

Wallcreepers & Cranes in Northern Spain

Naturetrek Tour Report

15 - 21 February 2017



Early morning Cranes at Gallocanta



Wallcreeper in Alquezar



Gallocanta Lake



Griffon Vulture portrait

Report and images by John Willsher



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Summary

This was an excellent two centre trip, first searching for Wallcreepers and Vultures in the Sierra Guara, part of the Spanish 'Prepireneos', and second watching European Cranes at their pre-Pyrenean stopover sites before embarking on their migration northwards from their wintering area in Extremadura. We had mostly good weather. Twice we had exceptionally close views of Wallcreeper inside the town of Alquezar. We enjoyed the scenic landscape of the Sierra Guara and watched wild Griffon Vultures eating from the hand of Manu, a dedicated vulture conservationist, at Santa Cilia. Fog on our transfer day made canyon searching difficult but we did manage to see one Black Wheatear, and as we arrived at Sotonera Reservoir for our picnic the fog cleared, encouraging many hundreds of Cranes to give us a flyby, taking off from this last stopover before their mountain crossing. At Gallocanta we watched 20,000+ Cranes leave their roost in the lake at sunrise and later watched them leave en masse, wave after wave, northwards. We then followed them for a few miles watching them again as they gained height to cross the pass to the north. Another early morning start on a remote hilltop brought us the unique sound of several Dupont's Larks singing just as it began to get light, with some of the group having a brief view of two of these elusive birds. On our last day, before our late afternoon flight, we visited the unique steppe landscape of the El Planeron reserve near Belchite where two groups of Black-bellied Sandgrouse were seen.

Day 1

Wednesday 15th February

Zaragoza to Alquezar

After a flight from the UK, we landed on time at Zaragoza in warm sunshine. We soon met up with Laura, got John's vehicle and were on our way. As we left the airport a fleeting glimpse of a Hoopoe hopefully was a sign of things to come. We made good progress north with several sightings of White Storks on the way, some already on their nests. As the light dimmed we turned off the motorway onto the winding road leading into the Guara region with its patchwork of small fields and Holm Oak scrub.

Reaching Alquezar, nestling in its gorge, everyone was impressed by its setting. We soon settled in to our luxury rooms before meeting and sampling the local Somantano wine. A short walk through the cobbled streets of this restored world heritage town brought us to the hotel restaurant where we enjoyed a delicious wholesome meal of local specialities, chickpea soup, baccalau and lamb.

Day 2

Thursday 16th February

Santa Cilia - Alquezar

After an early breakfast and a stop for picnic supplies in Adahuesca, where our first Crested Lark was seen, we headed west towards Santa Cilia. On the way Song Thrushes seemed to be the most common bird, but near our destination, two large flocks of Red-billed Choughs flew high overhead. As we approached Santa Cilia a flock of Goldfinches flew up from a weedy garden. We negotiated the narrow street and were met by our guides, Theresa and Manuel (Manu) Aguilera Sanz, of the Asociación Amigos del Vulture Fund. Manu is a dedicated raptor conservationist who has been operating a vulture feeding station at Santa Cilia for 30 years. He also advises vulture projects around the world. We followed him up above the village, parked our minibuses, and then walked

towards the feeding area through the aromatic maquis scrub of Rosemary, Juniper and Evergreen Oak. As we walked, two adult Golden Eagles obliged by flying right over our heads and Griffon Vultures were already gathering above us. We sat down on a bare rocky area with long distant views over the beautiful surrounding countryside. The vultures were now landing all around Manu, even before he had started distributing his wheelbarrow load of butcher's waste, so accustomed are they to this operation. We watched as Manu teased them with tasty morsels, some birds even taking food from his hand. Soon, however, our attention was diverted when two adult Bearded Vultures (Lammergeier) appeared, soaring above us. We watched them for several minutes before they drifted off. We were soon back close and personal with roughly 130 vultures as they vied with each other for the food and we watched in amazement as these large birds, only a few metres from us, devoured the scraps. Manu chatted and chided them, and fed special scraps to a favoured few who he may well have known since they were young. Once the meal was finished and things quietened down, we withdrew to 100 metres or so, hoping the Bearded Vultures would return, but no luck this time so we started back downhill towards our minibuses. As we walked, another Bearded Vulture, an immature bird, checked out the feeding area but did not land. We all then moved down to the village and to the old church where we watched a diorama with very realistic models explaining the part that vultures play in the ecology of the area.

