

WINGSPAN BIRD TOURS

TARIFA MIGRATION TOUR

IN

ANDALUCIA, SPAIN

SEPT. 9th – 16th 2017



TRIP REPORT

Welcome to another WINGSPAN BIRD TOURS TRIP REPORT

LEADER: BOB BUCKLER

PARTICIPANTS:

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SUMMARY

Overall the raptor passage was sporadic and not as good as recent years. There were one or two mornings which looked promising when we saw hundreds of Honey Buzzards early on but they never developed into mass migrations.

Nevertheless, it was a great week, we saw over 160 species, with small numbers of raptors passing over us most of the time. Our visits to La Janda were most enjoyable, the sight of hundreds of Egrets, Ibis, Storks, Herons and Waders is always exciting.

The pelagic trip into the Strait of Gibraltar was also quiet at times but we did see Pilot Whales, Striped and Bottle-nosed Dolphins, as well as Cory's & Balearic Shearwaters, Storm Petrels and a flock of migrating Black Terns.

Places Visited

SATURDAY 9th MALAGA AIRPORT – DESEMBOCADURA DE GUADALHORCE – VAQUEROS GOLF COMPLEX
SUNDAY 10th PLAYA DE LOS LANCES -RAPTOR WATCH POINTS – EL TRAFICO & CAZALLA – LA JANDA
MONDAY 11th Algarrobo Watch Point – Tarifa whale watching cruise – Barbate Park Natural & Barbate River
TUESDAY 12th PALMONES SALT MARSH NATURAL PARK – PRESA DE GUADARRANQUE & RIO GUADARRANQUE – RIO HOZGARGANTE – MARCHENILLA TRACK – SAN ENRIQUE WOODS – CAZALLA RAPTOR WATCH POINT
WEDNESDAY 13th LAGUNA MEDINA – BONANZA PONDS – BONANZA SALINAS – CHIPIONA MARINA
THURSDAY 14th GIBRALTAR -JEWS GATE-EUROPA POINT – PINAR DEL REY – CAZALLA RAPTOR WATCH – LA JANDA

FRIDAY 15th

TRANSFER TARIFA TO MALAGA WITH STOPS AT:

GAUCIN SWEET CHESTNUT WOODS – LLANOS DE LIBAR -RONDA – SIERRA DE LAS NIEVES

SATURDAY 16th

MALAGA AIRPORT

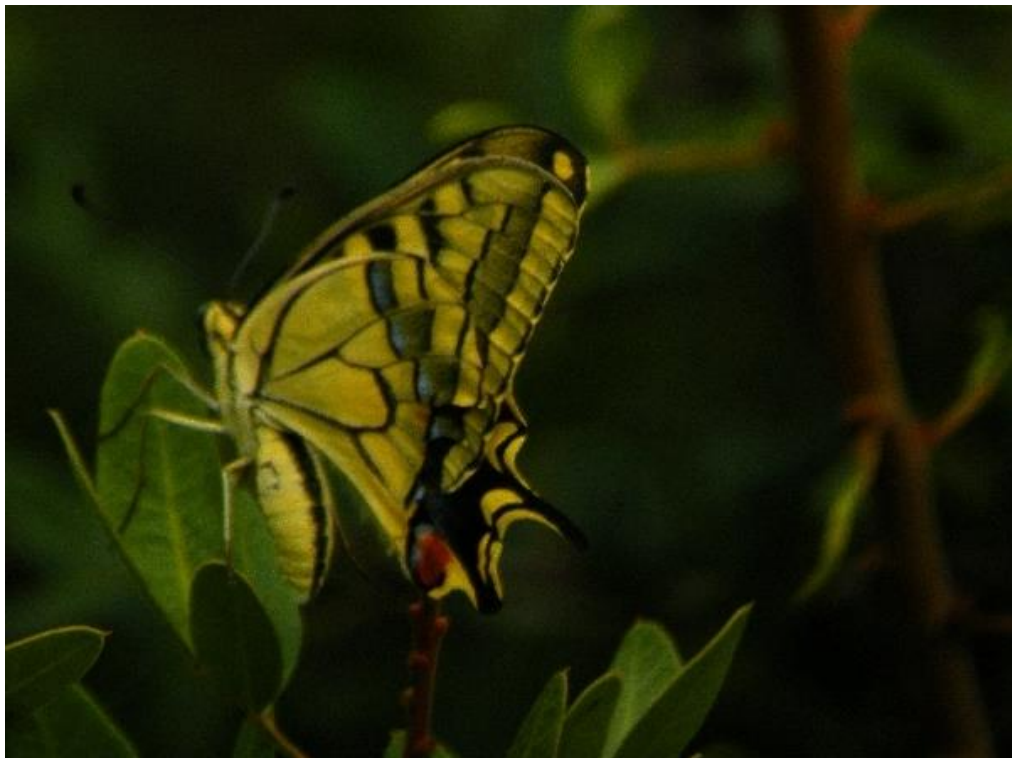
DAY 1 – 9TH SEPTEMBER 2017

MALAGA AIRPORT - DESEMBOCADURA DE GUADALHORCE - VAQUEROS GOLF COMPLEX - TARIFA

WEATHER: BROKEN SUNSHINE, CLOUDY LATER. STRONG WESTERLY WIND. TOP TEMP 28C

I had 5 clients arriving on 4 different flights - did it all go smoothly.....no! I had one short delay, one early arrival, one on time and one 4 hours late. I spent the morning shuttling my group to and from the Paraje Natural at Guadalhorce until we were all assembled at 2pm.

