

THE TRAVELLING NATURALIST

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Tour Report

Spain – Iberian Lynx Quest

26 January – 2 February 2019

Iberian Lynx



Western Dappled White



Spanish Imperial Eagle



Friar's Cowl



Compiled by: John Muddeman

Tour Leader/s: John Muddeman & Sergio González Asián with 14 participants

Introduction

The Iberian lynx is still 'sold' as the rarest wild cat in world, even though fortunately, this sad accolade may well now pertain to another species in the world somewhere. After a critical situation in 2002 following the collapse in wild rabbit populations across the Iberian Peninsula from the 1980s onwards, just two separate populations plus a few other dispersed individuals totalling up to just 100 individuals survived. Thankfully, following intensive conservation measures there are now over 600 free-living individuals. The number is rising year on year and the species is being successfully returned to former haunts.

Naturally though, with so few individuals still, it remains a considerable challenge to see one in the wild, with just the two areas of Andújar and Doñana in Andalucía currently offering a realistic chance of viewing them. Consequently, basing the tour around a visit to both of these sites, to see their differences and similarities, is doubly rewarding. Firstly, to experience these two areas, which physically look so different but in floristic and wildlife terms are remarkably similar; and secondly, to give financial support to the local communities of the areas where the animal managed to survive in the wild state. Of course, if there's no lynx activity in one area compared to the other when we visit, then we stand better opportunities of seeing one, too!

Lynx watching can be a frustrating activity though. Plenty of observers now visit the countryside in their search for this gorgeous animal, meaning that better patterns of sightings are available to the visitor. At the same time, the species is notoriously fickle in terms of its activity. Indeed, we missed at least three possible sightings on this tour, missing two by just five or ten minutes in Andújar, plus another in Doñana by choosing the 'wrong' site to visit one day! Perhaps it's also what makes any sighting of one so very special...

Day 1: Arrive Seville & transfer to Andújar

Saturday 26 January 2019

The main group arrived on their early flight from Gatwick to meet the two leaders plus three of the group who'd been in Seville since at least the day before.

We broke the sunny two and a half hour drive to Andújar with a reviving light lunch, while plenty of red kites, common buzzards and common kestrels, plus abundant white storks near Córdoba, had punctuated the potential boredom (or sleep!) of the journey. A brief pale morph booted eagle circling over the motorway near Córdoba was of particular note.

We soon reached our accommodation in the hills near Andújar and, after a short break following check-in, went down to the Jándula River to enjoy the beautiful warm conditions. The access road snakes its way down through umbrella pine clad slopes, with rough granite crags and rock outcrops and patches of short green grass under western holm oak and narrow-leaved ash dehesa (AKA wood pasture).

The track parallel to the river was rather disturbed by a few weekenders, but the scraps on a picnic table were actually a magnet for a melee of dapper Iberian magpies, their black crowns and blue wings and tail smartly offset by their beige bodies. Our first European rabbit kept close to a bank of brambles as it fed quietly.

Barely a ripple stirred the surface of the river as we peered down from a raised viewpoint a little further ahead, while there was sufficient warmth to have even brought out a large Spanish terrapin which was sunning itself on an emergent log. The large common carp and barbel cruising the clear waters below looked equally at peace. A couple of 'barks' alerted us to the presence of a fine adult Spanish imperial eagle adorning the top of a fine pine on the ridge opposite, though no sooner had we seen it than it was off, flapping off against the sun and all too quickly out of sight.



Viewing from a footbridge near a small dam revealed plenty of birdlife around, including an elegant grey wagtail on the river, over which yellowy midge-catching common chiffchaffs sallied. A smart Sardinian warbler slipped quietly through a thorny bush, though colour was provided at the last minute by a streak of electric blue as a common kingfisher sped downriver and straight underneath us! Remarkably too, an orangey coloured butterfly raced up and down the sunny side of the bridge before finally settling, revealing it was a large tortoiseshell – now extinct as a breeding species in the UK– which had been dragged out of hibernation by the warm weather.

While we certainly hadn't expected to see any lynx, a brief flurry of excitement was had as a small group of fine red deer suddenly rounded a pleat in a nearby hillside and leisurely ran across before disappearing just as quickly.

We returned to the first of our huge and extremely tasty meals here after a drink at the bar to celebrate our arrival!

Weather: Warm and sunny with some high cloud, almost 20°C

Day 2: Andújar area

Sunday 27 January 2019

What a change! We awoke to find cold and overcast conditions outside and a stiff breeze! Even though the temperature rose to nearly 10°C at the warmest point when some sun broke through in the afternoon, the humid wind made it feel very cold.

