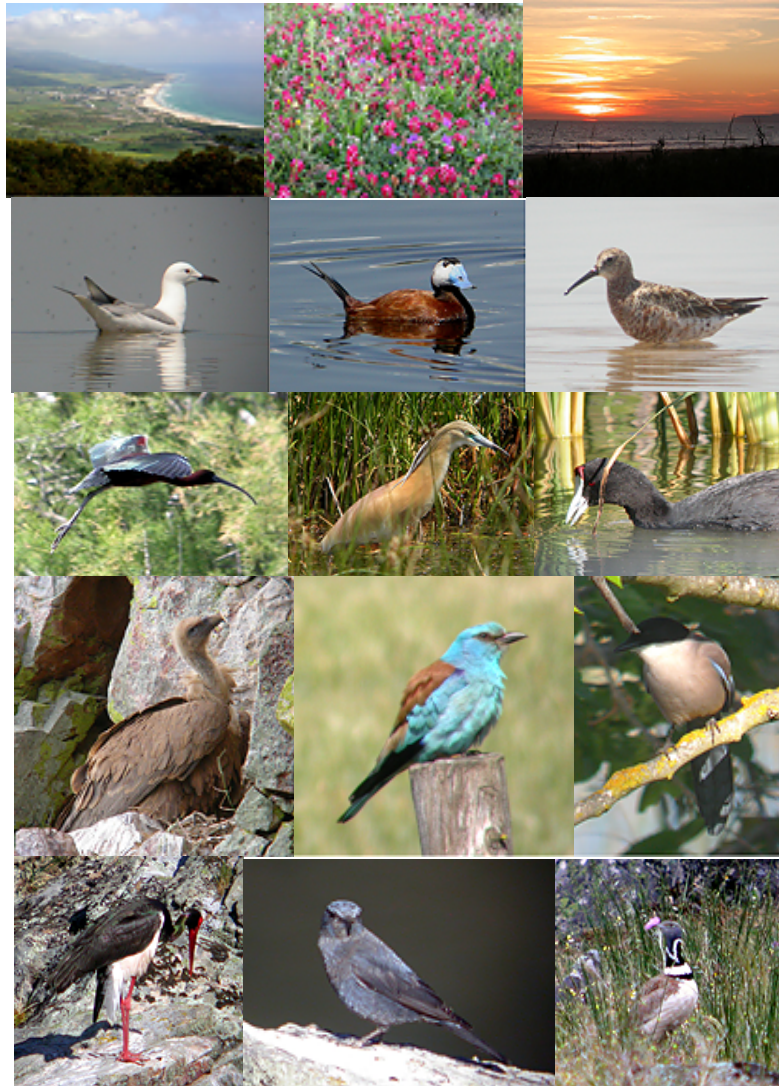


Southern Spain in spring

18 – 28 April 2009



Photos from left to right per line: Bolonia Bay, wildflowers in the Strait of Gibraltar, sunset from Zahara de los Atunes, Slender-billed Gull, White-headed Duck, Curlew Sandpiper, Glossy ibis, Squacco Heron, Red-knobbed Coot, Griffon Vulture, European Roller, Iberian (Azure-winged) Magpie, Black Stork, Blue Rock Thrush, Little Bustard (all photos © John L. Muddeman).

Leader

John Muddeman (The Travelling Naturalist)

Introduction

Eleven days to cover the best of SW Spain means some tough decisions on which sites to visit, and when. But given the final result, I think it once again worked very well. This longer trip, combining two of the very best areas in S Europe during the peak migration period has always

been particularly interesting to N American visitors, and this time proved no exception, they even forming the majority of the group, and making an excellent mix overall. Even the typically very mixed spring weather held off for most of the time, and despite a continuing rather breezy and windy spring, it was dry. It still felt remarkably cold at times though, so future visitors be warned!

Coinciding with the end of a decidedly mixed period of weather, including plenty of rain, made the Strait of Gibraltar about as floriferous as it could be, to our benefit, and the swathes of colourful flowers and extensively green landscapes observed were in stark contrast to the majority of trips which concentrate on the area in autumn, for its extraordinary large-bird migration. The Doñana marshes and hinterland were perhaps a little more subdued than in a normal year, but were still very productive, though near the beginning of the long day on tracks in the northern part of the marshes, with Great Bustard, Hen and Montagu's Harriers, Black-shouldered Kite and a European Roller, it was perhaps more reminiscent of the steppes in Extremadura! Our arrival in Extremadura coincided with a 10°C drop in temperature overnight, though at least we avoided rain, and the breezy conditions kept raptors on the move, which gave us some excellent sightings.

Travelling in via Jerez de la Frontera was great, since we had a very productive first afternoon nearby before heading to the hotel, and the afternoon flights out of Madrid allowed us the second of two excellent pre-breakfast trips in Extremadura. Indeed, if the best bird / moments list had been called en route to the airport, instead of over dinner on the penultimate day, I think that both Great and Little Bustards, and probably even Common Quail would have made it onto the list. Next time ☺

Daily diary

Saturday 18th April transfer Heathrow - Jerez de la Frontera, Trebujena and Zahara de los Atunes.

Largely cloudy, light W breeze, clearing, but increasing wind; 14°C on arrival Jerez, max. 17.5°C

We all met at the departure gate in Madrid airport, and despite a slightly delayed departure were in Jerez de la Frontera by 1:30 p.m. Indeed, most of us noted the Collared Pratincoles which rose up from the grassy areas adjacent to the runway as we taxied to a halt. What a bird to start! A few also noticed Cattle Egrets and even a single male Montagu's Harrier over an adjacent field.

After negotiating the outskirts of the sherry capital of the world, we headed N and past Trebujena for a very late snack lunch near the Guadalquivir River. The birds were terrific, with Lesser and Eurasian Kestrels and a brief Red-legged Partridge en route, plus superb adult Squacco Heron in a roadside ditch with flying and perched Collared Pratincoles opposite, plus resting Whiskered and Little Terns, Common Ringed Plovers, Common Sandpiper, Common Greenshank, Little Egrets and Grey Herons in some pools ahead.

A slow pot-holed drive eventually lead to a stop on tarmac for lunch, but a host of birds were the recompense: Common and Red-crested Pochards, Black-winged Stilts, Pied Avocet, numerous Curlew Sandpipers and Dunlins, Common Redshanks and more Common Greenshanks and a single Little Stint. A Eurasian Curlew had flown down-river as we'd approached, and 6 or 7 Eurasian Whimbrel were spooked from some salt marsh when we stopped for one of many fine male *iberiae* Yellow Wagtails. Various Little, a couple of Whiskered and two superb Gull-billed Terns passed over as we stood and watched. Crested, and numerous Calandra Larks were singing over the salt marsh, but it was perhaps the raptors which were most notable, with two Booted and a single Short-toed Eagle, single Red and several Black Kites, half a dozen Griffon Vultures and single female Montagu's plus a pair of Marsh Harriers.

We finally headed S, noting plenty of White Storks and one or two other new species as we made quickly for the hotel, but the areas of some fields smothered in sheets of Purple Viper's-bugloss, yellow crucifers, red French Honeysuckle, or off-white Crown Daisies were a truly lovely sight to see.

Sunday 19th April

Cape Trafalgar, Valdevaqueros, Punta del Carnero & Huerta Grande.

Overcast, mild & cloudy start, breaking to very fine and sunny p.m. 15.5°C – 19.5°C; stiff NW wind.

Not normally being an early riser (Oops!) I realised that our 7 a.m. start required a longer drive to give the sun time to come up! So we headed for Cape Trafalgar instead of another more local site, and after the 'wake-up' walk out to the point, including Crested Larks and brief Sanderling, we quickly reached a quite sheltered viewpoint near the lighthouse. With a stiff north-westerly blowing, this was a good move, despite it being relatively mild.

From the start until we finished, around 9 a.m., a constant passage of all plumages and ages of Northern Gannets was the main feature, with hundreds in total. Many of these were just offshore too, giving great views, with several of many passing Great Skuas also relatively close. No shearwaters were present AGAIN (as 2 weeks ago!), but a few Sandwich and two distant Black Terns, plus 6 Whimbrels and four Common Scoter were also on passage moving N.

After a relaxed breakfast we headed S again, this time with a freshening NW wind and thick cloud and localised rain... But fortunately this soon turned to clearing skies and broken cloud, and the further S we went the more sheltered it was from the northern edge in the wind.

One short stop produced our first dapper male Woodchat Shrike, a pair of European Stonechats and the first of many passing Pallid Swifts. We soon continued round the Strait, including our first views of Gibraltar, to the Punta del Carnero. With dense cloud over the N Moroccan coast, this didn't seem too promising, but several groups of Black Kites, 3 Eurasian Sparrowhawks, a male and two female Montagu's Harriers, a male Marsh Harrier and a flock of 37 Griffon Vultures all crossed as we scoured the skies to the sounds of singing Common Nightingales and scolding Sardinian Warblers. A picnic lunch in the increasing warmth and sun was happily taken from our raised viewpoint!

We finished off with a coffee break and walk around the Huerta Grande estate. Despite it being mid-afternoon, there was plenty of sound and movement, and there had clearly been a significant fall of passerines, with several Pied Flycatchers and Western Bonelli's Warblers as well as European Robins, a singing Iberian Chiffchaff, a few Firecrests and Blackcaps and an all-too-brief Garden Warbler. A brief Short-toed Treecreeper was tantalising, though a calling Great Spotted Woodpecker failed to materialise. Single (very worn) Monarch and (Southern) Speckled Wood butterflies rounded off the walk nicely.

Monday 20th April

near Algeciras, Punta del Carnero, Bolonia and the Sierra de la Plata.

A fine start, increasingly windy to moderate NW, giving increasing cloud mid-afternoon; 14 – 21°C.

After a leisurely breakfast we headed right round the Strait to near Gibraltar. Despite being a less than perfect site, an urban park area here is a magnet to passing passerines, and despite increasing disturbance as the morning wears on, holds birds for several hours.

The taller weedy areas with low trees were the best, and after good looks at a lemony-yellow Melodious Warbler, we were soon looking at two superb male Subalpine Warblers with their white 'moustaches' feeding in mallows, plus several rather flighty Common Whitethroats. A couple of Common Nightingales flushed a couple of times before we finally saw one well, this dropping repeatedly to feed on the grass under a tamarisk. And right above it, two Western Bonelli's Warblers and a stunning male Western Orphean Warbler worked the foliage for insects!

Another area, where automatic watering kept it lush, held a high density of birds and at times it was difficult to know where to look! A couple of Subalpine, 5 or more Western Orphean, 6 or more Melodious and two Garden Warblers, plus at least three male and a female Common Redstart were all seen well, one of the Orpheans coming down to feed on the ground just feet away at one point. A flighty Willow Warbler was also new but eluded the group.

After a celebratory coffee we headed back for lunch at Punta del Carnero. A Western Three-toed Skink and a large Viperine Snake crossed the road as we approached. Raptor passage was

better than the day before, given a light NW wind and fairly clear conditions over Morocco, despite plenty of haze. Small numbers of Black Kites, Eurasian Sparrowhawks and Booted Eagles arrived fairly regularly, with slightly larger numbers of Short-toed Eagles also crossing, despite seemingly being in trouble at times. Three single Griffon Vultures also passed without trouble as did a typically speedy female Montagu's Harrier. A female Marsh Harrier was a little more laborious in its crossing though.

