

Spain: Birding & Nature | Species List

April 24 – May 6, 2022 | with Naturalist Journeys



**With Carlos Sanchez and six participants:
Lise, Steve, John, Kathy, Bill, and Cathy**

Compiled by Carlos Sanchez

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

(I)= Introduced

(E)= Endemic

Summary: Spain is an incredible destination for birding in Europe and a must on everyone's lists. Spain really does offer so much: stunning landscapes, excellent cuisine, lots of birds in both diversity and numbers, friendly people, and a deeply layered history. Together with another excellent group, we recorded an excellent list of birds: Marbled Teal and White-headed Duck, Pin-tailed and Black-bellied Sandgrouse (in the scope, on the ground!), Great and Little Bustard, Spanish and Bonelli's Eagle, Eurasian Penduline- and Crested Tit, Eurasian Wryneck and Lesser Spotted Woodpecker, and so many more. Both raptors (18 species) and shorebirds (20 species) put on a good showing. I can't wait to be there again next year.

BIRDS (194 species recorded, of which 1 was heard only):

DUCKS, GEESE AND SWANS: Anatidae (12)

Graylag Goose *Anser anser*—small to medium-sized flocks at Marisma de El Rocio (04/29), Laguna de Navaseca (05/04), and Tablas de Daimiel (04/04).

Common Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna*—great views of this handsome shelduck at Laguna de Navaseca andng i Tablas de Daimiel (05/04).

Northern Shovler *Spatula clypeata*—concentrations at Marisma de El Rocio (04/29), Laguna de Navaseca (05/04), and Tablas de Daimiel (05/04). Same species as the one in North America.

Gadwall *Mareca strepera*—a quite common resident species in southern Spain. We saw our first ones in a small pond in Llanos de Caceres (04/27), followed by additional sightings at Marisma de El Rocio (04/29), Marismas del Odiel (05/01), and Laguna de Navaseca (05/04).

Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*—ubiquitous at all wetland sites

Northern Pintail *Anas acuta*—a single male resting on a mudflat at Tablas de Daimiel was a nice find for this late in the season! (05/04)

Green-winged Teal *Anas crecca*—another late sighting at PN Tablas de Daimiel were the two teal right next to it (05/04).

Marbled Teal *Marmaronetta angustirostris*—just two of these Vulnerable ducks at Dehesa de Abajo (05/02); formerly one of the most common nesting waterfowl in Spain.

Red-crested Pochard *Netta rufina*—this handsome duck was quite common at most wetland sites, being particularly numerous at Dehesa de Abajo (05/02) and Laguna de Navaseca (05/04)

Common Pochard *Aythya ferina*—another handsome and common diving duck at most wetland sites

Ferruginous Duck *Aythya nyroca*—just a few individuals at Dehesa de Abajo (05/02) and Laguna de Navaseca (05/04). We also saw an additional one at Tablas de Daimiel (05/04).

White-headed Duck *Oxyura leucocephala*— fantastic views of this Endangered duck at Lagunas de Camino Colorado (04/30) and Laguna de Navaseca (05/04).

PARTRIDGES, PHEASANTS AND ALLIES: Phasianidae (2)

Common Quail *Coturnix coturnix*—we were so lucky to actually see one at PN Tablas de Daimiel! (05/04)

Red-legged Partridge *Alectoris rufa*—regular sightings throughout the tour: Llanos de Caceres (04/27), Vineyards of Trebujena (04/30), Puente del Ajoli (05/02), and Cerro Yezosa (05/03).

FLAMINGOS: Phoenicopteridae (1)

Greater Flamingo *Phoenicopterus roseus*—very common in the wetlands of PN Doñana and Castille-La Mancha, often in the hundreds!

GREBES: Podicipedidae (3)

Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis*— small numbers at most wetland sites in PN Doñana and Marismas del Odiel, with a particularly good concentration of individuals at Dehesa de Abajo (04/10)

Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus*—we saw this elegant, large grebe at Dehesa de Abajo (05/02), Laguna de Navaseca (05/04), and Tablas de Daimiel (05/04).

Eared Grebe *Podiceps nigricollis*— a few dozen individuals seen mostly at Laguna de Navaseca (05/04), where they were particularly numerous. Known in Europe as the Black-necked Grebe

PIGEONS AND DOVES: Columbidae (3)

Rock Pigeon *Columba livia*

Common Wood-Pigeon *Columba palumbus*—common and widespread large pigeon

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

SANDGROUSE: Pteroclididae (2)

Pin-tailed Sandgrouse *Pterocles alchata*—very nice scope views of this beautiful bird sitting on the ground at Llanos de Caceres (04/27), and dozens more flushed out of a field at Campo de Calatrava (05/05).

Black-bellied Sandgrouse *Pterocles orientalis*—scope views of this large sandgrouse at the same site as the previous species in Llanos de Caceres (04/27).

