

Spain: Birding & Nature Species List | April 18 – May 1, 2025 with Naturalist Journeys



Compiled by guide Carlos Sanchez, with local guides (Manuel Morales, Vicente Malagon) and nine participants: Heike, Rochus, Marjorie, Mike, Terri, Lenore, Harold, Stewart, and Debbie.

(HO)= Distinctive enough to be counted as heard only

(I)= Introduced

(E)= Endemic

Summary: A journey through Spain is an experience one will never forget with its rich birdlife, multi-layered culture, and extensive history. Over the course of this tour, we explored wildlife rich areas from the lofty peaks of the Gredos Mountains to the mudflats of Andalusia, from the cork oak forests of Extremadura to the saline pools of Castilla-La Mancha. We visited three national parks (Donana, Monfrague, and Tablas de Daimiel), enjoyed a flamenco show in Seville, shopped for turrón (similar to nougat), and enjoyed the richly diverse cuisine of Spain!

We recorded 196 bird species in two weeks – species such as Great Bustard, Red-knobbed Coot, Citril Finch, Eurasian Wryneck, Tawny Owl, Black-bellied Sandgrouse, and Western Black-eared Wheatear. We even found a vagrant Little Gull at Tablas de Daimiel and connected with a continuing Lesser Flamingo in the same region. Our guests nominated twenty-four bird species as their bird of the trip, with European Roller and Bluethroat receiving the most votes. Our guests also particularly enjoyed their time in the Gredos Mountains, a granite massif with pine forests, alpine meadows, and a charming birding lodge.

The eBird link below details the species of birds our group observed during the tour. If you're new to eBird, be sure to click "Show All Details" on the right side of the list to expand the report and reveal where and when each of the birds were seen and how many.

[Spain: Birding & Nature | April 18 – May 1, 2025 | eBird Trip Report](#)

BIRDS (196 species recorded, of which 4 were heard only); additional species not on the eBird Trip Report:

PARTRIDGES, PHEASANTS AND ALLIES: Phasianidae

Common Quail *Coturnix coturnix*—seen by Stewart along the road on near the steppes of Caceres.

CUCKOOS AND ALLIES: Cuculidae

Common Cuckoo *Cuculus canorus* (HO)—heard calling at Monfrague National Park, near Caceres, and the Gredos Mountains.

RAILS, COOTS AND ALLIES: Rallidae

Water Rail *Rallus aquaticus* (HO)—heard calling at Donana National Park.

HAWKS, KITES AND EAGLES: Accipitridae (12)

Eurasian Sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus*—seen by the group at Castille-La Mancha! Quick flyby.

BARN OWLS: Tytonidae

Barn Owl *Tyto alba*—seen by Stewart at El Rocio after dinner one night.

WOODPECKERS: Picidae

Lesser Spotted Woodpecker *Dryobates minor*—seen by some of the group in the forest near Palacio el Acebron.

Iberian Green Woodpecker *Picus sharpei*—vehicle flyby seen by Stewart in the Gredos Mountains – the rest of the group had a heard only experience earlier in the day.

PARROTS: Psittacidae

Rose-ringed Parakeet *Psittacula krameri* (I)—seen and heard calling during our walk in Seville before the flamenco show. Introduced via the pet trade from South Asia.

Monk Parakeet *Myiopsitta monachus* (I)—seen and heard calling during our walk in Seville before the flamenco show. Introduced via the pet trade from southern South America.

LEAF WARBLERS: Phylloscopidae

Common Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita* (HO)—heard singing in the Gredos Mountains.

BUSH WARBLERS: Scotocercidae

Cetti's Warbler *Cettia cetti*—heard much more often than seen (every time we were near any water), although only Stewart managed to get good views.

OLD WORLD FLYCATCHERS AND CHATS: Muscicapidae

Common Redstart *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*—seen at the feeder setup at Hotel Almanzor by Stewart – a passage migrant in this part of Europe.

BUNTINGS: Emberizidae

Ortolan Bunting *Emberiza hortulana* (HO)—multiple birds heard singing at La Plataforma in the Gredos, but we were not able to see any on our walk.

MAMMALS (6):

European Rabbit *Oryctolagus cuniculus*

Common Pipistrelle *Pipistrellus pipistrellus*

Stone Marten *Martes foina*—seen in the early morning while (unsuccessfully) searching for Spanish Lynx.

Red Fox *Vulpes vulpes*

Red Deer *Cervus elaphus*—great views of the herd in the wetlands at El Rocio and another sighting at Monfrague National Park.

Iberian Ibex *Capra pyrenaica*—great views of this majestic mammal at La Plataforma de Gredos.

REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS (5):

Mediterranean Chameleon *Chamaeleo chamaeleon*—so lucky to see this scarce and highly charismatic reptile at Lagunas de Camino Colorado (05/01).

Large Psammmodromus *Psammmodromus algirus*

Ocellated Lizard *Timon lepidus*

Guadarrama Wall Lizard *Podarcis guadarramae*

Viperine Snake *Natrix maura*—seen just outside of the Hotel Malvasia in El Rocio – non-venomous!

NOTABLE PLANTS (in part):

Common Poppy *Papaver rhoeas*

Cork Oak *Quercus suber*

Cretan Mallow *Malva multiflora*

Curly Rockrose *Cistus crispus*

European Royal Fern *Osmunda regalis*—a small stand of it at Palacio del Acebron, a very local species in Spain

Garyland Daisy *Glebionis coronaria*

Gray-leaved Cistus *Cistus albidus*

Gum Rock-Rose *Cistus ladanifer*

Hispanian Lupine *Lupinus hispanicus*

Hoop-petticoat Daffodil *Narcissus bulbocodium*

Lusitanian Bellflower *Campanula lusitanica*

Mediterranean Catchfly *Silene colorata*

Mediterranean Fan Palm *Chamaerops humilis*—the only palm tree native to Europe

Mediterranean Lineseed *Bellardia trixago*

Milk Thistle *Silybum marianum*

Narrow-leaved Lupine *Lupinus angustifolius*

Onion-leaved Asphodel *Asphodelus fistulosus*

Pink-butterfly Orchid *Anacamptis papilionacea*

Rosemary *Salvia Rosmarinus*

Sage-leaved Rock-Rose *Cistus salviifolius*

Scots Pine *Pinus sylvestris*—the only tree species in much of the Gredos

Spanish Lavender *Lavandula pedunculata*

Spotted Rock-Rose *Tuberaria guttata*

Sun Spurge *Euphorbia helioscopia*

Sweet Acorn Oak *Quercus rotundifolia*

Tassel Hyacinth *Muscari comosum*—Palacio del Acebron

Terebinth *Pistacia terebinthus*

Three-leaved Snowflake *Acis trichophylla*

Violet Horned-Poppy *Roemeria hybrida*

Wild Clary *Salvia verbenaca*

Wild Jasmine *Chrysojasminum fruticans*

Yellow Iris *Iris pseudacorus*