A group of high-flying European Bee-eaters sped past, with another group seen from the vehicle as we headed E towards Bolonia. The ruins were closed, since it was Monday, though after a comfort stop and time to watch a few birds, including our first good Corn Bunting and European Stonechat, we headed up into the hills.

A Griffon brooded a chick on a cliff ledge, while two Crag Martins sped back and forth across the crag and a fine Blue Rock Thrush sang its heart out from the rock tops. Another male thrush flew in behind, counter-singing, and landed in a tree! A male Eurasian Kestrel flew around clutching a lizard in its talons. A wait in the quite chilly breeze revealed almost nothing new, despite all-too-brief Common Linnet and an even briefer feeding Hummingbird Hawk-moth, though a quick look at some noisy Iberian Water Frogs in a pool was in interesting diversion.

A couple of Montagu's Harriers off to one side were good to see en route back, though the swathes of flowers now covering large areas after the recent rains, including along many roadsides, were a joy to see.

Tuesday 21st April

Atlanterra, Guadalquivir river mouth, Bonanza salinas, El Rocío.

Still pre-breakfast, low cloud & some coastal fog until Jerez, later fine and sunny; 15 – 27.5°C.

A pre-breakfast drive and walk in Atlanterra. It was lovely in dead still and mild conditions. In the relative darkness it was at first difficult to see any birds, but singing Common Nightingales, European Stonechats, Eurasian Greenfinches, Winter Wren and calling Sardinian Warblers were all noted. But not a single true seabird passed offshore apart from numerous Yellow-legged and a few Lesser Black-backed Gulls. Lovely flowers were lining the banks though, including a few Bee Ophrys orchids.

Soon after our departure from Zahara we hit coastal fog, but this didn't stop us from stopping to enjoy a roadside Cattle Egret colony. A few Lesser Kestrels and Montagu's Harriers were also noted en route, but we were principally aiming for a spot near the Guadalquivir river mouth to look for a recent colonist in Spain. After a couple of very brief sightings, we then had a small series of excellent views of a few Little Swifts in and around a small colony, despite the large number of House Martins around making it tricky at times!

A reviving coffee and we were off through the often disorienting maze of Sanlúcar de Barrameda's streets, eventually finding a couple of fine small pools, where half a dozen stunning male White-headed Ducks held court at point blank range (plus an all-too-brief and shy female), plus a pair and two other Little Bitterns as well as several Little Grebes. A 'grunching' Great Reed Warbler remained unseen, while a Red Admiral and a male Red-veined Darter were nice to see.

A late lunch was taken in the Salinas de Bonanza while watching a variety of waders, including plenty of Curlew Sandpipers, plus several Kentish Plovers, while tiny Little Terns came to feed just beside us on a shoal of small fish trapped in a closed section of canal. Passing Grey Plover were in varying plumage, but a large flock of Greater Flamingos and small numbers of elegant and dapper Slender-billed Gulls were also a treat.

We finally left after discovering that part of the route has now been blocked off, but that also meant that we reached El Rocío in good time, and after a quick view over the area from the rooftop, walked up the side of the marsh to view towards the W end. With the afternoon sun almost behind us, the lighting on the large flock of Black-tailed Godwit and much smaller group of Ruff, some males of which sported summer plumage, was a treat. Female Subalpine Warbler, male Common Whitethroat and European Goldfinches in the edge, plus numerous Black-winged Stilts, a Eurasian Spoonbill, a few pairs of Northern Shoveler and a couple of superb Whiskered Terns out in the marsh rounded off a fine supporting cast!

Wednesday 22nd April
Acebuche.

El Rocío, Odiel Marshes, Laguna del Portil, El

Cloudless with only very light coastal breeze until mid-afternoon; 16-27°C.

After our 8 a.m. breakfast we met for 15 minutes to look over the marsh, where two Great Reed Warblers counter sang from bulrush tops down to almost point blank range. The light was superb on the massed godwits, and also allowed distant views of Gadwall, Common and Red-crested Pochard and Whiskered Terns amongst others.

We headed west and past Huelva to the Marismas del Odiel Natural Park. Timing the trip to coincide with low tide meant lots of mud was still present along the rivers, so we made a provisionally quick stop at a couple of pools first. After looking at Black-winged Stilts, a Common Sandpiper, Common Coots and a Common Moorhen plus chicks, our attention quickly turned to a superb Red-knobbed Coot at exceedingly close range, which with slow movements and low voices we approached extremely well. The Black-headed Gulls at the back of the pool were almost our first too, and provided extra interest when Santi of another group noted there was an adult Little Gull amongst them. A close Purple Heron in flight behind us was terrific too.

A comfort stop at the interpretation centre also led to us watching Whimbrel, Curlew Sandpipers and our first Bar-tailed Godwit in an adjacent creek, though we were soon heading S again along the long single road. A small car park was fringed by numerous spikes of the striking yellow-flowered *Cistanche phelypaea*, a parasitic plant restricted to S Iberia, though we found it difficult to walk over the short board walk to watch waders on the mudflats, since there were also plenty close to the vehicle! Many were in more striking summer plumage, including Dunlin, Sanderling, Grey Plover, Eurasian Curlew and Common Ringed Plovers, with more of the same, plus Common Greenshank and two circling Slender-billed Gulls at the end of the board walk.

Many more, much closer birds took us back to the road, and some colourful Ruddy Turnstones and a large group of Red Knot, some reddening already, plus a couple of colourful fly-by Bar-tailed Godwit amongst other dowdier individuals were lovely to see. The river opposite was peppered with a large flock of first-winter Mediterranean Gulls, with numerous noisy Little Terns on and over a sandbank below. A flighty Willow Warbler eluded us. Again...

The tide was now rushing in fast, covering both the mud and the immense numbers of West African Fiddler Crabs present all over it, so we moved towards some fenced wader and seabird breeding areas, further along. A couple of Northern Wheatears were our first, as was a Stone-curlew, while the stars here were a large colony of stunning Collared Pratincoles, several sitting around just yards from the fence and giving simply wonderful views. Another fenced area contained dredging settlings, but was a haven for roosting gulls and terns, with lots of Mediterranean, plenty of Audouin's, a few Lesser Black-backed, a couple of Yellow-legged and Black-headed Gulls, plus plenty of Sandwich and Little Terns. A few small waders were also present for variety! This was superb, though we probably stayed slightly longer than expected since I was intent on reading as many of the Mediterranean Gull colour rings as possible!

Our return was rapid, stopping for lunch at a lovely shaded picnic site –complete with dapper male White Wagtail and singing Cetti's Warbler! – and nearby bar for coffee.

The Laguna del Portil to the west was relatively quiet, despite our first, albeit long-distance, Wood Sandpiper and Little Ringed Plovers, and the first proper Common Buzzard for the group (!). The sun and breeze had now hit, so most snoozed in the minibus as we took the long coastal road back.

But it was far from over, and a reviving session, albeit until quite late, in the El Acebuche centre was fun. Plenty of Iberian [Azure-winged] Magpies were in the pines or washing in the lake and a couple of Eurasian Tree Sparrows finally gave good views. A dark morph Booted Eagle cruised low over, while the couple of pairs of Red-rumped Swallows were evident both in flight and for their remarkable nests which we viewed at close range. The highlight was perhaps on the way out, when one of a pair of European Bee-eaters flew up from the road and perched in a small pine, and in which was a pair of Ortolan Buntings which it had just disturbed, part of a small migrant flock of five, which played hide and seek amongst the low bushes until finally disappearing into the pine forest!

Thursday 23rd April Doñana northern marshes to José Antonio Valverde centre and back

Sunny with very high thin cloud p.m., almost still, and hot; 17-29°C.

This could almost have been a day in Extremadura if it weren't for a few of the best birds! Reaching the edge of the flat floodplain, we were soon looking out over a beautiful flower-filled pasture, with flighty Common Linnets, European Greenfinches, European Serins, a quartering immature male Hen Harrier, the first of innumerable Corn Buntings and also plenty of gorgeous European Bee-eaters. However, we soon had to tumble out of the bus at high speed given a fly-past male Great Bustard! A nearby copse held a White Stork colony, with attendant House, Spanish and hybrid House X Spanish sparrows!

Driving S along a good section of road we pulled off to search a small wet corner near a stream. And our quarry, a rather flighty and elusive Western Olivaceous Warbler was already on territory (as were several others heard in nearby tamarisks), and finally showed itself to all, while the wait also produced a fly-by Common Kingfisher and a Cetti's Warbler which after shouting a few times dashed across the track before diving into deep cover.

Further driving revealed the first of various Woodchat Shrikes and plenty of Pied Flycatchers in the scrub, plus a superb Black-shouldered Kite, which after lifting off its perch, gave a superb hovering and flying display. A couple of adult Black-crowned Night Herons in a tree were also good, even if eclipsed in quantity later! A brief Purple Swamphen was seen by only a few, but two Great Egrets by all as they lifted off.

The raised track also produced a couple of Sand Martins, and out in the middle somewhere (!), a nice range of larks as we stood on the trackside and savoured not being bumped along for a few minutes! A Calandra landed on a small bush and showed off, while first Greater, and then finally Lesser Short-toed Larks also showed very well, with numerous Crested Larks for good measure. A couple of Short-toed Eagles added variety to the raptors –which with an immature male Montagu's Harriers was getting rather good– and a Red Fox looked calmly out from its sheltered lair on the edge of a water channel. A male Spectacled Warbler flew past, but was only noted by one or two before it dropped into scrub never to be seen again.

Noting various small passerines in the scrub, an odd-looking lump in one tamarisk caused me to stop quite sharply, only to find we were just yards away from a simply stunning European Roller on a fence post on the opposite side! This was clearly a tired migrant, the bird ruffling its feathers and even 'yawning' twice, and sat tight until we were about to leave when it flew up onto a tall pylon to get a better view of its surroundings.

More stops revealed a few more birds, especially when we reached the Caño del Guadiamar channel, including two very flighty male Whinchats, passing Glossy Ibis and Purple Herons, and a very close Squacco Heron. Further migrants in the scrub included a female Common Redstart.

A longer stop near the interpretation centre revealed a nice selection of water birds, including our first Black-necked Grebes, but it was being literally pounded by almost deafening Great Reed Warbler song here which was perhaps the most impressive feature!

Inside the centre building was thankfully cooler, and the huge windows gave great views over the large pool and its immense mixed Glossy Ibis, Cattle and Little Egret and Purple, Squacco and Black-crowned Night Heron colony. After a long lunch break and watching the colony (plus another Purple Swamphen) and also the scrub for small migrants, including Sedge, Eurasian Reed, Melodious and Willow Warblers and more Pied Flycatchers (the latter a real feature for the day), we took a short diversion to the Lucio del Lobo. An 'at the limits' pair of Garganey were a good find, but sadly out of range for most of the group to appreciate the male's plumage.