We made a series of nice sightings during our brief visit to the hides at the Desembocadura de Guadalhorce, **White-headed Duck** being the most prestigious but Booted Eagle, a couple of small groups of Honey Buzzards and great views of Zitting Cisticola were also nice.



Swallowtail Butterfly

Our visit to the Golf Complex near Estepona was included because it is a good place to look for Eurasian Hoopoe and migrant species heading South at this time of the year. We dipped on the Hoopoe but enjoyed some great sightings of passing migrants and some dodgy wildfowl such as Black Swan, Mute Swan and Wood Duck? Our best birds were Tree Pipit (4), Whinchat, both Spotted and Pied Flycatcher and Yellow Wagtail. We also noted Common Kestrel, Corn Bunting and Goldfinch in the area.



One of the four Tree Pipits on the 'green' near hole 7 at Vaquero Golf Complex

We journeyed on to Tarifa, some birding from the car along the way produced sightings of White Stork, Short-toed Eagle, Cattle and Little Egret and not much more. It was after 6pm by the time we checked into our hotel and after a nice relaxing time we had a lovely dinner at 8pm washed down with some nice Rioja.

DAY 2 – 10TH SEPTEMBER 2017

PLAYA LOS LANCES - RAPTOR WATCH POINTS:- EL TRAFICO & CAZALLA - LA JANDA

WEATHER: ALL DAY SUNSHINE, LIGHT TO MODERATE WESTERLY WINDS, TOP TEMP 28C

It was an action-packed day with many excellent sightings, some exciting migration passage and some great birding in the rice fields of La Janda.

We ate breakfast at 7am and left the hotel just before 8am, it was barely light as we arrived at Playa Los Lances, as soon as we were off the bus we were scoping flocks of Corn Buntings,

Spotless & Common Starlings, Goldfinches and Cattle Egrets. A high 'spring' tide was ebbing as we arrived at the beach, much of the beach was flooded. Group of waders, gulls and terns produced some interesting sightings but nothing to get too excited about, **Audouin's Gull** was one of our best birds on the beach with dozens of Cory's Shearwaters, Northern Gannets and a few Balearic Shearwaters providing great interest off-shore.



The wind battered hide that overlooks Los Lances Beach

The grass paddocks behind the beach held Corn Buntings, Crested, Short-toed and Skylarks, Yellow Wagtails, Zitting Cisticola, Common Stonechat and not much else. We never saw a single raptor fly over us!

Our visit to El Trafico Observation Point was quite brief because not many birds were moving, we saw several Eurasian Sparrowhawks, one or two Booted Eagles and that was it. We could see several migrating raptors in the distance flying over Cazalla Observation Point so that is where we went to next.



Looking from El Trafico to Tarifa Island and the Port entrance

For the next two hours we were thrilled as many birds began to rise up on the thermals, dozens of Booted Eagles, Short-toed Eagles and fewer Black Kites and Eurasian Sparrowhawks came right over us. A flock of some 40 Bee-eaters went over really low, drawing a cheer from the crowd of observing birders. We also saw a huge flock of Alpine Swifts, there must have been over 100, also a few Griffon Vultures and singles of Montagu's Harrier and Egyptian Vulture were the remainder of our sightings.





A Short-toed Eagle, hunting for snakes at Cazalla

Next we travelled to La Janda and using the bus as a hide we were able to get good, close views of several species along the approach track to the rice fields. Zitting Cisticola, Corn Bunting, Crested Lark, Cattle and Little Egrets, White Stork and Glossy Ibis showed very well. We parked at the beginning of the raised central track and ate our picnic lunch whilst observing first a Hen Harrier, then both Montagu's and Marsh Harriers, that was incredible, 3 Harrier species in 15 minutes!

For the next 2 hours we crept along the central track recording many species, some of which were in huge numbers. Over 500 Glossy Ibis sat along one bank, probably more than a 1000 White Storks loafed in the rice fields and one most unexpected sighting was made of a single **BALD IBIS!!** I have never seen this species at La Janda before, it is not a marshland bird, but there it was, sitting with its better-looking cousins, obviously lost and confused!



A Bald Ibis with a Glossy Ibis at La Janda

A good number of other species were found in one particular flooded rice field, we saw Green, Wood and Common Sandpipers, Common Snipe, Black-winged Stilts, Greater Flamingos, Mallards, Northern Shoveler, Eurasian Coots and lots more Cattle Egrets. Marsh and Montagu's Harriers were ever-present and huge flocks of Goldfinches, House & Spanish Sparrows and Wood Pigeons were constantly flying up from the large areas of sunflower fields which had just been harvested.



White Storks over us at La Janda

We spent some time searching a known site for roosting **Red-necked Nightjars**, finding just one, a well-camouflaged individual sitting in the leaf litter. Next we drove onto the Benalup track and parked at a road junction where we had good views of a long wooded ridge where recent sightings of Spanish Imperial Eagles had been made. As we pulled up at the roadside we inadvertently flushed two Purple Herons, both of which settled in view not too far away.



Red-necked Nightjar

Our 'eagle watch' produced Common Buzzards, Booted Eagles, Common Kestrels, hundreds of soaring Storks and hundreds of hirundines, namely Barn and Red-rumped Swallows, Sand and House Martins, the late afternoon light was superb for this kind of birding and the temperature was just right around 25C with no cloud and a lovely breeze, perfect! But I had to drag my group away around 5pm without seeing anything remotely 'Imperial'.



A juvenile Night Heron

We added several of species to the trip list during our journey to and from the Benalup track, these included Red-legged Partridge, Common Pheasant, Woodchat Shrike, Turtle Dove, Lesser Kestrel (a count of 10 feeding over one field), then back in La Janda we found Black-crowned Night Herons and half a dozen Eurasian Spoonbills.

