

WINGSPAN BIRD TOURS

AUTUMN TOUR

To

TARIFA - SPAIN

SEPTEMBER 4TH – 11TH 2015



TRIP REPORT

Leader: Bob Buckler

Participants: Martin, David & Lis

Summary

Migration watching at Tarifa is always very weather dependent, this year it was an extremely hot summer with little in the way of strong autumnal winds and subsequently migrant raptors passed over very early. Apart from two 'mega' days we saw hundreds per day rather than thousands. It was the same with migrant passerines, 'nice' weather meant that millions of warblers, flycatchers, wagtails etc. passed over into Africa unhindered without stopping at the coast.

These conditions did not spoil our birding we had a great time seeing over 160 species with some fantastic sightings: thousands of White Storks at La Janda, roosting Red-necked Nightjars, Black-winged Kites hunting, Honey Buzzards passing over in huge swarms and a flock of Little Swifts coming in to roost. These were just a few of our wonderful experience during this migration watch, read on for much more.....

DAY 1 – FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 4th 2015

MALAGA AIRPORT - GUADALHORCE NATURE RESERVE - VAQUEROS GOLF COMPLEX - TARIFA

I collected Dave and Martin from Malaga Airport around 11:30am and we drove straight to a coffee shop! So it was after 12 noon when we finally started birding. We drove to the east side of the Guadalhorce Reserve where ample parking can be found right next to the beach and some shallow pools.



one of the lagunas at Guadalhorce

We quickly logged a collection of waders; both Greater and Little Ringed Plovers fed alongside Kentish Plovers, a single Little Stint and a single Ruddy Turnstone. As we moved on a Northern Wheatear dashed across the pool in front of us and a single gull walked on the beach nearby, it turned out to be an Audouin's Gull, fantastic.

Our walk took us up and over an embankment and then across a small beach to a second embankment and causeway. As we crossed the beach we saw hundreds of gulls in a shallow pool, these were mainly Lesser

Black-backed and Black-headed Gulls with a few Yellow-legged and Mediterranean Gulls.

The wader scrapes were easily scanned from our high position on the raised bank and over next hour we logged; Common Redshank, Green, Common and Wood Sandpipers, more Ringed and Little Ringed Plovers, Black-winged Stilt, Common Kingfisher, Greater Flamingo and an Osprey.

a good illustration of the differing shapes and sizes of Green (left) and Wood Sandpipers

From the hide overlooking a large Laguna we saw 14 White-headed Ducks, 3 Eurasian Teal, a single Gadwall as well as several Little Grebes, Common Coot, Common Moorhen and a couple of Sardinian Warblers.

High up in the sky a number of Black Kites and Booted Eagles passed by and a distant Common Kestrel hovered over the marsh. As we returned to the car we found 6 Whimbrel near the beach and had much better views of Common Kingfisher and Little Egret.



From Guadalhorce we drove along the coast road towards Gibraltar and Algeciras, we stopped to buy food for lunch before stopping near Estepona at a local golf course to eat it. On and around the golf course we logged Eurasian Hoopoe 2, White Wagtail, Common Sandpiper and a good number of passing raptors including; Booted and Short-toed Eagles, Egyptian and Griffon Vultures, Black Kite and Montagu's Harrier.



two of the group of Whimbrels seen on the way back to the car at Guadalhorce

We arrived at our hotel near Tarifa at around 5pm where, after a short settling in period, we went for a short birding walk. This produced Raven overhead at the hotel, Zitting Cisticola, Common Stonechat, Greenfinch, a couple of Willow Warblers and lots of Cattle Egrets.

We called it a day at 7pm and got ready for dinner which was taken down the road at another hotel, we sat on the terrace as it got dark contemplating the days ahead of us. We had logged 61 species today, a wonderful start.

DAY 2 – SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 5TH 2015

LOS LANCES BEACH – TARIFA TOWN – RAPTOR WATCH POINTS TRAFICO (PUNTA CAMORRO) & CAZALLA – LA JANDA – MONTENMEDIO GOLF COURSE

Our first full day turned out to be a cracker, nearly 100 species were listed with some very special sightings on the list.

We set off in the dark at 7:30am for the short trip to Los Lances beach-hide and by the time we got there it was just light enough to see. We quickly found Little Egret, Common Kingfisher and Black-headed Gull and as we approached the hide we could see more waders. Sanderling and Dunlin were out on the beach in good numbers as were Ringed Plover and Kentish Plover, we saw two Bar-tailed Godwits, a single a single Common Sandpiper, a Yellow Wagtail and 4 Audouin's Gulls.

As it got lighter then more birds appeared, Audouin's Gulls joined both Lesser Black-backed and Yellow-legged on the beach and many Cattle Egrets flew over. Large flocks of Spotless Starlings were infiltrated by many Common Starlings whilst Corn Buntings were in great abundance in the surrounding fields.



We walked back to the car across the open grass meadows and in the scrub we found Melodious Warbler, Eurasian Hoopoe, Linnets, Corn Buntings, Barn Swallows and a few Common Stonechats.

After breakfast we drove into Tarifa to look for the breeding Common Bulbul without success but we did see many European Bee-eaters, Blackcap, Spotted Flycatcher, Turtle Dove and lots of Sardinian Warblers.