We drove through the low cloud, which blotted out most of the landscape, though the second bus was very lucky, spotting a couple of roadside wild boar, a small group of colourful mouflon – before they faded quickly back into the murk – and several groups of fine fallow and red deer as we progressed.

Lots of equally hopeful lynx watchers were about along the long track leading towards the large Jándula Dam and, after two sightings the day before in this area, were generally in good spirits! This enthusiasm naturally started to wane towards the end of day, but mainly due to the sensation of increasing cold in the late afternoon, rather than through resignation!

Watching was quite difficult in the wind, but birds also provided a welcome distraction throughout the morning as we searched one area of a vast estate, from a public track, by scanning the huge expanses of valley and hill sides angling down towards us from behind and plunging away down towards the river. A few red-legged partridges were noted, mainly by their 'chuffing' calls rather than being seen. Raptors were very much in evidence, and we had our first looks at Eurasian griffon and the endangered cinereous vultures, the first ever for some of the group. An immature golden eagle was admired as it circled over, this perhaps being one of two seen sparring over a distant hillside at lunch later on, and not the same as a juvenile bird with big white wing patches which soared powerfully overhead still later in the day. Iberian green woodpeckers were noted by most, their distinctive yaffle being heard regularly, along with abundant Eurasian magpies. Most of us enjoyed a single southern grey shrike adorning a bush top, despite its repetitive discordant calls! A couple of short walks along the track to vary observation options revealed a surprising variety of very early flowers out too. The golden yellow dwarf narcissus *Narcissus fernandesii* was out in some numbers, with just a few early individuals of the delightful creamy angel's tears *N. triandrus* at one spot too. A fine stork's-bill species peppered the ground with pink splashes, though the large Iberian milk-vetch, with its long heads of creamy pea flowers was much more evident along with wild rosemary bushes frosted in purplish-blue.

We took a tasty picnic lunch at another viewpoint, enjoying the impressive views looking up the snaking valley of the Jándula river, before heading down to the dam itself. The sun came out here for a little while, allowing us good light to look for one of the specialities of the area: after a good search Sergio came up



trumps with a couple of female Spanish ibex opposite, which we enjoyed at some length until they sauntered off into the bushes!

Searching for lynx requires considerable patience and a degree of stoicism and, as one guide, a former researcher working on the species, pointed out to us, the more he knows about the lynx, the less he knows: sightings are absolutely random and eventually almost inevitably down to luck. We, like others, put in the rest of the afternoon searching this core area, with other prizes in the form of three impressively curly-horned male mouflon out sunning themselves, plus a stately Spanish imperial eagle adult cruising overhead for some time.

We drove gently back as the sun finally burst out underneath the cap of grey cloud, setting off a fiery ending to the day, and only later discovered that by just five minutes we'd missed seeing a large male Iberian lynx which appeared close to the track for a few moments...

Another huge meal was taken after a terrific day and we went to bed wondering what was in store for the following day!

Weather: Generally cloudy, chilly and windy, max. 10°C

Day 3: Andújar area

Monday 28 January 2019

All change again! Crystal clear blue skies and thick frost on the vehicle windscreen. Although it was hovering around freezing at the accommodation, it had dropped to a bitter -3°C by the river. This didn't put off the local Eurasian otters though, with a mother and cub feeding in the river in two spots. But the mother saw us and headed off downstream, raising her head out of the water beside the bank on a number of occasions, always where just around a tiny corner or amongst emergent vegetation, making her almost impossible to spot. At least a small group of shreepping rock sparrows sat on the wires for us to enjoy in the scopes.

After another warming breakfast we headed again to the La Lancha area, making a few pauses en route to check at possible spots and to enjoy the fine scenery. Indeed, the second bus was lucky to spot a gorgeous little owl topping a moss-covered boulder under some western holm oaks, but it was clearly nervous and bounded off as Sergio's vehicle tried backing up. A pair of woodlarks were also enjoyed by my bus as we travelled slowly along, though they were very cryptic as they crept through the scattered fallen leaves under the oaks, with plenty of mistle thrushes and common chaffinches for company too.

