



**TOUR REPORT**  
**EXTREMADURA – LAND OF THE CONQUISTADORS**  
**22<sup>ND</sup> – 28<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2022**

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## SUNDAY 22<sup>ND</sup> MAY

We enjoyed an unusually seamless journey on our way out to Extremadura – we allowed plenty of time at Gatwick, but there were no queues, our flight landed in Madrid early and our bags were already waiting for us on the carousel by the time we got through. After very efficient service from the Europcar desk, we were underway by 4.30pm, ahead of schedule. On our way out of Madrid, we saw several groups of **Monk Parakeets** over the motorway. Out into the countryside, we started to see a wide selection of raptors – lots of **Black Kites** and a single **Red Kite**, a couple of pairs of **Booted Eagle**, some distant **Griffon Vultures** and a few **Marsh Harriers** and **Common Buzzards**. There were lots of **White Storks** on their nests, and our first **Cattle Egrets** of the trip.

Since we had plenty of time, we stopped at Arrocampo. As we got out of the minibus by the Visitor Centre, a **Black Kite** drifted overhead, a **Gull-billed Tern** circled over high and a **Glossy Ibis** flew past. Along the track to the first hide, there were lots of **Barn Swallows** under the bridge and **House Martins** overhead. A **Squacco Heron** came up from the channel and landed on the edge of the sedges opposite, where it was then joined by a second. We could see several more herons along the edge of the water in front of hide – **Purple Herons**, **Great White** and **Little Egrets**. A **Purple Swamphen** emerged from the vegetation briefly, but swiftly walked back in; another called across the other side of the channel but remained out of view.

There were more **Gull-billed Terns** flying back and forth out over the water beyond the hide, and one occasionally came hawking up the channel straight past us, giving us great close views. We could hear a **Great Reed Warbler** singing from somewhere off in the reeds, and a couple of **Reed Warblers** were flitting about in the sedges below and back and forth across the water. A **Zitting Cisticola** was 'zitting' overhead and a **Stonechat** started singing from the top of a nearby bush. Scanning over the village behind us, we picked up a single **Pallid Swift** which showed off its browner colours as it flew back and forth in front of the old church.



**Gull-billed Tern** – at Arrocampo

We walked a short way down the track towards Hide 2. Three **Bee-eaters** swept in calling and we had nice views in the scopes of an **Iberian Grey Shrike** on the wires. One of group picked up a large raptor very high in the sky, our first **Black Vulture** of the trip. There was too much to see and we still wanted to have a quick look for **Black-winged Kite**, so we turned around. As we walked back, a **Little Bittern** came up from the edge of the

channel and landed in the sedges just across the water. A **Nightingale** was singing in the bushes opposite the car park.

As we drove round beyond the village, there were more **Bee-eaters** hawking low over the fields and one landed on a fence briefly. As we stopped to look, another **Iberian Grey Shrike** perched nicely on the top of the tree opposite. Continuing on, our first **Iberian Magpie** flew in and landed in a dead bush by the road briefly and we passed a **Black-winged Stilt** on a small pool. We stopped round the other side of the reservoir to scan the fields and watched as a **Common Buzzard** flew in and landed on a stack of straw bales. Immediately, a **Black-winged Kite** appeared and started mobbing it, swooping at it repeatedly. Eventually the Buzzard flew off and the **Black-winged Kite** resumed hunting over the fields beyond. It was a great way to start the trip, but unfortunately we were out of time. It was a quick drive on to Pago de San Clemente, our base of the week, where after the various distractions of the journey we were slightly late now for dinner. Nevertheless, we received a warm welcome from our hosts, Martin & Claudia at Casa Rural El Recuerdo.

## MONDAY 23<sup>RD</sup> MAY

It had been blisteringly hot a few days ago, but we were greeted by a cool start to our first day with low cloud hugging the hillside. There was a great selection of birds just around the gardens before breakfast – a gang of **Iberian Magpies**, a **Sardinian Warbler**, **Hoopoe** calling, **Bee-eaters** overhead, and a **Nightingale** singing which would provide a morning wake-up call for some of the group. After breakfast, as we set off down the road towards Trujillo, the low cloud turned into fog. Beyond the town, it looked like it might be starting to burn off so we continued on. After a quick stop for a **Short-toed Eagle** on a pylon by the road, we continued out onto the steppes, where the fog thankfully lifted to low cloud.

We parked and got out of the minibus. Several **Black Kites** were perched in a nearby tree, waiting for it to warm up. There were **Corn Buntings** and **Crested Larks** singing all around and **Calandra Larks** mostly further off over hillside beyond, though one flew in and landed just behind us at one point. A pair of **Woodchat Shrikes** chased each other round the cattle fences and three **Hoopoes** dropped out of the trees into the tall grass. Several **Common Cuckoos** flew back and forth overhead calling.



Pin-tailed Sandgrouse – out on the steppes

A bit further on, we turned onto the drovers track where another **Woodchat Shrike** posed nicely on the fence and several **Bee-eaters** swept back and forth over the fields. We stopped at the top of the rise and before we could even get out of the minibus, a flock of **Pin-tailed Sandgrouse** over calling. After a hasty exit, several more flocks or pairs came over in quick succession. We walked over to scan the field on the other side of the track and found a pair of **Pin-tailed Sandgrouse** and a pair of **Black-bellied Sandgrouse** feeding out on the short grass – a great start. There were more **Calandra Larks** here singing all around us – they are masters of mimicry, and the ones here seem to frequently include Green Sandpiper in their songs!

The cloud gradually started to break up, and the temperature started to warm up. The raptors quickly responded. **Black Kites** took to the air and circled up all around us and we picked up our first **Spanish Imperial Eagle** flying distantly out over the steppes, an adult with white shoulders and pale tail base. A bit later we picked up the same or another as it circled up a bit closer to us, at one point mobbed by a flock of about twenty **Lesser Kestrels**! When a cloud of **Black Kites** appeared over the ridge further up the track, we looked over to see a juvenile **Spanish Imperial Eagle** flying through the middle of them. Two **Montagu's Harriers** quartered out over the grass, a **Booted Eagle** drifted over, and there were one or two **Common Buzzards** too. Raptor heaven!

We continued on and stopped to scan again. Standing on the edge of the track, the beautiful aroma of the wild lavender and thyme underfoot drifted upwards. There were lots of butterflies here around the wildflowers – **Spanish Marbled Whites**, **Clouded Yellows**, **Meadow Browns**. There were hundreds of **Black Kites** up now, in huge kettles scattered across the countryside in the distance. There were lots of vultures circling up too – at one point, two **Black Vultures** and a **Griffon Vulture** drifted overhead together, giving us a nice chance to compare the two. Another young **Spanish Imperial Eagle** circled high overhead. Lots of **White Storks** were feeding out in the grass. It was getting hot now, and activity on the plains was subsiding, so we decided to move on.



**Crag Martin** – at the Rio Magasca bridge

We stopped next by the bridge over the Rio Magasca. Several **Crag Martins** buzzed around with the **Swallows** and **House Martins**, and a **Red-rumped Swallow** flew round with them too briefly. A **Kingfisher** shot across over the water below us and a young **White Wagtail** was on the rocks, along with a few **Spanish Terrapins**. Several **Serins** and **Greenfinches** were feeding in the flowers on the river bank. From the bridge, a **Melodious**

**Warbler** was singing in a tree just below us, and we had nice views in the scopes. A young **Golden Eagle** drifted away from us along the ridge beyond.

Driving on through the rocky steppes, a **Griffon Vulture** was standing in a field but flew off as we pulled up and we passed three different **Short-toed Eagles** on pylons by the road. We stopped again at the bridge over the Rio Almonte for lunch. Several **Griffon Vultures** soared up the river valley over the crags beyond and an **Egyptian Vulture** came up lower over the trees, circled up and carried on overhead. Another **Red-rumped Swallow** flew round over the river and more **Crag Martins** and several **Spanish Sparrows** were nesting under the bridge.

