

Spain: Birding & Nature | Species List

April 24 – May 7, 2023 | with Naturalist Journeys



With Carlos Sanchez and local guides (Manuel Morales, Vicente Malagon, and Chris Hodges) and ten participants: Ross, Tom, Holly, Sarah, Michael, Carol, Ray, Margaret, Frances, and William

Compiled by Carlos Sanchez

(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 even ate at a Michelin star restaurant!

We recorded 188 bird species in two weeks – species such as Great Bustard, Egyptian Vulture, Eurasian Hoopoe, European Roller, Crested Tit, Great Spotted Cuckoo, Pin-tailed Sandgrouse, and more. Our guests nominated nineteen bird species as their bird of the trip, with the endangered White-headed Duck 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.

BIRDS (188 species recorded, of which 5 were heard only):

DUCKS, GEESE AND SWANS: Anatidae (12)

Graylag Goose *Anser anser*—formerly only a winter resident, a resident population has been growing exponentially in southern Spain for the past decade or more. Hundreds at Tablas de Daimiel PN (04/26) and a few in the fields near Laguna de Navaseca (04/27).

Egyptian Goose *Alopochen aegyptiaca* (I)—we saw a family group of this introduced sheldgoose at Tablas de Daimiel PN (04/26). Considered to be part of an established, introduced population.

Common Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna*—we saw this handsome duck at Tablas de Daimiel PN (02/26) and Laguna de Navaseca (04/27).

Garganey *Spatula querquedula*—one of these highly migratory waterfowl at Tablas de Daimiel PN (04/26) was a real treat.

Northern Shovler *Spatula clypeata*—seen at Laguna de la Veguilla (04/25), Laguna de Navaseca (04/27), and Dehesa de Abajo (04/29).

Gadwall *Mareca strepera*—common duck of freshwater wetlands in Castille-La Mancha and Andalusia.

Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*—abundant and widespread in all manner of habitats, as long as there is some water.

Marbled Teal *Marmaronetta angustirostris*—we were very fortunate to see this species on the first day of the tour! Great views of two birds at Laguna de la Veguilla (04/25) and another at Dehesa de Abajo (04/29). Currently considered to be the rarest duck species in Europe.

Red-crested Pochard *Netta rufina*—common and handsome duck of wetland sites in Castille-La Mancha and Andalusia.

Common Pochard *Aythya ferina*—nice contraction of a couple dozen individuals at Laguna de la Vegailla on the first day of the tour (04/25), as well as a single bird at Lagunas de Camino Colorado near Jerez (05/01).

Ferruginous Duck *Aythya nyroca*—we saw only one of these threatened ducks at a site just north of Seville (05/02).

White-headed Duck *Oxyura leucocephala*—nice views at Laguna de la Vegailla (04/25) and Lagunas de Camino Colorado (05/01) – such a pretty duck with the males having an electric blue bill. **VOTED BIRD OF THE TRIP!**

PARTRIDGES, PHEASANTS AND ALLIES: Phasianidae (1)

Red-legged Partridge *Alectoris rufa*—great views of this heavily hunted species at Corral de Calatrava (04/27) and Llanos de Caceres (05/04), where they seemed unperturbed by our presence.

FLAMINGOS: Phoenicopteridae (1)

Greater Flamingo *Phoenicopterus roseus*—numerous and common at most wetland sites visited in Castille-La Mancha and Andalusia. A very cool species to have as a common wetland bird.

GREBES: Podicipedidae (3)

Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis*—smallest grebe species in Europe, seen at Lagunas de Camino Colorado (05/01), Parque del Alamillo (05/02), and Los Barruecos (05/04).

Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus*—three at a reservoir in a park just outside Caceres (05/02). This large grebe requires deeper water than the other two possible species on this tour.

Eared Grebe *Podiceps nigricollis*—several dozen birds at Laguna de la Vegailla (04/25) were our only ones, likely a symptom of the severe drought in southern Spain.

PIGEONS AND DOVES: Columbidae (3)

Rock Pigeon *Columba livia*—common and widespread around buildings and rocky cliffs.

Common Wood-Pigeon *Columba palumbus*—one of the most common birds in Spain, inhabiting a wide variety of habitats from wooded parks to pine forest.

Eurasian Collared-Dove *Streptopelia decaocto*—very common dove species, especially around towns and agricultural areas. The specific epithet ‘decaocto’ is Greek for ‘eighteen’, comes from a Greek myth about a maid who worked hard for little money (18 coins a year). After she prayed to the gods, Zeus created this dove that calls out ‘deca-octo’ ever since.

