

Spain's Coto Donana & Extremadura

Naturetrek Tour Report

28 April - 6 May 2019

Report by Niki Williamson



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Summary

From the teeming wetlands and fresh forests of Coto Doñana to the sweeping plains and dramatic mountainscapes of Extremadura, this two-based avian adventure took in some of the best habitats Spain has to offer. The breeding season was in full swing and late Spring rains had prolonged the flowering season, meaning everywhere we went was absolutely bursting with life!

In Doñana National Park, Little Bitterns, Great Reed and Savi's Warblers, White-headed Ducks, Black-necked Grebes, Gull-billed, Black and Whiskered Terns, Purple and Squacco Herons, and Purple Swamphens stood out against a background of thousands of Glossy Ibis and Greater Flamingoes. The group enjoyed getting to grips with a particularly mobile Red-knobbed Coot and the extraordinary experience of being in the midst of a three-Wryneck territorial dispute!

The plains of Extremadura positively fizzed with song from Calandra, Crested, Thekla and Greater Short-toed Lark. The group was treated to both Great and Little Bustard displays, Black-bellied Sandgrouse, breeding Spanish Imperial Eagles, European Rollers and four species of owl. The views of Pin-tailed Sandgrouse wheeling around us were simply fantastic.

All this was washed down with some superb local hospitality, food and wine – the finishing touches to a superb trip!

Day 1

Sunday 28th April

Niki and Alejandro met the group at Seville airport and we were soon on our way travelling around the northern edge of the city. It wasn't long until we were out in the countryside, where we could already see numerous Black Kites and White Storks circling over the olive groves and open fields of Huelva Province. As we approached Doñana, groups of Iberian Magpies could be seen flitting over the road.

We arrived at our base, Hotel Toruño, a delightful traditional hotel at the heart of El Rocío, set at the very edge of the beautiful Madre de las Marismas lagoon. After a welcome drink and nibbles in the reception area, we headed out to the front of the hotel to enjoy our first picnic lunch by the lakeside. From here we could already pick up many Glossy Ibis, Red-crested and Common Pochard, not to mention dozens of Greater Flamingoes mooching in the shallows. Great and Eurasian Reed Warblers sang from the vegetation, a Penduline Tit and a Little Bittern put in a fleeting appearance. Over our heads we were thrilled by a flyby of over a hundred Collared Pratincoles, newly arrived from their African wintering grounds!

After taking some time to relax and settle into our rooms, with the light growing soft, it seemed appropriate to spend our late afternoon exploring this delightful wetland right on our doorstep.

Eurasian Spoonbills fed amongst the lakeside scrub, and we could see a single Black-crowned Night Heron in the shallows. Purple Heron and Great Egret were showing, and we glimpsed our first Purple Swamphen. Black-winged Stilts and a group of Black-tailed Godwits interspersed the large flocks of Glossy Ibis. As well as more

Collared Pratincole action, we were also thrilled to see Whiskered, Gull-billed and Black Terns hawking over the lake. We could see a herd of Red Deer on the far bank, where wild Greylag Geese – the symbol of Doñana National Park – also loafed. The air was full of Serin song, hundreds of House Martins and Barn Swallows hawked for insects over the water, and we had our first views of joyously quipping European Bee-eaters overhead.

A brilliant start, and a great way to work up our appetite for our first delicious three-course meal of traditional El Rocío fare.

Day 2

Monday 29th April

Today we made a journey back through Sevilla to explore Doñana from the other bank of the Guadalquivir River. We broke the journey with a coffee and comfort stop, picking up Ring-necked Parakeets as we crossed the bridge through Sevilla.

We soon reached the fabled salt pans of Bonanza, a massively important stop-off point for migrating waders, and it became apparent that our journey had definitely been worth it!

Even as we disembarked for our first stop, we could see many waders including Curlew Sandpipers, Pied Avocets and Dunlin feeding and loafing around the pans, as well as Kentish and Common Ringed Plovers. Slender-billed Gulls paddled in the microfauna-rich pans, sharing their pinkish hue. Many Iberian Yellow Wagtails chirped overhead.

Moving on to our lunch stop proved difficult, the salt flats full as they were of Little Stints, Sanderling and amazingly close Curlew Sandpipers. Many warblers lurked in the scrub, including Sardinian and Subalpine Warblers. We eventually arrived however, to the edge of a larger, deeper lagoon, where Niki and Alex prepared a lavish picnic spread.

