

SPRING BIRDING IN SPAIN

APRIL 29 – MAY 15, 2011

**LEADERS:
SANTIAGO VILLA AND BRIAN GIBBONS**

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Leaders: Santiago Villa and Brian Gibbons

Spain did not disappoint. Birds, wine, amazing scenery in the mountains and plains, and delicious cuisine satisfied every sense. Each of these aspects was brought to the forefront at some point during the tour, particularly the alpine scenery which was unforgettable. The rugged peaks dominating the skylines of the Picos de Europa and the Pyrenees were sublime. We saw flamingos, spoonbills, storks, bustards, eagle-owl, eagles, hawks, falcons, harriers, sandgrouse, pratincoles, eight species of larks, Firecrest, Bluethroat, Snowfinch, bee-eaters, Lammergeier, Wallcreeper, and Golden-Orioles. Our remarkable raptor list topped 23 species including Booted, Spanish Imperial, Bonelli's, Short-toed, and Golden eagles. Other fauna were spotted too: ocellated lizard, Spanish ibex, chamois, roe and red deer, and a foraging European.

The Stone Curlew (Eurasian Thick-knee) dozing in the olive grove was our first quality bird of the tour. Tom spotted it in the rain while we were waiting for the Rufous-tailed Scrub-Robin to show up. It took a couple more days before we would cross paths with the scrub-robin, but we did. We had three days to explore the woodlands and marshes of the famous Doñana National Park. Along the Atlantic coast marshes of Odiel, near Huelva, we found a great variety of shorebirds and waders. A cooperative Red-crested Coot was one of our first finds in the morning. The low-tide mudflats made for great foraging for the shorebirds. We found Bar-tailed Godwit, Snowy Plover, Red Knot, Common Ringed Plover, Eurasian Curlew, Eurasian Oystercatcher, Curlew Sandpiper, Collared Pratincole, and Audouin's Gull among others. Perhaps most spectacular were the flocks of Greater Flamingos that coursed past several times. The freshwater marshes of Doñana National Park hosted hordes of birds too. Nowhere was this more evident than the heronry at the Jose Antonio Valverde Visitors Center. Great Reed-Warblers rattled off their discordant notes as hundreds of herons, egrets, and ibis carried on about their nesting chores. Many birds were carrying sticks and reeds for nest construction; others sat placidly incubating. Purple and Squacco herons, Little and Cattle egrets, Glossy Ibis, and Black-crowned Night-Herons were the main constituents. The Marbled Teal pair, resting on a log were the stars of the visitor center. In the marsh itself we enjoyed Northern Lapwings, Eurasian Spoonbills, Greater Flamingos, Red-crested Pochards, and other ducks.

Leaving the wetlands behind, we moved into the region of Extremadura. Monfragüe National Park would be surrounding us for the next couple of days. The rough outcroppings were perfect nesting areas for Eurasian Griffons, and we saw hundreds. The Spanish Imperial Eagle also made its presence known. Salto del Gitano provided us with our only Black Wheatear, and the superb view from Castillo del Monfragüe allowed us to find our only White-rumped Swift. Bee-eaters were abundant in the open country, and we found our only Lesser Spotted Woodpeckers in a cork woodland.

After thoroughly exploring the hills and woodlands, we were off early one morning for the plains of Caceres. In these llanos we found Pin-tailed and Black-bellied sandgrouse, Little and Great bustards, many larks, rollers, and Montagu's Harriers. The highlight was provided by the displaying

Great Bustards. With tails flipped forward, heads pulled back, and wings inside out, it was hard to tell which part of the bird you were looking at. The blithe females were responsible for this ridiculous behavior. Displaying males, appearing mostly fluffy-white like giant cottonballs, were easy to spot on the plains. After this show we found ourselves in the beautiful town square of Trujillo for lunch, with Lesser Kestrels and swifts zipping past. As with most buildings, there were the usual stately storks nesting around the square. Later in the day we watched a couple of huge eagle-owl nestlings as their parents stayed hidden nearby. The rock outcrops were great for nesting raptors, but they also hosted some of the little guys like Rock Bunting, Cirl Bunting, Black Redstart, and tits.

