

WINGSPAN BIRD TOURS

Bird – Watching Holiday

To

ZARAGOZA STEPPE, SPANISH
PYRENEES & PICOS DE EUROPA

JUNE 10th – JUNE 18th 2016



TRIP REPORT

Places Visited

FRIDAY 10TH

FLIGHT UK TO MADRID – BARAJAS – TRANSFER TO FUENDE TODOS

SATURDAY 11TH

FUENDE TODOS – EL PLANERON – QUINTO DE EBRO – LOS MONEGROS – VALLE DE HECHO

SUNDAY 12TH

Refugio de Garbadito – Upper Hecho Valley

MONDAY 13TH

RIO ARAGON – JACA CITADEL – CANDANCHU & ASTUN SKI RESORTS

TUESDAY 14TH

ANSO VALLEY – ZURIZA – RONCAL VALLEY – BELAGUA PASS – PIERRE ST MARTIN – RONCAL GORGE – RIO ARAGON AT BERDÚN

WEDNESDAY 15TH

SANTA CILIA AIRPORT – MONESTERIO SAN JUAN DE LA PENA – RIO GALLEGO – LA AGUERO – LOS MALLOS DE RIGLOS

THURSDAY 16TH

TRANSFER FROM PYRENEES TO THE PICOS DE EUROPA

FRIDAY 17TH

PICOS DE EUROPA – HIGH PEAKS AT FUENTE DE – PEMBES WOODLANDS

SATURDAY 18TH

TRANSFER FROM PICOS DE EUROPE TO BILBAO AIRPORT WITH STOPS AT UNGERA AND SAN DE VINCENTE B

DAY 1 - 10TH JUNE 2016

Flight UK to Madrid – Transfer to Fuendetodos

Today I met my group of 14 from the Oxford RSPB members' group. They arrived right on time at 11am at Madrid Airport however my second driver did not! He should have arrived last night on an EASTJET flight that was cancelled at the last minute. This resulted in a 4 hour delay before the trip could start proper.

Whilst waiting for Richard, our second driver, to arrive, I drove the group in relays to the centre of Barajas the nearest small town to the airport and it was there that we waited.

MOST OF THE GROUP PICTURED IN BARAJAS



During our waiting period we had a nice time sitting in lovely sunshine watching birds in the main plaza of Barajas. White Storks were breeding in trees in the plaza, Serins, Spotless Starlings, Common and Pallid Swifts zoomed overhead and a number of Monk Parakeets sat noisily in the fir trees.

At 3:30pm we were on our way at last! We stopped for a break half way to our hotel having seen a few species on the motorway including a Black Redstart. As we turned off the motorway we saw more species: Common Buzzard, Turtle Dove, Black Redstart, Crested and Calandra Larks, Common Raven and a possible Montagu's Harrier.

By the time we arrived at our hotel it was too late to go birding, so after a quick wash we enjoyed a cold beer before a tasty 'Spanish tapas' style dinner.

DAY 2 - 11TH JUNE 2016

FUENDETODOS AREA – EL PLANERON – QUINTO DE ERBO – LOS MONEGROS – VELLE SE HECHO VIA JACA

What a fabulous day! Although it started a bit gloomy and there was a cold wind at Fuendetodos it turned out really nice and by mid-afternoon it was hot and sunny.

A Golden Oriole woke me from my slumber then a noisy bedlam broke out as a cacophony of bird calls flooded the air, hundreds of House Sparrows, Greenfinches, Serins and Collared Doves woke up.

We began the day at 7am with a walk around the lanes next to the hotel on the edge of a lovely village called Fuendetodos which is the birth place of Goya and its name translates to “the middle of nowhere”. Which is somewhat true, you only have to walk a few hundred meters in any direction and you are out in the sticks.

We passed a pond where a group of ‘dodgey ducks’ sat and both Black and Mute Swans swam on it, “I really don’t think so” was my reply, when asked “can we tick them?”.

However, the Serins, Greenfinches, Crested Larks, Red-billed Chough, Turtle Dove, Carrion Crow and Eurasian Hoopoe were quite acceptable. We got glimpses of Golden Oriole before we returned to the hotel for breakfast.

We were on the road before 9am our first venue was the pseudo-steppe at El Planeron, this huge protected area is managed for larks, especially Dupont’s Lark. We knew we had a very slim chance of seeing that one but 7 others were possible along with several other interesting species.



The group loved the reserve, the colours of the surrounding hills are spectacular in the morning light, a superb range of red hues contrast nicely with the yellows of the steppe and the cultivated fields.

We had larks coming out of our ears, singing, flitting about and running along the track in front of us. We had good views of Short-toed, Lesser Short-toed, Calandra, Crested and Skylarks.

