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Tour Report

Spain – Iberian Lynx Quest

16 – 23 October 2021

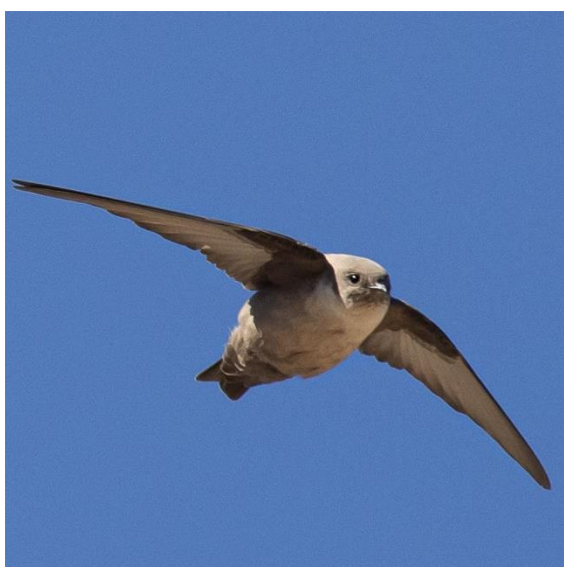
Iberian lynx



Greater flamingo



Crag martin



Mediterranean chameleon



Compiled by John Muddeman
Images by Adrian Fisher

Tour leaders: John Muddeman & Sergio González Asián

The Iberian lynx is still one of the rarest wild cats in world, though fortunately, the sad accolade of being the rarest now pertains to another species elsewhere in the world. Following a critical situation in 2002 deriving from 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 perhaps just 100 individuals survived. Thankfully, following intensive conservation measures there are now over 1,000 free-living individuals, this number is rising markedly year on year and the species is being successfully returned to former haunts, as well as, to a much lesser degree, dispersing to former haunts by its own means.

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 accessible with 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 directly, 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 respective areas where the animal managed to survive in the wild state through our group visits there. Of course, if there's no lynx activity in one area compared to the other when we visit, then we also stand better opportunities for 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 and so likely occurrence while searching are available to the visitor, but at the same time, the notoriously fickle nature of the species in terms of its activity patterns means that more random sightings are now made. This year as well, significant numbers of females still have cubs in tow and tend to be shier, adding to the complexities of sighting one. So perhaps, apart from it being such an incredibly attractive animal, it's also what makes any sighting of one so very special...

Day 1: Arrive Seville & transfer to Andújar

Saturday 16 October 2021

Weather: Very warm and sunny with some high cloud, almost 25°C.

The bulk of the group arrived on their early flight from London to meet the two leaders, plus one guest who had come from France and been in Seville for the two previous days.

The timing of getting the hire vehicle out was just on our side, so, with everyone happy, we made the sunny two-and-a-half-hour drive to Andújar in one push and stopped there for a reviving drink as I went to shop for the picnic goods for our stay there. A few red kites, common buzzards and also a single booted eagle for the first minibus had punctuated the journey for those not taking a catch-up nap, while it was also interesting to see how Andalucía is making use of the sunny weather which predominates at this latitude with a series of different solar power harvesting schemes.

We finally reached our accommodation in the hills near Andújar and after a short break following the picnic taken immediately after check-in in the tranquil area behind the apartments, headed down to the Jándula River to enjoy the beautiful warm conditions and get a first feel for the area and its habitats. The access road snakes its way down through umbrella pine clad slopes, with rough granite crags and rock outcrops and patches of short grass under western holm oak and narrow-leaved ash dehesa (AKA wood pasture). The ravages of the ongoing drought were very evident, with the smaller bushes with minimal leaves and the dry grass still razed to the ground by the herbivores present.

The track parallel to the river was a little disturbed by a few weekenders, but our first Iberian magpies put in a show as they careered in an unruly style across the track and down to the river, perhaps looking for picnic table scraps! Their black crowns and blue wings and tail smartly offset their beige bodies, though as so often,

as quickly as they appeared, they were gone! Our first European rabbit kept close to a bank of brambles as it fed quietly and an animal track passing through a hole forced through a wire fence was pointed out.

Barely a ripple stirred the surface of the river as we peered down from a raised viewpoint a little further ahead, though our hopes for finding possible otters were hampered with an unexpected water release from the nearby dam just a few minutes later. Not to worry, as a couple of huge barbel cruising the clear waters below showed that not everything has to be obvious at first sight, and a couple of distant 'barks' suddenly alerted me to the presence of Spanish imperial eagle, with a group of three adults heading towards us! The female of a local pair was hotly pursuing another female, 'escorting' her off territory, with a few mid-air skirmishes as they went, then, after they finally split and disappeared from view, a couple more barks alerted both Sergio and I to another adult which came out low from behind us, presumably also to say this was its territory and intruders were unwelcome! Our first red deer were grazing under the oaks, but very little bellowing was going on, presumably due to the very warm temperatures and lack of fresh grass.

Viewing from a footbridge near a small dam revealed plenty of birdlife around, including a calling Iberian chiffchaff, an elegant grey wagtail on the river and shrilly whistling common kingfishers, which even sped underneath us like electric blue bolts. Various flocks of great cormorants passed overhead and downriver in formation, possibly to a roost site, or just using the valley as a migration corridor.

We returned at dusk, with a couple of fine wild boar, their white-grizzled muzzles suggesting that they were of a good age. We climbed back up the valley to go quickly in for the first of our huge and extremely tasty meals here, but not before picking up a drink at the bar to celebrate our arrival!

Day 2: Andújar

Sunday 17 October 2021

Weather: High cloud until 1 p.m., warm to hot, still, max. 27°C.

We awoke to find mild, overcast and dead still conditions outside, which thankfully stayed that way for the rest of the morning, since when the sun came out later, it was hot!