Looking out over this slightly deeper pan, we enjoyed the memorable richness of birdlife, including Little Terns, Greater Flamingoes, Eurasian Spoonbills, Eurasian Whimbrel, Ruddy Turnstone, Common Sandpiper, Common Greenshank, Common Redshank, and large swirling flocks of Dunlin, Sanderling, plovers and Little Stints. Lesser Short-toed Larks sang above us and darted through the scrub. We enjoyed views of two Western Ospreys, as well as Short-toed and Booted Eagles.

Next we explored the area's numerous pools and pits, some used for irrigation - some forming part of the Natural Park - where the avian delights kept coming! Here numerous White-headed Ducks and Red-crested Pochard were loafing, and we had great views of Purple Heron, Black-necked and Little Grebes. A Pied Flycatcher flitted through the pines. A heronry on an island gave us our best views yet of both adult and juvenile Black-crowned Night Heron. And with a little patience, the whole group got views of a very mobile Red-knobbed Coot, resulting in "high fives" all round!

We returned home thrilled, after an absolutely bird-packed day.

Day 3

Tuesday 30th April

This morning we journeyed deep into the heart of Doñana National Park with local company Doñana Nature, who have special permits and 4x4 minibuses to make this exclusive access possible.

We spent the earliest time of the morning searching quietly around the favoured haunts of the Iberian Lynx, the world's most endangered feline. Although this ghost-cat was not to grace us with its presence, we enjoyed the peacefulness of its realm just after sunrise, as Iberian Magpies and Red Deer went about their day. Several European Turtle Doves were noted flitting through the trees. We also saw numerous Red-legged Partridge and European Rabbits, favoured prey items of the elusive lynx.

Mid-morning, we arrived at the open heath area known as Coto del Rey, home of another endangered Doñana inhabitant - the Spanish Imperial Eagle. Our luck was in, as there was a regal-looking adult perched on a telegraph post, giving us great views! A couple of second-calendar-year Short-toed Eagles also drifted over low.

We took an enjoyable walk through an avenue of aged Eucalyptus trees towards the Palacio del Rey, following in the footsteps of many noble folk! We enjoyed Spanish Sparrow and Common Redstart amongst the trees as well as great views of Booted Eagle overhead. A busy colony of European Bee-eaters provided fantastic photographic opportunities. Our guide Jose Manuel took some time to explain to us a little of the palace's fascinating history before we returned to El Rocío for lunch.

Lunch today was at a welcoming family restaurant where the group sampled local specialities like fried *mariscos* or seafood and *salmorejo*, a kind of delicious, thickened *gazpacho*. The group also enjoyed seeing local horsemen for which El Rocío is famous turning up to take a beer at special high tables, still on horseback! The early afternoon was a relaxed time, giving the group chance to wander at will through the sandy streets and Wild West-style architecture of this quirky town, or simply take a Spanish-style *siesta*!

Later on, we headed back into the park, enjoying the huge herd of Red Deer and wild horses grazing on the heath. Iberian Yellow Wagtails made use of their invertebrate entourage. Many Crested and Short-toed Larks fed on the plains, and we also found a Thekla Lark and a migrating Whinchat.

Still brim full from the Spring rains, the wetlands were just phenomenal today! Great Reed Warblers created a cacophony of sound, augmented by large Glossy Ibis colonies and numerous vigorously Zitting Cisticolas! We located a reeling Savi's Warbler, pink mouth open wide! Numerous Purple Herons were seen and Black Terns hawked over the water. Black-necked Grebes interspersed the displaying Great Crested and Little Grebes and Western Swamphens patrolled the reedbeds, some with ridiculously gangly-looking chicks!

Day 4

Wednesday 1st May

Today we set out to explore some local areas of the Doñana Natural Park, starting with the heathland and woodland at Acebron.

As we arrived on the heathland, Iberian Grey Shrikes were showing well from treetops, allowing us to see the darker pigmentation and dusky-pink breast that distinguishes them from Great Grey Shrike.

We could hear the scratchy song of many Sardinian Warblers, but amongst them another, harder-to-see *Sylvia* - Dartford Warbler. There were a couple of birds nearby, and with a little patience we got great views of them singing from bush top perches, showing off wine-red breasts.

Thekla Lark and Woodlark showed well in song flight and we enjoyed watching the first of the day's Black Kites leaving their roosts. A red-headed Woodchat Shrike also perched nearby for us to enjoy.

On reaching the peaceful grounds of the Palacio de Acebron, a Franco-era stately home, we explored the rather magical moist woodlands surrounding the palace, and enjoyed the rich sounds of many singing Common Nightingales. The group enjoyed taking our time to pinpoint the birds we were hearing, and with patience we had superb views of forest-dwellers such as Short-toed Treecreepers, Iberian Chiffchaffs, Melodious Warbler and Spotted Flycatcher. We had a most extraordinary experience where we found ourselves in the midst of a territorial dispute of three Wrynecks! They called loudly all around us and although this curious woodpecker was never more than glimpsed it was an emotive and memorable experience!

