



Sept 3 – 15, 2021

Spain: Birding & Nature in Fall

With Carlos Sanchez, local guides Jose Luis Sanchez, Vicent Estelar, Manuel Morales, and Peter Jones, and five participants: Laura, George, Kathy, Dick, and Deb

Compiled by Carlos Sanchez

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

(I)= Introduced

(E)= Endemic

Summary: Our autumn Spain trip focused on the southernmost mainland region, Andalusia, in four distinctive areas that showcased a diversity of habitats: Sierra de Andujar, Doñana National Park and environs, Tarifa, and Ronda. Over the course of two weeks, we explored Mediterranean forest, oak woodlands (dehesa), freshwater wetlands, coastal mudflats, grasslands, rocky cliffs, and even pelagic waters. Within this diversity of habitats, we managed to see 163 species including 22 species of shorebird and 19 diurnal raptors. We also got to observe some of the region's rarest and most threatened species, including Spanish Lynx, White-headed Duck, Balearic Shearwater, European Turtle-Dove, Montagu's Harrier, and Northern Bald Ibis. Observing Spanish Lynx in the wild was a definite highlight for most on this tour, as well as the charismatic Mediterranean Chameleon!

BIRDS (163 species recorded, of which 1 was heard only):

DUCKS, GEESE AND SWANS: Anatidae (7)

Northern Shoveler *Spatula clypeata*—one or two in the Desembocadura de Guadalhorce, plus a dozen or so at Dehesa de Abajo

Gadwall *Mareca strepera*—scope views of this widespread dabbling duck at Brazo del Este

Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*—we saw small numbers in the river at Sierra de Andujar, followed by a couple hundred or so in the large concentration of waterbirds at Brazo del Este near Doñana

Green-winged Teal *Anas crecca*—seen at Brazo del Este and Laguna de el Portil

Marbled Teal *Marmaronetta angustirostris*—formerly bred in large numbers in southern Europe but has declined precipitously in the region due to habitat loss and degradation; we recorded forty-five individuals at Dehesa de Abajo, at least half of the entire breeding population in Spain! Genetic studies show that this duck is actually more closely related to the diving ducks such as Ring-necked Duck and Lesser Scaup

Common Pochard *Aythya ferina*—our best views of this Eurasian diving duck were at the Laguna de Camino Colorado, an odd series of ponds with a rich diversity of birds

White-headed Duck *Oxyura leucocephala*—we saw this Endangered stiff-tailed duck quite well at Lagunas de Camino Colorado; the European counterpart to the Ruddy Duck of North America

PARTRIDGES, PHEASANTS AND ALLIES: Phasianidae (1)

Red-legged Partridge *Alectoris rufa*—abundant at Sierra de Andujar with smaller numbers in agricultural areas near Sevilla and Tarifa; an important food source for a large number of raptors in the region

FLAMINGOS: Phoenicopteridae (1)

Greater Flamingo *Phoenicopterus roseus*—large flocks in saline wetlands and salt evaporation ponds along the coast, at multiple sites from Doñana National Park to Tarifa

GREBES: Podicipedidae (2)

Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis*—we saw this tiny grebe at Desembocadura del Guadalhorce, as well as the Lagunas de Camino Colorado

Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus*—this large and elegant grebe was starting to transition into its rather plain winter plumage at Brazo del Este

PIGEONS AND DOVES: Columbidae (4)

Rock Pigeon *Columba livia*—there are very few truly wild examples even in Spain where it is a native species, although feral birds are very common in both towns and rocky cliff areas throughout

Common Wood-Pigeon *Columba palumbus*— this large pigeon was common around the Sierra de Andujar and Doñana National Park

European Turtle-Dove *Streptopelia turtur*—we had nice scope views at La Janda, where we saw a couple birds perching nervously at some distance; this declining migratory species is heavily hunted on passage in North Africa

Eurasian Collared-Dove *Streptopelia decaocto*—common and widespread

NIGHTJARS: Caprimulgidae (1)

Red-necked Nightjar *Caprimulgus ruficollis*—great views of a migrant roosting in a rather open strip of woodland at La Janda – an Iberian breeding specialty **VOTED THE BIRD OF THE TRIP!**

SWIFTS: Apodidae (3)

