

WINGSPAN BIRD TOURS

MIGRATION TOUR

IN

TARIFA, SPAIN

SEPT. 1st – 8th 2022



TRIP REPORT

GROUP LEADER: Bob Buckler

PARTICIPANTS: Jo & Cindy Harris, Phil Miles, Paul Barry, Janet & Ray Worthington.

SUMMARY

We added an extra day to this trip which enhanced our sighting by giving us a full day in the Malaga region before we drove down to Tarifa. The migration in general was slow as the weather conditions allowed easy passage for the migrating raptors, they went over very high up during the first few hours of each day. It was very hot this year too, we saw many species but did not stay around in one place too long because of the high temperature. Having said all that, we still had great week of birding with some exciting sightings.

DAY 1 - WEDNESDAY 31st AUGUST 2022

MALAGA- DESEMBOCADURA DE GUADALHORCE

WEATHER: very humid, very hot, we had some relief from a light breeze

Well, that was the most bizarre and unusual start to any my trips during the last 30 years, I can't tell you how strange our experience was this morning, it was totally off the charts. We all met at 7am for breakfast at our hotel on the outskirts of Malaga before we loaded onto the minibus for the short drive to the natural park at the mouth of the River Guadalhorce. We parked the bus near the entrance, as soon as we got out, we saw a **Hoopoe** fly up onto a chimney, then a Collared Dove landed on a lamppost followed by a **Spotted Flycatcher** which perched on a TV aerial.

Joe then decided to sit this visit out and plonked himself on a bench next to the bus, whilst the rest of us walked up the ramp onto the approach track to the reserve. We saw several police officers at the base of the ramp and some further along on the bridge, you have to cross the bridge to get onto the reserve. We noted **Sardinian Warbler, House Sparrow, Barn Swallow, Common Nightingale** (seen only by me), **Little Egret, Yellow-legged Gull** and a few **Monk Parakeets** as we made our way towards the bridge.

As we got nearer we could see what all the fuss was about, a human dead body was hanging from a rope beneath the bridge!!! Now in the UK the whole area would have been shut down and certainly no access across the bridge would have been allowed, but we were allowed to walk across the bridge right above the hanging man and we had cameras, telescopes and binoculars, it was totally bizarre. Joggers, cyclists, mother with pushchairs were all walking past as though nothing had occurred!



Laguna Grande at Guadalhorce Natural Park

Once across the bridge we had a short discussion about what we had just witnessed, nobody seemed too concerned or distraught so we continued our walk! Our next sighting was alive, it was a **Serin**, in fact we found at least a dozen of them feeding on seeds in the dry thistles. We also had good views of **Willow Warbler** and a pair of **Zitting Cisticolas**.

By the time we reached the hide overlooking Laguna Grande the weather had warmed up quite a lot, we were glad of the shelter offered by the hide. We then spent about 1 ½ hours sitting watching the birdlife in the lagoon and the surrounding bushes. It was fantastic birding, dozens of species were out there, all of them in low numbers but a good variety was on show.

Wader sightings included: **Redshank, Greenshank, Avocet, Black-winged Stilt, Dunlin, Sanderling, Common Sandpiper, Curlew Sandpiper, Ringed, Little Ringed** and **Kentish Plovers**. There was also **Greater Flamingo, Eurasian Spoonbill, Grey Heron, Little Egret, Common Coot, Northern Shoveler, Great Cormorant, Black-headed Gull** and a flock of 30+ **Glossy Ibis** dropped in.



A Curlew Sandpiper

Spotless Starlings dropped down to bathe, we found three **Common Kestrels** perched in the distance and a star bird was a **Black Stork**. We watched the Stork circle above us and drift off to the south where it was joined by three **Black Kites**, they all went very high and out of sight. **Barn Swallows** and **House Martins** were ever-present and small numbers of swifts dashed about but the light was so wrong we could not tell if they were **Pallid** or **Common Swifts**.

Finally we exhausted the bird count at Laguna Grande and we walked around to the smaller Laguna Escondida. **Common Kingfishers** dashed about over the water, we added **White-headed Duck**, **Mallard**, more **Northern Shovelers**, **Moorhen**, **Little Grebes** and a few **Night Herons** had flown over us as we walked along the track. We added more **Willow Warblers** a **Blackcap** and as we got to the hide overlooking the Laguna La Casilla we saw a **Little Tern**. Another pair of **Kingfishers** appeared and much higher up we added a **Sandwich Tern**.



A view of Laguna Casilla

We followed the route of the Rio Viejo right down to the Observatorio Espigon de Levante which overlooks the sea. We made some interesting observations along the way. First Cindy spotted a **Wryneck**, she called it out but the rest of us was busy watching a **Wood Sandpiper**. I then found a **Common Redstart** whilst searching for the **Wryneck** (which never reappeared) and then Cindy found a **Whimbrel**. We also added **Little Stint**, a **Temminck's Stint** had been seen in this area, but the light was not in our favour, there were other 'Stints' in the distant, too far away to call a Temminck's.

Hundreds of Gulls loafed around in the area of the Rio Vieja, mostly **Yellow-legged** but also **Lesser Black-backed**, **Black-headed** and a few dozen **Mediterranean Gulls**. We walked along the beach (through the nudist beach) where many nudist (fat elderly men) stood and posed for us, yuk!!

We ended up back at the hide overlooking Laguna Grande where we enjoyed once more many species. This time we had much better views of **Kentish Plover** and **Little Stint**, but we were all tired and hungry, so we called a break for lunch. It was 1:30pm by the time we got back to the bus and thankfully the hanging body had been taken down from below the bridge.



A Kentish Plover

We had a nice lunch at a local tapas bar and then returned to the hotel at 2:30pm. We had a 2 hour siesta after which just three of us went out again for a second visit to the Desembocadura. This time we visited the eastern side where the river had virtually dried up! It was still 32C but a nice breeze had picked up.

Over the next two hours we saw very little and only three new species for the list. It took us a while to track down an elusive warbler which turned out to be a juvenile **Common Whitethroat**. We also added a distant **Woodchat Shrike** and had great views of a **Red-rumped Swallow**.

At 6:30pm we returned to the hotel and called it a day. The bird-log revealed that we had seen 64 species and heard a **Cetti's Warbler**, a good day's birding in difficult light and heat.

DAY 2 – THURSDAY 1ST SEPTEMBER 2022

TRANSFER FROM MALAGA TO TARIFA VIA RONDA

WEATHER: hazy sunshine all day, hot and humid, top temp 34C

We transferred to Tarifa today and took the long, scenic route, visiting Ronda into the bargain. We all met at 7am for breakfast, we now have a full complement in the group, as Phil, the last to arrive, jetted in at 2:30am this morning!!

At 8am the bus was loaded up and all seven of us set off for Tarifa, we headed into the mountains via Ronda and our first stop was at a rock face near the town of Teba. It was a known site for **Bonelli's Eagle** but none were on show today. However, we did see a few species which included: **Rock Bunting, Chaffinch, Corn Bunting, Turtle Dove, Wood Pigeon, House Martin, Barn Swallow** and not much migratory activity.



The scrub area in the Sierra de las Nieves Natural Park

An hour later we pulled up in the car park at the entrance to the Sierra de las Nieves natural park on the east side of Ronda. It took just a few minutes to locate our first sighting, a couple of **Common Redstarts** were chasing one another around. In the picnic area beside the car park we found a few more species, a flock of 12+ **Woodlarks** was nice, **Iberian Shrike** was next and well appreciated, followed by **Jay, Willow Warbler** and **Booted Eagle**.



A scraggy looking Rock Bunting in summer moult

As 10am approached and the air warmed up we started to see a few raptors taking to the air, a small flock of 25 **Honey Buzzards** was the first of many flocks, more **Booted Eagles** showed up and we added **Short-toed Eagle** and a single **Griffon Vulture**.