It had been a fantastic day out which was concluded with a lovely sea-food dinner and a nice chilled bottle of wine.

DAY 3 – 11TH SEPTEMBER 2017

ALGARROBO RAPTOR WATCH POINT - TARIFA WHALE WATCHING BOAT TRIP - BARBATE NATURAL PARK & RIO BARBATE –

HONEY BUZZARDS GALORE THIS MORNING!

WEATHER: ANOTHER CLEAR SUNNY DAY, LIGHT EASTERLY WIND. TOP TEMP 28C

We drove straight to Algarrobo from the hotel and we were the first to arrive! A few warblers flitted about in the bushes we saw Willow and Sardinian Warblers, a few Spotted Flycatchers and Common Redstarts.

But it was the sky that held the most interest for us, even as soon as 8:30am we saw groups of Honey Buzzards rising from the woods and circling on thermals, gaining some measure of height before they moved on towards Tarifa. It was amazing these birds were soaring directly

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above us and came up in ever increasing numbers.. Before 9:30am we had seen over 300 Honey Buzzards, a few Black Kites and a dozen or so of Short-toed Eagles.



Honey Buzzards over Algarrobo

The official raptor recorders arrived but the numbers of Honey Buzzards dropped for a while, so we concentrated on sightings in the bushes as we watched more flycatchers and redstarts. An Osprey came over, a few small groups of Griffon Vultures circled above the hillside and the odd one or two Eurasian Sparrowhawks flew over. We heard Bee-eaters but failed to see them and hundreds of hirundines filled the sky. More honey Buzzards began to emerge as we departed around 10am.

A track leading to El Bujero natural park was our next destination, we scoured the scrub and bushes in an open area looking for migrant birds where we found both Spotted and Pied Flycatchers, Willow Warblers and a small colony of Monarch Butterflies, as is the case all over this part of Andalucia the numbers of Monarch Butterflies on the wing is way down on last year, we saw a single individual.



Monarch Butterfly

We caught our boat at the Port in Tarifa and set off for our exciting whale watching Pelagic Cruise at 12:30. We had a fantastic time despite bird sightings being low we enjoyed some incredibly close Bottle-nosed Dolphins, also Pilot Whales and on the return journey some Common Dolphins.

Bird sightings included both Cory's and Balearic Shearwaters, a flock of Black Terns, a single Storm Petrel, a single Mediterranean Gull and several Yellow-legged Gulls. It was great being out there today, the sea was fairly calm, the temperature was lovely and air was clear. We cruised close to Morocco in search of Orcas that were seen yesterday by a lucky group but we couldn't find any.



Looking across the Strait of Gibraltar from the Mirador de Estrecho at first light

Our cruise ended at 3pm we drove out of Tarifa and headed to Barbate Marshes Natural Park, a nice breeze kept the heat down as we enjoyed some excellent birding on terra firma. Thousands of gulls roosted on the islands and raised banks of this huge natural park, the open lagoons provided shelter for many species during high tide periods. We saw over 300 Audouin's Gulls with countless Yellow-legged and Lesser Black-backed Gulls, there was also good numbers of Greater Flamingos and we found 19 **Stone Curlews**, a few Kentish Plovers, two Greenshanks, Ringed Plovers and a dozen Black-winged Stilts.



Africa from the boat

The scrub and rocky hillsides around the natural park held some nice birds, we saw Woodchat Shrike, Northern Wheatear, Crested Lark, Common Stonechat a Little Owl and a huge flock of some 200+ Calandra Larks,

We made our way to the bridge over the Rio Barbate and parked on some scrubland from where we could scan a huge open area of salt marsh and the river. It was still high tide so no muddy margins were visible, we saw a few waders but not many. Common Redshanks, Black-winged Stilts was all we got, also a couple of Sandwich Terns, a Marsh Harrier but not the expected Caspian Terns.

So, we left the area and drove directly to the hotel arriving around 7pm. in good time for our 8pm dinner on the terrace.

DAY 4 – 12TH SEPTEMBER 2017

PALMONES SALT MARSH - RIO GUADARRANQUE - PRESA GUADARRANQUE - RIO HOZGARGANTE - MARCHENILLA TRACK - SAN ENRIQUE WOODS - CAZALLA RAPTOR WATCH POINT

WEATHER: THE UNUSUALLY HOT CONDITIONS CONTINUE - WE HAD OUR HOTTEST DAY YET, CLEAR SKY, NO WIND, MAX TEMP 35C

What a busy day! We drove inland to look for some woodland species and visited a wide range of habitats in the process. I have never known such a windless, perfectly calm day, the sea was like a mill-pond and the air was so clear I could scope across to Morocco and watch people walking around in the fields!

We visited Palmones first before we ventured inland. The light, the birds and the stillness made for some lovely photographic opportunities, we picked up several waders species, a few gulls, Common Kingfisher, a couple of Ospreys and lots of herons and storks. We scanned the salt marsh from both sides, that is, from Palmones Promenade and the raised hide on the Algeciras western side.



Rio Palmones looking from the hide, a flat calm surface on the river

It was onto butterflies after that, we had two target species and I knew exactly where to find them. The Monarch and the **Two-tailed Pasha** gave themselves up easily, it was as though I had planted them in place! From the Monarch site we had a wonderful raptor-passage, flying high over the top of us were:- Honey Buzzards, Black Kites, Booted and Short-toed Eagles, a single Montagu's Harrier and lots of Griffon Vultures.