Traveling to the Gredos Mountains took us through the Jerte Valley, the cherry capital of Spain. Here we had a great lunch and found our first Gray Wagtails. Our arrival into the mountains was greeted with cold, gray skies. The next morning was no different. Our hunt for the Bluethroat would be a wet one. We hiked up an old Roman road for a couple of kilometers toward the Bluethroats' preferred habitat; unfortunately, we couldn't see the shrubby mountainside, as it was cloaked in fog. We occupied ourselves with the occasional Red-billed Choughs and Dunnocks that revealed themselves nearby. Finally the mist stopped and the clouds lifted, exposing a small group of Spanish ibex grazing placidly nearby. The Bluethroats started to sing and we had some good looks before the clouds descended upon us and it started raining. Victorious, we beat a hasty retreat for some hot coffee and lunch. The afternoon was similar—the weather variably chasing us into the vans and tempting us out again with the changing sky. Pied Flycatcher, Firecrest, Eurasian Nuthatch, and Crested Tit allowed us to see them. A White-throated Dipper popped up in a boulder-strewn stream. Hostal Almanzor and Alfonso kept us warm and well-fed. The next morning was cruelly beautiful. The Gredos Mountains with remaining snow patches were tempting us into their heights, but we had to move on to the Picos de Europa.

A single night at the Parador Cervera de Pisuerga teased us with its spectacular views in every direction, great food, the best wine of the tour, and the most amazing breakfast buffet I have seen. The Bullfinches on the lawn were a bonus. This would be the gateway to the Picos. The pass at Piedras Luengas provided us with our first look at the spectacular soaring heights of the Picos de Europa. After lunch in Potes we found the loudest place under construction in a small village; this was the preferred habitat of the Middle Spotted Woodpecker. A pair attending a nest right next to a construction zone seemed content with their early spring mistake.

Another clear and windless day was at hand for the cable car ride to the top of the mountains. After some mild trepidation we climbed aboard the gondola and shot uphill 2,000 feet in just five minutes. In this nearly barren alpine land of rocks, snowfields, and a few sprigs of vegetation, we found ten species of birds in five hours of birding. Water Pipit, Northern Wheatear, and Alpine Accentor were easy. The White-winged Snowfinch flew past a few times, showing us its striking wing pattern, but not giving good looks.

By lunch time we hadn't heard a Yellow-billed Chough, so we sat down at La Vueltona to listen for Wallcreeper and feed ourselves. Hardly had our packs been cast to the ground before a group of three Yellow-billed Choughs descended. Landing ten feet away from us, they knew what we were having for lunch before we did. Their numbers swelled to more than ten for a while. They dispersed when our dining was done and we started hunting Wallcreeper more seriously.

Spreading out along the exposed rock, we all scanned and listened for the Wallcreeper. Finally, a pair flew in and a couple of folks saw them before they made a long flight across a huge valley. We were able to view the birds from a distance with the scopes that Santi had run down to retrieve. The birds disappeared into caves and crevices, all the while flicking their crimson wings.

After a successful trip into the mountains, we needed to make our way back to the cable car landing. We had good looks at lounging chamois, cooling off in the snow banks. Just before the landing we happened upon a group of Snowfinches feeding downhill. Two males would occasionally fly up in display and glide down on their largely white wings, singing all the while. Amazingly, when they landed they would cover up the white and fade into the rocky landscape.

