

Go Slow in Extremadura

Naturetrek Tour Report

14th – 21st April 2026



Bee-eater



Cinereous Vulture



Griffon Vulture



Black Kites

Tour report by Keith Hamilton
Photos by Alan Jones



Naturetrek Mingledown Barn Wolf's Lane Chawton Alton Hampshire GU34 3HJ UK

T: +44 (0)1962 733051

E: info@naturetrek.co.uk

W: www.naturetrek.co.uk

Tour participants: Keith Hamilton and Sonia Alis (leaders) with eight Naturetrek clients

Summary

A week of good weather was forecast for this tour, and sure enough the sun shone and temperatures were around 25°C all week. Our group of eight clients got to enjoy some great birds, together with butterflies and other interesting flora and fauna, all in the splendid springtime flush of new growth. Highlights of this tour were fabulous views of Black-winged Kite, Little and Great Bustards, lots of Collared Pratincoles, fabulous views of Montagu's Harriers, a wonderful day out in Monfragüe, and not forgetting of course the spectacle of the vulture hide

Day 1

Tuesday 14th April

Transfer day

The Air Europa flight from Gatwick landed early, which gave us a great start to this, the first Go Slow in Extremadura tour of the year. After an uneventful drive west and then south to Almoharin, we arrived in good time for supper at 7.30pm. We had a briefing for the week to come, and retired to bed a little tired, with anticipation for the following morning.

Day 2

Wednesday 15th April

Arrocampo/Trujillo

We woke to a wonderful sunny morning filled with birdsong, and after a wonderful Las Amarillas breakfast, we headed towards the Arrocampo wetlands. As soon as we were out of the van we could hear Savi's and Common Reed Warblers; luckily, we could get the telescope on both of them for great views. A female Little Bittern flew in front of us and perched, and two males flew across the reed bed. There were a large number of hirundines hawking over the water, and Water Rail could be heard calling.

It was coffee time, so we went to a local bar before heading back out on to the reed bed. A colony of Purple Heron was busy at their nest sites, together with a couple of Gull-billed Terns flying. We had time just before lunch to go and see if we could find any Black-winged Kites, but unfortunately none was showing today: but we did get great views of a stunning immature Spanish Imperial Eagle.

Because we had not had time to collect our picnic, we had sandwiches in a bar before going to a site to see some orchids; unfortunately, some of the earlier-flowering orchids had gone over, but at least four species were seen. Slowly heading back towards the hotel, we called in at Trujillo and while we stocked up on picnic produce, the group had an hour to walk around the town. The day was passing us by, so we continued to the hotel, where European Bee-eaters were hawking.

Day 3

Thursday 16th April

Monfragüe National Park

Our day in Monfragüe is always greatly anticipated, and thankfully another beautiful Spanish morning greeted us. After a slightly earlier breakfast, we headed north towards Monfragüe, stopping off at Trujillo to view the Lesser Kestrel colony and to collect some freshly baked bread. On the road north, we picked up the usual suspects, such as Iberian Magpies, Hoopoe, Bee-eaters and lots of Black Kites.

After filling up with fuel, our first stop was just before Salto de Gitano, where there was a Western Orphean Warbler singing and Woodlark: a good start to our birding day. At Salto de Gitano, Peregrine, Rock Bunting, Black Stork, Blue Rock Thrush and Red-rumped Swallows all showed well, of course with the supporting cast of around sixty vultures, including Egyptian, which was new for the trip.

We then went up to Villarreal de San Carlos for a quick break, after which we viewed some scrub and saw Western Subalpine Warbler, Iberian Grey Shrike and a distant Bonelli's Eagle. At La Tajadilla it was time for lunch, and we prepared the daily picnic while watching the birds. A Great Spotted Woodpecker came in very close, and four Egyptian Vultures were on the opposite crag. We carried on further, but were unable to see anything new, although on our return a fabulous Western Black-eared Wheatear perched in a tree close by. It had been an epic day, but now it was time to head back to the hotel

Day 4

Friday 17th April

Campo Lugar/Alcollarín

After a rather longer day yesterday, we would not be travelling far today. We were expecting temperatures in the high twenties so we planned to return early to the hotel. Following breakfast and a brief stop at the supermarket, we travelled around thirty minutes to Campo Lugar; I had been watching a particular field for a few weeks, and it did not disappoint us. Straight out of the van, we could hear a Little Bustard displaying, and sure enough we found him up on a rock in full display. A Great Bustard was walking through the bottom of the field, while Rollers were interacting with the Lesser Kestrels, competing for the best nest boxes. We were just preparing to leave when a female Montagu's Harrier floated down the field, followed shortly afterwards by a stunning male.