After lunch, we drove through Monroy and stopped under the stone pines where several **White Storks** were on their nests. We could hear them bill clapping as we set off down the track through the fields. The beautiful wildflowers on the sides of the path were alive with butterflies, including our first **Southern Gatekeepers** and **Wall Browns**, and we stopped to admire a couple of **Mammoth Wasps** feeding on the giant cardoon thistle heads. Several **Iberian Magpies** zipped in and out of the trees and a **Hawfinch** flew out of a holm oak and off across the path ahead of us. We had nice views of a male **Spanish Sparrow** displaying to several females in some bushes by the track. A **Hoopoe** flew off through the olive trees and a **Golden Oriole** came out and shot off over the hillside behind us. A pair of **Short-toed Eagles** hung in the air high overhead, calling. There were lots of **Corn Buntings** and **Crested Larks** around the harvested fields and a pair of **Woodchat Shrikes** at the bottom of the hill, catching insects and taking them into the nearby trees presumably to feed their young. It was hot here now in the sunshine (though 'just' in the mid/high 20's and not the 38-39C it had been last week!), so we walked back up the track to the minibus.



**Corn Bunting** – still a common bird here

We drove down towards Cáceres and stopped at another bridge over the Rio Almonte. Several **Alpine Swifts** zoomed back and forth overhead and we stood on the bridge to watch them taking nest material in underneath. A little further on, we started to see **Roller** boxes on the telegraph posts by the road and it wasn't long before we spotted our first **Roller** on the wires. As there was nothing coming, we stopped to look. Just beyond, three **Turtle Doves** were on the wires too. We stopped at a filling station the other side of Cáceres to get a cold drink and afterwards drove back out onto the plains beyond. A **Montpellier Snake** in the road

looked like it had unfortunately just been run over. Another **Roller** was on the wires here, so we stopped again for a closer look.



**Roller** – on the wires

We turned onto a track and stopped by a gateway into the neighbouring fields. A **Short-toed Lark** flew across the road as we got out and we found several more out in the ploughed field in front, which we got in the scope. Two fluttered up overhead singing, so we could see the contrasting blackish underside to their tails. There was a **Calandra Lark** in the same field so we turned the scopes on that too. Looking across the other side of the road, we spotted two **Great Bustards** out in the grass distantly, our first of the trip. They kept completely disappearing in the vegetation – remarkable for such a large bird! As we continued on along the track, the fields were alive with larks, **Corn Buntings** and **Spanish Sparrows**, and a large **Ocellated Lizard** at first refused to budge from in front of us. A female **Montagu's Harrier** flew over the road ahead of us. It was time to head back, but we had one last stop again for the **Great Bustards**, which were a little closer from here. A couple of **Rollers** were on the wires and flying round over a small pool, which also held a **Little Grebe** and a few **Gadwall** including a brood of ducklings.

As we drove back in to the village at Pago, a **Ladder Snake** was basking on the edge of the road, but disappeared into a hole in the wall as we pulled up. We had time to freshen up and go through the bird list for the day over a cold beer before a delicious local dinner of broad bean salad followed by empanadas.

## **TUESDAY 24<sup>TH</sup> MAY**

It was a brighter start this morning. A **Melodious Warbler** was singing in the vegetation as we drove out of the village and we headed south towards Zorita. Our first destination this morning was Campo Lugar and as we turned onto the minor road, a **Great Bustard** flew across ahead of us. It landed out in the long grass so we stopped to look, a better view than yesterday, with less heat haze yet. One of the group then spotted a second **Great Bustard**, even closer. A **Red-rumped Swallow** flew past and a large flock of **Cattle Egrets** flew over heading towards the ricefields. We continued on, stopping to scan from time to time. There were lots of **Calandra Larks** singing (more 'Green Sandpipers'!), several **Hoopoes** feeding in the fields, and **White Storks** and **Black Kites** everywhere. We picked up another **Great Bustard** flying away in the distance. A juvenile **Montagu's Harrier** came up from the fields down in the valley below and flew straight towards us, before

banking away at last minute. When we stopped for a photo of the view, we picked up a **Golden Eagle** flying across the fields below, chased by another **Montagu's Harrier**. It shook off its pursuer and as it started to circle up it was joined by another **Golden Eagle**, an immature this time. It was warming up, and lots of **Griffon Vultures** were spiralling up now.



**Great Bustard** – at Campo Lugar

A little further on, we could see a couple of **Little Owls** and **Rollers** on the nest boxes on the pylons, so we stopped again to look. Several **Lesser Kestrels** were hunting over the hillside here too, including a smart male which dropped into the grass to catch something in front of us. A **Short-toed Eagle** was perched on the pylon beyond. When you pull up in a gateway in the middle of nowhere of course a vehicle then appears and needs to turn in! The truck pulled up and the farmer asked what we were looking at. He offered to show us where the Little Bustard had been displaying, but despite taking us down to the field there was no sign – after the very hot weather last week, it seems like the males have stopped singing, the females may well be on eggs and the vegetation is very high now.

From Campo Lugar, we cut across to Alcollarin. We stopped to photograph some **Bee-eaters** on the fence by the road and could hear a **Golden Oriole** calling in the trees nearby. As we stopped by the dam, a **Hoopoe** flew across and landed on the wall on the top. A couple of **Little Ringed Plovers** were displaying down on the shore below us, and we could see lots of **Great Crested Grebes** and a couple of **Little Grebes** out on the water. There were lots of **Cattle Egrets** gathered on the bank of the reservoir in the distance further up and several **Spoonbills** in the water next to them. Two **Egyptian Geese** were asleep on the opposite bank.

Further down the track, we stopped again for a closer look and picked up several **Black-winged Stilts** along the edge of the water. There was a nice selection of wildfowl on view from here now too, including a smart drake **Garganey**, a **Shoveler**, a large flock of **Gadwall**, plus a **Greylag** and a raft of **Coot**. A **Purple Heron** flew across low over the water. While we were scanning, a **Great Spotted Cuckoo** cut through our scope view, but it was unfortunately very distant and all but impossible for the rest of the group to get onto. A **Red-rumped Swallow** flew low overhead and a huge flock of **Common Swifts** was hawking over the hills behind – despite looking through, we couldn't see anything else with them. A pair of **Booted Eagles** were displaying over the hills the other side of the reservoir. A **Quail** was calling from somewhere out in the grass in front.

Down at the picnic area, a **Woodchat Shrike** was in the trees as we pulled up and a male **Spanish Sparrow** was displaying. Just beyond, a **Kingfisher** and a couple of **White Wagtails** were on the small dam, where we had to avoid stepping on a large **Egyptian Grasshopper** on the concrete in the viewing area. Scanning the small 'reservoir' here, we found two more **Purple Herons** and a family of **Little Grebes**, and watched a pair of **Marsh Harriers** doing a food pass. A **Great Reed Warbler** was singing in the distance, and then one started up much closer, in the reeds next to the start of the dam. When it flew out and up into a nearby holm oak, we could see it moving around in the leaves. A large group of **Iberian Magpies** started alarm calling from the trees by the track behind the picnic area and when we walked over to see what was going on we could see a **Booted Eagle** on a branch below them. It flew out followed by cloud of the magpies! We stopped for lunch on the picnic tables, but the birding doesn't end and we finally got better views of a **Sardinian Warbler** feeding low down in the bushes behind us as we ate.

After lunch, we cut back over Campo Lugar. It was quieter now, in the heat of day, but we did have a nice **Short-toed Lark** feeding in the road right in front of the minibus and a couple of **Hoopoes** collecting insects on the verge. We drove in past the Santa Brava reservoir, where a family of **Egyptian Geese** was on the canal, and out into the ricefields beyond. We stopped to scan and heard **Iberian Yellow Wagtails** calling, distinctively 'buzzier' than our British Yellow Wagtails, and eventually had good views of several perched in the cut rice stems out in the dry paddies. A little further on, we stopped again to look at some muddy pools in a field and found a group of 22 **Ringed Plover** along with a single breeding-plumaged **Dunlin** and a lone **Redshank** – clearly there was still a trickle of northbound waders coming through. A **Little Ringed Plover** was displaying here too. A single **Common Crane** in one of the paddies off to the left with four **White Storks** was unexpected – there are thousands here in the winter, but not normally now, so presumably this bird was most likely sick or injured and unable to make the long journey back north.



**Short-toed Lark** – feeding on the road

Further on, we stopped again in a good area for **Black-winged Kite**. We had barely had a chance to get out of the minibus when one promptly flew past so we walked further up and found it perched in the top of a dead tree. It flew again and when we found what we thought was it, it was actually a second **Black-winged Kite**. While we were watching them both, a third then flew over and disappeared into a large holm oak – they had apparently nested here earlier in the year, so presumably this was the family party still together. We had some

nice perched views of them in the scopes. A couple of striking **Red-striped Oil Beetles** caught our attention as they walked across the road, dodging the traffic, and a **Quail** called from somewhere in the grass.