Other birds were great to see too, Stone Curlew, Montagu’s Harrier, Common Raven, Short-toed Eagle and Common Kestrel.

We stopped at a small pool of water where from a tiny hide we had great views of European Bee-eater, Calandra Lark, Lesser Short-toed Lark, lots of Corn Buntings and Linnets. Some of the group had good views of a Water Rail!

Both Woodchat and Iberian Shrikes were found nearby and we had excellent sightings of Black-bellied and Pintail Sandgrouse as they flew directly over us.

It was a super visit to this exciting place but we had to move on, so we drove slowly off the reserve and headed for Quinto. By the time we got there the clouds had cleared and it was hot and sunny. We

parked on the bank of the river Ebro and began listing a whole new set of species. The highlights were sightings of Little Bittern, several Purple Herons, Common Nightingale, lots of Black Kites, Melodious Warbler, Cetti's Warbler, Reed and Great Reed Warblers (heard only).

After taking lunch in the main square of Pino de Ebro we drove to Los Monegros where we searched

this very arid area for a couple of warblers. We eventually found Spectacled Warbler which showed very well but Dartford Warbler failed to materialize.



Two good sightings were of Black-eared Wheatear and a beautifully positioned Little Owl.

From there we drove directly to our hotel in the valley of Hecho some 40km west of Jaca. Our journey took us through some outstanding scenery and

the towns of Huesca and Jaca. Our best sighting was of Red Kite.

We settled into our rooms and came down to dinner at 8pm which went down well with a glass of local wine.

DAY 3 – 12TH JUNE 2016

REFUGIO DE GARBADITO – UPPER HECHO VALLEY

It was a good turn-out for our early morning walk with only one abstaining!

We gathered in the car park at 7:30am just as it was getting light. Several birds were singing, Song Thrush, Chaffinch, Robin and Blackcap and Garden Warbler, we went through the usual explanations to sort out the latter two that have very similar songs.

As we walked out of the car park a Firecrest showed briefly and an Egyptian Vulture drifted low over the valley, we noted about a dozen Griffon Vultures very high up.

The outward walk produced very little and at the river we only found Grey Wagtail and no Dipper. However, on the way back we all had superb views of Crested Tit and Firecrest. Some of the group watched Garden Warbler and most of us got onto a pair of Cirl Buntings.

Our target species for the morning was the WALLCREEPER, in order to get to the site we had to drive 10km up a mountain road and then it involved a walk along an undulating rocky path through pine and beech woodland. Along the way we found Coal Tit, Crested Tit, Great Tit, Bullfinch and several more species were heard.

The WALLCREEPER'S nest site is huge cliff-face rising 100 meters above the path and where a vertical crevice dissects the rock. We spent an hour and a half staring up at the rock hoping for a sighting which was not to be! We did see both Alpine and Red-billed Chough, Crag and House Martins, Alpine Swift and Black Redstart but we dipped on the 'biggy'.

Our walk back produced a few butterflies and Orchids including this beautiful BURNT ORCHID but no new birds; Duke of Burgandy Fritillary, Orange Tip and Small White were the butterfly sightings.

Back at the car park we ate our picnic lunch before driving back down the mountain to the central Hecho valley road. It was a Sunday and quite busy, the thick cloud eased off and sun came out but it remained a little windy. We drove towards the French border climbing up the upper Hecho valley making frequent stops to look for Dipper on the river.



Where the valley opened out we had a wonderful panoramic view of the mountains on all sides of us. We watched Yellowhammers, Red-backed Shrikes, Dunnock, Red-billed and Alpine Chough before finding our prized bird, the LAMMERGEIER. What a fantastic beast and didn't it perform well?

We watched this mighty vulture drift around for 10 minutes before it dropped down into a distant paddock where it picked up a large, jointed bone and flew off again. It soared to a terrific height and we were hoping to see the bone being dropped onto the rocks but it never happened.

After that excitement watching Egyptian Vultures feeding on the ground seemed somewhat

underwhelming. Other sightings were of Chamois, lots of Orchids, lizards, a few butterflies and more shrikes.

We drove slowly back down the valley arriving at the hotel in good time to shower and get ready for another lovely dinner.

DAY 4 – 13TH JUNE 2016

RIO ARAGON – JACA – CANDANCHU & ASTUN SKI RESORTS

Our pre-breakfast walk along the lane outside the hotel produced very little, the weather had turned, it was now windy, overcast and it threatened rain.

We watched Crag Martins visiting their nests in the road-tunnel just 500m from the hotel, we also saw Coal, Blue, Great and our first Long-tailed Tits. Both Griffon and Egyptian Vultures sailed down the valley, a Peregrine Falcon was a nice find and Red Kites showed too.