BUSTARDS: Otididae (2)

Great Bustard *Otis tarda*—a few birds walking along in a field in Llanos de Caceres (04/27).

Little Bustard *Tetrax tetrax*—a single bird gave us scope views at Campo de Calatrava (05/05) while we were accidentally flushing all the sandgrouse

CUCKOOS AND ALLIES: CUCULIDAE (1)

Common Cuckoo *Cuculus canorus*—our best views of this ‘cuckoo-clock’ cuckoo at PN Doñana—La Rocina, although we heard it on about half the days of the tour.

SWIFTS: Apodidae (4)

Alpine Swift *Apus melba*— great views of this magnificent and large swift from Puerte del Cardenal in PN Monfrague (04/28).

Common Swift *Apus apus*— very common summer visitor, particularly above villages and towns where they seem to call and chase each other around throughout the warmer months

Pallid Swift *Apus pallidus*—similar to the above but with a lighter coloration, observed feeding above the town of Caceres and near Cadiz. Other individuals likely seen around towns but not identified to species.

Little Swift *Apus affinis*— we observed these striking swifts at the Port of Chipiona (04/30), the only nesting colony in all of Europe.

RAILS, COOTS AND ALLIES: Rallidae (5)

Water Rail *Rallus aquaticus* (HO)—clearly heard at Embalse de Arrocampo (04/26) and Laguna de Navaseca (05/04).

Eurasian Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus*—small numbers at most wetland sites in Castille-La Mancha and PN Doñana

Eurasian Coot *Fulica atra*—abundant and ubiquitous wetland species in Castille-La Mancha and PN Doñana

Red-knobbed Coot *Fulica cristata*—a pair was nesting in front of a hide at Dehesa de Abajo (05/02); a rare and declining species in Europe, with PN Doñana being the last stronghold

Western Swampen *Porphyrio porphyrio*— a few of these striking birds seen at Laguna de Camino Colorado (04/30) and Dehesa de Abajo (05/02). A relatively recent split from the Purple Swampen complex.

THICK-KNEES: Burhinidae (1)

Eurasian Thick-knee *Burhinus oediconemus*—fantastic views at Campo de Calatrava right on the dirt road (05/05). This fascinating shorebird is actively mostly at night.

STILTS AND AVOCETS: Recurvirostridae (2)

Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus*—quite common, sometimes in large numbers, at all wetland sites in Castille-La Mancha and PN Doñana. The Old World counterpart to the Black-necked Stilt of the Americas.

Pied Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta*— small numbers on four days, from both large freshwater wetlands and saltpans: Marisma de El Rocio (04/29), Dehesa de Abajo (05/02), and Laguna de Navaseca (05/04). We also had a really nice concentration of several dozen at Salinas de Bonanza (04/30).

OYSTERCATCHERS: Haematopodidae (1)

Eurasian Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus*—up to ten birds at Playa de Sanlucar de Barrameda while scoping shorebirds on the beach (04/30).

PLOVERS AND LAPWINGS: Charadriidae (5)

Black-bellied Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*—good numbers at Playa de Sanlucar de Barrameda near Chipiona (04/30) and Salinas de Bonanza (04/30). We also had a single bird at Marismas del Odiel in the saltmarsh with all the Whimbrel (05/01).

Northern Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*—two of these great looking birds at the large lagoon in PN Tablas de Daimiel (05/04). Unfortunately, one was limp and not in good health.

Kentish Plover *Charadrius alexandrinus*—several were scuttling about on the mudflats at Playa de Sanlucar de Barrameda (04/30).

Common Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*—numerous at Playa de Sanlucar de Barrameda (04/30), Salinas de Bonanza (04/30), and Laguna de Navaseca (05/04). These are passage migrants on their way north to breed in northern Scandinavia and Russia.

Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius*—we finally saw this species at Laguna de Navaseca towards the end of the tour (05/04) – note the yellow eye ring!

SANDPIPERS AND ALLIES: Scolopacidae (11)

Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus*— about several dozen of these migratory shorebirds at Playa de Sanlucar de Barrameda (04/30) and the saltmarshes of Marismas del Odiel (05/01).

Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica*—about a dozen (some in crisp breeding plumage) at Playa de Sanlucar de Barrameda near Chipiona (04/30).

Ruddy Turnstone *Arenaria interpres*—over fifty individuals at Playa de Sanlucar de Barrameda (04/30) and about a dozen more in the saltmarshes of Marismas del Odiel (05/01).

Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea*— observed at Salinas de Bonanza (04/30), including several individuals in rusty red breeding plumage.

Sanderling *Calidris alba*—a couple dozen at Playa de Sanlucar de Barrameda (04/30).

Dunlin *Calidris alpina*—large numbers of these shorebirds had already passed through by the time of this tour, but we still managed to see about a dozen in breeding plumage at Playa de Sanlúcar de Barrameda (04/30) and a couple more at Salinas de Bonanza on the same day.