Next, we drove over to an area where **Collared Pratincoles** had been earlier in the year. As we parked by the start of a track it looked rather quiet initially but as we got out of the minibus, a **Collared Pratincole** flew in and dropped down into the back of the field next to us. It was followed by a second which flew in and landed closer to the road. We quickly got the scopes out and picked up the first **Collared Pratincole** straight away, even though it was very well camouflaged against the brown clumps of earth in amongst the aubergine seedlings. We couldn't see the second from here, but as we drove off we found it again looking back down into the field from the minibus. Nice views!



**Collared Pratincole** – very well camouflaged

We stopped in Madrigalejo for to use the facilities and get a cold drink. We still had a little bit of time before we had to get back, so we thought we could have a quick look at Moheda Alta, but as we walked up onto the bank of the reservoir, we could immediately see there was too much water and just a few Great Crested Grebes here now. We were hoping to come across some waxbills or avadavats, but the wind had picked up into the afternoon and everything was keeping down now. As we cut back through Vegas Altas, a couple of Common Waxbills flew off ahead of us but disappeared before they could be seen by the group.

Back out onto the main road, a male Montagu's Harrier was hunting low over the fields and then a female appeared too. They disappeared round behind us and appeared to land, but it is a busy road and there was nowhere to stop. We drove on and turned round and as we came back past we were able to stop at the entrance to a nearby track. We had great views of the pair of Montagu's Harriers now – the male flew in and landed again, bring up two Iberian Yellow Wagtails which came over to mob it. On our way back, we had a quick stop in Madrigalejo by the canal. There were loads of hirundines hawking over the water and a Kingfisher perched on a small post. A bright lemon yellow male Serin was in a tree with sparrows on the far bank. When it flew past us on the bridge and landed the other side, there were at least five Serins together now, including several smart males. Then it really was time to head back for dinner.

## WEDNESDAY 25<sup>TH</sup> MAY

We were heading for the national park at Monfrague today, but on our way first thing we drove round via Belen. Out of the village, we stopped to scan and found a **Thekla Lark** singing on the rocks in the field next to us. Out on the plains, we could hear **Calandra Larks** all around again. When a **Great Bustard** flew over the road ahead of us, we stopped and got out and found two more distantly in the long grass on a ridge. Further on, scanning the grass we picked up a **Stone Curlew** around group of rocks, so we stopped again. A second **Stone Curlew** was close nearby and a female **Montagu's Harrier** landed on a rock to eat whatever it had just caught. Setting off again, a **Great Spotted Cuckoo** came up from the side of road and landed on the fence a bit further up. This one was much easier to see than yesterday's and we all had great views of it using the minibus as a hide.



**Great Spotted Cuckoo** – feeding along the road

At the end of the plains, we cut across to the Torrejon road, stopping on the way briefly to watch two **Black Vultures** circling up low over the dehesa with a single **Griffon**. As we came into the park at Monfrague, a **Robin** flicked up from the side of the road and a **Eurasian Jay** flew across ahead of us, both additions to the trip list. It was already mid-morning so we made our way straight up to the Castillo. As we walked up to the steps, there were lots of **Great Tits** under the trees, a family of **Black Redstarts** feeding around the rocks, and a **Hawfinch** flew across the path ahead of us. Up the steps to the castle, one or two **Griffons** were circling at eye level now. Out onto the watchpoint, we stood and admired the fantastic views over the countryside all around.

There were lots of **Griffons** over the Peña Falcon, and a few **Black Vultures** and one or two **Egyptian Vultures** with them. From time to time one or two would drift over our side and circle up over the trees or past us along ridge – great to watch! A **Black Redstart** was singing from the top of the Castillo, a couple of **Sardinian Warblers** were in the trees below, a **Great Spotted Woodpecker** called and we had a tantalizing glimpse of our first Blue Rock Thrush as it flew past (not to worry, we would see lots very shortly!). There were lots of hirundines, including **Crag Martins** and one or two **Red-rumped Swallows**, swirling around but no swifts along the ridge now, possibly as there was no wind today. Just as we started to walk back down, a small flock of **Common Swift** came in briefly, but there was nothing with them.

Back at the minibus, a **Short-toed Treecreeper** was singing and we watched it in the trees. We drove back down and round to Salto del Gitano next. As we parked, a **Blue Rock Thrush** was singing from high on the crag behind, so we got it in the scope. We could hear a **Rock Bunting** singing somewhere high up too, and eventually it dropped down and landed on a rock where we could see it. There were lots of **Griffons** circling overhead and several perched on the rocks below us – fantastic views. One landed on the small peak just above us, looking down at us as if to see if anyone was dead yet! A **Peregrine** flew out from the top of the crags opposite with something in its talons and over the river. Scanning the cliffs, we found a **Black Stork** nest, the adult with its back to us sheltering several downy young from the sun. A second **Black Stork** flew in and landed on a rock nearby, giving much better views in the scope. There were lots of **Blue Rock Thrushes** now, they seemed to be everywhere – we had a great view of a young male with a brown throat and a smart all-blue adult male posed on the rocks just below us. A **Turtle Dove** was purring in the trees and several **Crag Martins** zoomed round.



**Black Stork** – landed on the cliffs

There was so much to see, we could have stayed here all day, but we had to tear ourselves away. Two **Alpine Swifts** were over the Tajo bridge as we passed by, on our way up to Villareal for lunch. At the picnic tables, we were watching a couple of **Spotless Starlings** on the building behind when a **Golden Oriole** flicked across in the trees beyond. We could see now there were several mulberry trees dripping in fruit and they were full of birds. There were lots of **Hawfinches**, including a family party with two spotty juveniles. As we walked round the back, two **Golden Orioles** flew out and down into the trees towards the road where we could hear them fluting now in the. After lunch, we walked round again, and several **Golden Orioles** flew out this time. One landed in a small fenced-off group of trees in the car park – we had nice views of it perched briefly, before it flew, a bright golden yellow male, it looked stunning as it caught the sun. Two more **Golden Orioles** flew back round behind us, greener female types they landed in the mulberries but were impossible to see in the trees, before flying off out again. Stunning birds!

Back to the minibus, we carried on through the park. The Mirador La Tajadilla looked fairly unpromising at first, quiet in the heat of the day. A couple of **Little Ringed Plovers** were down on the river below and a **Red Deer** briefly across the river. But checking round the trees, we heard a **Western Subalpine Warbler** singing just across the road and found two feeding in the bushes together, low down on the verge, which showed really well for the group. As we walked back to the minibus, a stunning **Two-tailed Pasha** butterfly flew past. We

stopped again further along at the Mirador de la Higuera, admiring the great view, looking down at the Tietar river, as another **Turtle Dove** purred in the trees and a **Black Kite** drifted past just below us.

Our last stop was at the Portilla del Tietar. Another **Two-tailed Pasha** flew past as we got out of the minibus and lots of **Spanish Purple Hairstreaks** were feeding on the fennel flowers under the trees down at the viewpoint. Several **Griffons** were circling over the rocks opposite and more were perched on the cliffs, and an **Egyptian Vulture** circled round and landed. A distant **Black Stork** circled up with vultures over the hillside beyond. Despite the mid-afternoon heat, there were **Nightingales** singing and **Turtle Doves** purring in the bushes, a **Short-toed Treecreeper** and a **Long-tailed Tit** briefly in the trees by the hide, and a **Blue Rock Thrush** on the crag just behind. A **Rock Bunting** flew in and started singing in the tree right above us.



**Rock Bunting** – singing above us

It was time to head back. On the way, a smart male **Western Black-eared Wheatear** flicked up from the side of the road, perching briefly in a cistus bush next to the minibus before flying again and landing on a road sign ahead of us. We had a quick stop in Villareal for a cold drink and could still hear **Golden Orioles** fluting in the distance, but the mulberry trees were much quieter now. A quick look at Arroyo de la Vid produced only a **Sardinian Warbler** in the bushes.

After dinner and a rest, we had a short walk up behind the village at dusk. There had apparently been Red-necked Nightjar seen here recently, but despite staying until it got dark there was no sign tonight. We would have to try further afield another night.