From Tarifa we drove a little way out of town to Trafico watch-point where we spent some time looking at migrating raptors. Although

not a great deal was happening we did see a hundred or so raptors which were mainly Booted and Short-toed Eagles, Honey Buzzards, Black Kites, Egyptian Vultures and Eurasian Sparrowhawks. On the ground we saw Woodchat Shrike, Willow Warbler and Common Stonechats.

Next we visited Cazalla watch point where a similar pattern unfolded, a trickle of raptors drifted over, so we decided to go and buy our picnic lunch before heading off to La Janda.

What a great decision, La Janda was packed full of birds, with literally thousands of White Storks. We added so many new birds to our list, too many to list here so I offer instead the highlights: Black-winged Kite was one of our first sightings, what a beauty, then we saw both Marsh and Montagu's Harriers, Black Storks, Northern Lapwings and many more European Bee-eaters.

As we drove the central track we added Black-crowned Night Heron, Common Kingfisher, Wood Pigeon, Griffon Vulture, Alpine Swift and many more to the day list.

Next came one of the highlights of the day, we stopped to search a regular roosting place of the Red-necked Nightjar and we were luckily enough to see 4 of them, what an amazing bird, the cryptic plumage is incredible. This species went straight to the top of the list.

But there was more to come, we drove further along the track to Benalup, noting Red-legged Partridge, Red-rumped Swallow, Jackdaw, Woodchat Shrike and huge swirling masses of White Storks rising on the thermals.

Near Benalup we turned onto a side track that skirted the edge of a long laguna, this was also packed full of birds, at least 200 Glossy Ibis were feeding there, also a single Squacco Heron, 6 Eurasian Spoonbills, 4 Green Sandpipers, 2 Wood Sandpipers, Common Sandpiper, lots of Black-winged Stilts, a single Ruff and likewise a Spotted Redshank. As we drove round we spotted a couple of Mallard, they took off and 3 other ducks went with them and one of them was a **MARBLED DUCK**, how fantastic was that? The bird flew a complete circuit around the van and passed within a few meters of us. It was my bird of the day!

On the way back we bumped into several Lesser Kestrels, we found a couple of Common Redstarts sitting on a fence and our



second Woodchat Shrike appeared. We had seen so many birds in the last couple of hours it was hard to believe. We returned to the main road but just before we got there we found two Great White Egrets, super birds to end our visit to La Janda.

Before returning to our hotel we made a short visit to Montenmedio Golf Club to look for the Bald Ibis. This bird regularly spends its winter on the main fairways and did not disappoint today.

DAY 3 – SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 6TH 2015

LOS LANCES BEACH - HUERTA GRANDE - CAZALLA - RIO HOZGARGANTE - MARCHINELLA TRACK - CASTILLO DE CASTELLAR

A mixed bag of success and disappointment today as we at first set out to do some woodland birding but ended up doing very little. Our early morning walk took us across the road from the hotel to the beach at Los Lances, a thick belt of Stone Pines lies behind the beach, we intended to look there for migrants but spent most of our time on the beach area, watching or chasing a flock of parrots around a hotel complex!

From the beach we scanned the bay and found our first Sandwich Terns and a few Yellow-legged Gulls, on the sandy dunes we saw Crested Lark and a few Kentish Plover. We then walked around a hotel garden hoping for some migrant birds but all we found were House Sparrows and a few Eurasian Linnets. Then a tiny parrot appeared on a fence and flew off before we had chance to look at it, so we pursued it. Eventually we caught up with a bunch of six of them. They were all “Love Birds” of different colours, very nice but obviously free flying escapee’s.



Tree Frogs found in Spain; left Common Tree Frog (Extremadura) and Stripeless Tree Frog (Andalucía)

From there we drove over the hills towards Algeciras, we made an impromptu stop at Huerta Grande which is a private nature reserve designed for educational purposes, especially catering for schools. It was lovely there, we had a guided tour and sat in a bird hide to watch several bird-feeders. We saw many Serins and Chaffinches and a good number of Blackcaps and Garden Warblers. We were shown Stripeless Tree Frog and a Scops Owl nest box which had been used successfully this year.

A good raptor passage began as we were leaving, over 100 Honey Buzzards passed over in a short space of time, so we dashed back towards Tarifa to visit the Cazalla observatory. This was a big mistake as from there we saw just a few Black Kites and Booted Eagles.



Common Buzzard and lots of Common Stonechats. We made a quick visit to the Rio Guadiaro which didn't give us any new species. So after a quick coffee in a local venta we drove the Marchenilla track again, this time we added Black-eared Wheatear to the list.

Our final location was the Castillo at Castellar de la Frontera, but first we stopped near the Presa de Guadarranque where found both Monarch and Two-tailed Pasha butterflies, they are two must-see species, truly magnificent. At the Castillo we had great views over miles of countryside and because of the height we had good views of raptor passage. It was fantastic especially for late afternoon birding, a steady flow of raptors passed overhead. They were mainly Booted and Short-toed Eagles, Black Kites, Egyptian Vultures and by far the most numerous were the Honey Buzzards.

We dipped on WHITE-RUMPED SWIFT at the Castillo but added Crag Martin to our list, we left around 5pm and drove back to Tarifa. Dinner was served at 8pm and we were in bed by 10pm in preparation for another epic birding day tomorrow.

DAY 4 – MONDAY SEPTEMBER 7TH 2015

TARIFA (CAUSEWAY TO TARIFA ISLAND) – SANLUCAR – BONANZA SALT PANS – LAGUNA TARELO – TREBUJENA SALT MARSH – CHIPIONA SEA-FRONT

Another superb day with over 90 species seen and a couple of quality sightings into the bargain.