We drove out slowly on a different narrower and more winding road than the one the day before, principally traversing pine forest, with a few scattered buildings and their gardens varying the texture of the view and always making me wonder what it would be like to own one and watch a lynx wander across the lawn! The air was relatively clear and off to one side we could see the mountains of the Sierra de Mágina to the south-east, behind them the even higher peaks of the Sierras de Cazorla, Segura and Las Villas (Spain's largest single protected reserve area) and even, at a stretch, the north flank of the Sierra Nevada National Park rising up into the cloud and haze, way, way off in the distance.

Plenty of red deer were spotted close to the road as we progressed, though it was very noticeable how some of the hinds were escorted by small fawns still with their spotted coats, suggesting that the drought had affected last winter's rut too, and some had mated in the spring and given birth correspondingly much later. This is presumably an adaptation to the variable Mediterranean climate and, as we witnessed, likely to happen again in the continued absence of autumn rain, but sufficiently wet spring weather.

Instead of just heading directly down to the main area where lynx are most often observed, we stopped between some open grazing fields to check for any birds, and were immediately rewarded with a pair of delightful little owls out on some boulders. This clearly required getting out for pictures and spending a little time here, not only watching them flying out to hunt beetles and other large insects in the grass, but also with other rewards in the form of three superb perched Iberian green woodpeckers, including one pair first on a rock and then down foraging for ants on the ground. A single fly-over Eurasian hoopoe and meadow pipit (one of the first of the winter) for some, plus mistle thrush, flighty European serins, several perky common stonechats and a couple of discrete crested larks amongst others completed the scene. A couple of typically nervous groups of fine fallow deer were noted as we progressed, though not in their usual numbers.

Plenty of equally hopeful lynx watchers were at the start of an area with fabulous views out over a huge estate, well known to observers as one of the very best areas to try and see them, as we soon discovered that a female with two cubs had been seen with some regularity in this area over the past week. With warm dead still conditions under a cloudy sky, we were rewarded with optimal watching conditions and spread out along a stretch of the winding track to find whatever we could! A few stags bellowed from the shade, but those few around were often lying down to keep cool, though at least one showed how they use their antlers to strike the lowest oak branches to knock acorns down to eat! Birds were much more evident, with scattered Eurasian magpies occasionally alarm-calling and raising our hopes that it may have been for an Iberian lynx, since they regularly scold them. Small flocks of Iberian magpies filtered through the trees and numerous small birds, including European robins, Sardinian warblers, a few blackcaps and even song thrushes were present, especially in the numerous turpentine trees and small wild olives. The odd hawfinch in flight and a small flock of the local grey-backed long-tailed tits added further variety.

After patiently waiting, the cloud drifted off to the south-east and the sun beamed down. The conditions had changed dramatically and with deep shadows and strong contrasts we soon decided to move on and try something very different, so we took the long track and headed down to the large Jándula Dam.

It was hot here too, but with abundant Eurasian crag martins flying around at head height or coming in to land on the upper face of the dam below us, we had plenty to watch. Some large barbel in the reservoir way below us must have been pretty big, given the drop to the water's surface, while the huge area of exposed rock given the important drawdown meant the rock formations visible were interesting, including a gargantuan turtle "fossil" and also a motorised duck, which caused amusement. Another group was already having an early lunch a few hundred metres away, and while we couldn't see a large male ibex they were watching, we did see a couple of very odd-looking moulting house martins flying around with the crag martins, one of which looked so odd from a distance that the leader of the other group called to say he thought it might be a hybrid between the two species! A famous tunnel here enabled us to walk through and observe a few roosting bats, which included both the very distinctive greater mouse-eared and also a dense cluster of the 'fur-ball' Schreiber's bent-winged bat. It wasn't clear if any Daubenton's were present as well, but we didn't delay too long so as to keep possible disturbance to a minimum.

It was hot and quite late by now, so we headed back up to a fine viewpoint with picnic tables in the hope of catching a bit of breeze at least... The table in shade was already occupied, but even so, we happily laid into our first tasty picnic spread and enjoyed the impressive views up the snaking valley of the Jándula river complete its large reservoir.

Searching for lynx requires considerable patience and a degree of stoicism, and as one guide, a former researcher working on the species once pointed out to me, the more he knows about the lynx, the less he knows, and sightings are absolutely random and eventually almost inevitably down to luck. We, like almost all the others present had decided that with the sun and heat it was pointless searching for them, so we decided to return mid-afternoon to get a coffee, short siesta and take a break. And so it was that as we snaked our way back up through a small valley, frantic calls of "Lynx! Lynx!" from just behind me lead me to stop abruptly and once we'd seen it and seen what it was going to do, I was on the walkie-talkie and Sergio turned his minibus around as fast as he could to come back. A lovely young female Iberian lynx was walking parallel to us, a little beyond the fence separating the adjacent estate from the track and as she strolled forward, completely ignoring us, walked right across an open area to our side. Sergio had fortunately returned and had great views as she walked towards his bus, but almost immediately turned and headed off uphill and into the scrub, disappearing as quickly as she'd appeared! Naturally, we spent some time waiting in the hope that she would reappear, but the ghost of the dehesa had vanished.

We returned to base, took a break, and then headed back out towards the same area again, though stopped short at another site where recent lynx activity had been noted, though to no avail, though a pair of mouflons were seen by a few of us a fine male chased a female across a field before disappearing down a small valley

and out of sight. Just walking slowly up and down the tracks in the late afternoon was terrific, with a two-tailed pasha butterfly cruising effortlessly through the oaks a very late individual and very welcome sighting!

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

Day 3: Andújar

Monday 18 October 2021

Weather: Very little cloud all day, warm to hot, still, max. 30°C as predicted in the afternoon!

Crystal clear blue skies from the start and while it was a cool start, it was clearly going to get hot!

After another filling breakfast with delicious freshly squeezed orange juice of particular note, we again headed to the La Lancha area, making a briefer pause en route at the same main site as the day before, plus occasional other pauses to check at possible spots and to enjoy the fine scenery. Indeed, a gorgeous little owl was again topping a lichen-covered boulder, but it was clearly nervous and quickly dropped out of sight. A pair of woodlarks were also enjoyed by the second bus as we travelled slowly along, and a couple of Eurasian hoopoes flitted over as well.