A water trough was overflowing and attracted some birds to it, we watched a **Willow Warbler** take a bath, a few **Rock Buntings** dropped in too as well as **Chaffinch** and a **Great Tit**. On the way back to the bus we saw more raptors and another **Common Redstart**.

Driving further into the park we stopped near an open area with clumps of gorse where we quickly added **Common Stonechat** and **Dartford Warbler** to the list, we also caught a brief glimpse of a **Spectacled Warbler** and a family party of **Sardinian Warblers**. A few butterflies had been added to our sightings such as: Cardinal Fritillary, Grayling sp., Southern Speckled Wood, Sage Skipper, Spanish Chalkhill Blue and Clouded Yellow.



Firecrest taken by Paul Barry

Scanning the ridge-line looking for raptors produced a sighting of **Eurasian Sparrowhawk**, this bird circled on the thermals and was mobbed by **Alpine Swifts** and, either **Common** or **Pallid Swifts** (it was impossible to identify them at that range).

Deeper into the park we stopped near some mature pines and found up to four **Firecrests**, **Eurasian Nuthatch**, both **Grey** and **White Wagtails** and we heard a **Short-toed Treecreeper**, At this point we turned around and headed back towards the entrance of the park, We made a couple of stops on the way back.

The first stop produced a couple of very distant male **Black Wheatears** and the second stop produced a small flock of **Crested Tits** as well as a Two-tailed Pasha Butterfly, what a magnificent beast. We also noted several Blue-winged Grasshoppers and more butterfly species already mentioned.



The very cryptic disguise of the Woodlark

From the park we drove towards Ronda and pulled over at a roadside restaurant for lunch. We ate outside on the terrace and during lunch we saw over 100 **European Bee-eaters**, a group of **Black Kites**, more **Honey Buzzards**, **Griffon Vultures** and a **Common Kestrel**.

After lunch we stopped in the centre of Ronda to scan the cliff-faces from the famous bridge looking for **Red-billed Chough**. Last week my wife and I saw fifty to sixty of them from the bridge, today my group saw exactly.....none! They did find a few **Crag Martins** and hundreds of **Feral Pigeons**! Ha!

As we headed off towards the coast we made one final stop in the mountainous area near Ronda, which proved to be very productive. Long the Encinas de Barrachas track we saw **Black-eared Wheatears**, (juveniles and adults), also **Thekla Larks**, **Woodchat Shrike**, **Whinchat**, **Stonechat**, **Northern Wheatear**, **Goldfinch**, **Black Wheatear** and three Red Deer.

Raptors stole the show once again, we saw a flock of over 100 **Black Kites**, also several large flocks of **Honey Buzzards**, some of which numbered over 50. We saw **Booted** and **Short-toed Eagles**, **Common** and **Alpine Swifts** and a good number of **Griffon Vultures**. **European Bee-eaters** came over in good numbers too!

We had a two-hour drive ahead of us and it was approaching 4:30pm, so we abandoned our birding and set off to the coast. We made one final stop after driving for an hour. We stopped near the village of Casares at Sierra de Crestellina, where we saw over 50 **Griffon Vultures** and had much closer views of **Short-toed Eagle** (one of which was mobbed by a **Common Kestrel**!). We searched once again for **Bonelli's Eagle** without luck.

We reached our hotel near Tarifa at exactly 6:30pm, ample time to change and shower and get ready for dinner. We ate on the terrace, everyone was tired, but we enjoyed the meal and the wine!

Our list total has risen to 97 after our efforts today.

DAY 3 – FRIDAY 2ND SEPTEMBER 2022

PLAYA LOS LANCES – ALGORROBO RAPTOR WATCH-POINT – EL BUJEO NATURAL PARK – LA CAZALLA RAPTOR WATCH-POINT – OJEN VALLEY

WEATHER: cloudy with hazy sunshine all day, Temp 25 --32C. Brisk breeze all day at the coast.

We made a great start to the day after our 7am breakfast. We drove to the entrance of Los Lances Beach as the day light grew brighter and within minutes we were watching some new birds. I think **Cattle Egret, Eurasian Spoonbill, Spotless Starling, Collared Dove, House Sparrow** and **Corn Bunting** went onto the list almost straight away quickly followed by **Stonechat, Goldfinch** and a flyover **Yellow Wagtail**.



A view from the hills above Tarifa showing the extent of Los Lances Beach

From the boardwalk we scanned the pools and sandy areas of the beach where dozens of waders were feeding. We found **Dunlin, Sanderling, Curlew Sandpiper, Ringed** and **Kentish Plovers** and a little further away we saw a group of **Red Knot**.

A large group of gulls sat on the sand and included a few **Audouin's Gull** as well as **LBB Gulls** and a few **Black-headed Gulls**. A little closer to the solitary hide we found **Whimbrel**, **Green Sandpiper** and a few **Zitting Cisticolas** and perched on some posts we saw **Sandwich Terns** and more **Audouin's Gulls**.



Three very distant **Audouin's Gulls** seen on the beach at Los Lances

Out at sea dozens of **Cory's Shearwaters** skimmed the surface of the water, a few **Gannets** dived in and a pod of Dolphins swam along the shoreline. During all this time not a single bird of prey flew over us on migration. A single **Glossy Ibis** flew over whilst we were on the boardwalk near the hide but that was all!

In the fields behind the beach we searched for **Short-toed Lark** but found only **Corn Buntings**, **Goldfinches**, **Hoopoe**, **Yellow Wagtails**, more **Stonechats** and **Zitting Cisticolas**. We walked further along the boardwalk towards Tarifa and stopped near the WWII bunker where we found three more **Tawny Pipits**, a **Northern Wheatear** and finally a **Short-toed Lark**.



A Tawny Pipit – one of three found on top of the Bunker at Los Lances

As we made our way back, we picked out a **Peregrine Falcon** sitting on a fence, another **Hoopoe** in flight and a **EUROPEAN ROLLER** sitting on a distant fence, wow! What a bird! The Roller flew off before long and it represented the first one of this species seen on any of my Tarifa Migration Tours. In the fields near the bus we searched for **Calandra Lark** but found more **Corn Buntings** and quite a large flock of **Spanish Sparrows**.



A view from Cazalla Raptor Watch Point of Tarifa Island, Morocco can be seen across the Strait of Gibraltar.

We made a quick stop at a supermarket on the edge of town and found our first **Crested Lark** in the car park, I can't believe we have been in Spain for three days and only just recorded our first **Crested Lark**.

It took about 20 minutes to drive to Algorrobo Raptor Watch-Point, the track from the main road is in serious need of repair. Despite the poor track there was about 50 people watching the skies when we got there, but raptor passage was very slow.

We stayed for a couple of hours and also ate our lunch there, bird numbers fluctuated sometimes a large group would appear and other times only small numbers were visible. It was a poor passage day, most of the birds were extremely high as they passed over, luckily it was cloudy so we could pick them out.



A small group of **White Storks**

Honey Buzzards were the most common migratory raptor, followed by **Black Kites**, then **Booted Eagle**, **Short-toed Eagle**, **Egyptian Vulture**, **Sparrowhawk** and **Raven**. We heard **Montagu's** and **Hen Harrier** being called out, but we never found either.

One amazing sighting was that of a **BLACK VULTURE**, it came over a couple of times with a few **Griffon Vultures**, that was my first **Black Vulture** ever in Andalucia!! A **Ruppell's Vulture** was called out a little later, but I think only a couple of people saw it.



The colourful Red-veined Darter, female

The sky was always busy with the passage of **Martins**, **Swallows** and **Swifts**. We picked out **Common**, **Pallid** and **Alpine Swifts** and both **Crag** and **House Martins**. Many sizable flocks of **European Bee-eaters** went over but we never saw a single Stork.

