

SPAIN - THE GRAND TOUR

'This year's 'Grand Tour' really did endure the best and worst of Spanish spring weather but thankfully this didn't stop us enjoying some of Europe's finest spring birding. The wind had picked up by the time we reached Sepulveda but we still managed to see Spanish Green Woodpecker, Eurasian Wryneck, Black-eared Wheatear, Western Orphean and Spectacled Warblers, Blue Rock Thrush and a couple of out-of-place Golden Orioles. And then the unthinkable happened, the sun shone and for nearly 10 minutes a Dupont's Lark sat on top of a rock, at 13.30, and sang! This was one of several species of lark seen that day including Calandra and Short-toed. Nearby we saw a flock of Citril Finch with Eurasian Siskin and Common Crossbill.

Extremadura is always a delight and the wind and rain that we put up with each day there couldn't dampen our spirits when we still managed incredible views of Spanish Imperial Eagle, Black-shouldered Kite, Eurasian Eagle Owl and a chick, Great and Little Bustards, noisy parties of Great Spotted Cuckoos, European Rollers, flocks of Montagu's Harriers, Little Owls, Stone-curlews, Red-legged Partridges, Hoopoes, Black Vultures and a couple of flocks of Pin-tailed Sandgrouse.

By the time we reached the Coto Doñana the weather had improved but the water levels were still high. Specialities included Red-knobbed Coot, White-headed Duck (with a backdrop of a carpet of purple flowers), 1500+ Greater Flamingos, Eurasian Spoonbills, Little Bitterns singing just metres from our hotel, large flocks of Glossy Ibis, Whiskered Terns, Collared Pratincoles, and another distant Spanish Imperial Eagle. Time spent in the various sections of the reserve also gave us great views of Purple Swamphen, Squacco Heron, Iberian Chiffchaff, Azure-winged Magpies, Gull-billed and Black Terns, Savi's and Great Reed Warblers, more Great Spotted Cuckoos, Marsh Harriers and Red-crested Pochards.

En route to Tarifa we saw even more Flamingos, Black-necked Grebe, flocks of Slender-billed Gulls, Osprey, Curlew Sandpipers and a Mediterranean Gull. In addition to all this we watched Little Swifts near a site where some of the few pairs in Europe breed, a real privilege.

Our final surprise on the weather front was the famous Levante wind blowing at Tarifa. This certainly slowed raptor passage but we did see several Honey Buzzards (our 21st raptor species of the trip) and had exceptional views of more Short-toed and Booted Eagles, another Bonelli's Eagle and a Western Bonelli's Warbler. Brief sea-watches produced a handful of Cory's Shearwaters and a Great Skua leaving the Mediterranean, while Los Lances beach held a single Audouin's Gull.

All in all another great trip to Spain which even the weather couldn't spoil.' James Lidster.

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BIRD LIST:

Column A = Number of tours on which this species has been recorded.

Column B = Number of days this species was seen on the last tour.

Column C = Maximum daily count for this species on the last tour.

H = Heard only

(H) = Mostly heard but some seen

A		B	C	
6	Little Grebe	3	30	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>
6	Great Crested Grebe	4	10	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>
6	Black-necked Grebe	2	20	<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>
5	Cory's Shearwater	1	10	<i>Calonectris diomedea</i>
3	Balearic Shearwater			<i>Puffinus mauretanicus</i>
6	Gannet	3	10	<i>Morus bassanus</i>
4	Great Cormorant	7	7	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>
1	European Shag			<i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis</i>
6	Grey Heron	11	10	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>
6	Purple Heron	3	40	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>
5	Little Bittern	2	3	<i>Ixobrychus minutus</i>
6	Night Heron	3	15	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>
6	Squacco Heron	2	6	<i>Ardeola ralloides</i>
6	Cattle Egret	9	100	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>
6	Little Egret	7	20	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>
5	Great Egret	2	9	<i>Egretta alba</i>
6	Black Stork	3	4	<i>Ciconia nigra</i>
6	White Stork	12	100	<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>
6	Eurasian Spoonbill	4	40	<i>Platalea leucorodia</i>
5	Glossy Ibis	3	200	<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>
1	Bald Ibis			<i>Geronticus eremita</i>
1	Sacred Ibis	1	1	<i>Threskiornis aethiopicus</i>
6	Greater Flamingo	5	1500	<i>Phoenicopterus ruber</i>
5	Greylag Goose	2	3	<i>Anser anser</i>
5	Common Shelduck	1	6	<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>
6	Gadwall	5	20	<i>Anas strepera</i>
3	Eurasian Teal			<i>Anas crecca</i>
3	Marbled Duck			<i>Marmaronetta angustirostris</i>
6	Mallard	9	20	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>
2	Pintail			<i>Anas acuta</i>
1	Garganey			<i>Anas querquedula</i>
5	Shoveler			<i>Anas clypeata</i>
6	Red-crested Pochard	4	50	<i>Netta rufina</i>
6	Pochard	3	20	<i>Aythya ferina</i>
6	White-headed Duck	1	2	<i>Oxyura leucocephala</i>
5	Black-shouldered Kite	1	2	<i>Elanus caeruleus</i>
6	Black Kite	14	20	<i>Milvus migrans</i>
6	Red Kite	9	10	<i>Milvus milvus</i>
6	Egyptian Vulture	9	4	<i>Neophron percnopterus</i>
6	Griffon Vulture	14	100	<i>Gyps fulvus</i>
6	Black Vulture	4	6	<i>Aegypius monachus</i>
6	Short-toed Eagle	12	7	<i>Circaetus gallicus</i>
2	Hen Harrier	1	1	<i>Circus cyaneus</i>
6	Marsh Harrier	7	5	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>
6	Montagu's Harrier	6	15	<i>Circus pygargus</i>