We soon made it out to the main watching area, where with fewer observers around and bright sunshine, Sergio took the bulk of the group for a short walk along the track to a vantage point, while I stayed behind with some other observers at yesterday's spot, 'just in case'. The general mood was that the conditions weren't great, but, as ever, who knows?! We spent a while watching some of the numerous red-legged partridges visible on the slopes, as well as a few other birds, though with nothing of particular note despite the intentions of a few Iberian green woodpeckers and Iberian magpies!

A couple of Eurasian magpies then started calling close below to where I was standing and a couple of us decided to walk towards it when suddenly, and above us, another started rattling off. This sounded promising! We had barely stopped to check when a rabbit hurtled out onto the path about 10 metres away at breakneck speed, with an Iberian lynx in hot pursuit! Within a blink of an eye, they'd gone up through the scrub and over the top of a small rise in front. Having alerted Sergio and rest of the group, I moved forward a fraction before waiting and once we were reunited, went round the next corner, only to see a photographer walking casually off round the following bend. Had he seen it? Rather than rush off ahead, we waited patiently, and finally the magpies once again started off above us, and an Iberian lynx, without rabbit, walked across a small gap between the gum cistus bushes a short way up above us, before vanishing into the scrub before all could see it again.

Another long waiting game ensued, but this time the outcome was 'lynx one, watchers nil' and as time started drawing out and nothing furry stirred, despite distractions in the form of circling cinereous vulture and a fine adult Spanish imperial eagle going over, we once again decided to go down to the dam and try our luck there again. OK, this time it was try again for views of Iberian ibex, but also for a rather special bird which had been reported the day before, but from a spot we didn't check while there the day before.

It was quite hot out on the dam, but a singing male blue rock thrush helped to take our mind off things for a couple of minutes, and after having also walked back through the tunnel, everyone - except me, as I was briefly delayed while discussing bats with another small group present! - also had good views of a dapper male black wheatear feeding on a rocky slope. The numerous black redstarts present kept us occupied for a while afterwards, while after looking out over the boulder-strewn valley side, we also found a simply superb male Iberian ibex idling out the day in the shade, its beautifully curved horns and jet-black leggings illustrating just how fine he was, while on the rocks above, amongst other small birds, a superb male rock bunting put on an excellent show, allowing everyone to admire it in the telescope.

Lunch was again taken at the viewpoint in the hope of catching a little bit of cooling breeze (though the lovely views and tasty picnic again helped take our minds off the sun!) and we again headed back for an afternoon break at our accommodation given the hot conditions.

The late afternoon and rest of the evening was spent out on yet another track that both Sergio and I enjoyed as much for the views, as for the (good) chance of seeing Iberian lynx, with the added bonus that it's not as well visited as the other two main sites. Indeed, as we were on our way, he received a photo of a lynx just taken by another guide who was already there...! However, we arrived some 30 minutes later, having enjoyed fantastic views across the vast swathes of olive orchards of lowland Jaen with their mountainous backdrop from high points on the route, as well as to the north over a section of the seemingly endless estates where Iberian lynx are present throughout.

The weather was once again excellent and being on the shady side of the hill at a good viewpoint was a great help as we tranquilly scanned the surroundings. Red and fallow deer were both present again, along with numerous rabbits, while a fine male mouflon, with its white side patch was eventually picked out as it walked under the large western holm oaks, with another and a female then later found as they played hide and seek under the tree canopy as they wandered around. Repeated Eurasian magpie alarm calls kept emanating from one area of a gully down below us, but look (and hope) as we may, we just couldn't pick out a vaguely cat-like shape, so as the shadows lengthened and the sky began to colour up in a fabulous blaze of purple and orange, we decided to return. Indeed, I suggested we move on quickly in order to try and get better shots of the sunset from high up, though as luck would have it, the first bus drew up alongside a big male Iberian lynx walking calmly through the grass beside the track, but just after I'd stopped further back for people to take pictures! The second bus soon caught up, but two minibuses instead of one was too much for this fine bearded male who now, visible only as a silhouette underneath the trees, trotted off at quite high speed to quieter and higher ground where we soon lost sight, and track. But another sighting was another bonus and we returned for our last - typically huge and very tasty - meal at Los Pinos in high spirits!

Day 4: Andújar & transfer to El Rocío + Doñana National Park

Tuesday 19 October 2021

Weather: Very fine, cool 10°C start, in the high 20s Celsius in Doñana.

In the crystal clear and still conditions it was still chilly when we got down to the valley bottom, and despite a few other watchers and photographers, it remained peaceful and only our hushed conversations broke the near silence. While the hoped-for Eurasian otters once again failed to appear, it was wonderful however to just listen to the winter birds calling and watch their antics by the river and in particular, up to four common kingfishers which sped up and down, calling loudly. This culminated with two perching side by side almost right below us on bare twigs, before rapidly engaging in a shouting match and then throwing themselves at each other for a brief mid-air tussle resulting in them plopping into the water for an instant, before the loser sped off and the victor reclaimed its prized perch!

A short walk along the valley bottom to enjoy the bird songs and calls and even to find some old Iberian lynx scat, which as the calcium from rabbit bones in them appears as they dry, end up looking like distinctive chalky white 'sausages'! Calling Cetti's warbler, a foraging black redstart and Sardinian warbler, a singing cirl bunting and even a few wintering great cormorants were all duly watched and enjoyed.

We returned with about half an hour for comfortable final packing and were smoothly away at 1130 am. The long drive was uneventful and relatively clear and punctuated by a fine sit-down lunch of a series of local dishes at a roadside restaurant, tapas-style, which worked very well. A few observations of red kites, common buzzards, Eurasian kestrels and a few other birds also jollied-up the journey.

