



May 13 - 25, 2018
Spain: Birding and Nature Tour

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

(I)=introduced

BIRDS (175 species recorded):

DUCKS, GEESE AND SWANS: Anatidae (11)

Graylag Goose *Anser anser*—seen on a couple days in Castilla-La Mancha

Egyptian Goose *Alopochen aegyptiaca* (I)—seen in a pond near the Llanos de Caceres

Common Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna*—a common breeder, seen daily in Castilla-La Mancha

Northern Shovler *Spatula clypeata*—only once in the lagoons of Castilla-La Mancha

Gadwall *Mareca strepera*

Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*

Marbled Teal *Marmaronetta angustirostris*—we saw this Vulnerable species once in Donana NP

Red-crested Pochard *Netta rufina*—a very handsome and colorful duck, seen almost daily in the wetlands of Andalusia and saline lagoons of Castilla-La Mancha

Common Pochard *Aythya ferina*—attractive and common duck in the same wetlands as Red-crested

Ferruginous Duck *Aythya nyroca*—small numbers in Donana NP, an uncommon breeder

White-headed Duck *Oxyura leucocephala*—cute and very local Endangered species, seen at Donana NP and at a wetland in Castilla-La Mancha

PARTRIDGES, PHEASANTS AND ALLIES: Phasianidae (1)

Red-legged Partridge *Alectoris rufa*—seen sporadically throughout the length of the tour, usually in rocky areas near grassland

FLAMINGOS: Phoenicopteridae (1)

Greater Flamingo *Phoenicopterus roseus*—large concentrations in Donana NP and saline lagoons of Castilla-La Mancha were a joy to see

GREBES: Podicipedidae (3)

Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis*

Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus*—these large, beautiful grebes were regulars at every wetland as long as there was deeper water

Eared Grebe *Podiceps nigricollis*—seen only at two sites, one in Andalusia and another at Castilla-La Mancha

PIGEONS AND DOVES: Columbidae (5)

Rock Pigeon *Columba livia*—common and widespread (native)

Stock Dove *Columba oenas*—seen a couple times, both in the vicinity of Monfrague NP

Common Wood-Pigeon *Columba palumbus*—very common and widespread (and very large!)

European Turtle-Dove *Streptopelia turtur*—a rapidly declining migrant due to extreme hunting pressure in North Africa, seen in Andalusia and Castilla-La Mancha

Eurasian Collared-Dove *Streptopelia decaocto*

SANDGROUSE: Pteroclididae (2)

Pin-tailed Sandgrouse *Pterocles alchata*—after missing this species at Llanos de Caceres, we finally saw them at the Calatrava Steppes

Black-bellied Sandgrouse *Pterocles orientalis*—same as above, nice to see both species at the same site!

BUSTARDS: Otididae (2)

Great Bustard *Otis tarda*—one of the heaviest flying birds in Europe, also with a spectacular ‘foam bath’ display, seen in the steppe grasslands of Llanos de Caceres and Calatrava Steppes

Little Bustard *Tetrax tetrax*—a much smaller species than the above, seen at the same locations

CUCKOOS AND ALLIES: CUCULIDAE (2)

Great Spotted Cuckoo *Clamator glandarius*—seen only once in the environs of Monfrague NP

Common Cuckoo *Cuculus canorus*—common by voice but not so easy to see, the classic “cu-ckoo” clock double note, seen or heard on most days

NIGHTJARS: Caprimulgidae (1)

Red-necked Nightjar *Caprimulgus ruficollis*—these giant nightjars were seen only once at a site in Castilla-La Mancha

SWIFTS: Apodidae (3)

Alpine Swift *Apus melba*—small numbers around Monfrague NP by the bridge

Common Swift *Apus apus*—common and entertaining, often even in town squares where they would chase each other around in the early mornings and late afternoons

Pallid Swift *Apus pallidus*—seen in Extremadura and Andalusia, often in populated areas

RAILS, COOTS AND ALLIES: Rallidae (4)

Water Rail *Rallus aquaticus*—recorded in the wetlands of Tablas de Damiel

Eurasian Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus*—common and widespread wetland species

Eurasian Coot *Fulica atra*—common and widespread wetland species

Western Swampen *Porphyrio porphyrio*—seen at the Arrocampo Reservoir and in Donana NP

THICK-KNEES: Burhinidae (1)

Eurasian Thick-knee *Burhinus oedicnemus*—we observed these bizarre ‘shorebirds’ in Andalusia and the Calatrava Steppes of Castilla-La Mancha

STILTS AND AVOCETS: Recurvirostridae (2)

Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus*—numerous at most wetland sites

Pied Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta*—this elegant shorebird graced most wetland sites around Donana and Castilla-La Mancha