Little Stint *Calidris minuta*— we spotted about five mixed in with all the other *Calidris* at Playa de Sanlúcar de Barrameda on our visit (04/30) – the smallest shorebird species in Spain!

Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*—observed at Laguna del Tarelo (04/30), Laguna de Navaseca (05/04), and Tablas de Daimiel (05/04). This species is the Old World counterpart to Spotted Sandpiper of the Americas.

Common Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*— quite common in coastal Andalusia as well as Castille-La Mancha, observed at Playa de Sanlúcar de Barrameda (04/30), Marismas del Odiel (05/01), and Laguna de Navaseca (05/04) in good numbers.

Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola*—about six or so individuals seen in total between Laguna de Navaseca and PN Tablas de Daimiel (05/04) while birding the Castille-La Mancha wetlands.

Common Redshank *Tringa totanus*—over a hundred individuals at Marismas del Odiel (05/01) and a couple dozen more migrants at Laguna de Navaseca (05/04). In addition to bright red legs, they also have a striking and unique wing pattern in flight.

PRATINCOLES AND COURSERS: Glareolidae (1)

Collared Pratincole *Glareola pratincola*—a couple birds were still around at Laguna de Navaseca, where we got excellent views! (05/04) Like a cross between a tern, a plover, and a swallow in appearance and habits. **VOTED BIRD OF THE TRIP!**

GULLS AND TERNS: Laridae (11)

Slender-billed Gull *Chroicocephalus genei*— it was fun watching these gulls paddle, spin, and delicately pick morsels of food off the surface of the water much like phalaropes at Salinas de Bonanza (04/30).

Black-headed Gull *Chroicocephalus ridibundus*—great views of the nesting colony at Laguna de Navaseca (05/04) and quite a few flying around at PN Tablas de Daimiel on the same day.

Audouin's Gull *Ichthyaetus audouinii*— we saw a couple of these handsome, fish-eating gulls at Marismas del Odiel (04/30), where they were mating! It is a breeding near-endemic to the Mediterranean and one of the world's least numerous gulls.

Yellow-legged Gull *Larus michaellis*—a few of these Herring Gull analogs at Chipiona (04/30) and Marismas del Odiel (05/01).

Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus fuscus*—seen at Playa de Sanlúcar de Barrameda (04/30) and Laguna de Navaseca (05/04).

Little Tern *Sternula albifrons*— small numbers of these terns resting on the sandbar and feeding at Playa de Sanlúcar de Barrameda (04/30), Salinas de Bonanza (04/30), and Marismas del Odiel (05/01).

Gull-billed Tern *Gelochelidon nilotica*—a couple birds gave us beautifully close flybys at Embalse de Arrocampo (04/26). Unlike most other terns, it primarily feeds on insects taken in flight.

Black Tern *Chlidonias niger*—singles at Playa de Sanlúcar de Barrameda (04/30) and Marismas del Odiel (05/01).

Whiskered Tern *Chlidonias hybrida*—the common tern of freshwater wetlands: Marisma de El Rocio (04/29), Laguna de Navaseca (05/04), and PN Tablas de Daimiel (05/04).

Common Tern *Sterna hirundo*—a few birds at Playa de Sanlúcar de Barrameda (04/30). We also had a surprise find at Laguna de Navaseca (05/04), an unusual bird for this inland site.

Sandwich Tern *Thalasseus sandvicensis*—several seen off the beach at Marismas del Odiel (05/01).

STORKS: Ciconiidae (2)

Black Stork *Ciconia nigra*—several of these striking birds observed at Salto del Gitano in PN Monfrague (04/28)

White Stork *Ciconia ciconia*—widespread and common, sometimes even nesting in the center of cities!

CORMORANTS: Phalacrocoracidae (1)

Great Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*—we saw this large and widespread cormorant at several locations, including Laguna de El Campillo (04/24), PN Tablas de Daimiel (05/04), and Puente de Balbuena (05/05).

HERONS AND EGRETS: Ardeidae (8)

Little Bittern *Ixobrychus minutus*—seen in flight above the reeds at Embalse de Arrocampo (04/26).

Gray Heron *Ardea cinerea*—we saw this large heron at Embalse de Arrocampo (04/26), flying overhead at Llanos de Caceres (04/27), and Dehesa de Abajo (05/02). This is the Old world equivalent of the Great Blue Heron.

Purple Heron *Ardea purpurea*—we saw this handsome heron at Embalse de Arrocampo (04/26), Laguna de Navaseca (05/04) and PN Tablas de Daimiel (05/04). Shyer and retiring than the previous species.

Great Egret *Ardea alba*— singles at Embalse de Arrocampo (04/26) and PN Tablas de Daimiel (05/04).