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1	Northern Goshawk				<i>Accipiter gentilis</i>
6	Eurasian Sparrowhawk	6	4		<i>Accipiter nisus</i>
6	Common Buzzard	10	5		<i>Buteo buteo</i>
1	Long-legged Buzzard				<i>Buteo cirtensis</i>
4	Honey Buzzard	2	15		<i>Pernis apivorus</i>
6	Spanish Imperial Eagle	2	1		<i>Aquila adalberti</i>
5	Golden Eagle	2	5		<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>
6	Booted Eagle	11	20		<i>Aquila pennatus</i>
6	Bonelli's Eagle	2	1		<i>Aquila fasciatus</i>
4	Osprey	1	1		<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>
6	Lesser Kestrel	1	5		<i>Falco naumanni</i>
6	Common Kestrel	12	5		<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>
3	Eurasian Hobby				<i>Falco subbuteo</i>
1	Red-footed Falcon				<i>Falco vespertinus</i>
6	Peregrine	2	2		<i>Falco peregrinus</i>
1	Merlin				<i>Falco columbarius</i>
6	Red-legged Partridge	6	10		<i>Alectoris rufa</i>
6	Common Quail	5	2	H	<i>Coturnix coturnix</i>
2	Common Pheasant				<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>
2	Water Rail				<i>Rallus aquaticus</i>
6	Common Moorhen	4	10		<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>
6	Purple Swamphen	2	5		<i>Porphyrio porphyrio</i>
6	Coot	4	100		<i>Fulica atra</i>
6	Red-knobbed Coot	3	1		<i>Fulica cristata</i>
1	Common Crane				<i>Grus grus</i>
6	Little Bustard	3	9		<i>Tetrax tetrax</i>
6	Great Bustard	3	32		<i>Otis tarda</i>
1	Oystercatcher				<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>
6	Black-winged Stilt	4	30		<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>
6	Avocet	2	30		<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>
6	Stone-curlew	2	5		<i>Burhinus oediconemus</i>
6	Collared Pratincole	5	100		<i>Glareola pratincola</i>
3	Little Ringed Plover				<i>Charadrius dubius</i>
6	Ringed Plover	3	7		<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>
6	Kentish Plover	3	10		<i>Charadrius alexandrinus</i>
6	Grey Plover	2	1		<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>
3	Northern Lapwing				<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>
4	Red Knot	1	1		<i>Calidris canutus</i>
6	Sanderling	2	50		<i>Calidris alba</i>
6	Little Stint	1	4		<i>Calidris minuta</i>
1	Temminck's Stint				<i>Calidris temminckii</i>
5	Curlew Sandpiper	2	10		<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>
6	Dunlin	3	10		<i>Calidris alpina</i>
4	Ruff				<i>Philomachus pugnax</i>
3	Common Snipe				<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>
6	Black-tailed Godwit	3	50		<i>Limosa limosa</i>
2	Bar-tailed Godwit				<i>Limosa lapponica</i>
1	Long-billed Dowitcher				<i>Limnodromus scolopaceus</i>
5	Eurasian Whimbrel	1	1		<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>
2	Eurasian Curlew				<i>Numenius arquata</i>
5	Spotted Redshank				<i>Tringa erythropus</i>
6	Common Redshank	2	7		<i>Tringa totanus</i>
6	Greenshank	2	3		<i>Tringa nebularia</i>
3	Green Sandpiper				<i>Tringa ochropus</i>
5	Wood Sandpiper	1	4		<i>Tringa glareola</i>