About 2pm we decided to leave, it was now getting quite hot and we all had neck-ache! A short drive back towards Tarifa found us as El Bujeo Natural Park where we enjoyed an hour or so looking for migrant passerines. We quickly found 4 or 5 **Spotted Flycatchers**, a few **Stonechats**, a single **Bonelli's Warbler**, a couple of **Willow Warblers** and three **Chiffchaff** sp.

A **Pied Flycatcher** eventually showed well for the group we also saw **Hoopoe**, **Girl Bunting**, **Goldfinches**, **Greenfinch**, **Chaffinch**, **Blackbird** and lots of **House Sparrows**.

After a very short stop at La Cazalla Raptor Watch-Point, where we saw a few **Booted** and **Short-toed Eagles** I dropped most of the group back at the hotel, it was now 4pm and they had had enough birding for one day.

Three of us went out for another hour or so, we visited a scrub area in Ojen Valley. Along the way we saw 3 **Common Kestrels** and a bunch of **Corn Buntings**. During our walk along a dry stream we found more butterflies than birds! The magnificent Monarch Butterfly topped the bill, but the Mediterranean Skipper came a close second. We also saw Large & Small Whites, Holly Blue, Meadow Brown, Small Copper and a few Blue-winged Grasshoppers.



Monarch Butterfly seen in the Ojen Valley

On our way back a flock 31 **White Storks** circled above the road, we stopped to photograph them as well as a group of **Bee-eaters** sitting on the wires.



In complete contrast to the Monarch Butterfly is the very plain looking Mediterranean Skipper, but a lifer for Phil and Paul

So, we had great start to the day, but it petered out as time went by, a typical birding day in a hot climate. We added 18 species to the list bringing our tally to 115.

DAY 4 – SATURDAY 3RD SEPTEMBER 2022

LA JANDA – MONTENMEDIO GOLF COMPLEX – RIO BARBATE ESTUARY – BARBATE MARSHES

WEATHER: bright sunshine for most of the day, a nice breeze. Temp 24 – 27C

La Janda is always a joy to visit, so many birds can be seen, it is such a great area with many habitats contained within it. Today was no exception we spent two or three hours having a great time and we saw a great variety of species.

We arrived at 8:15 after a short drive from the hotel, we stopped on the approach track to scan the recently ploughed fields on either side of us. We intended to look for **Calandra Larks** but we got distracted by the high number of Kestrels on the wires and pylons. We counted a total of 40 Kestrels and they were all **Lesser Kestrels** and despite the light being against us we had good scope views of them.



One of the tracks on La Janda

A large flock of Sparrows landed in a far bush, scoping them revealed that they were **Spanish Sparrows** and whilst we were watching them we discovered our second **EUROPEAN ROLLER** of the trip! Considering I have never seen a Roller on this migration trip before, two is off the scale. Looking further afield we picked out another good sighting in the shape of **Black-winged Kite**, now this one was really distant but easily recognisable.

Looking down over the bowl-shape valley of La Janda we could see dozens, if not hundreds of **White Storks**. **Cattle Egrets** cross-crossed the sky, as did flocks of **Sparrows**, **Corn Bunting**, **Wood Pigeons** and **Jackdaws**. We drove down to the raised central-track that bisects the whole area that gave us superb views of both sides including the main central canal.



Barbate Marshes

A **Ferruginous Duck** flew along the central canal that lies adjacent to the central track, we saw lots of **Zitting Cisticolas**, two or three **Turtle Doves**, **Stonechats** and more **Spanish Sparrows**. A little further along the track we put up a **Purple Heron** and then we found a single juvenile **Night Heron** in the reeds. A **Green Sandpiper** also went onto the list as did **Red-legged Partridge**, **Little Egret**, **Grey Heron** and two **Marsh Harriers**.

We got fairly close to the **Black-winged Kite** before it flew off, Paul got a few pictures of it. The **Ferruginous Duck** reappeared flying in the opposite direction and we added **Moorhen** and **Common Kestrel** to the tally at a bridge.

The track that eventually leads you to the village of Benalup was in good condition, so we drove along it making a couple of stops before reaching the 'smelly farm'. The first stop produced more **Turtle Doves**, a **Cetti's Warbler** sighting and a distant **Black Kite**.

Near the 'smelly farm' we searched for roosting, Red-necked **Nightjars**, the usual habitat had been totally destroyed, the trees were gone, so we searched in different areas and eventually found two and had glimpses of a third. During this time we added **Common Buzzard**, **Common Pheasant** and we saw a few more **Turtle Doves**.



The west track leading off La Janda where we found a **Wryneck**

We drove off La Janda along the west track, making a few stops to look at a **Woodchat Shrike** and we put up a **Wryneck** that was sitting on the side of the track. We waited a while for the **Wryneck** to return, but it didn't so we moved on.

From La Janda we drove towards Vejer de la Frontera and along the way we pulled into Montenmedio Golf Complex to look for the **Bald Ibis**. This reintroduced species has favoured the golf complex during the post breeding period, who knows why? Perhaps the soft turf of the fairways is good for grubs? However, none were there during our visit, we did find **Spotted Flycatcher**, **Little Owl**, **Willow Warbler** and a few **Stonechats**.



Greater Flamingos at Barbate Marshes

We made a brief stop at the base of the Vejer escarpment to look at the breeding site of the **Bald Ibis**, it was deserted as expected, we then drove to the town of Barbate. After collecting lunch supplies from a supermarket we drove to the estuary of the Rio Barbate.



The large shallow lagunas at Barbate Marshes, we saw **Collared Pratincole** on the nearest embankment

It was great birding on the marshes at Barbate Estuary on a falling tide. Hundreds of birds were out there, we added; **Mediterranean Gull, Eurasian Curlew, Oystercatcher, Osprey** and **Grey Plover** to our growing list. Other interesting species listed were: **Audouin's Gull, Greater Flamingo, Redshank, Greenshank, Whimbrel, Dunlin, Sanderling, Ring Plover** and **Black-winged Stilt**.

On the Natural Park we parked up for lunch but not before stopping to watch and photograph a dozen or more **Bald Ibis**. They were feeding in the small cattle pens adjacent to main road, I have seen them there many times before.



Ugly but nice to see, **Bald Ibis** taken by Paul Barry

The vast area of flooded gravel pits and tracks of Barbate Natural Park was alive with birds, we bumped into another birding group led by Chris, a friend of mine, he told us of a **Collared Pratincole** sighting. So after lunch we walked a short way and relocated the bird.

Dozens of **Audouin's Gulls** sat in the distance and we found more waders including **Avocets** and a single **Ruddy Turnstone**. Driving further around the perimeter track we saw **Woodchat Shrike, Crested Lark, Stonechat, Goldfinches** and **Linnets**. Our next stop was next to a series of islands in the main lagoon, there we found a couple of **Eurasian Spoonbills** and 10 **Stone Curlews**, which was another target bird in the bag.



Eurasian Spoonbills

Scanning the marshes again, we found more **Spoonbills**, lots of **Avocets**, **Greater Flamingos** and two more **Ospreys**! Just then a large flock of larks took to the air behind us, they were **Calandra Larks**, I estimated that there were over 100 of them. Walking along the track to try to get a better view of the larks (which we didn't) we found two juvenile **Montagu's Harriers**, doing what harriers do!



Record shot of **Stone Curlew**

One final scan of the lagoons produced our last new species of the day when a small group of **Black-tailed Godwits** dropped onto a muddy bank in the middle of the water.

Well, that was a very satisfying day, we were very pleased with our sightings, we got back to the hotel at a sensible hour. We added another 20 species bringing to our tally of 135.