Blackcaps and a Garden Warbler were seen, and we all delighted in an unexpected group of Common Waxbills occupying a shady poolside area.

Moving on to the heath at Acebuche for our lunch, we enjoyed our picnic amongst showy Iberian Magpies. An inquisitive Eurasian Hoopoe joined us briefly and we noted Tree Sparrows occupying some of the nearby nest boxes.

We headed to the Visitor Centre where we enjoyed a coffee with the Iberian Pond Frogs! There was also chance for a little retail therapy for those that wished to partake in the excellent selection of literature and t-shirts available! We enjoyed a close look at a Red-rumped Swallow nest, as well as a White Stork – on the buildings.

We spent some time viewing from hides around the chalk pools, where we found Common and Red-crested Pochards, as well as Purple Heron and Western Swamphens. We again got views of Crested Tits, and spent some time tracking a very vocal Golden Oriole, enjoying its calls and song, but sadly it denied us a glimpse of its bright yellow plumage.

We made the most of the afternoon light to view back across western end of the Madre de las Marismas lagoon, enjoying the classic postcard views across the waters to the picturesque lakeside town. In front of us were squadrons of Common Coots and Black-winged Stilts, Common Redshank, Common Greenshank and Black-tailed Godwits. Iberian Yellow Wagtails flitted and fed on the wet grass in front of us, and the air was once again full of an amazing array of hirundines and swifts. A lone male Garganey drifted through the water.

After dinner, for those that wished (everybody!) we made a trip back into the heathland area at dusk. Standing silently by the track in the fading light, hands cupped to ears, we must have looked a strange bunch to casual observers! But our efforts were rewarded – as dark fell we finally heard, distant but unmistakable, the strange “kyotok-kyotok-kyotok” song of a Red-necked Nightjar.

Day 5

Thursday 2nd May

Already it was time to say goodbye to Doñana and head north to our second base. We made the journey at a leisurely pace, making sure there was chance to do some birding on the way.

A mid-morning stop at a service station at the gateway to Extremadura brought us an extraordinary crop of raptors. As well as Griffon Vultures, Black Kites, Short-toed and Booted Eagles, we also saw our first Cinereous Vulture, and watched a Common Buzzard carrying off a rabbit!

We made our lunch stop at Alange reservoir, home of Extremadura's largest Alpine Swift colony. Views of dozens of this enormous *Apus* swooping in and out of their nests were amazing! The Crag Martins that interspersed them only served to accentuate their size!

The crags next to the picnic area did not disappoint either, giving us views of Rock Bunting, Blue Rock Thrush and Black Wheatear, which we enjoyed over a slice or two of fresh *tortilla de patatas*, which Niki had brought from El Rocío. In the warm midday air, thermalling raptors included Griffon Vultures and Booted Eagles. We were thrilled to get a view of an adult Egyptian Vulture, and enjoyed watching two Marsh Harriers carrying out a "food pass" mating ritual. Gull-billed Terns bobbed over the reservoir.

On the rural roads close to our lodgings we made brief stops to enjoy a roadside European Bee-eater colony, and to revel in the cacophony of noise from an enormous Spanish Sparrow colony.

Eurasian Hoopoes, Corn Buntings and Iberian Magpies welcomed us to our new lodgings – the wonderful Viña las Torres, a huge rural house with expansive grounds, set in the wildlife-rich countryside of Extremadura. We were immediately greeted and shown to our rooms by Jesús and the team, then it was time for relaxing before welcome nibbles and drinks and a whole new range of local food to sample.

Day 6

Friday 3rd May

We awoke to Common Nightingale song – some a little earlier than they might have wished! After breakfast we headed out to explore the plains around Santa Marta de Magasca.

We made a stop at a high point where we were able to view out over a section of plain. Helpfully, Thekla and Crested Larks presented themselves side-by-side, allowing us to closely compare the ID features of these superficially similar larks. Flocks of Spanish Sparrows bathed in a nearby pond, several European Bee-eaters flitted around us. We got good views of three calling common Cuckoos perched nearby.

Calling Pin-tailed Sandgrouse beckoned us on to our next stop. Here we got exceptional views as several wheeled around us – thrilling!

And now the plains specialities began to reveal themselves in numbers! A group of ten Great Bustards showed well close by. Seven took to the air, a sight in itself to see the world's heaviest flying bird on the wing! Two males remained, one of whom foam-bathed vigorously and eventually seduced the lone female in the group.

