

SPRING BIRDING IN SPAIN

APRIL 28–MAY 15, 2019



White Storks were a common sight all over the country © Brian Gibbons

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The magic number for our Spain tour this year was 3,000. We drove more than 3,000 km through gorgeous countryside, saw about that many White Storks with their nests teetering on cell towers and steeples, and consumed about that many calories—during an average lunch. This year’s tour offered superlatives in gastronomy, scenery, Romanesque architecture, and some birds—225 species to be exact. The recently flooded marshes of Doñana gave us marsh denizens, the Caceres Plains provided steppe dwellers, and three mountain ranges (Gredos, Picos de Europa, and Pyrenees) offered Alpine species in abundance. The weather complied for all but a few hours, and Santi expertly led us on an amazing ornithological adventure through his native Spain.



Little Swift at Chipiona © Brian Gibbons

Starting on the east side of Doñana, we made a quick stop for some swift-watching at the port. Little Swift, an African species, has colonized this region, and Chipiona is one of the few places one can see them in Spain; we watched them sharing air space with the widespread Common Swift. As usual in birding, some mucky roadside ponds provided some great waterfowl and marsh bird moments. We counted White-headed Duck, Common and Red-crested pochards, Little Bittern, Eurasian Moorhen, and Western Swampphen; many more birds called in the forest of umbrella pines nearby. The Salinas del Bonanza were buzzing with birds; hundreds of migrant

sandpipers and plovers and many elegant Slender-billed Gulls entertained us for hours until we had to make our way to the lovely Ardea Pupurea Lodge. Though the Jose Antonio Valverde Visitor Center for Doñana National Park lies just 30 km from the lodge, we struggled to get there before 1:30. In the way were fields, marshes, and riparian woodlands that hosted tons of new birds for us. Black-winged Kites tending a nest and Eurasian Penduline-Tits building one were a couple of our highlight sightings. Whiskered Terns, Purple Herons, Eurasian Spoonbills, and Lesser Kestrels were there for us too. Around the visitor center, Greater Flamingos strolled past on their too-long legs while hundreds of Glossy Ibis were working on their nests in the



Male White-headed Duck © Brian Gibbons

cattails. Nearby, a Savi's Warbler sang its improbable song—a dry buzz that goes on and on and on. Punctuating the Savi's song was the raucous and ratchety song of Great



The elegant Slender-billed Gull flies over the Salinas del Bonanza of Doñana © Brian Gibbons

Reed Warblers broadcasting from the marsh. On our final day in the park we birded the woodlands and marshes around El Rocio. From the shade of large poplars and oaks, the song of the nightingale emanated. Eurasian Wren, Iberian Chiffchaff, Melodious Warbler, and Common Chaffinch were all observed near the Acebron Palace, an old hunting retreat of elites from generations gone by. After an excellent lunch in El Rocio we



Eurasian Spoonbill in high breeding plumage © Brian Gibbons

walked along the waterfront of the Madre del las Marismas to take in the birds; Greater Flamingos, Spoonbills, and Black-tailed Godwits were a few of the sightings we enjoyed.

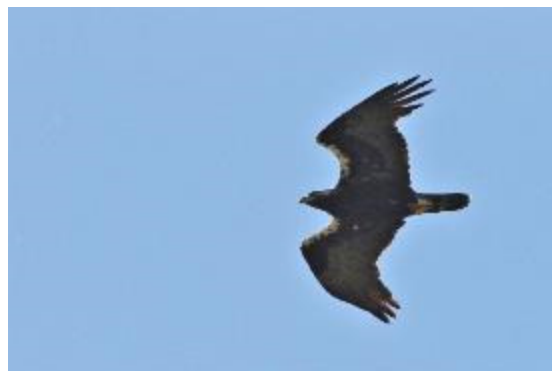


Rufous-tailed Scrub-Robin in the vineyards of Andalucía © Brian Gibbons

In the classic red dirt rolling hills we wandered through vineyards and olive groves hoping to hear, and then see, the Rufous-tailed Scrub-Robin. Eventually we saw a couple very well. Along the way to Extremadura we stopped at Alange Reservoir. The towering rocks near the dam are home to Blue Rock-Thrush, Eurasian Crag-Martin, and our only

Black Wheatear. Jaraicejo town square was an excellent platform from which to watch the screeching swifts. Among the Commons were several Pallid Swifts; some dived into the cracked façade of the sixteenth century church where they were nesting.