A fine Red Kite and a small colony of Lesser Kestrels as we left made it three harriers, three kites and both kestrels for the day. A fine tally! The return was uneventful, while over dinner later, a snipe eluded the group again as it towered up past the restaurant window!

Friday 24th April Palacio del Acebrón, El Rocío, transfer N via Alange to Finca Santa Marta.

High thin cloud; very light breeze; 6°C at dawn up to 28°C p.m.

A pre-breakfast trip to the Palacio del Acebrón was ostensibly to look for lots of small birds. The walk through the mixed pine, cork oak and willow forest was highly successful, giving sightings of several Iberian Chiffchaffs, Common Chaffinch, Eurasian Hoopoe, Long-tailed Tits, Short-toed Treecreepers, two fly-over male Eurasian Golden Orioles, plus a calling Wryneck which frustratingly refused to show.

A short break was then made in El Rocío for an hour or so, before starting our transfer N. However, we didn't get too far before turning off into an area of mixed olive and fruit orchards and vineyards. While this may not seem a productive place, small colonies of Lesser Kestrels and Montagu's Harriers were present, a tired migrant Northern Wheatear rested in an orchard, and our main goal, a superb singing Rufous-tailed Scrub Robin sang from an orange tree before dropping onto the ground and later returning to its tree to give us superb views.

We then started the long transfer in earnest, passing via the edge of Seville and turning N up the new A-66, stopping to refuel and then picnic beside the castle in a town, where a few birds included Common Swifts, Short-toed Eagles and male Blue Rock Thrush.

We then continued on to near Alange, where from the dam and adjacent car park, we enjoyed views of numerous (extremely close) Alpine Swifts and Western Jackdaws, plus Blue Rock Thrushes, Eurasian Crag and Common House Martins, Barn and Red-rumped Swallows, and very brief male Black Wheatear.

We finally tore ourselves away and continued N again, and after a brief stops for a superb White Stork colony and then a comfort break, finally reached FSM just after 7 p.m. A few birds for seen by most even here from the car park and after a great introduction from the manager Joao, dinner was rounded off by a great show of bird pictures by local resident Steve Fletcher (for those who could keep their eyes open, that is!).

Saturday 25th April Pre-breakfast FSM, Santa Marta de Magasca area, continuing to Trujillo.

Chilly start (c.6°C), then breezy 11°C, up to 19°C, but chilly and windy with cloud later afternoon.

A pre-breakfast walk at the Finca was less lively than hoped, especially given very chilly conditions until the sun rose and gave us some relative warmth. However, singing Common Nightingale and Eurasian Hoopoe kicked off the list, and a small selection of the local birds were appreciated, including our first Woodlark in song-flight. A fly-over male Golden Oriole was at least seen, unlike two pairs of extremely fast Hawfinches speeding past.

Leaving at 9:30 we headed out towards Santa Marta de Magasca, where a chilly keen breeze stopped the temperature from rising much, though we were quickly looking at calling male Little Bustards and a fine Southern Grey Shrike, which helped forget it for a while. Taking a side track we looked over a different part of the same field, and after considerable straining of the eyes, were finally able to make out the forms and colours of two delightful Pin-tailed Sandgrouse, feeding distantly on the slopes. Unfortunately, we only noticed a young Spanish Imperial Eagle which passed very low directly overhead, once it was already past us, and it quickly dropped out of sight. A couple of standing Great Bustards were quite good recompense however!

Another nearby set of fields produced a few Greater Short-toed Larks (including two superbly from the minibus), plus a few fly-over raptors including Black Vulture and Common Buzzard (which had been all but absent until now!), and en route to a drinks break, a few circling birds caused us to stop quickly, and we jumped out to first one, then two and finally three adult Black Storks wheeling over in display flight before they suddenly turned and glided off into the distance. A Woodlark carrying food in its beak perched well for all to admire on the other side of the road.

Refreshments and comfort stop over the Río Magasca seemed like a great place to stop for lunch. Given the wind, most raptors passed very high, but Griffon and Black Vultures, and also an adult Golden Eagle were all finally seen well in the scopes. The European Bee-eaters, Red-rumped Swallows and Eurasian Crag Martins around the bridge were just as well appreciated too, while several Spanish Terrapins and a large Viperine Snake in the river were also admired. Well, by most!

The remainder of the time was spent slowly driving the pseudosteppe in a loop towards Trujillo. Lesser Kestrels, Montagu's Harriers, both large vultures, both large kites, a few Short-toed Eagles

and dozens of Calandra Larks were of most note apart from a single Turtle Dove, which looped around before landing close to the road and gave great views both perched and when feeding on the ground, though this and two Northern Wheatears here, plus an earlier female Whinchat were the only obvious migrants the whole day.

An hour exploring the centre of old Trujillo was followed with a few minutes at a pool on the outskirts of town, where a couple of pairs of Black-winged Stilts, c. 10 Little Ringed Plovers and smaller numbers of both White Wagtails and Little Grebes, plus a lone Common Sandpiper, gave excellent views.

The cloud rolled in and stiff breeze kept blowing, leaving us wondering about the following morning...

Sunday 26th April FSM, Río Almonte, Jaraicejo area, Almaraz area, Embalse de Arrocampo.

A crystal clear and almost dead still start (2°C), fine with increasing light cloud, hot in sun, but max. 18°C, windy evening but then dead still and clear 22:30h.

The driver plus three headed off shortly after 7:30 in the quest of Little Owls and Great Spotted Cuckoos. Not far from the Finca Irene spotted our first Little Owl on the roadside, which fortunately stayed put, even when we reversed to get great looks. Our second was out on a dry stone wall, though quickly disappeared when we tried to get out with the scopes.

It was very cold out, so long-distance views of a bird on a wire fence were not so great, since the ground was producing a little heat haze, but our first Great Spotted Cuckoo was at least clocked, and backed-up when we also heard it, or its nearby mate, calling loudly. Close European Stonechats, Corn Buntings and Southern Grey and Woodchat Shrikes were also admired, as were the first of several Thekla Larks in scrubby areas, though two more Little Owls decided to fly off just as the scopes were trained on them! A fine pair of close Great Spotted Cuckoos were then found, with one of these subsequently watched quite close on the ground. The early morning sun picked out European Bee-eaters colours to perfection and we finished off first with an Iberian Hare, then another very close but brief Great Spotted Cuckoo, and finally a pair of Red-legged Partridge.

Our first stop after breakfast was at the Río Almonte. The river flanked by a band of white water crowfoot flowers was gorgeous, and with a number of Grey and White Wagtails, plus two Common Sandpipers and a good number of Spanish Terrapins was rewarding to look at closely. The raptors overhead were varied too, with Black and Griffon Vultures, Booted and Short-toed Eagles and Black Kites allowing us to practise our increasing ID skills.

A scrubby area near Jaraicejo was our next stop, and this was superb, with fine singing male Dartford and Spectacled Warblers, Thekla and a fly-by Calandra Lark, plus circling Black Stork, Black Vultures and displaying Booted Eagles. A walk produced a few more goodies in a Cork Oak grove, including Crested Tit, Eurasian Nuthatch and a calling Lesser Spotted Woodpecker, plus singing Western Orphean Warbler on our return.

After a reviving coffee stop en route (just after a pair of Common Cuckoos, the female of which was a hepatic morph bird perched on a wire), we took lunch in a little side valley near Almaraz. This was terrific, and though a flighty Eurasian Jay and extremely high pair of displaying Bonelli's Eagles eluded most, the singing Golden Orioles, feeding Rock Bunting and passing Egyptian Vulture did not. With a fine Hawfinch perched fully in the open and just in front of all of us for several minutes, we were experiencing a purple patch!

Higher up and with looks down towards a reservoir were also rewarding, with a distant Black Wheatear, male Blue Rock Thrush and, just as we were about to leave, calling Red-billed Choughs! These were then watched inspecting a deep rock crevice, finally only reappearing 'properly' of course, once we were leaving in the vehicle!

Our final stop was at the Arrocampo reservoir, though in several parts. The first showed that it was relatively quiet, despite several quartering Gull-billed Terns, two flight views of Little Bittern, a brief Kingfisher in flight and 4 or 5 short, but clear views of a perched singing Savi's Warbler close in front. Another objective achieved! If only the Cetti's were so cooperative!

Picking up a key at a local bar we also made two brief visits to hides 1 and 2, but with a moderate wind, strong sun and it now simply being late afternoon, it was no surprise that we saw relatively little, despite a brief Purple Swamphen (Brian) and several Purple Herons of most note.

We returned rapidly with plenty of time for 'coffee, cakes and call-over' before readjourning at 20:15 to head up to Trujillo for dinner in a restaurant in the old square.

Monday 27th April
Park.

Monfragüe National

Breezy to windy all day; briefly hot in the sun mid p.m., otherwise chilling breeze; 12-21.5°C.

The forecast was uncertain but we awoke to crystal clear skies again, despite a chilly breeze. The route to Monfragüe was punctuated by one stop for a look over the *dehesa*, and after checking a fine Eurasian Jay which appeared to catch an unfortunately baby bird, there was a fine perched Spanish Imperial Eagle, basking in the morning sun. Being a 'checkerboard' immature, it was even better to see when it flew down and across into a Holm Oak treetop, sending a number of Iberian Magpies into a frenzy, before appearing with a small prey which it carried off to eat out of sight. Presumably a hapless baby magpie!

Our first stop in the park was among many other observers at the Salto del Gitano, looking across to Peñafalcón. Almost immediately a male Peregrine, then a pair of adult Bonelli's Eagles with a pair of Egyptian Vultures circled high over, but when one of the adult eagles decided to cruise into the park it was vigorously attacked by the Peregrine! After also enjoying our first circling Black Storks here we then saw a young adult Spanish imperial Eagle go over, also mercilessly attacked by the Peregrine, until this was finally left in peace to circle up alongside a Black Stork. Wow!

Just the Griffons plus a few Black Vultures would have been impressive enough in themselves, but a very distant Black Wheatear, numerous Eurasian Crag Martins plus a few Red-rumped Swallows, a singing Rock Bunting and a couple of gorgeous Blue Rock Thrushes were a terrific supporting cast! A singing Black Redstart though dropped off its unseen cliff perch and out of sight forever... A showy Black Stork spiralled down and went to see its mate on the nest, giving terrific views.

Looking over the Puente del Cardenal (largely uncovered given such low water levels) it seemed very quiet in comparison, despite several Alpine Swifts among hundreds of Common House Martins, Griffons on their nests and a lovely Subalpine Warbler out in full view... So we headed for a well-earned drinks break in Villareal de San Carlos!

Stops at various vantage points afterwards produced a few Thekla Larks, Woodchat Shrikes and Corn Buntings, but no wheatears, though a couple of Red-rumped Swallows glowed in the sun, a Woodlark sang its heart out and even a singing Spectacled Warbler showed briefly for Brian and John. A stop in the pinewood only produced a very brief Crested Tit and a couple of Red Deer, so it was on to the Portilla del Tiétar for lunch.

This was about as good as could be expected (!), but with three sightings of an adult Spanish Imperial Eagle, two pairs of noisy circling and perched Black Storks, Griffon and passing Black Vultures, things were definitely good! Noisy passing Long-tailed Tits, singing Cetti's Warbler, European Robin and Rock Bunting also kept the small bird theme alive, but the undoubted stars were a pair of still fluffy Eurasian Eagle Owl chicks with their huge orange eyes, peering out from under a bush, until one finally took a short walk in the open!