SANDGROUSE: Pteroclididae (1)

Pin-tailed Sandgrouse *Pterocles alchata*—fantastic views of this exquisite species at Tablas de Daimiel PN (04/26) and Laguna de Navaseca (04/27). They were coming down to the edge to drink at the latter site in the late afternoon.

BUSTARDS: Otidae (2)

Great Bustard *Otis tarda*—we saw a whole flock of males under an olive tree at Campo de Calatrava in Castille-La Mancha (04/27), as well as a couple more at Llanos de Caceres (05/04).

Little Bustard *Tetrax tetrax*—brief views of a male in flight at Campo de Calatrava (04/27), which promptly vanished by alighting in a field of grass.

CUCKOOS AND ALLIES: CUCULIDAE (2)

Great Spotted Cuckoo *Clamator glandarius*—one being chased by a Eurasian Magpie at Tablas de Daimiel PN (04/26). This large cuckoo specializes on parasitizing the nests of magpies.

Common Cuckoo *Cuculus canorus*—nice scope views of a few individuals at Dehesa Tornero while hoping for Spanish Lynx (04/30) – a rapidly declining species due to climate change and hunting across North Africa.

NIGHTJARS: Caprimulgidae (1)

Red-necked Nightjar *Caprimulgus ruficollis*—we saw this large nightjar species at Ardea Purpurea Lodge in the evening twilight (04/30).

SWIFTS: Apodidae (5)

Alpine Swift *Apus melba*—at least three of these giant swifts at the long bridge at Monfrague PN (05/03). These are very large swifts, about the same size and weight as the White-collared Swift of the American tropics.

Common Swift *Apus apus*—the sound of summer throughout European towns and cities.

Pallid Swift *Apus pallidus*—mixed in with Common Swift in central Caceres and drinking water from a pond at Tablas de Daimiel PN (04/26).

Little Swift *Apus affinis*—we visited the only breeding colony of this species in Europe in the Port of Chipiona (05/1). Not truly 'little' as it is still much larger than most swift species in the United States.

White-rumped Swift *Apus caffer*—a scarce breeder and late spring migrant in Spain, so we were lucky to see one mixed in with a swirl of Red-rumped Swallow and Common House-Martin at Monfrague PN (05/03).

RAILS, COOTS AND ALLIES: Rallidae (5)

Water Rail *Rallus aquaticus* (HO)—heard calling repeatedly in the small wet area at Corral de Caltrava (04/27).

Eurasian Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus*—common wetland species.

Eurasian Coot *Fulica atra*—common and conspicuous wetland species.

Red-knobbed Coot *Fulica cristata*—one at a site just north of Seville, as the usual location at Dehesa de Abajo had nearly dried out due to the drought.

Western Swamphen *Porphyrio porphyrio*—smaller numbers than usual but still offering good views at Donana PN (04/29), Dehesa de Abajo (04/29), and Arrocampo Reservoir (05/05).

THICK-KNEES: Burhinidae (1)

Eurasian Thick-knee *Burhinus oedicnemus*—great views of this bizarre shorebird at the Campo de Calatrava in Castille-La Mancha (04/27).

STILTS AND AVOCETS: Recurvirostridae (2)

Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus*—the most common shorebird species at all wetland sites, often times the only shorebird present.

Pied Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta*—we saw this elegant shorebird at Tablas de Daimiel (04/26), Laguna de Navaseca (04/27), Dehesa de Abajo (04/29), and Salinas de Bonanza (05/01). The concentration of birds at Salinas de Bonanza was especially large, perhaps over a hundred individuals or more in the complex.

PLOVERS AND LAPWINGS: Charadriidae (4)

American Golden-Plover *Pluvialis dominica*—we saw this continuing rarity at Dehesa de Abajo, a real treat to see this highly migratory American species in Spain (04/29).

Kentish Plover *Charadrius alexandrinus*—our best views were at Salinas de Bonanza (05/01), where we saw about ten individuals in all.

Common Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*—seen at Laguna de Navaseca (04/27), Dehesa de Abajo (04/29), Marisma de El Rocio (04/30), and Salinas de Bonanza (05/01), often in large numbers.

Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius*—singles at Tablas de Daimiel (04/26), Laguna de Navaseca (04/27), and Marisma de El Rocio (04/30). Behavior and habitat choice is similar to that of a Killdeer.

SANDPIPERS AND ALLIES: Scolopacidae (11)

Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa*—a distant flock offered scope views at Marisma de El Rocio (04/30).