Our last destination was Hecho Valley, in the Pyrenees. Unloading our bags was all we had to do to find our first Lammergeier from the Hotel Uson parking lot. A quick afternoon trip to the Boca del Infierno was just a sampling of the wonderful scenery of the Pyrenees. Soaring peaks, snowfields, and scree slopes made for beautiful vistas over the rushing streams, forests, and grassy valleys. We had just scoped the rare Citral Finch before the clouds closed in on us one last time. Our efforts to see a Ring Ouzel well were foiled by the mist and fog.

In the pine forest, a Black Woodpecker looked around while everyone enjoyed scope views. We made a morning visit to San Juan de la Peña Monastery, dating from the 11th century. An afternoon sighting of Lammergeier satisfied everybody as it glided around allowing good looks before drifting off. Wallcreeper was another target in the Gabardito Refuge, and most that made the effort of the hike were rewarded with additional views of this fantastic bird.

Our final morning found us again in open country, this time the Belchite Steppes area. Along the highway we got great looks at a young Golden Eagle, sitting stately on a bluff. Our main quarry was Dupont's Lark, which we found singing shortly after we arrived. Better views of sandgrouse were also on order. While we found them flying around once again, they kept their distance.

A total of 211 species in two weeks of birding through a spectacular, scenic country with wonderful food and wine made for a great trip.

ITINERARY:

April 30: We met in the rain in Sevilla and drove to Bollullos for our first try at Rufous-tailed Scrub-Robin. El Rocío, La Rocina Visitors Center Doñana National Park, Hotel Toruño, El Rocío

May 1: Huelva area, La Calatilla Visitors Center, Odiel Marshes Nature Reserve, Juan Carlos I Breakwater, Acebuche Visitors Center Doñana National Park, Hotel Toruño, El Rocío

May 2: Villamarique (scenic White Stork nests), Jose Antonio Valverde Visitors Center Doñana National Park, La Rocina Visitors Center (at night for Red-necked Nightjar), Hotel Toruño, El Rocío

May 3: Acebron Palace Doñana National Park, Bollullos, lunch in Santa Olalla, Alange Reservoir (Bonelli's Eagle), Merida (Roman bridge), Almonte River, Hospedería Parque de Monfragüe, Torrejón el Rubio

May 4: Extremadura region, Monfragüe National Park, Bazagona, Portilla del Tietar lookout, Villareal, Salto del Gitano lookout, Castillo del Monfragüe, Hospedería Parque de Monfragüe, Torrejón el Rubio

May 5: Caceres plains for Bustards and open country birds, lunch in Trujillo, Arracampo Reservoir, Hospedería Parque de Monfragüe, Torrejón el Rubio

May 6: Monfragüe National Park, Salto del Gitano, Villareal, Bascula lookout, Portilla del Tietar, Placencia, lunch Jerte Valley (cherry trees), Cabezuela del Valle, Tornavacas pass, Hostal Almanzor, Navarredonda de Gredos

May 7: Plataforma de Gredos (Bluethroat), lunch in Hoyos del Espino, Puente del Duque, Parador de Gredos, Hostal Almanzor, Navarredonda de Gredos

May 8: Parador de Gredos, Avila, Aguilar de Campoo, Parador Cervera de Pisuerga

May 9: Parador de Cervera, Piedras-Luengas pass, Obargo (orchids), lunch in Potes, Pendes and Tudes, Hotel Valdecora, Potes

May 10: Fuente De, El Cable (top of mtn after gondola ride), lunch at La Vueltona (the curve with Choughs), Brez, Hotel Valdecora, Potes

May 11: Drive to Santoña marshes for a little break and lunch, on to Hecho Valley, Boca del Infierno, Selva de Oza, Many areas visited from Hotel Uson were in Valles Occidentales Natural Park, Hotel Uson, Hecho Valley

May12: Valle de Anso, Valle de Roncal, Rincon de Belagua, brief forray into foggy France, lunch Isaba, Refuge Linza, Zuriza, Valle de Hecho, Hotel Uson, Hecho Valley

May13: Boca del Infierno, San Juan de la Peña Monastery, lunch in Santa Cruz de la Cerros, Hecho Valley, Gabardito for Wallcreeper (split group), Boca del Infierno for rest of group, Hotel Uson, Hecho Valley

May 14: Early departure for Belchite Steppes area for Dupont's Lark, Cariñena for lunch, Hotel Europa in Madrid for our final night.