Coffee time was quickly approaching, but before that we went to look for Black-winged Kites. On the way there, we picked up on a relatively close Short-toed Snake Eagle, after which we stopped by a small pond where there were Common Reed and Savi's Warblers singing. Time was moving on, so we moved on a little further, and sure enough a male Black-winged Kite gave us some fabulous views, hovering directly in front of us.

After coffee we headed towards Alcollarín and on the way saw Greater Short-toed Lark, Spoonbill and a nice surprise of around fifteen Wood Sandpipers. This was turning into a great day, but by now we were getting at least a little hungry. The picnic was at Alcollarín reservoir, and while we prepared it the group had some free time to explore the area. We arrived back at the hotel just after 4.00pm, allowing time for a rest in the idyllic surroundings of Finca Las Amarillas before supper.

Day 5

Saturday 18th April

Santa Marta de Magasca/Llanos de Cáceres vulture hide.

Today we would be visiting Los Ceralbos near Santa Marta de Magasca, the Llanos de Cáceres and the vulture feeding hide. Our day started once again with bright sunshine and warmth. Having taken a slightly different route north via Ruanes, we arrived at Santa Marta de Magasca just after 9.00am, and just as we got out of the van, there were seven Great Bustards, including a partially-displaying male. A Little Bustard was displaying relatively close by, and after around ten minutes we heard our first Pin-tailed Sandgrouse of the trip; they were a little hard to track down, but after a few minutes, some dropped on to a patch of bare earth.

To the north-east, two Spanish Imperial Eagles were perched in a tree, but were fairly distant. Further on, there were more Pin-tailed Sandgrouse, two Little Bustards gave us some great flight views, and Calandra Larks were singing everywhere. With coffee time approaching, we went to the village of Santa Marta de Magasca. On the way there, a surprise Wryneck was spotted on a post!

Suitably refreshed, we continued towards Cáceres, where there was a great opportunity for photographing Roller and Little Owl. The hide was booked for 12.30pm, and we arrived just in time. While we prepared the picnic, the group got to sit in comfort and watch the spectacle of not only many Black Kites enjoying the feast, but around sixty vultures. The show lasted for about an hour, and then, fully fuelled up with picnic, we slowly worked our way back to the hotel, arriving just before 5.30pm, giving plenty of time to relax before dinner.

Day 6

Sunday 19th April

Medellín/Alange

We had another more casual day today. After breakfast we headed south-east to the town which is the birthplace of Hernan Cortez: Medellín. We called in along the way at Santa Amalia to pick up some fresh bread and cakes, and arrived at Medellín a little before 10.00am. First, we walked onto the bridge to view down below: we could hear a number of Golden Orioles calling, but they were reluctant to show. Only one female gave herself up in the cover of the Eucalyptus. There were a few Purple Swamphens in the reedbed, and a Common Reed Warbler was singing. The Pallid Swifts (which are always good here) darted back and forth under the bridge. Surprisingly, a young Night Heron gave us a fly-by.

The coffee shop on the corner was becoming increasingly inviting, so we called in for our regular pick-me-up. After the break, we walked along the river bank. Nightingales and Common Reed Warblers were constantly singing, but it was getting a little warm. We made the picnic by the riverbank; it is a wonderful site for lunch while watching the sights of the River Guadiana.

After lunch, we moved to Alange, where a Black Wheatear showed really well and a Western Subalpine Warbler flitted through the bushes in the car park. This site is well known for Alpine Swifts, and it did not disappoint us, with swifts over the dam and the crag. We left at 3.00pm and were back at the hotel by 4.00pm.

Day 7

Monday 20th April

Campo Lugar / rice fields

Our last full day beckoned, and we opted for a trip to the rice fields, preceded by another visit to Campo Lugar. After a leisurely breakfast, we took the road north and arrived just before 10.00am. We started scanning the fields and could see quite a few Lesser Kestrels and the Rollers on the power lines. We spotted a Great Bustard in a field on the left, then had an even better view on the right, where a Short-toed Snake Eagle flew off a pylon. A few hundred metres down the road, we spotted another six Great Bustards (four males and two females), and after a little patient waiting, two of the males were seen in partial display mode, which was good to watch.

Down at the rice fields, all of the paddies had dried out, so there were few waders: the best were around forty Collared Pratincoles which gave us a good show, landing in the field next to the road. Opting for a slightly earlier lunch than usual, we were able to return to the comfort of the hotel to relax before the last evening meal of the trip.