Our early morning excursion was to Tarifa sea-front, in fact we walked along the causeway between the town and Tarifa Island. It was a bit chilly out there with a cold sea-breeze but there was plenty to see. We found several wader species on the sand; Ringed Plover, Sanderling, Ruddy Turnstone, Bar-tailed Godwit and a few Dunlin.

Out at sea we found a few Sandwich Terns and after some searching we got good scope views of both Balearic and Cory's Shearwaters. A quick look in the town for Common Bulbuls led to nothing so we went back to the hotel for breakfast.

For the rest of the day we drove out to Sanlucar de Barameda and Bonanza Salt Pans and we had a great time, we saw thousands of birds of all shapes and sizes. On arrival in Sanlucar we drove to some little-known lagunas which were packed with birds. Two small pools on either side of the road held 18 of the European rarity **MARBLED DUCK** between them, how fantastic was that. We also counted 14 White Headed Duck as well as; Squacco Heron, Little Egret, Glossy Ibis, Purple Swamphen, Red-crested and Common Pochard, Gadwall, Northern Shoveler, Little Grebe, Eurasian Coot and Common Moorhen. A couple of Common Waxbill were nice to see and a visit to a third laguna produced two **LITTLE BITTERNS**.

So after a short wait we continued our journey to Algeciras and beyond. It was 1pm by the time we reached the Rio Hozgargante near Jimena de la Frontera and to our disappointment the river was dry! We did eventually find a small pool where we logged: European Robin, Common Nightingale, Common Chiffchaff, Blue Tit, Common Kingfisher and Sardinian Warbler.

From there we drove the full length of a track near the village of Marchenilla, this was a little more productive with sightings of Little Owl, European Bee-eater, Woodchat Shrike, Northern Wheatear, Montagu's Harrier, Red-rumped Swallow,

The Salt Pans at Bonanza were dripping with birds, several thousand Greater Flamingos was an incredible sight. So was the huge flocks of Black-tailed Godwits, Pied Avocets, Black-winged Stilts, Sanderling, Dunlin, Ringed Plover, Redshank and Curlew Sandpiper. There were fewer numbers of Greenshank, Little Stint, Kentish Plover, Ruff, Eurasian Curlew, Green, Wood and Common Sandpipers.

Vast numbers of Slender-billed Gulls joined Black-necked Grebe, Northern Shoveler, Common Shelduck onto our list. Other goodies included Red Kite, Osprey, Little Tern, Yellow Wagtail, Zitting Cisticola and Raven. We ate our lunch in the shade of a pumping station, it was now over 30C and climbing, the flies were a pest too.



We drove round to a petrol station to pick up water before driving to laguna Tarelo. This laguna was very quiet, very few species, we added Night Heron to the list but that was all. Algaida Pine woods was the same, all we saw was Spotted Flycatcher and Sardinian Warbler.

Trebujena Marshes were completely dry and the large lagunas that lie adjacent to the Guadalquivir River were also very quiet. So we drove into town and enjoyed a cup of coffee before setting off to Chipiona to look for a special species.

At the beach area in Chipiona we parked up and got out to scan the sky and the sea, our sea-watch produced Northern Gannet whilst the sky above was pretty much absent of birds. After about an hour we suddenly spotted a small swift and sure enough this was our target bird, the **LITTLE SWIFT**! Amazingly two birds appeared but flew into their nests in a nearby building and never came out again.

Another 20 minute search produced another two, then a little later, more and more appeared, eventually we counted 22 birds with a maximum of 13 together. This was absolutely incredible and a great sight, the birds came very close, just 5 meters above us. Well that made our day, we were full of superlatives as we drove back to the hotel.

For dinner we drove into Tarifa and sat looking over the sea, watching the regular ferry service to Morocco come and go, we decided then to book ourselves a pelagic trip for Thursday.

DAY 5 – TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 8TH 2015

TARIFA TO GAUCIN – ENCINAS BORRACHAS TRACK – SIERRA DE LAS NIEVES – CUEVA DE GATO

Today we were joined by Lis who came out with us just for the day. We got up early and left Tarifa at 7:15am when we drove inland to Gaucin, noting our first Jays of the trip along the way. On arrival we went straight into a venta for some breakfast. We then met Lis at 9am, Lis was joining us for a day out. We all set off for Ronda heading for the Encinas Borrachas Track.

We saw a few species along the way but not many because most places were shrouded in mist especially the valleys. Our first stop was not far passed Atajate (the smallest white village in Andalucia) we pulled over and scanned from the side of the road. Linnets and Goldfinches were dashing about and then we found two or three Blue Rock Thrushes just before I found a star bird – **ROCK THRUSH** – but before anyone else got onto it, the bird disappeared over a ridge.

From there we drove a short distance to the Encinas Borrachas track which was free from mist and just starting to warm up. Some of our first sighting were of a family party of Black-eared Wheatears, the adult male looked superb in the morning light. Rock Sparrows appeared briefly before we found a small flock of Thekla Larks and a few Stonechats.

Next came a very surprising find in the shape of a **WRYNECK** this bird first appeared half-way up a pylon, it was the first one ever recorded by me in this most unsuitable habitat. The discovery and subsequent good views of a Spectacled Warbler seemed underwhelming after that. We then logged both Woodchat and Southern Grey Shrikes and by the time we got to the heathland raptors started to appear over the distant ridge.