#### **THURSDAY 26<sup>TH</sup> MAY**

After breakfast, we set off on the long drive down to the plains of La Serena. Cutting across along the road from Campanario, a **Little Owl** was perched on a nearby fence and a **Great Spotted Cuckoo** flew up the hillside from the road. There were lots of **Black Kites** perched on the rocky pinnacles. It was going to be a hotter day today and despite still being quite early it was already up to 21C. Driving out across the plains, it was rather quiet at first. We stopped to look at two **Great Bustards** in a field and found two more distantly in the grass behind. A little further on, a **Montagu's Harrier** was hunting beside the road and two **Pin-tailed Sandgrouse** flew up and over the road. We could see lots of vultures circling up over the plains ahead and when we got

closer and pulled into a field entrance we found a massive feeding frenzy out on the grass. There were lots of **Griffons** and a couple of **Black Vultures** in a large mob, lots of squabbling, we could see their bloody red heads. Quite a spectacle! A shepherd was herding the sheep across the field opposite on a motorbike and flushed two more **Pin-tailed Sandgrouse** which flew off past us. He wanted to bring the sheep across the road and in through the gateway where we had parked – it was a good time to move on! There were large flocks of sparrows in the fields by the road further south, but not much else.



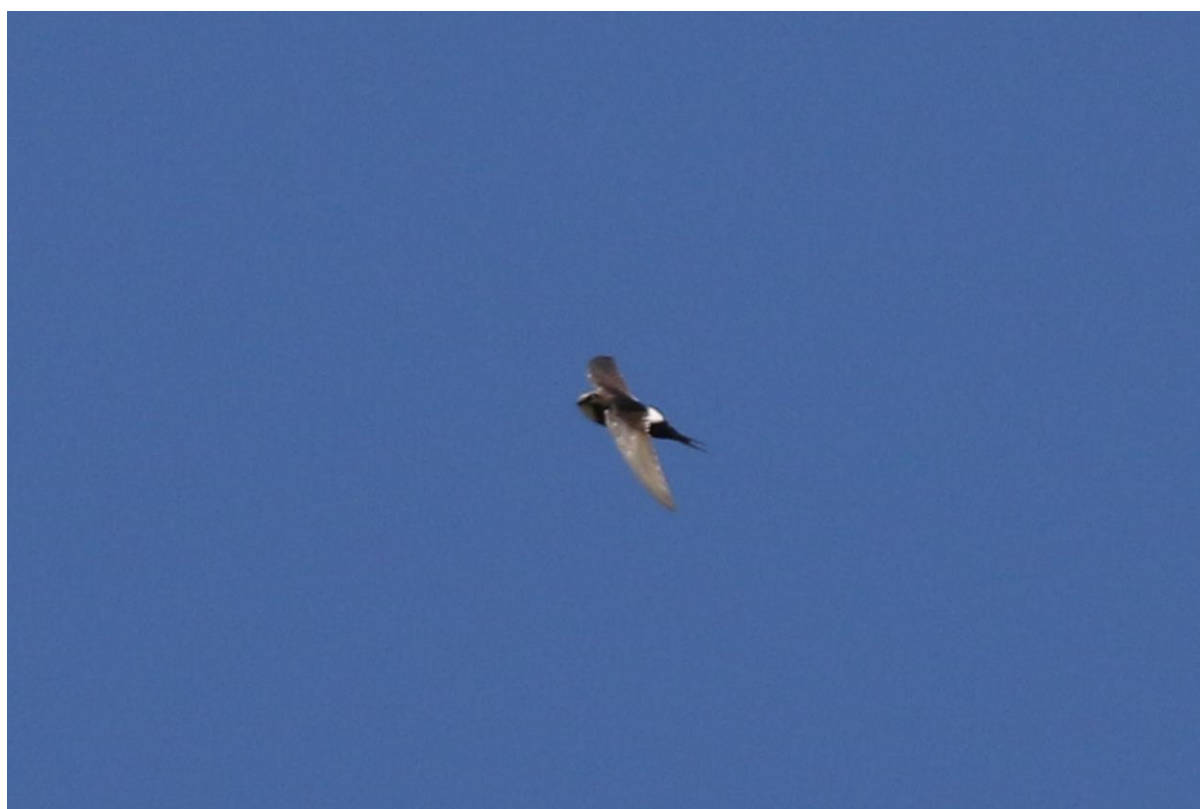
**Vultures** – squabbling over a carcass

We decided to head into the hills beyond and drove round to Benquerencia. After wrestling with the narrow streets and some random Spanish roadworks, we found somewhere to park and took the path up to the Castillo. A **Blue Rock Thrush** was singing on the crags above us and one of the group had a **Black Redstart** too. Scanning the rocks, we quickly found our main target here – a female **Black Wheatear** gave us the runaround a bit at first, then a male **Black Wheatear** appeared nearby too, and we eventually had good views through the scopes of them when they settled down. Further up, a **Thekla Lark** was singing and a **Rock Bunting** was calling quietly with a bill full of food, presumably waiting for us to move on so it could feed a hungry brood nearby. The sky was alive with activity – there were the usual **Crag Martins** and **Red-rumped Swallows** swooping around the cliffs, several **Alpine Swifts** zoomed past around the rocks and three **Red-billed Choughs** flew off along the ridge calling. As we climbed up onto the castle, there were insects too, lots of **Southern Marbled Skipper** butterflies fluttering around and red and black **Firebugs** in the low vegetation. Several **Lesser Kestrels** came up off the brickwork and circled over the hillside beyond as we climbed up to the top, from where we had a great view out across the plains, with the birds all flying past below.

We made our way back down and stopped for lunch at the minibus. Afterwards, driving back north, a **Red Kite** flew over the road with the **Black Kites** and three **Montagu's Harriers** were flying around in the fields. Our next stop was at the viewpoint at Puerto Peña. There were lots of **Griffons** up over the cliffs and two **Black Storks** drifted over high as we arrived; later another stork circled low over the rocks before landing briefly on cliffs. We could hear **Golden Orioles** fluting from the valley below and a **Two-tailed Pasha** fluttered around the bushes in the car park, but once again was typically flighty and despite threatening to at one point it just wouldn't settle. There were more **Alpine Swifts** here, but they were very high over the crags and not as good views as we had already enjoyed, along with lots of hirundines. When we caught sight of a flock of **Common Swifts** high in the sky behind us, we were just checking through when we picked up two raptors beyond. They

were very high and very distant, but as they drifted in we could see they were two **Bonelli's Eagles**. When they folded their wings back and started to drop, we thought they might come in to the cliffs but instead they disappeared round behind the crags, still a long way off. We stayed for a while hoping they might come in again, but there was no further sign.

We had one last stop we wanted to make today in the Sierra de Villuercas. As we parked in a steep valley and got out to scan the rocks, there didn't seem to be many swifts at first, just a few much further up the valley looking into the sun. Then three swifts appeared down the valley – two **Common Swifts** and a single **White-rumped Swift** with them. It was a rather distant view at first, before they disappeared round behind some rocks, then the **White-rumped Swift** reappeared on its own. It gradually came closer before turning and coming right over our heads. We could see its white rump as it turned, and the white trailing edge to its secondaries. In Europe, they can only be seen in southern Spain in the summer and are late to return here, so can only be found on visits from mid-May onwards. A real speciality of the area! Two **Egyptian Vultures** and a distant **Booted Eagle** circled up. A male **Golden Oriole** flew up the valley and disappeared up through the rocks on the other side. We walked down to the river, where a **Cetti's Warbler** and **Blackcap** were singing in the trees and a pair of **Beautiful Demoiselle** damselflies were down by the water. The White-rumped Swift drifted back up the valley, over our heads again. A good way to end the day, our target here achieved, it was time to head back again.



**White-rumped Swift** – a good way to end the day

#### **FRIDAY 27<sup>TH</sup> MAY**

We got up before dawn and set out for a pre-breakfast visit to the Santa Marta steppes today. As we parked out on the drovers track and scanned the steppes, a **Great Bustard** flew in and landed up on the ridge, strutting across before disappearing over the top. A **Red Fox** was in the grass up on the ridge too. Several **Pin-tailed Sandgrouse** were calling and flying round in small groups, a distant **Spanish Imperial Eagle** was perched on the top of a tree and once again the air was filled with the sound of all the **Calandra Larks** singing. A bit further up, we stopped again and found lots of sandgrouse on the ground from here, at least 14 **Pin-tailed Sandgrouse** and pair of **Black-bellied Sandgrouse**. We picked up a **Stone Curlew** out in the short grass too, and a **Little Owl** on a distant barn roof. On further and we stopped a third time. We were further away but it was great light looking down on the sandgrouse from here and we had a better view of the **Spanish Imperial Eagle**.