With a couple of gaps in the list still, we took a short drive to a nearby grazing area, which held a number of 'badger-headed' Rock Sparrows plus a single Mistle Thrush, but new birds for the group. We returned in our quest for Great Spotted Woodpecker (to no avail) and Black Redstart... No luck with the latter at Peñafalcón again, but it was still lovely to be there, and with Common Ravens and three Short-toed Eagles together at one point, as well as numerous vultures, it was certainly impressive and a great end to the day!

Tuesday 28th April
Madrid.

Zorita steppes & Embalse de Sierra Brava, transfer to

Overcast, cool (11°C) & breezy pre-breakfast; clearing to broken cloud & warm Madrid (21°C).

We left the heavily overcast, cool and breezy Finca at just after 7 a.m. However, dropping down to the S it brightened a little, and certainly enough for us to see a huge Eurasian Eagle Owl lift off its pylon perch and fly across in front of us before disappearing up a bushy slope!

A short stop to refuel and we were off across open steppe, mostly slowly, looking for suitable terrain as we went. However, as in the Santa Marta de Magasca area, there were unusually virtually no either bare or almost bare fallow fields, so we continued down to a side road. Stepping out flushed two Great bustards at close range, with 8 more in the same two fields in front! Several male Little Bustards were also strutting their stuff, running around with fluffed-up necks and cavorting around in front of two tail-cocking females. A superb sight! A few even did their exaggerated display flights, wingtips whistling as they flew with wings down and head up, showing off their white pattern to full effect. Further scanning produced a fine pair of Stone-curlews too, in addition to the numerous singing Calandra Larks. This really was special!

We finally moved on after scanning the surrounding grassland, and started to search for fallow fields, though without success. However, taking a wide track towards a finca, 13 huge male Great Bustards stood proud on the skyline and a diminutive-looking Greater short-toed Lark fed quietly on some bare soil. But best was when a call from Brian alerted us a small bird whirring along in front. A Common Quail! This then pitched into a short-grass field, and then stood still in full view as we looked in amazement. It even stayed despite a farm worker coming, getting out of his vehicle and then politely saying that despite being on private property would could have a little look around before heading off! Passing single male Montagu's and Western Marsh Harriers were also admired, plus a pair of Black-winged Stilts in a pond, before we started to head back.

With a little time still available, we drove towards the Sierra Brava reservoir, though my 'usual' Black-eared Wheatears failed to materialise. But the diversion was a good one, with some 15 or more Lesser Kestrels adorning a tumble-down barn and then a 2nd calendar-year Great spotted Cuckoo flew past before perching in a broom bush. This was particularly welcomed by Brian who'd not been out on the pre-breakfast jaunt two days before, but with just 1 minute left before we were due to leave, a tip-off helped us locate a superb pair of Western Black-eared Wheatears of to one side, with the male clearly chasing the female vigorously in an attempt to get her to return to her unseen nest.

We were back at the Finca in less than 30 minutes, and left just after the planned 11 a.m. departure. With plenty of time to spare, we made use of the mileage by counting the raptors seen en route – Griffon and distant Black Vultures, a few Booted Eagles, Common Buzzards and Red Kites, plus plenty of Black Kites – and after scheduled stops first for drinks and then for fuel, reach T4 of the airport just after 14:15. Given a good walk in to the terminal, this was perfect for the group flights leaving at 4:30 and 5 p.m.

This was another highly successful trip, with the added bonus of barely a drop of rain the entire time, despite some drastic changes in the weather, and especially in temperature! The highlights were numerous, but particularly included the visible migration of raptors over the Strait of Gibraltar, with distant dots finally acquiring wings and then, on occasions turning into raptors which subsequently passed almost directly overhead showing every single feather; the group of Griffons which laboured over from Morocco, then spiralled up out to sea on a passing thermal before launching themselves back towards the Spanish coast and finally disappearing inland was another great example. The massed Black-tailed godwits at El Rocío, suddenly gaining colour when viewed through the scope was a highlight for one member, while the incredible chorus of nightingales in Doñana, or the masses of French Honeysuckle and other colourful flowers down in the Straits area were others. In terms of specific birds, the list was long, and given that it is always a mixture of the sighting and to some extent behaviour, the result was very diverse: Spanish Imperial Eagle (especially the perched and flying immature) and that SO close Eurasian Roller tied in first place with 4 votes each, the exceptionally close Hawfinch received 3, then tying with 2 votes each were White-headed Duck, Griffon Vulture, Eurasian Eagle Owl-ets, Great Spotted Cuckoo, European Bee-eater and the always impressive Great Reed Warbler. Single votes were also cast for "Squatto" Heron, Little Bittern, Black-shouldered Kite, Black-tailed & Bar-tailed Godwits, Audouin's Gull, Little Owl, Alpine & Common Swifts, Eurasian Hoopoe, Blue Rock Thrush, Eurasian Nuthatch and European Goldfinch, just illustrating how varied it was. See the note in the intro as to why no bustards even figured in this list!!

We look forward to seeing you again on a Travelling Naturalist tour, and wish to thank you for helping make this such a rewarding holiday.

Very best wishes, John Muddeman (www.iberianwildlife.com)

SPECIES LISTS

Before reading, please note that the bird names and list follow the taxonomy and names used by F. Gill and M. Wright. 2006. *Birds of the World: Recommended English Names*. Princeton University Press. This differs significantly in order, but only slightly in the common and scientific names used when compared to most field guides currently in use. Most significant name changes are also included to avoid confusion.

BIRDS - AVES

GROUSE, PHEASANTS & allies - Phasianidae

Red-legged Partridge *Alectoris rufa* Noted on 8 days: 1 Trebujena on 18th, 2 Barbate + 2 en route + 2 Zahara de los Atunes on 19th, 2 en route on 20th, 1 Palacio del Acebrón + 2 near Bollullos on 24th, 2 Santa Marta de Magasca on 25th, 2 Madrigalejo on 26th, 1 en route + 2 Monfragüe on 27th, 2 Zorita pseudosteppes on 28th.

Common Quail *Coturnix coturnix* 1 male Zorita pseudosteppes on 28th is our only record.

GEESE, SWANS & DUCKS - Anatidae

Greylag Goose *Anser anser* A pair noted on 4 days at El Rocío from 21st to 24th.

Gadwall *Anas strepera* Noted on 6 days: a pair Trebujena on 18th, plenty El Rocío on 21st, plenty various sites on 22nd, plenty various sites on 23rd, several sites El Rocío on 24th and 6 Embalse de Arrocampo on 26th.

Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos* Noted on 10 days: several at various sites on 18th, a few various sites on 19th, plenty El Rocío on 21st, plenty various sites on 22nd, plenty on 23rd, plenty El Rocío on 24th, a few various sites on 25th, a few various sites on 26th, 2 en route on 27th, a few en route on 28th.

Northern Shoveler *Anas clypeata* 3 pairs El Rocío on 21st, a few El Rocío + 1 male Laguna del Portil on 22nd, several sites José Antonio Valverde Info Centre on 23rd and 5+ El Rocío on 24th.

Garganey *Anas querquedula* A pair José Antonio Valverde Info Centre on 23rd is our only record.

Red-crested Pochard *Netta rufina* 5 males Trebujena on 18th, 5+ El Rocío + pair Laguna del Portil on 22nd, 15+ José Antonio Valverde Info Centre+ on 23rd and a few El Rocío on 24th.

Common Pochard *Aythya ferina* 8-10 Trebujena on 18th, 6+ El Rocío on 21st, plenty various sites on 22nd, plenty various sites on 23rd and plenty El Rocío on 24th.

Common Scoter *Melanitta nigra* 1 male + 3 females Cabo de Trafalgar on 19th.

White-headed Duck *Oxyura leucocephala* 6 males + 1 female Bonanza area on 21st.

GREBES - Podicipedidae

Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis* 6 Bonanza area on 21st, a few Laguna del Portil & El Acebuche on 22nd, plenty José Antonio Valverde Info Centre+ on 23rd and 4 pairs Trujillo on 25th.

Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus* One El Rocío on 21st, plenty José Antonio Valverde Info Centre+ on 23rd, 1 Embalse de Arrocampo on 26th, several sites Embalse de Sierra Brava on 28th.

Black-necked/Eared Grebe *Podiceps nigricollis* 6 José Antonio Valverde Info Centre on 23rd.

FLAMINGOS - Phoenicopteridae

Greater Flamingo *Phoenicopterus roseus* Noted on 6 days: 15-20 Trebujena & 25+ en route on 18th, 3 Barbate on 19th, lots Salinas de Bonanza & El Rocío on 21st, lots various sites on 22nd, 100s various sites on 23rd and lots El Rocío on 24th.

STORKS - Ciconiidae

Black Stork *Ciconia nigra* 3 adults Santa Marta de Magasca on 25th, 1 Jaraicejo & 1 Valdecañas Dam area on 26th and 10 Monfragüe on 27th.

White Stork *Ciconia ciconia* Noted on 11 days: lots en route on 18th, 4 en route on 19th, 10+ various sites on 20th, plenty various sites on 21st, lots Huelva area+ on 22nd, plenty Doñana N marshes on 23rd, lots various sites on 24th, lots various sites on 25th, plenty various sites on 26th, a few en route on 27th and plenty various sites on 28th.

IBISES & SPOONBILLS - Threskiornithidae

Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus* 100s José Antonio Valverde Info Centre on 23rd, 1 El Rocío on 24th.

Eurasian Spoonbill *Platalea leucorodia* Noted on 5 days: 15-20 Trebujena on 18th, 1 El Rocío on 21st, lots Marismas del Odiel+ on 22nd, 20+ Doñana N marshes on 23rd, a few El Rocío on 24th.

HERONS & BITTERNs - Ardeidae

Little Bittern *Ixobrychus minutus* 4 Bonanza area on 21st, 1-2 Laguna del Portil & 1 El Rocío on 22nd, pair Embalse de Arrocampo on 26th.

Black-crowned Night Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax* Lots José Antonio Valverde Info Centre on 23rd, 1 Embalse de Arrocampo on 26th.

Squacco Heron *Ardeola ralloides* 2 adults Trebujena on 18th and 10+ José Antonio Valverde Info Centre on 23rd.

Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis* Noted on 8 days: plenty various sites on 18th, lots various sites on 19th, plenty various sites on 20th, lots Vejer de la Frontera+ on 21st, plenty various sites on 22nd, 1000+ José Antonio Valverde Info Centre on 23rd, plenty various sites on 24th, plenty en route on 28th.

Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea* Noted on 10 days: 10+ various sites on 18th, 1 Valdevaqueros on 19th, 1 en route on 20th, 6 El Rocío on 21st, plenty Marismas del Odiel+ on 22nd, lots Doñana N marshes on 23rd, a few El Rocío on 24th, several sites Embalse de Arrocampo on 26th, 2 various sites on 27th, 1 Zorita pseudosteppes on 28th.