First a Montagu's Harrier drifted along the ridge then a few Griffon Vultures, a Booted Eagle and a couple of Short-toed Eagles. Then to our great delight we noticed small kettles of Honey Buzzards, a string of birds came from the north and we counted over 100 in a short space of time.

After that excitement we walked back to the car, finding the Wryneck and Spectacled Warblers again and just before we left we enjoyed the Black-eared Wheatear and we found a couple of Northern Wheatears.

By the time we reached our next venue it was time for lunch so we stopped at a roadside restaurant and sat scanning the sky for more raptors as we ate lunch and drank coffee. Again we saw over 100 Honey Buzzards and good numbers of European Bee-eaters, Booted and Short-toed Eagles, a single Egyptian Vulture and several Black Kites were also noted.

The Sierra de las Nieves Natural Park was where we spent most of our afternoon, the open area near the entrance held very little bird-wise, we found Woodlark, Chaffinch and a male Common Redstart. Further along the track we enjoyed watching a mixed feeding flock with Crested Tit, Firecrest, Orphean Warbler, Bonelli's Warbler, Blue Tit, Great Tit and Willow Warbler all being noted.

In another open area much further along the track we watched Black Wheatears and a bunch of Redstarts contain both Black and Common, I have never seen these together before and tried hard to photograph the two species side by side, but failed. Ravens, Common Kestrel and Griffon Vultures were all we saw skyward and a sortie further up the track produced nothing more of note. On the way back down we stopped to watch a pair of Rock Buntings, they flew up from the track but were very elusive after that.

For our late afternoon birding we visited the Cueva de Gato near Benaolan, from this impressive cave a beautiful waterfall cascades into a marine-blue pool, an idyllic setting and usually good for Dipper and Grey Wagtail. But not today, it was fairly crowded with Spanish Tourist and their dogs. We quickly left and walked down to the train station at Benaolan, the water of the main river was full of brown silt, this must have been the result of heavy rain upriver.

We had glimpses of Grey Wagtail but no Dipper even after we searched a sparkling mountain stream near Benaolan, we found Grey Heron, Blackcap and a few Crag Martins but not much else. We finished the day

by having dinner at my house in Gaucin. Dawn cooked a lovely vegetable Tajine, it was tough driving back to Tarifa after that!

DAY 6 – WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 9TH 2015

PLAYA DE LOS LANCES – PUNTA CAMORRO – OJAN VALLEY – EMBALSE ALMODOVAR – BARBATE MARSHES – SIERRA DE LA PLATA

A full itinerary again today with another day of warm, dry weather, cloudy at first then clear later, top temp. 32C. Winds moderate to light, westerly, dying down later.



Before breakfast we returned to Los Lances Beach, it was a little more productive this time with plenty of waders on the beach and more larks and pipits in the fields. Over 20 Audouin's Gulls sat near the hide with Bar-tailed Godwits, Dunlin, Sanderling, Ringed and Kentish Plovers feeding in and around the pools, the immature Greater Flamingos were still there also Grey Heron, Little Egret, Common Kingfisher and a few Crested Larks in the grass.

We walked further into the grass fields today and came up trumps with sightings of Eurasian Skylark, Greater Short-toed Lark, Eurasian Hoopoe, Yellow Wagtails, Zitting Cisticola and

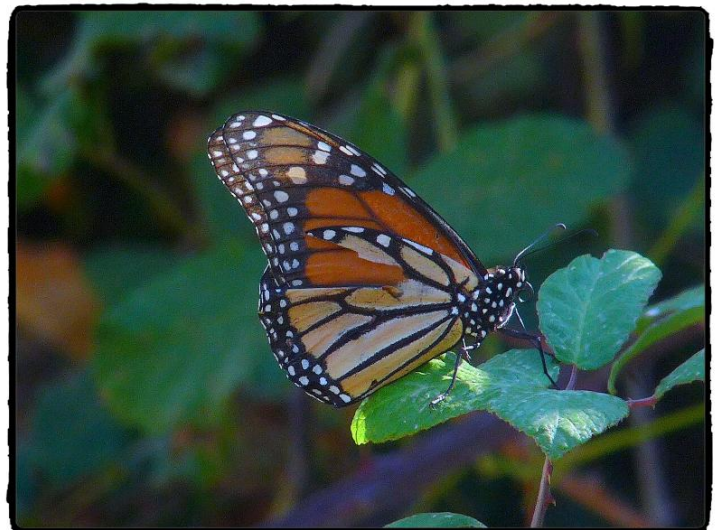
hundreds of Corn Buntings. A few Black Kites appeared on the beach and a couple flew over.

After breakfast we tried the raptor watch point at Trafico for a while, it was very slow there, highlights included a group of 8 Black Storks, lots of Booted and Short-toed Eagles, Eurasian Sparrowhawk and not much else, a stronger east wind had developed so we drove inland to the Ojen Valley.

Our first stop in the Ojen Valley was after about 3km at a small stream, a colony of Monarch butterflies are found there. We watched them for a while but as we were now out of the wind the temperature went up to 30C. Standing in the shade of some trees we scanned the sky and recorded good numbers of Swifts, Common, Pallid and Alpine, also Barn and Red-rumped Swallow, House Martins but not many raptors.