Alpine Swift *Apus melba*—the largest swift species in Europe, with an impressive two foot wingspan; several birds seen well near the beach town of Barbate in the saline wetland of El Canillo

Common Swift *Apus apus*—a few of these dark swifts mixed in with Alpine and Pallid Swift over the saline wetland of El Canillo; they nest in large numbers in cities and towns throughout Europe in spring and early summer

Pallid Swift *Apus pallidus*—small numbers here and there, usually mixed in with hirundines, at Dehesa de Abajo, Los Lances, the Cazalla Observatory, and El Canillo

RAILS, COOTS AND ALLIES: Rallidae (3)

Eurasian Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus*—very similar in appearance to the Common Gallinule of the Americas (they were considered to be the same species until recently); small numbers at Lagunas de Camino Colorado and the pond at Hotel Ardea Purpurea

Eurasian Coot *Fulica atra*—great views at Desembocadura del Guadalhorce and Lagunas de Camino Colorado; a widespread and common species in Europe

Western Swamphen *Porphyrio porphyrio*—our best views were at Lagunas de Camino Colorado, where there were at least three birds feeding on wetland vegetation; ancient Greeks and Romans raised swamphens in captivity as decorative birds in villas and temples

THICK-KNEES: Burhinidae (1)

Eurasian Thick-knee *Burhinus oediconemus*—scope views of a single bird at El Canillo near the beach town of Barbate; a largely nocturnal shorebird

STILTS AND AVOCETS: Recurvirostridae (2)

Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus*—very common and numerous at wetland sites in Andalusia; the Old World counterpart to the Black-necked Stilt

Pied Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta*—over a dozen feeding in the rapidly drying lagoon at Dehesa de Abajo; they feed by scything their bills from side to side in water, a feeding technique that is unique to the avocets

OYSTERCATCHERS: Haematopodidae (1)

Eurasian Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus*—a pair of these striking shorebirds at Los Lances just north of Tarifa

PLOVERS AND LAPWINGS: Charadriidae (3)

Northern Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*—migrant flocks observed at both Dehesa de Abajo and Brazo del Este (nearly a hundred birds in the latter!)

Kentish Plover *Charadrius alexandrinus*—our best views were at Los Lances north of Tarifa; this species associates heavily with sandy beaches, especially for nesting

Common Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*—common at wetland sites throughout Andalusia, even very small ones

SANDPIPERS AND ALLIES: Scolopacidae (15)

Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus*—a few at the Marismas del Odiel near Huelva

Eurasian Curlew *Numenius arquata*—several mixed in with the Whimbrel at Marismas del Odiel; this is the largest shorebird species found regularly on the Iberian Peninsula

Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa*—flocks observed at Dehesa de Abajo and El Canillo near Barbate

Red Knot *Calidris canutus*—a couple migrants on the sandflats at Los Lances near Tarifa

Ruff *Calidris pugnax*—small numbers at Dehesa de Abajo, Marismas del Odiel, and El Canillo; an amazing shorebird with a fascinating lek breeding system where display is primarily directed at other males rather than to the females

Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea*—nice scope views of a couple reddish individuals fading into winter plumage at the Marismas del Odiel

Sanderling *Calidris alba*—a regular species at coastal wetland sites

Dunlin *Calidris alpina*—seems to share the same habitats as Sanderling, and we often saw them together

Little Stint *Calidris minuta*—a few of these diminutive shorebirds at Dehesa de Abajo

Common Snipe *Gallinago gallinago*—nearly a dozen birds scattered on open mud at Dehesa de Abajo, offering great views of a normally retiring species

Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*—a couple birds seen at close range at Lagunas de Camino Colorado

Green Sandpiper *Tringa hypoleucos*—small numbers seen at Dehesa de Abajo and in a wet ditch at La Janda; the Old World counterpart to Solitary Sandpiper

Common Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*—scope views of a single bird at Dehesa de Abajo

Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola*—at least a couple birds seen through the scope at Dehesa de Abajo

Common Redshank *Tringa totanus*—recorded at Dehesa de Abajo and Marismas del Odiel

SKUAS AND JAEGERs: Stercorariidae (1)

Great Skua *Stercorarius skua*—one (possibly two) individuals seen very well on our little whale watching excursion on the Strait of Gibraltar

