



Great Bustards – Rolling steppe at La Serena – April 2024 – © Andrew Kinghorn

Extremadura – Land of the Conquistadors – 5TH
to 11th APRIL 2024

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FRIDAY 5TH APRIL – *Pleasant and warm with a cooling breeze.*

Friday was primarily a day of travel, flying from Heathrow to Madrid. We arrived in Madrid and made the two-hour drive to the region of Extremadura, after a brief comfort stop we headed to Embalse de Arrocampo, a wetland which lies immediately south of the village of Saucedilla. We had barely stepped out of the vehicle before being greeted by our first decent views of overflying **Black Kites** and **Griffon Vultures**, over the car park a gathering of hirundines kept us entertained before we took a short walk to the first hide just west of the visitor centre. From here we had out only **Black-crowned Night Heron** of the trip which put on a very prolonged fly around before resettling where it had taken off.

From here we took the short drive to the fifth observation hide which lies due west from the main complex at Embalse de Arrocampo. Upon arrival we stood in awe as we were surrounded by low flying **Griffon** and **Black Vultures** as they soared overhead, doubtless trying to gain height after having found a recently deceased sheep. On the hide itself (which we did not enter) the now infamous nesting pair of **White Storks** were in attendance, one of which gave us our first exceptional views of the trip. Against the tower a **Pallid Swift** revealed itself, and for good measure there was a **Common Swift** for comparison, somehow when you see the adults this well you ponder just why autumn juveniles are so difficult to ID back home in the UK! As we turned the vehicle around, we had our first good views of **Spanish Sparrows**, this delightful little passerine can never fail to bring a smile. We then headed to our accommodation for the week, upon arrival we were serenaded by both **Serin** and **Nightingale**, a fabulous introduction to birding in Spain.



White Storks – Extremadura – April 2024 – © Andrew Kinghorn

SATURDAY 6TH APRIL – *A cool start but quickly warming up to become a pleasant and warm day.*

Our first full day in Extremadura was spent relatively locally. We headed to the steppes at Campo Lugar, it didn't take long for the first **Great Bustards** of the trip to materialise, and it was nice to be distracted by vocal **Lesser Kestrels** and **Rollers** in the process! Our first **Montagu's Harrier** of the trip but on a show and a summer plumage **Whiskered Tern** fed on small ponds over the rolling

steppe. We took another short drive on and we were treated to our first proper views of **Calandra Lark** as numerous birds sang all around us and performed well. We also had yet more **Great Bustard** action from here, with one male going full display and turning into a “foam bath”. An altogether too brief flight view of two **Little Bustards** was soon forgotten when a party of vocal **Black-bellied Sandgrouse** showed themselves, with patience we eventually saw them distantly feeding. As we were leaving a flyover **Gull-billed Tern** put in an appearance, an always appreciated species. Nearby we had our first views **Cuckoo** of **Iberian Grey Shrike** whilst one of the guests skilfully picked out a distant **Short-toed Eagle** that was perched inconspicuously. Shortly afterwards we had our first two **Collared Pratincoles** flying high over the rice fields and nearby **Sardinian Warblers** sang.

A brief stop by a bridge gave us excellent views of **Great Reed Warbler** and yet another comically close to the road **White Stork** nest. We checked on a nearby well-known **Lesser Kestrel** colony, but sadly there were none in attendance, with the day starting to heat up we made the decision to take a drive towards La Serena. On arrival the heat of the day was starting to cool somewhat, by this point we were approaching double figures of stunning **Montagu's Harriers** and eventually we picked out our first **Little Bustard** of the trip, a male could be seen throwing his head back and calling, the species has a distinctive call which sounds like he's blowing a raspberry kiss! After this excitement it was yet more steppe habitat nearby, we had our first **Greater Short-toed Larks** of the trip and it was already becoming a running joke just how common **Corn Bunting** is in Extremadura. A distant **Great** and **Little Bustard** were of course well received too! Some distantly calling **Pin-tailed Sandgrouse** did not provide us with the hoped-for visuals, the day was getting on by this point and so we started to head back to the accommodation. Enroute back we were rudely interrupted by some truly stunning views of **Great Bustard** right by the roadside, a mixture of several males and numerous females reaching into double figures. I find it difficult to put into words how impressive it is to see a male **Great Bustard** in the steppe habitat of Spain, especially when I considered that these individuals were just outside of a farmstead!



