</sup>.  
**Bat sp.** One flying in daylight at SJP on 26<sup>th</sup>, and another on 28<sup>th</sup>.

**BUTTERFLIES:**

**Large White** *Pieris brassicae*. Seen on the 24<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>.

**Small White** *Artogeia rapae*. One on the 30<sup>th</sup>.

**Clouded Yellow** *Colias croceus*. 10 on the 25<sup>th</sup> & 3 on the 26<sup>th</sup>.

**Red Admiral** *Vanessa atalanta*. One on the 30<sup>th</sup>.

**Wall Brown** *Lasiommata megera*. One on the 25<sup>th</sup>.

**OTHER TAXA**

**Migrant Hawker** *Aeshna mixta*. One on the 30<sup>th</sup>.

**Lizard sp.** One on the 26<sup>th</sup>.

**Hoverfly** *Metasyrphus corollae*. One on the 30<sup>th</sup>.

**Ray Nowicki 2007**

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