A pair of Spanish Imperial Eagles were clearly nesting in a Eucalyptus tree, and we got great views of their comings and goings. We could just pick out several Black-bellied Sandgrouse on the shores of a nearby pool. And to cap it all, we found a Little Bustard right out in the open, clearly calling. We took time to enjoy the fizzing, buzzing and jangling of countless Calandra Larks and Corn Buntings.

We were impressed by the lush vegetation and colourful wildflowers of the plains, with Spanish Lavender attracting butterflies including Common Blue, Bath and Green-striped White. A Red-striped Oil Beetle impressed us with its size.

In the village of Santa Marta, we enjoyed a relaxed beer while watching the resident House Martins and a Goldfinch on a nest.

We journeyed on, past European Bee-eaters moving back into their sand-bank colonies, to explore another second section of the plains. Here, many nest boxes had been provided on telegraph pole alongside the road that stretched out across the plains. They were extremely busy, giving homes to Jackdaws, Lesser and Common Kestrels. But the stars amongst their occupants were undoubtedly several pairs of bright turquoise European Rollers.

Several Stone Curlews were discernible amongst the rocks, and at our lunch stop we caught up with more Calandra and Greater Short-toed Larks.

On the way home, we made a brief stop at the wooded river valley of the Rio Tamuja. Here we managed to pick up two Bonelli's Eagles and a Golden Eagle. A great way to end a superb day on the plains!

Day 7

Saturday 4th May

We started today with great views of everyone's favourite noisy Common Nightingale, perched right out on a treetop giving it large! It was soon forgiven for keeping everyone awake!

Then we headed out to the mountainous landscapes and precipitous valleys of Monfragüe National Park – arguably the jewel in Extremadura's crown.

As we arrived at the crags of the legendary Peña Falcon, there was still quite a chill in the air. Thermals were just beginning to form and we were treated to outstanding views of dozens of Griffon and Cinereous Vultures, leaving their roosts at the impressive colony, where hundreds of these birds breed. Many of the nests contained chicks, which looked like adorable miniature turkeys.

Black Storks flew around us as they visited their nests, showing well the iridescence of their plumage. We had fabulous views of an Egyptian Vulture and also a Golden Eagle, which landed well-concealed in a tree.

A flock of Rock Sparrows whizzed past down the canyon, and a male Blue rock Thrush showed exceptionally well, perched on a rock below us. A persistently singing Subalpine Warbler never revealed itself.

We made a coffee stop at Villareal de San Carlos at a café where we shared the area with several Barn Swallow nests, chicks clearly visible! Moving on through some heathland we enjoyed great views of Dartford Warblers and Thekla Larks.

At our lunch stop at Mirador de Tajadilla, the air was full of House Martins, interspersed with Crag Martins and Barn and Red-rumped Swallows. There were several pairs of vultures nesting on the cliffs opposite, including a pair of Egyptian Vultures. A Black-eared Wheatear put in an appearance, perched on a road sign!

Picnic today included the outstanding Gran Casar – this astonishingly tasty cheese is liquid at room temperature and is currently the holder of the title of the Best Cheese in the World!

At the crumpled, rocky outcrops of Portilla del Tíetar, we paused to enjoy another Egyptian Vulture on its nest, bright yellow face positively gleaming in the sun. We enjoyed yet more views of some of the day's star mountain birds.

And finally, two Spanish Imperial Eagles soared high over our heads and away over the hills. From a low point of under 300 remaining pairs in 2003, there are now over 500 pairs of this stunning raptor in Spain in Portugal, meaning it is no longer in immediate danger of extinction. What a privilege to see them, a moment which needed celebrating with an ice cream in a nearby cafe!

We returned thrilled to Viña las Torres to enjoy pre-dinner drinks and traditional cuisine, which today featured *migas*, a hearty shepherd's dish of tomatoes, black pudding, roasted peppers and slow-fried bread crumbs served together with a perfectly-fried egg – for which the area is well-known.

Day 8

Sunday 5th May

This morning we headed out to the plains around the village of Belén, where we stopped at a high point to view out over the sweeping landscape. Bustards were again in evidence, with a distant group of males just visible. Two Great Spotted Cuckoos flew by.

Moving on, we enjoyed the antics of Spanish Sparrows nesting in the base of a White Stork nest! A pair of adorable Little Owls sat out on a rock pile. Driving on, Niki heard a characteristic “trump” and we paused to search – Alex eventually picked out a calling Little Bustard, right out on some stones and we all got superb views as it threw its head back and emitted its calls.

Further on a single male Great Bustard loafed, apparently taking time out from his busy foam-bathing schedule!