Ruff *Calidris pugnax*—female-type birds at Laguna de Navaseca (04/27) and Dehesa de Abajo (04/29).

Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea*—large numbers at Dehesa de Abajo (04/29) and Salinas de Bonanza (05/01), including quite a few in brick red breeding plumage.

Temminck's Stint *Calidris temminckii*—we identified one at Laguna de Navaseca (04/27) and another three in the scope at Marisma de El Rocio (04/30). An uncommon spring migrant in Spain.

Sanderling *Calidris alba*—at least one breeding plumage individual at Salinas de Bonanza (05/01).

Dunlin *Calidris alpina*—seen at both Marisma de El Rocio (04/30) and Salinas de Bonanza (05/01), with most wintering individuals having left by now for points north.

Little Stint *Calidris minuta*—nice numbers of this species at Tablas de Daimiel (04/26), Laguna de Navaseca (04/27), and Salinas de Bonanza (05/01).

Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*—common shorebird at wetland sites in Castilla-La Mancha, including about a dozen at Laguna de Navaseca (04/27).

Common Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*—observed at Dehesa de Abajo (04/29) and Salinas de Bonanza (05/01).

Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola*—one at Dehesa de Abajo (04/29).

Common Redshank *Tringa totanus*—small numbers at Tablas de Daimiel (04/26), Dehesa de Abajo (04/29), and Salinas de Bonanza (05/01).

PRATINCOLES AND COURSERS: Glareolidae (1)

Collared Pratincole *Glareola pratincola*—our best views were at Marisma de El Rocio, where some individuals perched on the ground for nice scope views (04/30). These unusual shorebirds look somewhat like a plover mixed with a swallow.

GULLS AND TERNS: Laridae (8)

Slender-billed Gull *Chroicocephalus genei*—a few of these dainty birds at Salinas de Bonanza (05/01).

Black-headed Gull *Chroicocephalus ridibundus*—locally abundant at wetland sites in Castilla-La Mancha.

Yellow-legged Gull *Larus michaellis*—the default large gull of the coast.

Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus fuscus*—a couple first cycle birds at Laguna de Navaseca (04/27).

Little Tern *Sternula albifrons*—we saw a few at Salinas de Bonanza (05/01).

Gull-billed Tern *Gelochelidon nilotica*—several at Laguna de Navaseca (04/27) and Arrocampo Reservoir (05/05), where we got great scope views.

Caspian Tern *Hydroprogne caspia*—several at Salinas de Bonanza (05/01), the largest tern species in the world.

Whiskered Tern *Chlidonias hybrida*—common freshwater tern in Castilla-La Mancha, although less numerous than usual due to the prevailing drought conditions.

STORKS: Ciconiidae (2)

Black Stork *Ciconia nigra*—nests visible from Salto del Gitano in Monfrague PN, where we saw at least a couple individuals quite well through the scope (05/03). This species is far more retiring than the following species.

White Stork *Ciconia ciconia*—common and conspicuous in a variety of habitats. Does not mind nesting near humans.

CORMORANTS: Phalacrocoracidae (1)

Great Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*—singles recorded at Las Islillas in Madrid (04/25), Sotos de Albolafia in Cordoba (04/28), and Arrocampo Reservoir (05/05).

HERONS AND EGRETS: Ardeidae (6)

Little Bittern *Ixobrychus minutus*—several seen well both in flight and in the scope at Arrocampo Reservoir (05/05). The European equivalent of the Least Bittern in North America.

Gray Heron *Ardea cinerea*—common and conspicuous heron wherever there was water. This is the Old World equivalent of the Great Blue Heron.

Purple Heron *Ardea purpurea*—singles at Dehesa de Abajo (04/29), Marisma de El Rocio (04/30), and Arrocampo Reservoir (05/05). More retiring than the previous species.

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*—common white egret wherever there was water.

Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis*—our largest concentration was at Marisma de El Rocio (04/30).

Black-crowned Night-Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax*—we saw this cosmopolitan species at Laguna de Navaseca (04/27) and from the bridge in Cordoba (04/28).

IBIS AND SPOONBILLS: Threskiornithidae (2)

Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus*—over a hundred individuals at Dehesa de Abajo (04/29), plus smaller numbers at Marisma de El Rocio (04/30) and Arrocampo Reservoir (05/05).

Eurasian Spoonbill *Platalea leucorodia*—our best views were at Dehesa de Abajo (04/29) of this charismatic and elegant wader.

OSPREY: Pandionidae (1)

Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*—scope views of a distant bird at Salinas de Bonanza (05/01). This widespread raptor is much less common in Europe than in North America.