For the next few days we would explore Extremadura, where cork oak dehesa, steppe, and craggy ridges are home to many new birds and an amazing variety of raptors. Monfragüe National Park was our first destination in Extremadura, and Salto del Gitano, a massive outcrop with dozens of Eurasian Griffons, was our first stop. These nesting raptors shared space with Black Storks, Peregrine Falcons, and the ever-present Black Kites. The more solitary Cinereous Vultures could be seen overhead throughout the day. As we wound our way into the park, we finally came to Portilla del Tietar, another outcrop with nesting Griffons. Spanish Eagles nest in the oak woods nearby, and patience usually rewards one with sightings of this fantastic Iberian endemic. An eagle soon appeared and rewarded us by landing on top of the outcrop, giving us good scope views of this top Iberian predator. The Castillo was our destination for the late afternoon; we hoped for migrants passing overhead and enjoyed the raptor show and exceptional vista while waiting. Night was just fading when we headed out to



Spanish Eagle © Brian Gibbons

the steppe habitat of the Caceres Plains. The orange horizon was prominent by the time we made it to the rolling grassy hills, home of the bustards and sandgrouse we were seeking. The buzzing songs of Corn Buntings and trilled jumbles of the Calandra Larks' voices filled the chilled air. Indeed, we quickly found our first Great Bustards strutting



Pin-tailed Sandgrouse female (L) and Black-bellied Sandgrouse male (C) and female (R) © Brian Gibbons

through the fields, and eventually one bird gave us the full “foam bath” display where the bird lays its head back, flips the tail up and onto its back, and inverts its wings so that the bird is a giant puff of cotton with legs. As we were enjoying the Great Bustards, we spotted a couple of Little Bustards, increasingly hard to find in recent years. Among the grazing cattle we spotted several Little Bustard males displaying to nearby females, jumping into the air with their conspicuous white wings and their flared black and white necks. The show wasn't over. While enjoying all the bustards, Santi heard a Pin-tailed Sandgrouse in the distance. We quickly spotted the sandgrouse, and they were coming right for us. Initially we saw a pair of Black-bellied Sandgrouse, but there, sandwiched between them, was a female Pin-tailed Sandgrouse! An amazing morning on the plains



Red Kite © Brian Gibbons

was the reward for our early departure. After our daily coffee break, we were at it again—this time closer to Portugal, where a series of nest boxes placed for Lesser Kestrels but utilized by other species was our destination. European Rollers, Little Owls, Spotless Starlings, Eurasian Jackdaws, and a few kestrels use these boxes. The shrublands around Jaraicejo host a variety of warblers, a couple of which we were still hunting: the long-tailed Dartford and the Whitethroat-like Spectacled Warbler. We found each, occasionally skylarking, on our short walk. Our final morning in Extremadura found

us birding Arrocampo Reservoir and its marshes. We refamiliarized ourselves with many of the birds we'd noted in Doñana a few days ago. A few rare Ferruginous Ducks were around, possibly with designs on nesting. We also had nice scope views of Common Kingfisher along one of the canals.

After lunch we set our goals on the Gredos Mountains, the first mountains we'd visit and thus full of new birds. Our first birding from our hotel had limited success in the afternoon breeze, but we did find Wood Lark, Greater Whitethroat, Long-tailed Tit, and a few other common mountain birds. Our hike to the realm of the Bluethroat started with an old cobbled road into the mountain, but we had some great birds even before leaving the parking lot. A Rufous-tailed Rock-Thrush in song flight caught our attention. Then the Rock Buntings, Dunnocks, and a stunning Ortolan Bunting grabbed our attention before we started walking. After nearly an hour of wandering uphill through stunning



Rock Bunting in the Gredos Mountains © Brian Gibbons

scenery, we got to the patch of broom where the Bluethroats breed. We waited patiently for nearly an hour before Santi's colleague at Spainbirds, John, found a bird a few hundred meters away. We scrambled over there, and eventually a bird sat up, singing



Ortolan Bunting in the Gredos Mountains © Brian Gibbons

long enough for scope views, though distant. Eurasian Skylarks, Northern Wheatears, and Gray Wagtail were also seen along the way, and we had a quick look at White-throated Dipper. What followed next was truly unforgettable. After a good lunch, I was served a mousse-like fig flan with a fig syrup reduction that was simply divine. Debbie's chocolate flan was similarly mousse-like and spectacular.

In the pine forest around Rio Tormes we had close encounters with Eurasian Jays. Nearby we found a male European Pied Flycatcher staking his claim to a nest box; these



San Juan Bautista church XII century © Brian Gibbons

Gredos nesters are of the distinct subspecies *iberiae*. In the afternoon Alfonso had baited the vultures in, and we enjoyed the photography opportunities supplied by the low-flying Eurasian Griffons, and Red and Black kites. Our second evening meal at Hostal Almanzor was just as good as the first, and I look forward to 2020. After dinner, it was finally getting dark enough to try for the European Scops-Owls that had been calling nearby the night before. We wandered back and forth and heard several, but they always called from where we weren't.