Our destination today was the ski centres at Candanchu and Astun with a number of stops along the way, the sky looked a little clearer as we drove out of the mountains towards Jaca but we could see patches of rain ahead of us.

Our first stop was at the Rio Aragón not far from Puente de Reina where we searched for Wryneck without success but several other species kept us entertained: Cirl & Corn Buntings, Common Sandpiper, Golden Oriole, Common Nightingale and Red Kites.

Next we visited a area of open woodland where oak trees dominated, it is a well-known spot for Bonelli's Warbler which duly showed, also Subalpine Warbler and Firecrest put on a show. After a dull start the weather got brighter and a few butterflies emerged, the amazing Adonis Blue was the star attraction with Furry Blue, Spanish Gatekeeper and Speckled Wood adding interest. A few orchids were also drawing the crowds!

For our lunch stop we drove into the centre of Jaca and parked at the ancient Citadel where a colony of Rock Sparrows can be found and Tree Sparrows are common. We saw both species very well and we enjoyed our picnic on the grass.

For the rest of the afternoon we drove up to ski resorts on the French border, Candanchu was the first place we stopped. It was a very successful visit with several good species seen. A few Northern Wheatears sat on posts and rocks as did Black Redstarts, whilst Linnets and Water Pipits showed well in the grass.

Then we had a purple patch as we found Common Rock Thrush and then Citril Finch. The finches fed in the grass in several groups and the Thrush sang from one of the ski-lift supports. A flock of Alpine Choughs landed nearby as we watched the finches.

We also visited Astun ski resort but apart from getting really good views of Alpine Marmot and a Chamois we saw very little.

We nipped over the border into France before we started the homeward journey, Citril Finch, Black Redstart and Griffon Vulture are now also included on our French list! Our drive back was very pleasant as we passed through stunning scenery.



DAY 5 – 14TH JUNE 2016

**ANSO VALLEY – ZURIZA – RONÇAL VALLEY – BELAGUA PASS –
PIERRE DE ST MARTIN – RONÇAL GORGE – RIO ARAGON AT
BERDÛN**

We made a second attempt to see Rock Bunting and Treecreeper with our early morning walk, fewer members of the group made the effort to get out of bed and that was a wise decision!

It was much colder this morning, coats and fleeces were necessary it was a little windy too. Apart from the usual common garden birds we saw Crested Tit and Vultures and Kites were ever present.

After breakfast a full group compliment set off to search the valleys of Anso and Ronçal for a few species missing from the list, we intended to drive over the border into France to visit a ski resort where a couple of ‘goodies’ can be found.

The drive up the Anso Valley passes through a narrow gorge as you reach the open area of Zuriza, the scenery is simply stunning. The sun came out as we arrived but it was cold, only 7C. We quickly

notched up a number of species including White-throated Dipper which had eluded us until now. Black Redstart, Yellowhammer, Serin, Crag Martin, White and Grey Wagtails and some gorgeous Linnets added to our enjoyment.

A short walk to the nearest forest of pine and beech failed to produce even a sniff of Black Woodpecker.

We then drove to the Pass at Belagua passing through the upper Ronçal Valley, a stop at the top proved very interesting as we found a number of orchids and birds, luckily the weather held for us, high cloud with sunny spells and no wind.

Provence Orchid was nice to see as well as Water Pipit, Rock Thrush, Black Redstart, Common Buzzard, Common Kestrel, Red-billed and Alpine Chough.

Over the border in France we spent a couple of hours having lunch and searching the deserted ski resort of St. Martin, it was still very cold with large clumps of snow still lying about.

Citril Finches were very common there as were Linnets, Serin and Alpine Chough. We eventually got onto our main target species, the Ring Ouzel, first a female showed briefly then we found a male singing from a ski-lift support, again this was a brief sighting as the bird flew a long way off into the distance after a minute or so.



We left the cold area of the 'haute Pyrenees' to much visit much warmer climes down the Ronçal Valley. At our first stop in the lower gorge the temperature was 16C, that's much better!

Our time in the gorge produced some excellent sightings of Griffon Vultures at their nests as well as a number of nice butterflies, the Scarce Swallowtail attracted most attention but Hummingbird Hawk Moth and a couple of Fritillarys also proved popular.

An impromptu stop deeper in the gorge was made when two LAMMERGEIERS were seen circling above the road, we had great views of this pair, wow!

Our last venue for the day was at the river Aragon just below the 'raised' town of Berdūn. It was now 24C and layers of clothing were being peeled off by the minute. Not many birds were seen but a few new butterflies were added to our list as well as Butterfly Orchid.

DAY 6 – 15TH JUNE 2016

SANTA CILIA AIRFIELD – MONESTERIO DE SAN JUAN DE LA PEÑA – RIO GALLEGO VALLEY – AGÜERO – MALLOS DE RIGLOS

Another bird-filled day as we visited areas with strange looking landscapes and dramatic panoramic scenery.....