We were hoping we might get lucky and find a Little Bustard, but we were out of luck – they seemed to have stopped displaying. Still, it was great to be out on the steppes at dawn, watching the sunrise. Now it was time to head back for breakfast.

After breakfast, we set off on the long drive down to Merida. We headed out into a vast area of orchards and vineyards first and as we parked and got out, we could hear **Crested Larks** singing in the fields. We were looking for **Rufous-tailed Scrub Robin** (aka Rufous Bush Chat, Rufous Bush Robin, etc) and as we walked slowly along the track we heard one sing briefly further up. As we stopped to look, we heard something else singing and realized it was a **Western Orphean Warbler** in a nearby olive tree. Not what we were expecting to see here, but we had a nice view in the scope. We couldn't hear the robin now, and it was already starting to get hot, so we decided to have a quick drive round to see if we could find another one singing elsewhere. We tried down another track on the other side of road and it all seemed very quiet, just one **Woodchat Shrike** which flew out of an olive tree when we got out to listen. We turned round to come back and as we drove along we heard a **Rufous-tailed Scrub Robin** through the open window of the minibus sing briefly. As we pulled up, it flew out of the olive grove next to us and round behind us. We got out and heard it singing from another olive tree on the other side of the road. We got the scopes on it and had a great view of it perched in the leaves in the top of the tree. Another bird which returns late in the spring, this is another species which you can only find from mid-May and the western race is restricted in Europe to southern Spain.



**Rufous-tailed Scrub Robin** – singing in an olive tree

We drove on down into the Rio Guadiana valley next. We walked in through the trees and could hear **Common Waxbills** calling, eventually getting good views of them by the path. There were **Alpine Swifts** and hirundines hawking overhead, including our only **Sand Martin** of the trip, and **Blackcaps** and **Cetti's Warbler** singing. A **Great Spotted Woodpecker** flew across the track in front of us. It was very dry here, so we tried another track the other side which wound down towards the river. Our target here was **Western Olivaceous Warbler** and as we walked along now we heard one sing briefly. and looked across to see it flitting around in some ash trees, but it was very hard to pick up in all the leaves and the group couldn't get onto it before it dropped down and disappeared. We tried going a little further, but just found a couple of **Reed Warblers** singing. As we came out by the river three **Glossy Ibis** flew up from the edge and looking downstream, there were several **Little Egrets** and **Spoonbills** in the water and a **Purple Heron** which flew out of the reeds. A couple of Scarlet Darter

dragonflies were down in the vegetation by the river and a Green-eyed Hawker flew back and forth overhead – nice additions to the trip insect list.

We were already late for lunch, so we set off to walk back thinking we would have to try again afterwards, but we could hear the **Western Olivaceous Warbler** singing again now. We walked round the back of the ash trees this time and eventually it came out of some tamarisks and flew across the track in front of us. It landed in some reeds briefly where we could all see it flicking around, before it flew back across and up into the ash trees again, singing. Success! Back to the minibus, it was not the most attractive area we have had for a lunch stop this week, but we found some welcome shade under the road bridge with the traffic rumbling overhead. When we got back in the minibus, it was showing 36C!

After lunch, we drove in to the city of Merida. We found somewhere to park and walked down through the park towards the river. There were one or two **Golden Orioles** fluting in the trees and one flew across ahead of us. Out on the Roman Bridge, it was very hot in the sunshine. A couple of the group decided to stay back in the shade in the park and found a local bar, but the rest of us walked out over the bridge. There were lots of swifts zooming around low, stunning views of **Alpine Swifts** at eye level and **Pallid Swifts** and **Common Swifts** swooping in under the bridge below us. We could see lots of **Cattle Egrets** down on the stony islands on the river and heard a **Penduline Tit** calling from somewhere in the trees in the middle of one. On the far side, we found a family of **Long-tailed Tits** in the willows below the bridge.



**Alpine Swift & Pallid Swift** – great views from the Roman Bridge

We walked up through the park on the far side. As we stopped for a drink at one of the water fountains, another **Golden Oriole** flew out of the trees. Just beyond the Lusitania Bridge, there were lots of herons in the trees on the islands, lots of young **Cattle Egrets** and **Glossy Ibises** in the water and one of the group had a brief **Squacco Heron**. Two **Night Herons** flew out low over the water and round the far end of the islands, so we walked up and could see one in the water between the reeds, where we got a nice view through the scope before it flew again. A **Grey Heron** was perched right on the top of the trees, king of the castle! As we walked back through the park, we heard another **Penduline Tit** calling from the riverbank, but it had gone quiet when we walked over to listen. An introduced **Red-eared Slider** terrapin seemed to be excavating a hole to lay its eggs in the grass. Walking back over the bridge, we stopped for more great views of all the swifts. Two **Spoonbills** circled over. We were almost back to the far end and stopped to scan the last clump of willows and finally found a **Penduline Tit** in the reeds below us.

It was a long drive back to Trujillo from here. We called in briefly at the bullring, but it was still very hot and quiet. There were lots of **Spotless Starlings** on the roof and a single **Lesser Kestrel** circled over. Then it was back to Pago for dinner. Afterwards, we had a late foray out to try for **Red-necked Nightjar** again. Armed with some information hot off the press, we headed out to an area where they had apparently been seen last night.

We parked in a layby out in the rocky countryside and walked up a small path onto the hillside opposite. It was an amazing sunset and as we watched, flocks of **Spotless Starlings** streamed in over the countryside, heading in to roost. Not long after sunset, we heard a **Red-necked Nightjar** call briefly in the distance and walked a little further up to where we could see over towards where the sound had seemed to come from. Scanning the hillside, we quickly picked up a **Red-necked Nightjar** flying across in the distance but most of group couldn't get onto it. At least we were in the right place. We continued scanning and then spotted one flying straight towards us low over the broom. It flew out over an open grassy patch right in front of us and right past us just a few metres away, so close you didn't even need binoculars! Mission accomplished, it was starting to get dark now, so we walked back down. We called in briefly in Madroñera on the way back, to see if we could hear any owls, but it was a little late now and all was quiet. It had been a long day and we were all very tired, so we headed back to bed.

## **SATURDAY 28<sup>TH</sup> MAY**

Unfortunately it was time to head back to the airport today. After packing up and saying farewell to our hosts, we set off on the drive north to Madrid. We had time for a couple of stops on the way, so we turned off the motorway first at Jaraceijo and took a track out into an area of scrub. A large area has unfortunately been cleared here since our last visit, but some remains further down. We parked at the end and got out and as we walked back along the track several **Dartford Warblers** flitted in and out of the bushes either side ahead of us. More **Dartford Warblers** were singing out in the middle and we didn't have to go far before we heard a **Spectacled Warbler** singing too. They were not easy to see today, but we did eventually get nice views of a couple perched up in the tops of the broom. Our target here achieved, as we drove back to the main road, there were lots of butterflies around some scabious including a couple of **Queen of Spain Fritillaries**.