The pine forest of Navarradonda hosted a few new species for us. First up was the cute Crested Tit, which looks like a Bridled Titmouse, followed quickly by a Goldcrest and a Red Crossbill. A shy Eurasian Green Woodpecker eventually crept into the open for scope views, another Iberian subspecies, *sharpai*. Along the road to Cervera de Pisuerga we stopped to take in the walled city of Avila before we tackled the long drive through agricultural lands to the Parador. Eventually we wound our way into the



White-throated Dipper at Rio Pisuerga © Brian Gibbons

hills and the town of Moarves de Ojeda, where we took in the amazing twelfth century Romanesque church façade at San Juan Bautista. The windy afternoon birding the Parador grounds produced little for us, but this hotel was a wonderful place to lie low for the evening and the next morning when we got a little rain. We had a fine evening meal with great wine followed too soon by breakfast, where we lingered over a spectacular and expansive breakfast buffet while the rainy morning worked itself out. After breakfast



Our first look at the Picos de Europa from Piedrasluengas Pass © Brian Gibbons

we waddled around the grounds hoping a Eurasian Bullfinch would show; he did but just for a second. Blackbirds, Robin, and White Wagtails were some of the only birds to brave the gray skies and blustery conditions. Along the Rio Pisuerga we took in the sight of a pair of White-throated Dippers refurbishing their nest while a recently fledged juvenile begged, and seemed to ask, “What about me?”

Another beautiful church broke up the drive, San Salvador de Cantamuda from the twelfth century; it even had a Eurasian Blue Tit making a nest in a crack in the mortar. After a coffee break in a typical café that was just opening for us at 11 am, we wound our way through pastures that were burgeoning with daffodils and a couple of Yellowhammers. Piedrasluengas Pass offered an expansive view of our next adventure,

the snow-capped Picos de Europa. The birch trees at the pass were still in tight buds, but as we wound into the valley below, through charming village after charming village, the leaves broadened, and it was summer again. After dropping our bags, we birded around a couple of villages and found our afternoon target, the sparsely distributed Middle Spotted Woodpecker. Down the road from this typically patterned woodpecker was an atypical woodpecker, the Eurasian Wryneck, the funny-shaped woodpecker that



The view that greeted us at the top of the Cable Car from Fuente De to the high Picos © Brian Gibbons

stole the nightjar's coat. The cable car at Fuente De allows one to quickly access the treeless stony terrain of the High Picos; though the bird list is short, the quality is exceptional. Right off the bat we heard a singing Alpine Accentor, and it obliged for just a few seconds before disappearing. The White-winged Snowfinches were equally challenging with just a couple of folks laying eyes on this target. The windswept scudding clouds often enveloped the soaring peaks around us, but we pushed on to La Vueltona, the best spot to snag a sighting of the fabled Wallcreeper. We made it there, but the wind kept dogging us, then the snow, until we turned back without having seen



Yellow-billed Chough © Brian Gibbons

much. On our return trip we saw a fly-by Wallcreeper, identifiable, but better looks desired for this enigmatic species of the mountains. We also picked up a Bearded Vulture (Lammergeier) soaring overhead with its favored food, a pair of articulated leg bones from some unfortunate beast. This vulture loves marrow and can even eat straight bones when marrow is not attainable. It flies to great heights to its favored dropping-grounds and releases its long-dead food to crash

into the rocks below where it feasts on shattered bones and marrow if it's to be had. This bird was part of the reintroduced population and was a known individual, his name: Biziele, a four-year-old male with red and white #2 patagial tags. With the snow chasing



Our final view of the Picos was a moody one among 800-year-old chestnut trees © Brian Gibbons

us, we retreated to the coffee shop at the cable car. From there we enjoyed the antics of the Yellow-billed Choughs and hot chocolate and coffee while the snow turned to rain. We descended the mountain for an excellent lunch at the Parador. Brez is a cute little village where we birded for a while after lunch; we found several Water Pipits, undoubtedly migrants that were put down by the weather, as they are a bird of the high mountains, not the green pastures where we found them. An evening visit to the Roman Catholic Monastery Santo Toribio de Liebana illustrated amazing stonework that was started in the sixth–eighth centuries. While loading our vans for our trip to the Pyrenees via coastal marshes of Santoña marshes, Santi and I noticed a raptor sitting on a power pole. A quick scope check revealed an adult Northern Goshawk! It sat for several minutes, changed poles, and sat some more—an excellent sighting of a rare bird. Ascending into the fog, we had



**Northern Goshawk!
Brian Gibbons**

one last birding spot to check in the Picos before heading out. We were surprised to emerge from the fog into a fairy-tale mountain landscape with just the tops of the mountains visible as fog blanketed the valleys below us. Here, among gnarly 800-year-old chestnut trees, we saw Common Redstarts and Red-billed Choughs.



Egyptian Vultures were fairly common throughout Spain © Brian Gibbons

Road construction has rendered La Hermida Gorge a much less exciting drive than in previous years, but no less spectacular. Soon we were out of the mountains and winding our way along the north coast of Spain along Biscayne Bay. The tide was very low when we arrived at Santoña, and there were a few shorebirds a mile away out on the flats, but we did find a rare Common Eider drake, possibly the same one that was there last year. A nearby lagoon had a couple of European Shags, rare for our tour. We made our way out to Berria Beach and found some very distant shearwaters flying over the bay.

Balearic Shearwaters and a distant Northern Gannet were about all we could make out in the bay. We continued on to Hecho Valley in the Pyrenees.