Day 8

Tuesday 21st April

Transfer day

The return transfer day is always a little subdued. We had breakfast at 7.30am, said our goodbyes to Iva and Paul, our fabulous hosts, at 8.15am, and started the journey back to Madrid. It was a cloudier day today, but still very pleasant. There were minimal delays, and we arrived at Madrid in good time for the flight home, which marked the end of a great week, in good company and featuring some fabulous birds.

Receive our e-newsletter

Join the Naturetrek email list and be the first to hear about new tours, additional departures and new dates, tour reports and special offers.

naturetrek.co.uk/e-newsletter-signup

Scan to
sign up!



Social Media

We're social! Follow us on Instagram, Facebook, Bluesky and X and be the first to hear about the launch of new tours, offers, exciting sightings and photos from our recently returned holidays.



[instagram.com/naturetrek_wildlife_holidays](https://www.instagram.com/naturetrek_wildlife_holidays)



[facebook.com/naturetrekwildlifeholidays](https://www.facebook.com/naturetrekwildlifeholidays)



naturetrek.bsky.social



x.com/naturetrektours (formerly Twitter)

Species lists

Birds (H=heard only)

N=Near-endemic, I=Introduced	Common name	Scientific name	April 2026						
			14	15	16	17	18	19	20
	Egyptian Goose - I	<i>Alopochen aegyptiaca</i>				✓			
	Northern Shoveler	<i>Spatula clypeata</i>				✓			
	Gadwall	<i>Mareca strepera</i>						✓	
	Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Ferruginous Duck	<i>Aythya nyroca</i>		✓					
	Red-legged Partridge	<i>Alectoris rufa</i>			✓		✓		
	Alpine Swift	<i>Tachymarptis melba</i>						✓	
	Common Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>		✓				✓	
	Pallid Swift	<i>Apus pallidus</i>		✓				✓	
	Great Bustard	<i>Otis tarda</i>				✓	✓		✓
	Little Bustard	<i>Tetrax tetrax</i>				✓	✓		
	Common Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>		H	H	H	✓	H	
	Pin-tailed Sandgrouse	<i>Pterocles alchata</i>					✓		
	Rock Dove	<i>Columba livia</i>			✓				
	Common Wood Pigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Eurasian Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Water Rail	<i>Rallus aquaticus</i>		H					
	Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>		✓		✓		✓	✓
	Eurasian Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>				✓			
	Western Swamphen	<i>Porphyrio porphyrio</i>						✓	
	Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>		✓		✓		✓	
	Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>				✓		✓	
	Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>				✓			
	Little Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>				✓	✓		
	Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>		✓		✓		✓	
	Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>				✓			
	Collared Pratincole	<i>Glareola pratincola</i>							✓
	Gull-billed Tern	<i>Gelochelidon nilotica</i>		✓				✓	
	Black Stork	<i>Ciconia nigra</i>			✓		✓		
	White Stork	<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Great Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>		✓	✓	✓		✓	
	Glossy Ibis	<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>						✓	
	Eurasian Spoonbill	<i>Platalea leucorodia</i>				✓			
	Little Bittern	<i>Botaurus minutus</i>		✓					
	Black-crowned Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>						✓	
	Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>		✓		✓		✓	✓
	Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>		✓		✓			
	Western Cattle Egret	<i>Ardea ibis</i>		✓	✓	✓		✓	
	Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>		✓	✓	✓		✓	
	Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>		✓		✓		✓	
	Black-winged Kite	<i>Elanus caeruleus</i>				✓			
	Egyptian Vulture	<i>Neophron percnopterus</i>			✓				
	Cinereous Vulture	<i>Aegyptius monachus</i>		✓	✓		✓	✓	
	Griffon Vulture	<i>Gyps fulvus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Short-toed Snake Eagle	<i>Circaetus gallicus</i>			✓	✓	✓		✓