Monarch above and Two-tailed Pasha below (record shot)



Our picnic lunch was consumed in the shade of some Eucalyptus trees at the Rio Hozgargante near Jimena, it was very hot by now. We watched Firecrest, Short-toed Treecreeper, Willow Warblers and Eurasian Chiffchaffs during our stay.

I have never seen the Marchenilla Track so devoid of birdlife, but I can understand why, it was 35C and not a whiff of air. The hardy Common Stonechat sat out loud and proud but that was

all. We fared a little better in San Enrique Woods as we watched both Pied and Spotted Flycatchers, Great Spotted Woodpecker and a few Willow Warblers.

Our most exciting birding of the day was without doubt the time we spent at Cazalla Raptor watch point. It was 5pm when we arrived, not a raptor in sight and only 8 birders present and that included 4 recorders! We were informed that we had just missed a couple of gems, thanks for that! We should have been there ten minutes ago, etc



The group on the promenade at Palmones

After another 10 minutes, when all we saw was a couple of Black Kites, we were about to leave when one of the gems returned.....it was a **SPANISH IMPERIAL EAGLE**, wow! A juvenile bird put on a show for 15 minutes drifting around, what a super bird. In the mean-time 4 Black Storks came over, a Marsh Harrier joined the Imperial Eagle and then another gem appeared**BONELLI'S EAGLE**! Another juvenile, it also stayed in view for ages joined by a Honey Buzzard. A little later two or three very large flocks of Bee-eaters filled the sky along with a great number of swallows and martins.



What a great way to end a birding day, other than an ice-cold beer on the hotel terrace, aaaaah! nectar.

DAY 5 – 13TH SEPTEMBER 2017

LAGUNA MEDINA - BONANZA PONDS - SALINAS DE BONANZA - CHIPIONA MARINA

WEATHER: ALL DAY SUNSHINE, HOT AT TIMES LIGHT BREEZE. TOP TEMP 30C

We escaped the strong winds around Tarifa by travelling inland to areas around Jerez. We drove first to Laguna Medina via Vejer de la Frontera noting a nice list of species along the way. We saw White Storks, Little & Cattle Egrets in La Janda, a flock of Jackdaws at Vejer and Lesser Kestrel, Marsh Harrier, Eurasian Hoopoe, Red-legged Partridge, Griffon Vulture, Crested Lark and a pair of Ravens in fields near Medina Sidonia.



Laguna Medina, taken from the hide

The water level of the Laguna Medina is really low at the moment leaving a wide margin of mud, a play-ground for waders and dabbling ducks. Pied Avocets scythed their way through the shallows whilst plovers and sandpipers picked up morsels from the water's edge and Dunlins 'hammer-drilled' into the mud with their sewing machine bill-action. The bigger birds just slept off a busy night, Spoonbills and Flamingos, loafed in the shallows, Stilts waded into deeper water, because they could, and Eurasian Teals sifted through the wet mud for seeds and any minute life-forms they could find.



White-headed Duck

Our birding stepped up a notch when we visited the 'Ponds' at Bonanza, despite the heat we had a great time searching these small bodies of reed-fringed waters for some really exciting species. A **TEMMINCK'S STINT** was nice to see, a rarity for Spain and we saw it in the same place as the one I saw last year, just a coincidence?



Slender-billed Gull

We scanned the reeds and found Squacco Heron, Western Swamphen, Little Bittern (seen by only me) and the water held **White-headed Duck**, Red-crested and Common Pochard, Little Grebes, Gadwall, Mallard and lots of both Cattle and Little Egrets. It was the third pool that turned up the most exciting species.

A large group of Belgian Birders told us that they had seen both **MARBLED DUCK** and **RED-KNOBBED COOT**, so we set out to find them for ourselves. The Marbled Duck appeared and promptly sat in the middle of the water but the coot was far more challenging. It skulked in the reeds and hardly showed, but after half an hour it came out, we all had scope-views of it.

Other birds seen at the ponds were: Great Cormorant, Great Crested Grebe, Night Heron, Green and Common Sandpipers, Little Ringed Plovers, Black-winged Stilts, Reed Warbler and Common Kingfisher.

The salt pans were again very poor, most of them were devoid of birds, we saw Greater Flamingo, Pied Avocet, Black-tailed Godwit, Little Stint, Sanderling, Slender-billed Gull, Common Shelduck, Whimbrel, Redshank, Common Sandpiper and a Red Kite.

Our second visit to the ponds paid off nicely as we found another Little Bittern and this time everyone got to see it. To finish the day we visited Chipiona Mariner and we were rewarded for our efforts by having excellent close views of up to 5 Little Swifts, it was a great bird to end a great day out. We had seen 22 new species bringing our total to 139 with two days to go.



an archived Little Swift picture taken by Kevin Jones in 2014

DAY 6 – SEPTEMBER 14TH 2017

GIBRALTAR - JEW'S GATE & EUROPA POINT - PINAR DEL REY - CAZALLA RAPTOR WATCH POINT - LA JANDA

WEATHER: ALL DAY SUNSHINE, SOME HIGH CLOUD LATER, LIGHT WESTERLY WINDS,
TOP TEMP 28C

Our early morning start paid off as there was no queue to enter Gibraltar, although the traffic was a little heavy once we were there. We drove along the eastern side of the 'Rock' and found our way to Jews Gate where we parked the bus. We walked to the Gibraltar Bird Ringing Station which we found completely unmanned and locked up!! What a disappointment, peak migration time and no-one is ringing the passing migrants.