Yellow Wagtail at Santoña © Brian Gibbons

The gardens around Hotel Uson provided our best looks at a couple of stunning male Eurasian Bullfinches, Citril Finch, and Garden Warbler. On our first morning in the wind tunnel that is Boca del Infierno, we hoped for a low Wallcreeper, but it didn't come in for us. We entertained ourselves with the stunning scenery and the raging torrent below that was the feeding

grounds for an industrious White-throated Dipper that somehow managed to procure mouthful after mouthful of larvae from the turbid waters for the hungry babies tucked into a canyon wall somewhere upstream. After breakfast we hiked through beautiful verdant beech forest up to the Salto de la Vieja, a sheer gray wall of rock and home to



Wallcreeper © Brian Gibbons

the Wallcreeper. Scrutinizing every crag-martin for an hour, we were finally rewarded when one of the shapes was the paddle-winged Wallcreeper. We watched for several minutes as a black-throated male crept along the wall and flicked his wings open



Wallcreeper © Brian Gibbons

repeatedly, giving us good views of his crimson wings—a stunning bird! Near Gabardito we had great looks at a Eurasian Treecreeper. Now for the singular culinary highlight of this tour, lunch at Bar Subordan! Having missed it last year, I was ready weeks ago for the mouth-watering foods lined up at this place. The highlight for me again was the mushroom-filled crepe drowned in a rich cream sauce, exquisite. The desserts were all excellent too—all this from a rather inauspicious looking bar in the endearing village of Hecho. Our afternoon outing was not terribly productive in a high Pyrenean valley named Guarrinza; mostly we regaled each other with how good lunch was. We did see some comical Alpine Marmots and their archenemy, the Golden Eagle.



Ring Ouzel male gathering worms © Brian Gibbons

Larra-Belagua Natural Park lies in some of the higher reaches of the Pyrenees that we would visit. This peculiar Krummholz-like habitat of gnarly conifers and shrubby oaks is home to a target of ours, the Ring Ouzel, a curious blackbird relative emblazoned with a white collar across its chest. We found one, then another, and several more; we had excellent looks at this sometimes-challenging species. In the bare rocks in France, we had excellent looks at the nifty Alpine Accentor. That's right, we

birded in France, much to Santi's chagrin. He thinks everything is better in Spain, and he's usually right. The Pyrenees had a final surprise: in a bright green patch of ancient birch trees, a Black Woodpecker pair had made a nest cavity, and we were privileged to get to see them a couple of times, at least briefly. This is surely the king of European woodpeckers.



Black Woodpecker female at nest hole © Brian Gibbons

Our final birding destination would be the Belchite steppes for "El Diablo," the notoriously difficult and rare Dupont's Lark. Driving into the reserve, Hazel cried "Stone Curlew!" Amazingly right on the side of the road, crouching behind a couple of blades of grass, was a Eurasian Thick-knee, our first for the trip. We tried on our first evening for Dupont's to no avail. Despite good listening conditions he did not sing for us,

so we were back at it the following morning. In the half-light of a cool and calm morning we heard the peculiar ringing song of Dupont's, and eventually we saw one creeping through the sparse grasses and bushes of El Planeron, a reserve created specifically for Dupont's Lark. Lesser Short-toed Larks were also singing among the half dozen lark species on the plains that morning. We had a few fly-bys of Black-bellied Sandgrouse, a nice review of the quick fly-by we had in Caceres more than a week previous. Among the hordes of rabbits, we found a Little Owl in ruined farm buildings. One of our final birds was a striking male Black-eared Wheatear that sat atop a few scraggly bushes for us to scope him up. Western Orphean Warbler has the title of final new bird, as we had good looks at one in an olive tree on our way to brunch. A quick wander through the Spanish Civil War ruins at Belchite would finish our time on the steppe before we had to head to Madrid. A side trip netted us more distant views of Bonelli's Eagle, and then it was over. The 3,400 kilometers behind us and memories were all that's left of our Spain tour.



Eurasian Thick-knee hiding © Brian Gibbons



Waiting for Dupont © Brian Gibbons

Thanks for traveling with VENT. I look forward to our next birding adventure, wherever in the world that is.

Brian Gibbons

ITINERARY

April 29, 2019 Sevilla, Chipiona, Lagunas del Colorado, Laguna del Tarelo, Salinas del Bonanza, Ardea Pupurea Lodge

April 30, Donana Natural Park, Casa de Bombas, Cano de Guadiamar, Jose Antonio Valverde Visitor Center, Donana National Park, Lucio de Cangrejo, Dehesa de Abajo

May 1, El Rocio, Acebron Palace, Road to La Rocina, Madre de las Marismas, Dehesa de Abajo, La Puebla

May 2, Villamanrique, Bollullos, lunch, Alange Reservoir, Jaraicejo

May 3, Manfrague National Park Salto del Gitano, Villarreal de San Carlos, Portilla del Tietar and dehesa, Puente del Cardenal, Castillo

May 4, Caceres Plains Los Cerralbos Western Section Caceres La Pulgosa, Tamuja River Bonelli's Eagle nest area, lunch, Mesa de Jaraicejo warbler spot