We said goodbye to Manu and started our return, heading back to Morrano where we drove up the new track to the viewpoint overlooking the spectacular sandstone cliffs of El Huevo de Morrano. Here we ate our picnic in the sunshine looking at the cliffs. Goats were spotted, including a kid looking precarious half way up. A Peregrine was seen, and then later three birds were displaying together; one spectacularly diving down towards another. There were Griffon Vultures on the cliff, a ring-tail Hen Harrier was watched hunting over the scrub and some Crag Martins flew above. Picnic done, we then returned to Alquezar. Just before descending to the town, people in the rear bus had a brief view of an Alpine Accentor.

After returning to our hotel, most of the group set off through the town for a walk down into the Vero Gorge, however we did not get far down the street before our first Wallcreeper was seen, right above us, feeding and flicking its wings as it moved around on the wall of a house. We watched and followed it as it moved from house to house before it finally disappeared round a street corner. A brilliant view! We headed for the viewpoint overlooking the gorge where the high cliff wall was superbly lit by the evening sunshine. Here some large wallcreepers - rock climbers - were busy. Perhaps that was why the Wallcreeper was in the town; it was quieter there. We watched some Red-billed Choughs and searched for another Wallcreeper, but no success. Because of our delay in town we decided to postpone our full walk until tomorrow, so we continued past the ramparts of the Citadel, marvelling at its construction, to another viewpoint overlooking the main Vero Gorge. Here another rather distant Wallcreeper was watched as it searched the cracks and holes of the vertical limestone rock face. A pair of Red-billed Chough posed on the battlements above us, and later one bird was anxiously calling around the rock face as, we presumed, a climber was getting too close to her nesting hole.

Day 3

Friday 17th February

Alquezar - Vero Gorge – Mirador del Vero

Meeting at dawn on a clear cool morning, we walked through the town with Black Redstarts and House Sparrows busy on the roofs. At the promenade overlooking the Vero Gorge, we searched the spectacular cliff wall opposite with its numerous holes and caves. We watched a couple of Red-billed Choughs, heard Rock Sparrows and searched the large expanse of cliff. After some time a movement was spotted. It was a Wallcreeper

and we watched it as it worked its way across the cliff towards the town, eventually disappearing amongst the buildings. Walking under the walls of the Citadel to the east-facing wall, we got some warmth from the early morning sunshine as we listened to a Blackcap doing a warm up song. We then headed back for a delicious breakfast of tortilla, tomatoes in oil, toast, croissants and a variety of local jams, freshly squeezed orange juice, coffee and tea. However there was a bit of a delay because as we walked up the street near where we had watched the Wallcreeper last night, we saw something move and there it was again, up a side street, on a house wall in the full sunshine. We watched it for five minutes with brilliant views and great photographic opportunities before it flew off over the roof.

Later, on the way out, we stopped to admire the view of the town in the morning sunshine. There was a distant Red Kite against the snow-covered high mountains to the north and a Sardinian Warbler in bushes below. We headed first to Adahuesca for picnic supplies. As we restocked, some walked to the edge of the village seeing Woodlark, Greenfinch and Goldfinch. We continued on towards Colungo for an excursion, following the Vero northwards. First stop was the old Vero Bridge, which we admired and where we searched the river for Dipper. Although none were found, we saw a Short-toed Treecreeper. Through Colungo, our next stop was at Puente las Gargantas, a bridge high above a gorge and mostly comprised of conglomerate type rock. The gorge walls were dotted with the large base rosettes of Pyrenean Saxifrage (*Saxifraga longifolia*) which have dramatic plumes of tiny white flowers in the spring, and straggly tufts of a very local endemic plant *Petrocoptis guarensis*. Further north, at Mirador del Vero, a good viewpoint overlooking part of the Vero Gorge, the snow covered high Pyrenees to the north were spectacularly clear. On ledges, a few Griffon Vultures looked as though they were already on nests. As we watched, we suddenly heard the bugling of Cranes and high above us a large group of 400 or so Cranes were travelling northwards towards their mountain crossing. They were on the move. We hoped there would be some left at Gallocanta (we need not have worried).