Next we visited the Almodovar Embalse (reservoir), this huge body of water sits in a basin surrounded by cork woods and high craggy mountains, it is a good place to see Bonelli's Eagle. On and around the embalse we saw Grey Heron, Cattle Egret, Mallard, White and Yellow Wagtails and not much else. Raptors included many sightings of Short-toed Eagle, Griffon Vultures and a few Honey Buzzards, but no Bonelli's. We ate our picnic lunch there before driving to our next scheduled place.

It was 3pm when we arrived at Barbate Marshes, a strong breeze forced us to view the large open pools from the shelter of the car. A Great White Egret was a 'first' for this site for me and although the lagoons were not jam-packed with birds there was enough to keep us occupied. From several viewpoints we listed the following: Greater Flamingo, Eurasian Spoonbill (49 – the biggest count I've had outside of Donana), Audouin's Gull (46), Pied Avocet, Black-winged Stilt, Redshank,





Greenshank, Stone Curlew (2), Green Sandpiper, Red Knot, Curlew Sandpiper, Sanderling, Dunlin, Ringed, Little-ringed and Kentish Plover.

An Osprey circled around but never stopped to fish, a couple of Woodchat Shrikes sat on the fence-line and our first Great Cormorants sat with a huge flock of over 2000 Yellow-legged Gulls.

We finally got some great excitement when we stopped at the bridge over the river Barbate, we were looking for Caspian Tern but came up with, not one, but two

YELLOW-BILLED TERNS most probably **LESSER CRESTED TERNS**. How fantastic was that, this rare visitor to Spain's southern coast appears annually at Los Lances Beach, but two here, nice find! The terns stayed very distant and often perched on posts in the river alongside Sandwich Terns, this gave us a good comparison for size. Lots of other birds settled in pools and on the newly exposed mud as the tide receded but nothing new to the day list.

Lastly we drove to Bolonia and sat at the mirador just below Sierra de la Plata hoping for a White-rumped Swift but not really expecting one. We had a pleasant time, the view was terrific, the light just exquisite and plenty of Griffon Vulture activity kept us amused. We saw Blue Rock Thrush, over 100 European Bee-eaters, lots of raptors very high up, Honey Buzzards, Booted Eagles and Black Kites.

We finished around 6pm and drove back to hotel, at 7:30pm we went out for dinner at a local 'surfers' bar/restaurant, we blended in perfectly, ha!

DAY 7 – THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 10TH 2015

MONTENMEDIO GOLF COMPLEX – MEDINA SIDONICA HIGHWAY A381 – LA JANDA – TARIFA0

Today was another day of mixed fortunes with some success and some 'dipping', nevertheless it was a beautiful, cloudless day but rather hot in the afternoon reaching 36C!!

After a false start – when David told us he had forgotten his 'bins' 20 minutes into our journey – we eventually set off for a site in the Alcornocales National Park near Medina Sidonia. Along the way we stopped at a site near to Montenmedio Golf Complex to search for an Eagle Owl, this was our third attempt and still the bird failed to turn up. However a stop at the entrance to the golf complex produced a number of species including: Wryneck, Pied Flycatcher, European Siskin and several common birds.



So we continued on to Vejer then we turned towards Medina, we drove through some lovely countryside and noted several raptors on pylons, nothing new but a good variety of species. We reached our destination around 11:30am and spent the next two hours staring into the sky for **WHITE-RUMPED SWIFT**. We knew that these birds were breeding in a few of the tunnels that stretched under the main road and we found several likely nests but our search failed to find the birds.

We saw plenty of raptor movement with lots of Griffon & Egyptian Vultures, Booted & Short-toed Eagles, Honey & Common Buzzards, Eurasian Kestrel and Eurasian Sparrowhawk. We also saw Black Storks, European Bee-eaters and lots of hirundines especially Red-rumped Swallows.

We ate our picnic lunch before making our way back towards the coast, we drove back the scenic route and passed the Presa (dam) Barbate where a huge reservoir held a few ducks, herons and egrets. But it wasn't until we reached the Benalup track at the southern side of La Janda that birds were seen in good numbers. A huge flock of over 200 Glossy Ibis mixed with dozens of Little & Cattle Egrets and countless White Storks. Seven Gadwall flew up from a lagoon, we also found Green Sandpiper, Little Ringed Plover, Black-winged Stilts and a single Eurasian Spoonbill.