May 5, Quarry, Almaraz, Arrocampo Reservoir, Puerto Pico, Hostal Almanzor

May 6, Plataforma de Gredos - Los Barrerones, Hoyos del Espino lunch, Rio Tormes - Puente del Duque, Hostal Almanzor

May 7, Hostal Almanzor, Navarradonda Pine Forest, Parador de Gredos, Avila, Medina del Campo, San Juan Bautista at Moarves de Ojeda, Parador de Cervera

May 8, Parador de Cervera, Rio Pisuerga, Las Matas viewpoint, San Salvador de Cantamuda, Piedrasluengas, lunch in Ojeda, Potes area birding

May 9, Fuente De Cable Car, La Vueltona, Brez, Monasterio de Santo Toribio de Liebana
 May 10, Tama, Pendes - El Habario, La Hermida Gorge, Santona marshes & Berria Beach, Hecho Valley
 May 11, Boca del Infierno, Hotel Uson, Gabardito, Salto de la Vieja, Hecho lunch at Bar Subordan, Guarrinza, Selva de Oza
 May 12, Hotel Uson, Zuriza (narrow canyon with river), Roncal Valley, Larra-Belagua Natural Park, France Pierre de Saint Martin, Zuriza Borda Chiquin for lunch, Boca del Infierno in the wind, others went to Gabardito Road
 May 13, Gabardito, Hecho Valley, Arres, Alastuey, Santa Cruz de la Seros, El Planeron
 May 14, El Planeron, Belchite Ruins, Aguilon to Tosos cliffs & Madrid

Ducks, Geese & Waterfowl	Anatidae	
Mute Swan	<i>Cygnus olor</i>	Santoña Marshes - S
Common Shelduck	<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>	Bonanza Salt works - B
Garganey	<i>Spatula querquedula</i>	El Rocio
Northern Shoveler	<i>Spatula clypeata</i>	Doñana - D
Gadwall	<i>Mareca strepera</i>	D
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	D
Northern Pintail	<i>Anas acuta</i>	D
Green-winged Teal	<i>Anas crecca crecca</i>	Arrocampo Reservoir - AR
Marbled Teal	<i>Marmaronetta angustirostris</i>	D
Red-crested Pochard	<i>Netta rufina</i>	D
Ferruginous Duck	<i>Athya nyroca</i>	AR a rare find
Common Pochard	<i>Aythya ferina</i>	D & AR
Common Eider	<i>Somateria mollissima</i>	S very rare
White-headed Duck	<i>Oxyura leucocephala</i>	D
Pheasants, Grouse & Allies	Phasianidae	
Common Quail	<i>Coturnix coturnix</i>	D glimpsed by some
Red-legged Partridge	<i>Alectoris rufa</i>	Extremadura - E & Belchite steppes
Grebes	Podicipedidae	
Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>	D
Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>	D & reservoirs
Eared Grebe	<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>	D
Flamingos	Phoenicopteridae	
Greater Flamingo	<i>Phoenicopterus roseus</i>	D & B
Shearwaters & Petrels	Procellariidae	
Balearic Shearwater	<i>Puffinus mauretanicus</i>	Distant Biscayne Bay
Storks	Ciconiidae	
Black Stork	<i>Ciconia nigra</i>	Monfragüe National Park - M
White Stork	<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>	Common almost everywhere
Boobies & Gannets	Sulidae	
Northern Gannet	<i>Morus bassanus</i>	Distant Biscayne Bay
Cormorants & Shags	Phalacrocoracidae	
Great Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>	D & Pyrenees - P
European Shag	<i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis</i>	S rare

Herons, Egrets & Bitterns

Little Bittern
 Gray Heron
 Purple Heron
 Great Egret
 Little Egret
 Cattle Egret
 Squacco Heron
 Black-crowned Night-Heron

Ibises & Spoonbills

Glossy Ibis
 Eurasian Spoonbill

Hawks, Eagles & Kites

Black-winged Kite
 Bearded Vulture
 (Lammergeier)
 Egyptian Vulture
 European Honey-buzzard
 Cinereous (Black) Vulture
 Eurasian Griffon
 Short-toed Snake-Eagle
 Booted Eagle
 Spanish Eagle
 Golden Eagle
 Bonelli's Eagle
 Eurasian Marsh-Harrier
 Montagu's Harrier
 Eurasian Sparrowhawk
 Northern Goshawk
 Red Kite
 Black Kite
 Common Buzzard

Bustards

Great Bustard
 Little Bustard

Rails, Gallinules & Coots

Western Swamphen
 Eurasian Moorhen
 Red-knobbed Coot
 Eurasian Coot

Thick-knees

Eurasian Thick-knee

Stilts & Avocets

Black-winged Stilt
 Pied Avocet

Plovers & Lapwings**Ardeidae**

Ixobrychus minutus
Ardea cinerea
Ardea purpurea
Ardea alba
Egretta garzetta
Bubulcus ibis
Ardeola ralloides
Nycticorax nycticorax