Further north, we only had time for a quick stop at Arrocampo now. There were already a few people by the first hide when we arrived, and fewer herons than we had seen the other day. We did have better views **Little Bittern** – first a female in the base of the sedges just across the water, which disappeared in before creeping back out onto the edge, then a couple of males, one which flew across and a second low down in the reeds. Several of the group hadn't seen the **Purple Swamphen** here the other day and we could just hear them calling from the rushes again at first. Eventually a young one appeared on the edge of one of the channels, before swimming across the water. A **Golden Oriole** flew in over the reeds and disappeared into a tree the other side of the hide. Then it was time to leave. The journey back to Madrid was uneventful, but when we arrived at check-in at the airport we found our flight back to Gatwick was delayed. The staff would not even check us in at first, as they thought it might be cancelled – as the flight out from Gatwick (on which we were due to return) had already been. Thankfully, it turned out that an empty plane was being sent out to fly everyone back to London and the delay meant we had plenty of time to clear the unbelievably long queue to have our passports stamped at Spanish immigration. We eventually arrived back at Gatwick only three hours late – it could have been much worse! – and we said our goodbyes.

| <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Oriole Birding</b><br/> <b>Extremadura Land of the Conquistadors 2022</b></p> <p><i>Species order, names and taxonomy follows - Clements, J. F., T. S. Schulenberg, M. J. Iliff, D. Roberson, T. A. Fredericks, B. L. Sullivan, and C. L. Wood. 2018. The eBird/Clements checklist of birds of the world: v2018. Downloaded from <a href="http://www.birds.cornell.edu/clementschecklist/download/">http://www.birds.cornell.edu/clementschecklist/download/</a></i></p> |                          |                               |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| #                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Common name              | Scientific name               | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 |
| <b>Anatidae (Ducks, Geese, and Waterfowl)</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                          |                               |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| 1                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Egyptian Goose           | <i>Alopochen aegyptiaca</i>   |    |    | ✓  |    |    |    |    |
| 2                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Greylag Goose            | <i>Anser anser</i>            |    |    | ✓  |    |    | ✓  |    |
| 3                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Garganey                 | <i>Spatula querquedula</i>    |    |    | ✓  |    |    |    |    |
| 4                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Northern Shoveler        | <i>Spatula clypeata</i>       |    |    | ✓  |    |    |    |    |
| 5                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Gadwall                  | <i>Mareca strepera</i>        |    | ✓  | ✓  |    |    |    |    |
| 6                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Mallard                  | <i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>     | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  |
| <b>Phasianidae (Pheasants, Grouse, and Allies)</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                          |                               |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| 7                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Common Quail             | <i>Coturnix coturnix</i>      |    |    | h  |    | h  |    |    |
| 8                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Red-legged Partridge     | <i>Alectoris rufa</i>         |    |    |    |    |    |    | ✓  |
| <b>Podicipedidae (Grebes)</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                          |                               |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| 9                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Little Grebe             | <i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i> |    | ✓  | ✓  |    |    |    |    |
| 10                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Great Crested Grebe      | <i>Podiceps cristatus</i>     |    |    | ✓  |    |    |    |    |
| <b>Columbidae (Pigeons and Doves)</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                          |                               |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| 11                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Rock Dove (Feral Pigeon) | <i>Columba livia</i>          | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  |
| 12                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Common Wood Pigeon       | <i>Columba palumbus</i>       | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  |
| 13                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | European Turtle Dove     | <i>Streptopelia turtur</i>    |    | ✓  | ✓  | h  |    |    |    |
| 14                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Eurasian Collared Dove   | <i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>  | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  |
| <b>Pteroclididae &amp; Otidae (Sandgrouse &amp; Bustards)</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                          |                               |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| 15                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Pin-tailed Sandgrouse    | <i>Pterocles alchata</i>      |    | ✓  |    |    | ✓  | ✓  |    |
| 16                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Black-bellied Sandgrouse | <i>Pterocles orientalis</i>   |    | ✓  |    |    |    | ✓  |    |
| 17                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Great Bustard            | <i>Otis tarda</i>             |    | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  |    |
| <b>Cuculidae (Cuckoos)</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                          |                               |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| 18                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Great Spotted Cuckoo     | <i>Clamator glandarius</i>    |    |    |    | ✓  | ✓  |    |    |
| 19                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Common Cuckoo            | <i>Cuculus canorus</i>        |    | ✓  | h  |    | h  | h  |    |
| <b>Caprimulgidae (Nightjars)</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                          |                               |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| 20                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Red-necked Nightjar      | <i>Caprimulgus ruficollis</i> |    |    |    |    |    | ✓  |    |
| <b>Apodidae (Swifts)</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                          |                               |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| 21                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Alpine Swift             | <i>Apus melba</i>             |    | ✓  |    | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  |    |
| 22                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Common Swift             | <i>Apus apus</i>              | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  |
| 23                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Pallid Swift             | <i>Apus pallidus</i>          | ✓  | ✓  |    |    |    | ✓  | ✓  |
| 24                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | White-rumped Swift       | <i>Apus caffer</i>            |    |    |    |    | ✓  |    |    |
| <b>Rallidae (Rails and Coots)</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                          |                               |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| 25                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Eurasian Moorhen         | <i>Gallinula chloropus</i>    | ✓  |    | ✓  |    | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  |
| 26                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Eurasian Coot            | <i>Fulica atra</i>            |    |    | ✓  |    |    |    |    |
| 27                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Western Swampen          | <i>Porphyrio porphyrio</i>    | ✓  |    |    |    |    |    | ✓  |
| <b>Gruidae (Cranes)</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                          |                               |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| 28                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Eurasian Crane           | <i>Grus grus</i>              |    |    | ✓  |    |    |    |    |
| <b>Burhinidae (Thick-knees)</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                          |                               |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| 29                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Stone Curlew             | <i>Burhinus oedipnemus</i>    |    |    |    | ✓  |    | ✓  |    |
| <b>Recurvirostridae and Charadriidae (Stilts, Avocets, Plovers and allies)</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                          |                               |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| 30                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Black-winged Stilt       | <i>Himantopus himantopus</i>  | ✓  |    | ✓  | ✓  |    | ✓  |    |
| 31                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Common Ringed Plover     | <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>   |    |    | ✓  |    |    |    |    |
| 32                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Little Ringed Plover     | <i>Charadrius dubius</i>      |    |    | ✓  | ✓  |    | ✓  |    |

| #                                                                                  | Common name               | Scientific name              | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| <b>Scolopacidae (Sandpipers and Allies)</b>                                        |                           |                              |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| 33                                                                                 | Dunlin                    | <i>Calidris alpina</i>       |    |    | ✓  |    |    |    |    |
| 34                                                                                 | Common Redshank           | <i>Tringa totanus</i>        |    |    | ✓  |    |    |    |    |
| <b>Glareolidae (Pratincoles)</b>                                                   |                           |                              |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| 35                                                                                 | Collared Pratincole       | <i>Glareola pratincola</i>   |    |    | ✓  |    |    |    |    |
| <b>Laridae (Gulls and Terns)</b>                                                   |                           |                              |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| 36                                                                                 | Gull-billed Tern          | <i>Gelochelidon nilotica</i> | ✓  |    |    |    | ✓  |    | ✓  |
| <b>Ciconiidae (Storks)</b>                                                         |                           |                              |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| 37                                                                                 | Black Stork               | <i>Ciconia nigra</i>         |    |    |    | ✓  | ✓  |    |    |
| 38                                                                                 | White Stork               | <i>Ciconia ciconia</i>       | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  |
| <b>Phalacrocoracidae and Ardeidae (Cormorants, Herons, Egrets, and Bitterns)</b>   |                           |                              |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| 39                                                                                 | Great Cormorant           | <i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>   | ✓  |    | ✓  |    |    | ✓  |    |
| 40                                                                                 | Little Bittern            | <i>Ixobrychus minutus</i>    | ✓  |    |    |    |    |    | ✓  |
| 41                                                                                 | Grey Heron                | <i>Ardea cinerea</i>         | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  |
| 42                                                                                 | Purple Heron              | <i>Ardea purpurea</i>        | ✓  |    | ✓  |    |    | ✓  | ✓  |
| 43                                                                                 | Great Egret               | <i>Ardea alba</i>            | ✓  |    | ✓  |    | ✓  |    | ✓  |
| 44                                                                                 | Little Egret              | <i>Egretta garzetta</i>      | ✓  |    |    |    | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  |
| 45                                                                                 | Cattle Egret              | <i>Bubulcus ibis</i>         | ✓  |    | ✓  |    |    | ✓  | ✓  |
| 46                                                                                 | Squacco Heron             | <i>Ardeola ralloides</i>     | ✓  |    |    |    |    | ✓  |    |
| 47                                                                                 | Black-crowned Night-Heron | <i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i> |    |    |    |    |    | ✓  |    |
| <b>Threskiornithidae (Ibises and Spoonbills)</b>                                   |                           |                              |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| 48                                                                                 | Glossy Ibis               | <i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>  | ✓  |    |    |    |    | ✓  | ✓  |
| 49                                                                                 | Eurasian Spoonbill        | <i>Platalea leucorodia</i>   |    | ✓  | ✓  |    |    | ✓  | ✓  |
| <b>Accipitridae (Hawks, Eagles, and Kites)</b>                                     |                           |                              |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| 50                                                                                 | Black-winged Kite         | <i>Elanus caeruleus</i>      | ✓  |    | ✓  |    |    |    |    |
| 51                                                                                 | Egyptian Vulture          | <i>Neophron percnopterus</i> |    | ✓  |    | ✓  | ✓  |    |    |
| 52                                                                                 | Black (Cinereous) Vulture | <i>Aegypius monachus</i>     | ✓  | ✓  |    | ✓  | ✓  |    |    |
| 53                                                                                 | Eurasian Griffon          | <i>Gyps fulvus</i>           | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  |
| 54                                                                                 | Short-toed Snake-Eagle    | <i>Circaetus gallicus</i>    |    | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  |    |    |
| 55                                                                                 | Booted Eagle              | <i>Hieraaetus pennatus</i>   | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  |
| 56                                                                                 | Spanish Eagle             | <i>Aquila adalberti</i>      |    | ✓  |    |    |    | ✓  |    |
| 57                                                                                 | Golden Eagle              | <i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>     |    | ✓  | ✓  |    |    |    |    |
| 58                                                                                 | Bonelli's Eagle           | <i>Aquila fasciata</i>       |    |    |    |    | ✓  |    |    |
| 59                                                                                 | Eurasian Marsh-Harrier    | <i>Circus aeruginosus</i>    | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  |    | ✓  |
| 60                                                                                 | Montagu's Harrier         | <i>Circus pygargus</i>       |    | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  |    |    |
| 61                                                                                 | Red Kite                  | <i>Milvus milvus</i>         | ✓  |    |    | ✓  | ✓  |    | ✓  |
| 62                                                                                 | Black Kite                | <i>Milvus migrans</i>        | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  |
| 63                                                                                 | Common Buzzard            | <i>Buteo buteo</i>           | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  |
| <b>Tytonidae and Strigidae (Owls)</b>                                              |                           |                              |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| 64                                                                                 | Little Owl                | <i>Athene noctua</i>         |    |    | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  |    |
| <b>Upupidae (Hoopoes)</b>                                                          |                           |                              |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| 65                                                                                 | Eurasian Hoopoe           | <i>Upupa epops</i>           |    | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  |
| <b>Alcedinidae, Meropidae and Coraciidae (Kingfishers, Bee-eaters and Rollers)</b> |                           |                              |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| 66                                                                                 | Common Kingfisher         | <i>Alcedo atthis</i>         | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  |    |    |    |    |
| 67                                                                                 | European Bee-eater        | <i>Merops apiaster</i>       | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  |
| 68                                                                                 | European Roller           | <i>Coracias garrulus</i>     |    | ✓  | ✓  |    |    |    |    |
| <b>Picidae (Woodpeckers)</b>                                                       |                           |                              |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| 69                                                                                 | Great Spotted Woodpecker  | <i>Dendrocopos major</i>     |    |    |    | h  | h  | ✓  |    |