With all these special plains birds in evidence, it was almost easy to ignore the constant White Storks, Black and Red Kites, Griffon and Cinereous Vultures throughout the landscape. Viewing from the highest point of the plain and turning 360°, we could see over a hundred raptors on the wing around us! Not to mention the continuous trills and jangles of countless larks and buntings.

The group relaxed with a cooling drink in a village while Niki and Alex went off to check something. They came back smug – the group was in for a treat! Approaching in complete silence and keeping their distance, the group

were thrilled to find themselves looking at a fluffy Long-eared Owl chick sat out on a branch! Another was in a nearby tree, and they both regarded the group unperturbed with their enormous orange eyes.

We headed back to take our picnic at Viña las Torres, under the shade of a lemon tree, from which our hostess Angeles produced delicious homemade lemonade for us all. Then there was time for relaxing and siesta-ing through the hottest part of the day.

Later in the afternoon we headed out to explore Trujillo, but not before another treat! The group had been given access to a private site, from where we could view a nest containing two Eagle Owl chicks! Again we maintained silence and distance for the complete non-disturbance of the birds, and enjoyed another two pairs of orange-red eyes staring out from the fluff!

Trujillo is a beautiful medieval town, famous for producing the Pizarro brothers, *conquistadores* extraordinaire. For birders however, it is probably best known for hosting one of the biggest Lesser Kestrel colonies in Europe, with numerous buildings around the town hosting over 50 pairs of this tiny migratory falcon. We visited the old industrial part of town, where many pairs had already returned to occupy the nest boxes provided for them there. We were able to enjoy the clean colours of the males and delicate speckling of the females, as well as superb views of glossy Spotless Starlings with beaks full of chick food.

We wandered up through the old town to the main square, from where the group were free to wander amongst the medieval streets, rooves bedecked with nesting White Storks. Relaxing with a drink in the main square we saw Black Kite, Booted Eagle and dozens of Lesser Kestrels overhead, appearing almost martin-like. The air was full of Common and Pallid Swifts, Barn Swallows and Crag Martins. After a stop at the cheese shop for local delicacies we headed back for our final delicious three-course meal at Viña las Torres.

But the day was not over! After dinner Niki and Alex invited the group to join them on a short jaunt to a nearby village. Here we were able to hear the delightful tooting of several Scops Owls! They fluttered briefly into view, meaning we had now seen four species of owl in one day!

Day 9

Monday 6th May

All too soon our last day was upon us, but thanks to the group's afternoon flight, we still had time for a little more local wildlife.

We headed up to the beautiful wooded hills nearby, where we found a cluster of Sawfly Orchids and several Champagne Orchids bejewelling the grass verge. Several Mistle Thrushes flew over and a Subalpine Warbler sang from cover.

We looked out over a wooded valley where the newly emerged leaves of the Downy Oak forest still held on to their reddish tinge in places.

Golden Orioles were calling, and to our delight we almost immediately found one, perched right out on a treetop not far away, shining out like a glowing yellow lightbulb. Woodlarks sang their sweet song all around us, and we could hear several more Golden Orioles in the canopy.

A Crested Tit showed briefly, a Great Spotted Woodpecker called and drummed, and several Rock Petronias could be seen zipping about.

Sadly though, it was soon time to go, and we headed back to our accommodation. We loaded up the buses and said our farewells to Jesús and the team at Viña las Torres, who had looked after us so well. With that it was homeward bound, taking lots of good memories away with us as we said goodbye at the airport.

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Species Lists

Birds (✓=recorded but not counted; H = heard only)

	Common name	Scientific name	April/May								
			28	29	30	1	2	3	4	5	6
1	Greylag Goose	<i>Anser anser</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
2	Common Shelduck	<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>		✓							
3	Gadwall	<i>Mareca strepera</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				
4	Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
5	Garganey	<i>Spatula querquedula</i>				1					
6	Red-crested Pochard	<i>Netta rufina</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				
7	Common Pochard	<i>Aythya ferina</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				
8	White-headed Duck	<i>Oxyura leucocephala</i>		✓							
9	Red-legged Partridge	<i>Alectoris rufa</i>			✓			✓		✓	
10	Common Quail	<i>Coturnix coturnix</i>						✓			
11	Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>		✓	✓	✓					
12	Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>			✓						
13	Black-necked Grebe	<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>		6							
14	Greater Flamingo	<i>Phoenicopterus roseus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				
15	Black Stork	<i>Ciconia nigra</i>			1		3	✓	6		
16	White Stork	<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
17	Glossy Ibis	<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				
18	Eurasian Spoonbill	<i>Platalea leucorodia</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				
19	Little Bittern	<i>Ixobrychus minutus</i>	3	✓	✓	✓	1				
20	Black-crowned Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>	1	✓	✓	✓					
21	Squacco Heron	<i>Ardeola ralloides</i>			✓						
22	Western Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓	✓
23	Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		2	2	✓
24	Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>	1	✓	✓	✓	✓				
25	Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>	✓		✓		✓				
26	Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				
27	Great Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>					✓				
28	Western Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>		2							
29	European Honey Buzzard	<i>Pernis apivorus</i>	1								