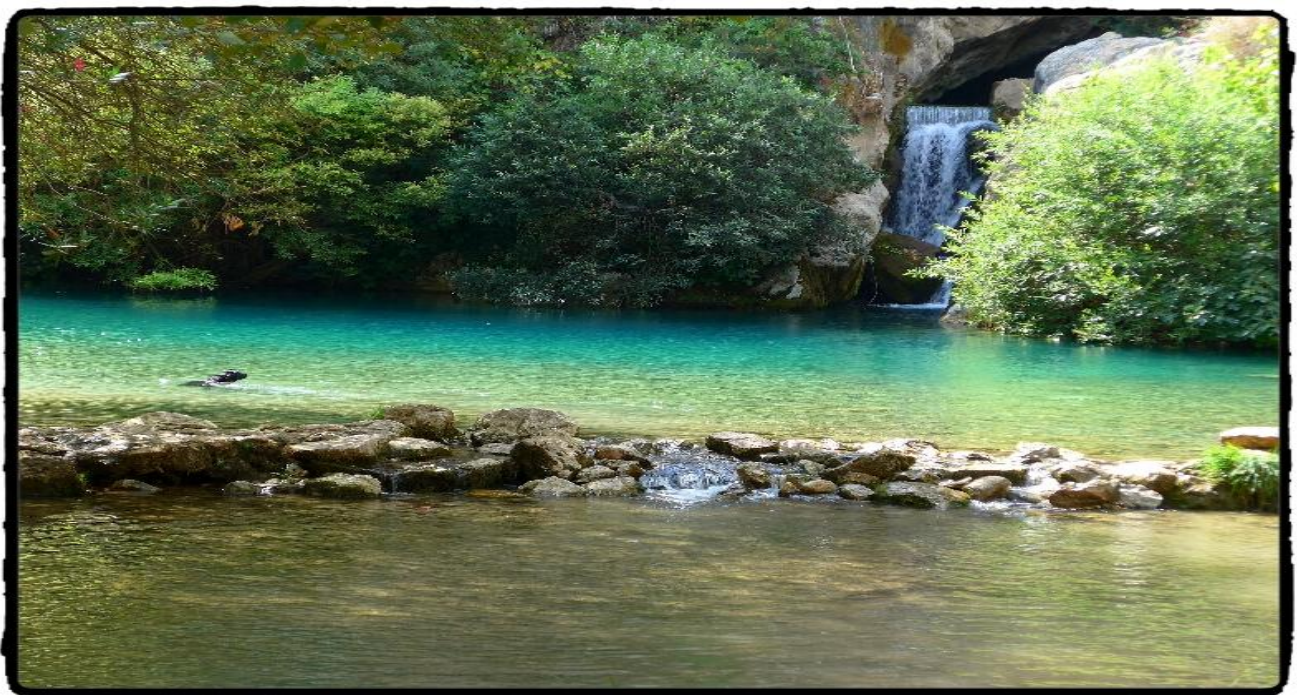
As we drove onto La Janda we stopped to look at the roosting Red-necked Nightjar site, three birds were still present and one of them gave us great views. We saw several Montagu's Harriers and even more Marsh Harriers, but the best sightings were of Black-winged Kites. Three birds were in view and two of them displayed their delicate hover-and-glide hunting technique, they were a joy to watch.

Masses of White Storks circled high above us, so high that they disappeared from sight, amazing. We drove the central track stopping and searching for two birds that has eluded us so far, Purple Heron and Calandra Lark. We never saw either but Montagu's Harriers came very close to the van and plenty of other species were around.

We left La Janda at 5pm and drove into Tarifa for one last search for the Common Bulbuls, at last they were present. We heard them as soon as we got out of the car, but after 30 minutes of searching the tree canopy we failed to see one, how frustrating, the birds failed to show but called loudly as if mocking us.

Well that concluded our birding trip as we have no time for birding tomorrow we have to drive directly to Malaga in the dark of the early morning. We had seen 162 species and heard another 5, this is a very good list for this particular trip even though several common species failed to turn up!

David and Martin both thought that the views of the Red-necked Nightjars were the best of the trip and I opted for the Little Swifts.



ALL SPECIES RECORDED ON THIS TRIP

	SPECIES	SCIENTIFIC NAME	DATE SEEN							
			4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1.	Black-necked Grebe	<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>				√				
2.	Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>	√	√		√				
3.	Balearic Shearwater	<i>Puffinus mauretanicus</i>				√				
4.	Cory's Shearwater	<i>Calonectris diomedea borealis</i>				√				
5.	Great Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>						√		
6.	Northern Gannet	<i>Morus bassanus</i>				√		√		
7.	Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	√	√		√	√	√	√	
8.	Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	√	√		√		√	√	
9.	Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	
10.	Great Egret	<i>Casmerodius albus</i>		√		√		√		
11.	Squacco Heron	<i>Ardeola ralloides</i>		√		√				
12.	Black-crowned Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>		√		√				
13.	Little Bittern	<i>Ixobrychus minutus</i>				√				
14.	Glossy Ibis	<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>		√		√			√	
15.	Bald Ibis	<i>Eremita geronticus</i>		√						
16.	Eurasian Spoonbill	<i>Platalea leucorodia</i>		√		√		√	√	
17.	White Stork	<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>	√	√	√	√	√		√	
18.	Black Stork	<i>Ciconia nigra</i>		√		√		√	√	
19.	Greater Flamingo	<i>Phoenicopterus roseus</i>	√	√		√		√	√	
20.	Common Shelduck	<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>				√				
21.	Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>		√		√		√	√	
22.	Gadwall	<i>Anas strepera</i>	√			√			√	
23.	Eurasian Teal	<i>Anas creca</i>	√							
24.	Northern Shoveler	<i>Anas clypeata</i>				√		√		
25.	Marbled Duck	<i>Marmaronetta angustirostris</i>		√		√				
26.	Red-crested Pochard	<i>Netta rufina</i>				√				
27.	Common Pochard	<i>Aythya ferina</i>				√				
28.	White-headed Duck	<i>Oxyura leucocephala</i>	√			√				
29.	Egyptian Vulture	<i>Neophron percnopterus</i>	√	√	√		√		√	
30.	Eurasian Griffon Vulture	<i>Gyps fulvus</i>	√	√	√		√	√	√	
31.	Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	√			√		√		
32.	Short-toed (Snake) Eagle	<i>Circaetus gallicus</i>	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	
33.	Booted Eagle	<i>Aquila pennatus</i>	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	
34.	Red Kite	<i>Milvus milvus</i>				√				
35.	Black Kite	<i>Milvus migrans</i>	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	
36.	Western Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>		√				√	√	
37.	Montagu's Harrier	<i>Circus pygargus</i>	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	
38.	Common Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>		√	√		√		√	
39.	European Honey Buzzard	<i>Pernis apivorus</i>		√	√	√	√	√	√	
40.	Eurasian Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>		√			√	√	√	
41.	Black-winged Kite	<i>Elanus caeruleus</i>		√					√	
42.	Eurasian Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	
43.	Lesser Kestrel	<i>Falco naummani</i>		√	√	√			√	
44.	Red-legged Partridge	<i>Alectoris rufa</i>		√			√			
45.	Common Pheasant	<i>Phasianus</i>		√		√			√	
46.	Common or Eurasian Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>	√			√				
47.	Purple Swamphen	<i>Porphyrio martinicus</i>				√				
48.	Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	√	√		√				
49.	Pied Avocet	<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>				√		√		