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*—common and widespread inhabitant of wetlands.

Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis*—widespread and numerous, observed daily in Andalusia with scattered sightings elsewhere.

Squacco Heron *Ardeola ralloides*—nice views of a single individual at the rookery in Marisma de El Rocio (04/29). Several also observed along the shore of the lake at Dehesa de Abajo (05/02).

Black-crowned Night-Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax*—several seen at the rookery at Marisma de El Rocio (04/29), with singles observed at Lagunas de Camino Colorado (04/30), Laguna de Navaseca (05/04), and PN Tablas de Daimiel—Molino de Molemocho (05/04).

IBIS AND SPOONBILLS: Threskiornithidae (2)

Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus*—widespread and very numerous in the wetlands of Andalusia, sometimes in the hundreds such as at Marisma de El Rocio (04/29). The population of this species is increasing in Spain.

Eurasian Spoonbill *Platalea leucorodia*—charismatic and elegant wader, both common and conspicuous at most freshwater and saltwater wetland sites

OSPREY: Pandionidae (1)

Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*— scope views of this widespread fish-eating specialist at Salinas de Bonanza (04/30) and PN Tablas de Daimiel-Molino de Molemocho (05/04).

HAWKS, KITES AND EAGLES: Accipitridae (14)

Egyptian Vulture *Neophron percnopterus*— small numbers of this declining species at PN Monfrague, with particularly good views at Salto del Gitano (04/28).

European Honey-buzzard *Pernis apivorus*—a later passage migrant, and we were just starting to see them overhead by the end of the tour. Several seen at PN Tablas de Daimiel (05/04).

Cinereous Vulture *Aegypius monachus*—scattered sightings in Castilla-La Mancha, Extremadura, and in the Sierra de Gredos. We had particularly nice encounters and/or concentrations at Sierra de Gredos—Plataforma (04/25) and PN Monfrague—Salto del Gitano (04/28). This massive and majestic vulture is one of the largest raptors in the world with a ten-foot wingspan!

Eurasian Griffon *Gyps fulvus*—these huge vultures were surprisingly common throughout Spain. The large concentration at PN Monfrague (04/28) was particularly memorable.

Short-toed Snake-Eagle *Circaetus gallicus*—two sightings of this large and bulky snake-eater: Llanos de Caceres (04/27) and PN Monfrague—Arroyo Malvecino (04/28).

Booted Eagle *Hieraaetus pennatus*—many sightings of this small eagle, sometimes soaring quite close overhead. Particularly common in the Sierra de Gredos, PN Monfrague, and around PN Doñana.

Spanish Eagle *Aquila adalberti*—seen at Llanos de Caceres not far from the side of the road (04/27) and again in Castilla-La Mancha (05/05).

Golden Eagle *Aquila chrysaetos*—one sighting of a soaring individual at the town of San Carlos in PN Monfrague (04/28).

Bonelli's Eagle *Aquila fasciata*—what a pleasure to see this uncommon raptor soaring against a ridge at Puente del Cardenal in PN Monfrague! (04/28)

Eurasian Marsh-Harrier *Circus aeruginosus*—sightings of this bulky harrier at Laguna de Navaseca (05/04) and Tablas de Daimiel (05/04).

Montagu's Harrier *Circus pygargus*—lovely views of this elegant and declining raptor at Marismas del Odiel, where there is a small population that nests in the saltmarsh (05/01).

Red Kite *Milvus milvus*—seen at Laguna de El Campillo (04/24) and in the Sierra de Gredos (04/24-26).

Black Kite *Milvus migrans*— the most widespread and numerous raptor on our trip, with sightings nearly every day.

Common Buzzard *Buteo buteo*—seen at Casatejada (04/26), Laguna de Navaseca (05/04), and Campo de Calatrava (05/05). The only regularly occurring *Buteo* in western Europe – so much more diverse in North America!

OWLS: Strigidae (3)

Eurasian Eagle-Owl *Bubo bubo*— excellent scope views of two birds roosting on the cliff above Laguna de El Campillo on our first day (04/24)!

Little Owl *Athene noctua*—nice views at Laguna de Navaseca (05/04). This owl is the symbol of the Greek goddess Athena.

Long-eared Owl *Asio otus*—flushed at Laguna de Navaseca right from the parking lot and seen again sitting on a nest (a very nice find by our group!) at PN Tablas de Daimiel (05/04).

HOOPOES: Upupidae (1)

Eurasian Hoopoe *Upupa epops*— this charismatic and unique species is quite common in Spain, with sightings on most days of the tour. Our best views were at Hostal Almanzor, where they came to feed right near the feeders one afternoon (05/25).

KINGFISHERS: Alcedinidae (1)

Common Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis*—like an iridescent blue jewel! We saw this small kingfisher quite well at Emabalse de Arrocampo (04/26).