We reached our remarkable destination, El Rocío, late afternoon and checked-in with time for a wander round for those wanting to do so, but given the very warm conditions, we only met for a short bird-watching session quite late on. Out on the seasonal marsh, now largely bone dry of course, there were a few pleasant surprises, and apart from the expected greylag geese, mallard and plenty of northern lapwings, a few other

species were noted. Indeed, as I walked out, I was greeted with a “What’s the black bird with a long decurved bill”? Setting up the scope I looked for a glossy ibis, only to be shocked to see an adult northern bald ibis striding across the almost grassless pasture! Even Sergio’s question of whether the bald ibis was still around as he appeared about five minutes later didn’t detract in the slightest from the discovery, even if it had apparently been around for nearly a week! A passing western marsh harrier was moving the birds around from the only water, and it finally came close enough to see it sporting a coloured leg ring from the reintroduction project down near the Strait of Gibraltar, as well as the coloured shoulder patch and bald face with unkempt shaggy ‘crest’. With a single glossy ibis not far away for almost direct comparison, it was a cracking start to the tour in Doñana, but perhaps set the standard of things to come too high!

We finished off at dusk with numerous small bats, soprano pipistrelles, according to Sergio’s detector flitting overhead and around us, thankfully taking away a few of the mosquitoes which were beginning to emerge and headed round the corner for a very tasty meal outside at a local restaurant.

Day 5: Doñana National and Natural Parks

Wednesday 20 October 2021

Weather: Clear and very fine all day, reaching almost 30°C mid-afternoon.

A 0730 am breakfast meant for a good early start. Half an hour later we were duly picked up by a local company who took us into and around the north part of the national and natural parks in two 4x4 minibuses for a long morning and midday tour. This enabled us to split onto different tracks at the start in our search for Iberian lynx, and while both vehicles saw a few recent tracks in the sand, we saw no sign of the cats themselves, so we continued on and into the lovely Coto del Rey estate, for a good walk.

The drought conditions experienced by the region for the past two years were very evident, with the dry grass cropped almost to the ground in many areas and the wildlife and cattle waterhole dug out deeper than ever before to reach the water table. A grey wagtail flying off from this as we went to check was testament to the general lack of water around! Numerous small birds were around though, keeping us on our toes, with plentiful corn buntings and common stonechats, a few European goldfinches and European greenfinches, plus ‘toodle-oo’-ing woodlarks and the ever-colourful Eurasian hoopoes. A distant southern grey shrike was good to find too, even if it was rather too mobile for some to observe easily!

After a good leg stretch, including observing a distant Spanish imperial eagle perched on a special perching bar on a small electricity pylon (to keep them away from the wires), we finally hopped back in the buses and headed towards the ‘palace’ itself. After a brief stop where we didn’t try pulling up any of the flowering mandrakes, just in case anyone was affected (ha ha!), we were granted access into the patio. It was a lovely sight with the façade of this cortijo beautifully offset by the tall palms and scattered cloud in the bright blue sky, while round on the far side we also took a quick look at the original keyhole-shaped entranceway to what would have been a very much more modest building, the Borbon crest of arms over the Moorish one pointing to it dating back to the time of the peninsular reconquest, of special relevance above the arch.

Time was moving on, so we soon headed back out of the estate, having to stop to enjoy no less than three black-winged kites in some tall eucalyptus trees on the way, and turned into the restricted part of the National Park, soon leaving the umbrella pines and mixed narrow-leaved ash, western holm and cork oak woodland and then gum lentisc bushes behind, entering quite suddenly into a vast flat expanse of grazing and salt marsh. A little owl hiding on the stumps put out on a slightly raised area (as cover for breeding rabbits) was very welcome, while it was rather harder to spot things on the vast flat field to the right, in particular, which appeared razed to the ground after the drought. The fence beside the track and the taller grass on the banks of this raised ‘causeway’ always attract small birds, and we weren’t disappointed. Plenty of northern wheatears were probably the most noteworthy, while a couple of small flocks of flighty larks had Sergio calling greater short-toed and me lesser short-toed, but with barely time to even try and find them in the binoculars before they flipped up and behind the vehicles and were gone. The more I think about them, the more I think Sergio was right on the ID!

With such open conditions, the second bus stopped when I picked something 'suspicious'-looking off on the parched ground, and the telescope revealed a lovely small 'trip' of Eurasian dotterel sitting very quietly out at range. Sadly, though we tried finding them later on our return, it was not to be, but moving on quickly for a comfort and lunch stop turned out to be in our favour. An Egyptian mongoose ran between the vehicles just before the second bus pulled into the visitor's centre and while waiting for this to hopefully reappear (it didn't!), we also spotted a fantastic long-eared owl perched in full view of the track in some tamarisks.

The other vehicle members were already in the centre, with one or two seeing a very close purple swamphen as a result and while there was relatively little variety amongst the common waterbirds out on the flooded pools in front, a couple of western marsh harriers kept us entertained. Very welcome drinks and the picnic were consumed, then as we left, a group of Eurasian griffon vultures were using the early afternoon currents and thermals to cross the marshes overhead, and following them, so too was a superb adult Bonelli's eagle! Dispersing juveniles are occasionally seen, but full adults are very rare indeed here, so seeing it was another great find!

The first bus again led the way again, enjoying the owl as it went and though we spent a little more time checking the side tracks and more open areas in the woodland on the way back, no lynx were spotted, and we arrived back to the hotel a little after 1430.

Even though some took a look around the town and over the adjacent marsh, where a flock of greater flamingos had appeared at the water, making a fine sight, we had a good break, so avoiding the worst of the heat and met again for an evening watch near the edge of the town. With such mild weather it was no problem to stroll out along a sandy track to the viewpoint on the edge of the national park, then stand very quietly and hope for movement. This is a site where a female Iberian lynx passes regularly, though, of course, it's impossible to know whether it'll happen when you're there or not! Every common blackbird scold, Eurasian magpie or Eurasian wren rattle needed checking, where possible, but one persistently scolding blackbird had clearly been upset by a close tawny owl, which called a few times well before dusk, but then went quiet again, even though it was answered by two others! A few other birds caught our attention, including a late spotted flycatcher, restless common chiffchaff, and both singing, or is it shouting(?!), Cetti's warbler and rattling Sardinian warblers in the bushes, but it was rather quiet otherwise.