HAWKS, KITES AND EAGLES: Accipitridae (12)

Black-winged Kite *Elanus caeruleus*—we saw this acrobatic raptor from the road on our way to Dehesa Tornero (04/30). Very similar in appearance and behavior to the White-tailed Kite of the Americas (04/30).

Egyptian Vulture *Neophron percnopterus*—seen at Salto del Gitano and Portilla del Tietar in Monfrague PN (05/03), including scope views of a bird sitting on a nest. Declining in Europe and considered to be **Endangered**.

Cinereous Vulture *Aegypius monachus*—great views of this massive raptor at Monfrague PN (05/03), Llanos de Caceres (05/04), and Arrocampo Reservoir (05/05). By some estimates, it is the largest species of Old World vulture and one of the largest raptors in the world.

Eurasian Griffon *Gyps fulvus*—numerous in Extremadura and the Gredos Mountains, with an especially large concentration at Salto del Gitano in Monfrague PN (05/03).

Short-toed Snake-Eagle *Circaetus gallicus*—at least four separate birds at Monfrague PN (05/03), a single at Llanos de Caceres (05/04), and two soaring at the Plataforma in the Gredos (05/06). This large raptor feeds almost exclusively on snakes.

Booted Eagle *Hieraetus pennatus*—light morph individuals at Dehesa de Abajo (04/29), Dehesa Las Arenosas (05/04), and the Gredos Mountains (05/05).

Spanish Eagle *Aquila adalberti*—distant but definitive views of a soaring bird at Portilla del Tietar in Monfrague PN (05/03). This species is endemic to the Iberian Peninsula. Feeds primarily (58% of its diet) on European rabbit.

Eurasian Marsh-Harrier *Circus aeruginosus*—five individuals at Laguna de la Veguilla (04/25) and another two at the small pond in Llanos de Caceres (05/04).

Montagu's Harrier *Circus pygargus*—seen in the steppes before reaching Monfrague PN (05/05). A rapidly declining species in Spain, as the cultivated fields where it nests are now harvested before the chicks fledge.

Red Kite *Milvus milvus*—common once we arrived in the Gredos Mountains (05/06).

Black Kite *Milvus migrans*—the most common medium-sized raptor in Spain, seen almost daily.

Common Buzzard *Buteo buteo*—seen on our way to Dehesa Tornero (04/30). In the Old World, the *Buteo* raptors are called buzzards instead of hawks.

OWLS: Strigidae (3)

Eurasian Eagle-Owl *Bubo bubo*—excellent scope views of two individuals at Las Islillas right near Barajas in Madrid kicked off our birding in Spain (04/25). The largest and heaviest owl in Europe.

Little Owl *Athene noctua*—we saw this ancient symbol of the Greek goddess Athena at Laguna de Navaseca (04/27) and Llanos de Caceres (05/04).

Tawny Owl *Strix aluco* (HO)—heard well at Ardea Purpurea Lodge, we we did manage silhouette views (04/30).

HOOPOES: Upupidae (1)

Eurasian Hoopoe *Upupa epops*—this charismatic and unique species is quite common in Spain, with sightings on about half the days of the tour. Our best experience was at Parque del Alamillo in Seville, where we got to within feet of several individuals.

KINGFISHERS: Alcedinidae (1)

Common Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis*—we saw this iridescent jewel of a bird at Sotos de Albolafia in Cordoba (04/28).

BEE-EATERS: Meropidae (1)

European Bee-eater *Merops apiaster*—about a dozen individuals came in the late afternoon to drink at Laguna de Navaseca (04/27). We also saw them at Dehesa de Abajo (04/29), Monfrague PN (05/03), and Dehesa Las Arenosas (05/04). Their golden backs and turquoise underparts form a unique color pattern among bee-eaters and all birds in general.

ROLLERS: Coraciidae (1)

European Roller *Coracias garrulus*—we saw these sky blue birds at Tablas de Daimiel (04/26) and near nest boxes in Llanos de Caceres (05/04).

WOODPECKERS: Picidae (4)

Eurasian Wryneck *Jynx torquilla*—we got really lucky when we heard and then saw an individual at Las Islillas near Madrid (04/25), right after seeing Eurasian Eagle-Owl. What a great set of two birds to kick off a tour in Spain!

Great Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos major*—seen at Corral de Calatrava in Castille-La Mancha (04/27), then quite common in the Gredos Mountains both in the forest and near the feeders (05/06).