We finally made it out to the main watching area, only to discover that one lucky observer out of all those present had seen the backside and tail of a lynx disappear down the slope and behind some boulders ten minutes before... But it only redoubled our efforts and again we stood out enjoying the to-ings and fro-ings of the local birds, such as Iberian green woodpeckers and Iberian magpies. There were impressive numbers of mammals too, though it was clear from a few gunshots in the estate that red deer culling was going on. Highlights here included two fine male mouflon for those who'd not seen them well the day before and two superb rock buntings which put in a fine showing too. Another walk was taken down at the Jándula Dam, where five Spanish ibex were on view this time before we returned to take lunch at the reservoir viewpoint and enjoy the stunning views.

The rest of the afternoon was a gamble, but we decided to leave the rest of the observers in the main area and take a different track off into the mountainous terrain, allowing us to go right through a couple of estates. This was excellent, with outstanding views as we crowned one ridge, plus a wide selection of small birds and yet more red deer as we progressed. We split into two groups, connected by walkie-talkie or mobile, and spent time scanning the seemingly infinite number of nooks and crannies where a lynx might hide. I even took a short drive along a side track through outstanding habitat at one point, though



eventually we had to call it quits as the light was failing. We headed back in good time for another even bigger and more impressive dinner!

Day 4: Andújar pre-breakfast, transfer to El Rocío & Doñana National Park Tuesday 29 January 2019

Another pre-breakfast trip down to the river in search of Eurasian otter was successful, and this time it felt positively warm at 6.5°C! We returned for a slightly earlier breakfast than last time and after quickly packing the vehicles we were swiftly away at 10.30am. The long drive was smooth and relatively clear, and even allowed us a few observations of red kites, common buzzards, a group of common ravens and a couple of pale morph booted eagles en route. A short fuel and comfort stop was welcome, and we reached our remarkable destination, El Rocío, in good time. We checked in and, after a short break by the wetland beside the hotel, during which we saw numerous greylag geese, greater flamingos, glossy ibis, northern shovelers, northern pintail, Eurasian spoonbills and even a wintering whiskered tern and the first returning barn swallows and common house martins, went just over the sand for a lovely tapas lunch!

We then took hour's break, for a siesta, to look around the remarkable sand-street town, take another scan over the wonderful bird-filled lake immediately behind the hotel, or even a combination of two or all three of these. We regrouped at 4pm. This time it was with local drivers from Doñana, who took us out from the town and into the nearby National Park in 4x4 vehicles suitable for the abundant sand, a legacy of this all being a former estuary shoreline. A few red-legged partridges, European rabbits and the first of countless red deer were enjoyed as we kept our eyes peeled for signs of anything even remotely resembling a cat on every patch of open grass and along every firebreak or vehicle track edge. Plus we learned a little about the history, culture and wildlife of the area as we progressed!

A brief stop at the only spot where we are allowed to dismount from the vehicles allowed a fine view over open grassland, backed by native cork oak dominated forest. Common stonechats flitted around and zitting cisticolas 'pipped' from cover. Two young Spanish imperial eagles adorning stag's-horn oaks on the edge of the woodland were a great find, though a dapper black-winged kite was a special prize too, especially as we watched it hunting at length, its hovering prowess easily equal to that of a kestrel, though not looking as elegant given its more robust form.

Another stop just past the National Park boundary was also revealing, with the ghostly form of a lovely and seemingly weightless short-eared owl quartering the dry marsh a treat to watch. Another decided to imitate the first on the opposite side of the track and a female hen harrier briefly noted quartering the marsh looked clumsy in comparison. A small group of colourful European golden plovers on the grazed 'bowling green' grassland was enjoyed by most, as were a few corn buntings – sadly so rare in the UK now – while a quick search for a calling stripeless tree-frog was quickly called off after it clearly saw us and went quiet. It was somewhere in those rushes...

The return was quiet, despite large numbers of red and even one fallow deer again making a very obvious presence, but Doñana was still very fresh to us and held promise.

A fine meal rounded off the day and Patricia even got outside, despite the chilly temperatures, to record soprano pipistrelles feeding along the edge of the town.

Weather: Generally fine, but chilly with moderate W wind

Day 5: Doñana National & Natural Parks Wednesday 30 January 2019

The day dawned overcast, still and relatively mild. Following an 'early' 7.30am breakfast we were out at 8.15 for a long morning excursion in the 4x4s again. We repeated the drive out along the Raya Real, once again carefully checking every conceivable nook and cranny for a hiding cat, before crossing part of the fenced National Park where the eucalyptus stumps today made a perfect perch for a gorgeous little owl.



Red deer were again present in large number within the fenced area, replaced by the local cattle and horses out on the 'marsh'.