We eventually decided to call it a day as the light started to drop to the point where it was difficult to see detail any distance, but with enough to enjoy the flow of small bats streaming out of the town and heading for the woodland we were leaving behind. The echolocation calls I recorded show that they were nearly all soprano pipistrelles, but with a couple of Kuhl's pipistrelles thrown in. While the former is one of Britain's commonest and most widespread bats, the latter is still an extremely localised species on the south-east coast of England, having apparently recently colonised the UK.

Day 6: Huelva, El Rocío

Thursday 21 October 2021

Weather: Fine morning, with moderate chilly breeze until midday, then warming for the remainder of the day. Max. c. 25°C.

Planned as a "break from looking for lynx" day, we indeed decided to go and look at some different habitats and sites outside Doñana 'proper', but with excellent opportunities for a different suite of birds, in particular, especially given the huge area of salt pans and tidally flooded saltmarsh which predominate in the Odiel Marshes Natural Park. It also provides with the chance of something non-avian which, with hot weather, we stand a good chance of seeing. Well, 50:50 in reality, but that's good by my terms for it!

We headed off first south, heading first adjacent to the National Park and almost down to one of the longest and least modified beaches in Andalucía and then turned west, and through the park's buffer, for miles through the pine groves and low scrub until almost reaching the outskirts of Huelva. Here, suddenly coming

upon the petrochemical plants in the heavily industrial area out of the city was a bit of a jolt to the senses, but we had actually been given some warning by the increasing smell of the derivatives emanating from the plants!

Oddly perhaps though, here there are a few interesting freshwater lakes either abutting the industrial areas or almost now engulfed by the intensive soft fruit agricultural interests, which can hold birds of interest though. Standing on a now active railway line (in use again after years of being abandoned, trains are still fortunately rare!) we scanned over a nearby lake, which though seemingly rather uninteresting at first, began to reveal a few species of interest. A common waxbill flew past calling, but much more interesting were a couple of impressive purple swamphens which fed at the base of the bulrushes, with one finally swimming out into full view for all to admire at length. A common kingfisher added another splash of colour to the edge of the same bulrush bed where a tiny 'fluffy' little grebe sneaked along the edge, apparently intent on not being noticed. Further out both the first gadwall and common pochard for the group swam near the far bank, but with a surprisingly chill north-west breeze blowing, we soon headed back to the vans!

Heading out past the city we veered off down along the long road cutting through the lovely Odiel Estuary which eventually leads to the river's breakwater and lighthouse. The second-biggest colony of Eurasian spoonbills in Europe breeds here (Holland, has the largest, if you were wondering!), while the biggest concentration of wintering black-necked grebes used to occur here (some coming from west Russia!; with warming winters I suspect that they stay further north and east now, but they're always on the inaccessible part of the pans) and it's perhaps now more famous as the first site in mainland Iberia where western ospreys were successfully introduced as a breeder, after the last native pair disappeared from the cliffs in south-west Portugal in the late 1980s. It's also a site for breeding greater flamingos, many of which were present some way back from the road, especially with a large area of the salinas abutting the road having vast quantities of salt actively extracted on an impressive and industrial scale as we passed.

A couple of brief stops as we progressed showed that it was still low tide, and most of the waders were out on the mud flats, though a fine great egret turned out to be the only one of the tour. We took a short walk to overlook a large area of exposed mud and salt-marsh grass, ideal for feeding waders and started the process of searching through the commoner species to look for the 'goodies'. Of course, they're all interesting, and it was fun to watch feeding Eurasian whimbrel and Eurasian curlew almost shoulder to shoulder, and to hear them both too, plus search out a couple of dapper Kentish plovers amongst the numerous common ringed plovers, plus a couple of little stints amongst the innumerable dunlin. The sad-sounding calls of grey plover are another very evocative salt-marsh sound as well as the livelier calls of common redshank or 'tew-tew-tew' common greenshank.

Having taken our fill we continued down to the beach itself, where the offshore breeze and cloudless skies meant there was virtually nothing moving out to sea, except for a couple of very distant Atlantic gannets, which come to winter here from the north Atlantic.

The return was rather more interesting, since the rising tide was pushing birds to the ever-decreasing sandbanks and muddy edges beside the raised road, allowing us to look down on the gathering birds. Small groups of bar-tailed godwit and Eurasian oystercatcher gave excellent views, along with common greenshank, a fly-by ruddy turnstone and shiny, pale, winter-plumaged sanderling.

With a need to go and buy fresh picnic goods, we dropped the group off at the visitors' centre and headed into the local village for supplies. This also allowed another group picnicking early behind the centre to move on and we were left to eat in total peace comfortably at some tables outside. With a little of a rush on at the end to ensure we left the car park by 1500, when it closes for a while, I didn't get a chance to check the Sandwich terns roosting with whimbrels on a jetty near the car park, but as we pulled out of the centre, a huge Caspian tern flying low over the salt pan in front dropped down to land amongst a mass of gulls and terns, requiring a good pause! With several Caspians amongst the numerous Sandwich terns and a few slender-billed gulls amongst the black-headed, it was an excellent stop!

With time starting to move on, and now very warm conditions, calls to get to our next site were heeded and we moved on the Laguna del Portil, a small freshwater lake just in from the coast and surrounded by coastal scrub and umbrella pine woodland in part. A good look was required here, but with the scrub growing up in front of the viewing platform and obscuring quite a lot of the lake, plus very low water levels, it was not nearly as interesting as it can be. However, considerable numbers of Eurasian teal were present at least.

Close to here is a good site for a very special animal, but one which requires warmth and sun. The good thing was that the day had warmed considerably from the chilly start and as we spread out through the scrub and trees, hopes were high. Ironically, it wasn't until I'd made a couple of passes in one direction that almost back at base one appeared, a superb and bright green, but of course heavily patterned and very well hidden in a spiny juniper, Mediterranean chameleon! This was a treat, not only since considerable interest had been expressed by the group in seeing one, but once we'd seen it, it helped us to find two more, with a big one, a medium sized one and a little one clearly suggesting that there's still a healthy population here.