BEE-EATERS: Meropidae (1)

European Bee-eater *Merops apiaster*— quite common with nearly daily sightings. The close views of numerous birds flying and calling around us at Dehesa de Abajo (05/02) was special, as they seemed to sparkle under the Mediterranean sun with their golden backs and turquoise underparts.

ROLLERS: Coraciidae (1)

European Roller *Coracias garrulus*— fantastic views on the wires at Llanos de Caceres, where we occasionally got to see their spectacular blue wing markings as they chased each other (04/27). We also saw one at Tablas de Daimiel (05/04).

WOODPECKERS: Picidae (4)

Eurasian Wryneck *Jynx torquilla*—fantastic views of this aberrant woodpecker at PN Doñana—La Rocina. This odd woodpecker is basal to the rest of the woodpecker family, meaning its ancestors branched off very early on the woodpecker family tree.

Great Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos major*— great views of this very sharp woodpecker in the pine forest of Navarredonda de Gredos (04/25).

Lesser Spotted Woodpecker *Dryobates minor*—with a bit of work, we eventually got to admire a pair of these woodpeckers in a patch of riparian woodland near Puente de Balbuena (05/05). This small woodpecker is a not too distant cousin of the Downy Woodpecker in the United States.

Iberian Green Woodpecker *Picus sharpei*— coming to the feeders at Hostal Almanzor (04/26). Also seen in the pine forest at Navarredonda de Gredos (04/25). Much larger and bulkier than the previous species.

FALCONS AND CARACARAS: Falconidae (3)

Lesser Kestrel *Falco naumanni*— sightings at Llanos de Caceres (04/27) and Cerro Yezosa (05/03). The common name is deceptive to American birders, as this species is still much larger than the American Kestrel.

Eurasian Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus*— the most common small falcon, observed almost daily in most open habitats.
Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus*— soaring above the eyrie full of nesting vultures at Salto del Gitano in PN Monfrague (04/28).

PARROTS: Psittacidae (2)

Rose-ringed Parakeet *Psittacula krameri* (1)—we saw this introduced species in downtown Seville on our tapas outing (04/30). Originally from southern Asia.

Monk Parakeet *Myiopsitta monachus* (1)—same as the previous species – this one is from southern South America.

OLD WORLD ORIOLES: Oriolidae (1)

Eurasian Golden Oriole *Oriolus oriolus*—we saw this beautiful species really well at Puente de Balbuena (05/05) and Calzada de Calatrava (05/05) during our time in Castilla-La Mancha. Shy and difficult to see well, despite the bright colors.

SHRIKES: Laniidae (2)

Iberian Gray Shrike *Lanius meridionalis*—good views at Casatejada while looking for kites (04/26).

Woodchat Shrike *Lanius senator*— we saw this colorful shrike on most days of the tour, especially when visiting open woodland dominated by holm and cork oaks.

CROWS AND JAYS: Corvidae (7)

Eurasian Jay *Garrulus glandarius*— so much bigger than a Blue or Steller's Jay! We saw these handsome birds in the pine forests around Navarredonda de Gredos (04/25).

Iberian Magpie *Cyanopica cooki*—seen at the Bulls of Guisando (04/24), PN Monfrague (04/28), PN Doñana—La Rocina (05/01), and El Rocio (05/02). This Iberian Peninsula endemic inhabits mostly oak woodlands (dehesas) within its small range.

Eurasian Magpie *Pica pica*— very common throughout, even in the middle of large cities.

Red-billed Chough *Pyrhocorax pyrrhocorax*—nice views of several birds around the crumbling structures in the agricultural fields of Campo de Calatrava (05/05).

Eurasian Jackdaw *Corvus monedula*—seen at Laguna de El Campillo (04/24), Llanos de Caceres (04/27), Dehesa de Abajo (05/02), Cerro Yezosa (05/03), and Campo de Calatrava (05/05). This small crow nests primarily in rocky cliffs or old buildings but feeds in open grassy areas.

Carrion Crow *Corvus corone*—common only in the Sierra de Gredos (04/24-26), where we saw and heard them daily.

Common Raven *Corvus corax*—sightings at Sierra de Gredos—La Plataforma (04/25), Hostal Almanzor (04/26), and Ermita del Risco (04/27). It is the world's largest passerine.

TITS AND CHICKADEES: Paridae (4)

Coal Tit *Periparus ater*— regular at the feeders at Hostal Almanzor (04/24-25) and the surrounding pine forests of Navarredonda de Gredos.

Crested Tit *Lophophanes cristatus*—great views on our walk through the pine forest by the river in the afternoon (04/24). This species is reminiscent of Bridled Titmouse of southeast Arizona and Mexico.

Eurasian Blue Tit *Cyanistes caeruleus*—these cute little birds were common in most wooded areas.