We had our picnic in the deserted car park surrounded by maquis scrub, where numerous lovely small *Crocus nevadensis* were in bloom. We then turned back southwards a couple of miles and walked on a track in pine woods leading back to the gorge, to have a look at the cave paintings of El Tozal de Mallata. Another showy spring flower on the way was a prolific clump of the tiny dainty *Narcissus assoanus*. Because of milder winters, many pine trees had increased numbers of Pine Processionary Moth 'nests', to the detriment of the trees. We saw a procession of a line of caterpillars heading across a track and another group already burrowing their way into a hole where they would pupate.

After our return to our hotel, most of the group set off through the town and down the footpath for a walk in the gorge. This steep, stepped path makes for an intriguing walk, through a shady lush damp habitat with Song Thrush and Blackbirds feeding in the dense scrub on the way down. At the bottom we walked upstream a little and admired the vast cliffs and a large dramatic cave undercut in the cliff by the river. We continued downstream on the cliff-side walkway and were able to complete the circular walk which took us past the old hydro-electric plant and up through orchards until we reached the town promenade.

Later we enjoyed another splendid meal, including a delicious Paella. Paella has become a tradition on the last night in Alquezar!

Day 4

Saturday 18th February

Alquezar - Sierra de Tramaced - Sotonera - Gallocanta

After another splendid breakfast and our farewells to Gervasio, we were soon on our way. It was a clear morning with views of the snow-dusted Sierra de Guara and the distant high Pyrenees. We headed first towards Huesca then south through large areas of arable farmland towards the Sierra de Tramaced. Unfortunately, as we headed south it got more and more foggy, with the temperature dropping to three degrees. Luckily, by the time we reached the canyon it cleared a little, allowing us to see down to the bottom. A lot of birdsong could be heard from the base of the canyon, carried up through the mist; mostly Song Thrushes singing but also Dartford and Sardinian Warblers were heard. Eventually we found a single Black Wheatear perched on a rock which then flew, revealing its contrasting white tail. We watched it for some while through the gloom as it flew from boulder to boulder. Occasionally the mist cleared for a short time allowing us to see more of this rocky landscape. A Thekla Lark perching on a wire was heard singing and a Blue Rock Thrush perched on rocks at the mouth of a cave.

Retracing our route through the farmland back towards Huesca, we passed numerous singing Corn Buntings, had a couple of Red-legged Partridges scurry away across the fields, and saw several Common Buzzards perched beside the road. On the outskirts of Huesca we stopped for coffee, and then headed for Laguna de la Sotonera, where we arrived just in time to see many Cranes leaving now the fog was clearing, and heading north. From a viewpoint on a hillock we spotted a distant Great (White) Egret, Marsh Harrier and a flock of Lapwing. We ate our picnic in what was now warm sunshine. Our route then took us around the east side of the large and very full reservoir, where across a large expanse of still water we had distant views of several Great Crested Grebes, Little Grebes and two Black-necked Grebes.

We continued our journey around Zaragoza and southwards, with a stop at Carinena and then on through the ancient town of Daroca and over the Puerto de Santed pass to Gallocanta, where we could see several thousand Cranes congregating in the fields around the lake. We finally arrived at our hotel at Berruoco just after 6pm.

Day 5

Sunday 19th February

Gallocanta

We started out early, before dawn, on a chilly but dry morning. We picked up Laura and our guide Javier at Gallocanta then travelled around on the gravel tracks to get to a position at first light looking from the north-west end of the laguna, near Los Ojos observation point. We were soon in position overlooking the lake as the sky was lightening over the hills to the east. We could see and hear what appeared to be thousands and thousands of Cranes in groups in various regions of the shallow lake. We expected a lot based on last evening's sightings. There seemed incredible numbers and as groups began to take off and fly to fields nearer Gallocanta to our left and other places to our right, the sky was full of the sound and sight of Cranes. It seemed a long time before numbers lessened. Other early morning birds were Hen and Marsh Harriers, Corn Buntings and flocks of Linnets with Tree Sparrows. Once the Crane activity had reduced to a trickle, we started our return to Hotel Secaiza to warm up with a welcome breakfast, however we made quick stops to look at an Iberian Grey Shrike and Tree and Rock Sparrows on the roof of the Ermita.