A celebratory coffee and/or ice cream (yes, it was warm enough!) was duly enjoyed nearby before we returned to El Rocío along the motorway this time, with a few Eurasian griffon vultures going over at one point in stark contrast to the morning's birds.

We rounded off the day with another watch from in front of the hotel, both of the birds way out on the receding pool of water, or mostly, as it turned out, in the bulrush beds in front. Indeed, in addition to the common stonechats and ever-mobile zitting cisticolas, a fine pied flycatcher was watched and enjoyed at length, as it fed low amongst the bushes and bulrush stems.

Day 7: Doñana hinterland

Friday 22 October 2021

Weather: Very fine and hot in the afternoon; light breeze p.m.

The pressure for seeing Iberian lynx was off, but with news of a couple of females with cubs in the visitable area, despite very few recent sightings, we still wanted to make one last good go of it. We planned this mainly for the evening, but also en route from the vehicles in the morning, too. Indeed, it made for a lovely drive to go out from El Rocío to the north, and then east, first through mile after mile of pine forest, and then along a series of tracks, so well known to Sergio, through more varied dehesa and also mixed woodland. Birds were remarkably few in general, perhaps given the very dry conditions in the woodlands, but a female hen harrier drifted over at one point and a freshly dead horseshoe whip-snake on a road not far ahead made for an interesting, if brief, stop. Road signs warning people of possible lynx crossing show how Iberian lynx disperse through this area, particularly to the north of Doñana 'proper' and often concentrated along the small streams cutting through the orchards and arable areas.

After intensive scanning from a couple of tracks passing through the edge of the pines and adjacent to heathy scrub, in a lovely area full of rabbit signs, we finally headed out towards the vast open expanses of the rice fields. With 50% uncultivated this year given the drought, in order to stop saltwater encroaching up the Guadalquivir River, we could see birds some way off, but even a moderate sized reservoir adjacent to the road was completely dry. A few birds called from the dense scrub and bulrush beds, including a Eurasian penduline tit which put in a very brief show for one or two, but we soon called it quits and after a quick chat with two civil guards, who'd stopped me for a routine check, we all headed out into the paddies where rice was actively being harvested.

It was teeming with birds! Little and cattle egrets, Eurasian spoonbills, white storks and a couple of western marsh harriers were in the very first harvested field, while much to our delight, shortly ahead, two black storks were resting out in the open. These then flew up and circled overhead for a few moments before moving off to join the birds we'd left behind, giving us wonderful views. It was interesting to see the different

plumages between the brown feathered first-winter bird compared to the smarter black-backed and winged adult, plus the latter's red bill and legs.

We took a route traversing as many fields which had already been cut or were being actively harvested, with a group of waders flying off in the heat haze somewhat puzzling. The size of godwit, they didn't look right, but they soon dropped well out of sight. Remarkably, a minute or two later, another smaller group got up, and this time, they wheeled round and headed straight towards, and then finally over us, giving fantastic views: Eurasian stone-curlews! Huge numbers of lesser black-backed and black-headed gulls were present as well, though finding anything rarer amongst them was always going to be an odious task given the sheer numbers, but strangely, we also hadn't seen any glossy ibis yet. Since colonising the Doñana area 15-20 years ago, their numbers have exploded and they are normally found in large flocks, but where were they?! We shouldn't have worried though, since as we circled round and hit the north edge of the cultivated fields, so a roadside paddy was peppered black with them, so we turned down a quiet side track and watched at pleasure. Surprisingly though, not only was there a random mix of black, grey and white birds in two partially flooded fields here, thanks to the egrets, herons, gulls, spoonbills and glossy ibis, but also a splash of pink! Indeed, around 2,000 adult greater flamingos were present, which moved gently en masse from one field to the next as we watched, a few flying the short distance across and revealing the glorious combination of light pink bodies and black and crimson in their open wings, making a beautiful sight.

We enjoyed these at length, with other surprises including a common sandpiper in the water channel just in front, a fine western osprey perched on an electricity pylon to the right of the field and by sheer chance, the closest gull sat in the field was a fine Mediterranean gull!

We finally pulled ourselves away and headed to the Dehesa de Abajo visitor centre. With a group occupying the inner courtyard, we went out to some shaded tables nearby, which not only allowed us to enjoy a light cooling breeze, but also more open views. While another tasty picnic lunch was enjoyed, so too were four common cranes which circled high over and then, almost when we'd finished, a very pale short-toed snake eagle which was drifting back and forth in the strong breeze, using the updraught from a ridge to search for snakes and other reptiles from high up.

With much more time on our hands than expected, plus the hot conditions, we decided to head back to the hotel for a break before returning, towards dusk, to try a watch here. The short walk out was still quite warm, but as the sun dipped, so conditions became very pleasant, especially with a gentle breeze blowing, and signs of Iberian lynx were noted, including old and quite fresh droppings beside the track. We watched from a raised viewpoint for a while before part of the group headed a short distance away to watch at a small pool, recently filled with water and where lynx occasionally come to drink. Given the sense of anticipation that one might appear at any moment, nerves are always difficult to completely overcome, but everyone kept near silence and even a couple of passing Eurasian sparrowhawks barely noticed us as they sped past, and a Eurasian kestrel, which came in to perch on a small outcrop just in front got a quite a shock when it suddenly noticed us! Movement down below us led to a ripple of excitement, but this quickly evaporated as a small brown dog appeared from the bushes and trotted swiftly across the main opening below us. A close call!

As the sun slipped ever lower below the horizon and the light began to fail, nothing else stirred, so we finally decided to call it quits and head back to the minibuses, still happy in the knowledge of having seen this 'ghost' of the Mediterranean and that they are still surviving and, indeed flourishing.

It wasn't quite all over yet however, since a long-winged and long-tailed bird glided silently past overhead as we neared the car park, and two did the same as we started back: nightjars! While I can't say which of the two species they may have been, it's still lovely to see them and no real surprise that they were still hanging around at this time of year given the very mild conditions.

We celebrated with final drinks and dinner, including the signature "Pink Flamingo", before heading to our rooms for our final packing and night!