GULLS AND TERNS: Laridae (10)

Slender-billed Gull *Chroicocephalus genei*—we had over fifty birds at Salinas de Bonanza, where they float around on the hypersaline water picking at brine flies

Black-headed Gull *Chroicocephalus ridibundus*—we saw this common European species at Dehesa de Abajo and Marismas del Odiel

Audouin's Gull *Ichthyaetus audouinii*—formerly one of the world's rarest gulls, it has established new colonies but remains quite rare; we saw these attractive birds at Laguna de El Portil and El Canillo

Yellow-legged Gull *Larus michaellis*—common in the port and offshore Tarifa; the Mediterranean version of a Herring Gull

Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus fuscus*—a common large gull at coastal sites throughout Andalusia

Little Tern *Sternula albifrons*—a nice flyover individual at Marismas del Odiel; this species is very similar to the Least Tern of North America

Black Tern *Chlidonias niger*—one migrant flying along the river at Marismas del Odiel

Whiskered Tern *Chlidonias hybrida*—about three birds flying over one of the remaining lakes at Brazo del Este, sometimes flying quite close!

Common Tern *Sterna hirundo*—brief flyby views on the Tarifa whale watching excursion

Sandwich Tern *Thalasseus sandvicensis*—flyby views at Marismas del Odiel

PETRELS AND SHEARWATERS: Procellariidae (2)

Cory's Shearwater *Calonectris diomedea*—great views of this pelagic species offshore Tarifa, where we got to observe the arching flight pattern

Balearic Shearwater *Puffinus mauretanicus*—quick but solid views of a singleton rapidly flying just inches above the ocean; a Critically Endangered species suffering ongoing declines due to the development of holiday resorts near its breeding sites

STORKS: Ciconiidae (2)

Black Stork *Ciconia nigra*—our best views were at the Cazalla Observatory, where nine birds flew overhead in formation – nice!

White Stork *Ciconia ciconia*—spectacular concentrations at Brazo del Este (600+) and La Janda (700+); the western route (which includes Spain) is one of two main migratory pathways for this species

CORMORANTS: Phalacrocoracidae (1)

Great Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*—singles observed at Marismas del Odiel and La Janda; migrants heavily augment the relatively small population in Andalusia in winter

HERONS AND EGRETS: Ardeidae (5)

Gray Heron *Ardea cinerea*—always in singles or small numbers wherever there was water; the Old World equivalent of the Great Blue Heron

Purple Heron *Ardea purpurea*—two at Brazo del Este crouched down low in the vegetation; this colorful *Ardea* heron is a lot more retiring than the Gray Heron

Great Egret *Ardea alba*—one at Brazo de la Torre

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*—a very common wader throughout the southeast coast of Spain from Sevilla to Tarifa, even in rice fields and wet ditches

Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis*—abundant throughout lowland areas near the coast in Spain, sometimes in large numbers of fifty or more

IBIS AND SPOONBILLS: Threskiornithidae (3)

Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus*—incredible numbers, well over three thousand strong, gathered at the Brazo del Este

Northern Bald Ibis *Geronticus eremita*—a couple of these Critically Endangered birds at an earthworm farm near La Janda; this is a reintroduced population, as the Northern Bald Ibis had previously been extirpated from Spain for over 500 years!

Eurasian Spoonbill *Platalea leucorodia*—we saw this elegant bird at Dehesa de Abajo, Brazo del Este, Marismas del Odiel, and El Canillo near Barbate; in the breeding season, this species develops a lovely yellow flush to the white feathers and develops a sweeping crest

OSPREY: Pandionidae (1)

Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*—we saw this widespread raptor at Los Lances, Marismas del Odiel, and Brazo del Este

HAWKS, KITES AND EAGLES: Accipitridae (15)

Black-winged Kite *Elanus caeruleus*—distant views of a pair hunting over an agricultural field at La Janda; this species is very similar in appearance to the White-tailed Kite of the Americas

Egyptian Vulture *Neophron percnopterus*—great studies of both dark immatures and mostly white adults migrating over Observatory of Cazalla; Spain accounts for about 50% of the entire population in Europe

European Honey-buzzard *Pernis apivorus*—excellent views at both the Cazalla Observatory and La Janda; this raptor specializes in eating the larvae of social insects such as wasps and hornets