50.	Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>	√	√		√		√	√	
51.	Eurasian Stone-Curlew	<i>Burhinus oedicephalus</i>						√		
52.	Northern Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>		√						
53.	Grey Plover	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>						√		
54.	Common Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>	√	√		√		√		
55.	Little Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>	√	√		√		√	√	
56.	Kentish Plover	<i>Charadrius alexandrinus</i>	√	√		√		√		
57.	Knot	<i>Calidris canutus</i>						√		
58.	Ruddy Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>	√			√				
59.	Dunlin	<i>Calidris alpina</i>	√	√		√		√		
60.	Curlew Sandpiper	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>				√		√		
61.	Little Stint	<i>Calidris minuta</i>	√			√				
62.	Sanderling	<i>Calidris alba</i>		√		√		√		
63.	Common Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>	√	√		√		√		
64.	Spotted Redshank	<i>Tringa erythropus</i>		√						
65.	Common Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>				√		√		
66.	Common Sandpiper	<i>Tringa hypoleucos</i>	√	√		√				
67.	Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>	√	√		√			√	
68.	Green Sandpiper	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>	√	√		√		√	√	
69.	Eurasian Curlew	<i>Numenius arquata</i>				√				
70.	Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>	√							
71.	Black-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa limosa</i>				√				
72.	Bar-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa lapponica</i>		√		√		√		
73.	Ruff	<i>Philomachus pugnax</i>		√		√				
74.	Black-headed Gull	<i>Larus ridibundus</i>	√	√		√		√	√	
75.	Slender-billed Gull	<i>Larus genei</i>				√				
76.	Mediterranean Gull	<i>Larus melanocephalus</i>	√							
77.	Yellow-legged Gull	<i>Larus michahellis</i>	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	
78.	Audouin's Gull	<i>Larus audouinii</i>	√	√				√		
79.	Lesser Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus fuscus</i>	√	√	√	√		√		
80.	Little Tern	<i>Sterna albifrons</i>				√		√		
81.	Sandwich Tern	<i>Sterna sandvicensis</i>			√	√		√		
82.	Lesser Crested Tern	<i>Sterna Bengalensis</i>						√		
83.	Rock Dove/ Feral Pigeon	<i>Columbia livia</i>	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	
84.	Common Wood Pigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>		√		√	√		√	
85.	Eurasian Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	
86.	European Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>		√						
87.	Monk Parakeet	<i>Myiopsitta monachus (escape)</i>	√							
88.	Eagle Owl	<i>Bubo bubo</i>					H			
89.	Little Owl	<i>Athene noctua</i>			√					
90.	Tawny Owl	<i>Strix aluco</i>							H	
91.	Red-necked Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus ruficollis</i>		√					√	
92.	Common Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>	√	√		√	√	√	√	
93.	Pallid Swift	<i>Apus pallidus</i>	√	√				√		
94.	Alpine Swift	<i>Apus melba</i>	√	√		√		√		
95.	Little Swift	<i>Apus affinis</i>				√				
96.	Eurasian Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>	√	√		√		√		
97.	Common Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	
98.	European Bee-eater	<i>Merops apiaster</i>		√	√	√	√	√		
99.	Great Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>							√	
100.	Eurasian Wryneck	<i>Jynx torquilla</i>					√		√	
101.	Eurasian Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>						√		
102.	Crested Lark	<i>Galerida cristata</i>	√	√	√	√		√	√	
103.	Thekla Lark	<i>Galerida theklae</i>					√			