This time we continued further, crossing the worryingly largely dry seasonal marsh, with just a few small shallow pools for wetland species. A green sandpiper, our first great egret and a solitary common greenshank were all noted in passing. Though commoner, passing groups of small finches and larks were harder to see close. A small group of griffon vultures was on the ground, while a single cinereous vulture flapping off was much less expected.

A walk was clearly needed, so we hopped out and strolled the last 500 metres or so, looking over flooded areas both sides of the track, the area's long principal water channel, and also a series of artificially flooded pools close to the Jose Antonio Valverde Visitor Centre. And this was a treat! In addition to large numbers of greylag geese, there were flocks of pink greater flamingos, elegant black-winged stilts, northern lapwings with their whippy crests and a variety of duck, including elegant northern pintails. A couple of large groups of glossy ibis and Eurasian spoonbills wheeled over at one point, apparently spooked by the same unseen raptor, along with a surprise gull-billed tern. Over 20 western swampheens partly hid in the shallowly flooded vegetation and one or two used their enormous feet to hold the base of bulrushes they were yanking up before snipping sections off with their wire clipper-like beaks. 17 black-crowned night herons rose up from the dense scrub and circled round a few times before returning as we departed, vanishing back into the depths of the tamarisk bushes just as quickly.

The main channel held good numbers of lovely great crested grebes plus a single black-necked for the lucky frontrunners! Just beyond, in some recently sown fields, a huge group of well over a thousand common cranes fed quietly, though they noisily lifted off in small groups as we approached, only to resume feeding at quieter spots just a few hundred metres further on. With a large group of noisy Spanish sparrows rushing back and forth from a hedge into the same field, it was easy to spot a good number of dapper males amongst the throng.

A comfort break, hot drink and look out over the surrounding pools made a fine end to the walk, with a couple of passing western marsh harriers the most noteworthy sighting as we relaxed.

We finally dragged ourselves away, returning the way we'd come, as always with an eye open for possible lynx, though to no avail. As very light rain started just after our return, we took our tasty picnic lunch down in the basement of the hotel. Very civilised!

Sergio lead us out for the afternoon excursion, this being his home territory. After passing through the incredibly intensive soft fruit production fields and orchards, we criss-crossed an area north of the main marshes on tracks through wonderful mixed vegetation, looking hard for lynx as we went. A couple of Eurasian hoopoes and even a few clumps of the delightful paper-white narcissus were enjoyed as we progressed, along with a variety of small birds, before we parked on the edge of a fine area of western holm oak dehesa. Kitting ourselves up, as the weather was slowly deteriorating, we walked out to overlook a large open area, loved by rabbits, and a renowned hunting ground for Iberian lynx.

Another excellent meal at El Rocío helped keep our spirits up though and got us looking forward to another day concentrating more, in theory, on birdwatching.

Weather: generally overcast and mild apart from a chill breeze

Day 6: Doñana National Park, Huelva, El Rocío

Thursday 31 January 2019

Planned as a 'break from looking for lynx' day, we actually totally readjusted our plans on the run when we discovered that an 11am slot was available to go and see caged Iberian lynx close to the captive breeding facility at El Acebuche Visitor Centre.



After a short drive up and down another area of 'white heath' supporting a female lynx territory, where just a southern grey shrike and a couple of common stonechats caught our attention, we headed down towards the coast. It turned out that this was the very last day of a pilot project using two former breeding animals from the captive breeding program, which cannot be released back into the wild, to enable visitors to see Iberian lynx first hand. And the sight of a large female lynx looking up as it casually walked past underneath us just after we had entered the raised hide was amazing! Yes, they DO exist! Our guide for the visit provided us with plenty of information about Iberian lynx and their role in the Mediterranean ecosystem and explained how the population had gone from around just 90 individuals in two populations (Andújar and Doñana) in 2002 up to over 600 individuals in the wild in at least six areas now, including Extremadura, Castilla – La Mancha and the Algarve in Portugal, outside Andalucía.