Great Tit *Parus major*—widespread and common in most wooded areas. The tits of Europe, Africa, and Asia are very similar in appearance, habits, and calls to the chickadees of North America. It is thought that an ancestral tit colonized North America via Eurasia twice in history, leading to the evolution of titmice and then chickadees.

PENDULINE-TITS: Remizidae (1)

Eurasian Penduline-Tit *Remiz pendulinus*— collecting nesting material in the reeds of Marisma de El Rocio (04/29) was a very nice find. Also seen at Laguna de Navaseca (05/04). This species is in the same family as the Verdin of North America. Like that species, it also builds a hanging nest.

LARKS: Alaudidae (4)

Greater Short-toed Lark *Calandrella brachydactyla*—three at Llanos de Caceres, sticking to open areas away from taller grass (04/27).

Calandra Lark *Melanocorypha calandra*—we saw these energetic birds singing and displaying throughout Llanos de Caceres (04/27), as well as Campo de Calatrava (05/05). This classic bird of the Spanish steppes is the largest species of European lark.

Thekla's Lark *Galerida theklae*—definite sightings of this difficult to identify species at Dehesa Talavan (04/27), PN Monfrague (04/28), and Cerro Yezosa (05/03).

Crested Lark *Galerida cristata*—prefers flatter, less rock terrain than the previous species. Often seen in grasslands and agricultural fields – Casatejada (04/26), Llanos de Caceres (04/27), and Laguna de Navaseca (05/04).

CISTICOLAS: Cisticolidae (1)

Zitting Cisticola *Cisticola juncidis*— we had great views of this species at Llanos de Caceres (04/27), where they would perch on blades of grass or on wires by the side of the road. Also seen at Embalse de Arrocampo (04/26), Laguna de Navaseca (05/04), and Campo de Calatrava (05/05). Interesting display which involves a ticking song while making a high, undulating flight.

REED WARBLERS: Acrocephalidae (4)

Western Olivaceous Warbler *Iduna opaca*—one in the patch of tamarisk woodland at Laguna de Camino Colorado (04/30). Sometimes known as Isabelline Warbler.

Melodious Warbler *Hippolais polyglotta*—singing individuals at PN Doñana—La Rocina (05/01) and El Rocio (05/02). Colorful by reed warbler standards with an overall soft yellow coloration.

Eurasian Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*— quite numerous but not always easy to see. We had great views at Marisma de El Rocio (04/29), Laguna de Navaseca (05/04), and Tablas de Daimiel (05/04).

Great Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus arundinaceus*— the bulkier, larger cousin of the previous species. Great views at Marisma de El Rocio (04/29) and Laguna de Navaseca (05/04).

GRASSBIRDS AND ALLIES: Locustellidae (1)

Savi's Warbler *Locustella luscinioides*—seen at Laguna de Navaseca (05/04) and PN Tablas de Daimiel (05/04). Favors extensive reed beds and gives a long, dawn out insect-like trill.

SWALLOWS AND MARTINS: Hirundinidae (5)

Bank Swallow *Riparia riparia*—seen in Embalse de Arrocampo (04/26), PN Doñana (04/29), and Laguna de Navaseca (05/04). Known as a Sand Martin in Europe.

Eurasian Crag-Martin *Ptyonoprogne rupestris*— quite common around cliffs, rocky areas, and stone buildings throughout southern Spain. A large and powerful martin that recalls a swift in flight.

Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica*—abundant!

Red-rumped Swallow *Cecropis daurica*—regular sightings of this large, colorful swallow: Laguna de El Campillo (04/24), Embalse de Arrocampo (04/26), Ermita del Risco (04/27), PN Monfrague—Salto Del Gitano (04/28), and Puente de Balbuena (05/05).

Common House-Martin *Delichon urbicum*—very common with daily sightings. Fun to see them collect mud for their nests!

LEAF WARBLERS: Phylloscopidae (2)

Western Bonelli's Warbler *Phylloscopus bonelli*—two individuals seen well in the pine forests in Navarredonda de Gredos, where they nest in the summer months (04/24-25).

Iberian Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus ibericus*—two individuals on their summer territory at PN Doñana—La Rocina (05/01).

BUSH WARBLERS: Scotocercidae (1)

Cetti's Warbler *Cettia cetti*—we heard their explosive song regularly in the dense thickets and riparian vegetation, and everyone finally managed to see one well at various points on our journey.

LONG-TAILED TITS: Aegithalidae (1)

Long-tailed Tit *Aegithalos caudatus*— common and adorable European bird, seen on most days in a variety of wooded habitats such as Navarredonda de Gredos (04/25) and Ermita del Risco (04/27).

SYLVIID WARBLERS: Sylviidae (7)

Eurasian Blackcap *Sylvia atricapilla*—several individuals on territory in the pine forest in Navarredonda de Gredos (04/25), as well as PN Doñana—La Rocina (05/01).