Cinereous Vulture *Aegypius monachus*—small numbers overhead at Sierra de Andujar; this impressive bird is one of the largest Old World Vultures, with a wingspan slightly over ten feet

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

Short-toed Snake-Eagle *Circaetus gallicus*—large numbers migrating overhead at the Cazalla Observatory, together with the following species

Booted Eagle *Hieraetus pennatus*—our best views were at the Cazalla Observatory, where we saw over sixty individuals overhead in both light and dark forms; we also saw small numbers at Ardea Purpurea Lodge, Sierra de Andujar, and Dehesa de Abajo

Spanish Eagle *Aquila adalberti*—two soaring together at Sierra de Andujar stopped us in our tracks! This large eagle is endemic to the Iberian Peninsula

Golden Eagle *Aquila chrysaetos*—one immature bird soaring overhead at Sierra de Andujar

Bonelli's Eagle *Aquila fasciata*—one of these 'aguilas perdiceras' (partridge-eating eagle) soaring together with Eurasian Griffon at Sierra de Grazalema Natural Park

Eurasian Marsh-Harrier *Circus aeruginosus*—this bulky harrier was quite common in a variety of wetland habitats around Doñana National Park, from saltwater wetlands to rice fields

Montagu's Harrier *Circus pygargus*—seen at La Janda, Brazo de la Torre, and Cazalla Observatory; this harrier is smaller and sligher than the preceding harrier species, and it tends to utilize drier steppe habitat for nesting

Eurasian Sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus*—we saw this small *Accipiter* at La Janda and Cazalla Observatory

Black Kite *Milvus migrans*—about a dozen birds migrating overhead at Cazalla

Common Buzzard *Buteo buteo*—scattered roadside sightings, although our best views were at Ardea Purpurea Lodge and Los Lances near Tarifa

OWLS: Strigidae (2)

Little Owl *Athene noctua*— the classic owl of Greek mythology, symbol of Athena, seen on a rock pile at Sierra de Andujar

Tawny Owl *Strix aluco (HO)*—heard right outside our windows at around 3:30-4:00am at Ardea Purpurea Lodge

HOOPOES: Upupidae (1)

Eurasian Hoopoe *Upupa epops*— another bird species deeply entrenched in the lore of European and Middle Eastern mythology, seen almost daily around Sierra de Andujar and Doñana National Park

KINGFISHERS: Alcedinidae (1)

Common Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis*—we saw this diminutive jewel really well at Sierra de Andujar, where it fished right in front of us; also seen near water throughout the Doñana and Tarifa portions of our trip

BEE-EATERS: Meropidae (1)

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

WOODPECKERS: Picidae (2)

Great Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos major*—great views near the flowing stream on that hot afternoon at Sierra de Andujar

Iberian Green Woodpecker *Picus sharpei*—seemingly quite common in the oak woodland at Sierra de Andujar, often feeding right on the ground alongside larks and magpies

FALCONS AND CARACARAS: Falconidae (3)

Lesser Kestrel *Falco naumanni*—our best views were at Sierra de Grazalema, although we did see a few birds lingering around the main cathedral in Sevilla after our Spanish tapas dinner

Eurasian Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus*—seen at La Janda, Cazalla Observatory, and Brazo de la Torre

Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus*—swooped in out of nowhere, grabbed an unfortunate sandpiper, and flew off in less than a minute at Dehesa de Abajo

OLD WORLD PARROTS: Psittaculidae (1)

Rose-ringed Parakeet *Psittacula krameri (I)*—seen overhead on our tapas night in Sevilla

NEW WORLD PARROTS: Psittacidae (1)

Monk Parakeet *Myiopsitta monachus (I)*—abundant in Malaga and Sevilla

OLD WORLD ORIOLES: Oriolidae (1)

Eurasian Golden Oriole *Oriolus oriolus*—brief views of this highly migratory species near the bridge at Sierra de Andujar; the orioles of the Old World are totally unrelated to the *Icterus* orioles of the Americas, being closer to vireos and shrikes

SHRIKES: Laniidae (2)

Iberian Gray Shrike *Lanius meridionalis*—great scope views on our last full day at Sierra de Andujar