Great Bustard – La Serena, Extremadura – April 2024 – © Andrew Kinghorn

SUNDAY 7TH April – *A cold start but warming up as the day went on to become warm and sunny*

With it still being the weekend, it was decided we would once again head out onto the steppe habitat. We started the day at the other side of the expansive steppe at La Serena, from here one of the first birds we connected with was **Pin-tailed Sandgrouse** as birds flew around calling and some landing out of view. We were also treated to a fantastic view of a male **Little Bustards** displaying at relatively close range, the views in the scope were particularly special. From here we drove further on down the road and we were treated to some excellent flight views of yet more **Black-bellied Sandgrouse**, a flyover **Little Bustard** was of course more than welcome. Raptors along this road included yet more **Montagu's Harriers** and more distant raptors were **Black Kites** and we had splendid views of a male **Marsh Harrier**. With the morning now heating up we decided it was time to head to our next stop.

On arrival at Benquerencia de la Serena we had our lunch stop looking northwards along the ridge line, from here we were treated to fabulous views of both **Griffon** and **Black Vultures** and flying in amongst them were our first excellent views of **Alpine Swift**. Once we had our lunch we made our way slowly up to Castillo De Benquerencia, enroute we had our only **Siskin** of the trip. No sooner had we arrived at the base of the Castillo when our quarry appeared; **Black Wheatear**, this impressively large species was also joined by showy **Black Redstarts** and male **Blue Rock Thrush** was utilising nearby rooftops to sing and rest up. We headed to the top of the Castillo, from here we had breathtaking views both north and south, our first **Black Stork** of the trip alighted from the nearby rock ridge and eyelevel views of **Alpine Swifts** were well received. On our back down we had excellent views of a flyover **Egyptian Vulture**, this species is without a doubt the hardest species of vulture to connect with in Extremadura these days. After a comfort break and an ice cream we headed off due west back to the steppes. We came across a flock of **Collared Pratincoles** numbering more than 50 birds! These fed over nearby field, hawking for insects and calling. A roadside pool held our only **Greenshank** of the trip and nearby a farmstead tree was almost coming down under the weight of **White Stork** nests. We finished off the day with yet more **Calandra Larks** and terrific views of a flyover **Short-toed Eagle**, on the way back we once again stopped to look at the **Great Bustards**. Once again, they put on a fabulous show, with a male close to the road. We finished off the day with a quick stop at Embalse de Orellana, this small picnic area just off the main road gave us fabulous views of **Iberian Magpie** (Azure-winged), whilst they were a regular occurrence on most days, we took some time to enjoy these birds which had clearly become somewhat habituated to humans.

MONDAY 8TH APRIL – *The day started off cool with rain, but later drying up and turning pleasant in a breeze*

We headed off to Monfragüe National Park, it could easily be argued (and I do) that Monfragüe is one of the best days out birding in Europe. We started the day at the most easterly viewing in the park at Mirador de la Portilla del Tietar, from here we had excellent views of **Western Subalpine Warbler** whilst **Griffon Vultures** went about their business waiting for the air to heat up so they could effortlessly take to the sky. We also had our first singing **Rock Bunting** of the day and there were numerous **Blue Rock Thrushes**, singing both behind the viewpoint and across the river. As the day started to heat up the **Griffon Vultures** took to the wing, as did the **Black Vultures**. Often the valley here is so quiet you can actually hear the wingbeats of the vultures and today was no exception. We made our way gradually west, dodging the rain showers where we could. We took a slightly more prolonged look at Mirador Malavuelta, from here we were treated to yet more **Griffon** and **Black Vultures**, whilst we also had good views of several **Black Kites**. From here we headed to the west end of the park to the viewpoint overlooking Peña Falcon, when you pull up to the parking for this viewpoint you simply cannot fail to be impressed with roadside **Griffon Vultures** and the impressive site of Peña Falcon at the other side of the valley. This year we were fortunate to locate a nesting pair of **Rock Buntings** at eye level just best the road, as we watched these we were graced with fabulous views of both **Crag Martin** and **Red-rumped Swallows** as both zipped overhead feeding and calling. Yet more **Blue Rock Thrushes** added to the excitement and **Black Storks** went

about their business revealing their nesting locations. A brief **Peregrine Falcon** reveals how this site actually got its name. As the morning went on the rain clouds started to gather and with this we retreated to the vehicle and headed to nearby facilities and have our lunch early.