Threskiornithidae

Plegadis falcinellus
Platalea leucorodia

Accipitridae

Elanus caeruleus

Gypaetus barbatus
Neophron percnopterus
Pernis apivorus
Aegypius monachus
Gyps fulvus
Circus gallicus
Hieraaetus pennatus
Aquila adalberti
Aquila chrysaetos
Aquila fasciata
Circus aeruginosus
Circus pygargus
Accipiter nisus
Accipiter gentilis
Milvus milvus
Milvus migrans
Buteo buteo

Otididae

Otis tarda
Tetrax tetrax

Rallidae

Porphyrio porphyrio
Gallinula chloropus
Fulica cristata
Fulica atra

Burhinidae

Burhinus oediconemus

Recurvirostridae

Himantopus himantopus
Recurvirostra avosetta

Charadriidae

D seen several times, briefly
 D & other marshes
 D & AR
 D & marshes
 D & marshes
 D & marshes & fields
 D
 D

Abundant at D
 D

D

Picos & P
 M first and mountains
 P
 E & Gredos Mountains
 Seen in most areas
 Small numbers but widespread
 Small numbers but widespread
 M good looks
 Gredos & P
 Seen distantly 3 times
 D and fields
 D & B rare this year
 Gredos
 Incredibly from the hotel Picos
 D & mtns uncommon
 Everywhere common
 Uncommon seen many times

Good scope views of both species
 displaying Caceres Plain in E

D
 D & marshes
 D at Dehesa del Abajo
 D common

Excellent spotting by Hazel B

D common
 B

Black-bellied (Gray) Plover
 Kentish Plover
 Common Ringed Plover
 Little Ringed Plover

Sandpipers & Allies

Whimbrel
 Black-tailed Godwit
 Ruddy Turnstone
 Curlew Sandpiper
 Sanderling
 Dunlin
 Little Stint
 Common Sandpiper
 Common Greenshank
 Common Redshank

Pratincoles & Coursers

Collared Pratincole

Gulls, Terns & Skimmers

Slender-billed Gull
 Black-headed Gull
 Yellow-legged Gull
 Lesser Black-backed Gull
 Great Black-backed Gull
 Little Tern
 Gull-billed Tern
 Black Tern
 Whiskered Tern

Sandgrouse

Pin-tailed Sandgrouse
 Black-bellied Sandgrouse

Pigeons & Doves

Rock (Feral) Pigeon (I)
 Common Wood-Pigeon
 European Turtle-Dove
 Eurasian Collared-Dove

Cuckoos

Great Spotted Cuckoo
 Common (Eurasian) Cuckoo

Owls

European Scops-Owl
 Eurasian Eagle-Owl
 Little Owl
 Tawny Owl
 Long-eared Owl

Nightjars & Allies

Red-necked Nightjar

Pluvialis squatarola
Charadrius alexandrinus
Charadrius hiaticula
Charadrius dubius

Scolopacidae

Numenius phaeopus
Limosa limosa
Arenaria interpres
Calidris ferruginea
Calidris alba
Calidris alpina
Calidris minuta
Actitis hypoleucos
Tringa nebularia
Tringa totanus

Glareolidae

Glareola pratincola

Laridae

Chroicocephalus genei
Chroicocephalus ridibundus
Larus michahellis
Larus fuscus
Larus marinus
Sternula albifrons
Gelochelidon nilotica
Chlidonias niger
Chlidonias hybrida

Pteroclididae

Pterocles alchata
Pterocles orientalis

Columbidae

Columba livia
Columba palumbus
Streptopelia turtur
Streptopelia decaocto

Cuculidae

Clamator glandarius
Cuculus canorus

Strigidae

Otus scops
Bubo bubo
Athene noctua
Strix aluco
Asio otus

Caprimulgidae

Caprimulgus ruficollis

B
 B
 B
 Jaraicejo near M
 B
 El Rocio
 Chipiona & B
 100's at B
 B
 B
 B
 B and many locations
 B
 B
 D
 D
 Excellent looks B
 B
 All coastal areas
 Chipiona
 S
 D
 D but seen well at Alange Reservoir
 El Rocio & B
 D
 Caceres plains & Belchite steppes
 Caceres plains & Belchite steppes
 Common in towns
 Common
 D & Belchite
 Common
 D & best looks at Belchite
 Heard often rarely glimpsed
 Heard in Gredos Mtns
 Young seen near Arrocampo
 Caceres Plains & B
 Glimpsed Ardea Pupurea
 Young heard calling Ardea Pupurea
 Ardea Pupurea