OYSTERCATCHERS: Haematopodidae (1)

Eurasian Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus*—seen along the coast near the Marismas de Odiel

PLOVERS AND LAPWINGS: Charadriidae (5)

Black-bellied Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*

Northern Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*—seen in Andalusia and Tablas de Damiel

Kentish Plover *Charadrius alexandrinus*—common at coastal sites and saline lagoons of Andalusia

Common Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*

Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius*

SANDPIPERS AND ALLIES: Scolopacidae (12)

Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus*—seen only at the Marismas de Odiel

Eurasian Curlew *Numenius arquata*—only at the Marismas de Odiel

Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica*—same as the preceding two species

Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa*—nice views at Marismas de Odiel

Ruddy Turnstone *Arenaria interpres*

Red Knot *Calidris canutus*

Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea*—seen at Donana NP and Marismas de Odiel

Sanderling *Calidris alba*

Dunlin *Calidris alpina*

Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*—quite common at most wetland sites

Common Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*—seen once at a wetland near Merida

Common Redshank *Tringa totanus*—these attractive birds were not uncommon at shorebird congregations at both freshwater and marine coastal sites

PRATINCOLES AND COURSERS: Glareolidae (1)

Collared Pratincole *Glareola pratincola*—a bizarre mix of swallow and shorebird in appearance and feeding habits, seen very well around Donana and the Marismas de Odiel

GULLS AND TERNS: Laridae (10)

Black-headed Gull *Chroicocephalus ridibundus*

Audouin's Gull *Ichthyaetus audouinii*—a very pretty gull, observed only at the Marismas de Odiel

Yellow-legged Gull *Larus michaellis*

Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus fuscus*—seen at the gull congregation at Marismas de Odiel and at inland wetland sites in Castilla-La Mancha

Little Tern *Sternula albifrons*—nice views at Marismas de Odiel, very similar to Least Tern

Gull-billed Tern *Gelochelidon nilotica*

Caspian Tern *Hydroprogne caspia*

Black Tern *Chlidonias niger*

Whiskered Tern *Chlidonias hybrida*—seen hunting for fish over wetlands in Donana, where it is a common summer resident

Sandwich Tern *Thalasseus sandvicensis*—only at the Marismas de Odiel

STORKS: Ciconiidae (2)

Black Stork *Ciconia nigra*—seen very well on a nest near the castle at Monfrague NP

White Stork *Ciconia ciconia*—an attractive and common species, seen daily

CORMORANTS: Phalacrocoracidae (1)

Great Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*—small numbers at wetlands throughout

HERONS AND EGRETS: Ardeidae (8)

Little Bittern *Ixobrychus minutus*—seen at the Arrocampo Reservoir and Donana NP, often flying by

Gray Heron *Ardea cinerea*—the Old World equivalent of Great Blue Heron, seen almost daily

Purple Heron *Ardea purpurea*—quite common in Spain in well vegetated wetlands

Great Egret *Ardea alba*

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*

Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis*

Squacco Heron *Ardeola ralloides*—these attractive little herons were common only in Donana NP

Black-crowned Night-Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax*

IBIS AND SPOONBILLS: Threskiornithidae (2)

Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus*

Eurasian Spoonbill *Platalea leucorodia*—beautiful, elegant and regular in small numbers at most wetland sites

OSPREY: Pandionidae (1)

Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*—nice views at the Marismas de Odiel, a passage migrant here and not a common species overall

HAWKS, KITES AND EAGLES: Accipitridae (15)

Black-shouldered Kite *Elanus caeruleus*—observed at the Arrocampo Reservoir and Marismas de Odiel

Egyptian Vulture *Neophron percnopterus*—a beautiful white vulture with a wedge-shaped tail, observed only at Monfrague; an Endangered species in decline in most of its range

European Honey-Buzzard *Pernis apivorus*—migrants during our time at Castille-La Mancha

Cinereous Vulture *Aegypius monachus*—a common species in Extremadura, especially at Monfrague

Eurasian Griffon *Gyps fulvus*—this species seems to be doing very well nowadays in Spain, seen almost daily overhead

Short-toed Snake-Eagle *Circaetus gallicus*—a large and stocky raptor, seen on several days: Arrocampo Reservoir, Llanos de Caceres and Donana NP

Booted Eagle *Hieraetus pennatus*—an attractive small eagle, often observed hunting overhead over a variety of habitats

Spanish Eagle *Aquila adalberti*—observed in the Llanos de Caceres, near Merida and Castilla-La Mancha; a spectacular eagle and a regional endemic to the Iberian Peninsula

Golden Eagle *Aquila chrysaetos*

Bonelli's Eagle *Aquila fasciata*—nice views around Merida and the Marismas de Odiel