May15: Departures for home, France and other sites in Madrid

BIRDLIST:

Swans, Geese & Ducks	Anatidae	
Graylag Goose	<i>Anser anser</i>	Doñana National Park
Mute Swan	<i>Cygnus olor</i>	Santoña marshes on the north coast
Common Shelduck	<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>	Huelva
Gadwall	<i>Anas strepera</i>	Doñana National Park
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	Common all over the country
Northern Shoveler	<i>Anas clypeata</i>	Huelva and Doñana National Park
Marbled Teal	<i>Marmoronetta angustirostris</i>	Doñana National Park, great find!
Red-crested Pochard	<i>Netta rufina</i>	Huelva and Doñana National Park
Common Pochard	<i>Aythya ferina</i>	Huelva, Doñana National Park and other wetlands

Pheasants & Partridges	Phasianidae	
Red-legged Partridge	<i>Alectoris rufa</i>	Monfragüe National Park
Common Quail	<i>Coturnix coturnix</i>	Doñana National Park, Heard, 1 glimpsed Cáceres
Grebes	Podicipedidae	
Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>	Doñana National Park first
Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>	Doñana National Park first
Flamingos	Phoenicopteridae	
Greater Flamingo	<i>Phoenicopterus roseus</i>	Huelva and Doñana National Park
Storks	Ciconiidae	
Black Stork	<i>Ciconia nigra</i>	Monfragüe National Park, best looks and nests w/ young
White Stork	<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>	Common all over the country, except the high mountains
Cormorants & Shags	Phalacrocoracidae	
Great Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>	Monfragüe National Park, a couple flybys
Hérons, Bitterns & Egrets	Ardeidae	
Little Bittern	<i>Ixobrychus minutus</i>	Doñana National Park, a few flybys
Gray Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	Common in marshes and along rivers
Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>	Doñana National Park, Huelva
Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>	Doñana National Park
Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	Doñana National Park, Huelva
Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>	Doñana National Park, Huelva and open country
Squacco Heron	<i>Ardeola ralloides</i>	Huelva and Doñana National Park
Black-crowned Night-Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>	Doñana National Park
Ibises & Spoonbills	Threskiornithidae	
Glossy Ibis	<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>	Huelva and Doñana National Park
Eurasian Spoonbill	<i>Platalea leucorodia</i>	Huelva and Doñana National Park
Osprey	Pandionidae	
Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	Huelva
Hawks, Eagles & Kites	Accipitridae	
European Honey-buzzard	<i>Pernis apivorus</i>	Picos de Europa and Pyrenees and Belchite Steppes
Black-shouldered Kite	<i>Elanus caeruleus</i>	Near Monfragüe National Park
Red Kite	<i>Milvus milvus</i>	Doñana National Park first, Extremadura and mtns
Black Kite	<i>Milvus migrans</i>	Common and seen daily all over the country
Lammergeier	<i>Gypaetus barbatus</i>	Seen a few times in the Pyrenees
Egyptian Vulture	<i>Neophron percnopterus</i>	Best looks in the Pyrenees
Eurasian Griffon	<i>Gyps fulvus</i>	Seen almost every day, particularly in the mtns
Cinereous Vulture	<i>Aegypius monachus</i>	Monfragüe National Park
Short-toed Eagle	<i>Circaetus gallicus</i>	Doñana National Park first
Eurasian Marsh-Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>	Huelva and Doñana National Park
Montagu's Harrier	<i>Circus pygargus</i>	Huelva, Doñana National Park and Extremadura
Eurasian Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>	Picos de Europa and Pyrenees
Northern Goshawk	<i>Accipiter gentilis</i>	Gredos mountains
Common Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>	Seen almost every day, particularly in the mtns
Spanish Eagle	<i>Aquila adalberti</i>	Doñana National Park first, Monfragüe National Park