Swifts	Apodidae	
Alpine Swift	<i>Apus melba</i>	Seen many areas Alange Res 1st
Common Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>	Common seen daily
Pallid Swift	<i>Apus pallidus</i>	Jaraicejo town square
Little Swift	<i>Apus affinis</i>	Chipiona
Hoopoes	Upupidae	
Eurasian Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>	Fairly common low elevations
Kingfishers	Alcedinidae	
Common Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>	AR
Bee-eaters	Meropidae	
European Bee-eater	<i>Merops apiaster</i>	Common in open country
Rollers	Coraciidae	
European Roller	<i>Coracias garrulus</i>	Caceres Plains
Woodpeckers	Picidae	
Eurasian Wryneck	<i>Jynx torquilla</i>	Picos
Middle Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos medius</i>	Picos
Great Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>	Seen many times best at Gredos
Black Woodpecker	<i>Dryocopus martius</i>	Pyrenees
Eurasian Green Woodpecker	<i>Picus viridis sharpei</i>	Gredos & Picos
Falcons & Caracaras	Falconidae	
Lesser Kestrel	<i>Falco naumanni</i>	D
Eurasian Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	Common
Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	M
Old World Parrots	Psittaculidae	
Rose-ringed Parakeet (I)	<i>Psittacula krameri</i>	Sevilla area
New World & African Parrots	Psittacidae	
Monk Parakeet (I)	<i>Myiopsitta monachus</i>	Sevilla area
Shrikes	Laniidae	
Red-backed Shrike	<i>Lanius collurio</i>	Pyrenees
Iberian Gray Shrike	<i>Lanius meridionalis</i>	D & other open areas
Woodchat Shrike	<i>Lanius senator</i>	D & many areas
Old World Orioles	Oriolidae	
Eurasian Golden Oriole	<i>Oriolus oriolus</i>	Glimpsed a few times heard several
Crows, Jays & Magpies	Corvidae	
Eurasian Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>	Gredos, excellent looks
Iberian Magpie	<i>Cyanopica cooki</i>	D & E woodlands
Eurasian Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>	Common
Red-billed Chough	<i>Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax</i>	Picos & Pyrenees
Yellow-billed (Alpine) Chough	<i>Pyrrhocorax graculus</i>	Picos & Pyrenees
Eurasian Jackdaw	<i>Corvus monedula</i>	D
Carrion Crow	<i>Corvus corone</i>	Picos & Pyrenees
Common Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>	Uncommon widespread
Larks	Alaudidae	
Greater Short-toed Lark	<i>Calandrella brachydactyla</i>	D, E & B
Calandra Lark	<i>Melanocorypha calandra</i>	D, E & B
Lesser Short-toed Lark	<i>Alauda rufescens</i>	B

Wood Lark	<i>Lullula arborea</i>	Gredos
Eurasian Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>	Gredos
Thekla's Lark	<i>Galerida theklae</i>	E
Crested Lark	<i>Galerida cristata</i>	Common roadside bird in open areas
Swallows	Hirundinidae	
Bank Swallow (Sand Martin)	<i>Riparia riparia</i>	D & AR
Eurasian Crag-Martin	<i>Ptyonoprogne rupestris</i>	Alange Res & Mtns
Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	Common
Red-rumped Swallow	<i>Cecropis (Hirundo) daurica</i>	Fairly common in south
Common House-Martin	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>	Common
Tits, Chickadees & Titmice	Paridae	
Coal Tit	<i>Pariparus ater</i>	Gredos & mtns
Crested Tit	<i>Lophophanes cristatus</i>	Gredos & mtns
Eurasian Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>	M & many areas
Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>	M & many areas
Penduline-Tits	Remizidae	
Eurasian Penduline-Tit	<i>Remiz pendulinus</i>	Nest-building in D
Long-tailed Tits	Aegithalidae	
Long-tailed Tit	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>	Gredos, Picos & P
Nuthatches	Sittidae	
Eurasian Nuthatch	<i>Sitta europaea</i>	Gredos
Wallcreeper	Tichodromidae	
Wallcreeper	<i>Tichodroma muraria</i>	Picos & P
Treecreepers	Certhiidae	
Eurasian Treecreeper	<i>Certhia familiaris</i>	P
Short-toed Treecreeper	<i>Certhia brachydactyla</i>	M & mtns
Wrens	Troglodytidae	
Eurasian Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	Common
Dippers	Cinclidae	
White-throated Dipper	<i>Cinclus cinclus</i>	Gredos, Rio Pisuerga & P
Kinglets	Regulidae	
Goldcrest	<i>Regulus regulus</i>	Gredos
Common Firecrest	<i>Regulus ignicapilla</i>	Common in mtns
Bush Warblers & Allies	Scotoceridae	
Cetti's Warbler	<i>Cettia cetti</i>	Heard often, seen at AR by some
Leaf Warblers	Phylloscopidae	
Common Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>	Alastuey
Iberian Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus ibericus</i>	Acebron Palace at D
Western Bonelli's Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus bonelli</i>	Gredos & mtns, Beautiful!
Reed Warblers & Allies	Acrocephalidae	
Western Olivaceous Warbler	<i>Iduna opaca</i>	D at one of our first stops
Melodious Warbler	<i>Hippolais polyglotta</i>	Acebron Palace for our best looks
Eurasian Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>	D & AR
Great Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus arundinaceus</i>	D & AR
Grassbirds & Allies	Locustellidae	
Savi's Warbler	<i>Locustella luscinioides</i>	D the bird with the unending song