	Common name	Scientific name	April/May								
			28	29	30	1	2	3	4	5	6
30	Egyptian Vulture	<i>Neophron percnopterus</i>					1		6		
31	Griffon Vulture	<i>Gyps fulvus</i>		2	✓		✓	✓	200	✓	✓
32	Cinereous Vulture	<i>Aegypius monachus</i>					✓	✓	30	✓	
33	Short-toed Snake Eagle	<i>Circaetus gallicus</i>		2	✓	✓	3		✓	2	
34	Booted Eagle	<i>Hieraaetus pennatus</i>	1	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	1	✓
35	Spanish Imperial Eagle	<i>Aquila adalberti</i>			1			✓	2		
36	Golden Eagle	<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>						✓	1		
37	Bonelli's Eagle	<i>Aquila fasciata</i>						✓			
38	Western Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>				2	3		1	1	✓
39	Montagu's Harrier	<i>Circus pygargus</i>		2							
40	Red Kite	<i>Milvus milvus</i>	✓		1		1		1	2	✓
41	Black Kite	<i>Milvus migrans</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
42	Common Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
43	Great Bustard	<i>Otis tarda</i>						✓		1	
44	Little Bustard	<i>Tetrax tetrax</i>						✓		1	
45	Purple Swamphen	<i>Porphyrio porphyrio</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				
46	Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				
47	Red-knobbed Coot	<i>Fulica cristata</i>		3							
48	Eurasian Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				
49	Eurasian Stone-curlew	<i>Burhinus oedicephalus</i>						✓			
50	Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
51	Pied Avocet	<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>		✓	✓	✓					
52	Grey Plover	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>		✓							
53	Common Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>		✓							
54	Kentish Plover	<i>Charadrius alexandrinus</i>		✓							
55	Black-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa limosa</i>	✓			✓	✓				
56	Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>		2			1				
57	Common Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>		✓		✓					
58	Common Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>		✓		✓					
59	Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>	✓	✓			1		1		
60	Ruddy Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>		✓							
61	Sanderling	<i>Calidris alba</i>		✓							

	Common name	Scientific name	April/May									
			28	29	30	1	2	3	4	5	6	
62	Little Stint	<i>Calidris minuta</i>		✓								
63	Curler Sandpiper	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>		✓								
64	Dunlin	<i>Calidris alpina</i>		✓								
65	Collared Pratincole	<i>Glareola pratincola</i>	100+	✓								
66	Slender-billed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus genei</i>		✓								
67	Black-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>		✓				✓				
68	Yellow-legged Gull	<i>Larus michahellis</i>		✓								
69	Gull-billed Tern	<i>Gelochelidon nilotica</i>	✓					10+				
70	Little Tern	<i>Sternula albifrons</i>		✓								
71	Whiskered Tern	<i>Chlidonias hybrida</i>	✓									
72	Black Tern	<i>Chlidonias niger</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					
73	Pin-tailed Sandgrouse	<i>Pterocles alchata</i>							✓			
74	Black-bellied Sandgrouse	<i>Pterocles orientalis</i>							✓			
75	Rock Dove	<i>Columba livia</i>	✓	✓				✓		✓	✓	
76	Common Wood Pigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
77	European Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>			✓	✓		✓				
78	Eurasian Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
79	Common Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
80	Eurasian Eagle-owl	<i>Bubo bubo</i>									2	
81	Long-eared owl	<i>Asio otus</i>									2	
82	Tawny Owl	<i>Strix aluco</i>					✓					
83	Little Owl	<i>Athene noctua</i>			✓					1	3	
84	Scops Owl	<i>Otus scops</i>									2	
85	Red-necked Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus ruficollis</i>					1					
86	Alpine Swift	<i>Tachymarptis melba</i>						100+		6		
87	Common Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
88	Pallid Swift	<i>Apus pallidus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
89	European Roller	<i>Coracias garrulus</i>							10+			
90	European Bee-eater	<i>Merops apiaster</i>	✓	6+	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
91	Eurasian Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>	✓	1	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
92	Eurasian Wryneck	<i>Jynx torquilla</i>					4					
93	Great Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>					1					1