Golden Eagle	<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>	Great looks along the highway to Belchite Steppes
Bonelli's Eagle	<i>Aquila fasciata</i>	Good looks at Alange Reservoir
Booted Eagle	<i>Hieraetus pennata</i>	The most common eagle, Swainson's Hawk flight pattern
Falcons & Caracaras	Falconidae	
Lesser Kestrel	<i>Falco naumanni</i>	Doñana National Park, nesting in Trujillo town square
Eurasian Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	Common throughout the country
Eurasian Hobby	<i>Falco subbuteo</i>	A couple high birds in the Pyrenees
Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	Monfragüe National Park and in the mtns
Rails, Gallinules & Coots	Rallidae	
Purple Swampphen	<i>Porphyrio porphyrio</i>	Huelva
Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	Huelva and Doñana National Park
Eurasian Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>	Huelva, Doñana National Park and Santoña marshes
Red-knobbed Coot	<i>Fulica cristata</i>	Huelva
Bustards	Otididae	
Great Bustard	<i>Otis tarda</i>	Caceres plains, good looks at their ridiculous display
Little Bustard	<i>Tetrax tetrax</i>	Caceres plains, tougher to see than their larger kin
Thick-knees	Burhinidae	
Eurasian Thick-knee	<i>Burhinus oediconemus</i>	Thanks Tom, near Bollullos
Plovers & Lapwings	Charadriidae	
Northern Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	Doñana National Park, displaying birds
Black-bellied Plover	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>	Huelva
Common Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>	Huelva and Doñana National Park
Little Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>	Near Monfragüe National Park
Snowy Plover	<i>Charadrius alexandrinus</i>	Huelva and Doñana National Park
Oystercatchers	Haematopodidae	
Eurasian Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>	Huelva
Avocets & Stilts	Recurvirostridae	
Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>	Huelva and Doñana National Park
Pied Avocet	<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>	Doñana National Park
Sandpipers & Allies	Scolopacidae	
Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>	Huelva and Doñana National Park
Common Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>	Huelva and Doñana National Park
Common Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>	Huelva and Doñana National Park
Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>	Huelva
Eurasian Curlew	<i>Numenius arquata</i>	Huelva
Bar-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa lapponica</i>	Huelva
Ruddy Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>	Huelva
Red Knot	<i>Calidris canutus</i>	Huelva
Sanderling	<i>Calidris alba</i>	Huelva
Curlew Sandpiper	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>	Huelva
Dunlin	<i>Calidris alpina</i>	Huelva and Doñana National Park