It was raining at the hotel first thing, in fact for most of the night but our destination today was down the valley in the foot-hills and plains further south.

With no early morning walk we all had breakfast at 8am and were on the road by 8:45am. Reaching our first destination by 9:30. It was cloudy and dry and a lot warmer at the airfield at Santa Cilia than up in the mountains, along the access road we stopped to watch Spotted Flycatcher, Spotless Starling and a few Corn Buntings.

Our target bird, the Tawny Pipit, took a little while to find, we drove along the boundary of the airfield scanning the track, the grass around the run-way and the fence-line. We found Stonechat, Red-backed Shrike, Skylark, Crested Lark and finally the Tawny Pipit.

Our next venue was the 'new' monastery at San Juan de la Peña, the drive up there was exciting, a narrow lane winds its way alongside mountains of conglomerate rock called 'pudding stone' rising several hundred meters in the process.

The monastery sits on a plateau surround by open grassland and then vast pine forests. Various trails are marked through the forest and some lead you to a mirador where a breath-taking view can be found of the Aragonese-Pyrenees mountains. After a short watch in the car-park we walked to the view point, where a view vultures were circling and not much else. In the forest we saw Eurasian Nuthatch, Coal & Crested Tit and a few common species.

After a short coffee break we set off further south taking a different road off the plateau, this road led us alongside the Rio Gallego through a very picturesque valley. We stopped to watch Black Redstart, Turtle Dove, Common Buzzard and not much else. After 25km we stopped and parked up opposite a large pool with an extensive reed-bed where we ate our picnic lunch. The pool was virtually dry and not much bird activity was noted, Reed Warbler, Cetti's Warbler, Blackcap and Common Nightingale we all singing, we saw the latter two. Butterflies and orchids drew more attention from the group as the sun came out.



From our picnic site we drove to Riglos and Agüero two villages sitting directly below gigantic 'pudding stone' fingers, both in areas of outstanding natural beauty. Photographs cannot capture the scale and drama of such vistas, they are truly awe inspiring.

We stopped to photograph the Mallos de Riglos (fingers of Riglos) from an almond orchard and whilst doing so we found a WRYNECK, the bird showed extremely well and where we parked the car we found a very showy Melodious Warbler.

At Agüero we stopped at a mirador and saw Eurasian Sparrowhawk, lots of vultures and terrific views of the village. We then parked just outside the village and scanned the mountainside for Blue Rock Thrush and Wheatears. We found the Thrush and had excellent views of both male and female. We also saw Common Nightingale and Melodious Warbler and fleeting views of Sardinian Warbler and Common Whitethroat.

Our last birding of the day was back at Riglos, we stopped in a lay-by to view the magnificent 'fingers' towering above the village. Then for the next 30 minutes we were enthralled by the raptors flying around the mountainous fingers and in the valley below. A Booted Eagle drifted over, then

two Short-toed Eagles were found, one of which circled fairly close giving excellent views. This bird hovered for a while then it 'stooped' down to the ground disappearing into an olive grove, it emerged minutes later carrying a small snake in its bill, which it devoured whilst circling above us.

Both Griffon and Egyptian Vultures drifted around the mountains visiting nest sites as did Red-billed Chough, Raven, Black Kite and Common Kestrel.

After a nice ice-cream stop in the village we set off back to the hotel taking just over an hour to get there. Our best dinner of the week was served, the main course of Sea-Bream was excellent and so was the wine!

DAY 7 – 16TH JUNE 2016

TRANSFER FROM HECHO VALLEY, PYRENEES TO COSGAYA HOTEL, PICOS DE EUROPA.

Before breakfast 8 of the group got up very early and made the journey to Garbadito for a second attempt to see the WALLCREEPER, they set out at 6:40am. It was a misty morning with little wind, cloud drifted down the valley. It was clear up at the rock face where only one of the group managed to see a WALLCREEPER!



Other birds recorded were Black Woodpecker (heard), Crested Tit, Coal Tit, Wren and a Citril Finch appeared in the car as the vehicle pulled away.

We set out at 9:45am for the long journey to the Picos, our estimated arrival time was 6pm. We drove for 2 hours before we stopped for coffee etc.

passing through Pamplona and Logroño we had logged several raptors including both Kites, Common Buzzards, Griffon and Egyptian Vultures and a cracking male Marsh Harrier.

We stopped for lunch at 1:30pm sitting in nice warm sunshine at a roadside picnic site. A few minutes before the leading bus had seen a Roller perched at the side of the road, a great bird for the trip. Common Nightingale, Corn Bunting, Greenfinch, Serin and Common Buzzard were seen during lunch.