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Woodchat Shrike *Lanius senator*—we saw an attractively scalloped immature bird at Sierra de Andujar near the Iberian Gray Shrike, followed by a striking adult bird at Acebuche in Doñana National Park; this shrike is highly migratory and overwinters in western and central Africa

CROWS AND JAYS: Corvidae (6)

Eurasian Jay *Garrulus glandarius*—we saw this rather shy jay at Sierra de Andujar in classic dehesa woodland

Iberian Magpie *Cyanopica cooki*—this regional endemic was abundant at Sierra de Andujar and around the Ardea Purpurea Lodge in Doñana; these highly social birds nest in loose, open colonies with a single nest in each tree

Eurasian Magpie *Pica pica*—abundant in the oak woodlands of Sierra de Andujar, often seen together with Iberian Magpie

Red-billed Chough *Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax*—Laura had great views at the gorge in Ronda

Eurasian Jackdaw *Corvus monedula*—we had an impressive congregation of these small crows in La Janda (100+), as well as smaller numbers elsewhere

Common Raven *Corvus corax*—brief views near Ronda

TITS AND CHICKADEES: Paridae (3)

Crested Tit *Lophophanes cristatus*— Laura had brief views of this species in coniferous forest at Sierra de las Nieves

Eurasian Blue Tit *Cyanistes caeruleus*—quite common at Sierra de Andujar with smaller numbers in wooded areas elsewhere, such as Acebron in Doñana

Great Tit *Parus major*—we observed this species regularly in wooded habitats, including Sierra de Andujar, the stone pine forest near Ardea Purpurea Lodge, and el Acebron

LARKS: Alaudidae (5)

Greater Short-toed Lark *Calandrella brachydactyla*—several seen foraging in the grass at Los Lances north of Tarifa

Calandra Lark *Melanocorypha calandra*—a couple dozen birds in the grass at Los Lances; the largest lark species found in Spain

Wood Lark *Lullula arborea*—seen at Sierra de Andujar in the field with all the Corn Buntings and Thekla's Lark

Thekla's Lark *Galerida theklae*—a difficult ID issue with the following species; we had scope studies at Sierra de Andujar, el Acebuche, and Observatorio de la Pena near Tarifa

Crested Lark *Galerida cristata*—the most common and adaptable lark species in Spain; we saw them at Los Lances, La Janda, Brazo de la Torre, and Sierra de Andujar

CISTICOLAS: Cisticolidae (1)

Zitting Cisticola *Cisticola juncidis*—great views at Los Lances, where a couple birds posed nicely within feet of the group in good lighting

REED WARBLERS: Acrocephalidae (1)

Eurasian Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*—one in the reeds at Dehesa de Abajo distracted us for a few minutes

SWALLOWS AND MARTINS: Hirundinidae (5)

Bank Swallow *Riparia riparia*—migrating flocks were regular in the latter half of the trip, and we saw larger gatherings at Dehesa de Abajo (200+), Los Lances, and El Canillo

Eurasian Crag-Martin *Ptyonoprogne rupestris*—we saw this very swift-like swallow at Sierra de Grazalema in a section of road called el Puerto de Tabizna; associates closely with rocky areas and cliffs

Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica*—passing overhead in small but steady numbers during our time near Sevilla and Tarifa

Red-rumped Swallow *Cecropis daurica*—our best views were at Sierra de Andujar; although superficially similar to a Barn Swallow, this species has a much stiffer wingbeat and a forked tail dipped entirely in black

Common House-Martin *Delichon urbicum*—we saw these pale-rumped swallows at Sierra de Andujar, Los Lances, and Cazalla

LEAF WARBLERS: Phylloscopidae (3)

Western Bonelli's Warbler *Phylloscopus bonelli*—seen once in the pine forest near Ardea Purpurea Lodge;

Willow Warbler *Phylloscopus trochilus*—we had great views at Sierra de Andujar and Sierra de Grazalema, usually associating with wild fennel

Iberian Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus ibericus*—a couple lingering in the ancient Mediterranean forest at Palacio del Acebron was a nice surprise!