DAY 5 - SUNDAY 4TH SEPTEMBER 2022

GIBRALTAR RINGING STATION – EUROPA POINT – SAN ROQUE (PINAR DEL REY PINE WOODS) – RIO PALMONES MARSHES – LA CAZALLA RAPTOR WATCH-POINT

WEATHER: another hot day but again we had a nice cooling breeze.

We saw very few species today, but we still had a great time. The trip onto Gibraltar is always exciting for the group, because usually, most of them have never been there before. Today was no exception and they really enjoyed the trip.

We left the hotel at 8am and 40 minutes later we had cleared security and were on our way along the east cliffs of Gibraltar heading towards Europa Point. The ringing station is situated at the 'Jew's Gate' entrance to the Upper Rock. We were expected at 9am and that is when we arrived, we had seen a Macaque Monkey on the climb up the hill and a couple of Brown Rats!!



The first bird we saw in the hand was this **Iberian Chiffchaff**

The ringing group led by Derek and overseen by Charlie were very welcoming and gave us an informative visit with plenty of birds to see in the hand. Unfortunately, the winds were in the wrong direction to see any raptor migration but 'birds in the hand' are better to see than dots in the sky.

Over a two-hour period we witnessed the processing of several species, the first being an **Iberian Chiffchaff** which we all wanted to see. The chiffchaff was followed by **Blackcaps, Sardinian Warblers, Common Redstarts, Pied Flycatchers, Greenfinch, Blue Tit** and **Blackbird**. The group had an amazing time and gave donations to the Gibraltar Ornithological and Natural History Society (GOHNS).



A Pied Flycatcher with its' destination (Africa) shown in the background

Other birds seen during our visit were **Common Kestrel**, **Peregrine Falcon**, **Raven**, **Booted Eagle**, **Black Kite**, **Marsh Harrier** and about 150 very distant **Honey Buzzards**.

After the ringing demonstration we took a walk along the one of the Upper Rock roads in search of **Barbary Partridge**, we failed to find any, but the walk was nice. We saw **Sardinian Warblers**, heard our first **Wren** of the trip and watched the **Ravens** for a second time.



A Macaque Monkey (Barbary Ape) sits on the corner of a derelict building waiting for tourists to pass on the road beneath it.

After driving back down to sea-level we parked at Europa Point and spent an hour birding the rocky shoreline and watching out to sea. It was a little choppy, but the wind was in our backs and we found good shelter. A few **Cory's Shearwaters** drifted past very close to the Point as did **Audouin's** and **Black-headed Gulls**.

On the eastern side of the point we found 3 **European Shags**, a **Grey Heron** and to our great delight a **Blue Rock Thrush**. After visiting a supermarket to buy very cheap fuel (diesel £1.24/litre) and lunch we headed off the 'Rock' to find a spot to eat it.



A view across to Africa from the ringing station

We ate our picnic lunch at Pinar del Rey (pinewoods) near San Roque, plenty of birds were all around us in the pine trees. We saw several **Short-toed Treecreepers**, also **Firecrests**, **Crested Tit**, **Long-tailed Tit**, **Blue Tit**, **Jay**, **Spotted & Pied Flycatchers** and **Chaffinch**.



The pine woods at Pinar del Rey

After lunch we drove the Marshes at Palmones, the town itself was packed with Sunday day-trippers, most of the car parks were full and the beach area was crowded. We found a space and walked along the promenade and scanned the River Mouth and marshes.

The tide was rising but there still was quite a lot of muddy margins along the river and several exposed sand-bars. Our first sighting was of a large flock of **Greater Flamingos**, they were flying across the Bay of Gibraltar and one point we thought they were heading our way, but they turned and disappeared into the distance.

Lots of waders were out there, we saw: **Dunlin, Ringed Plover, Redshank, Greenshank, Grey Plover, Common Sandpiper, Oystercatcher** and **Whimbrel**. Two **Little Terns** dropped in on the far side and we scoped dozens of **White Storks**, a few **Grey Herons** and a single **Osprey** out on the marsh.

Walking back to the bus we stopped in a wooded parkland area and enjoyed great views of both **Spotted** and **Pied Flycatchers, Common Redstart** and a **Willow Warbler**.



Pied Flycatcher, picture taken in Palmones

Before we returned to the hotel we made two short stops, one was for an ice-cream, nice, and the other was at Cazalla Raptor Watch-Point not so nice. At the watch-point it was very windy, we saw very little but the views across to Morocco was excellent and so clear.

Whilst writing this at 6:30pm outside my room I see and hear many **Bee-eaters** flying over, the last species of the day. We added just 4 species to our trip tally, but it was quality, not quantity, today.

DAY 6 – MONDAY 5TH SEPTEMBER 2022

LAGUNA MEDINA – SANTA MARIA SALT PANS – BONANZA POOLS – BONANZA SALT PANS – LAGUNA TARELO – CHIPIONA MARINA.

WEATHER: great temperature all day, 27C with a lovely cooling breeze.

I keep saying this, 'we had a fantastic day' but we did, so I have to repeat myself! This was supposed to be our big numbers day! In years gone by we have seen over 100 species doing this day's itinerary, my record for this route is actually 106 species!

We were very lucky with the weather, the temperature stayed in the lower 20's and a cooling breeze kept us cool all day. We set off at the usual time of 8am, Cindy and Joe decided to take the day off so

only 5 of us set off. Our first destination was just over an hour away at Laguna Medina near Jerez, we made good time, arriving before 9am.

Usually, we record 30-40 species at this Laguna but today we had a shock, it was completely dry!! Not a drop of water and the surrounding scrub was almost completely devoid of birds because there was no insect life. We hardly saw a bird, mosquito, butterfly or dragonfly.

After walking to the second boardwalk we turned around and headed back to the car, a **Cetti's Warbler** sang out a few times and some **Goldfinches** and **Greenfinches** flew over us but there was not a lot to see. As we returned along the first boardwalk we noticed **Common Stonechats**, **Linnets** and Phil spotted a **Wryneck** sitting out in the morning sunshine, that livened things up a bit.



A record shot of the **Wryneck**

A bush covered in berries attracted a couple of Warblers, we saw **Garden Warbler**, **Willow Warbler** and **Sardinian Warbler**, whilst Phil found a **Pied Flycatcher**. A couple of mammals went on the list as we got back to the car park. A blind Rabbit (with myxomatosis) ran around the car park and a Brown Rat was feeding on berries in a bush.



The roadside pool where we saw 9 **Stone Curlews** and other waders

We drove away disappointed and convinced our big numbers day had been ruined by the drought. Just a few hundred meters along the road as we approached the motorway we noticed a pool of water below us with some birds in it. Scanning the pool with our scopes we discovered quite a few birds including 9 **Stone Curlews**! We listed our first **Ruff** of the trip as well as **Green & Common Sandpipers**, **Little Ringed Plover**, a **Glossy Ibis**, a couple of **Mallards** and **Red-rumped Swallows** were dashing about over the pool.



Two of the nine **Stone Curlews** seen at the pool

To make up for our loss of species at Laguna Medina we popped into the Salt Pans at Santa Maria. It was very dusty along the track where we stopped to watch a couple of **Hoopoes** feeding on the thistle heads, we assumed they were prising out insects using their long bills.



The Santa Maria Salt Pans

It was difficult birding at these salt pans because most of the birds were very distant, we saw **Zitting Cisticolas** along the verges of the track and many, many Gulls, **Yellow-legged, LBB, Black-headed** and a few **Mediterranean Gulls**. Abundant species were **Cattle & Little Egrets, Grey Heron, White Storks, Glossy Ibis, Eurasian Spoonbills** and **Greater Flamingos**.

A few waders were identified such as **Dunlin, Redshank, Common Sandpipers, Black-winged Stilts** and not a lot else. We didn't stay long and as we drove off we noted **Common Buzzard** and a **Marsh Harrier**.