Purple Heron *Ardea purpurea* One Guadalquivir River Mouth on 21st, 3 Marismas del Odiel on 22nd, 30+ José Antonio Valverde Info Centre+ on 23rd, 7-8 Embalse de Arrocampo on 26th.

Great [White] Egret *Ardea alba* 2 Doñana N marshes on 23rd is our only record.

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta* Noted on 8 days: plenty Trebujena on 18th, 1 Cabo de Trafalgar on 19th, plenty Bonanza+ on 21st, several Marismas del Odiel+ on 22nd, lots José Antonio Valverde Info Centre+ on 23rd, a few El Rocío on 24th, several Embalse de Arrocampo on 26th, 1 en route on 27th.

GANNETS & BOOBIES - Sulidae

Northern Gannet *Morus bassanus* 100s Cabo de Trafalgar on 19th is our only record.

CORMORANTS - Phalacrocoracidae

Great Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo* Noted on 5 days: 2 Trebujena on 18th, 1 Cabo de Trafalgar & 2 Punta del Carnero on 19th, 1 Punta del Carnero on 20th, 1 Guadalquivir River Mouth on 21st, 1 Marismas del Odiel on 22nd.

FALCONS & allies - Falconidae

Lesser Kestrel *Falco naumanni* Noted on 11 days: 15+ Trebujena+ on 18th, 3-4 en route on 19th, a few various sites on 20th, 4-5 en route on 21st, 1 female Marismas del Odiel on 22nd, 4 José Antonio Valverde Info Centre on 23rd, 15+ near Bollullos on 24th, plenty various sites on 25th, several Embalse de Arrocampo on 26th, a few Trujillo on 27th, 15+ Embalse de Sierra Brava on 28th.

Common/Eurasian Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus* Noted on 8 days: a few en route on 18th, 2 Punta del Carnero on 19th, a pair Sierra de la Plata on 20th, 1 Vejer de la Frontera on 21st, a few Doñana N marshes on 23rd, a few en route on 24th, 1 female Monfragüe on 27th, a few en route on 28th.

Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus* Just 1 male Monfragüe on 27th.

HAWKS, EAGLES & allies - Accipitridae

Osprey *Pandion haliaetus* 1 Marismas del Odiel on 22nd is our only record.

Black-winged/-shouldered Kite *Elanus caeruleus* 1 Doñana N marshes on 23rd is our only record.

- Red Kite** *Milvus milvus* Noted on 5 days: 1 Trebujena on 18th, 1 José Antonio Valverde Info Centre on 23rd, 2 en route on 24th, several sites various sites on 25th and 3 en route on 28th.
- Black Kite** *Milvus migrans* Noted on 11 days: plenty Trebujena+ on 18th, 30+ Punta del Carnero on 19th, 6+ Punta del Carnero on 20th, plenty various sites on 21st, several sites en route on 22nd, lots various sites on 23rd, plenty various sites on 24th, plenty various sites on 25th, lots various sites on 26th, lots Monfragüe+ on 27th, 16 en route on 28th.
- Egyptian Vulture** *Neophron percnopterus* 1 Valdecañas Dam area on 26th, 2+ Monfragüe on 27th.
- Griffon Vulture** *Gyps fulvus* Noted on 10 days: 6 Trebujena on 18th, 37 crossing & several Huerta Grande on 19th, 3 Punta del Carnero + 2 plus chick Sierra de la Plata on 20th, 3 El Rocío on 21st, 100+ José Antonio Valverde Info Centre on 23rd, a few en route on 24th, lots various sites on 25th, several sites various sites on 26th, lots Monfragüe+ on 27th, 6+ en route on 28th.
- Cinereous/Monk/Black Vulture** *Aegypius monachus* Noted on 5 days: 1 en route on 24th, 15-20 various sites on 25th, 15+ various sites on 26th, plenty Monfragüe on 27th, 2 en route on 28th.
- Short-toed Eagle** *Circaetus gallicus* Noted on 8 days: 1 Trebujena on 18th, 1 en route + Punta del Carnero on 19th, 20+ Punta del Carnero & 1 Bolonia on 20th, 4 Doñana N marshes & José Antonio Valverde Info Centre on 23rd, 4 en route on 24th, 4 various sites on 25th, 6+ various sites on 26th, 5 Monfragüe on 27th.
- [Western] Marsh Harrier** *Circus aeruginosus* Noted on 7 days: a pair Trebujena on 18th, 1 male Punta del Carnero on 19th and a female there on 20th, 1 Marismas del Odiel on 22nd, 4 Doñana N marshes+ on 23rd, 1 male Embalse de Arrocampo on 26th, 1 male Zorita pseudosteppes on 28th.
- Hen/Northern Harrier** *Circus cyaneus* An immature male Doñana N marshes on 23rd is our only record.
- Montagu's Harrier** *Circus pygargus* Noted on 9 days: a male Jerez Airport + a female Trebujena on 18th, a female Zahara de los Atunes & 1 male + 2 females Punta del Carnero on 19th, a female Punta del Carnero & 2 en route on 20th, several males en route on 21st, 1 male + 1 female Marismas del Odiel on 22nd, an immature male Doñana N marshes on 23rd, a pair en route on 24th, 15-20 various sites on 25th, 1 male Zorita pseudosteppes on 28th.
- Eurasian Sparrowhawk** *Accipiter nisus* 3 Punta del Carnero on 19th, 8+ Punta del Carnero on 20th.
- Common Buzzard** *Buteo buteo* Noted on 8 days: 1 Huerta Grande on 19th, 1 Laguna del Portil on 22nd, 2-3 Doñana N marshes on 23rd, 3 en route on 24th, 3-4 Santa Marta de Magasca on 25th, several at various sites on 26th, 2-3 en route on 27th, 4 en route on 28th.
- Spanish Imperial Eagle** *Aquila adalberti* 1 juvenile Santa Marta de Magasca on 25th, 4-5 Monfragüe+ on 27th, and a an adult at another site on a different day.
- Golden Eagle** *Aquila chrysaetos* 1 adult Santa Marta de Magasca on 25th.
- Bonelli's Eagle** *Hieraaetus fasciatus* A pair Monfragüe on 27th.
- Booted Eagle** *Hieraaetus pennatus* Noted on 10 days: 1 pale morph + 1 dark morph Trebujena on 18th, 1+ pale morph Punta del Carnero & 1 pale morph Huerta Grande on 19th, 10-15 including 2 dark morph birds Punta del Carnero+ on 20th, several various sites on 21st, a few various sites on 22nd, 3+ Doñana N marshes & José Antonio Valverde Info Centre on 23rd, 2 various sites on 24th, 3 pale morphs on 25th, plenty various sites on 26th, 3 en route on 28th.

BUSTARDS - Otidae

- Great Bustard** *Otis tarda* A male Doñana N marshes on 23rd, 5 Santa Marta de Magasca on 25th, 21 Zorita pseudosteppes on 28th.
- Little Bustard** *Tetrax tetrax* 5+ Santa Marta de Magasca on 25th, 4 males + 2 females Zorita pseudosteppes on 28th.

RAILS, CRAKES & COOTS - Rallidae

- Purple Swamphen** *Porphyrio porphyrio* Heard El Rocío on 22nd, 2 + various heard Doñana N marshes & José Antonio Valverde Info Centre on 23rd, 1 + various heard Embalse de Arrocampo on 26th.
- Common Moorhen** *Gallinula chloropus* Noted on 7 days: 3-4 Trebujena on 18th, plenty various sites on 21st, several sites various sites on 22nd, lots Doñana N marshes+ on 23rd, lots Alange on 24th, 3 Trujillo on 25th, several sites Embalse de Arrocampo on 26th.
- Red-knobbed Coot** *Fulica cristata* 1 Marismas del Odiel on 22nd.
- Eurasian/Common Coot** *Fulica atra* Noted on 8 days: lots Trebujena on 18th, plenty Bonanza area + El Rocío on 21st, plenty various sites on 22nd, lots Doñana N marshes+ on 23rd, plenty El Rocío

on 24th, 20+ Trujillo on 25th, plenty Embalse de Arrocampo on 26th, a few Embalse de Sierra Brava on 28th.

STONE-CURLEWS / THICK-KNEES - Burhinidae

Eurasian Stone-curlew *Burhinus oedicnemus* 1 Marismas del Odiel on 22nd, 2 Zorita steppes on 28th.

STILTS & AVOCETS - Recurvirostridae

Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus* Noted on 8 days: 15+ Trebujena+ on 18th, dozens various sites on 21st, plenty various sites on 22nd, lots Doñana N marshes+ on 23rd, plenty El Rocío on 24th, 4 Trujillo on 25th, 2 Embalse de Arrocampo on 26th, a pair Zorita pseudosteppes on 28th.

Pied Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta* 6+ Trebujena on 18th, 25+ Salinas de Bonanza on 21st, 3 José Antonio Valverde Info Centre on 23rd.

PLOVERS & LAPWINGS - Charadriidae

Grey/Black-bellied Plover *Pluvialis squatarola* 25+ Salinas de Bonanza on 21st and 50+ Marismas del Odiel on 22nd.

[Common] Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula* 12-15 Trebujena on 18th, 2 Cabo de Trafalgar on 19th, plenty Salinas de Bonanza on 21st and 15+ Marismas del Odiel on 22nd.

Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius* 3 Laguna del Portil on 22nd, c. 10 Trujillo on 25th and 2 Embalse de Sierra Brava on 28th.

Kentish Plover *Charadrius alexandrinus* 3 Trebujena on 18th, 2 Cabo de Trafalgar on 19th, 10+ Salinas de Bonanza on 21st and 15+ various sites on 22nd.

SANDPIPERS, SNIPES & allies - Scolopacidae

Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa* At El Rocío, 300+ on 21st and 22nd, some there & 150 José Antonio Valverde Info Centre on 23rd and lots El Rocío on 24th.

Barbate-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica* 25+ Marismas del Odiel on 22nd is our only record.

[Eurasian] Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus* 6-7 Trebujena on 18th, 6+1 Cabo de Trafalgar, 32 Valdevaqueros & 6 Punta del Carnero on 19th, 12 Bolonia on 20th, 50+ Marismas del Odiel on 22nd.

Eurasian Curlew *Numenius arquata* 1 Trebujena on 18th and 1 + 2 heard Marismas del Odiel on 22nd.

Common Redshank *Tringa totanus* 10-15 Trebujena on 18th, 3 Salinas de Bonanza on 21st and 10+ Marismas del Odiel on 22nd.

Common Greenshank *Tringa nebularia* 3-4 Trebujena on 18th, 6+ Marismas del Odiel & 9 El Acebuche on 22nd and 1 José Antonio Valverde Info Centre on 23rd.

Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola* 1 Laguna del Portil on 22nd, 6 José Antonio Valverde Info Centre on 23rd.

Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos* Noted on 6 days: 1 Trebujena on 18th, 1 Marismas del Odiel & 1 Laguna del Portil on 22nd, 1 José Antonio Valverde Info Centre on 23rd, [1 Alange] on 24th, 1 Trujillo on 25th and 2 Río Almonte on 26th.

Ruddy Turnstone *Arenaria interpres* 2 Cabo de Trafalgar on 19th, 70+ Marismas del Odiel on 22nd.