After lunch the two buses unintentionally split up, we both took different directions to the hotel arriving within 5 minutes of one another around 6:30pm. My bus stopped 3 times for short birding episodes, the first was on an open plateau where we logged a flock of some 20 Stock Doves, Cirl Buntings, Serins, Linnets and Egyptian Vultures.

Our second and third stops were along the shoreline of the Embalse Ebro where we logged a Hobby, Mallard, Gadwall, both Great Crested and Black-necked Grebes, Grey Heron, Little Egret, White Stork and not much else. The second bus logged similar species at another reservoir but added Red-legged Partridge to the trip list.

Dipper and Grey wagtail were seen on the river Deva which runs just outside our hotel in Cosgaya. We ate a lovely dinner and toasted the England Football team, they actually won a tournament game!

DAY 8 – 17TH JUNE 2016

PICOS DE EUROPA - FUENTE DE – PEMBES

We had a fabulous day today despite the dreadful weather, it rained most of the day but it never stopped us seeing some spectacular species.

After our 7:30am breakfast we drove the short distance to Fuente De where the ‘Terifico’ (cable car) terminal is found. It was raining and cloud covered the upper terminal, this did not deter us we were committed to going up to the high peaks.

As we were early we birded around the car parks for a while, listing Eurasian Nuthatch, Eurasian Jay, Coal Tit, Black Redstart and White Wagtail.

Once at the top we were in the clouds, it continued to rain lightly and it was quite cold, but it was calm. The thick mist from the clouds would drift away on occasion giving us great views of the magnificent scenery in front of us. It was like a lunar landscape except patches of snow brought you back down to earth.



As we emerged from the shelter of the upper cable-car terminal we immediately found our number one target species, SNOW FINCH. It was a male and it flew in front of us and landed across the track where a second male bird was located. Both birds flew around for a while before disappearing over a ridge, wow what a start!

Very soon after we watched Alpine Chough and Northern Wheatear and as we walked slowly forward our second target species flew up from the track and landed on rocks not too far ahead.

This ALPINE ACCENTOR showed very well before walking over a grassy bank and out of sight, marvellous, in ten minutes we had two ‘biggies’ in the bag.

The rain eased off for a while and it got lighter, we added Black Redstart and Water Pipit to the list before our third big sighting in this first hour was made. A WALLCREEPER appeared below us, it was moving slowly across a rock face and then flew even closer. We stood mesmerised watching this enigmatic little beauty, it flitted around some scree before flying across a small gorge some 50 meters away, we lost it in the mist just after.

Nothing could follow that, we had excellent close views of Alpine Chough and more sightings of Northern Wheatear and Black Redstart before we went back to the cable car terminal and had a nice hot drink.

Back down at ‘base camp’ a Peregrine Falcon and Red-billed Chough went onto the list. We then enjoyed a lovely lunch of hot soup and bread before driving down the valley for some afternoon woodland birding. We drove to an ancient village called Pembes, a fascinating place where all the buildings looked 19th Century, most are untouched, some are derelict and in need of repair and a few have been renovated. The village is full of birds because there are so many places for them to nest!

Black Redstarts abound, as do Barn Swallows, White Wagtails, House Sparrows, Serins, Greenfinches and Goldfinches.

Our main targets were Common Redstart and any woodpeckers we could find, we walked up through the village onto a track that led up into the deciduous woodland. We saw Spotted Flycatcher, Common Buzzard, Eurasian Jay and not much else, then the rain began again, it got too dull to bird so we gave up.



As we re-entered the village we found a male Common Redstart, then we heard a woodpecker call, it was a MIDDLE SPOTTED WOODPECKER, it flew into view and landed very close to us. After several minutes of watching this bird we realised that it was carrying food and was trying to get to its nest hole, so we quickly withdrew.

Back at the buses we saw lots more Common Redstarts, Stonechat and two more woodpeckers, Green and Great-spotted, a Common Cuckoo called in the distance as we boarded the buses.

At the hotel we watched White-throated Dipper in the stream and a Eurasian Jay attacking the nest of a Grey Wagtail, it

took a chick and flew off, the parent wagtail birds were powerless but they tried their best to defend the nest.

Well that was the end of our last full day and despite the bad weather we cleaned-up the Picos de Europa seeing all of our target species!

DAY 9 – 18TH JUNE 2016

TRANSFER FROM PICOS DE EUROPA TO BILBAO WITH STOPS AT UNQUERA MARSHES – SAN VICENTE DE LA BARQUERA

Our final day had arrived but we had most of it out in the field as our flight was not until the early evening.

From Cosgaya we drove through Potes and Panes passing through some breath-taking scenery, a rocky gorge stretched some 15km between the two towns it was an interesting drive with plenty of outstanding rock formations to look at. When we reached Unquera near the main coast road we stopped to visit the marshes and tidal river.