Lesser Spotted Woodpecker *Dryobates minor*—two birds showed well on the trail at Palacio del Acebron in Donana PN (04/30).

Iberian Green Woodpecker *Picus sharpei*—after a bit of a wait, we finally managed great views of this striking bird coming to the feeders at Hostal Almanzor (05/06).

FALCONS AND CARACARAS: Falconidae (4)

Lesser Kestrel *Falco naumanni*—we saw this colonial nester at the bridge in Cordoba (04/28) and Llanos de Caceres (05/04).

Eurasian Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus*—seen at Dehesa de Abajo (04/29), Llanos de Caceres (05/04), and Los Barruecos (05/04).

Eurasian Hobby *Falco subbuteo*—a great sighting in the Gredos Mountains after most of the group had left (05/06).

Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus*—one soaring from the viewpoint at Salto del Gitano (05/03).

PARROTS: Psittacidae (2)

Rose-ringed Parakeet *Psittacula krameri* (1)—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* (1)—great views of about a dozen birds feeding on the lawns at Parque del Alamillo. Introduced via the pet trade from southern South America.

OLD WORLD ORIOLES: Oriolidae (1)

Eurasian Golden Oriole *Oriolus oriolus*—seen at Corral de Calatrava (04/27), Priego de Cordoba, and behind Hostal Almanzor in the Gredos (05/05).

SHRIKES: Laniidae (3)

Red-backed Shrike *Lanius collurio*—this late migrant made an appearance in the Gredos Mountains on the final day of the tour (05/07). This is one of the last spring migrants to arrive in Spain.

Iberian Gray Shrike *Lanius meridionalis*—seen at Campo de Calatrava (04/27) and on a pylon at Arrocampo Reservoir (05/05).

Woodchat Shrike *Lanius senator*—we saw this colorful shrike mostly in oak woodlands such as Dehesa Tornero (04/30) and Dehesa Las Arenosas (05/04).

CROWS AND JAYS: Corvidae (6)

Eurasian Jay *Garrulus glandarius*—seen in the pine forest in the Gredos Mountains (05/06) and the feeders behind Hostal Almanzor (05/6). Much bigger and more solitary than the widespread jays of the United States.
Iberian Magpie *Cyanopica cooki*—our best views of this Iberian endemic were at Los Barruecos while we were enjoying a picnic lunch (05/04).

Eurasian Magpie *Pica pica*—seen almost daily.

Eurasian Jackdaw *Corvus monedula*—very common small crow in Castille-La Mancha. We also saw them at Llanos de Caceres using nest boxes meant for Lesser Kestrel and European Roller (05/04).

Carrion Crow *Corvus corone*—seen only at Hoyos del Espino in the Gredos (05/06), the only place where we are within range of this species.

Common Raven *Corvus corax*—sightings scattered throughout our route. The world's largest passerine!

TITS AND CHICKADEES: Paridae (4)

Coal Tit *Pariparus ater*—very common once we got into the Gredos Mountains, including great views at the feeders (05/05 and 05/06).

Crested Tit *Lophophanes cristatus*—the least common of the tits possible on this tour, although we still saw it on both days in the Gredos (05/05 and 05/06).

Eurasian Blue Tit *Cyanistes caeruleus*—we saw these cute little birds at Corral de Calatrava (04/27), Palacio del Acebron (04/30), Parque del Alamillo (05/02), and Dehesa Las Arenosas (05/04).

Great Tit *Parus major*—seen at Castillo de Calatrava La Nueva (04/26) and the Gredos Mountains (05/05 and 05/06).

PENDULINE-TITS: Remizidae (1)

Eurasian Penduline-Tit *Remiz pendulinus*—one sighting at Parque del Alamillo (05/02), after unsuccessfully searching for it at Tablas de Daimiel earlier in the trip.

LARKS: Alaudidae (6)

Greater Short-toed Lark *Calandrella brachydactyla*—great views along La Pulgosa Road in Llanos de Caceres (05/04).

Calandra Lark *Melanocorypha calandra*—numerous along La Pulgosa Road in Llanos de Caceres (05/04). This classic bird of the Spanish steppes is the largest species of European lark.

Wood Lark *Lullula arborea*—seen at Dehesa Tornero (04/30), while we were looking for Spanish Lynx.

Eurasian Skylark *Alauda arvensis*—seen giving its full flight display on the trail above La Plataforma in the Gredos (05/06).

Thekla's Lark *Galerida theklae*—seen in more rocky, upland sites than the following species, such as the Molinos de Consuegra (04/25) and Castillo de Calatrava La Nueva (04/26).