We walked around the ringing grounds and along the nature trail and soon realised that there were very few birds flitting around, a Sardinian Warbler called from the thick vegetation and not much else moved or called. As we returned to the Ringing Station a covey of **BARBARY PARTRIDGES** appeared on the path and began to dust-bathe, amazing, these birds are usually very hard to find but a recent re-introduction regime has increased their numbers on Gibraltar.



Barbary Partridges - Gibraltar is the only mainland site in Europe
where this species can be found



After that little piece of excitement, we drove down to Europa Point and spent an hour or so scanning out to sea and looking on the rocks for new species. There were many pods of Dolphins feeding out there and they were closely followed by hundreds of Cory's Shearwaters and a few of the much smaller Balearic Shearwater. Many **Scopoli's Shearwaters** have been recorded recently in the Strait of Gibraltar (Estrecho de Gibraltar in Spanish, Fretum Herculeum in Latin) but they were too far out to identify specifically.



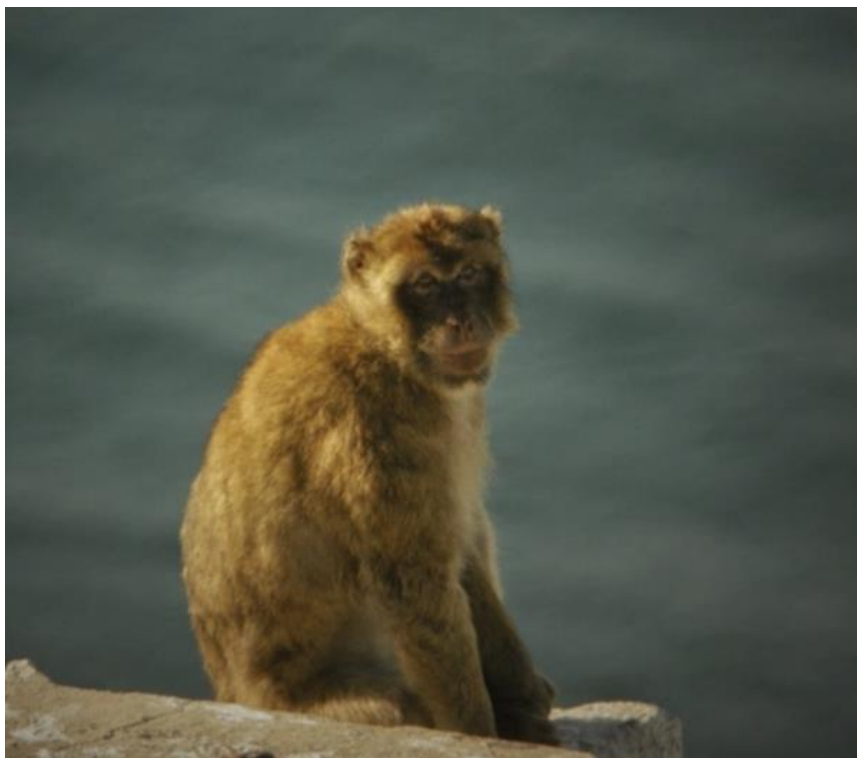
My group at Europa Point

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Hundreds of Yellow-legged Gulls were in the area and two Black-headed Gulls flew by, we never saw a single migrant on land or flying over us!



A view of the 'Rock' from Europa Point



we saw a few of these Barbary Macaques often called 'Barbary Apes'

We left Gibraltar, disappointed about the closed Ringing Station, but happy to have visited nevertheless, we drove the short distance to San Roque where we visited the pine woodlands

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at Pinar del Rey. We ate our picnic and then went for a circular walk, a few birds appeared and we ended up with a nice list which included our target bird the Crested Tit. We also added Eurasian Jay, Blackcap, Garden Warbler, European Robin and Eurasian Nuthatch to our trip list.

We made a brief stop at Cazalla Raptor watch point but a stiff westerly breeze made viewing uncomfortable, we saw Booted & Short-toed Eagles, Honey Buzzards, Black Kites and Eurasian Sparrowhawk but none of them in great numbers.



Cattle and Little Egrets with a couple of Glossy Ibis

For the remainder of the afternoon we made our second visit to La Janda and whilst we never recorded any new species we enjoyed very much watching the hundreds of waders, herons, egrets, storks and ibis. An impressive number of Goldfinches and so many Wood Pigeons filled the sky and when a Marsh Harrier flew over the Egrets and Ibis would take to the air forming huge clouds of contrasting colour.



Cattle Egrets and Glossy Ibis

We searched for Black-winged Kite without success and we found a Red-necked Nightjar in the usual place before we set off back to the hotel. This was our last bit of birding in the Tarifa area because tomorrow we shall spend a day in mountains before driving down to Malaga to end the tour.

DAY 7 – SEPTEMBER 15TH 2017

TRANSFER FROM TARIFA TO MALAGA WITH STOPS AT GAUCIN SWEET CHESTNUT WOODS - LLANOS DE LIBAR - RONDA -SIERRA DE LAS NIEVES NATURAL PARK

WEATHER: IT WAS CLOUDY AT TARIFA BUT SUNNY ALL DAY AS WE DROVE INLAND FOR OUR TRIP TO THE MOUNTAINS. LIGHT WESTERLY WINDS, 28C MAX TEMP.

Our final day had arrived and far too quickly! We left the hotel just before 8am and headed for Ronda, thick cloud cover kept the light level low as we made our way to Algeciras. As soon as we turned inland we lost the cloud cover and beautiful sunlight greeted us, we passed many White Storks standing on their nests around San Roque and noted several other species as we approached Jimena de la Frontera. Egyptian and Griffon Vultures, Common Buzzard, Spotless Starling, Barn and Red-rumped Swallows to name but a few.