After a leisurely breakfast we returned to Gallocanta to watch for Crane activity from the viewpoint at the edge of the village. It was bright sunshine, and with temperatures now on the rise, a few Cranes were already starting to rise, looking for a thermal to give them height to get over the pass to the north. Some were at the edges of the

shallow water in the middle of the lakebed, but most were very densely packed in fields bordering the lake. They soon began to rise en masse and travelled over our heads, gaining height and calling continuously. After a while we could see them massing to the north-west so we jumped into the vehicles and travelled towards Santed where we stopped at the bottom of the valley, overlooked by the ruined castle leading to the pass to the north-east, over which the Cranes had to travel. We watched in amazement as squadrons of thousands of Cranes accompanied by fifty or so White Storks soared over our heads towards the pass.

When the Cranes had finished passing over, we travelled around the north-west side of the lake, through Las Cuelas, and stopped in Bello for coffee. We then explored an area near Blancas, a very stony, desolate, marginally farmed landscape, where Javier had recently seen Black-bellied Sandgrouse. We saw Red Kite, Griffon Vulture, Iberian Grey Shrike and Mistle Thrush, but unfortunately no sandgrouse. Back around the west side of lake, there were many Calandra Larks, Skylarks, Lapwing and Golden Plover. We watched Cranes coming in but there seemed smaller numbers compared to last night.

Day 6

Monday 20th February

Gallocanta

We had another pre-dawn start and some of the group travelled about 20 kilometres to a hilltop to listen for Dupont's Lark. We arrived while it was still dark and cold with overcast sky, parked on the roadside and listened. Immediately we could hear the distinctive song of several Dupont's Larks. From the vehicle we tried to guess the direction of the sound but it was not easy trying to determine how far away the birds were and whether they were singing from the ground or in the sky. As it got lighter we walked along the road trying to get a glimpse of the birds in the low 'paramo' habitat either side of the road. Two members of the group saw two birds, but they soon disappeared from view. We spent a long time searching, hearing probably ten birds or so. It was now getting lighter and the songs began to diminish. Satisfied that we had all at least heard several examples of this strange song, we returned for a welcome breakfast and warm up.

After breakfast we walked along a footpath leading from Berrueco to Gallocanta. It was a nice walk through the typical evergreen oak-dominated Mediterranean-type landscape that covers the hills surrounding the lake. The weather was good with just a little bit of wind. We spotted Chaffinch, Cirl Bunting, Woodlark and Rock Bunting. As we approached Gallocanta, the sun finally burnt off the low cloud and the temperature was soon on the rise. It was not long before Cranes were calling from the fields near the lake and these, plus many others still roosting in the lake and from the south-east end, all started to take flight: first small groups, then more en masse. They all began circling over the village and our heads and when high enough, drifted off towards Santed, where we had watched them yesterday. We had thought last night that not many were left after yesterday's mass departure, but this morning seemed a bonus as we had another brilliant fly past. We had timed our arrival spot on time!

We arrived at Albergue Allucant at Gallocanta where we enjoyed a drink and the opportunity to buy postcards, Crane books and special Crane-decorated chocolate from Javier. Just down towards the lake, the visitor centre was open so the group explored that as the picnic was set up in the sunshine back at the auberge. It included an excellent quiche made by Javier's cook and excellent Crane wine for the non drivers! It was all consumed to the sound of a few last groups of Cranes and the chattering of House Sparrows in the hedge behind us.

Lunch finished, we set off for a last explore around the far side of the lake, this time in an anticlockwise direction. We stopped at the ermita (chapel) at the highest point overlooking Gallocanta at the north-west end of the lake. On a small amount of water below, Mallard and a group of Wigeon could be seen. Across the fields a male Hen Harrier was watched as it hunted along a ditch, but then it dropped down and we lost it. More Cranes were continually arriving high above us from the south-west, drifting along the lake and dropping down at the south-east end. We carried on and watched another male Hen Harrier, maybe the same one as before, then as we watched a Golden Eagle was discovered soaring in the distance. We carried on round the lake searching the large arable fields, hoping to find the elusive Great Bustard. No luck, but we did see the group of Lapwings and Golden Plover we had seen yesterday, and as we approached the Bello end we started seeing a lot of Cranes in the fields, some quite near. Time was now getting on so we made our way around to the last fields before returning to the road. In a field not far from the track a lone bird was feeding. It was nearly dismissed as a feral pigeon. A good job we checked it as it was a Black-bellied Sandgrouse, most uncharacteristically quite unperturbed by our presence. Two more were spotted on the far side of the field but the first bird allowed us to get out of the vehicles and watch it: very unusual behaviour but it seemed quite healthy. It was a good bird to finish our afternoon.