Crested Lark *Galerida cristata*—the most widespread and adaptable lark in Spain.

CISTICOLAS: Cisticolidae (1)

Zitting Cisticola *Cisticola juncidis*—our best views were at Llanos de Caceres (05/04) and the Arrocampo Reservoir (05/05). Interesting display which involves a ticking song while making a high, undulating flight.

REED WARBLERS: Acrocephalidae (4)

Western Olivaceous Warbler *Iduna opaca* (HO)—heard at the Sotos de Albolafia (04/28) in Cordoba. Sometimes known as Isabelline Warbler.

Melodious Warbler *Hippolais polyglotta*—great views at the vineyards of Trebujena right after seeing Rufous-tailed Scrub-Robin (05/01).

Common Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*—quite common in reedy vegetation at all wetland sites.

Great Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus arundinaceus*—seemed to be equally as common as the previous species in similar habitat.

GRASSBIRDS AND ALLIES: Locustellidae (1)

Savi's Warbler *Locustella luscinioides*—nice views at Tablas de Daimiel PN (04/26), although I was a bit worried considering how little of the reedbeds were left standing after the park cleared most of them out.

SWALLOWS AND MARTINS: Hirundinidae (5)

Bank Swallow *Riparia riparia*—seen at Dehesa de Abajo (04/29), where it is a passage migrant.

Eurasian Crag-Martin *Ptyonoprogne rupestris*—we saw these large and highly aerodynamic swallows at Castillo de Calatrava La Nueva (04/26), Monfrague PN (05/03), and La Plataforma in the Gredos (05/06) among other places.

Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica*

Red-rumped Swallow *Cecropis daurica*—good numbers had arrived by the time we were running this tour, with especially nice views at Castillo de Calatrava La Nueva (04/26) and Corral de Calatrava (04/27). Larger than Barn Swallow with stiffer wingbeats.

Common House-Martin *Delichon urbicum*—numerous breeder, often nesting around buildings. Watching them collecting mud to make their nests at Marisma de El Rocio is always nice (04/30).

LEAF WARBLERS: Phylloscopidae (3)

Western Bonelli's Warbler *Phylloscopus bonelli*—seen briefly from the deck at Hostal Almanzor (05/06) on our pre-breakfast birding.

Common Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita* (HO)—heard singing in the Gredos Mountains (05/06).

Iberian Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus ibericus*—great views in the warm Mediterranean forest at Palacio del Acebron (04/30). This species has an oddly patchy summer breeding range on the Iberian Peninsula.

BUSH WARBLERS: Scotocercidae (1)

Cetti's Warbler *Cettia cetti*—heard much more often than seen (every time we were near any water), although we did finally manage to get good views of one individual at Sotos de Albolafia in Cordoba (04/28).

LONG-TAILED TITS: Aegithalidae (1)

Long-tailed Tit *Aegithalos caudatus*—great views of these tiny woodland sprites at Corral de Calatrava (04/27), Palacio del Acebron (04/30), and the Gredos Mountains (05/06). Staunch contender for world's cutest bird.

SYLVIID WARBLERS: Sylviidae (4)

Eurasian Blackcap *Sylvia atricapilla*—seen at Corral de Calatrava (04/27), Dehesa Tornero (04/30), and Hoyos del Espino (05/06). This is the most common and widespread Sylviid warbler in Europe.

Sardinian Warbler *Curruca melanocephala*—we saw these skulky little birds at Castillo de Calatrava La Nueva (04/26), Palacio del Acebron (04/30), Monfrague PN (05/03), and Dehesa Las Arenosas (05/04).

Greater Whitethroat *Curruca communis* (HO)—heard singing (and seen very distantly) at La Plataforma in the Gredos Mountains (05/06).

Spectacled Warbler *Curruca conspicillata*—reasonable views in the heath at Dehesa Las Arenosas (05/04).

KINGLETS: Regulidae (2)

Goldcrest *Regulus regulus*—one of these spritely little birds in the pine forest below el Parador in the Gredos (05/05). The Goldcrest and Firecrest are analogs to the two kinglets found in the United States.

Common Firecrest *Regulus ignicapilla*—seen at both the forest below el Parador (05/05) and the Hoyos del Espino (05/06) in the Gredos Mountains.

NUTHATCHES: Sittidae (1)

Eurasian Nuthatch *Sitta europaea*—regular sightings at Hostal Almanzor (feeders) and in pine forests elsewhere in the Gredos Mountains (05/05 and 05/06).