Pratincoles & Coursers	Glareolidae	
Collared Pratincole	<i>Glareola pratincola</i>	Great looks along the breakwater at Huelva
Gulls, Terns & Skimmers	Laridae	
Black-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>	Huelva and Doñana National Park
Slender-billed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus genei</i>	Doñana National Park
Audouin's Gull	<i>Ichthyaeetus audouinii</i>	Huelva
Mediterranean Gull	<i>Ichthyaeetus melanocephalus</i>	Huelva
Yellow-legged Gull	<i>Larus michahellis</i>	Huelva
Lesser Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus fuscus</i>	Huelva and Doñana National Park
Little Tern	<i>Sternula albifrons</i>	Huelva
Gull-billed Tern	<i>Gelochelidon nilotica</i>	Alange Reservoir and near Monfragüe National Park
Caspian Tern	<i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>	Huelva
Whiskered Tern	<i>Chlidonias hybrida</i>	Huelva and Doñana National Park
Black Tern	<i>Chlidonias niger</i>	Huelva and Doñana National Park
Sandwich Tern	<i>Thalasseus sandvicensis</i>	Huelva
Sandgrouse	Pteroclididae	
Pin-tailed Sandgrouse	<i>Pterocles alchata</i>	Caceres plains and Belchite steppes, distant birds
Black-bellied Sandgrouse	<i>Pterocles orientalis</i>	Caceres plains and Belchite steppes, distant birds
Pigeons & Doves	Columbidae	
Rock Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>	Feral Pigeon, seen daily
Common Wood Pigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	Seen well only at the cable car landing in Picos
European Turtle-Dove	<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>	Heard only a couple times, Monfragüe National Park
Eurasian Collared-Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	Common, seen daily
Cuckoos	Cuculidae	
Great Spotted Cuckoo	<i>Clamator glandarius</i>	Flyby Doñana National Park, Caceres plains
Common Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>	Heard often, seen a few times, widespread
Owls	Strigidae	
Eurasian Eagle-Owl	<i>Bubo bubo</i>	Two nearly-grown nestlings near Monfragüe National Park
Nightjars & Allies	Caprimulgidae	
Red-necked Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus ruficollis</i>	Doñana National Park, near El Rocina Visitor Center
Swifts	Apodidae	
Common Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>	Common, seen all but one day
Pallid Swift	<i>Apus pallidus</i>	Trujillo town square
Alpine Swift	<i>Apus melba</i>	Alange Reservoir, where they were nesting on the dam
White-rumped Swift	<i>Apus caffer</i>	Castillo del Monfragüe National Park
Kingfishers	Alcedinidae	
Common Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>	Doñana National Park, seen briefly 2 times
Bee-eaters	Meropidae	
European Bee-eater	<i>Merops apiaster</i>	Common in open country
Rollers	Coraciidae	
European Roller	<i>Coracias garrulus</i>	Caceres plains, some birds were displaying

Hoopoes	Upupidae	
Eurasian Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>	Common first seen in Doñana National Park
Woodpeckers & Allies	Picidae	
Lesser Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos minor</i>	Monfragüe National Park
Middle Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos medius</i>	Construction zone bird, Tudes
Great Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>	Best looks at the Hotel Almanzor, Gredos
Black Woodpecker	<i>Dryocopus martius</i>	Hecho valley
Green Woodpecker	<i>Picus viridis</i>	Flybys only Picos and Pyrenees
Shrikes	Laniidae	
Southern Gray Shrike	<i>Lanius meridionalis</i>	First near Bollullos, Doñana National Park
Woodchat Shrike	<i>Lanius senator</i>	Common in Doñana and Monfragüe National Parks
Old World Orioles	Oriolidae	
Eurasian Golden-Oriole	<i>Oriolus oriolus</i>	Doñana National Park, Acebuche visitor center
Crows, Jays & Magpies	Corvidae	
Eurasian Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>	Gredos, Picos and Pyrenees
Azure-winged Magpie	<i>Cyanopica cyanus</i>	Common in Doñana and Monfragüe National Parks
Eurasian Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>	Common, seen all but one day
Red-billed Chough	<i>Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax</i>	First seen near Gredos, also in Picos and Pyrenees
Yellow-billed Chough	<i>Pyrrhocorax graculus</i>	Lunch bird Picos, also seen in Pyrenees
Eurasian Jackdaw	<i>Corvus monedula</i>	Common in Doñana and Monfragüe National Parks
Carrion Crow	<i>Corvus corone</i>	First seen near Gredos, also in Picos and Pyrenees
Common Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>	Seen almost everyday
Larks	Alaudidae	
Dupont's Lark	<i>Chersophilus duponti</i>	Scope views Belchite Steppes
Calandra Lark	<i>Melanocorypha calandra</i>	Doñana National Park, Caceres plains and Belchite area
Greater Short-toed Lark	<i>Calandrella brachydactyla</i>	Doñana National Park, Caceres plains and Belchite area
Lesser Short-toed Lark	<i>Calandrella rufescens</i>	Belchite Steppes
Crested Lark	<i>Galerida cristata</i>	Common in open country
Thekla Lark	<i>Galerida theklae</i>	Caceres plains
Sky Lark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>	Skylarking birds in the Gredos mtns
Wood Lark	<i>Lullula arborea</i>	Seen by some at Parador de Cervera
Swallows	Hirundinidae	
Bank Swallow	<i>Riparia riparia</i>	Doñana National Park and near Monfragüe National Park
Eurasian Crag-Martin	<i>Ptyonoprogne rupestris</i>	Monfragüe National Park, and all mountains
Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	Common, seen daily
Red-rumped Swallow	<i>Cecropis daurica</i>	Doñana National Park and Monfragüe National Park
Common House Martin	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>	Common, seen daily
Chickadees & Tits	Paridae	
Marsh Tit	<i>Poecile palustris</i>	Pyrenees
Coal Tit	<i>Periparus ater</i>	Gredos mountains and Picos de Europa
Crested Tit	<i>Lophophanes cristatus</i>	Gredos and Pyrenees
Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>	Small numbers seen most days
Eurasian Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>	Fairly common