Once the rain started to clear we took the short journey back to Peña Falcon, we couldn't have timed our return better to be honest. We were treated to one of the greatest spectacles in European birding, as the rain cleared the breeding **Griffon** and **Black Vultures** decided it was time to dry off and a significant proportion of the birds took off and started to fly towards us, they wheeled around above us at the ridge that extends over towards Castillo de Monfragüe. On a number of occasions, we were so close to **Griffon Vultures** in flight you could not fit an entire bird into your binocular view! Once we had filled our boots and 'taken it all in', we decided it was best to start making our way due east again, our first full stop was at Mirador La Tadjadilla. We didn't have to wait long before we connected with the Spanish race of **Long-tailed Tit**, we were also serenaded by numerous **Serins** as they sang from nearby trees. From this viewpoint we overlooked yet more fabulous **Griffon Vultures** sitting on their nesting ledges. No sooner had we arrived back at Mirador de la Portilla del Tietar that we were treated to our quarry at this viewpoint; an adult **Spanish (Imperial) Eagle**. The bird showed well before disappearing for a time, but we didn't have to wait long for the bird to reappear once again. There was of course plenty to enjoy on top of the eagle with the usual suspects all accounted for, but once again a special mention has to go to both **Black** and **Griffon Vultures**. We had a little bit of time left on our hands before having to head back to our accommodation and we decided it simply had to be one final look at Peña Falcon.



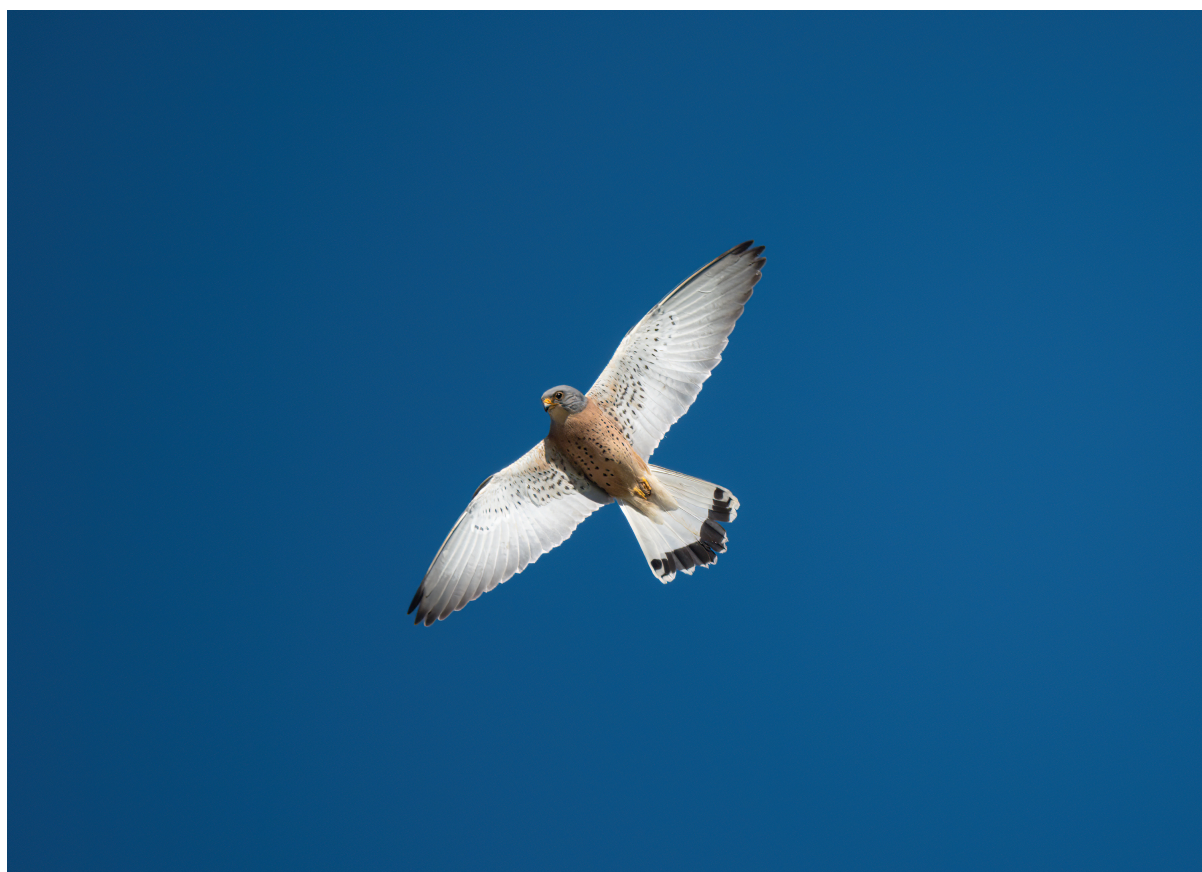
Black/Cinereous Vulture – Monfragüe National Park – © Andrew Kinghorn

