

Spain in Fall: Birding & Nature Species Report | September 1 – 13, 2026 With Naturalist Journeys



Compiled by guide Patrick Maurice with Rick Weiman and local guide, Victor Porras. Our wonderful clients included Bill, Julie, Chris, Jim, Pat, Maryann, and Todd.

Our Naturalist Journeys tour through southern Spain started and ended in Malaga and took us through the dry cork oak forests of the Sierra de Andújar National Park, then on to Doñana National Park, and the incredible wetlands of Brazo del Este. We eventually found ourselves at the southern tip of the country in Tarifa where Morocco was clearly visible just across the Strait of Gibraltar, followed by a stay in the picturesque town of Ronda. Our group then spent a day enjoying the scenic overlooks and birds in Sierra de Grazalema Natural Park to end the tour. Our first week was spent with us trying to stay cool under a mild heatwave that gripped the country, so we birded early in the mornings, took our time with our afternoon lunch, and then had several hours of siesta before venturing back out to look for birds in the evenings before returning for dinner.

The history and culture of Spain was incredible to see and experience, and their cuisine was top notch. The chefs at our hotels all insisted on creating massive breakfast buffet spreads, and three-course meals for lunch and dinner, so we all left for home with a couple extra pounds on the plane and they weren't stuffed into our suitcases!

We recorded **180 Bird Species** on the tour. The eBird link below details the 180 species of birds our group observed during the tour. If you're new to eBird, be sure to click "Show All Details" on the top right side of the list to expand the report and reveal where and when each of the birds were seen and how many.

[Spain in Fall: Birding & Nature 2026 | September 1 –13, 2026 | eBird Trip Report](#)

Following is a list of the mammals, reptiles, and amphibians we were fortunate to observe during the trip.

MAMMALS (11):

European Rabbit *Oryctolagus cuniculus*—Found on most days of the trip in mixed grassland and wooded habitats.

Iberian Hare *Lepus granatensis*—We found the rabbit's larger and lankier cousin in similar habitats but only on two days of the trip.

Eurasian Otter *Lutra lutra*—Found swimming in the Jándula River, just below the dam. Causing many fish to jump out of its way!

Egyptian Mongoose—A quick sighting from the van by Maryann while we were in the Tarifa area.

Red Deer *Cervus elaphus*—Commonly seen during the beginning of the tour in Sierra de Andujar! We saw all ages from newborn fawns to does and a couple bucks with full antlers.

Fallow Deer *Dama dama*—We saw several of these smaller, white-spotted deer species in Sierra de Andujar.

MAMMALS (continued):

Iberian Ibex *Capra pyrenaica*—Great looks at a mother and baby using the bridge below the dam of the Jándula River. And then a couple of sightings of males with full horns in Sierra de Grazalema.

Wild Boar *Sus scrofa*—Several seen in the more mountainous regions of the trip at Sierra de Andujar and Sierra de Grazalema.

Long-finned Pilot Whale *Globicephala melas*— Incredible views in the clear and beautiful blue waters of the Mediterranean while on our whale watching excursion.

Common Bottlenose Dolphin *Tursiops truncatus*—Brief and distant views from shore on our first night of the tour in Málaga.

Short-beaked Common Dolphin *Delphinus delphis*— Excellent looks while on our whale watching excursion from Tarifa!

REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS (6):

Mediterranean Turtle *Mauremys leprosa*— The default turtle of the region; found on the edges of creeks and rivers.

Green Iberian Wall Lizard *Podarcis vaucheri*—Found basking in the morning sunshine in Sierra de Andújar Natural Park.

Large Psammodromus *Psammodromus algirus*—Found in the rocks of a dry section of the Jándula River in the beginning of the trip.

Spiny Footed Lizard *Acanthodactylus erythrurus*—Found by Rick on the grounds of Hotel Ardea Purpurea.

Moorish Gecko *Tarentola mauritanica*—The most frequently observed lizard of the trip. Found on most days catching insects from the outer walls of our hotels.

Iberian Spiny Toad *Bufo spinosus*— Found by Rick walking back to his room one night at the Hotel Mesón de Sancho in Tarifa.