Western Orphean Warbler *Curruca hortensis*—we saw this large, uncommon Sylviid warbler of dehesa woodlands at Dehesa Talavan (04/27) and PN Monfrague—Arroyo Malvecino (04/28).

Sardinian Warbler *Curruca melanocephala*—the most common and widespread Sylviid warbler on our route, regularly seen in wooded areas and thickets.

Western Subalpine Warbler *Curruca iberiae*—we saw this pretty warbler while looking for the Western Black-eared Wheatear in the power cut at PN Monfrague (04/28).

Greater Whitethroat *Curruca communis*—seen in the low brambles on the edge of the pine forest at Navarredonda de Gredos (04/25).

Spectacled Warbler *Curruca conspicillata*—at least a half-dozen individuals singing and flitting around actively in the low heath outside Dehesa Talavan (04/27).

Dartford Warbler *Curruca undata*—a few individuals perched up to sing in the heath outside Dehesa Talavan (04/27). Also seen well in PN Doñana—La Rocina (05/01).

KINGLETS: Regulidae (2)

Goldcrest *Regulus regulus*—a couple sightings in the pine forests around Navarredonda de Gredos (04/24-25).

Common Firecrest *Regulus ignicapilla*—we saw this pretty bird in the pine forest near Navarredonda de Gredos (04/24). Very similar to the Golden-crowned Kinglet of North America.

NUTHATCHES: Sittidae (1)

Eurasian Nuthatch *Sitta europaea*— seen on both of our pine forest walks near Navarredonda de Gredos (04/24-25). Also seen in the dehesa at Calzada de Calatrava, where it is a scarce species (05/05).

TREECREEPERS: Certhiidae (1)

Short-toed Treecreeper *Certhia brachydactyla*— seen on both of our pine forest walks near Navarredonda de Gredos (04/24-25). Very similar to the Brown Creeper of North America both in appearance and song.

WRENS: Troglodytidae (1)

Eurasian Wren *Troglodytes troglodytes*—seen in the pine forests near Navarredonda de Gredos (04/21), PN Monfrague—Salto del Gitano (04/28), and PN Doñana—La Rocina (05/01). Song reminiscent of Winter or Pacific Wren of North America, and all three were once thought to be conspecific. It is the only wren species in the Old World.

DIPPERS: Cinclidae (1)

White-throated Dipper *Cinclus cinclus*—great views on the rocky stream running through the pine forest near Navarredonda de Gredos (04/24-25). Also seen in the late morning at Sierra de Gredos-La Plataforma (04/25).

STARLINGS AND MYNAS: Sturnidae (1)

Spotless Starling *Sturnus unicolor*—ubiquitous Iberian Peninsula specialty

THRUSHES: Turdidae (2)

Mistle Thrush *Turdus viscivorus*— our best views were in the pine forests around Navarredonda de Gredos, where they seemed to be shy but rather common (04/25). Also seen at Calzada de Calatrava (05/05).
Eurasian Blackbird *Turdus merula*—common and widespread

OLD WORLD FLYCATCHERS AND CHATS: Muscicapidae (12)

Spotted Flycatcher *Muscicapa striata*—migrants in the vineyards of Trebujena (04/30), Laguna de Navaseca (05/04), and Puente de Balbuena (05/05). Not too dissimilar in outward appearance to the tyrant flycatchers of the Americas.

European Robin *Erithacus rubecula*— We had great views at the feeders of Hostal Almanzor and the surrounding pine forests (04/25-26) – very charming and cute species.

Common Nightingale *Luscinia megarhynchos*—we saw and heard this legendary frequently throughout our journey in Spain. The male attracts the female by singing the most complex song he can muster.

European Pied Flycatcher *Ficedula hypoleuca*— we saw this striking little flycatcher at Tablas de Daimiel (5/04), where it is a passage migrant.

Common Redstart *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*—we saw a female migrant in the low dune vegetation at Marismas del Odiel (05/05).

Black Redstart *Phoenicurus ochruros*— one of our first new birds of the tour with excellent sightings at Laguna de El Campillo outside of Madrid (04/24). Also observed at PN Monfrague—Salto del Gitano (04/28) and throughout the Sierra de Gredos (04/25-26).

Blue Rock-Thrush *Monticola solitarius*—we saw these deep blue birds at Ermita del Risco (04/27), PN Monfrague—Salto del Gitano (04/28), and Calzada de Calatrava (05/05).

Whinchat *Saxicola rubetra*—one sitting on a wire fence at Llanos de Caceres (04/27), our only one of the tour.

European Stonechat *Saxicola rubicola*— we saw these perky little birds in grasslands, farm fields, and other open habitats regularly.

Northern Wheatear *Oenanthe oenanthe*—several running among the rocks and patches of fresh snow at Sierra de Gredos—La Plataforma (04/25), where it is a summer breeder in the alpine meadows. Also seen at Casatejada (04/26) and Marismas del Odiel (05/01).