TREECREEPERS: Certhiidae (1)

Short-toed Treecreeper *Certhia brachydactyla*—seen in the Mediterranean forest of Palacio del Acebron (04/30) and the Gredos Mountains (05/06). Visually, almost identical to the Brown Creeper of the United States.

WRENS: Troglodytidae (1)

Eurasian Wren *Troglodytes troglodytes*—there was one singing away out in the open at Arroyo Malvecino in Monfrague PN (05/03). Also seen in the pine forest sites in the Gredos Mountains (05/06). This is the only wren species to occur in Eurasia.

DIPPERS: Cinclidae (1)

White-throated Dipper *Cinclus cinclus*—after searching for a few hours, we finally came across an adult bird feeding a mostly grown chick at Las Chorreras in the Gredos Mountains (05/06) – a real highlight!

STARLINGS AND MYNAS: Sturnidae (1)

Spotless Starling *Sturnus unicolor*—abundant in all manner of habitats.

THRUSHES: Turdidae (3)

Mistle Thrush *Turdus viscivorus*—seen in the pine forest sites around the Gredos Mountains (05/05 and 05/06). A large, bulky spotted thrush.

Song Thrush *Turdus philomelas*—scope views of a singing bird from the deck of Hostal Almanzor (05/06). This is not a bird we expect to see on this route, so we got lucky this time!

Eurasian Blackbird *Turdus merula*—Europe's version of the American Robin.

OLD WORLD FLYCATCHERS AND CHATS: Muscicapidae (12)

Spotted Flycatcher *Muscicapa striata*—one flycatching at Sotos de Albolafia in Cordoba (04/28).

Rufous-tailed Scrub-Robin *Cercotrichas galactotes*—fantastic views (and video) of a bird singing its heart out at the vineyards of Trebujena (05/01). Perhaps one of the most local avian specialties in Spain.

European Robin *Erithacus rubecula*—common in the Gredos Mountains, including a couple individuals that were regular at the feeders of Hostal Almanzor (05/05 and 05/06).

Common Nightingale *Luscinia megarhynchos*—common by voice (and we did see several individuals very well) in stands of trees and shrubs throughout Castille-La Mancha, Andalusia, and Extremadura, particularly if they were near water.

European Pied Flycatcher *Ficedula hypoleuca*—migrants at Tablas de Daimiel (04/26), Corral de Calatrava (04/27), and Parque del Alamillo (05/02). We also saw the Iberian race (*F. hypoleuca iberiae*) in the pine forest below el Parador in the Gredos (05/05), which is likely to be a different species due to differences in plumage and song.

Black Redstart *Phoenicurus ochruros*—regular sightings at Monfrague PN (05/03) and Gredos Mountains (05/05 and 05/06).

Rufous-tailed Rock-Thrush *Monticola saxatilis*—distant scope views of a bird sitting on a boulder at La Plataforma in the Gredos (05/06).

Blue Rock-Thrush *Monticola solitarius*—fantastic views at Calatrava La Nueva (04/26) and Monfrague PN (05/03).

European Stonechat *Saxicola rubicola*—several individuals in the heath of Dehesa Las Arenosas (05/04) and a couple more in the reedbeds of the Arrocampo Reservoir (05/05).

Northern Wheatear *Oenanthe oenanthe*—numerous once we got to the alpine meadows above La Plataforma in the Gredos (05/06).

Western Black-eared Wheatear *Oenanthe hispanica*—a couple of these pretty little wheatears at Cerro Yezosa in Castille-La Mancha on our first full day of birding (04/25).

Black Wheatear *Oenanthe leucura*—seen at both Cerro Yezosa (04/25) and Calatrava La Nueva (04/26). This large and bulky wheatear primarily uses areas with lots of boulders.

WEAVERS AND ALLIES: Ploceidae (1)

Black-headed Weaver *Ploceus melanocephalus* (1)—we saw a few female-type birds at Lagunas de Camino Colorado near Cadiz (05/01). This species is introduced from Africa via the cagebird trade.

ACCENTORS: Prunellidae (1)

Dunnock *Prunella modularis*—two or more birds showed well at La Plataforma in the Gredos (05/06), the only site on the tour where we are able to see this species.

OLD WORLD SPARROWS: Passeridae (4)

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*

Spanish Sparrow *Passer hispaniolensis*—we enjoyed a big colony under a nest of White Stork at Los Barruecos (05/04). Unlike the House Sparrow, the Spanish Sparrow prefers to weave a nest with grasses and plant stems instead of using a hole in a wall or building.