Our target bird at Gaucin Chestnut Woods was one of the first birds to appear, a female Hawfinch perched in the top of one of the Chestnut trees, fairly close to us, fantastic we all had scope views of it.



this Hawfinch delighted the group

Our woodland walk produced several more species but it was generally quiet, we watched a Great Spotted Woodpecker drumming, also Eurasian Nuthatch, Blue and Great Tits, a Firecrest and not much else, a few Griffon Vultures drifted over and were ever-present in the sky over the Guadiaro Valley.

We made a couple of short stops near Cortes de la Frontera where we added both Pied and Spotted Flycatchers to our day list, but our search for Cirl Bunting proved fruitless.

The hidden valley behind the beautiful village of Montejaque was our next venue, called the Llanos de Libar it is one of the most beautiful landscapes you are ever likely to see in these parts and is one of the best places to see most of the montane species of Andalucia. We parked a kilometer up the valley and watched birds visiting a water trough, Black Redstarts, Rock Buntings, Goldfinches, Black Wheatears and Common Stonechats were soon on the list.



A view of part of the Llanos de Libar

The Blue Rock Thrush made us wait a while until a beautiful male appeared, we watched Griffon Vultures drift around the valley and also perched high up on ledges, a single Spanish Ibex appeared on the skyline.



Rock Bunting

We continued further up the valley until we came to a wide open area with huge flat meadows full of Retinto Cattle, we found Black-eared Wheatear there but not the expected Red-billed Chough and Rock Sparrow. We stopped in an oak woodland to eat our lunch where we watched Eurasian Nuthatch, Chaffinch and a pair of elusive Cirl Buntings.

I dropped my group off in the centre of Ronda adjacent to the famous Bridge, Puente Nuevo, and left them there for an hour or so, they recorded our first Crag Martins of the trip during their visit to one of the most popular landmarks in Andalucia.



in the chestnut woods this morning

For our last birding of the trip we visited the Natural Park called Snow Mountains, Sierra de las Nieves. We spent two hours watching the birds visiting a water trough, it was both fascinating and relaxing. We had excellent views of Willow Warbler, Common Chiffchaff, Rock and Cirl Buntings, Blue and Great Tits, Eurasian Nuthatch and a number of Butterflies including: False Grayling, Cardinal Fritillary, Sage Skipper, Spanish Chalk-hill Blue, Meadow Brown and Small Heath.



Sage Skipper

Time flew by as always, it was soon time to drive to Malaga to check into our airport hotel in preparation for departure early tomorrow morning. Our efforts today produced 9 new species for the trip, taking the total to 161, just over the 160 I would have expected, a great effort by the group with some super birds on the list.

SPECIES			DATE SEEN											
			9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16				
	ANSERIFORMES: Anatidae													
1	Common Shelduck	Tadorna tadorna					√							
2	Gadwall	Anas strepera					√							
3	Mallard	Anas platyrhynchos	√	√		√	√	√						
4	Northern Shoveler	Anas clypeata	√	√				√						
5	Eurasian Teal	Anas crecca					√							
6	Marbled Duck	Marmaronetta angustirostris					√							
7	Red-crested Pochard	Netta rufina					√							
8	Common Pochard	Aythya ferina	√				√							
9	White-headed Duck	Oxyura leucocephala	√				√							
	GALLIFORMES: Phasianidae													
10	Common Pheasant	Phasianus colchicus		√				√						
11	Red-legged Partridge	Alectoris rufa		√			√	√						
12	Barbary Partridge	Alectoris barbara						√						
	PODICIPEDIFORMES: Podicipedidae													
13	Little Grebe	Tachybaptus ruficollis	√				√							
14	Great Crested Grebe	Podiceps cristatus					√							
	PHOENICOPTERIFORMES: Phoenicopteridae													
15	Greater Flamingo	Phoenicopus roseus		√	√		√	√						
	PROCELLARIIFORMES: Procellariidae													
16	Cory's Shearwater	Calonectris diomedea		√	√			√						
17	Balearic Shearwater	Puffinus mauretanicus		√	√			√						
18	European Storm Petrel	Hydrobates pelagicus			√									
	CICONIIFORMES: Ciconiidae													
19	Black Stork	Ciconia nigra				√	√							
20	White Stork	Ciconia ciconia	√	√		√	√	√	√					
	PELECANIFORMES: Threskiornithidae													
21	Glossy Ibis	Plegadis falcinellus		√			√	√						
22	Northern Bald Ibis	Geronticus eremita		√										
23	Eurasian Spoonbill	Platalea leucorodia		√			√	√						
	PELECANIFORMES: Ardeidae													
24	Little Bittern	Ixobrychus minutus					√							
25	Grey Heron	Ardea cinerea	√	√	√	√	√	√						
26	Purple Heron	Ardea purpurea		√										
27	Little Egret	Egretta garzetta	√	√	√	√	√	√						
28	Cattle Egret	Bubulcus ibis	√	√	√	√	√	√						
29	Squacco Heron	Ardeola ralloides					√							
30	Black-crowned Night-Heron	Nycticorax nycticorax		√			√							
	SULIFORMES: Sulidae													
31	Northern Gannet	Morus bassanus		√										
	SULIFORMES: Phalacrocoracidae													
32	Great Cormorant	Phalacrocorax carbo	√	√	√	√	√							
	ACCIPITRIFORMES: Pandionidae													
33	Osprey	Pandion haliaetus			√	√								
	ACCIPITRIFORMES: Accipitridae													
34	Egyptian Vulture	Neophron percnopterus		√						√				
35	Griffon Vulture	Gyps fulvus		√	√	√	√	√	√					
36	Ruppell's Griffon Vulture	Gyps ruppellii												
37	Short-toed Snake Eagle	Circaetus gallicus	√	√	√	√		√	√					