Bush-Warblers & Allies	Cettidae	
Cetti's Warbler	<i>Cettia cetti</i>	Seen briefly once Monfragüe National Park, heard often
Long-tailed tits	Aegithalidae	
Long-tailed Tit	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>	Doñana National Park, Gredos and Pyrenees
Nuthatches	Sittidae	
Eurasian Nuthatch	<i>Sitta europaea</i>	Best looks at the Middle Spotted Woodpecker spot
Wallcreeper	Tichodromidae	
Wallcreeper	<i>Tichodroma muraria</i>	Picos and Pyrenees
Creepers	Certhiidae	
Short-toed Treecreeper	<i>Certhia brachydactyla</i>	Best looks at Monfragüe National Park, nest in shed
Wrens	Troglodytidae	
Eurasian Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	Best looks at a nest box, Doñana National Park
Dippers	Cinclidae	
White-throated Dipper	<i>Cinclus cinclus</i>	Gredos and Pyrenees
Kinglets	Regulidae	
Goldcrest	<i>Regulus regulus</i>	Gredos
Firecrest	<i>Regulus ignicapilla</i>	Gredos
Leaf Warblers	Phylloscopidae	
Willow Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>	Huelva
Common Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>	Heard only in the Pyrenees
Iberian Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus ibericus</i>	Seen by some, Acebron Palace at Doñana National Park
Western Bonelli's Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus bonelli</i>	Gredos and Picos
Reed-Warblers & Allies	Acrocephalidae	
Western Olivaceous Warbler	<i>Hippolais opaca</i>	Near Doñana National Park aka Isabelline Warbler
Melodious Warbler	<i>Hippolais polyglotta</i>	Best looks at the breakwater, Huelva
Eurasian Reed-Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>	Doñana National Park
Great Reed-Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus arundinaceus</i>	Common in the marshes of Doñana National Park
Grassbirds & Allies	Megaluridae	
Savi's Warbler	<i>Locustella luscinioides</i>	Seen by some El Rocina visitor center Doñana
Cisticolas & Allies	Cisticolidae	
Zitting Cisticola	<i>Cisticola juncidis</i>	Commonly heard in open country
Old World Warblers	Sylviidae	
Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>	Most numerous in the mtns
Garden Warbler	<i>Sylvia borin</i>	1 seen by some folks Pyrenees
Greater Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia communis</i>	Tornavacas mtn pass in the Gredos area
Western Orphean Warbler	<i>Sylvia hortensis</i>	Monfragüe National Park
Sardinian Warbler	<i>Sylvia melanocephala</i>	Best looks in the Huelva marshes
Subalpine Warbler	<i>Sylvia cantillans</i>	Scoped at Monfragüe National Park
Dartford Warbler	<i>Sylvia undata</i>	Scoped at Monfragüe National Park