Eurasian Marsh-Harrier *Circus aeruginosus*—the common harrier of wetland sites

Montagu's Harrier *Circus pygargus*—a small and relatively dainty harrier, using drier steppe habitats compared to the preceding species; nice views at the Llanos de Caceres

Red Kite *Milvus milvus*—seen in the Llanos de Caceres and in the environs of Donana NP

Black Kite *Milvus migrans*—abundant and widespread raptor

Common Buzzard *Buteo buteo*—common in Extremadura and Castilla-La Mancha

OWLS: Strigidae (1)

Little Owl *Athene noctua*—the classic owl of Greek mythology, symbol of Athena, seen daily in Castilla-La Mancha

HOOPOES: Upupidae (1)

Eurasian Hoopoe *Upupa epops*—another bird species deeply entrenched in the lore of European and Middle Eastern mythology, seen almost daily during our time in Spain

KINGFISHERS: Alcedinidae (1)

Common Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis*—we saw this diminutive jewel on our day near the Llanos de Caceres

BEE-EATERS: Meropidae (1)

European Bee-eater *Merops apiaster*—beautiful, elegant and common throughout our route in Spain

ROLLERS: Coraciidae (1)

European Roller *Coracias garrulus*—seen near the Llanos de Caceres and Damiel NP on two days, another large and colorful species

FALCONS AND CARACARAS: Falconidae (3)

Lesser Kestrel *Falco naumanni*—this small kestrel utilizes old human structures for nesting, seen on two days near Llanos de Caceres and Donana NP

Eurasian Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus*—common and widespread

Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus*—seen on a single day near Marismas de Odiel

PARROTS: Psittaculidae (1)

Rose-ringed Parakeet *Psittacula krameri* (I)—seen on a single day in Andalusia

OLD WORLD ORIOLES: Oriolidae (1)

Eurasian Golden Oriole *Oriolus oriolus*—a lovely bird with a beautiful song, recorded on most days in Extremadura and a couple times in Castilla-La Mancha

SHRIKES: Laniidae (2)

Iberian Gray Shrike *Lanius meridionalis*—a recent split from Great (Southern) Gray Shrike, often seen on the wires in Extremadura

Woodchat Shrike *Lanius senator*—great luck with this small, migratory shrike on this trip – seen daily!

CROWS AND JAYS: Corvidae (7)

Eurasian Jay *Garrulus glandarius*—uncommon and shy in southern Spain, seen only near Donana

Iberian Magpie *Cyanopica cooki*—a spritely and attractive Iberian endemic, seen almost daily

Eurasian Magpie *Pica pica*—common and widespread

Red-billed Chough *Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax*—a bird of the mountains, seen on two dates

Eurasian Jackdaw *Corvus monedula*—common and widespread

Carrion Crow *Corvus corone*—seen once near Llanos de Caceres

Common Raven *Corvus corax*—most common around Donana NP and Marismas de Odiel

BEARDED REEDLING: Panuridae (1)

Bearded Reedling *Panurus biarmicus*—seen in the reedbeds of Tablas de Damiel

LARKS: Alaudidae (5)

Greater Short-toed Lark *Calandrella brachydactyla*—common in steppe habitats of Llanos de Caceres and Calatrava

Calandra Lark *Melanocorypha calandra*—very numerous in the Llanos de Caceres!

Eurasian Skylark *Alauda arvensis*—seen once in Castilla-La Mancha

Thekla's Lark *Galerida theklae*—very similar to the next species, seen daily around Andalusia

Crested Lark *Galerida cristata*—widespread, seen daily

SWALLOWS AND MARTINS: Hirundinidae (5)

Bank Swallow *Riparia riparia*—seen around Merida and Donana, known as the Sand Martin in Europe

Eurasian Crag-Martin *Ptyonoprogne rupestris*—regular sightings around Monfrague and Merida, large and swift-like

Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica*

Red-rumped Swallow *Cecropis daurica*—present in small numbers on most days, especially in Extremadura; a large and distinctive swallow

Common House-Martin *Delichon urbicum*

TITS AND CHICKADEES: Paridae (3)

Crested Tit *Lophophanes cristatus*—very cute little bird, seen in pine forests near the Marismas de Odiel

Eurasian Blue Tit *Cyanistes caeruleus*—delightfully common and widespread

Great Tit *Parus major*

PENDULINE-TITS: Remizidae (1)

Eurasian Penduline-Tit *Remiz pendulinus*—named after their pendulous nests, seen on two days – once near Donana and another at Tablas de Damiel

LONG-TAILED TITS: Aegithalidae (1)

Long-tailed Tit *Aegithalos caudatus*—observed near Merida and again in Castilla-La Mancha

WRENS: Troglodytidae (1)