It was fairly quiet but over the next couple of hours we stopped at several places including a modern visitor's centre with a raised viewing platform, this was a nice unexpected surprise, we spent nearly an hour there. A Zitting Cisticola showed on and off as did our first Reed Warbler, several Yellow Wagtails were also new for the list. Our first Great Cormorant flew up the river, we also logged Grey Heron, Little Egret, White Wagtail and lots of Yellow-legged Gulls, but not a single wader was seen.

It was approaching lunchtime by the time we arrived at San Vicente de la Barquera, a very popular coastal sea-side resort with fantastic beaches, a sheltered bay with mariner and an extensive salt-marsh. As it was a Sunday it was busy with day-tourists, fishermen, sailors, surfers etc. it was also a little windy but the sun was out!



We walked to a bridge that spanned the salt marsh and bay, a group of gulls were loafing on a sand-bar, we listed Yellow-legged, Lesser and Greater Black-backed and Black-headed Gulls. Three Eurasian Spoonbills were nice to see and both Sandwich and Common Terns were dashing about over the bay.

On the salt marsh we spent some time watching a flock of about a dozen Eurasian Curlews and a couple of Whimbrel, singles of Dunlin, Redshank, Grey Heron and Little Egret were also found. We took lunch at a restaurant near the bay and after that we drove along the coast road looking for more salt-marshes and a headland from which we could sea-watch. We found both but neither produced much, a couple of Northern Gannets were noted by a few of the group but waders on the marshes were non-

existent.

It was now mid-afternoon and it was time for us to travel to the airport, whilst we stopped for fuel and last minute packing, we added Cattle Egret to the trip list. This was the last species recorded and brought the total to 143 species seen.

The trip was over! We had recorded all the key species expected in both the Pyrenees and the Picos, the group were well pleased with the birding and especially appreciative of the wonderful scenery and the ever-changing landscapes we travelled through during the trip. The weather was disappointing, so was the poor number of butterflies recorded but the flowers were fabulous and we managed to stay dry for most of the trip, all in all it was another hugely successful Tour.

SPECIES RECORDED 10TH – 18TH JUNE 2016

SPECIES			DATE SEEN									
			10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	
1	Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>								X		
2	Black-necked Grebe	<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>								X		
3	Great Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>										X
4	Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>		X						X		
5	Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>										X
6	Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>		X		X	X	X	X			X
7	Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>		X								
8	Little Bittern	<i>Ixobrychus minues</i>		X								
9	White Stork	<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>	X	X						X		
10	Eurasian Spoonbill	<i>Platalea leucorodia</i>										X
11	Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>								X		
12	Gadwall	<i>Anas strepera</i>								X		
13	Lammergeier	<i>Gypaetus barbatus</i>			X		X					
14	Egyptian Vulture	<i>Neophron percnopterus</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X	X		
15	Eurasian Griffon Vulture	<i>Gyps fulvus</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
16	Common Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
17	Black Kite	<i>Milvus migrans</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
18	Red Kite	<i>Milvus milvus</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X	X		
19	Booted Eagle	<i>Aquila pennatus</i>		X				X	X			
20	Golden Eagle	<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>			X							
21	Short-toed Snake-Eagle	<i>Circaetus gallicus</i>		X					X			
22	Eurasian Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>							X		X	
23	Northern Goshawk	<i>Accipiter gentilis</i>										
24	Western Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>		X						X		
25	Montagu's Harrier	<i>Circus pygargus</i>		X								
26	Eurasian Hobby	<i>Falco subbuteo</i>								X		
27	Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X	X		
28	Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>				X						
29	Water Rail	<i>Rallus aquaticus</i>		X							X	
30	Red-legged Partridge	<i>Alectoris rufa</i>								X		
31	Eurasian Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>		X								
32	Stone Curlew	<i>Burhinus oediconemus</i>		X								
33	Little Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>		X								
34	Dunlin	<i>Calidris alpina</i>										X
35	Common Redshank	<i>Tringa tetanus</i>										X
36	Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>				X						
37	Eurasian Curlew	<i>Numenius arquata</i>										X
38	Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>										X
39	Yellow-legged Gull	<i>Larus michahellis</i>				X	X					
40	Lesser Blck-backed Gull	<i>Larus fuscus</i>										X
41	Black-headed Gull	<i>Larus ridibundus</i>										X
42	Sandwich Tern	<i>Sterna sandvicensis</i>										X
43	Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>										X
44	Pin-tailed Sandgrouse	<i>Pterocles alchata</i>		X								
45	Black-bellied Sandgrouse	<i>Pterocles orientalis</i>		X								
46	Rock Dove /Feral Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	