TUESDAY 9TH APRIL – *A sunny and warm day throughout*

Our first stop of the day was the wetlands at Embalse de Arrocampo, we decided to make a morning of it for some very relaxed birding. We started off at the southern most hide and worked our way north, our first stop provided us with visual and vocal of fabulous **Gull-billed Terns** going about their business. Scanning of the reed margins soon gave us our first of many **Purple Swamphens**, these are one of those birds that you either love or hate I think, all of the group loved them! Moving onto

the next hide we were treated to a nice flyby from two **Ferruginous Ducks**, which isn't a species that is as easy to catch up with as you might expect in Extremadura. Yet more action in the reedbeds in front of us from **Purple Swamphen** and **Purple Herons**. We headed out due west to the 6th hide in the Embalse de Arrocampo complex, from here we had our first **Great Spotted Cuckoo** of the trip, this bird showed remarkably well and even allowed for some of our group to grab a few shots of it as it went around its business.

We took the opportunity to move to the Belén Plains during the hottest part of the day, we arrived as the heat of the day started to ebb somewhat. During an afternoon looking for steppe specialists we had great views of **Hoopoe** and a showy **Spanish Yellow Wagtail**, a flyover **Short-toed Eagle** provided excellent views. We finished off the day at the former bull ring at Trujillo, the building itself has been repurposed as a **Lesser Kestrel** colony and we timed our visit to perfection, not long after we arrived, we were treated to adults coming in from the distance to attend to their chicks. Both sexes showed well and were calling regularly, the distinctive call of **Lesser Kestrel** is markedly different to that of **Common Kestrel**. We decided to finish on this high and headed back to our accommodation.



Lesser Kestrel – Trujillo – © Andrew Kinghorn

WEDNESDAY 10TH APRIL – *Initially cold but turning warm and sunny throughout the day.*

We took the short journey over to Cordel de Los Cerralbos, this is a well-known steppe area for many species and we connected with the two main targets when a **Little Bustard** flew across the road in display and several **Great Bustards** put on a great show. With some patience we had flyover **Black-bellied Sandgrouse** and **Pin-tailed Sandgrouse**. From here we moved on and headed to Llanos de Cáceres, more **Great Bustards** were on offer here and a field where the grass had not grown quite as high as other places held good numbers of **Black-bellied Sandgrouse**, we had quite good double figures of this species here, as well as on deck views. There is something quite special about Sandgrouse when they take off calling. Given the shortness of the grass here we were also able to get

views of at least two **Stone-Curlew**, a really distant **Montagu's Harrier** was welcomed and a much closer **Black Vulture** a reminder just how huge this species is! A distant calling **Pin-tailed Sandgrouse** was located as it whizzed over, with temperatures starting to climb we decided to go and look at the nesting **Rollers** nearby, numerous birds seen but it was also apparent that many of their former nest boxes had been taken over by **Jackdaws**. We had a stop for some lunch and whilst doing so had a low flying **Montagu's Harrier**, whilst scanning revealed both **Black** and **Griffon Vultures** as well as a dark morph **Booted Eagle** and **Short-toed Eagle** hunting from pylons.