Cisticolas & Allies

Zitting Cisticola

Sylviids

Eurasian Blackcap

Garden Warbler

Western Orphean Warbler

Subalpine Warbler

Sardinian Warbler

Greater Whitethroat

Spectacled Warbler

Dartford Warbler

Old World Flycatchers

Spotted Flycatcher

Rufous-tailed Scrub-Robin

European Robin

Common Nightingale

Bluethroat

European Pied Flycatcher

Common Redstart

Black Redstart

Rufous-tailed Rock-Thrush

Blue Rock-Thrush

Whinchat

European Stonechat

Black Wheatear

Northern Wheatear

Black-eared Wheatear

Thrushes & Allies

Ring Ouzel

Eurasian Blackbird

Song Thrush

Mistle Thrush

Starlings

European Starling

Spotless Starling

Accentors

Alpine Accentor

Dunnock

Wagtails & PipitsWestern Yellow Wagtail
(iberiae)

Gray Wagtail

White Wagtail

Tawny Pipit

Tree Pipit

Water Pipit

Cisticolidae*Cisticola juncidis***Sylviidae***Sylvia atricapilla**Sylvia borin**Sylvia hortensis**Sylvia cantillans**Sylvia melanocephala**Sylvia communis**Sylvia conspicillata**Sylvia undata***Muscicapidae***Muscicapa striata**Cercotrichas galactotes**Erithacus rubecula**Luscinia megarhynchos**Luscinia svecica**Ficedula hypoleuca iberiae**Phoenicurus phoenicurus**Phoenicurus ochruros**Monticola saxatilis**Monticola solitarius**Saxicola rubetra**Saxicola rubicola**Oenanthe leucura**Oenanthe oenanthe**Oenanthe hispanica***Turdidae***Turdus torquatus**Turdus merula**Turdus philomelos**Turdus viscivorus***Sturnidae***Sturnus vulgaris**Sturnus unicolor***Prunellidae***Prunella collaris**Prunella modularis***Motacillidae***Motacilla flava iberiae**Motacilla cinerea**Motacilla alba**Anthus campestris**Anthus trivialis**Anthus spinoletta*

Common in open country

Mountains

Garden at Hotel Uson

Seen in the Belchite area

M

B, Ardea Pupurea & M

Gredos & mtns

Jaraicejo

D & Jaraicejo

D & P

Bollullos area

Gredos first & Mtns

D & Heard other places

Gredos

Iberian race breeding in Gredos

Picos

Gredos & Mtns

Gredos

Alange Res first & Mtns areas

D & Caceres plains

Common in open areas

Alange Reservoir

Gredos, Picos & P

Belchite area

Excellent sightings in Spain & France

Common

Picos & P

P

Gredos where rare

Abundant

Picos & P in France

Gredos

Common in lowland areas

Along streams in the mtns

Common

Alastuey

Parador first & Picos

Gredos & Picos

Old World Buntings

Yellowhammer
Cirl Bunting
Rock Bunting
Ortolan Bunting
Corn Bunting

Finches, Euphonias & Allies

Common Chaffinch

Hawfinch
Eurasian Bullfinch
European Greenfinch
Eurasian Linnet
Red Crossbill
European Goldfinch
Citril Finch
European Serin

Old World Sparrows

House Sparrow
Spanish Sparrow
Eurasian Tree Sparrow
Rock Petronia (Sparrow)
White-winged Snowfinch

Weavers & Allies

Black-headed Weaver

Waxbills & Allies

Common Waxbill

Mammals

Rabbits & Hares

European Rabbit
European Hare
Iberian Hare

Squirrels

Eurasian Red Squirrel
Alpine Marmot

Dogs

Red Fox

Stoats & Weasels etc.

Pine Marten

Deer

Red Deer
Roe Deer

Cows, Goats, Sheep etc.

Spanish Ibex
Chamois

Emberizidae

Emberiza citrinella
Emberiza cirulus
Emberiza cia
Emberiza hortulana
Emberiza calandra

Fringillidae

Fringilla coelebs
Coccothraustes
coccothraustes
Pyrrhula pyrrhula
Chloris chloris
Linaria cannabina
Loxia curvirostra
Carduelis carduelis
Carduelis citrinella
Serinus serinus

Passeridae

Passer domesticus
Passer hispaniolensis
Passer montanus
Petronia petronia
Montifringilla nivalis

Ploceidae

Ploceus melanocephalus

Estrildidae

Estrilda astrid

Leporidae

Oryctolagus cuniculus
Lepus europaeus
Lepus granatensis

Sciuridae

Sciurus vulgaris
Marmota marmota

Canidae

Vulpes vulpes

Mustelidae

Cervidae

Cervus elaphus
Capreolus capreolus

Bovidae

Capra pyrenaica
Rupicapra rupicapra

Guarrinza in P
Arrocampo area first then Mtns
M & Mtns
Gredos, great views
Abundant in open country

Common

Glimpsed by Debbie
Parador & Pyrenees
Common
Common
Gredos
Common
Gredos & Pyrenees, several times
Common

Common

D & E

D

Gredos & Aguillon
Seen by some in Picos

D seen by Craig

D area

Other Fauna

Gecko sp

Snake sp

Wall Lizard sp