Day 8: Transfer to airport and return to UK or France**Saturday 23 October 2021**

With relatively early flight times, we took a normal breakfast and were then away quite sharp. That said, given much less traffic at the weekend in Seville, we reached the airport a little early where we said our farewells. Given my afternoon travel time I headed off to start the trip report while Sergio headed off home, both of us very happy that the tour had gone so well.

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!

Checklist

THE TRAVELLING
NATURALIST

	Common Name	Scientific Name	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	Day 6	Day 7
	BIRDS	<i>AVES</i>							
1	Greylag goose	<i>Anser anser</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓
2	Northern shoveler	<i>Spatula clypeata</i>					✓		
3	Gadwall	<i>Mareca strepera</i>						✓	
4	Eurasian wigeon	<i>Mareca penelope</i>					✓		
5	Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	✓			✓	✓	✓	
6	Eurasian teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>						✓	
7	Common pochard	<i>Aythya ferina</i>						✓	✓
8	Red-legged partridge	<i>Alectoris rufa</i>		✓	✓		H		
9	Nightjar sp.	<i>Caprimulgus sp.</i>			✓				✓
10	Rock dove / feral pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>			✓			✓	
11	Common wood pigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
12	Eurasian collared dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
13	Water rail	<i>Rallus aquaticus</i>					H		

14	Common moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>						✓	✓
15	Eurasian coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>					✓	✓	
16	Western swamphen	<i>Porphyrio porphyrio</i>					✓	✓	✓
17	Common crane	<i>Grus grus</i>							✓
18	Little grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>					✓	✓	
19	Greater flamingo	<i>Phoenicopterus roseus</i>					✓	✓	✓
20	Eurasian stone-curlew	<i>Burhinus oedicephalus</i>							✓
21	Eurasian oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>						✓	
22	Black-winged stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>				✓	✓	✓	
23	Northern lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>				✓		✓	✓
24	Grey plover	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>						✓	
25	Common ringed plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>						✓	
26	Kentish plover	<i>Charadrius alexandrinus</i>						✓	
27	Eurasian dotterel	<i>Charadrius morinellus</i>					✓		
28	Eurasian whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>						✓	
29	Eurasian curlew	<i>Numenius arquata</i>				✓		✓	
30	Bar-tailed godwit	<i>Limosa lapponica</i>						✓	
31	Ruddy turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>						✓	

32	Sanderling	<i>Calidris alba</i>						✓	
33	Dunlin	<i>Calidris alpina</i>						✓	
34	Little Stint	<i>Calidris minuta</i>						✓	
35	Common sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleuca</i>						✓	✓
36	Green sandpiper	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>							✓
37	Common redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>						✓	
38	Common greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>						✓	
39	Slender-billed gull	<i>Chroicocephalus genei</i>						✓	
40	Black-headed gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>						✓	✓
41	Mediterranean gull	<i>Ichthyaeus melanocephalus</i>							✓
42	Yellow-legged gull	<i>Larus michahellis</i>						✓	✓
43	Lesser black-backed gull	<i>Larus fuscus</i>						✓	✓
44	Caspian tern	<i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>						✓	
45	Sandwich tern	<i>Thalasseus sandvicensis</i>						✓	
46	Black stork	<i>Ciconia nigra</i>							✓
47	White stork	<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>						✓	✓
48	Northern gannet	<i>Morus bassanus</i>						✓	
49	Great cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓

50	Northern bald ibis	<i>Geronticus eremita</i>				✓			
51	Glossy ibis	<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>				✓			✓
52	Eurasian spoonbill	<i>Platalea leucorodia</i>						✓	✓
53	Western cattle egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓
54	Grey heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
55	Great egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>						✓	
56	Little egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>				✓		✓	✓
57	Western osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>						✓	✓
58	Black-winged kite	<i>Elanus caeruleus</i>					✓		
59	Griffon vulture	<i>Gyps fulvus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
60	Cinereous vulture	<i>Aegypius monachus</i>	✓	✓	✓				
61	Short-toed snake eagle	<i>Circaetus gallicus</i>							✓
62	Booted eagle	<i>Hieraetus pennatus</i>	✓						
63	Spanish imperial eagle	<i>Aquila adalberti</i>	✓		✓		✓		
64	Bonelli's eagle	<i>Aquila fasciata</i>					✓		
65	Eurasian sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>		✓	✓			✓	✓
66	Western marsh harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>	✓				✓		✓
67	Hen harrier	<i>Circus cyaneus</i>							✓

68	Red kite	<i>Milvus milvus</i>	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓
69	Common buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
70	Little owl	<i>Athene noctua</i>		✓			✓		✓
71	Long-eared owl	<i>Asio otus</i>					✓		
72	Tawny owl	<i>Strix aluco</i>					✓		✓
73	Eurasian hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	
74	Common kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>	✓		✓	✓		H	✓
75	Great spotted woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>	✓	✓		✓	H		✓
76	Iberian green woodpecker	<i>Picus sharpei</i>		✓	✓	H			
77	Common kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>			✓		✓	✓	✓
78	Peregrine falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>				✓			
79	Iberian grey shrike	<i>Lanius meridionalis</i>					✓	✓	
80	Eurasian jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>		✓	✓				
81	Iberian magpie	<i>Cyanopica cooki</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
82	Eurasian magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
83	Red-billed chough	<i>Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax</i>		H					
84	Western jackdaw	<i>Coloeus monedula</i>			✓	✓	✓		✓
85	Northern raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>					✓	✓	✓