Old World Flycatchers	Muscicapidae	
Spotted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>	Potes
European Pied Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula hypoleuca</i>	Gredos
European Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>	Gredos and mtns
Common Nightingale	<i>Luscinia megarhynchos</i>	Seen well in Doñana National Park
Bluethroat	<i>Luscinia svecica</i>	Gredos, the fog lifted just long enough
Rufous-tailed Scrub-Robin	<i>Cercotrichas galactotes</i>	Bollullos on our second try
Black Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>	Monfragüe National Park and in the mtns
Common Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>	Good looks in Potes and the Picos
Black Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe leucura</i>	Steve spotted a male, Salto del Gitano Monfragüe
Northern Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>	Doñana National Park, Gredos, Picos and Pyrenees
Black-eared Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe hispanica</i>	Caceres plains and Monfragüe National Park, nice males
Stonechat	<i>Saxicola torquata</i>	Common fencepost bird in open country
Thrushes & Allies	Turdidae	
Rufous-tailed Rock-Thrush	<i>Monticola saxatilis</i>	Gredos a lucky find along the road
Blue Rock-Thrush	<i>Monticola solitarius</i>	Monfragüe National Park
Ring Ouzel	<i>Turdus torquatus</i>	Weather precluded a better look, Pyrenees
Eurasian Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	Common throughout the country
Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>	Heard a few times, flyby glimpsed by some, Pyrenees
Mistle Thrush	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>	Monfragüe National Park scope views
Starlings	Sturnidae	
Common Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	Common
Spotless Starling	<i>Sturnus unicolor</i>	Santoña
Accentors	Prunellidae	
Alpine Accentor	<i>Prunella collaris</i>	Picos de Europa, assisted by our cable car lift
Dunnock	<i>Prunella modularis</i>	Plataforma de Gredos, in the mist and fog
Wagtails & Pipits	Motacillidae	
White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>	Monfragüe National Park first and in the mtns
Western Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava</i>	Doñana National Park first and fairly common thereafter
Gray Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>	Jerte Valley first, Pyrenees too
Tree Pipit	<i>Anthus trivialis</i>	Near Parador de Cervera
Water Pipit	<i>Anthus spinoletta</i>	Platforma de Gredos, Picos and Pyrenees
Buntings & Sparrows	Emberizidae	
Yellowhammer	<i>Emberiza citrinella</i>	Seen by some, Picos and Pyrenees
Cirl Bunting	<i>Emberiza cirlus</i>	Monfragüe National Park, Potes and Pyrenees
Rock Bunting	<i>Emberiza cia</i>	Monfragüe National Park, Gredos and mtns
Corn Bunting	<i>Emberiza calandra</i>	Abundant in open country
Siskins, Crossbills & Allies	Fringillidae	
Common Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	Common, seen almost daily
European Greenfinch	<i>Chloris chloris</i>	Doñana and Monfragüe National Parks, mtns
Red Crossbill	<i>Loxia curvirostra</i>	Hotel Almanzor
European Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	Common
Eurasian Linnet	<i>Carduelis cannabina</i>	Most numerous in the mtns
European Serin	<i>Serinus serinus</i>	Common
Citrel Finch	<i>Serinus citrinella</i>	Pyrenees at the closed visitor center Rincon del Belagua

Eurasian Bullfinch	<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>	Parador de Cervera and Pyrenees
Old World Sparrows	Passeridae	
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	Common
Spanish Sparrow	<i>Passer hispaniolensis</i>	Seen at a Stork's nest near Monfragüe National Park
Eurasian Tree Sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>	Doñana National Park and surrounding area
Rock Petronia	<i>Petronia petronia</i>	Monfragüe National Park and Gredos
White-winged Snowfinch	<i>Montifringilla nivalis</i>	Picos, great looks at displaying males