After lunch we took in more of the **Rollers**, because why not! A stop to turn round gave us our second **Spanish Imperial Eagle**, a distant immature was hanging around with some **Griffon Vultures**, but it sadly disappeared as quickly as it materialised. Heading away from the area we had a field full of both **Griffon** and **Black Vultures** as they fed on something recently deceased. As we were passing, we decided for another quick look at Cordel de Los Cerralbos, we were rewarded with a close flyby from some superbly lit **Pin-tailed Sandgrouse**, smiles all round as this can sometimes be a tricky species to see well. With it being so warm we headed off to area known as Cañada Puente Mocha. We stopped by a well-known area for **European Bee-Eaters** and saw them instantly, and with a short walk up the road had great views of two **Great Spotted Cuckoos** which were evidently 'working the nests' in the area. The steppe was pretty warm here for the rest of the day, but we did see **Montagu's Harrier** which is always a treat. Content with another fabulous days birding we headed for our accommodation.



Gull-billed Tern – Embalse de Arrocampo – © Andrew Kinghorn

THURSDAY 11TH APRIL – *A bright and warm sunny day, with temperatures approaching 30°C*

We had decided to pack up as much as we good the night before to make the most of our final morning in Extremadura. We decided we would spend the first part of the morning at Cordel de Los Cerralbos, it was a beautiful bright morning. Several **Little Bustards** were in flight display, with one male watched approaching from a few KM's away before disappearing into nearby steppe habitat. A few **Great Bustards** were also displaying with their females in tow. As we had been accustomed to

Calandra Larks were in full song and showed well, a flyover Eurasian Spoonbill a reminder that water was in abundance this particular April in Extremadura! Our highlight here though definitely went to the Pin-tailed Sandgrouse when we spotted birds repeatedly coming in to drink at a pool just out of sight over a rise, a rather fine specimen of a bull put pay to any temptation of creeping into the field for a look! We positioned ourselves accordingly and for 15 minutes or so enjoyed a number of Pin-tailed Sandgrouse coming in low and landing just out of sight. A truly fabulous way to end our experience of the Spanish steppes.

Our final stop before Madrid airport was the wetlands at Embalse de Arrocampo, we once again had excellent views of Gull-billed Terns and you couldn't fail to see Purple Heron once again. A Savi's Warbler sat out proudly singing and some roadside Cattle Egrets looked very dapper in their summer plumage. We decided it was worth a go to look for Little Bittern by the information point and sure enough with some patience we were treated to our last new bird of the trip, a dapper male flew up and gave a prolonged flight view. From here we headed back to Madrid airport, with a few comfort stops made along the way.

SYSTEMATIC LIST

** DISCLAIMER: Please note that the comments are by no means exhaustive, their intention is to give a rough outline of what was seen and the frequency at which it was seen. This checklist includes species seen on journey as well as whilst birding. **

No.	Species List	Scientific name	Comments
1)	Egyptian Goose	<i>Alopochen aegyptiaca</i>	Seen on two of the seven days, not difficult to connect with.
2)	Northern Shoveler	<i>Spatula clypeata</i>	Only singles noted at a few sites.
3)	Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	Seen on every day without exception, ubiquitous across the region.
4)	Ferruginous Duck	<i>Aythya nyroca</i>	Only two birds noted at Embalse de Arrocampo, one of the best sites in the region for the species.
5)	Common Quail	<i>Coturnix coturnix</i>	Several males head singing on three of the seven days, though understandably no visuals.
6)	Red-legged Partridge	<i>Alectoris rufa</i>	Common in the region and most of the time you simply chance upon birds.
7)	Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>	Single bird seen.
8)	Rock Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>	Feral Pigeon, common across the region.
9)	Common Woodpigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	Easy to see across the region.
10)	Collared Dove (Eurasian)	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	Very easy to see, though as is common for this species a high tendency to be found around human habitations.
11)	Pin-tailed Sandgrouse	<i>Pterocles alchata</i>	Numerous seen, but all birds seen were at known locations for the species. Birds not gathering with any reliability at certain drinking sites due to high winter rainfall.
12)	Black-bellied Sandgrouse	<i>Pterocles orientalis</i>	Definitely encountered this species with more ease than anticipated, present at most steppe sites visited.
13)	Great Bustard	<i>Otis tarda</i>	Easy to connect with in steppe habitat, numerous birds seen of both sexes. Including males in full display.
14)	Little Bustard	<i>Tetrax tetrax</i>	An increasingly tricky species to connect