Our next destination was the pools in Bonanza, we knew from recent reports that there was still water in them, so after stopping for lunch supplies in Sanlúcar de Barrameda we arrived around 12 noon at the first of three pools. This pool had very little water but a lot of birds, we saw **Green** and **Common Sandpipers, Sanderling, Little and Common Ringed Plovers, Moorhen, Eurasian Coot, Glossy Ibis, Greylag Geese, Little Egret, Yellow Wagtails, Kingfisher** and to our great delight we found two **TEMMINCK'S STINTS!!** A mystery bird which confused us for quite a while turned out to be an aberrant **Little Stint**.



The first pool at Bonanza

We ate our lunch as another group of birders arrived, they found a **Purple Swamphen** which we were grateful for, and we showed them the **Temminck's Stints** in reply! The second pool had more water and more birds. We added **Tufted Duck**, **White-headed Duck**, **Common Pochard** and we saw many more **Little Ringed Plovers**.



Lesser Emperor dragonfly

The third pool gave us plenty to talk about and provided our best sightings, it was much bigger and had a lot of birds on it. We quickly found the **Red-knobbed Coot** that we had been looking for, it was distant, but it was there! We saw some **Night Herons** in the scrub and a **Squacco Heron** in the reeds. Lots of **White-Headed Ducks**, **Glossy Ibis**, **Little & Cattle Egrets** and **Grey Herons** were present as

well as a multitude of **Little Grebes**. Sifting through the Grebes produced a **Black-necked Grebe** and we saw a couple of **Kingfishers**.



The **Red-knobbed Coot** – a record shot, this bird was distant. You can just make out the ‘cherries’ on top of its head!

Our main destination for the day was the Bonanza Salt Pans, I always enjoy my visit to this wonderful birdy place. We spent two hours there and listed lots of species and had an unexpected long walk when we found a locked gate on the track to the pumping station!



One of two **Temminck's Stints** found at Bonanza Pools

All the usual waders were seen: **Dunlin, Sanderling, Curlew Sandpipers, Little Stints, Black-winged Stilts, Redshank, Greenshank**, but a **Spotted Redshank** was a nice surprise. The **Slender-billed Gull** was our most wanted species and they were in abundance. Along the track we noted a **Red Kite** drifting over and at the pumping station, after a long walk, we added **Black** and **Bar-tailed Godwits, Avocet, Ruff**, a **Common Tern** and another great species was found, **Lesser Short-toed Lark**, we saw four or five of them near the pumping station. The number of **Greater Flamingos** was staggering and as we walked to the pumping station we saw a juvenile **Montagu's Harrier** fly over us.



Slender-billed Gull in the centre surrounded by **Black-headed Gulls** and a selection of waders

Our last port of call in the Bonanza area was the large Laguna Tarelo, there we hoped to see **Marbled Duck** but apart from a couple of hundred **Shoveler** and dozens of **Little Grebes** we saw little else. A few **White-headed Ducks**, a single **Common Pochard**, lots of **Mallards** and a single **Eurasian Teal**.

Time was running out it was now 5pm and we had one more stop to make which was a 30 minute drive away at Chipiona. We arrived after just 20 minutes (the wonders of SAT NAV) and parked near the marina, our target bird was the **Little Swift**, a colony of these African birds has been established for many years at this place.



Little Swift taken by Paul Barry

We quickly found a single bird as it flew down to its nest, then four or five other birds flew around and gave excellent views, what a great show and what a great bird to finish our big day. We saw 87 species, which was not so bad after all.

DAY 7 – TUESDAY 6TH SEPTEMBER 2022

BOLONIA TRACK – EL TRAFICO RAPTOR WATCH POINT – OJEN VALLEY

WEATHER: a misty start, clear later. Temp range 16 – 32C

After yesterday's long day we had a short 'local' day today, our tally is now over 160 and so there are not many species that we could add to that. One species that would be nice to see is the **Rufous Bush Robin** and a track off the Road to Bolonia is a good place to see them.

Unfortunately for us as we drove the few kilometers to the Bolonia Road we drove into thick sea mist, and the first 20 minutes of our walk was birdless because we couldn't see a thing!!



The mountains appear as the mist starts to lift

The mist cleared and soon we were logging a few species, not many! We saw lots of **House Sparrows**, **Spotless Starlings**, **Collared Doves**, **Corn Buntings** and **Stonechats**. The odd **Sardinian Warbler** popped up, a few **Crested Larks** twittered around us and **Goldfinches** flew over. A **Woodchat Shrike** appeared briefly and not much else showed, we were followed by a dog during the entire walk and we were surrounded by cattle with long horns, which put us all on edge.



A Crested Lark

From the track we drove into Tarifa and took a side road towards the raptor watch-point on the edge of the cliffs just east of the town, called El Trafico. Before we got there, we stopped for a walk along a wooded track to look for passerine migrants.

It was a pleasant walk with lots to see, many **Spotted Flycatchers** were on show we also saw the odd **Blackcap**, **Willow Warbler** and **Sardinian Warbler**. In the open scrub areas we saw **Swallows** and our first **Sand Martins** and then luckily we found a **Western Orphean Warbler**, another first for the trip.

The raptor watch-point was more or less devoid of birders and raptors, we found a **Tawny Pipit** on the cliff slopes and a few **Cory's Shearwaters** out to sea. A few eagles started to appear, **Booted** and **Short-toed**, but they were much further east and just dots in the sky. We watched a few **Eurasian Sparrowhawks** and **Black Kites** but they were few and far between.



The misty track where we started out this morning

Driving much further along the track we found a site much closer to the migrating raptors and we enjoyed a couple of hours of excellent raptor watching. Some of the birds were really close, we had excellent views of them. At times we had a swirling mass of birds over us, not hundreds but dozens. We watched **Booted & Short-toed Eagles, Black Kites, Eurasian Sparrowhawks, Griffon** and **Egyptian Vultures** but no **Honey Buzzards!!**

A couple of really good sightings were of a group of 10 **Egyptian Vultures** of all age groups and colours and then the 'pièce de résistance' came along. A group of 500-600 **White Storks** came swirling right over us, turning in the sunlight giving a real show, it was magical.



Some of the 600 Strong Stork flock that came over the top of us

After that we drove into town to visit a supermarket to buy a late lunch and for the rest of the afternoon we visited a couple of sites in the Ojen Valley, once again we looked for migrant warblers. Our first stop was very productive we found a wooded area full of flycatchers and warblers! In just one small area we found dozens of **Spotted Flycatchers**, a few **Pied Flycatchers**, **Common Redstarts**, **Willow Warblers**, **Garden Warbler**, **Woodchat Shrike** and **Hoopoes**. We missed a few of the birds because of the dense foliage of the trees.



Can you pick out the Stork flock as it drifts over to Africa

Our second stop was supposed to be the large Embalse (reservoir) Almodovar but when we got to the approach track, we found it was closed due to road-works!! It was too hot to walk a mile up to the reservoir so we walked just a little way. We saw very little, we scoured the sky for swifts (**White-rumped Swifts** breed in the area). We did see a few **Sardinian Warblers** and Phil saw some **Red-legged Partridges**, but it was very quiet out there. We added a dragonfly to our list and we saw a few butterflies.



The view down to Tarifa from El Trafico watch-point

We called it a day around 4:30pm and headed back to the hotel for an early shower, we needed a rest and a cold drink.

DAY 8 – WEDNESDAY 7TH SEPTEMBER 2022

LOS LANCES BEACH – WHALE WATCHING BOAT CRUISE – LAGUNA TORREGUADIARO -SOTO GRANDE MARINA – SAN ENRIQUE WOODLAND – FARO DE ALCADEISA

WEATHER: nice temperature all morning with a breeze, very hot in the pm. Top temp 34C

Our final full day went out with a fizz rather than a bang, we had several target species to see and missed all of them, although we had a couple of bonus birds for compensation!