BUSH WARBLERS: Scotocercidae (1)

Cetti's Warbler *Cettia cetti*—very common by voice throughout the tour, often giving its explosive song from dense vegetation near water; our best views as a group were in Sierra de Andujar

LONG-TAILED TITS: Aegithalidae (1)

Long-tailed Tit *Aegithalos caudatus*—these adorable birds showed well in Sierra de Andujar and in the riparian forest near historic Cordoba

SYLVIID WARBLERS: Sylviidae (4)

Eurasian Blackcap *Sylvia atricapilla*—seen in the woodlands at Palacio del Acebron and in the garden of our lodging in Ronda

Garden Warbler *Sylvia borin*—great views of this unmarked, brown warbler in the forest at Palacio del Acebron

Sardinian Warbler *Sylvia melanocephala*—regularly seen or heard throughout the tour

Dartford Warbler *Sylvia undata*—fleeting glimpses in the low field of thickets at El Acebuche in Doñana

KINGLETS: Regulidae (1)

Common Firecrest *Regulus ignicapilla*—several of these kinglets in the coniferous forest at Sierra de las Nieves

NUTHATCHES: Sittidae (1)

Eurasian Nuthatch *Sitta europaea*—quite common in the Sierra de Andujar, even visiting the trees around our lunch table at La Caracola!

TREECREEPERS: Certhiidae (1)

Short-toed Treecreeper *Certhia brachydactyla*—seen at Ardea Purpurea Lodge, Palacio del Acebron, and Sierra de Andujar

WRENS: Troglodytidae (1)

Eurasian Wren *Troglodytes troglodytes*—brief views at Palacio del Acebron; the only wren species that occurs outside of the Americas

STARLINGS AND MYNAS: Sturnidae (1)

Spotless Starling *Sturnus unicolor*—common and widespread

THRUSHES: Turdidae (2)

Mistle Thrush *Turdus viscivorus*—one individual in the dry field with the Corn Buntings and Thekla's Lark in Sierra de Andujar; this is the largest thrush native to Europe

Eurasian Blackbird *Turdus merula*—common and widespread

OLD WORLD FLYCATCHERS AND CHATS: Muscicapidae (11)

Spotted Flycatcher *Muscicapa striata*—observed at Palacio del Acebron and in the pine forest near Ardea Purpurea Lodge; the genus name for this species went on to name the entire family of Old World Flycatchers

European Robin *Erithacus rubecula*—Laura spotted one near our accommodations in Malaga, and we had another one near the visitor center feeders at Sierra de Andujar

European Pied Flycatcher *Ficedula hypoleuca*—a couple migrants on our walk at el Acebron

Common Redstart *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*—a pair of these birds gave us nice views as we waited for the Spanish Lynx in Sierra de Andujar

Black Redstart *Phoenicurus ochruros*—a male at Sierra de las Nieves on rocky terrain

Blue Rock-Thrush *Monticola solitarius*—a few sightings at Sierra de Andujar and Sierra de Grazalema, always near extensive rocky terrain

Whinchat *Saxicola rubetra*—distant views at Observatorio de la Pena near Tarifa

European Stonechat *Saxicola rubicola*—quite common in open country near Tarifa and Ronda, often perching on bushes or fences

Northern Wheatear *Oenanthe oenanthe*—one migrant mixed in with Black-eared Wheatear at Observatorio de la Pena

Black-eared Wheatear *Oenanthe hispanica*—several of these beautiful birds in the field at Observatorio de la Pena, often perching on large stones

Black Wheatear *Oenanthe leucura*—several birds in the rocky terrain at Sierra de las Nieves and Sierra de Grazalema near Ronda

WEAVERS AND ALLIES: Ploceidae (2)

Black-headed Weaver *Ploceus melanocephalus* (1)—one of these African birds at Dehesa de Abajo

Yellow-crowned Bishop *Euplectes afer* (1)—a handsome male perched on a wire at Dehesa de Abajo

OLD WORLD SPARROWS: Passeridae (2)

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*—common and widespread in a variety of habitats

Spanish Sparrow *Passer hispaniolensis*—an impressive gathering of well over a thousand birds at La Janda – what a sight!