			with in Extremadura, we connected with quite a few individuals, nearly all males.
15)	Great Spotted Cuckoo	<i>Clamator glandarius</i>	Three individuals seen.
16)	Common Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>	Numerous seen, though mostly in flight.
17)	Alpine Swift	<i>Apus melba</i>	Present in higher areas as its name suggests, best views undoubtedly at Castillo De Benquerencia where eyelevel and below eye level views were had.
18)	Common Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>	Numerous, birds appeared to have an arrival during our trip.
19)	Pallid Swift	<i>Apus pallidus</i>	Noted only at Embalse de Arrocampo where the species was clearly on passage.
20)	Water Rail	<i>Rallus aquaticus</i>	Heard calling at Embalse de Arrocampo.
21)	Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	Noted on three of the seven days.
22)	Western Swamphen	<i>Porphyrio porphyrio</i>	Noted only at Embalse de Arrocampo, good views were had and an easy species to see here.
23)	Common Crane	<i>Grus grus</i>	Single bird in rice fields north-west of Madrigalejo was a definite noteworthy sighting.
24)	Eurasian Stone Curlew (Thick-knee)	<i>Burhinus oediconemus</i>	Noted on steppe habitat, easy to see at Llanos de Cáceres.
25)	Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>	Very common wader in the region and seen with ease and noted on most days.
26)	Little Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>	Relatively common wader in the region and seen with ease and noted on most days.
27)	Green Sandpiper	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>	Noted on most days.
28)	Common Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>	Noted on one day only on a pond on steppe, definite passage migrant.
29)	Collared Pratincole	<i>Glareola pratincola</i>	Impressive flock hawking insects north-east of Almorchón and two other individuals noted over rice fields.
30)	Black-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>	Small party flew over us at Embalse de Arrocampo.
31)	Yellow-legged Gull	<i>Larus michahellis</i>	Numerous individuals on most days.
32)	Lesser Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus fuscus</i>	Single distant bird at Llanos de Cáceres.
33)	Gull-billed Tern	<i>Gelochelidon nilotica</i>	Single bird flew over steppe habitat and numerous seen at Embalse de Arrocampo.
34)	Whiskered Tern	<i>Chlidonias hybrida</i>	One utilising livestock drinking pools on the steppe at Campo Lugar.
35)	Black Stork	<i>Ciconia nigra</i>	Bird alighted from the cliffs around Castillo De Benquerencia, with good numbers also noted in Monfragüe National Park.
36)	White Stork	<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>	Numerous and easy to see in Extremadura.
37)	Great Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>	Seen on five of the seven days, nearly always in flight.
38)	Little Bittern	<i>Ixobrychus minutus</i>	Single male seen from the first hide at Embalse de Arrocampo.
39)	Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	Ubiquitous across the region, seen with ease.

40)	Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>	Easy to see at Embalse de Arrocampo, which was the only site at which we noted the species.
41)	Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>	Noted on three of the seven days.
42)	Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	Noted on three of the seven days.
43)	Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>	Noted on three of the seven days.
44)	Black-crowned Night-Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>	Adult seen in flight at Embalse de Arrocampo on the first evening of the trip.
45)	Glossy Ibis	<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>	Easy to see at Embalse de Arrocampo, but we also noted flocks flying over at various locations, doubtless on migration.
46)	Eurasian Spoonbill	<i>Platalea leucorodia</i>	Seen on two of the seven days, adults noted in rice fields and a flyover in steppe habitat.
47)	Black-winged Kite	<i>Elanus caeruleus</i>	Pair was witnessed mating and building a nest at an undisclosed location.
48)	Egyptian Vulture	<i>Neophron percnopterus</i>	Excellent views of an adult at Castillo De Benquerencia, other distant adults noted elsewhere. Notably we did not see this species at Monfragüe.
49)	Black (Cinereous) Vulture	<i>Aegypius monachus</i>	No longer a difficult species to connect with in Extremadura. We noted the species on every day, with sensational views at both Monfragüe and Embalse de Arrocampo.
50)	Griffon Vulture	<i>Gyps fulvus</i>	Breathtaking views at Monfragüe and seen on every day throughout the tour.
51)	Short-toed Snake-Eagle	<i>Circaetus gallicus</i>	Seen at numerous locations, but by no means common. Often noted perched on pylons.
52)	Booted Eagle	<i>Hieraaetus pennatus</i>	Both light and a single dark-morph bird noted, an easy species to see throughout the region.
53)	Spanish Imperial Eagle	<i>Aquila adalberti</i>	Often a highlight for many birders visiting the region, an adult seen well on two occasions in Monfragüe and a brief immature at Llanos de Cáceres.
54)	Eurasian Marsh-Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>	Easy to see in the region, both in wetland areas and out hunting on steppe.
55)	Montagu's Harrier	<i>Circus pygargus</i>	Noted on nearly every steppe site visited, with both males and females noted in good numbers.
56)	Eurasian Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>	Single bird noted on a single day,
57)	Red Kite	<i>Milvus milvus</i>	Noted on a few days, most commonly around the edge of Madrid and in Monfragüe.
58)	Black Kite	<i>Milvus migrans</i>	Ubiquitous across the region, noted in both high areas (such as Monfragüe) as well as low areas and steppe.
59)	Common Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>	Noted on most days, especially around areas with expanse of holm oak.
60)	Barn Owl	<i>Tyto alba</i>	Heard calling on a few evenings around the accommodation,