104.	Woodlark	<i>Lullula arborea</i>					√			
105.	Greater Short-toed Lark	<i>Calandrella brachydactyla</i>					√			
106.	Sand Martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>		√						
107.	Eurasian Crag Martin	<i>Hirundo rupestris</i>			√		√			
108.	Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	
109.	Red-rumped Swallow	<i>Hirundo daurica</i>		√	√			√	√	
110.	Northern House Martin	<i>Delichon urbica</i>	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	
111.	White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>	√					√		
112.	Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla .f.iberiae</i>		√		√		√		
113.	Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>					√			
114.	European Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>			√					
115.	Common Nightingale	<i>Luscinia megarhynchos</i>		√	√					
116.	Common Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>		√			√			
117.	Black Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>					√			
118.	Northern Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>	√		√	√	√			
119.	Black-eared Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe hispanica</i>			√		√			
120.	Black Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe leucura</i>					√			
121.	European Stonechat	<i>Saxicola rubicola</i>	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	
122.	Mistle Thrush	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>					√			
123.	Eurasian Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>		√	√	√	√	√	√	
124.	Blue Rock Thrush	<i>Monticola solitarius</i>					√	√		
125.	Common Rock Thrush	<i>Monticola saxatilis</i>					√			
126.	Common Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus barbatus</i>							H	
127.	Garden Warbler	<i>Sylvia borin</i>			√				√	
128.	Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>		√	√		√		√	
129.	Common Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia communis</i>							√	
130.	Western Orphean Warbler	<i>Sylvia hortensis</i>					√			
131.	Sardinian Warbler	<i>Sylvia melanocephala</i>	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	
132.	Spectacled Warbler	<i>Sylvia conspicillata</i>					√			
133.	Zitting Cisticola	<i>Cisticola juncidis</i>	√	√	√	√		√	√	
134.	Cetti's Warbler	<i>Cettia cetti</i>		H	H	H	H	H		
135.	Eurasian Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>				√				
136.	Melodious Warbler	<i>Hippolais polyglotta</i>		√						
137.	Willow Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>	√	√		√	√			
138.	Western Bonelli's Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus bonelli</i>				√	√			
139.	Eurasian Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>			√				√	
140.	Firecrest	<i>Regulus ignicapillus</i>					√			
141.	Winter Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>			H				H	
142.	Spotted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>		√	√	√	√			
143.	European Pied Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula hypoleuca</i>							√	
144.	Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>			√		√		√	
145.	Eurasian Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>		√	√		√		√	
146.	Crested Tit	<i>Lophophanes cristatus</i>					√			
147.	Short-toed Treecreeper	<i>Certhia brachydactyla</i>			√		H			
148.	Southern Grey Shrike	<i>Lanius meridionalis</i>					√			
149.	Woodchat Shrike	<i>anius senator</i>		√	√	√	√	√	√	
150.	Eurasian Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>					√			
151.	Eurasian Jackdaw	<i>Corvus monedula</i>		√		√			√	
152.	Common Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	
153.	Spotless Starling	<i>Sturnus unicolor</i>	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	
154.	Common Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>		√				√		
155.	Eurasian Golden Oriole	<i>Oriolus oriolus</i>			√					
156.	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	
157.	Spanish Sparrow	<i>Passer hispaniolensis</i>	√	√						

158.	Rock Sparrow	<i>Petronia petronia</i>					√			
159.	Common Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>			√		√	√	√	
160.	Eurasian Linnet	<i>Carduelis cannabina</i>		√	√		√	√	√	
161.	European Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	
162.	European Greenfinch	<i>Carduelis chloris</i>	√	√			√			
163.	European Serin	<i>Serinus serinus</i>	√	√	√				√	
164.	Eurasian Siskin	<i>Spinus spinus</i>							√	
165.	Corn Bunting	<i>Emberiza calandra</i>		√			√	√	√	
166.	Rock Bunting	<i>Emberiza cia</i>					√			
167.	Common Waxbill	<i>Estrilda astrild</i>				√				
TOTAL SEEN 162 PLUS 5 HEARD ONLY										

BUTTERFLY SPECIES		Scientific Name	DATE							
			4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1.	Swallowtail	<u>Papilio machaon</u>								
2.	Scarce Swallowtail	<u>Iphiclides podalirius</u>								
3.	Black-veined White	<u>Aporia crataegi</u>								
4.	Large White	<i>Pieris brassica</i>								
5.	Small White	<u>Artogeia rapae</u>		√	√					
6.	Southern Small White	<u>Artogeia manni</u>								
7.	Bath White	<u>Pontia daplidice</u>								
8.	Western Dappled White	<i>Euchloe crameri</i>								
9.	Berger's Clouded Yellow	<i>Colias sereptensis</i>								
10.	Clouded Yellow	<u>Colias crocea</u>								
11.	Brimstone	<u>Gonepteryx rhamni</u>								
12.	Cleopatra	<u>Gonepteryx cleopatra</u>								
13.	Wood White	<u>Leptidea sinapis</u>								
14.	Ilex Hairstreak	<u>Satyrium ilicis</u>								
15.	Small Copper	<i>Lycaena phlaeas</i>								
16.	Long-tailed Blue	<i>Lampides boeticus</i>								
17.	Geranium Bronze	<i>Cacyreus marshalli</i>								
18.	Lang's Short-tailed Blue	<i>Leptotes pirith</i>								
19.	Holly Blue	<i>Cetastrina argiolus</i>			√					
20.	Silver Studded Blue	<i>Plebejus argus</i>								
21.	Brown Argus	<u>Aricia agestis</u>								
22.	Adonis Blue	<u>Lysandra bellarqus</u>								
23.	Common Blue	<u>Polyommatus icarus</u>								
24.	Monarch	<i>Danaus plexippus</i>			√			√		
25.	Two-tailed Pasha	<i>Charaxes jasius</i>			√					
26.	Small Tortoiseshell	<i>Aglais urticae</i>								
27.	Large Tortoiseshell	<u>Nymphalis polychloros</u>								
28.	Red Admiral	<u>Vanessa atalanta</u>							√	
29.	Painted Lady	<u>Vanessa cardui</u>								
30.	Queen of Spain Fritillary	<u>Issoria lathonia</u>								
31.	Cardinal Fritillary	<i>Argynnis pandora</i>			√					
32.	Knapweed Fritillary	<i>Melitaea phoebe</i>								
33.	Iberian Marbled White	<i>Melanargia ines</i>								
34.	Grayling	<u>Hipparchia semele</u>								

[illegible]