Red Knot *Calidris canutus* 45+ Marismas del Odiel on 22nd is our only record.

Sanderling *Calidris alba* 10+ Cabo de Trafalgar on 19th, c.10 Salinas de Bonanza on 21st and 30+ Marismas del Odiel on 22nd.

Little Stint *Calidris minuta* One Trebujena on 18th, 4-5 Salinas de Bonanza on 21st.

Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea* 100+ Trebujena on 18th, 100+ Salinas de Bonanza on 21st, 2 Marismas del Odiel on 22nd.

Dunlin *Calidris alpina* 40+ Trebujena on 18th, 50+ Salinas de Bonanza on 21st, 100+ Marismas del Odiel on 22nd.

Ruff *Philomachus pugnax* Just 6+ El Rocío on 21st, but including two black / near-black males.

COURSERS & PRATINCOLES - Glareolidae

Collared Pratincole *Glareola pratincola* 6+ Jerez Airport & 3 Trebujena on 18th, 25+ Marismas del Odiel on 22nd, 500+ Doñana N marshes on 23rd, a few El Rocío on 24th.

GULLS, TERNS & SKIMMERS - Laridae

- Audouin's Gull** *Larus audouinii* 14 Marismas del Odiel on 22nd is our only record.
- Yellow-legged Gull** *Larus michahellis* Noted on 6 days: plenty various sites on 18th, lots various sites on 19th, lots various sites on 20th, lots Atlanterra on 21st, plenty various sites on 22nd, 2 José Antonio Valverde Info Centre on 23rd.
- Lesser Black-backed Gull** *Larus fuscus* 2 Cabo de Trafalgar & 15+ Zahara de los Atunes on 19th, several sites Atlanterra on 21st, 3 Marismas del Odiel on 22nd.
- Black-headed Gull** *Larus ridibundus* 6+ Trebujena on 18th, 16 Marismas del Odiel on 22nd, 6-7 José Antonio Valverde Info Centre on 23rd.
- Slender-billed Gull** *Larus genei* 12+ Salinas de Bonanza on 21st and 2 Marismas del Odiel on 22nd.
- Mediterranean Gull** *Larus melanocephalus* 150+ Marismas del Odiel on 22nd included a series of colour-ringed birds: a Hungarian bird, first ringed 15-06-2008 at Szeged (Fehér-tó XI. - Korom-sziget), Csongrád, Hungary, and reported since at 13 & 17 -10-2008 at Vilanova i la Geltrú, Catalunya, Spain and then by us; and 4 ringed on 03-07-2008 at Barbâtre, Polder de Sebastopol, Vendée, FRANCE and the other ringed on 17-06-2008 at Oye Plage, Les Huttes d'Oye, Pas-de-Calais, and which was also seen last August in Poole Harbour!
- Little Gull** *Larus minutus* 1 adult Marismas del Odiel on 22nd is our only record.
- Gull-billed Tern** *Gelochelidon nilotica* 2 Trebujena & 30+ en route on 18th, 10+ Doñana N marshes on 23rd, 2 Alange on 24th, 5 Embalse de Arrocampo on 26th.
- Sandwich Tern** *Thalasseus sandvicensis* Plenty Cabo de Trafalgar & Punta del Carnero on 19th, 30+ Marismas del Odiel on 22nd.
- Little Tern** *Sternula albifrons* 6+ Trebujena on 18th, 6+ Salinas de Bonanza on 21st, 40+ Marismas del Odiel on 22nd.
- Whiskered Tern** *Chlidonias hybrida* Noted on 5 days: 3 Trebujena + plenty en route on 18th, 2 El Rocío on 21st, 30+ El Rocío on 22nd, 200+ José Antonio Valverde Info Centre & 100+ El Rocío on 23rd, 30+ El Rocío on 24th.
- Black Tern** *Chlidonias niger* 2 Cabo de Trafalgar on 19th is our only record.

SKUAS - Stercorariidae

- Great Skua** *Stercorarius skua* 20+ Cabo de Trafalgar on 19th were a fine sight.

SANDGROUSE - Pteroclididae

- Pin-tailed Sandgrouse** *Pterocles alchata* A pair Santa Marta de Magasca on 25th.

PIGEONS & DOVES - Columbidae

- Rock Dove / Feral Pigeon** *Columba livia* Widespread, common and noted daily: most were feral pigeons, but some, e.g. the 3 at the Sierra de la Plata on 20th, were wild-type birds.
- [Common] Wood Pigeon** *Columba palumbus* Noted on 8 days: 6+ en route on 18th, a few Huerta Grande on 19th, 2 Bolonia on 20th, heard El Rocío on 23rd, 2 en route on 25th, plenty Valdecañas Dam area on 26th, a few Monfragüe on 27th, plenty en route on 28th.
- European Turtle Dove** *Streptopelia turtur* Just 1 Santa Marta de Magasca on 25th and heard Monfragüe on 27th.
- Eurasian Collared Dove** *Streptopelia decaocto* Widespread, common and noted daily.

CUCKOOS - Cuculidae

- Great Spotted Cuckoo** *Clamator glandarius* 5 Madrigalejo on 26th, 1 Embalse de Sierra Brava on 28th.
- Common Cuckoo** *Cuculus canorus* Noted on 5 days: 1 en route on 18th, 1 Palacio del Acebrón on 24th, heard Finca Santa Marta & Santa Marta de Magasca on 25th, 1 Valdecañas Dam area + 2 Miravete tunnel including a hepatic morph female on 26th, heard Monfragüe on 27th.

OWLS - Strigidae

- Eurasian Eagle-Owl** *Bubo bubo* 2 chicks Monfragüe on 27th, and an adult near Zorita early on 28th.
- Little Owl** *Athene noctua* 4 Madrigalejo on 26th is our only record.

SWIFTS - Apodidae

Alpine Swift *Tachymarptis melba* 1 Zahara de los Atunes on 18th, 35 Alange on 24th, 4-5 Monfragüe on 27th.

Common Swift *Apus apus* Noted on 6 days: 2 Marismas del Odiel on 22nd, 15+ en route on 24th, lots various sites on 25th, plenty Embalse de Arrocampo on 26th, a few Finca Santa Marta on 27th, lots Zorita pseudosteppes & en route on 28th.

Pallid Swift *Apus pallidus* Noted on 5 days: lots Barbate & Valdevaqueros+ on 19th, plenty various sites on 20th, a few Guadalquivir River Mouth on 21st, plenty Marismas del Odiel+ on 22nd, 2 Doñana N marshes on 23rd.

Little Swift *Apus affinis* 3-4 Guadalquivir River Mouth on 21st is our only record.

ROLLERS - Coraciidae

European Roller *Coracias garrulus* 1 Doñana N marshes on 23rd is our only record.

KINGFISHERS - Alcedinidae

Common Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis* 1 Doñana N marshes on 23rd, 1 Embalse de Arrocampo on 26th.

BEE-EATERS - Meropidae

European Bee-eater *Merops apiaster* Noted daily except on 18th: 25+ Punta del Carnero on 19th, c.20 Punta del Carnero and 25+ en route on 20th, 6+ en route on 21st, 8+ El Acebuche on 22nd, lots Doñana N marshes on 23rd, lots Palacio del Acebrón & en route on 24th, plenty various sites on 25th, a few various sites on 26th, a few en route on 27th, a few various sites on 28th.

HOOPOES - Upupidae

Eurasian Hoopoe *Upupa epops* Noted on 6 days: heard Laguna del Portil on 22nd, 3 Palacio del Acebrón & several sites en route on 24th, lots various sites on 25th, plenty various sites on 26th, 2 en route + 1 Finca Santa Marta on 27th, a few Finca Santa Marta, Zorita pseudosteppes & en route on 28th.

WOODPECKERS - Picidae

Eurasian Wryneck *Jynx torquilla* Heard Palacio del Acebrón on 24th.

Lesser Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos minor* Heard Jaraicejo on 26th.

Great Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos major* Heard Huerta Grande on 19th, heard Sierra de la Plata on 20th, 1 very poor view + heard Monfragüe on 27th.

SHRIKES - Laniidae

Southern Grey Shrike *Lanius meridionalis* Noted on 5 days: 1 en route on 24th, 2-3 various sites on 25th, 3 Madrigalejo on 26th, 2-3 en route on 27th, 2 Zorita pseudosteppes on 28th.

Woodchat Shrike *Lanius senator* Common, widespread and noted on 9 days: 2 Valdevaqueros & 1 Punta del Carnero on 19th, plenty various sites on 20th, 5+ Marismas del Odiel on 22nd, lots Doñana N marshes on 23rd, plenty Palacio del Acebrón & en route on 24th, lots various sites on 25th, several sites various sites on 26th, 15+ Monfragüe on 27th, a few en route on 28th.

OLD WORLD ORIOLES - Oriolidae

[Eurasian] Golden Oriole *Oriolus oriolus* noted on 3 days with 2 males Palacio del Acebrón & a pair El Rocío on 24th, 1 male Finca Santa Marta on 25th, 1 male Finca Santa Marta & 5 Valdecañas Dam area on 26th.

CROWS, JAYS & MAGPIES - Corvidae

Eurasian Jay *Garrulus glandarius* 1-2 Valdecañas Dam area on 26th, 1 en route + 1 Monfragüe on 27th.

Iberian Magpie *Cyanopica cooki* Common W of the Guadalquivir river and noted on 8 days; 4 en route on 21st, plenty El Acebuche on 22nd, 1 en route on 23rd, a few El Rocío & en route on 24th, plenty Finca Santa Marta+ on 25th, several sites various sites on 26th, lots various sites on 27th, several sites Finca Santa Marta & en route on 28th.

Eurasian Magpie *Pica pica* Noted on 8 days: 1 Trebujena on 18th, plenty various sites on 22nd, 1 José Antonio Valverde Info Centre on 23rd, several sites en route on 24th, plenty various sites on 25th, lots various sites on 26th, plenty en route on 27th, lots various sites on 28th.

Red-billed Chough *Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax* A pair Valdecañas Dam area on 26th, 1 Monfragüe on 27th.

Western Jackdaw *Corvus monedula* Seen 6 days: 3 Vejer de la Frontera on 18th, 5+ Vejer de la Frontera on 21st, 25+ Alange on 24th, lots Trujillo on 25th, a few en route on 27th, a few en route on 28th.

Northern/Common Raven *Corvus corax* Common widespread and noted daily: 1-3 noted daily, except max. 5+ various sites on 25th and 5+ several sites Monfragüe on 27th.

TITS & CHICKADEES - Paridae

[European] Crested Tit *Lophophanes cristatus* 2 Jaraicejo on 26th, 1 Monfragüe on 27th.

Great Tit *Parus major* Noted on 8 days: 2 Huerta Grande on 19th, various heard Sierra de la Plata on 20th, a few El Acebuche on 22nd, 2+ Palacio del Acebrón on 24th, 1 + heard Finca Santa Marta on 25th, a few Jaraicejo+ on 26th, a few various sites on 27th, 1 Finca Santa Marta on 28th.