| #                                                                 | Common name                | Scientific name                  | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| <b>Falconidae (Falcons)</b>                                       |                            |                                  |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| 70                                                                | Lesser Kestrel             | <i>Falco naumanni</i>            |    | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  |    |
| 71                                                                | Eurasian Kestrel           | <i>Falco tinnunculus</i>         | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  |
| 72                                                                | Peregrine Falcon           | <i>Falco peregrinus</i>          |    |    |    | ✓  |    |    |    |
| <b>Psittacidae (Parrots)</b>                                      |                            |                                  |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| 73                                                                | Monk Parakeet              | <i>Myiopsitta monachus</i>       | ✓  |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| <b>Laniidae (Shrikes)</b>                                         |                            |                                  |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| 74                                                                | Iberian Grey Shrike        | <i>Lanius meridionalis</i>       | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  |
| 75                                                                | Woodchat Shrike            | <i>Lanius senator</i>            | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  |
| <b>Oriolidae and Corvidae (Orioles, Crows, Jays, and Magpies)</b> |                            |                                  |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| 76                                                                | Eurasian Golden Oriole     | <i>Oriolus oriolus</i>           |    | ✓  | h  | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  |    |
| 77                                                                | Eurasian Jay               | <i>Garrulus glandarius</i>       |    |    |    | ✓  |    |    |    |
| 78                                                                | Iberian Magpie             | <i>Cyanopica cooki</i>           | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  |
| 79                                                                | Eurasian Magpie            | <i>Pica pica</i>                 | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  |
| 80                                                                | Red-billed Chough          | <i>Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax</i>   |    |    |    |    | ✓  |    |    |
| 81                                                                | Eurasian Jackdaw           | <i>Corvus monedula</i>           | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  |
| 82                                                                | Common Raven               | <i>Corvus corax</i>              | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  |
| <b>Alaudidae (Larks)</b>                                          |                            |                                  |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| 83                                                                | Greater Short-toed Lark    | <i>Calandrella brachydactyla</i> |    | ✓  | ✓  |    | ✓  |    |    |
| 84                                                                | Calandra Lark              | <i>Melanocorypha calandra</i>    |    | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  |    |
| 85                                                                | Wood Lark                  | <i>Lullula arborea</i>           |    |    | ✓  | h  |    |    | h  |
| 86                                                                | Thekla's Lark              | <i>Galerida theklae</i>          |    | ✓  |    | ✓  | ✓  |    |    |
| 87                                                                | Crested Lark               | <i>Galerida cristata</i>         | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  |
| <b>Hirundinidae (Swallows)</b>                                    |                            |                                  |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| 88                                                                | Sand Martin                | <i>Riparia riparia</i>           |    |    |    |    |    | ✓  |    |
| 89                                                                | Eurasian Crag-Martin       | <i>Ptyonoprogne rupestris</i>    |    | ✓  |    | ✓  | ✓  |    |    |
| 90                                                                | Barn Swallow               | <i>Hirundo rustica</i>           | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  |
| 91                                                                | Red-rumped Swallow         | <i>Cecropis daurica</i>          |    | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  |    |
| 92                                                                | Common House-Martin        | <i>Delichon urbicum</i>          | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  |
| <b>Paridae (Tits)</b>                                             |                            |                                  |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| 93                                                                | Eurasian Blue Tit          | <i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>       |    | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  |    |
| 94                                                                | Great Tit                  | <i>Parus major</i>               |    | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  |    |
| 95                                                                | Eurasian Penduline-Tit     | <i>Remiz pendulinus</i>          |    |    |    |    |    | ✓  |    |
| 96                                                                | Long-tailed Tit            | <i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>       |    |    |    | ✓  |    | ✓  |    |
| <b>Certhiidae (Treecreepers)</b>                                  |                            |                                  |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| 97                                                                | Short-toed Treecreeper     | <i>Certhia brachydactyla</i>     |    |    |    | ✓  |    |    |    |
| <b>Troglodytidae (Wrens)</b>                                      |                            |                                  |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| 98                                                                | Eurasian Wren              | <i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>   |    | ✓  |    | ✓  |    | ✓  |    |
| <b>Scotocercidae (Bush Warblers and Allies)</b>                   |                            |                                  |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| 99                                                                | Cetti's Warbler            | <i>Cettia cetti</i>              | h  | h  | h  |    | h  | h  | h  |
| <b>Sylviidae (Sylviid Warblers)</b>                               |                            |                                  |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| 100                                                               | Western Olivaceous Warbler | <i>Iduna opaca</i>               |    |    |    |    |    | ✓  |    |
| 101                                                               | Melodious Warbler          | <i>Hippolais polyglotta</i>      |    | ✓  | h  | h  | h  |    | h  |
| 102                                                               | Eurasian Reed Warbler      | <i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>   | ✓  |    | h  |    |    | ✓  | ✓  |
| 103                                                               | Great Reed Warbler         | <i>Acrocephalus arundinaceus</i> | h  |    | ✓  |    |    |    | ✓  |
| 104                                                               | Zitting Cisticola          | <i>Cisticola juncidis</i>        | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  |
| 105                                                               | Eurasian Blackcap          | <i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>        |    | ✓  |    |    | h  | h  |    |
| 106                                                               | Western Orphean Warbler    | <i>Sylvia hortensis</i>          |    |    |    |    |    | ✓  |    |
| 107                                                               | Western Subalpine Warbler  | <i>Sylvia cantillans</i>         |    |    |    | ✓  |    |    |    |
| 108                                                               | Sardinian Warbler          | <i>Sylvia melanocephala</i>      |    | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  |