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6	Common Sandpiper	4	15		<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>
1	Purple Sandpiper				<i>Claidris maritima</i>
4	Ruddy Turnstone				<i>Arenaria interpres</i>
1	Red-necked Phalarope				<i>Phalaropus lobatus</i>
2	Great Skua	1	1		<i>Stercorarius skua</i>
1	Pomarine Skua				<i>Stercorarius pomarinus</i>
1	Arctic Skua				<i>Stercorarius parasiticus</i>
1	Mediterranean Gull	1	1		<i>Larus melanocephalus</i>
6	Black-headed Gull	3	30		<i>Larus ridibundus</i>
4	Slender-Billed Gull	1	130		<i>Larus genei</i>
6	Lesser Black-backed Gull	2	1		<i>Larus fuscus</i>
1	Great Black-backed Gull				<i>Larus marinus</i>
6	Yellow-legged Gull	9	50		<i>Larus michahellis</i>
6	Audouin's Gull	1	1		<i>Larus audouinii</i>
6	Gull-Billed Tern	5	50		<i>Gelochelidon nilotica</i>
6	Sandwich Tern	3	3		<i>Sterna sandvicensis</i>
1	Common Tern				<i>Sterna hirundo</i>
2	Caspian Tern				<i>Sterna caspia</i>
4	Little Tern	2	50		<i>Sterna albifrons</i>
6	Whiskered Tern	4	200		<i>Chlidonias hybrida</i>
5	Black Tern	2	4		<i>Chlidonias niger</i>
2	Razorbill				<i>Alca torda</i>
5	Black-bellied Sandgrouse	1	2		<i>Pterocles orientalis</i>
4	Pin-tailed Sandgrouse	3	40		<i>Pterocles alchata</i>
6	Feral Pigeon	12	10		<i>Columba livia</i>
1	Stock Dove				<i>Columba oenas</i>
6	Woodpigeon	12	10		<i>Columba palumbus</i>
6	Collared Dove	12	20		<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>
6	Turtle Dove	2	6		<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>
6	Great Spotted Cuckoo	3	4		<i>Clamator glandarius</i>
6	Common Cuckoo	8	2	(H)	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>
2	Barn Owl	1	1		<i>Tyto alba</i>
6	Eagle Owl	1	2		<i>Bubo bubo</i>
6	Little Owl	2	3		<i>Athene noctua</i>
2	Tawny Owl	1	1		<i>Strix aluco</i>
4	Red-necked Nightjar				<i>Caprimulgus ruficollis</i>
6	Common Swift	8	30		<i>Apus apus</i>
6	Pallid Swift	5	150		<i>Apus pallidus</i>
6	Alpine Swift	1	1		<i>Apus melba</i>
3	Little Swift	1	4		<i>Apus affinis</i>
3	Common Kingfisher	2	1		<i>Alcedo atthis</i>
6	European Bee-eater	8	60		<i>Merops apiaster</i>
6	Roller	2	2		<i>Coracias garrulus</i>
6	Hoopoe	9	6		<i>Upupa epops</i>
4	Wryneck	1	1		<i>Jynx torquilla</i>
6	Iberian' Green Woodpecker	4	1	(H)	<i>Picus viridis sharpei</i>
6	Great Spotted Woodpecker	6	5		<i>Dendrocopos major</i>
6	Calandra Lark	6	50		<i>Melanocorypha calandra</i>
6	Short-Toed Lark	6	6		<i>Calandrella brachydactyla</i>
6	Lesser Short-toed Lark	1	5		<i>Calandrella rufescens</i>
6	Crested Lark	9	30		<i>Galerida cristata</i>
6	Thekla Lark	3	3		<i>Galerida theklae</i>
6	Woodlark	2	4		<i>Lullula arborea</i>
6	Skylark	2	4		<i>Alauda arvensis</i>
6	Dupont's Lark	1	1		<i>Chersophilus duponti</i>