Day 7

Tuesday 21st February

Gallocanta - Belchite - El Planeron - Zarogaza

Today we left Gallocanta about 9.30am, after picking up our sandwiches made for us by Javier's staff at Allucant. It was frosty with fog around the lake and we could only hear the Cranes this morning. As we climbed to the pass over the hills leading to Daroca, the fog cleared and we had bright sunshine for most of the way around the old town of Daroca and then on to Carinena, from where we travelled east through the extensive vineyards towards Belchite. Here we stopped for a quick look at the ruins of the old town destroyed in the Spanish Civil War and left as a poignant memorial.

Just down the road we had a coffee stop then continued east beyond Coda, where we turned off the road onto gravel tracks for an exploration of El Planeron. This is a unique steppe habitat protected as a reserve for the many specialist species living there. Just as we started down the track, two groups of Black-bellied Sandgrouse flew past us. We stopped and after listening to a singing Lesser short-toed Lark, we walked along a path through an area favoured by Dupont's Lark, hoping we might hear or hopefully glimpse a bird, but all was quiet. Moving on to a spot near a seasonal pond, we ate our sandwiches looking across this unique landscape with the multicoloured gypsum escarpment in the distance.

But it was time to head for the airport, so we headed back to the road and made our way through the gypsum steppes and hills towards Zaragoza and our flight home. As always, the enthusiasm of the group contributed enormously to the success and enjoyment of the trip.

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Species Lists

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

	Common name	Scientific name	February						
			15	16	17	18	19	20	21
1	Common Shelduck	<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>					✓	✓	
2	Eurasian Wigeon	<i>Anas penelope</i>						30	
3	Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>				✓	✓	✓	
4	Eurasian Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>					✓		
5	Common Pochard	<i>Aythya ferina</i>						1	
6	Red-legged Partridge	<i>Alectoris rufa</i>				4		2	6
7	Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>				1			
8	Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>				✓			
9	Black-necked Grebe	<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>				2			
10	White Stork	<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>	20			✓	50		
11	Western Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>	6			✓			
12	Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	1			✓			1
13	Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>				3			
14	Great Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>	2			2	1		
15	Bearded Vulture	<i>Gypaetus barbatus</i>		6					
16	Griffon Vulture	<i>Gyps fulvus</i>		250	✓		12		1
17	Golden Eagle	<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>		2				1	1
18	Eurasian Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>		1					
19	Western Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>				2	1	1	
20	Hen Harrier	<i>Circus cyaneus</i>		1			2	3	
21	Red Kite	<i>Milvus milvus</i>			2	3	5	3	1
22	Common Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>		2	1	✓			✓
23	Common Crane	<i>Grus grus</i>			400	1000s	20-30,000	6000	✓
24	Northern Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>				✓	✓	✓	
25	European Golden Plover	<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>					20	17	
26	Common Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>					5		
27	Green Sandpiper	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>				2			
28	Black-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>				6			✓
29	Yellow-legged Gull	<i>Larus michahellis</i>				3			
30	Black-bellied Sandgrouse	<i>Pterocles orientalis</i>					3		20
31	Rock Dove	<i>Columba livia</i>		✓	✓	✓			✓
32	Stock Dove	<i>Columba oenas</i>							
33	Common Wood Pigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	1		1	✓	✓	✓	
34	Eurasian Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
35	Little Owl	<i>Athene noctua</i>				2		1	
36	Eurasian Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>	1			1			
37	Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	1	1	1	✓	✓		✓
38	Merlin	<i>Falco columbarius</i>					1		
39	Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>		4					
40	Southern Grey Shrike	<i>Lanius meridionalis</i>					2		
41	Eurasian Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓
42	Red-billed Chough	<i>Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax</i>		200	2		2		
43	Western Jackdaw	<i>Coloeus monedula</i>				200	✓	✓	✓
44	Carrion Crow	<i>Corvus corone</i>		1		✓	✓	✓	✓
45	Northern Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>		✓	6	1		H	
46	Eurasian Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>		✓	✓		1		