| #                                           | Common name                  | Scientific name                      | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 |
|---------------------------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 109                                         | Spectacled Warbler           | <i>Sylvia conspicillata</i>          |    |    |    |    |    |    | ✓  |
| 110                                         | Dartford Warbler             | <i>Sylvia undata</i>                 |    |    |    |    |    |    | ✓  |
| <b>Muscicapidae (Old World Flycatchers)</b> |                              |                                      |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| 111                                         | Rufous-tailed Scrub Robin    | <i>Cercotrichas galactotes</i>       |    |    |    |    |    | ✓  |    |
| 112                                         | European Robin               | <i>Erithacus rubecula</i>            |    |    |    | ✓  |    |    |    |
| 113                                         | Common Nightingale           | <i>Luscinia megarhynchos</i>         | h  | ✓  | h  | h  | h  | ✓  | h  |
| 114                                         | Black Redstart               | <i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>          |    |    | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  |    |    |
| 115                                         | Blue Rock-Thrush             | <i>Monticola solitarius</i>          |    |    |    | ✓  | ✓  |    |    |
| 116                                         | European Stonechat           | <i>Saxicola rubicola</i>             | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  |
| 117                                         | Black Wheatear               | <i>Oenanthe leucura</i>              |    |    |    |    | ✓  |    |    |
| 118                                         | Western Black-eared Wheatear | <i>Oenanthe hispanica</i>            |    |    |    | ✓  |    |    |    |
| <b>Turdidae (Thrushes and Allies)</b>       |                              |                                      |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| 119                                         | Eurasian Blackbird           | <i>Turdus merula</i>                 | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  |
| <b>Sturnidae (Starlings)</b>                |                              |                                      |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| 120                                         | Spotless Starling            | <i>Sturnus unicolor</i>              | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  |
| <b>Motacillidae (Wagtails and Pipits)</b>   |                              |                                      |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| 121                                         | Grey Wagtail                 | <i>Motacilla cinerea</i>             |    |    |    | ✓  | h  |    |    |
| 122                                         | Western Yellow Wagtail       | <i>Motacilla flava</i>               |    |    | ✓  |    |    |    |    |
| 123                                         | White Wagtail                | <i>Motacilla alba</i>                |    | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  |    | ✓  |    |
| <b>Fringillidae (Finches)</b>               |                              |                                      |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| 124                                         | Common Chaffinch             | <i>Fringilla coelebs</i>             |    | ✓  | h  | ✓  | h  | h  |    |
| 125                                         | Hawfinch                     | <i>Coccothraustes coccothraustes</i> |    | ✓  |    | ✓  |    | ✓  |    |
| 126                                         | European Greenfinch          | <i>Chloris chloris</i>               |    | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  |    |
| 127                                         | Eurasian Linnet              | <i>Linaria cannabina</i>             |    | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  |
| 128                                         | European Goldfinch           | <i>Carduelis carduelis</i>           | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  |
| 129                                         | European Serin               | <i>Serinus serinus</i>               |    | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  |
| <b>Emberizidae (Old World Buntings)</b>     |                              |                                      |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| 130                                         | Corn Bunting                 | <i>Emberiza calandra</i>             | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  |
| 131                                         | Rock Bunting                 | <i>Emberiza cia</i>                  |    |    |    | ✓  | ✓  |    |    |
| #                                           | Common name                  | Scientific name                      | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 |
| <b>Passeridae (Old World Sparrows)</b>      |                              |                                      |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| 132                                         | House Sparrow                | <i>Passer domesticus</i>             | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  |
| 133                                         | Spanish Sparrow              | <i>Passer hispaniolensis</i>         |    | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  |    |
| 134                                         | Eurasian Tree Sparrow        | <i>Passer montanus</i>               |    |    | ✓  |    |    |    |    |
| 135                                         | Common Waxbill               | <i>Estrilda astrild</i>              |    |    |    |    |    | ✓  |    |

| #  | Other Wildlife              |                                | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 |
|----|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 1  | European Rabbit             | <i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i>   |    |    |    |    |    | ✓  |    |
| 2  | Red Deer                    | <i>Cervus elaphus</i>          |    | ✓  |    | ✓  |    |    |    |
| 3  | Red Fox                     | <i>Vulpes vulpes</i>           |    |    |    |    |    | ✓  |    |
| 4  | Spanish Terrapin            | <i>Mauremys leprosa</i>        |    | ✓  |    | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  |    |
| 5  | Red-eared Slider            | <i>Trachemys scripta</i>       |    |    |    |    |    | ✓  |    |
| 6  | Western Montpellier Snake   | <i>Malpolon monspessulanus</i> |    | ✓  |    |    |    |    |    |
| 7  | Ladder Snake                | <i>Zamenis scalaris</i>        |    | ✓  |    |    |    |    |    |
| 8  | Ocellated Lizard            | <i>Timon lepidus</i>           |    | ✓  |    |    |    |    |    |
| 9  | Moorish Gecko               | <i>Tarentola mauritanica</i>   |    |    |    |    | ✓  |    |    |
| 10 | Swallowtail                 | <i>Papilio machaon</i>         |    | ✓  |    | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  |    |
| 11 | Large White                 | <i>Pieris brassicae</i>        |    | ✓  |    |    |    |    |    |
| 12 | Small White                 | <i>Pieris rapae</i>            |    |    |    |    | ✓  |    |    |
| 13 | Bath White                  | <i>Pontia daplidice</i>        |    | ✓  | ✓  |    |    |    |    |
| 14 | Clouded Yellow              | <i>Colias croceus</i>          |    | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  |
| 15 | Cleopatra                   | <i>Gonepteryx cleopatra</i>    |    | ✓  |    | ✓  |    |    |    |
| 16 | Spanish Purple Hairstreak   | <i>Laeosopis roboris</i>       |    |    |    | ✓  |    |    |    |
| 17 | Lang's Short-tailed Blue    | <i>Leptotes pirithous</i>      |    |    |    | ✓  |    |    |    |
| 18 | Two-tailed Pasha            | <i>Charaxes jasius</i>         |    |    |    | ✓  | ✓  |    |    |
| 19 | Queen of Spain Fritillary   | <i>Issoria lathonia</i>        |    |    |    |    |    |    | ✓  |
| 20 | Spanish Marbled White       | <i>Melanargia ines</i>         |    | ✓  |    |    | ✓  |    |    |
| 21 | Meadow Brown                | <i>Maniola jurtina</i>         |    | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  |    |    | ✓  |
| 22 | Southern Gatekeeper         | <i>Pyronia cecilia</i>         |    | ✓  |    | ✓  |    |    |    |
| 23 | Small Heath                 | <i>Coenonympha pamphilus</i>   |    |    |    | ✓  |    |    |    |
| 24 | Wall Brown                  | <i>Lasiommata megera</i>       |    | ✓  |    | ✓  |    |    |    |
| 25 | Southern Marbled Skipper    | <i>Muschampia baeticus</i>     |    |    |    |    | ✓  |    |    |
| 26 | Small Skipper               | <i>Thymelicus sylvestris</i>   |    | ✓  | ✓  |    |    | ✓  |    |
| 27 | Beautiful Demoiselle        | <i>Calopteryx virgo</i>        |    |    |    |    | ✓  |    |    |
| 28 | Green-eyed (Norfolk) Hawker | <i>Aeshna isocetes</i>         |    |    |    |    |    | ✓  |    |
| 29 | Black-tailed Skimmer        | <i>Orthetrum cancellatum</i>   |    |    | ✓  |    |    |    |    |
| 30 | Scarlet Darter              | <i>Crocothemis erythraea</i>   |    |    |    |    |    | ✓  |    |
| 31 | Violet Dropwing             | <i>Trithemis annulata</i>      |    |    |    |    |    | ✓  |    |
| 32 | Mammoth Wasp                | <i>Megascolia maculata</i>     |    | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  |    | ✓  |    |
| 33 | Egyptian Grasshopper        | <i>Anacridium aegyptium</i>    |    |    | ✓  |    |    |    |    |
| 34 | Red-striped Oil Beetle      | <i>Berberomeloe majalis</i>    |    |    | ✓  |    |    |    |    |
| 35 | Firebug                     | <i>Pyrrhocoris apterus</i>     |    |    |    |    |    | ✓  |    |