Time had flown by and, after a quick 'pit stop', we were off to the west, heading for the lovely Odiel Estuary. This natural park forms a sliver of estuary, mobile and stable dunes and, near the 'base', a large area of active salinas. Time was not our side though and, after taking lunch in a nearby bar, we decided on a quick look at the inner part. Despite a strong wind and light rain at times we found a wealth of birds. A small group of black-tailed godwits crouched in the shelter of some bushes in a small pool where numerous lesser black-backed, black-headed and odd yellow-legged gulls were coming to bathe. The salinas just over the road were also alive with birds close by, using the low mud banks to shelter from the wind. Apart from plentiful greater flamingos and gulls, waders were the most abundant, including numerous wintering black-winged stilts, common redshank, curlew sandpipers, common ringed plovers, plus smaller numbers of dunlin, sanderling, and little stint. A rain shower blew in and everyone ran for cover, so we took a short drive along the road to check some other old and unused Salinas. Here little was present except for a few fly-over Eurasian curlews and whimbrel. As we returned, the falling water level in a side creek was exposing mud rich in food and, on seeing a lone pink gull sitting there, we pulled off into a little car park for a proper look. A terrific find, it was indeed a rather unseasonal adult slender-billed gull, which should have been in Africa! With a couple of bar-tailed godwits and grey plovers on the mud nearby, a single black-necked grebe in the channel, and lots of dunlin and common ringed plovers, there was plenty to please the group. It had been a very productive hour.

Returning to El Rocío, we made a short stop at the hotel for everyone to pick up the necessary clothing to spend the late afternoon out at a watchpoint. With rather dull cloudy conditions, a stiff breeze, and persistent light rain setting in later, it was hardly the best, but after a good walk out along the Raya Real we stood comfortably, in silence until dusk, hoping for a cat or two... To no avail, though a couple of Iberian midwife toads piping from cover as we started our return to the hotel were very interesting to hear.

Weather: generally fine morning, rain and wind starting mid-afternoon into the night

Day 7: Doñana Hinterland

Friday 1 February 2019

After a failed attempt to go out in the 4x4s with our local guides, due to flooding of the nearby bridge, Sergio and I took our own vehicles to explore the Doñana northern marshes. The drive out was relatively quiet, though we paused a few times in the vehicles to contemplate a few birds, including a brief male hen harrier wheeling over fruit trees and then a small mixed group of common linnets, European greenfinches and, more notably, a few Eurasian tree sparrows feeding on the dead seedheads in a rough patch beside a farmyard.

Out in more open territory beside an old grazing estate was much more pleasant. We had to give up trying to show a surprise jack snipe to the group when it disappeared into thick grass, but substituted this a little further ahead with a short walk where despite very few birds, the cork-pulling calls of Iberian parsley frogs in a shallow trackside channel were fascinating to hear.



We soon reached some of the now vast area of rice fields and, between these and a heavily vegetated river channel, started to pick up a lot more birds: little and great egret, Eurasian spoonbills, a couple of western marsh harriers and, much to our delight, three surprisingly calm black storks out in the open. It was fun to see the different plumages between the brown-feathered first winter bird compared to the smarter black backed and winged adults, plus the latter's red bill and legs, but those who tried walking closer along the muddy banks got quite a surprise to find just how sticky this mud was after the rain!

A decent sized reservoir shortly ahead adjacent to a small escarpment covered in fine dehesa held a wealth of birds. Packs of duck bobbed on the water in the lee of the bushes and small emergent islands of bulrushes, with mallard, northern shoveler and common pochards forming the bulk, but other prizes included a female white-headed duck and a smart male ferruginous duck. With several sand martins, barn swallows and common house martins low overhead, plus a remarkable group of wheeling and calling pallid swifts spiralling like a waft of smoke high overhead, spring was already starting down here in the far south! A fly-by western swamphen and a calling but unseen red-knobbed coot rounded off a second stop by the water and we continued on up to the Dehesa de Abajo visitor's centre.

Despite the increasingly strong wind and threat of rain showers, we took our picnic lunch outside in a partly covered courtyard, buying drinks from the bar to support the privately managed centre. One of Sergio's Iberian lynx photos is on display here and one or two of the party even took their own pictures of it as a memento.

We finally dragged ourselves away after an excellent lunch plus a look around the centre, and fortunately had all just got into the vehicles when a heavy and quite persistent shower hit. Good timing! We drove slowly along a small road, pausing once to try and look at a remarkable roost of at least 100 black-crowned night herons in some bushes near the road, then followed-up by cruising a track winding its way through fabulous forested and scrubby habitats in the heart of Iberian lynx territory. Very few birds and almost no mammals except for a European rabbit were seen, but the sudden change in weather and now sunny milder conditions had clearly sparked a real change, with numerous western dappled white butterflies emerging and taking to the wing.