Western Black-eared Wheatear *Oenanthe hispanica*—great views of a single individual in the power cut at PN Monfrague (04/28), as well as Cerro Yezosa (05/03). A small and beautifully colored wheatear.

Black Wheatear *Oenanthe leucura*—two birds seen in the old mine at Cerro Yezosa near Almagro (05/03).

WAXBILLS: Estrildidae (1)

Common Waxbill *Estrilda astrild* (1)—seen in the Mediterranean forest at PN Doñana—La Rocina (05/01).

ACCENTORS: Prunellidae (1)

Dunnock *Prunella modularis*—several birds cavorting around the parking lot at Sierra de Gredos—La Plataforma (04/25)! Part of a bird family absent in the Americas.

OLD WORLD SPARROWS: Passeridae (4)

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*—one of the most common birds in Spain

Spanish Sparrow *Passer hispaniolensis*—singles at Llanos de Caceres (04/27), Tablas de Daimiel (05/04), and Calzada de Calatrava (05/05). Although broadly similar in appearance to the previous species, this species weaves pendant nests in tight colonies of hundreds of birds.

Eurasian Tree Sparrow *Passer montanus*—seen at Laguna de El Campillo (04/24) and PN Tablas de Daimiel (05/04) in the area where we flushed the Common Quail.

Rock Sparrow *Petronia petronia*—several birds at Laguna de El Campillo (04/24).

PIPITS AND WAGTAILS: Motacillidae (3)

Gray Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea*—in the rocky stream on our morning walk at Navarredonda de Gredos (04/25).

Western Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava*—seen at Sierra de Gredos—La Plataforma (04/25), Salinas de Bonanza (04/30), and PN Tablas de Daimiel (05/04) – a bird of reedy edges and mudflats.

White Wagtail *Motacilla alba*—one at the Sierra de Gredos—La Plataforma (04/25).

FINCHES: Fringillidae (8)

Common Chaffinch *Fringilla coelebs*— common finch of wooded areas, especially in PN Monfrague (04/28) and in the Sierra de Gredos (04/24-26). Along with Brambling, one of only two finches that offer their young an insect-based diet upon hatching instead of seed.

European Greenfinch *Chloris chloris*—sightings at Dehesa Talavan (04/27), Laguna de Navaseca (05/04), and Tablas de Daimiel (05/04).

Eurasian Linnet *Linaria cannabina*—common finch of agricultural and lightly wooded habitats.

Red Crossbill *Loxia curvirostra*—abundant around Hostal Almanzor (04/25-26)!

European Goldfinch *Carduelis carduelis*—beautiful and common European finch

Citril Finch *Carduelis citrinella*—heard well but seen only briefly in the Sierra de Gredos (04/25).

European Serin *Serinus serinus*—we saw this pretty ‘canary’ at Laguna de El Campillo (04/24), PN Doñana—La Rocina (05/01), and El Rocio (05/02).

Eurasian Siskin *Spinus spinus*—nice to see this one a couple times in the pine forests of Navarredonda de Gredos (04/24), lingering individuals from a southward irruption last winter.

BUNTINGS: Emberizidae (4)

Corn Bunting *Emberiza calanra*—a constant presence in agricultural and grassland habitats.

Rock Bunting *Emberiza cia*—we saw this handsome bunting at Sierra de Gredos—La Plataforma (04/25), Ermita del Risco (04/27), PN Monfrague—Salto del Gitano (04/28), and Calzada de Calatrava (05/05).

Cirl Bunting *Emberiza ciris*—one individual in the pine forests of Navarredonda de Gredos (04/25).

Reed Bunting *Emberiza schoeniclus*—a territorial male of the endemic breeding subspecies at PN Tablas de Daimiel (05/05).

MAMMALS (4 species recorded):

European Rabbit *Oryctolagus cuniculus*—very common, especially in Castille-La Mancha.

Red Deer *Cervus elaphus*

Fallow Deer *Dama dama*—flushed at Castillo Calatrava La Nueva (05/05).

Iberian Ibex *Capra pyrenaica*—we saw a whole herd of this impressive mammal at Sierra de Gredos—La Plataforma (04/25).

REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS (6 species recorded):

Mediterranean Turtle *Mauremys leprosa*

Common Chameleon *Chamaeleo chamaeleon*—fantastic views at Lagunas de Camino Colorado (04/30). The only chameleon species found in Europe, and one of the few found outside of Africa.

Ocellated Lizard *Timon lepidus*—seen at El Parador in Navarredonda de Gredos (04/25) – a colorful, large lizard.

Large Psammmodromus *Psammmodromus algirus*

Common Wall Lizard *Podarcis muralis*

Iberian Green Frog *Pelophylax perezi*