Blue Tit *Cyanistes caeruleus* Noted on 7 days: several sites Huerta Grande on 19th, a few Algeciras area and 1+ Punta del Carnero on 20th, 2+ Palacio del Acebrón on 24th, 1-2 Finca Santa Marta on 25th, a few Jaraicejo+ on 26th, a few various sites on 27th, heard Finca Santa Marta on 28th.

SWALLOWS & MARTINS - Hirundinidae

Sand Martin / Bank Swallow *Riparia riparia* 7 Doñana N marshes on 23rd, 2 en route on 25th, a few Valdecañas Dam area & lots Embalse de Arrocampo on 26th.

Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica* Common, widespread and noted daily, including migrants in off sea on 20th.

Eurasian Crag Martin *Ptyonoprogne rupestris* 2 Sierra de la Plata on 20th, a few en route on 24th, lots Santa Marta de Magasca on 25th, lots Valdecañas Dam area on 26th, lots Monfragüe+ on 27th.

[Common] House Martin *Delichon urbicum* Common, widespread and noted daily: hundreds in El Rocío and Monfragüe.

Red-rumped Swallow *Cecropis daurica* Also common and widespread in small numbers: 3 en route on 18th, 3 Punta del Carnero on 20th, 4-5 en route on 21st, 7+ various sites on 22nd, 2 Doñana N marshes on 23rd, several sites en route on 24th, several sites various sites on 25th, a few various sites on 26th, several sites Monfragüe on 27th, a few various sites on 28th.

BUSHTITS, LONG-TAILED TITS - Aegithalidae

Long-tailed Tit *Aegithalos caudatus* 5 Palacio del Acebrón on 24th, 2-3 Jaraicejo on 26th, 8-10 Monfragüe on 27th.

LARKS - Alaudidae

Calandra Lark *Melanocorypha calandra* Noted on 6 days: 6+ Trebujena on 18th, 1 + various heard Doñana N marshes on 23rd, 1 en route on 24th, abundant various sites on 25th, 1 Jaraicejo on 26th, several sites Zorita pseudosteppes on 28th.

Greater Short-toed Lark *Calandrella brachydactyla* Lots Doñana N marshes on 23rd, 6+ Santa Marta de Magasca on 25th, 1 Zorita pseudosteppes on 28th.

Lesser Short-toed Lark *Calandrella rufescens* Several Doñana N marshes on 23rd is our only record.

Crested Lark *Galerida cristata* Common, widespread and noted on 9 days, including Plenty Cabo de Trafalgar on 19th, many Doñana N marshes on 23rd, and plenty various sites on 26th.

Thekla Lark *Galerida theklae* Noted on 5 days: 1 Sierra de la Plata on 20th, 4+ Palacio del Acebrón on 24th, lots Madrigalejo & Jaraicejo on 26th, plenty Monfragüe on 27th, 2-3 Embalse de Sierra Brava on 28th.

Woodlark *Lullula arborea* 1 + another heard Finca Santa Marta & 1 Santa Marta de Magasca on 25th, 3 Jaraicejo on 26th, 1 Monfragüe on 27th.

CISTICOLAS & allies - Cisticolidae

Zitting Cisticola *Cisticola juncidis* Noted on 6 days: 1 + heard Trebujena on 18th, 1+ Zahara de los Atunes on 19th, various heard various sites on 20th, lots Doñana N marshes on 23rd, 1 en route on 25th, 1 Embalse de Arrocampo on 26th.

OLD WORLD WARBLERS - Sylviidae

Cetti's Warbler *Cettia cetti* Heard Punta del Carnero + Huerta Grande on 19th, heard El Rocío on 21st, 1 Marismas del Odiel on 22nd, 1 + various heard Doñana N marshes on 23rd, heard Palacio del Acebrón on 24th, a few heard Embalse de Arrocampo on 26th, heard Monfragüe on 27th.

Savi's Warbler *Locustella luscinioides* Heard José Antonio Valverde Info Centre on 23rd, 1 + heard Embalse de Arrocampo on 26th.

Great Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus arundinaceus* Noted on 5 days: 3 El Rocío on 21st, 2 + heard El Rocío on 22nd, lots + various heard José Antonio Valverde Info Centre+ on 23rd, 2 + various heard El Rocío & heard Alange on 24th, 2-3 + various heard Embalse de Arrocampo on 26th.

Sedge Warbler *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus* 2 migrants José Antonio Valverde Info Centre on 23rd.

[Eurasian] Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus scirpaceus* 1 Doñana N marshes on 23rd, heard Embalse de Arrocampo on 26th.

Western Olivaceous Warbler *Hippolais opaca* 1 + heard Doñana N marshes on 23rd.

Melodious Warbler *Hippolais polyglotta* 7+ Algeciras area on 20th, 1 José Antonio Valverde Info Centre on 23rd, 1 + various heard Palacio del Acebrón on 24th.

Willow Warbler *Phylloscopus trochilus* 1 Marismas del Odiel on 22nd, 1 José Antonio Valverde Info Centre on 23rd, 1 Palacio del Acebrón on 24th.

Common Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita* 1 probable El Rocío on 21st, 1 Laguna del Portil on 22nd.

Iberian Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus ibericus* 1 male Huerta Grande on 19th, 3 Palacio del Acebrón on 24th.

Western Bonelli's Warbler *Phylloscopus bonelli* 2-3 Huerta Grande on 19th, 4-5 Algeciras area on 20th, 2 José Antonio Valverde Info Centre on 23rd.

Blackcap *Sylvia atricapilla* Plenty Huerta Grande+ on 19th, 3+ Algeciras area & heard Sierra de la Plata on 20th, 1 male + 1 female José Antonio Valverde Info Centre on 23rd, 2 + various heard Palacio del Acebrón on 24th.

Garden Warbler *Sylvia borin* 1 Huerta Grande on 19th, 2 Algeciras area on 20th, 5-6 José Antonio Valverde Info Centre+ on 23rd, 1 Palacio del Acebrón on 24th.

Western Orphean Warbler *Sylvia hortensis* 5-6 Algeciras area on 20th, 1 male Jaraicejo on 26th.

Common Whitethroat *Sylvia communis* 12+ Algeciras area on 20th, 1 male El Rocío on 21st.

Dartford Warbler *Sylvia undata* 2 Palacio del Acebrón on 24th, 4-5 Jaraicejo on 26th.

Spectacled Warbler *Sylvia conspicillata* 1 male Doñana N marshes on 23rd, 3 males Jaraicejo on 26th, 1 Monfragüe on 27th.

Subalpine Warbler *Sylvia cantillans* 3 males + 1 female Algeciras area on 20th, 1 female El Rocío on 21st, 2 Monfragüe on 27th.

Sardinian Warbler *Sylvia melanocephala* Noted on 6 days: with 1 Zahara de los Atunes (Michael) on 18th, several sites various sites on 19th, a few various sites on 20th, several sites Atlanterra on 21st, a few various sites on 22nd, a few Palacio del Acebrón on 24th.

CRESTS & KINGLETS - Regulidae

Firecrest *Regulus ignicapilla* 3+ Huerta Grande on 19th.

WRENS - Troglodytidae

[Winter] Wren *Troglodytes troglodytes* Noted on 7 days: 1 + heard Huerta Grande on 19th, heard Atlanterra on 21st, 1 + heard Palacio del Acebrón on 24th, 1 Finca Santa Marta on 25th, heard Finca Santa Marta & heard Valdecañas Dam area on 26th, heard Finca Santa Marta & Monfragüe on 27th, heard Finca Santa Marta on 28th.

NUTHATCHES & WALLCREEPER - Sittidae

Eurasian Nuthatch *Sitta europaea* 1 Jaraicejo on 26th is our only record.

TREECREEPERS - Certhiidae

Short-toed Treecreeper *Certhia brachyactyla* 1 Huerta Grande on 19th, 4+ Palacio del Acebrón on 24th, 1+ Jaraicejo on 26th.

STARLINGS - Sturnidae

Spotless Starling *Sturnus unicolor* Very common, widespread and noted daily.

THRUSHES - Turdidae

Common Blackbird *Turdus merula* Common, widespread and noted daily except on 23rd.

Mistle Thrush *Turdus viscivorus* 1 en route (Michael) on 24th, 2 Monfragüe on 27th.

OLD WORLD CHATS & FLYCATCHERS - Muscicapidae

European Robin *Erithacus rubecula* 2+ Huerta Grande on 19th, plenty Algeciras area+ on 20th, 1 en route on 22nd, 1 Monfragüe on 27th.

Common Nightingale *Luscinia megarhynchos* Common, widespread and recorded daily, except on 18th; max. 50+ Palacio del Acebrón on 24th.

Rufous-tailed Scrub Robin *Cercotrichas galactotes* 1 near Bollullos on 24th is our only record.

Common Redstart *Phoenicurus phoenicurus* 3 males + 1 female Algeciras area on 20th, 1 female José Antonio Valverde Info Centre on 23rd.

Whinchat *Saxicola rubetra* 2 Doñana N marshes on 23rd, 1 female en route on 25th.

European/Common Stonechat *Saxicola rubicola* Noted on 8 days: a few pairs various sites on 19th, lots Bolonia+ on 20th, several sites Atlanterra on 21st, several sites El Acebuche on 22nd, 10+ Palacio del Acebrón on 24th, 1 Finca Santa Marta & 1 male en route on 25th, several sites various sites on 26th, several sites Zorita pseudosteppes & en route on 28th.

Northern Wheatear *Oenanthe oenanthe* Noted on 5 days: 1 Zahara de los Atunes on 18th, 2 Marismas del Odiel on 22nd, 4 Doñana N marshes on 23rd, 1 near Bollullos on 24th, 2 en route on 25th.

Western Black-eared Wheatear *Oenanthe hispanica hispanica* A superb pair Embalse de Sierra Brava on 28th is our only record.

Black Wheatear *Oenanthe leucura* 1 Alange on 24th, 1 Valdecañas Dam area on 26th, 1-2 Monfragüe on 27th.

Blue Rock Thrush *Monticola solitarius* Noted on 5 days: 2 males Sierra de la Plata on 20th, heard Atlanterra on 21st, 1 en route & 5+ Alange on 24th, 1 male Valdecañas Dam area on 26th, 6+ Monfragüe on 27th.

[European] Pied Flycatcher *Ficedula hypoleuca* Noted on 3 days: 2-3 males + 1 female Huerta Grande on 19th, 12+ Doñana N marshes & José Antonio Valverde Info Centre on 23rd, 1 Palacio del Acebrón on 24th.

OLD WORLD SPARROWS & allies - Passeridae

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus* Very common, widespread and noted daily at numerous sites.

Spanish Sparrow *Passer hispaniolensis* 4-5 males + 2 females Doñana N marshes on 23rd, plenty various sites on 25th, 6+ Monfragüe on 27th.

Eurasian Tree Sparrow *Passer montanus* 2 El Acebuche on 22nd, heard Palacio del Acebrón & 3+ near Bollullos on 24th, 1 Embalse de Arrocampo on 26th.

Rock Sparrow *Petronia petronia* 15-20 Monfragüe on 27th is our only record.

WAGTAILS & PIPITS - Motacillidae

Spanish Wagtail *Motacilla flava iberiae* Noted on 6 days: lots Trebujena+ on 18th, several sites Salinas de Bonanza on 21st, several sites various sites on 22nd, lots Doñana N marshes on 23rd, 1+ El Rocío on 24th, 1 male Embalse de Arrocampo on 26th.

Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea* 1 Huerta Grande on 19th, 5 Río Almonte on 26th.

White Wagtail *Motacilla alba* Noted on 7 days: 1 male Marismas del Odiel on 22nd, 1 José Antonio Valverde Info Centre on 23rd, 1 Finca Santa Marta on 24th, 2 there & 4+ Trujillo on 25th, 6-7 various sites on 26th, 1 + juvenile Finca Santa Marta on 27th and 1+ there on 28th.

FINCHES & allies - Fringillidae

Common Chaffinch *Fringilla coelebs* Noted on 6 days: 2 en route on 19th, 1 male Sierra de la Plata on 20th, several sites Palacio del Acebrón on 24th, heard Finca Santa Marta on 25th, 2+ Jaraicejo on 26th, several sites Monfragüe on 27th.

European Serin *Serinus serinus* Noted on 8 days: A few Huerta Grande+ on 19th, several sites various sites on 22nd, plenty Doñana N marshes on 23rd, lots Palacio del Acebrón+ on 24th, plenty

Finca Santa Marta+ on 25th, several sites various sites on 26th, plenty various sites on 27th, several sites Finca Santa Marta+ on 28th.

European Greenfinch *Carduelis chloris* Noted on 7 days: 1+ Jerez on 18th, 1 + various heard various sites on 19th, a few various sites on 20th, plenty Atlanterra on 21st, several sites Doñana N marshes on 23rd, 1 Alange on 24th, heard Finca Santa Marta on 25th.

European Goldfinch *Carduelis carduelis* Common, widespread and noted daily.

Common Linnet *Carduelis cannabina* Noted on 7 days: 2 pairs Trebujena on 18th, 2 Valdevaqueros on 19th, pair Sierra de la Plata on 20th, 10+ Doñana N marshes on 23rd, 3 Finca Santa Marta on 24th, 1+ Jaraicejo on 26th, 2 Finca Santa Marta on 27th.

Hawfinch *Coccothraustes coccothraustes* 1 Valdecañas Dam area on 26th is our only record.

BUNTINGS, NEW WORLD SPARROWS & allies - Emberizidae

Corn Bunting *Emberiza calandra* Common, widespread and noted daily except on 18th.

Rock Bunting *Emberiza cia* 1 male Valdecañas Dam area on 26th, 2-3 Monfragüe on 27th.

Ortolan Bunting *Emberiza hortulana* 5 El Acebuche on 22nd was a good record of migrants.

Cirl Bunting *Emberiza cirlus* Only heard singing Valdecañas Dam area on 26th.

MAMMALS - MAMMALIA

RABBITS & HARES - Leporidae

European Rabbit *Oryctolagus cuniculus* noted on 5 days with 1 Sierra de la Plata on 20th, 1 Atlanterra on 21st, 1 El Acebuche on 22nd, 2+ various sites on 24th, 1 Trujillo on 25th.

Iberian Hare *Lepus granatensis* noted on 2 days with 1 Trebujena on 18th, 1 Madrigalejo on 26th.

DOGS & allies - Canidae

Red Fox *Vulpes vulpes* 1 José Antonio Valverde Info Centre on 23rd is our only record.

MOONRATS & HEDGEHOGS - Erinaceidae

Western Hedgehog *Erinaceus europaeus* 1 dead on road Caños de Meca on 19th, 2 “deadchogs” on 26th and 1 more on 27th.

SHREW-MOLES, MOLES & DESMANS - Talpidae

European Mole *Talpa europaea* 1 Sierra de la Plata on 20th is our only record.

DEER - Cervidae

Red Deer *Cervus elaphus* 5 José Antonio Valverde Info Centre on 23rd, 1 Palacio del Acebrón on 24th, 3 Monfragüe on 27th.

REPTILES - REPTILIA

NEW WORLD TERRAPINS / FRESHWATER POND TURTLES - Emydidae

Red-eared/Ornate Terrapin / Common Slider *Trachemys scripta* 1 Laguna del Portil on 22nd is our only record.

OLD WORLD TERRAPINS - Geoemydidae [=Bataguridae]

Spanish Terrapin *Mauremys [caspica] leprosa* Lots Santa Marta de Magasca on 25th and Río Almonte on 26th.

CHAMELEONS - Chamaeleonidae

Mediterranean Chameleon *Chamaeleo chamaeleon* 2 Laguna del Portil on 22nd is our only record.

GECKOS - Gekkonidae

Moorish Gecko *Tarentola mauritanica* 2 Zahara de los Atunes on 20th, 2 Marismas del Odiel on 22nd.

SKINKS - Scincidae

Western Three-toed Skink *Chalcides striatus* 1 Punta del Carnero on 20th is our only record.

WALL/TYPICAL LIZARDS - Lacertidae

Large Psammodromus *Psammodromus algirus* 3+ El Acebuche on 22nd, 1 Jaraicejo & 1 Valdecañas Dam area on 26th, 1 Monfragüe on 27th.

Ocellated Lizard *Lacerta lepida* 1 Valdecañas Dam area on 26th is our only record.

Iberian Wall Lizard *Podarcis hispanica* 1 Huerta Grande on 19th, 2 El Rocio on 21st.

COLUBRID or "HARMLESS(!)" SNAKES - Colubridae

Ladder Snake *Elaphe scalaris* 1 Doñana N marshes on 23rd and another dead en route on 25th.

Viperine Snake *Natrix maura* 1 Punta del Carnero on 20th, 1 Santa Marta de Magasca on 25th.

AMPHIBIANS - AMPHIBIA

TYPICAL TOADS - Bufonidae

Common Toad *Bufo bufo* 1 enormous individual Huerta Grande on 19th is our only record.

TYPICAL FROGS - Ranidae

Iberian Water Frog *Rana perezi* Noted on 7 days: 1 Huerta Grande on 19th, plenty Sierra de la Plata on 20th, several sites El Acebuche on 22nd, a few Doñana northern marshes on 23rd, heard Finca Santa Marta on 24th, heard Santa Marta de Magasca on 25th, various heard Río Almonte on 26th.

BUTTERFLIES - LEPIDOPTERA

Swordtails, Birdwings, Swallowtails & Festoons - subf: Parnassiinae

Spanish Swallowtail *Iphiclides feisthamelii* 1 Salinas de Bonanza on 21st is our only record.

Typical Whites - subf: Pierinae

Large White *Pieris brassicae* Trebujena on 18th, A few Huerta Grande+ on 19th, a few on 20th, a few Doñana N marshes on 23rd.

Small White *Pieris rapae* Trebujena on 18th is our only record.

Bath White *Pontia daplidice* Plenty Doñana N marshes on 23rd is our only record.

Green-striped White *Euchloe belemia* 1 José Antonio Valverde Info Centre on 23rd.

Yellows & Sulphurs - subf: Coliadinae

Clouded Yellow *Colias crocea* 1 Trebujena on 18th, 1 Punta del Carnero on 19th, several sites Doñana northern marshes on 23rd.

Coppers - subf: Lycaeninae

Small Copper *Lycaena phlaeas* 1 en route on 24th, 2+ various sites on 25th, 2 Monfragüe on 27th.

Blues & Opals - subf: Polyommatae

Common Blue *Polyommatus icarus* 1 en route on 24th, several sites various sites on 25th, 2 Monfragüe on 27th.

Spanish Brown Argus *Aricia agestis cramera* Several at various sites on 25th, a few Jaraicejo on 26th.

Monarchs & allies - subf: Danainae

Monarch *Danaus plexippus* 1 Huerta Grande on 19th, 2 Punta del Carnero on 20th.

Vanessids & smaller Fritillaries - subf: Nymphalinae

Red Admiral *Vanessa atalanta* 1 Bonanza area on 21st is our only record.

Painted Lady *Vanessa cardui* Noted on 5 days: several Punta del Carnero on 19th, 1 Sierra de la Plata on 20th, several sites Doñana N marshes on 23rd, 2 Jaraicejo on 26th, 1 Monfragüe on 27th.

Knapweed Fritillary *Melitaea phoebe* Several en route on 25th is our only record.

Larger Fritillaries & Heliconians - subf: Heliconiinae

Queen of Spain Fritillary *Issoria lathonia* Several a6 Jaraicejo on 26th is our only record.

Browns, Ringlets & Satyrs - subf: Satyrinae

Speckled Wood *Pararge aegeria* 1 Huerta Grande on 19th, 1 Punta del Carnero on 20th, 1 Doñana N marshes on 23rd, 1 Embalse de Arrocampo on 26th.

Small Heath *Coenonympha pamphilus* Several Jaraicejo on 26th.

MOTHS - LEPIDOPTERA

HAWK-MOTHS - SPHINGIDAE

Hummingbird Hawkmoth *Macroglossum stellatarum* 1 Sierra de la Plata on 20th is our only record.

DAMSELFLIES & DRAGONFLIES - ODONATA

BLUE-TAILED & RED DAMSELFLIES - Coenagrionidae

Iberian Bluetail *Ischnura graellsii* Lots El Rocío+ on 21st, a few José Antonio Valverde Info Centre on 23rd.

HAWKERS & EMPERORS - Aeshnidae

Lesser Emperor *Anax parthenope* Lots Doñana N marshes on 23rd, 1 Valdecañas Dam area on 26th.

CHASERS, SKIMMERS & DARTERS - Libellulidae

Red-veined Darter *Sympetrum fonscolombii* 1 male Bonanza area on 21st, plenty José Antonio Valverde Info Centre+ on 23rd.

OTHER SELECTED INSECTS - INSECTA

Egyptian Grasshopper *Anacridium aegyptium* 2 Punta del Carnero on 19th, 1 El Rocío on 22nd, 1 El Rocío on 23rd.

Field Cricket *Gryllus campestris* Plenty heard Santa Marta de Magasca on 25th.

Paper Wasp *Polistes gallicus* Lots Huerta Grande on 19th, a few various sites on 20th.

Hornet *Vespa crabro* 1 Monfragüe on 27th is our only record.

Violet Carpenter Bee *Xylocopa violacea* 1 Punta del Carnero on 20th is our only record.

Rhinoceros Beetle *Copris lunaris* 2 Zahara de los Atunes on 19th, 1 Finca Santa Marta on 25th.

Pollen Beetle *Oxythyrea funestra* 1 Jaraicejo on 26th is our only record.

Oil Beetle *Meloe sp.* 2 Santa Marta de Magasca on 25th, 1 Jaraicejo on 26th.

Small green chafer Scarabaeidae 1 Huerta Grande on 19th is our only record.

OTHER SELECTED TAXA

West African Fiddler Crab *Uca tangeri* Lots Salinas de Bonanza on 21st and 10s of 1000s Marismas del Odiel on 22nd.

Red Signal Crayfish *Procambarus clarkii* 1 in Little Grebe's beak Trujillo on 25th is our only record.

LARGER FISH - PISCES

Common Carp *Cyprinus carpio* Plenty Embalse de Arrocampo on 26th is our only record.

Grey Mullet sp. *Mugil sp.* Marismas del Odiel on 22nd is our only record.