We finally worked our way out to the entrance of the same lynx-watching site we'd been to two days before, but this time entered on foot from a different gate. Walking down to our favourite watchpoint we paused for more butterflies, this time for several painted ladies and a couple of red admirals, clearly also triggered to appear and perhaps even on migration, given the improving warmer and sunnier conditions. With three hours left until dusk, half of us took a good stroll through the outer part of the site, looking at some of the plant life present, including Italian lords-and-ladies (*Arum italicum*), the friar's cowl (*Arisarum simorrhinum*) again and also a fine scrambling vine of Andalusian Dutchman's pipe (*Aristolochia baetica*) also in full flower, plus a brief Eurasian hoopoe. A prolonged break was also taken sheltering under trees when a good shower blew in on powerful winds, though the same wind and returning sun again later meant the vegetation dried off quite quickly.

With strong winds blowing around the site, and mainly from us across it, it perhaps seemed that we were in bad location, but when a rabbit or two came out apparently directly downwind from us and showed no sign of noting us we saw that it wasn't such an issue, plus having the dropping sun squarely behind us meant we had perfect light conditions. We settled down to watch quietly for the rest of the evening, again gritting our teeth on occasions at the antics of some other watchers who either drove around in cars or walked right round the site, and stood out another nearly horizontal rain shower, but when a fine half rainbow appeared off to one side, the colour invaded the site and I began to cross my fingers for the hoped-for 'pot of gold'! Indeed, it wasn't until 6.30pm when Sergio suddenly and quietly said, "There's one!". A fine Iberian lynx was sat out in the middle of a grassy area on the slope off to one side, the sunlight lighting up the white patches on its 'beard'. After a few moments of reorganisation to try and get everyone into a viewing position, we watched as it strolled down the slope, stopping again briefly, before walking down behind



some bushes a little closer. It then stayed almost still, for some time within the bushy area, making it very hard to detect.

The other watchers had either joined us by this stage or were stood on the track a little behind, and as we'd lost it for some time, we decided, as the light was starting to fail, to see if we could relocate it. Suddenly, I noticed that a small group of watchers close by us were clearly seeing it in a completely new location, and just as we moved to try and see where they were looking, a few of the group got excellent but brief views as it crossed a track just 40 metres or so ahead of us, vanishing like a ghost this time into the low bushes present. Wow!

Elated by having finally been able to see a wild Iberian lynx, we drove the long route back to the hotel in the dark, and celebrated quickly afterwards with our final excellent dinner!

Weather: windy but generally fine with a few heavy squalls p.m. Chilly at times

Day 8: Transfer to airport & return to UK

Saturday 2 February 2019

With the slightly later return flight time to the UK compared to previous years, after a normal breakfast we were away sharp, reaching the airport in good time where we said our farewells. Sergio took two of the party into Seville where they were staying for an extra night or two.

Weather: warm, sunny and still

Sergio and I wish to thank you for making it a truly memorable tour and we sincerely hope that you enjoyed it as much as we did, not only for all of the wonderful moments shared in the field seeing such a fascinating and varied range of species, some of them very rare, including the Iberian lynx of course, but also for the fun and good humour shown throughout. It was a pleasure to guide you!

John Muddeman & Sergio González Asián



Checklist

Common Name	Scientific Name	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	Day 6	Day 7
Birds	Aves							
Greylag Goose	<i>Anser anser</i>				✓✓	✓✓	✓	
Common Shelduck	<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>						1	
Northern Shoveler	<i>Spatula clypeata</i>				✓✓	✓	✓	✓✓
Gadwall	<i>Mareca strepera</i>						✓	2+
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Northern Pintail	<i>Anas acuta</i>				✓✓	✓✓	✓	✓
Eurasian Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>				✓	✓	✓	
Common Pochard	<i>Aythya ferina</i>				2			✓✓
Ferruginous Duck	<i>Aythya nyroca</i>							1♂
*White-headed Duck	<i>Oxyura leucocephala</i>							1♀
Red-legged Partridge	<i>Alectoris rufa</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>						1	1+
Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>					20+		4+
Black-necked Grebe	<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>					1	1	12+
Greater Flamingo	<i>Phoenicopterus roseus</i>				✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓
Black Stork	<i>Ciconia nigra</i>							3
White Stork	<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>	✓✓			✓✓	✓	✓	✓✓
Glossy Ibis	<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>				✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓
Eurasian Spoonbill	<i>Platalea leucorodia</i>				✓	20+	✓✓	✓✓
Black-crowned Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>					17		100+
Western Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>				✓✓	✓✓	✓	✓✓
*Little Bittern	<i>Ixobrychus minutus</i>				H			
Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>			1	✓	✓	✓	✓
Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>					2+	2	1+
Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>					5+	FEW	✓✓