86	Crested tit	<i>Lophophanes cristatus</i>		H	✓				
87	Eurasian blue tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>		✓	✓	✓	H		
88	Great tit	<i>Parus major</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
89	Eurasian penduline tit	<i>Remiz pendulinus</i>					✓		✓
90	Woodlark	<i>Lullula arborea</i>		✓			✓		✓
91	Eurasian skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>					✓		✓
92	Crested lark	<i>Galerida cristata</i>				✓	✓		✓
93	Greater / Mediterranean short-toed lark	<i>Calandrella brachydactyla / Alaudala rufescens</i>					✓		
94	Barn swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	✓					✓	
95	Eurasian crag martin	<i>Ptyonoprogne rupestris</i>		✓	✓				
96	Common house martin	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>		✓	✓				
97	Cetti's warbler	<i>Cettia cetti</i>	H	H		✓	✓	H	✓
98	Long-tailed Tit	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>		✓	✓	✓			
99	Common chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>			H		✓		✓
100	Iberian chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus ibericus</i>	H						
101	Eurasian reed warbler	<i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>				✓			
102	Zitting cisticola	<i>Cisticola juncidis</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓

103	Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓		
104	Sardinian warbler	<i>Curruca melanocephala</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	H	✓
105	Dartford warbler	<i>Curruca undata</i>		H					
106	Common firecrest	<i>Regulus ignicapilla</i>		H	H				
107	Eurasian wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>					H		
108	Eurasian nuthatch	<i>Sitta europaea</i>		✓		✓			
109	Spotless starling	<i>Sturnus unicolor</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
110	Common blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
111	Song thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>		✓	✓				✓
112	Mistle thrush	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>		✓	✓				
113	European robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
114	Pied flycatcher	<i>Ficedula hypoleuca</i>						✓	
115	Black redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
116	Blue rock thrush	<i>Monticola solitarius</i>			✓				
117	European stonechat	<i>Saxicola rubicola</i>			✓		✓	✓	✓
118	Northern wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>					✓		
119	Black wheatear	<i>Oenanthe leucura</i>			✓				
120	House sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

121	Common waxbill	<i>Estrilda astrild</i>						✓	
122	Western yellow wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava</i>				✓			
123	Grey wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
124	White wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓
125	Meadow pipit	<i>Anthus pratensis</i>		✓		✓	✓		
126	Common chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>		✓	✓	✓			✓
127	Hawfinch	<i>Coccothraustes coccothraustes</i>		✓	✓				
128	European greenfinch	<i>Chloris chloris</i>		H	H		✓		
129	Common linnet	<i>Linaria cannabina</i>			✓				
130	European goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>			✓		✓		✓
131	European serin	<i>Serinus serinus</i>		✓					✓
132	Eurasian siskin	<i>Spinus spinus</i>			H				
133	Corn bunting	<i>Emberiza calandra</i>					✓	✓	
134	Rock bunting	<i>Emberiza cia</i>			✓				
135	Cirl bunting	<i>Emberiza cirlus</i>		✓	✓	H			
	MAMMALS	MAMMALIA							
1	European rabbit	<i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i>	✓	✓	✓				✓
2	Egyptian mongoose	<i>Herpestes ichneumon</i>					✓		

3	Iberian lynx	<i>Lynx pardinus</i>		✓	✓				
4	Red fox	<i>Vulpes vulpes</i>					✓		
5	Greater mouse-eared bat	<i>Myotis myotis</i>		✓					
6	(Schreiber's) Bent-winged bat	<i>Miniopterus schreibersii</i>		✓					
7	Soprano pipistrelle	<i>Pipistrellus pygmaeus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
8	European free-tailed bat	<i>Tadarida teniotis</i>		✓			✓	✓	
9	Eurasian wild boar	<i>Sus scrofa</i>	✓	✓					
10	Red deer	<i>Cervus elaphus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
11	Fallow deer	<i>Dama dama</i>		✓	✓				
12	Spanish ibex	<i>Capra pyrenaica</i>		✓	✓				
13	Mouflon	<i>Ovis orientalis</i>		✓	✓				
	REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS	REPTILIA AND AMPHIBIA							
1	Moorish gecko	<i>Tarentola mauritanica</i>		✓	✓	✓			✓
2	Vaucher's wall lizard	<i>Podarcis vaucheri</i>					✓	✓	✓
3	Wall Lizard sp	<i>Podarcis virescens</i>			✓				
4	Horseshoe whipsnake	<i>Hemorrhois hippocrepis</i>							✓
5	Mediterranean chameleon	<i>Chamaeleo chamaeleon</i>						✓	

1	Stripeless tree frog	<i>Hyla meridionalis</i>		H		H			
2	Iberian water frog	<i>Pelophylax perezi</i>							✓
	BUTTERFLIES & MOTHS	RHOPALOCERA & LEPIDOPTERA							
1	Large white	<i>Pieris brassicae</i>		✓					✓
2	Bath white	<i>Pontia daplidice</i>							
3	Clouded Yellow	<i>Colias crocea</i>		✓	✓		✓	✓	
4	Small copper	<i>Lycaena phlaeas</i>					✓		
5	Spanish brown argus	<i>Arícia cramera</i>					✓	✓	
6	Lang's short-tailed blue	<i>Leptotes pirithous</i>			✓				
7	Two-tailed pasha	<i>Charaxes jasius</i>			✓				
8	Red Admiral	<i>Vanessa atalanta</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
9	Cardinal fritillary	<i>Argynnis pandora</i>		✓	✓				
10	Small Heath	<i>Coenonympha pamphilus</i>		✓	✓				
1	Crimson speckled	<i>Utetheisa pulchella</i>				✓	✓	✓	
2	Vestal	<i>Rhodometra sacraria</i>							✓
	DRAGONFLIES	LIBELLULA							
1	Migrant hawk	<i>Aeshna mixta</i>					✓	✓	✓

2	Southern hawker	<i>Aeshna cyanea</i>		✓					
3	Red-veined darter	<i>Sympetrum fonscolombii</i>					✓		✓
4	Common darter	<i>Sympetrum striolatum</i>		✓					
5	Violet dropwing	<i>Trithemis annulata</i>			✓				
	OTHER								
1	Blue-winged grasshopper	<i>Aedipoda caerulea</i>		✓	✓		✓		
2	Two-toothed bush-cricket	<i>Thyreonotus bidens</i>						✓	
3	West African fiddler crab	<i>Afruca tangeri</i>						✓	
4	Barbel sp.	<i>Barbus sp.</i>	✓	✓	✓				