61)	Eurasian Scops-Owl	<i>Otus scops</i>	Heard calling on a few evenings around the accommodation,
62)	Little Owl	<i>Athene noctua</i>	Easy to see in steppe habitat, with birds often utilising rocky outcrops for perching and surveying hunting territory.
63)	Eurasian Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>	Easy to see across the region.
64)	Common Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>	Noted in Monfragüe.
65)	European Bee-eater	<i>Merops apiaster</i>	Seen on every day of the trip, the species had come in early this year and were very active.
66)	European Roller	<i>Coracias garrulus</i>	Another species that had come in on time for our trip, birds were seen on a lot of steppe habitat. They occupy nesting boxes provided to encourage them to breed.
67)	Great Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>	Noted on two occasions.
68)	Lesser Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dryobates minor</i>	Single bird noted in the garden of accommodation on one morning only.
69)	Lesser Kestrel	<i>Falco naumanni</i>	Quite easy to see in Extremadura, but most notably at the former bull ring in Trujillo.
70)	Eurasian Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	Only occasionally noted.
71)	Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	Single bird noted distantly at Peña Falcon.
72)	Monk Parakeet	<i>Myiopsitta monachus</i>	Flew across the road in Madrid enroute to airport.
73)	Iberian Grey Shrike	<i>Lanius meridionalis</i>	Easy to see across the region, a delightful shrike. We had good views of a few individuals.
74)	Woodchat Shrike	<i>Lanius senator</i>	By far the commonest shrike of the two in the region,
75)	Eurasian Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>	Birds noted on only a few days, primarily in Monfragüe and around areas of dense holm oak.
76)	Azure-winged Magpie	<i>Cyanopica cyanus</i>	Always a delight to see, this species is now much easier to see in Extremadura.
77)	Eurasian Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>	Easy to see across the region.
78)	Eurasian Jackdaw	<i>Corvus monedula</i>	Common in the region, very easy to see.
79)	Common Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>	Very common in the region, easy to see and hear.
80)	Eurasian Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>	Seen with relative ease.
81)	Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>	Seen with relative ease.
82)	Eurasian Penduline-Tit	<i>Remiz pendulinus</i>	Heard at Embalse de Arrocampo.
83)	Greater Short-toed Lark	<i>Calandrella brachydactyla</i>	Easy to see at many sites in the steppe, often coming to the road to obtain grit.
84)	Calandra Lark	<i>Melanocorypha calandra</i>	One of the highlights in the region, easy to see and hear in both steppe and pseudo-steppe.
85)	Wood Lark	<i>Lullula arborea</i>	Single adult male heard singing at Monfragüe.
86)	Thekla's Lark	<i>Galerida theklae</i>	Noted on the steppes and a showy male at Monfragüe was notable.
87)	Crested Lark	<i>Galerida cristata</i>	Ubiquitous across the region, commonest