47	Stock Dove	<i>Columba oenas</i>								X		
48	Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>		X	X				X	X		
49	Eurasian Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>		X	X		X		X	X		
50	Common Woodpigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>		X	X		X	X	X	X	X	
51	Common Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>			H	H						H
52	Eagle Owl	<i>Bubo bubo</i>						X				
53	Little Owl	<i>Athene noctua</i>			X							
54	European Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus europaeus</i>						X				
55	Alpine Swift	<i>Apus melba</i>				X			X			
56	Common Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>		X	X		X	X	X	X	X	
57	Pallid Swift	<i>Apus pallidus</i>		X								
58]	Common Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>			X					X		
59	European Bee-eater	<i>Merops apiaster</i>			X				X	X		
60	Eurasian Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>			X		X					
61	European Roller	<i>Coracias garrulus</i>								X		
62	Green Woodpecker	<i>Picus viridus</i>				H	X			H	X	
63	Great Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopus major</i>			X	X	X	X	X		X	
64	Middle-spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopus medius</i>									X	
65	Wryneck	<i>Jynx torquatta</i>							X			
66	Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>			X				X			
67	Calandra Lark	<i>Melanocorypha calandra</i>			X							
68	Crested Lark	<i>Galerida cristata</i>			X		X	X	X	X		
69	Greater Short-toed Lark	<i>Calandrella brachydactyla</i>			X							
70	Lesser Short-toed Lark	<i>Calandrella rufescens</i>			X							
71	Sand Martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>			X				X		X	
72	Eurasian Crag Martin	<i>Hirundo rupestris</i>			X	X	X	X	X	X		
73	Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
74	House Martin	<i>Delichon urbica</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
75	Tawny Pipit	<i>Anthus campestris</i>							X			
76	Water Pipit	<i>Anthus spinoletta</i>					X	X			X	
77	White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
78	(Spanish)Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava iberiae</i>										X
79	Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>				X	X	X	X	X	X	
80	White Throated Dipper	<i>Cinclus cinclus</i>				X		X		X	X	
81	Dunnock	<i>Prunella modularis</i>				X	X					
82	Alpine Accentor	<i>Prunella collaris</i>									X	
83	European Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>				H	X	X	X	X	X	
84	Common Nightingale	<i>Luscinia megarhynchos</i>			X		X	X	X	X	H	
85	Black Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>		X		X	X	X	X	X	X	
86	Common Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>									X	
87	European Stonechat	<i>Saxicola rubicola</i>					X		X	X	X	
88	Whinchat	<i>Saxicola rubetra</i>								X		
89	Northern Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>			X		X	X		X	X	
90	Black-eared Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe hispanica</i>			X				X			
91	Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>			H	H	X	X	H	X	H	
92	Mistle Thrush	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>						X				
93	Eurasian Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
94	Ring Ouzel	<i>Turdus torquatus</i>						X				
95	Blue Rock-Thrush	<i>Monticola solitarius</i>							X			
96	Rock Thrush	<i>Monticola saxatilis</i>					X	X				
97	Garden Warbler	<i>Sylvia borin</i>				X	X	H	H		X	