The morning walk along the boardwalk at Los Lances was nice, I always enjoy that one. We went over there straight after breakfast and walked as far as the beach hide before returning to the hotel.



A Spotless Starling sang to us as we walked to the beach at Los Lances

We watched a **Spotless Starling** for a while, singing away as though nothing was wrong with the world! As we walked to the beach area we noted the usual **Stonechats**, **Corn Buntings**, flocks of **Spanish Sparrows**, a few **Zitting Cisticolas** and some **Goldfinches**.



Los Lances Beach viewed from the causeway to Tarifa Island

From the hide we watched the wader flocks, some were feeding very close to the hide and included **Dunlin**, **Curlew Sandpiper**, **Red Knot** and **Ringed Plover**. Looking further afield we noted a few **Audouin's Gulls**, small flocks of **Sanderling**, a few **Kentish Plover**, **Little Egrets**, **Grey Herons**, **Redshank** and a couple of **Common Sandpipers**.



A **Curlew Sandpiper** with a **Red Knot** in close attendance and a **Dunlin** showing off in the background

A **Hoopoe** worked its way along a fence line, a few **Cory Shearwaters** skimmed the sea and a very small numbers of **Sandwich Terns** joined the **Yellow-legged Gulls** flying up and down the waterline.

The only raptor we saw was a **Common Kestrel**, other birds in the sky were either **Barn Swallows**, **Sand & House Martins** or **Pallid Swifts**.



Eurasian Hoopoe alighting on a fence post

After a brief return to the hotel to drop off Cindy and Janet, the rest of us set off for Tarifa and the whale watching excursion. Parking in a car park on the edge of town we heard a distinctive loud call, I recognised it at once as a **Common Bulbul**. In fact, two were calling from a eucalyptus wood just beyond the car park fence. We heard them several times but never got to see one, what a bonus bird. Common Bulbuls are not migratory birds, the small enclave found in Tarifa must have come over on a Ferry a few years ago, they have bred there ever since.

Our 'pelagic' trip lasted two hours and was very disappointing as far as bird sightings was concerned, we saw very little out there. Our sum total was: two **Gannets**, four **Cory's Shearwaters** three **Barn Swallows** and lots of **Yellow-legged Gulls**. Cetacean sightings were very popular with the group we saw several pods of Pilot Whales and a pod of Bottle-nosed Dolphins, also half a dozen Sunfish went drifting by.



A Pilot Whale

At 2:30pm when we got back to the hotel, we dropped off Joe and collected Cindy and Janet. Phil loaded his luggage onto the bus as he was leaving later in the day. We drove to Soto Grande some 45 minutes along the coast towards Malaga. A small Laguna called Torreguadiaro held a good amount of water but very few birds. It is a great place to find **Little Bittern**, but not today! It was 32C as we stepped out of the bus and no breeze, we had left the Tarifa breeze behind! We saw a single **Moorhen** and two **Little Grebes** and that was it.

Driving to Soto Grande Marina we parked at the far end of the sea-wall which gave us excellent views out to sea. This is a good place from where to watch Shearwaters from, but today they were far out and we only saw **Cory's** and not the expected **Balearic Shearwater**, another dip!

Close by are the White Popular woodlands of San Enrique where a small colony of **Tree Sparrows** breed so we went there looking for them. It was now 34C with no breeze. We saw very little at the woodlands, **Spotted Flycatchers**, **House Sparrows** and a **Great Spotted Woodpecker**. The woods are adjacent to the Rio Guadiaro so we had a quick look at the river. We saw **Little Ringed Plovers**, a **Kingfisher** and a **Common Sandpiper**. No **Tree Sparrows** were seen, our third dip of the day.

Finally we drove to Alcadeisa on the way towards Gibraltar, a small colony of **White-rumped Swifts** can sometimes be seen there. We staked out a good viewing place near the Faro (Lighthouse) and watched the sky for a while.

We did see several swifts, but they were all **Pallid**, we also saw **Barn Swallows**, **Booted Eagle**, a **Montagu's Harrier** and a **Honey Buzzard**. It was now 6pm and we had to get Phil to Gibraltar to catch his evening flight.

It took 20 minutes to get to Gib Airport and then 45 minutes to get back to the hotel. It was a bit of a rush to get ready for our 8pm dinner but we all made it. Everyone was in a reflective mood as we talked of the birds we had seen and the experiences we had enjoyed together. It was a lovely dinner, a nice occasion and great company.

Tomorrow is our final day, we have the morning to do some birding before making our way back to Malaga for late afternoon flights.

DAY 9 – THURSDAY 8TH SEPTEMBER 2022

LA JANDA – TRANSFER TO MALAGA

WEATHER: clear sky, sunny and warm. Top temp 32C

We had a fabulous last morning at La Janda it is such a wonderful place. It was a little chilly as we got out of the bus around 8:15am but that was soon forgotten as we watched hundreds of birds. Our first stop was on the main central causeway, we parked on the far side a concrete bridge which spans the main canal.



A view of the central canal from the bridge look west

Birds were everywhere, we scanned the reeds on both banks of the canal looking for **Little Bittern** without seeing one, but we did find a **Reed Warbler** which was new for the list. A couple of **Cetti's Warblers** were singing constantly and only showed when they darted from one bush to another. Plenty of **Corn Buntings**, **Stonechats** and **Zitting Cisticolas** kept us occupied.



A view to the east from the same bridge

The distant fields held dozens of **White Storks**, **Cattle Egrets** flew over constantly, and several large flocks of **Glossy ibis** flew across the valley. Cindy spotted a single **Eurasian Spoonbill** high above us and flocks of Sparrows were too numerous to count, probably **Spanish Sparrows** but it was hard to tell at a distant.

A little closer to us we saw a few **Mallards** in the channel with a single **Shoveler**, at one point they were all spooked and we realised that there were at least 100 ducks in the flock. We scanned the near fields for larks and came up with a couple of **Meadow Pipits** our first for the trip.

Our best bird was the **Black-winged Kite**, what a stunner! It came and landed on the nearest pylon to us and posed for a while. Paul, our only photographer, crept closer to get a picture and it flew off, we had great views as it flew around us. Other raptor sightings included about 15 **Lesser Kestrel**, a pair of **Common Kestrels** distant **Marsh Harrier** and a **Booted Eagle** up on the thermals.



What aa beauty, this bird gave us wonderful views as it flew around us. **Black-winged Kite**

We drove along the raised central track and stopped many times along the 3km length of it. A **Night Heron** sat out nicely for us we also saw **Kingfisher, Green & Common Sandpipers, Grey Heron**, lots of **Spotless Starlings, Jackdaws, Linnets, Goldfinches** and more **Corn Buntings** than you can shake a stick at.

A **Montagu's Harrier** was quartering the far side of a field of rice, we saw it catch something and dive down to eat it, as we got into the bus to move on the Harrier came up very close to us, it would have made a wonderful picture but Paul was on the wrong side of the bus!



Geranium Bronze Buterfly

The sky was alive with swallows and Martins, also **Common Swifts** and **Cattle Egrets**, the hirundine hawked over the fields of millet and the finches and sparrows flocked into the ripened sunflowers. We found a dozen **Turtle Doves**, a few of them sat nicely on the wires for our cameras.

Our three hour was up in the blink of an eye, we had to go back to the hotel and check out by 12 noon, which is what we did.

I drove the group to Malaga Airport, we stopped for a quick lunch at Palmones, it was now getting very hot. We said at our goodbyes at 3pm and after returning the bus and collecting my car I drove home to join Dawn at our home in Gaucin for our last four days in Spain, we still have a lot of painting to do before we leave!!