	Common name	Scientific name	February							
			15	16	17	18	19	20	21	
47	Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>		✓	✓			1	1	
48	Woodlark	<i>Lullula arborea</i>		1	1	1		H	✓	
49	Eurasian Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>						✓	✓	
50	Crested Lark	<i>Galerida cristata</i>		1		✓		✓	✓	✓
51	Calandra Lark	<i>Melanocorypha calandra</i>				✓		✓		✓
52	Dupont's Lark	<i>Chersophilus duponti</i>							2+8H	
53	Lesser Short-toed Lark	<i>Alaudala rufescens</i>								1
54	Eurasian Crag Martin	<i>Ptyonoprogne rupestris</i>		✓	6					
55	Common Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>								1
56	Eurasian Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>		✓	✓	✓				
57	Dartford Warbler	<i>Sylvia undata</i>		H			H			
58	Sardinian Warbler	<i>Sylvia melanocephala</i>		3	1		H			
59	Wallcreeper	<i>Tichodroma muraria</i>		2	2					
60	Short-toed Treecreeper	<i>Certhia brachydactyla</i>			1					
61	Spotless Starling	<i>Sturnus unicolor</i>		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
62	Common Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	
63	Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
64	Mistle Thrush	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>						✓		
65	European Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>		1	1	✓				
66	Black Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>		2	2	✓		2	✓	✓
67	Blue Rock Thrush	<i>Monticola solitarius</i>		1		1				
68	European Stonechat	<i>Saxicola rubicola</i>				✓		4	✓	✓
69	Black Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe leucura</i>				1				
70	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>		✓	✓	✓			✓	
71	Eurasian Tree Sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>						✓	✓	
72	Rock Sparrow	<i>Petronia petronia</i>			3			✓		
73	Alpine Accentor	<i>Prunella collaris</i>		1						
74	White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>			1	✓		✓		
75	Meadow Pipit	<i>Anthus pratensis</i>				1		✓	✓	✓
76	Common Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	
77	European Greenfinch	<i>Chloris chloris</i>			1			2		
78	Common Linnet	<i>Linaria cannabina</i>				✓		✓	✓	✓
79	European Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>		20	✓	✓		✓	✓	
80	European Serin	<i>Serinus serinus</i>			4	3			✓	✓
81	Corn Bunting	<i>Emberiza calandra</i>		1		✓		✓	✓	
82	Rock Bunting	<i>Emberiza cia</i>							2	
83	Cirl Bunting	<i>Emberiza cirlus</i>						✓	✓	

Butterflies and Moths

1	Speckled Wood	<i>Pararge aegeria</i>			1				
2	Clouded Yellow	<i>Colias croceus</i>		1	1				
3	Small Tortoiseshell	<i>Aglais urticae</i>		1					
4	Queen of Spain Fritillary	<i>Issoria lathonia</i>					1		
5	Brimstone	<i>Gonepteryx rhamni</i>			1				
6	Humming-bird Hawk-moth	<i>Macroglossum stellatarum</i>		1		1			
7	Pine Processionary Moth	<i>Thaumetopoea pityocampa</i>			✓				

Mammals

1	Roe Deer	<i>Capreolus capreolus</i>					11		
2	European Rabbit	<i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i>							1

	Common name	Scientific name	February							
			15	16	17	18	19	20	21	
3	European Hare	<i>Lepus europaeus</i>							1	

Reptiles

1	Wall Lizard	<i>Podarcis muralis</i>			1				
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Other insects

1	Egyptian Grasshopper	<i>Anacridium aegyptium</i>				1			
2	2-spot Ladybird	<i>Adalia 2-punctata</i>			1	1			
3	7-spot Ladybird	<i>Coccinella 7-punctata</i>				✓			

Plants

1	Rush-leaf Jonquil	<i>Narcissus assoanus</i>			✓				
2		<i>Crocus nevensis</i>			✓				

Naturetrek Facebook

We are delighted to launch the Naturetrek Facebook page so that participants of Naturetrek tours can remain in touch after the holiday and share photos, comments and future travel plans.

Setting up a personal profile at www.facebook.com is quick, free and easy. The [Naturetrek Facebook page](#) is now live; do please pay us a visit!



Golden Eagle at Santa Cilia



Wallcreeper in Alquezar