38	Booted Eagle	<i>Hieraaetus pennatus</i>	√	√	√	√		√	√					
39	Bonelli's Eagle	<i>Hieraeetus fasciatus</i>				√								
40	Spanish Imperial Eagle	<i>Aquila aldaberti</i>				√								
41	Eurasian Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipitor nisus</i>		√	√	√		√						
42	Western Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>		√	√	√	√	√						
43	Hen Harrier	<i>Circus cyaneus</i>		√										
44	Montagu's Harrier	<i>Circus pygargus</i>		√		√		√						
45	Red Kite	<i>Milvus milvus</i>					√							
46	Black Kite	<i>Milvus migrans</i>		√	√	√		√						
47	Common Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>		√	√	√		√	√					
48	European Honey Buzzard	<i>Pernis apivorus</i>	√		√	√		√						
GRUIFORMES: Rallidae														
49	Western Swamphen	<i>Porphyrio porphyrio</i>		√			√							
50	Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	√				√							
51	Red-knobbed Coot	<i>Fulica cristata</i>					√							
52	Eurasian Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>	√	√			√	√						
CHARADRIIFORMES: Burhinidae														
53	Eurasian Stone-curlew	<i>Burhinus oediconemus</i>			√									
CHARADRIIFORMES:Haematopodidae														
54	Eurasian Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>				√								
CHARADRIIFORMES:Recurvirostridae														
55	Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>	√	√	√	√	√	√						
56	Pied Avocet	<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>					√							
CHARADRIIFORMES:Charadriidae														
57	Northern Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	√	√				√						
58	Common Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>	√	√	√	√	√							
59	Little Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>					√	√						
60	Kentish Plover	<i>Charadrius alexandrinus</i>		√	√									
CHARADRIIFORMES:Scolopacidae														
61	Common Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>		√				√						
62	Black-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa limosa</i>					√							
63	Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>				√	√							
64	Common Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>			√	√	√							
65	Common Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>			√	√								
66	Green Sandpiper	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>		√			√	√						
67	Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>		√				√						
68	Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>		√	√	√	√							
69	Sanderling	<i>Calidris alba</i>		√			√							
70	Little Stint	<i>Calidris minuta</i>					√							
71	Temminck's Stint	<i>Calidris temminckii</i>					√							
72	Dunlin	<i>Calidris alpina</i>		√			√							
73	Ruff	<i>Philomachus pugnax</i>					√	√						
CHARADRIIFORMES:Laridae														
74	Slender-billed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus genei</i>					√							
75	Black-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>	√	√	√	√	√	√						
76	Audouin's Gull	<i>Ichthyaeetus audouinii</i>		√	√									
77	Mediterranean Gull	<i>Ichthyaeetus melanocephalus</i>		√	√	√								
78	Yellow-legged Gull	<i>Larus cachinnans</i>	√	√	√	√	√	√						
79	Lesser Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus fuscus</i>	√	√	√		√							
80	Sandwich Tern	<i>Thalasseus sandvicensis</i>		√	√									
81	Black Tern	<i>Chlidonias niger</i>			√									

	COLUMBIFORMES: Columbidae													
82	Rock Dove/Feral Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>	√	√	√	√	√	√	√					
83	Common Wood Pigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>		√	√	√	√	√	√					
84	European Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>		√				√						
85	Eurasian Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	√	√	√	√	√	√	√					
	STRIGIFORMES: Strigidae													
86	Little Owl	<i>Athene noctua saharae</i>			√									
	CAPRIMULGIFORMES: Caprimulgidae													
87	Red-necked Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus ruficollis</i>		√				√						
	CAPRIMULGIFORMES: Apodidae													
88	Alpine Swift	<i>Tachymarptis melba</i>		√				√						
89	Common Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>		√										
90	Pallid Swift	<i>Apus pallidus</i>	√	√										
91	Little Swift	<i>Apus affinis galilejensis</i>					√							
	CORACIIFORMES: Alcedinidae													
92	Common Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>	√	√	√	√	√	√						
	CORACIIFORMES: Meropidae													
93	European Bee-eater	<i>Merops apiaster</i>		√	H	√								
	BUCEROTIFORMES: Upupidae													
94	Eurasian Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>					√							
	PICIFORMES: Picidae													
95	Eurasian Wryneck	<i>Jynx Torquilla</i>					√							
96	Great Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>		√		√			√					
97	FALCONIFORMES: Falconidae													
98	Lesser Kestrel	<i>Falco naumanni</i>		√			√	√						
99	Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	√	√	√	√	√	√						
	PASSERIFORMES: Laniidae													
100	Woodchat Shrike	<i>Lanius senator</i>		√	√									
	PASSERIFORMES: Corvidae													
101	Eurasian Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarias minor</i>						√						
102	Eurasian Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>					√							
103	Western Jackdaw	<i>Coloeus monedula spermogolus</i>		√			√	√						
104	Northern Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>			√	√	√	√						
	PASSERIFORMES: Paridae													
105	Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes</i>			√	√	√	√	√					
106	Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>						√	√					
107	Crested Tit	<i>Lophophanes cristatus</i>						√						
	PASSERIFORMES: Alaudidae													
108	Eurasian Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>		√	√									
109	Crested Lark	<i>Galerida cristata</i>		√	√		√	√						
110	Greater Short-toed Lark	<i>Calandrella brachydactyla</i>		√										
111	Calandra Lark	<i>Melanocorypha calandra</i>			√									
	PASSERIFORMES: Hirundinidae													
112	Sand Martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>		√			√							
113	Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	√	√	√	√	√	√	√					
114	Eurasian Crag Martin	<i>Pryonoprogne rupestris</i>							√					
115	Northern House Martin	<i>Delichon urbica</i>	√	√	√	√	√	√	√					
116	Red-rumped Swallow	<i>Hirundo daurica rufola</i>	√	√	√		√	√	√					
	PASSERIFORMES: Cettiidae													
117	Cetti's Warbler	<i>Cettia cetti</i>		H		H	H	H						
	PASSERIFORMES: Phylloscopidae													