Great Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>	1		✓✓	✓✓	✓	2+	✓
Black-winged Kite	<i>Elanus caeruleus</i>				1		1 (2)	
Griffon Vulture	<i>Gyps fulvus</i>		✓	✓✓		10+		
Cinereous Vulture	<i>Aegypius monachus</i>		✓	✓		1		
Booted Eagle	<i>Hieraetus pennatus</i>	1			3		1	
Spanish Imperial Eagle	<i>Aquila adalberti</i>	1	1		2			
Golden Eagle	<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>		2+					
Eurasian Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>						2	
Western Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>					2+		✓
Hen Harrier	<i>Circus cyaneus</i>				1♀			1♂
Red Kite	<i>Milvus milvus</i>	1			8+	5+		2+
Common Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>	✓		1	4+	✓	3	5+
Western Swamphen	<i>Porphyrio porphyrio</i>				H	25+	3+	FEW
Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>					H	H	SEV
Red-knobbed Coot	<i>Fulica cristata</i>							H
Eurasian Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>				✓	✓✓	✓	✓
Common Crane	<i>Grus grus</i>					1k+		
Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>				4	25+	✓✓	✓
Northern Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓
European Golden Plover	<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>				✓			
Grey Plover	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>						2	
Common Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>						✓✓	
Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>						5+	
Eurasian Curlew	<i>Numenius arquata</i>						1	
Common Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>					1	15	
*Bar-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa lapponica</i>						2	
Black-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa limosa</i>						15	
Curlew Sandpiper	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>						3	
Sanderling	<i>Calidris alba</i>						2	
Dunlin	<i>Calidris alpina</i>						✓	
Little Stint	<i>Calidris minuta</i>						4	

Green Sandpiper	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>				1	1		
Common Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>						✓✓	
*Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>						H	
Common Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>					1	1	
*Slender-billed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus genei</i>						1	
Black-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>				✓		✓✓	✓
Yellow-legged Gull	<i>Larus michahellis</i>						1	
Lesser Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus fuscus</i>				✓	2+	✓✓	✓✓
Gull-billed Tern	<i>Gelochidon niloticus</i>					1		
Whiskered Tern	<i>Chlidonias hybrida</i>				1			
Rock Dove / Feral Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓
Common Wood Pigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓✓	✓	✓
Eurasian Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>			2+	✓		✓	✓
Tawny Owl	<i>Strix aluco</i>						H	H
Little Owl	<i>Athene noctua</i>			1			1 + H	
Short-eared Owl	<i>Otus flammeus</i>				4+			
Pallid Swift	<i>Apus pallidus</i>							250
Common Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>	1						
Eurasian Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>		1	2		2	1	1
Great Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>			1	1	1		
Iberian Green Woodpecker	<i>Picus sharpei</i>	2	1	1				
Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	✓			✓	✓		✓
Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>							1
Southern Grey Shrike	<i>Lanius meridionalis</i>		1				1	
Iberian Magpie	<i>Cyanopica cooki</i>	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓
Eurasian Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓
Red-billed Chough	<i>Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax</i>			4				
Western Jackdaw	<i>Coloeus monedula</i>						30	
Northern Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>	2		3+		15+	6	FEW
Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>		2	2				
Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>			2		✓		

Eurasian Penduline Tit	<i>Remiz pendulinus</i>					H		
Woodlark	<i>Lullula arborea</i>			2		4		✓
Eurasian Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>					✓		✓
Crested Lark	<i>Galerida cristata</i>				✓	✓		✓
Calandra Lark	<i>Melanocorypha calandra</i>					H		
Sand Martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>							8+
Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>				2	5+	30+	✓
Common House Martin	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>				4		6+	25+
Cetti's Warbler	<i>Cettia cetti</i>				H	HH	HH	HH
Long-tailed Tit	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>			✓	H	H		
Common Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	HH	1+
Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>				✓	✓		HH
Dartford Warbler	<i>Sylvia undata</i>		H					
Sardinian Warbler	<i>Sylvia melanocephala</i>		✓	✓	H	H	1 + HH	✓
Eurasian Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>			0	2	H		H
Eurasian Nuthatch	<i>Sitta europaea</i>			2				
Short-toed Treecreeper	<i>Certhia brachydactyla</i>					H		
Common Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>					10+		
Spotless Starling	<i>Sturnus unicolor</i>	✓✓	✓	✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓
Common Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	✓	✓	✓	1	2+	✓	✓
Redwing	<i>Turdus iliacus</i>						1	
Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>				1	2+		
Mistle Thrush	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>	✓	✓	✓				
European Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	H	
Black Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	2+	2	✓
European Stonechat	<i>Saxicola rubicola</i>		2	2	4+	✓	✓	✓✓
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>		✓	✓	✓✓	✓	✓	✓
Spanish Sparrow	<i>Passer hispaniolensis</i>					✓✓		✓✓
Eurasian Tree Sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>							3+
Rock Sparrow	<i>Petronia petronia</i>			6+	H			
Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>	1		1				