			lark in most areas.
88)	Bearded Tit (Reedling)	<i>Panurus biarmicus</i>	Seen and heard at Embalse de Arrocampo.
89)	Zitting Cisticola	<i>Cisticola juncidis</i>	Seen with ease at various locations, often heard before seen. Easy to see around the rice fields.
90)	Eurasian Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>	Noted singing at Embalse de Arrocampo.
91)	Great Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus arundinaceus</i>	Singing males noted at a few locations, these individuals often showed well.
92)	Savi's Warbler	<i>Locustella luscinioides</i>	Singing males showed surprisingly well at Embalse de Arrocampo.
93)	Sand Martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>	Noted on most days of the trip.
94)	Eurasian Crag-Martin	<i>Ptyonoprogne rupestris</i>	Fabulous views of this species at Monfragüe and also noted elsewhere, notably around the dams in the region.
95)	Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	Noted on every day of the trip.
96)	Red-rumped Swallow	<i>Cecropis daurica</i>	Noted on a number of days, with birds showing well in Monfragüe.
97)	House Martin (Common)	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>	Seen on most days.
98)	Cetti's Warbler	<i>Cettia cetti</i>	Heard more than seen, noted in most areas with suitable habitat.
99)	Long-tailed Tit	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>	The Spanish race (<i>irbii</i>) noted in Monfragüe.
100)	Eurasian Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>	Heard and seen.
101)	Sardinian Warbler	<i>Curruca melanocephala</i>	Males seen and heard on a few days, nearly always associated with areas of holm oak.
102)	Western Subalpine Warbler	<i>Curruca iberiae</i>	Good views were had of this species at Monfragüe.
103)	Firecrest (Common)	<i>Regulus ignicapilla</i>	Noted in the grounds of our accommodation.
104)	Short-toed Treecreeper	<i>Certhia brachydactyla</i>	Singing birds noted at a few locations.
105)	Eurasian Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	Singing birds noted, most notably at Monfragüe.
106)	Spotless Starling	<i>Sturnus unicolor</i>	Easy to see across the region where we did not note European Starling.
107)	Mistle Thrush	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>	Noted enroute to Monfragüe.
108)	Blackbird (Eurasian)	<i>Turdus merula</i>	Relatively easy to see in the region and noted on most days.
109)	European Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>	Single bird noted around our accommodation.
110)	Common Nightingale	<i>Luscinia megarhynchos</i>	Noted at numerous locations but most notable was a male singing and showing in the garden of our accommodation.
111)	Common Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>	Single bird noted on passage near to Embalse de Arrocampo.
112)	Black Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>	A few birds seen at Castillo De Benquerencia and Monfragüe.
113)	Blue Rock-Thrush	<i>Monticola solitarius</i>	Good views at Castillo De Benquerencia and Monfragüe.
114)	Whinchat	<i>Saxicola rubetra</i>	Passage birds noted on steppe.

115)	European Stonechat	<i>Saxicola rubicola</i>	Noted on most days.
116)	Northern Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>	Noted on numerous days, some clearly on passage.
117)	Black Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe leucura</i>	Good views of both male and female at Castillo De Benquerencia.
118)	Dunnock	<i>Prunella modularis</i>	Noted.
119)	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	Noted on most days, mostly heard calling.
120)	Spanish Sparrow	<i>Passer hispaniolensis</i>	Easy to see across the region, a charming little passerine.
121)	Eurasian Tree Sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>	Noted on one day calling.
122)	Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>	Single bird flushed from a roadside south of Trujillo.
123)	Western Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava</i>	Found on steppe habitat where birds were clearly breeding.
124)	White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>	Noted on two days.
125)	Meadow Pipit	<i>Anthus pratensis</i>	A few overwintering birds were hanging on in some steppe habitat.
126)	Common Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	Noted on most days.
127)	Hawfinch	<i>Coccothraustes coccothraustes</i>	Some birds flew across in front of the vehicle on the first day on our way from Madrid.
128)	European Greenfinch	<i>Chloris chloris</i>	Noted around our accommodation.
129)	Common Linnet	<i>Linaria cannabina</i>	Noted at a few sites, primarily around steppe.
130)	European Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	Seen on most days.
131)	European Serin	<i>Serinus serinus</i>	Very easy to see and hear across the region, excellent views at our accommodation and at Monfragüe.
132)	Eurasian Siskin	<i>Spinus spinus</i>	A single bird notes in a garden whilst we walked up towards Castillo De Benquerencia.
133)	Corn Bunting	<i>Emberiza calandra</i>	Ubiquitous, outrageously common on the steppe and can even be heard and seen with ease in Monfragüe around more open areas.
134)	Rock Bunting	<i>Emberiza cia</i>	Birds seen from various viewpoints in Monfragüe, though most notably was a nesting pair at eye level.