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6	Sand Martin	3	10		<i>Riparia riparia</i>
6	Crag Martin	9	20		<i>Ptyonoprogne rupestris</i>
6	Swallow	14	30		<i>Hirundo rustica</i>
6	Red-rumped Swallow	4	6		<i>Hirundo daurica</i>
6	House Martin	10	100		<i>Delichon urbica</i>
6	Tawny Pipit	3	2		<i>Anthus campestris</i>
3	Tree Pipit				<i>Anthus trivialis</i>
1	Meadow Pipit				<i>Anthus pratensis</i>
6	Yellow Wagtail	6	15		<i>Motacilla flava</i>
6	White Wagtail	8	5		<i>Motacilla alba</i>
6	Grey Wagtail	5	2		<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>
5	Dunnock	4	1	(H)	<i>Prunella modularis</i>
6	Wren	9	2		<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>
2	Rufous Scrub Robin				<i>Cercotrichas galactotes</i>
6	Robin	8	10		<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>
6	Nightingale	8	4	(H)	<i>Luscinia megarhynchos</i>
6	Black Redstart	6	40		<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>
4	Common Redstart	1	1		<i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>
5	Whinchat				<i>Saxicola rubetra</i>
6	Stonechat	8	4		<i>Saxicola torquata</i>
6	Northern Wheatear	4	6		<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>
6	Western Black-eared Wheatear	4	6		<i>Oenanthe hispanica</i>
5	Black Wheatear	1	3		<i>Oenanthe leucura</i>
6	Blue Rock Thrush	2	4		<i>Monticola solitarius</i>
3	Rock Thrush				<i>Monticola saxatilis</i>
6	Blackbird	14	10		<i>Turdus merula</i>
6	Song Thrush	4	1		<i>Turdus philomelos</i>
6	Mistle Thrush	4	10		<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>
6	Zitting Cisticola	9	40		<i>Cisticola juncidis</i>
6	Cetti's Warbler	8	2	(H)	<i>Cettia cetti</i>
6	Savi's Warbler	2	1		<i>Locustella luscinioides</i>
3	Sedge Warbler	1	1		<i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i>
6	Reed Warbler	3	6		<i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>
6	Great Reed Warbler	3	15		<i>Acrocephalus arundinaceus</i>
1	Western Olivaceous Warbler				<i>Hippolais opaca</i>
6	Melodious Warbler	4	4		<i>Hippolais polyglotta</i>
5	Dartford Warbler	1	1	H	<i>Sylvia undata</i>
3	Common Whitethroat	2	2		<i>Sylvia communis</i>
5	Spectacled Warbler	1	2		<i>Sylvia conspicillata</i>
6	Subalpine Warbler	3	2		<i>Sylvia cantillans</i>
6	Sardinian Warbler	7	5		<i>Sylvia melanocephala</i>
3	Western Orphean Warbler	1	1		<i>Sylvia hortensis</i>
5	Garden Warbler	3	2		<i>Sylvia borin</i>
6	Blackcap	9	15		<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>
6	Western Bonelli's Warbler	4	1		<i>Phylloscopus bonelli</i>
4	Chiffchaff				<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>
5	Iberian Chiffchaff	3	3		<i>Phylloscopus ibericus</i>
4	Willow Warbler				<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>
6	Firecrest	5	2		<i>Regulus ignicapillus</i>
3	Spotted Flycatcher				<i>Muscicapa striata</i>
3	Pied Flycatcher				<i>Ficedula hypoleuca</i>
6	Long-tailed Tit	4	10		<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>
6	Crested Tit	6	5		<i>Parus cristatus</i>
6	Coal Tit	5	4		<i>Parus ater</i>
6	Blue Tit	11	3		<i>Parus caeruleus</i>

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6	Great Tit	9	10	<i>Parus major</i>
1	Penduline Tit			<i>Remiz pendulinus</i>
6	Nuthatch	3	2	<i>Sitta europaea</i>
6	Short-toed Treecreeper	8	4	<i>Certhia brachydactyla</i>
6	Golden Oriole	3	2	<i>Oriolus oriolus</i>
6	Southern Grey Shrike	6	5	<i>Lanius meridionalis</i>
6	Woodchat Shrike	9	20	<i>Lanius senator</i>
1	Red-backed Shrike			<i>Lanius collurio</i>
6	Jay	3	2	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>
6	Azure-winged Magpie	7	20	<i>Cyanopica cyana</i>
6	Magpie	11	10	<i>Pica pica</i>
6	Red-billed Chough	4	30	<i>Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax</i>
6	Jackdaw	7	40	<i>Corvus monedula</i>
6	Carrion Crow	7	10	<i>Corvus corone</i>
6	Raven	11	6	<i>Corvus corax</i>
1	Rook			<i>Corvus frugilegus</i>
6	Spotless Starling	13	20	<i>Sturnus unicolor</i>
6	House Sparrow	14	10	<i>Passer domesticus</i>
6	Spanish Sparrow	2	40	<i>Passer hispaniolensis</i>
6	Tree Sparrow	2	3	<i>Passer montanus</i>
6	Rock Sparrow	2	25	<i>Petronia petronia</i>
1	Common Waxbill			<i>Estrilda astrild</i>
6	Chaffinch	12	30	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>
6	Serin	13	25	<i>Serinus serinus</i>
6	Greenfinch	6	4	<i>Carduelis chloris</i>
6	Goldfinch	14	34	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>
4	Citril Finch	1	7	<i>Serinus citrinella</i>
1	Eurasian Siskin	2	4	<i>Carduelis spinus</i>
6	Linnet	6	4	<i>Carduelis cannabina</i>
3	Hawfinch			<i>Coccothraustes coccothraustes</i>
6	Cirl Bunting	6	2	<i>Emberiza cirlus</i>
6	Rock Bunting	2	30	<i>Emberiza cia</i>
2	Ortolan Bunting			<i>Emberiza hortulana</i>
6	Corn Bunting	10	100	<i>Miliaria calandra</i>