White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>	1				✓		✓
Meadow Pipit	<i>Anthus pratensis</i>			✓	✓	✓✓		✓✓
Common Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	2+	
Hawfinch	<i>Coccothraustes coccothraustes</i>				H			
Common Linnet	<i>Linaria cannabina</i>					✓		✓
European Greenfinch	<i>Carduelis chloris</i>		3		1	1		2+
European Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>			2		✓	✓	✓
European Serin	<i>Serinus serinus</i>		✓	✓	✓			✓✓
Eurasian Siskin	<i>Spinus spinus</i>			12				
Corn Bunting	<i>Emberiza calandra</i>			✓	✓✓	✓✓		✓✓
Rock Bunting	<i>Emberiza cia</i>			2	1			
Common Reed Bunting	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>					1 + H		
MAMMALS								
European Rabbit	<i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i>	1	3	2	4+	8+		6+
Iberian Lynx	<i>Lynx pardinus</i>							1
Red Fox	<i>Vulpes vulpes</i>		2					
Eurasian Otter	<i>Lutra lutra</i>			2	2			
Soprano Pipistrelle	<i>Pipistrellus pygmaeus</i>					✓	✓	
Eurasian Wild Boar	<i>Sus scrofa</i>		5					
Red Deer	<i>Cervus elaphus</i>	✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓✓	✓✓✓	✓✓	
Fallow Deer	<i>Dama dama</i>		✓✓	✓✓		1		
Spanish Ibex	<i>Capra pyrenaica</i>		2	5				
Mouflon	<i>Ovis orientalis</i>		7	2				
REPTILES & AMPHIBIANS								
Spanish Terrapin	<i>Mauremys leprosa</i>	1						
Moorish Gecko	<i>Tarentola mauritanica</i>					3		
Iberian Wall Lizard	<i>Podarcis hispanica</i>					1		
Natterjack Toad	<i>Epidalea calamita</i>					1		

Stripeless Tree Frog	<i>Hyla meridionalis</i>					H		H	
Iberian Water Frog	<i>Pelophylax perezi</i>						2		
Iberian Midwife Toad	<i>Alytes cisternasii</i>								3+H
BUTTERFLIES									
Western Dappled White	<i>Euchloe crameri</i>		2	1				✓	25+
Clouded Yellow	<i>Colias crocea</i>		✓	✓					5+
Large Tortoiseshell	<i>Nymphalis polycholoros</i>	1							
Red Admiral	<i>Vanessa atalanta</i>								3+
Painted Lady	<i>Vanessa cardui</i>								8+
Small Heath	<i>Coenonympha pamphilus</i>		10+	✓					
PLANTS									
Umbrella Pine	<i>Pinus pinea</i>								
Andalusian Birthwort	<i>Aristolochia baetica</i>								
Italian Arum	<i>Arum italicum</i>								
Southern Friar's Cowl	<i>Arisarum simorrhinum</i>								
Summer Asphodel	<i>Asphodelus aestivus</i>								
Hollow-leaved Asphodel	<i>Asphodelus fistulosus</i>								
Paperwhite Narcissus	<i>Narcissus papyraceus</i>								
Angel's Tears	<i>Narcissus triandrus</i>								
Dwarf narcissus sp.	<i>Narcissus fernandesii</i>								
Sea Squill - leaves only	<i>Drimia maritima</i>								
Stork's-bill sp.	<i>Erodium sp.</i>								
Gum tree species	<i>Eucalyptus spp</i>								
Bermuda Buttercup	<i>Oxalis pes-caprae</i>								
Iberian Milk-vetch	<i>Erophaca boetica</i>								
Western Holm Oak	<i>Quercus ilex rotundifolia</i>								
Cork Oak	<i>Quercus suber</i>								
Western Strawberry Tree	<i>Arbutus unedo</i>								
Narrow-leaved Ash	<i>Fraxinus angustifolia</i>								

Wild Olive	<i>Olea europaea</i>							
Wild Rosemary	<i>Rosmarinus officinalis</i>							

Numbers refer to number of individuals seen, or minimum if followed by a '+' sign. ✓ = common ; ✓✓ = very common ; ✓✓✓ = abundant ; H = Heard ; HH = lots heard.