Places visited during the tour

WEDNESDAY 31st MALAGA – DESEMBOCADURA DE GUADALHORCE
THURSDAY 1st TRANSFER FROM MALAGA TO TARIFA VIA RONDA – WITH VISITS TO SIERRA DE LAS NIEVES – RONDA – ENCIAS DE BARRACHES TRACK
FRIDAY 2nd LOS LANMCES BEACH – ALGORROBO RAPTOR WATCH-POINT – EL BUJEO NATURAL PARK – LA CAZALLA RAPTOR WATCH-POINT – OJEN VALLEY
SATURDAY 3rd LA JANDA – MONTENMEDIO GOLF COMPLEX – BARBARTE ESTURAY – BARBATE MARSH NATURAL PARK
SUNDAY 4th GIBRALTAR BIRD RINGING STATION – EUROPA POINT – PINAR DEL REY (SAN ROQUE PINEWOODS) – PALMONES SALT MARSH
MONDAY 5th LAGUNA MEDINA (JEREZ) – SANTA MARIA SALT PANS – BONANAZA POOLS – BONANZA SALT PANS – LAGUNA TALERO – CHIPIONA MARINA
TUESDAY 6th BOLONIA ROAD (TRACK) – EL TRAFICO RAPOTR WATCH-POINT – OJEN VALLEY
WEDNESDAY 7th LOS LANCES BEACH – TARIFA WALE-WATCHING CRUISE – SOTO GRANDE (LAGUNA TORREGUADIARO + MARINA) – SAN ENRIQUE WOODLAND – ALCADEISA (WHITE-RUMPED SWIFT SITE) – GIBRALTAR - TARIFA
THURSDAY 8th LA JANDA – PALMONES SALT MARSH - TRANSFER TO MALAGA AIRPORT FOR DEPARTURE

CHECKLIST OF SPECIES SEEN DURING THIS TRIP

31ST AUGUST – SEPTEMBER 8TH 2022

	SPECIES	SCIENTIFIC NAME	31 ST	1 ST	2 ND	3 RD	4 TH	5 TH	6 TH	7 TH	8 TH
	ANSERIFORMES: Anatidae										
1	Greylag Goose	<u>Anser anser</u>						X			
2	Mallard	<u>Anas platyrhynchos</u>	X	X				X			X
3	Northern Shoveler	<u>Anas clypeata</u>	X					X			
4	Eurasian Teal	<u>Anas crecca</u>						X			
5	Common Pochard	<u>Aythya ferina</u>						X			
6	Ferruginous Duck	<u>Aythya nyroca</u>				X					
7	White-headed Duck	<u>Oxyura leucocephala</u>	X					X			
	GALLIFORMES: Phasianidae										
8	Common Pheasant	<u>Phasianus colchicus</u>				X					
9	Red-legged Partridge	<u>Alectoris rufa</u>				X		X	X		X
	PODICIPEDIFORMES: Podicipedidae										
10	Little Grebe	<u>Tachybaptus ruficollis</u>	X					X		X	
11	Black-necked Grebe	<u>Podiceps nigricollis</u>						X			
	PHOENICOPTERIFORMES: Phoenicopteridae										
12	Greater Flamingo	<u>Phoenicopterus roseus</u>	X			X	X	X			
	PROCELLARIIFORMES: Procellariidae										
13	Cory's Shearwater	<u>Calonectris diomedea</u>			X		X		X	X	
	CICONIIFORMES: Ciconiidae										
14	White Stork	<u>Ciconia ciconia</u>		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
15	Black Stork	<u>Ciconia nigra</u>	X								
	PELECANIFORMES: Threskiornithidae										
16	Glossy Ibis	<u>Plegadis falcinellus</u>	X		X	X		X		X	X
17	Northern Bald Ibis	<u>Geronticus eremita</u>				X					
18	Eurasian Spoonbill	<u>Platalea leucorodia</u>	X		X	X		X			
	PELECANIFORMES: Ardeidae										
19	Grey Heron	<u>Ardea cinerea</u>	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X
20	Purple Heron	<u>Ardea purpurea</u>				X					
21	Little Egret	<u>Egretta garzetta</u>	X	X	X	X	X	X			X
22	Cattle Egret	<u>Bubulcus ibis</u>		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
23	Great Egret	<u>Casmerodius albus</u>								X	
24	Squacco Heron	<u>Ardeola ralloides</u>						X			
25	Black-crowned Night-Heron	<u>Nycticorax nycticorax</u>	X			X		X			X
	SULIFORMES: Sulidae										
26	Northern Gannet	<u>Morus bassanus</u>			X					X	
	SULIFORMES: Phalacrocoracidae										
27	Great Cormorant	<u>Phalacrocorax carbo</u>	X			X					X
28	European Shag	<u>Phalacrocorax aristotelis</u>					X				
	ACCIPITRIFORMES: Pandionidae										
29	Osprey	<u>Pandion haliaetus</u>				X	X		X		
	ACCIPITRIFORMES: Accipitridae										
30	Egyptian Vulture	<u>Neophron percnopterus</u>			X				X		
31	Griffon Vulture	<u>Gyps fulvus</u>		X	X	X			X		
32	Black Vulture	<u>Aegypius monachus</u>			X						
33	Short-toed Snake Eagle	<u>Circaetus gallicus</u>		X	X				X	X	X

	SPECIES	SCIENTIFIC NAME	31 ST	1 ST	2 ND	3 RD	4 TH	5 TH	6 TH	7 TH	8 TH
34	Booted Eagle	<i>Hieraetus pennatus</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
35	Eurasian Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipitor nisus</i>		X	X				X		
36	Western Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>				X	X	X			X
37	Montagu's Harrier	<i>Circus pygargus</i>				X		X		X	X
38	Red Kite	<i>Milvus milvus</i>						X			
39	Black Kite	<i>Milvus migrans</i>	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	
40	Black-winged Kite	<i>Elanus caeruleus</i>				X					X
41	Common Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>				X		X	X		X
42	European Honey Buzzard	<i>Pernis apivorus</i>		X	X					X	
	GRUIFORMES: Rallidae										
43	Western Swamphen	<i>Porphyrio porphyrio</i>						X			
44	Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	X			X		X		X	X
45	Red-knobbed Coot	<i>Fulica cristata</i>						X			
46	Eurasian Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>	X					X			
	CHARADRIIFORMES: Burhinidae										
47	Eurasian Stone Curlew	<i>Burhinus oedicnemus</i>				X		X			
	CHARADRIIFORMES: Glareolidae										
48	Collared Pratincole	<i>Glareola pratincola</i>				X					
	CHARADRIIFORMES: Haematopodidae										
49	Eurasian Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>				X	X	X			
	CHARADRIIFORMES: Recurvirostridae										
50	Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>	X			X		X			
51	Pied Avocet	<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>				X		X			
	CHARADRIIFORMES: Charadriidae										
52	Grey Plover	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>				X	X				
53	Common Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>	X		X	X	X	X		X	
54	Little Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>	X					X		X	
55	Kentish Plover	<i>Charadrius alexandrinus</i>	X		X			X		X	
	CHARADRIIFORMES: Scolopacidae										
56	Black-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa limosa</i>				X		X			
57	Bar-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa lapponica</i>						X			
58	Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>	X		X	X	X	X			
59	Eurasian Curlew	<i>Numenius arquata</i>					X				
60	Common Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>	X			X	X	X		X	
61	Spotted Redshank	<i>Tringa erythropus</i>						X			
62	Common Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>	X			X	X	X			
63	Green Sandpiper	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>			X	X		X			X
64	Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>	X								
65	Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>	X			X	X	X		X	X
66	Ruddy Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>				X		X			
67	Red Knot	<i>Calidris canutus</i>			X					X	
68	Sanderling	<i>Calidris alba</i>	X		X	X		X		X	
69	Little Stint	<i>Calidris minuta</i>	X					X			
70	Temminck's Stint	<i>Calidris temminkii</i>						X			
71	Curlew Sandpiper	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>	X		X	X		X		X	
72	Dunlin	<i>Calidris alpina</i>	X		X	X	X	X		X	
73	Ruff	<i>Philomachus pugnax</i>						X			