98	Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>			H	H	H	X	X	H	X	
99	Common Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia communis</i>				H			X			
100	Sardinian Warbler	<i>Sylvia melanocephala</i>							X			
101	Subalpine Warbler	<i>Sylvia cantillans</i>					X					
102	Dartford Warbler	<i>Sylvia undata</i>			X							
103	Spectacled Warbler	<i>Sylvia conspicillata</i>			X							
104	Zitting Cisticola	<i>Cisticola juncidis</i>			H							X
105	Cetti's Warbler	<i>Cettia cetti</i>			H			H	H			
106	Great Reed-Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus arundinaceus</i>			H							
107	Eurasian Reed-Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>			H				H			X
108	Melodious Warbler	<i>Hippolais polyglotta</i>			X				X			
109	Western Bonelli's Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus bonelli</i>						X				
110	Eurasian chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus colybita</i>				H	X	H	H	H		
111	Goldcrest	<i>Regulus regulus</i>							H		H	
112	Firecrest	<i>Regulus ignicapillus</i>				X	X					
113	Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>				H	H		X		X	
114	Spotted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>							X		X	
115	Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>			X	X	X	X		X	X	
116	Coal Tit	<i>Parus ater</i>				X	X	X	X	X	X	
117	Eurasian Blue Tit	<i>Parus caeruleus</i>					X	X	X		X	
118	Crested Tit	<i>Parus cristatus</i>				X		X	X			
119	Long-tailed Tit	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>					X					
120	Wallcreeper	<i>Tichodroma muraria</i>								X	X	
121	Eurasian Nuthatch	<i>Sitta europaea</i>							X		X	
122	Southern Grey Shrike	<i>Lanius meridionalis</i>			X							
123	Red-backed Shrike	<i>Lanius collurio</i>			X	X	X	X	X			
124	Woodchat Shrike	<i>Lanius senator</i>			X				X			
125	Eurasian Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
126	Eurasian Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>				X	X	X	X	X	X	
127	Eurasian Jackdaw	<i>Corvus monedula</i>		X	X							
128	Red-billed Chough	<i>Pyrrhcorax pyrrhcorax</i>			X	X	X	X	X		X	
129	Alpine Chough	<i>Pyrrhcorax graculus</i>				X	X	X			X	
130	Carrion Crow	<i>Corvus corone</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
131	Common or Northern Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>		X	X	X	X		X	X		
132	Spotless Starling	<i>Sturnus unicolor</i>		X	X				X	X		
133	Eurasian Golden-Oriole	<i>Oriolus oriolus</i>			X		X					
134	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
135	Eurasian Tree-Sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>			X		X					
136	Rock Sparrow	<i>Petronia petronia</i>					X	X				
137	Snowfinch (White-winged)	<i>Montifringilla nivalis</i>										X
138	Common Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
139	Eurasian Linnet	<i>Carduelis cannabina</i>			X	X	X	X		X	X	
140	European Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>		X	X		X	X	X	X	X	
141	European Greenfinch	<i>Carduelis chloris</i>		X	X				X	X	X	
142	Citril Finch	<i>Carduelis citrinella</i>					X	X		X		
143	European Serin	<i>Serinus serinus</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
144	Bullfinch	<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>				X				X		
145	Yellowhammer	<i>Emberiza citrinella</i>				X		X		X		
146	Cirl Bunting	<i>Emberiza cirlus</i>			X	X	X	X		X	X	
147	Corn Bunting	<i>Miliaria calandra</i>		X	X		X		X	X		
148	Monk Parakeet	<i>Myiopsitta monachus</i>		X								

BUTTERFLIES

SPECIES												
<u>PAPILIONIDAE</u>			DATE SEEN									
			10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	
1	Swallowtail	<i>Papilio machaon</i>		X								
2	Scarce Swallowtail	<i>Iphiclides podalirius</i>					X					
<u>PIERIDAE</u>												
3	Black-veined white	<i>Aporia crataegi</i>						X				
4	Large white	<i>Pieris brassica</i>		X		X						
5	Small white	<i>Artogeia rapae</i>	X				X	X				
6	Mountain dappled white	<i>Euchloe simplonia</i>						X				
7	Orange tip	<i>Anthocharis cardamines</i>								X		
8	Clouded yellow	<i>Colias crocea</i>	X	X				X				
9	Brimstone	<i>Gonepteryx rhamni</i>					X					
10	Cleopatra	<i>Gonepteryx cleopatra</i>								X		
<u>LYCAENIDAE</u>												
11	Adonis blue	<i>Lysandra bellargus</i>				X	X	X				
12	Furry Blue	<i>Polyommatus dolus</i>						X				
13	Spanish Chalkhill Blue	<i>Polyommatus albicans</i>						X				
<u>RIODINIDAE</u>												
14	Duke of Burgundy	<i>Hamearis lucina</i>			X							
15	Meadow brown	<i>Maniola jurtina</i>					X					
16	Spanish gatekeeper	<i>Pyronia bathseba</i>				X	X	X				
17	Speckled wood	<i>Pararge aegeria</i>					X					
18	Pearly Heath	<i>Coenonympha arcania</i>						X				
19	Dusky Heath	<i>Coenonympha dorus</i>						X				
<u>HESPERIIDAE</u>												
20	Grizzled skipper	<i>Pyrgus malvae</i>			X							
21	Dingy skipper	<i>Erynnis tages</i>						X				

OTHER LEPIDOPTERA/MAMMALS/REPTILES/AMPHIBIANS/INSECTS

SPECIES			DATE									
			10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	
1.	Hummingbird Hawk Moth	<i>Macroglossum stellatarum</i>							X			
2.	Peacock Moth	<i>Saturnia pyri</i>					X					
3.	Pyrenean Chamois	<i>Ruicapra rupicapra</i>			X	X				X		
4.	Rabbit	<i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i>		X								
5.	European Brown Hare	<i>Lepus europaeus</i>				X						
6.	Alpine Marmot	<i>Marmota marmota</i>			H	X						
7.	Red Squirrel	<i>Sciurus vulgaris</i>				X						
8.	Red Fox	<i>Vulpes vulpes</i>		X						X		
9.	Common Pipistrelle	<i>Pipistrellus pipistrellus</i>			X			X				
10.	Spiney-footed Lizard	<i>Acanthodactylus erythrurus</i>		X								
11.	Slow Worm	<i>Anguis fragilis</i>				X						