	Common name	Scientific name	April/May									
			28	29	30	1	2	3	4	5	6	
94	Iberian Green Woodpecker	<i>Picus sharpei</i>										1
95	Lesser Kestrel	<i>Falco naumanni</i>	✓	✓	✓			✓			20+	✓
96	Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	✓	✓			1	✓	✓			✓
97	Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>							2			
98	Iberian Grey Shrike	<i>Lanius meridionalis</i>				✓	1	✓	✓	✓		
99	Woodchat Shrike	<i>Lanius senator</i>		1	✓	✓	1	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
100	Eurasian Golden Oriole	<i>Oriolus oriolus</i>				✓		✓	✓	1		6+
101	Eurasian Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>					1		1			1
102	Iberian Magpie	<i>Cyanopica cooki</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
103	Eurasian Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
104	Western Jackdaw	<i>Coloeus monedula</i>					✓	✓			✓	
105	Northern Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>		1	2		10+	✓	20+	✓	✓	✓
106	European Crested Tit	<i>Lophophanes cristatus</i>				✓						1
107	Eurasian Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>				✓	✓		✓			✓
108	Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
109	Eurasian Penduline Tit	<i>Remiz pendulinus</i>	✓									
110	Woodlark	<i>Lullula arborea</i>				✓		✓	1			6+
111	Thekla Lark	<i>Galerida theklae</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
112	Crested Lark	<i>Galerida cristata</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
113	Greater Short-toed Lark	<i>Calandrella brachydactyla</i>			✓			✓				
114	Calandra Lark	<i>Melanocorypha calandra</i>						✓		✓		
115	Lesser Short-toed Lark	<i>Alaudala rufescens</i>		✓								
116	Sand Martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>	✓									
117	Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
118	Eurasian Crag Martin	<i>Ptyonoprogne rupestris</i>					✓	✓	✓	✓		
119	Common House Martin	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
120	Red-rumped Swallow	<i>Cecropis daurica</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
121	Cetti's Warbler	<i>Cettia cetti</i>	✓	✓		✓			1	1		
122	Long-tailed Tit	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>				✓	✓					✓
123	Willow Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>			✓							
124	Common Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>				✓						
125	Iberian Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus ibericus</i>				✓			1			

	Common name	Scientific name	April/May								
			28	29	30	1	2	3	4	5	6
126	Great Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus arundinaceus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				
127	Eurasian Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>	✓	✓			✓				
128	Melodious Warbler	<i>Hippolais polyglotta</i>				✓					
129	Savi's Warbler	<i>Locustella luscinioides</i>			✓						
130	Zitting Cisticola	<i>Cisticola juncidis</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓
131	Eurasian Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>				✓		✓	✓		
132	Garden Warbler	<i>Sylvia borin</i>				✓					
133	Dartford Warbler	<i>Sylvia undata</i>				✓			6+		
134	Subalpine Warbler	<i>Sylvia cantillans</i>		✓					1		2
135	Sardinian Warbler	<i>Sylvia melanocephala</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
136	Eurasian Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>				✓		✓	✓		✓
137	Eurasian Nuthatch	<i>Sitta europaea</i>									1
138	Short-toed Treecreeper	<i>Certhia brachydactyla</i>				✓					✓
139	Spotless Starling	<i>Sturnus unicolor</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
140	Common Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
141	Mistle Thrush	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>									6
142	Spotted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>	✓			✓					✓
143	European Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>									✓
144	Common Nightingale	<i>Luscinia megarhynchos</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
145	European Pied Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula hypoleuca</i>		✓		✓				✓	
146	Black Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>							1	✓	1
147	Common Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>			✓						
148	Blue Rock Thrush	<i>Monticola solitarius</i>					3		12+		
149	Whinchat	<i>Saxicola rubetra</i>			✓						
150	European Stonechat	<i>Saxicola rubicola</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
151	Black-eared Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe hispanica</i>							1		
152	Black Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe leucura</i>					1				
153	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
154	Spanish Sparrow	<i>Passer hispaniolensis</i>			✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	
155	Eurasian Tree Sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>				✓					
156	Rock Sparrow	<i>Petronia petronia</i>					2		✓		4+
157	Common Waxbill	<i>Estrilda astrild</i>		✓		✓					

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158	Spanish Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava iberiae</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
159	Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>						✓			
160	White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>					✓		✓	✓	✓
161	Common Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
162	Hawfinch	<i>Coccothraustes coccothraustes</i>				✓					4+
163	European Greenfinch	<i>Chloris chloris</i>		✓		✓		✓		✓	✓
164	Common Linnet	<i>Linaria cannabina</i>		✓				✓	✓	✓	✓
165	European Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
166	European Serin	<i>Serinus serinus</i>	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
167	Corn Bunting	<i>Emberiza calandra</i>			✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
168	Rock Bunting	<i>Emberiza cia</i>					1		2		