Eurasian Wren *Troglodytes troglodytes*—observed in forest near Huelva and in Castilla-La Mancha, formerly lumped together with Winter Wren of the USA

BUSH WARBLERS: Scotocercidae (1)

Cetti's Warbler *Cettia cetti*—small brown bird with an explosive song, common in tamarisks and willows at Donana NP and Tablas de Damiel NP

REED WARBLERS: Acrocephalidae (4)

Western Olivaceous Warbler *Iduna opaca*—common in tamarisks in the wetlands of Donana and Marismas de Odiel

Melodious Warbler *Hippolais polyglotta*—a persistent songster, seen twice during our time in the Andalusia region

Eurasian Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*—common and vocal in reedbeds of Andalusia and Castilla-La Mancha

Great Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus arundinaceus*—the previous species' much larger and robust cousin, common in reedbeds

GRASSBIRDS AND ALLIES: Locustellidae (1)

Savi's Warbler *Locustella luscinioides*—seen only at Tablas de Damiel NP in the wetlands

CISTICOLAS: Cisticolidae (1)

Zitting Cisticola *Cisticola juncidis*—numerous and conspicuous once you learn the simple song

SYLVIID WARBLERS: Sylviidae (5)

Eurasian Blackcap *Sylvia atricapilla*—seen only once near Donana NP, a classic European warbler

Subalpine Warbler *Sylvia cantillans*—seen only at Monfrague, where it is quite common

Sardinian Warbler *Sylvia melanocephala*—the most common *Sylvia* warbler in Spain, utilizing a variety of habitats

Spectacled Warbler *Sylvia conspicillata*—seen around Merida and Tablas de Damiel NP

Dartford Warbler *Sylvia undata*—seen on only one date, near Huelva

OLD WORLD FLYCATCHERS AND CHATS: Muscicapidae (10)

Spotted Flycatcher *Muscicapa striata*—seen once, near Donana NP

Rufous-tailed Scrub-Robin *Cercotrichas galactotes*—once near Donana NP, an uncommon bird that specializes in vineyards and scrub with patches of bare ground

Common Nightingale *Luscinia megarhynchos*—although rather plain in appearance, its explosive and melodic song serenaded us on most days in Andalusia and Castilla-La Mancha

European Pied Flycatcher *Ficedula hypoleuca*—a few around Andalusia, an uncommon migrant

Blue Rock-Thrush *Monticola solitarius*—common and confiding

Whinchat *Saxicola rubetra*—a migrant near Donana NP was our only one

European Stonechat *Saxicola rubicola*

Black Wheatear *Oenanthe leucura*—observed near Merida

Northern Wheatear *Oenanthe oenanthe*—a migrant seen near Donana NP, this species breeds just to the north in alpine meadows

Black-eared Wheatear *Oenanthe hispanica*—seen only on two dates

THRUSHES: Turdidae (2)

Eurasian Blackbird *Turdus merula*

Mistle Thrush *Turdus viscivorus*—we recorded this large, spotted thrush only once in Castilla-La Mancha

STARLINGS AND MYNAS: Sturnidae (1)

Spotless Starling *Sturnus unicolor*

PIPITS AND WAGTAILS: Motacillidae (2)

Western Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava*—a common songbird of wetlands, recorded daily around Donana and the Marismas de Odiel

White Wagtail *Motacilla alba*—prefers drier, stony country to the previous species – seen on four days

FINCHES: Fringillidae (5)

Common Chaffinch *Fringilla coelebs*—nice views of this classic European species at Monfrague NP

European Greenfinch *Chloris chloris*

Eurasian Linnet *Linaria cannabina*—common in Castilla-La Mancha, often in small flocks

European Goldfinch *Carduelis carduelis*

European Serin *Serinus serinus*—common even in urban areas with a few trees, a classic Mediterranean finch

BUNTINGS: Emberizidae (4)

Cirl Bunting *Emberiza ciris*—seen in pine forest on the last day

Rock Bunting *Emberiza cia*—seen once, on the final day

Reed Bunting *Emberiza schoeniclus*—seen in the reedbeds of Tablas de Damiel, a local breeder in southern Spain

Corn Bunting *Emberiza calanra*—very common!

OLD WORLD SPARROWS: Passeridae (4)

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*

Spanish Sparrow *Passer hispaniolensis*—common but prefers more natural habitat than the previous species, living in small colonial flocks away from habitations

Eurasian Tree Sparrow *Passer montanus*

Rock Sparrow *Petronia petronia*—prefers stony scree and landscapes, seen on the final day

WEAVERS: Ploceidae (1)

Black-headed Weaver *Ploceus melanocephalus* (1)—seen near Donana NP

WAXBILLS: Estrildidae (1)

Common Waxbill *Estrilda astrild* (1)—seen near the Marismas de Odiel