Eurasian Tree Sparrow *Passer montanus*—our best views were at Tablas de Daimiel PN (04/26), although we did see a couple at Las Islillas near Madrid (04/25).

Rock Sparrow *Petronia petronia*—our only sighting was at Cerro Yezosa in Castille-La Mancha (04/25). Another one of the ‘rock specialists’ that seem so prevalent in Spain.

PIPITS AND WAGTAILS: Motacillidae (4)

Gray Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea*—up to nine individuals along the river at Hoyos del Espino (05/06) while looking for White-throated Dipper. This species also breeds along flowing streams.

Western Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava*—seen at Laguna de Navaseca (04/27) and Marisma de El Rocio (04/30). This species prefers wetland habitats and wet fields.

White Wagtail *Motacilla alba*—seen at Los Barruecos (05/04) near a stone structure. This species prefers stone buildings and rocky environments in Spain.

Water Pipit *Anthus spinoletta*—Carol spotted one of these peering at us from a rock at Plataforma in the Gredos (05/06), a species that nests in alpine meadows in Spain.

FINCHES: Fringillidae (7)

Common Chaffinch *Fringilla coelebs*—especially common in the Gredos Mountains, where they were singing everywhere (05/05 and 05/06). Perhaps the most numerous nesting species in the pine forest. One of only two finch species that feed their young a non-seed based diet.

European Greenfinch *Chloris chloris*—common and widespread.

Eurasian Linnet *Linaria cannabina*—observed at Tablas de Daimiel (04/26), Monfrague PN (05/03), Dehesa Las Arenosas (05/04), and Plataforma (05/06).

Red Crossbill *Loxia curvirostra*—two females seen from the deck at Hostal Almanzor in the early morning hours (05/06).

European Goldfinch *Carduelis carduelis*—this beautiful finch was delightfully common.

Citril Finch *Carduelis citrinella*—a few seen in the pine forest below el Parador in the Gredos (05/05). This small finch is endemic to southwestern Europe.

European Serin *Serinus serinus*—common canary-like finch.

BUNTINGS: Emberizidae (4)

Corn Bunting *Emberiza calandra*—ubiquitous in open habitats and steppe.

Rock Bunting *Emberiza cia*—seen at Calatrava la Nueva (04/26), Monrague PN (05/03), and the Gredos (05/06). Lives up to its name as a rock specialist.

Cirl Bunting *Emberiza ciris*—seen in the Gredos on the final day of the tour (05/07).

Ortolan Bunting *Emberiza hortulana*—at least three birds showed beautifully at La Plataforma in the Gredos (05/06).

MAMMALS (5 species recorded):

European Rabbit *Oryctolagus cuniculus*

Red Fox *Vulpes vulpes*—we got to enjoy great views of a family of foxes from the feeders at Hostal Almanzor (05/06).

Red Deer *Cervus elaphus*

Roe Deer *Capreolus capreolus*—we flushed a few of these small deer at Hoyos del Espino (05/06).

Iberian Ibex *Capra pyrenaica*—great views of this majestic mammal at La Plataforma (05/06).

REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS (9 species recorded):

Mediterranean Turtle *Mauremys leprosa*

European Pond Turtle *Emys orbicularis*—observed at Tablas de Daimiel PN (04/26).

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*

Iberian Emerald Lizard *Lacerta schreiberi*—seen above La Plataforma in the Gredos (05/06), a reptile highly adapted to surviving in cold mountain habitats.

Green Iberian Wall Lizard *Podarcis virescens*—the wall lizard seen at Castillo Calatrava La Nueva was this one.

Moorish Gecko *Tarentola mauritanica*

Iberian Green Frog *Pelophylax perezi*—seen in an artificial pond environment in Monfrague PN (05/03).

NOTABLE PLANTS (in part):

Common Fig *Ficus carica*

Common Poppy *Papaver rhoeas*

Cork Oak *Quercus suber*

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

Giant Fennel *Ferula communis*—Calatrava La Nueva

Gum Rock-Rose *Cistus ladanifer*

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

Mountain Sandwort *Arenaria montana*—Gredos

Onion-leaved Asphodel *Asphodelus fistulosus*

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

Spanish Bluebell *Hyacinthoides hispanica*—Gredos

Spanish Lavender *Lavandula pedunculata*

Sweet Acorn Oak *Quercus rotundifolia*

Tassel Hyacinth *Muscari comosum*—Palacio del Acebron

White Campion *Silene latifolia*

Yellow Iris *Iris pseudacorus*