	SPECIES	SCIENTIFIC NAME	31 ST	1 ST	2 ND	3 RD	4 TH	5 TH	6 TH	7 TH	8 TH
	CHARADRIIFORMES: Laridae										
74	Slender-billed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus genei</i>						X			
75	Black-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>	X		X	X	X	X		X	
76	Audouin's Gull	<i>Ichthyaetus audouinii</i>			X	X	X			X	
77	Mediterranean Gull	<i>Ichthyaetus melanocephalus</i>	X			X		X			
78	Yellow-legged Gull	<i>Larus cachinnans</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
79	Lesser Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus fuscus</i>	X		X	X	X	X		X	X
80	Sandwich Tern	<i>Thalasseus sandvicensis</i>	X		X	X				X	
81	Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>						X			
82	Little Tern	<i>Sternula albifrons</i>	X				X				
	COLUMBIFORMES: Columbidae										
83	Rock Dove/Feral Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
84	Common Wood Pigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>		X		X	X	X	X		X
85	European Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>		X		X		X	X		X
86	Eurasian Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
	STRIGIFORMES: Strigidae										
87	Little Owl	<i>Athene noctua saharae</i>				X					
	CAPRIMULGIFORMES: Caprimulgidae										
88	Red-necked Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus ruficollis</i>				X					
	CAPRIMULGIFORMES: Apodidae										
89	Alpine Swift	<i>Tachymarptis melba</i>		X	X				X		
90	Common Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X		X
91	Pallid Swift	<i>Apus pallidus</i>			X		X			X	
92	Little Swift	<i>Apus affinus galilejensis</i>						X			
	CORACIIFORMES: Alcedinidae										
93	Common Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>	X					X		X	X
	CORACIIFORMES: Meropidae										
94	European Bee-eater	<i>Merops apiaster</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
	BUCEROTIFORMES: Upupidae										
95	Eurasian Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	
	PICIFORMES: Picidae										
96	Great Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>					H			X	
97	Eurasian Wryneck	<i>Jynx torquilla</i>	X					X			
98	FALCONIFORMES: Falconidae										
99	Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
100	Lesser Kestrel	<i>Falco naumanni</i>				X				X	X
101	Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>			X		X				
	PASSERIFORMES: Laniidae										
102	Iberian Grey Shrike	<i>Lanius meridionalis</i>		X							
103	Woodchat Shrike	<i>Lanius senator</i>	X	X	X	X			X		
	PASSERIFORMES: Corvidae										
104	Eurasian Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarias minor</i>	X	X			X				
105	Eurasian Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>						X			
106	Western Jackdaw	<i>Coloeus monda spermogolus</i>	X					X			X
107	Northern Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>			X		X				
	PASSERIFORMES: Paridae										
108	Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>		X	X		X		X		

	SPECIES	SCIENTIFIC NAME	31 ST	1 ST	2 ND	3 RD	4 TH	5 TH	6 TH	7 TH	8 TH
142	Common Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	
	PASSERIFORMES: Muscicapidae										
143	Spotted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	
144	Pied Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula hypoleuca</i>			X	X	X	X	X		
145	Common Nightingale	<i>Megarhynchos megarhynchos</i>	X								
146	Common Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>	X	X			X		X		
147	Blue Rock Thrush	<i>Montacilla solitarius</i>					X				
148	Whinchat	<i>Saxicola rubetra</i>		X							
149	European Stonechat	<i>Saxicola torquata</i>		X	X	X		X	X	X	X
150	Northern Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>		X	X						
151	Black-eared Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe hispanica</i>		X							
152	Black Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe leucura riggenbachi</i>		X							
	PASSERIFORMES: Passeridae										
153	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
154	Spanish Sparrow	<i>Passer hispaniolensis</i>			X	X	X	X	X		
	PASSERIFORMES: Motacillidae										
155	Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>	X	X	X						
156	White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>		X	X	X		X			
157	Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla f. Iberiae/flavissima</i>	X		X	X		X		X	
158	Tawny Pipit	<i>Anthus campestris</i>			X				X		
159	Meadow Pipit	<i>Anthus pratensis</i>									X
	PASSERIFORMES: Fringillidae										
160	Common Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>		X	X	X	X		X	X	
161	European Greenfinch	<i>Carduelis chloris voousi</i>	X		X		X	X			
162	Eurasian Linnet	<i>Linaria cannabina</i>			X	X		X			
163	European Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis parva</i>	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X
164	European Serin	<i>Serinus serinus</i>	X			X					
	PASSERIFORMES: Emberizidae										
165	Corn Bunting	<i>Miliaria calandra</i>		X	X	X			X	X	X
166	Cirl Bunting	<i>Emberiza cirrus</i>			X				X		
167	Rock Bunting	<i>Emberiza cia</i>		X							
168	Monk Parakeet	<i>Myiopsitta monachus</i>	X								
169	TOTAL SPECIES SEEN = 166 + 2 HEARD										
170											

	BUTTERFLIES/DAGONFLIES/INSECT SPECIES		
1	Scarce Swallowtail	<i>Iphiclides podalirius</i>	
2	Common Swallowtail	<i>Papilion machaon</i>	
3	Large White	<i>Pieris brassica</i>	
4	Small White	<i>Artogetia rapae</i>	
5	Clouded Yellow	<i>Colias crocea</i>	
6	Holly Blue	<i>Cetastrina argiolus</i>	
7	Long-tailed Blue	<i>Lampides boeticus</i>	
8	Spanish Chalkhill Blue	<i>Lysandra albicans</i>	

9	Cardinal Fritillary	<i>Argynnis pandora</i>	
10	Monarch	<i>Danaus plexippus</i>	
11	Two-tailed Pasha	<i>Charaxes jasius</i>	
12	Meadow Brown	<i>Maniola jurtina</i>	
13	Small Copper	<i>Lycaena phlaeas</i>	
14	Speckled Wood	<i>Pararge aegeria</i>	
15	Geranium Bronze	<i>Cacyreus marshalli</i>	
16	Mediterranean Skipper	<i>Gegenes nostrodamus</i>	
17	Sage Skipper	<i>Muschampia prota</i>	
18			
19			
20	Blue Emperor	<i>Anax imperator</i>	
21	Lesser Emperor	<i>Anax parthenope</i>	
22	Violet Dropwing	<i>Trithemis annulata</i>	
23	Red-veined Darter	<i>Sympetrum fonscolombii</i>	
24	Common Darter	<i>Sympetrum striolatum</i>	
25	Banded Groundling	<i>Brachythemis leucosticta</i>	
26	Epaulet Skimmer	<i>Orthetrum chrysostigma</i>	
27	Broad Scarlet (Scarlet Darter)	<i>Crocothemis erythraea</i>	
28			
29	Blue-winged Grasshopper	<i>Oedipoda caerulea</i>	
30	Red-winged Grasshopper	<i>Oedipoda germanica</i>	
	MAMMALS/AMPHIBIANS/REPTILES		
31	Rabbit	<i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i>	
32	European Pond Terrapin	<i>Emys orbicularis</i>	
33	Moorish Gecko	<i>Tarentola mauritanica</i>	
34	Barbary Macaque	<i>Macaca sylvanus</i>	
35	Red Deer	<i>Cervus elephas</i>	
36	Brown Rat	<i>Rattus norvegicus</i>	
37	Pipistrelle Bat sp.	<i>Pipistrellus pipistrellus</i> SP.	
38			
39			