N=Near-endemic, I=Introduced	Common name	Scientific name	April 2026							
			14	15	16	17	18	19	20	
	Booted Eagle	<i>Hieraaetus pennatus</i>		✓	✓			✓		
	Spanish Imperial Eagle - N	<i>Aquila adalberti</i>		✓				✓		
	Bonelli's Eagle	<i>Aquila fasciata</i>			✓					
	Montagu's Harrier	<i>Circus pygargus</i>			✓	✓	✓			
	Western Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>		✓		✓				✓
	Red Kite	<i>Milvus milvus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓			
	Black Kite	<i>Milvus migrans</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Common Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓			
	Little Owl	<i>Athene noctua</i>			✓			✓		
	Eurasian Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	European Roller	<i>Coracias garrulus</i>				✓	✓			✓
	Common Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>			✓			✓	✓	
	European Bee-eater	<i>Merops apiaster</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Eurasian Wryneck	<i>Jynx torquilla</i>						✓		
	Great Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>			✓					
	Lesser Kestrel	<i>Falco naumanni</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>			✓					
	Eurasian Golden Oriole	<i>Oriolus oriolus</i>							H	
	Iberian Grey Shrike	<i>Lanius meridionalis</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓			
	Woodchat Shrike	<i>Lanius senator</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Iberian Magpie - N	<i>Cyanopica cooki</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Eurasian Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Western Jackdaw	<i>Coloeus monedula</i>		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
	Northern Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Eurasian Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
	Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
	Woodlark	<i>Lullula arborea</i>			H					
	Crested Lark	<i>Galerida cristata</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Greater Short-toed Lark	<i>Calandrella brachydactyla</i>				✓				
	Calandra Lark	<i>Melanocorypha calandra</i>				✓	✓			✓
	Sand Martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>		✓						
	Eurasian Crag Martin	<i>Ptyonoprogne rupestris</i>			✓			✓	✓	
	Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Western House Martin	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	European Red-rumped Swallow	<i>Cecropis rufula</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Cetti's Warbler	<i>Cettia cetti</i>		✓		H		H	✓	
	Long-tailed Tit	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>			✓					
	Common Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>		H						
	Common Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>		✓		✓		✓	✓	
	Savi's Warbler	<i>Locustella luscinioides</i>		✓		✓				
	Zitting Cisticola	<i>Cisticola juncidis</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Western Orphean Warbler	<i>Curruca hortensis</i>								
	Sardinian Warbler	<i>Curruca melanocephala</i>		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
	Western Subalpine Warbler	<i>Curruca iberiae</i>			✓			✓		
	Eurasian Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>			✓					
	Spotless Starling	<i>Sturnus unicolor</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Mistle Thrush	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>			✓					
	Common Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

N=Near-endemic, I=Introduced		April 2026						
Common name	Scientific name	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Common Nightingale	<i>Luscinia megarhynchos</i>		H	H	H	H	✓	H
Black Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>			✓				
Blue Rock Thrush	<i>Monticola solitarius</i>			✓		✓		
European Stonechat	<i>Saxicola rubicola</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Western Black-eared Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe hispanica</i>			✓				
Black Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe leucura</i>						✓	
Eurasian Tree Sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>						✓	✓
Spanish Sparrow	<i>Passer hispaniolensis</i>				✓	✓		
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Common Waxbill - I	<i>Estrilda astrild</i>		✓				✓	
Western Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava</i>				✓	✓		
Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>					✓		
White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Eurasian Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
European Greenfinch	<i>Chloris chloris</i>			✓		✓	✓	
European Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
European Serin	<i>Serinus serinus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Corn Bunting	<i>Emberiza calandra</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Rock Bunting	<i>Emberiza cia</i>			✓				
Cirl Bunting	<i>Emberiza cirlus</i>					H		✓

Mammals

		April 2026						
Common name	Scientific name	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Red Deer	<i>Cervus elaphus</i>		✓					
Granada Hare - N	<i>Lepus granatensis</i>					✓		
Red Fox	<i>Vulpes vulpes</i>					✓		

Amphibians & reptiles

		April 2026						
Common name	Scientific name	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Iberian Water Frog - N	<i>Rana iberica</i>							✓
Spanish Pond Turtle	<i>Mauremys leprosa</i>					✓		
Red-eared Slider	<i>Trachemys scripta elegans</i>						✓	

Butterflies

		April 2026						
Common name	Scientific name	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Spanish Festoon	<i>Zerynthia rumina</i>		✓					
Red-underwing Skipper	<i>Spialia sertorius</i>							✓
Cleopatra	<i>Gonepteryx cleopatra</i>		✓					
Clouded Yellow	<i>Colias croceus</i>		✓					
Green-striped White	<i>Euchloe belemia</i>				✓			
Common Orange-tip	<i>Anthocharis cardamines</i>		✓					
Black-eyed Blue	<i>Glaucopsyche melanops</i>					✓		

Common name	Scientific name	April 2026						
		14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Southern Brown Argus	<i>Aricia cramera</i>					✓		
Painted Lady	<i>Vanessa cardui</i>				✓			
Small Heath	<i>Coenonympha pamphilus</i>		✓	✓	✓			
Speckled Wood	<i>Pararge aegeria</i>			✓				
a marbled white	<i>Melanargia</i> sp.					✓		