118	Willow Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochilis</i>			√	√			√				
119	Eurasian Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>				√			√				
120	Iberian Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus ibericus</i>				√							
	PASSERIFORMES: Acrocephalidae												
121	Great Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus arundinaceus</i>					√						
122	Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>					√						
123	Melodious Warbler	<i>Hyppolias polyglotta</i>				√							
	PASSERIFORMES: Cisticolidae												
124	Zitting Cisticola	<i>Cisticola juncidis</i>	√	√		√	√	√					
	PASSERIFORMES: Sylviidae												
125	Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>				√		√					
126	Garden Warbler	<i>Sylvia borin</i>						√					
127	Sardinian Warbler	<i>Sylvia melanocephala</i>	√		√	√	√	H	√				
	PASSERIFORMES: Regulidae												
128	Common Firecrest	<i>Regulus ignicapilla balearicus</i>				√			√				
	PASSERIFORMES: Troglodytidae												
129	Eurasian Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>			√								
	PASSERIFORMES: Certhiidae												
130	Short-toed Treecreeper	<i>Certhia brachydactyla</i>				√		√					
	PASSERIFORMES: Sittidae												
131	Eurasian Nuthatch	<i>Sitta europaea</i>						√	√				
	PASSERIFORMES: Sturnidae												
132	Spotless Starling	<i>Sturnus unicolor</i>	√	√	√	√	√	√	√				
133	Common Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>		√									
	PASSERIFORMES: Turdidae												
134	Common Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	√	√	√	√	√	√	√				
	PASSERIFORMES: Muscicapidae												
135	Spotted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>	√		√	√		√	√				
136	Pied Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula hypoleuca</i>	√		√	√		√	√				
137	European Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>						√					
138	Black Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>							√				
139	Common Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>			√	√							
140	Blue Rock Thrush	<i>Montacilla solitarius</i>							√				
141	Whinchat	<i>Saxicola rubetra</i>	√										
142	European Stonechat	<i>Saxicola torquata</i>		√	√	√	√	√	√				
143	Northern Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>			√								
144	Black-eared Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe hispanica</i>							√				
145	Black Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe leucura riggenbachi</i>							√				
	PASSERIFORMES: Passeridae												
146	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	√	√	√	√	√	√	√				
147	Spanish Sparrow	<i>Passer hispaniolensis</i>						√					
148	Eurasian Tree Sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>						√					
	PASSERIFORMES: Motacillidae												
149	Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla iberiae</i>	√	√			√	√					
150	Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>			√	√							
151	White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>	√										
152	Tawny Pipit	<i>Anthus campestris</i>							√				
153	Tree Pipit	<i>Anthus trivialis</i>	√										
	PASSERIFORMES: Fringillidae												
154	Common Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>				√		√	√				
155	Hawfinch	<i>Coccothraustes coccothraustes</i>							√				

156	European Greenfinch	Carduelis chloris voousi				√			√									
157	Eurasian Linnet	Linaria cannabina		√					√									
158	European Goldfinch	Carduelis carduelis parva	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√								
	PASSERIFORMES: Emberizidae																	
159	Corn Bunting	Miliaria calandra	√	√	√			√	√									
160	Rock Bunting	Emberiza cia									√							
161	Cirl Bunting	Emberiza cirlus									√							
162	Monk Parakeet	Myiopsitta monachrus	√															
	BUTTERFLIES/DRAGONFLIES/INSECT SPECIES		DATE SEEN															
			9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16								
1	Swallowtail	Papilio machaon	√		√	√												
2	Small White	Artogeia rapae		√		√												
3	Wood White	Leptidea sinapis				√												
4	Long-tailed Blue	Lampides boeticus				√												
5	Holly Blue	Cetastrina argiolus				√												
6	Monarch	Danaus plexippus			√	√												
7	Two-tailed Pasha	Charaxes jasius				√												
8	Red Admiral	Vanessa atalanta		√														
9	Cardinal Fritillary	Argynnis pandora								√								
10	Grayling	Hipparchia semele								√								
11	Meadow Brown	Maniola jurtina			√	√		√	√									
12	Dusky Meadow Brown	Hyponephele lycaon								√								
13	Small Heath	Coenonympha pamphilus								√								
14	Speckled Wood	Pararge aegeria				√												
15	Wall Brown	Lasiommata megera			√													
16	Sage Skipper	Muschampia proto								√								
	MAMMALS/AMPHIBIANS/REPTILES		DATE SEEN															
			9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16								
17	Rabbit	Oryctolagus cuniculus		√	√													
18	Spanish Ibex	Capra pyrenaica								√								
19	European Pond Terrapin	Emys orbicularis	√				√	√										
20	Moorish Gecko	Tarentola mauritanica		√	√	√	√											
21	Marsh Frog	Pelophylax ridibundus				√												
22																		
23	Barbary Macaque								√									
24	Common Dolphin	Delphinus delphis			√													
25	Common Bottlenose Dolphin	Tursiops truncatus			√			√										
26	Pilot Whale	Globicephala melas			√													
27	Ocean Sunfish	Mola mola			√													
28																		
29																		