PIPITS AND WAGTAILS: Motacillidae (4)

Gray Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea*—observed in flowing streams at Sierra de Andujar and near Ronda

Western Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava*—our best views were at Dehesa de Abajo, where we saw over a dozen individuals in various plumages

White Wagtail *Motacilla alba*—nice views in the flowing stream at Sierra de Andujar, and we saw them again near Ronda

Tawny Pipit *Anthus campestris*—fantastic study of a single bird walking casually through the short grass at Los Lances

FINCHES: Fringillidae (5)

Common Chaffinch *Fringilla coelebs*—abundant throughout

European Greenfinch *Chloris chloris*—quite common at Sierra de Andujar, Ardea Purpurea Lodge, and La Janda

Eurasian Linnet *Linaria cannabina*—a few showed well at Los Lances

European Goldfinch *Carduelis carduelis*—common and widespread

European Serin *Serinus serinus*—large numbers at Desembocadura del Guadalhorce on our first day in Spain

BUNTINGS: Emberizidae (3)

Corn Bunting *Emberiza calandra*—we saw this sparrow-like bunting at Sierra de Andujar, Los Lances, and La Janda

Rock Bunting *Emberiza cia*—distant views at the large stone bridge in Sierra de Andujar

Cirl Bunting *Emberiza ciris*—one drinking water from the stream at Sierra de Andujar

MAMMALS (12 species recorded):

European Rabbit *Oryctolagus cuniculus*—seen a couple of times at the Sierra de Andujar; this species forms 90% of the diet for the Spanish Lynx

Spanish Lynx *Lynx pardinus*—the highlight mammal of the trip for the group, which we observed walking casually in and out of the bushes at Sierra de Andujar

Red Fox *Vulpes vulpes*

Red Deer *Cervus elaphus*—abundant at Sierra de Andujar! This large deer is a close relative of the Elk in North America

Fallow Deer *Dama dama*—we saw this smaller, white-spotted deer species at Sierra de Andujar

European Mouflon *Ovis gmelini*—we saw this impressive species at Sierra de Andujar; the history and ancestry of mouflon in Spain and elsewhere in Europe is rather hazy, with some suggesting it is a feral breed of domestic sheep

Iberian Ibex *Capra pyrenaica*—one individual observed at Sierra de Andujar; this species is endemic to the Iberian Peninsula, and the subspecies we observed is the Beceite Ibex (*C. p. hispanica*)

Wild Boar *Sus scrofa*—observed at Sierra de Andujar and Palacio del Acebron

Long-finned Pilot Whale *Globicephala melas*—we observed all four cetaceans on this trip quite well on the Tarifa whale watching excursion!

Common Bottlenose Dolphin *Tursiops truncatus*

Short-beaked Common Dolphin *Delphinus delphis*

Striped Dolphin *Stenella coeruleoalba*

REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS (5 species recorded):

Mediterranean Turtle *Mauremys leprosa*

Moorish Gecko *Tarentola mauritanica*—common lizard near lights at most of our lodging throughout Andalusia

Mediterranean Chameleon *Chamaeleo chamaeleon*—beautifully spotted by Laura Bakken and one of the highlights of the trip! Found in an extensive area of broom near the beach town of Barbate

Large Psammodromus *Psammodromus algirus*—we saw this medium-sized lizard on the steps to a cafe in Ronda; sometimes known as the Algerian sand racer, it is endemic to the Iberian Peninsula and northwestern Africa

Andalusian Wall Lizard *Podarcis vaucheri*—we saw this colorful little lizard on the same steps as the Large Psammodromus; wall lizards form a large and diverse radiation of reptiles almost entirely restricted to the Mediterranean region

NOTABLE PLANTS:

Mastic *Pistacia lentiscus*

Olive *Olea europaea*—first cultivated in the Mediterranean about 7,000 years ago, as suggested by written tablets, olive pits, and wood fragments found in ancient tombs dating back to that period

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

Stone Pine *Pinus pinea*—the source of edible pine nuts, often used in Mediterranean cuisine

Cork Oak *Quercus suber*—the bark is still harvested in a traditional manner, by stripping the spongy outer bark once every seven to nine years

Common Fig *Ficus carica*—an important food source for both migratory birds and people

Squirting Cucumber *Ecballium elaterium*

Flax-leaved Daphne *Daphne gnidium*

Fennel *Foeniculum vulgare*

Spanish Fir *Abies pinsapo*—the national tree of Andalusia and endemic to the region

Sea Daffodil *Pancreatum maritimum*