Mammals

1	Granada Hare	<i>Lepus granatensis</i>								✓	
2	European Rabbit	<i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i>			✓						
3	Red Deer	<i>Cervus elaphus elaphus</i>	✓		✓				✓		
4	Wild Boar	<i>Sus scrofa</i>			✓						
5	Soprano Pipistrelle	<i>Pipistrellus pygmaeus</i>							✓		
6	Common Genet poop	<i>Genetta genetta</i>				✓					

Reptiles & Amphibians

9	Iberian Pond Tortoise	<i>Mauremys leprosa</i>		✓		✓		✓			
10	Ibero-maghrebian Water snake	<i>Natrix astreptophora</i>	✓								
11	Moorish Watersnake	<i>Natrix maura</i>					✓				
12	Large Psammmodromus	<i>Psammmodromus algirus</i>				✓	✓	✓			
13	Moorish Gecko	<i>Tarentola mauritanica</i>				✓					
14	Iberian Wall Lizard	<i>Podarcis hispanica</i>				✓					
15	Iberian Pond Frog	<i>Rana iberica</i>				✓	✓	✓			

Other Taxa

16	Fiddler Crab spp	<i>Uca spp</i>		✓							
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	Common name	Scientific name	April/May								
			28	29	30	1	2	3	4	5	6

Butterflies & Moths

17	Spanish Festoon	<i>Zerynthia rumina</i>							✓		✓	
18	Common Swallowtail	<i>Papilio machaon</i>							✓			
19	Large White	<i>Pieris brassicae</i>	✓									
20	Small White	<i>Artogeia rapae</i>	✓						✓		✓	
21	Green-striped White	<i>Euchloe belemia</i>								✓		
22	Bath White	<i>Pontia daplidice</i>							✓		✓	
23	Marbled White	<i>Melanargia galathea</i>							✓		✓	
24	Orange Tip	<i>Anthocharis cardamines</i>							✓			
25	Clouded Yellow	<i>Colias crocea</i>	✓						✓			
26	Brimstone	<i>Gonepteryx rhamni</i>				✓						
27	Small Copper	<i>Lycaena phlaeas</i>	✓						✓		✓	
28	Brown Argus	<i>Aricia agestis</i>			✓				✓			
29	Red Admiral	<i>Vanessa atalanta</i>		✓							✓	
30	Painted Lady	<i>Vanessa cardui</i>			✓							
31	Small Heath	<i>Coenonympha pamphilus</i>								✓		
32	Wall Brown	<i>Lasiommata megera</i>								✓		
33	Meadow Brown	<i>Maniola jurtina</i>							✓			
34	Speckled Wood	<i>Pararge aegeria</i>				✓						
35	Marsh Fritillary	<i>Euphydryas aurinia</i>							✓		✓	
36	Queen of Spain Fritillary	<i>Issoria lathonia</i>									✓	
37	Silver-washed Fritillary	<i>Argynnis paphia</i>						✓	✓			
38	Small Skipper	<i>Thymelicus sylvestris</i>			✓							
39	Cream-spot Tiger	<i>Arctia villica</i>						✓			✓	
40	Garden Tiger	<i>Arctia caja</i>									✓	
41	Speckled Footman	<i>Coscinia cribraria</i>									✓	
42	A Geometrid moth	<i>Adactylotis gesticularia</i>									✓	
43	Hummingbird Hawkmoth	<i>Macroglossum stellatarum</i>						✓				

	Common name	Scientific name	April/May								
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Dragonflies

44	Red-veined Darter	<i>Sympetrum fonscolombii</i>				✓					
45	Scarlet Darter	<i>Crocothemis erythraea</i>				✓					
46	Red-striped Oil Beetle	<i>Berberomeloe majalis</i>						✓	✓		
47	Violet Carpenter Bee	<i>Xylocopa violacea</i>	✓				✓	✓	✓	✓	
48	a Longhorn Beetle	<i>Agapanthia irrorata</i>					✓				
49	Rhinoceros Beetle	<i>Oryctes rhinoceros</i>					✓				
50	Egyptian Locust	<i>Anacridium aegyptium</i>						✓	✓	✓	

Notable Plants

51	a parasitic plant	<i>Cytinus hypocistis</i>							✓		
52	Champagne Orchid	<i>Anacamptis morio</i> subsp. <i>champagneuxii</i>						✓			✓
53	Sawfly Orchid	<i>Ophrys tenthredinifera</i>									✓