



ORIOLE BIRDING



TOUR REPORT SPANISH PYRENEES & STEPPE 4TH – 9TH MARCH 2018

www.oriolebirding.com

oriolebirding@gmail.com

[twitter](#) 

SUNDAY 4TH MARCH – *Light snow showers in the mountains, 10C*

Our early morning flight departed London Gatwick on time for Barcelona, where we touched down at 1030 to sunny spells and 15C temperatures – quite a nice feeling after the recent cold snap back in the UK! Transit through the airport was relatively swift, and after meeting with our guide Carles and collecting our van, we were soon heading south along the motorway to the small and picturesque village of Garraf overlooking the Mediterranean. Our quest here was to see **Audouin's Gull**, and we soon found three birds loafing on the water offshore here – not the greatest of views of this magnificent gull, but it would do for now! The cliffs here were home to several **Blue Rock Thrush**, and we enjoyed watching two singing males sparring while a scaly female watched on. **Black Redstart** was fairly common, and we noted our first **Sardinian Warbler** and **European Serin** in the surrounding scrub. An adult male **Peregrine** circled in calling, and landed on the cliff face, and a **Rock Bunting** called as it flew past us – a few nice birds to kick off our trip, not twenty minutes from the airport! From here we headed north, into the Catalan Pyrenees, on a journey which would take us around two hours on largely fast roads. We wound our way up to Coll de la Cueta, at 1888m above sea level, and amid roadside snow drifts that made the recent falls back home look like a mere dusting! Our target bird for this afternoon was **Snow Finch**, a notoriously difficult, mobile species which would still be largely in winter flocks, but already keen to move to higher elevations during improved spells of weather.



Snow Finch – right beside the road in Coll de la Cueta

We searched around the café and ski station, but couldn't find any activity, so instead began driving slowly along the road into the mountain pass, scanning as we went. We made several stops to scour likely looking places, eventually stopping on a corner to look down a valley as one of the group had

seen some birds moving there. They turned out to be **Alpine Accentors**, another key trip bird, and we had some superb views of them as they moved around furtively, well camouflaged at first, on patches of exposed earth in the snow. Eventually they flew towards us and landed right along the roadside, giving some cracking views. Also here we found a large mixed finch flock with several Yellowhammers in tow, and enjoyed seeing and hearing a flock of **Red-billed Choughs** wheel in over the ridge. The biggest surprise though, was hearing the call of **Grey Partridge**! The Pyrenean race is a separate subspecies *hispaniensis*, supposedly a bit smaller than those we are used to seeing back home. The call certainly sounded a bit different – but seeing them scurrying around on snow beds like Ptarmigan, amid feeding Choughs, was quite a surreal sight! The males were almost indulging in a kind of lek display, with much fighting and calling going on – a real treat!

We still couldn't find any Snow Finches though, and so we pressed on along the valley a bit further, eventually reaching the top of the pass. The scenery here was quite spectacular, and a couple of **European Griffon Vultures** were seen soaring over the surrounding ridges. We began to drop slowly down the far side of the pass, stopping at a corner where Carles had seen Snow Finches recently. We began scanning the slopes around us, looking for tiny specks feeding quietly around exposed patches of earth amid the snow. That was until one of our group exclaimed that a small bird was in fact feeding along the roadside, right in front of us – it was a **Snow Finch**! We couldn't believe it, the bird was literally a few feet away! The odd passing car did not bother it one bit, and we were able to watch it for some time as it pecked along the edge of the tarmac. It few up to the bank a couple of times, revealing its long winged appearance and white flashes to wings and tail, but returned each time to the edge of the road. Amazing! We decided to continue following the same road out of the valley, and in doing so found another nice flock of about eight **Alpine Accentors**, and a lovely roadside **Pyrenean Chamois**. From here, we had a two hour run down through Berga and Monresa, before picking up the motorway towards Lleida. We arrived at our delightful accommodation near Lleida at about 7pm, very much ready for a beer and an amazing four course dinner.

MONDAY 5TH MARCH – *A largely wet and cool day with snow at high elevation, 3C*

A pretty challenging day today as the weather caused us problems during the first half, with a pretty grim morning of heavy rain. We made the best of it though, and in fact we started the day with a bang, enjoying great views of two separate wintering flocks of **Little Bustards** in the irrigated agricultural land around Linyola. The first flock was maybe 15 birds, but there wasn't a safe place to view them from the busy main road. The second flock of 8 birds was in a much better location, and we were able to park on a farm track and scope the birds from a safe distance. The population in Lleida steppes is clinging on, despite the large scale degradation of the once extensive suitable habitat, through increased irrigation. Rather ironically though, the remaining population seems largely reliant on these fields to survive in winter, showing a preference for green alfalfa fields where they can find food and hunker down out of the weather. From Linyola, we began our journey north into the pre-pyrenees, where we planned to spend the day exploring the Boumort reserve and north to the ski resort above Sort. Citril Finch would be a target, but also Black Vulture and our first chance for Wallcreeper. As we drove north though, the weather did not relent, and so we stopped off in Sort itself for coffee and toilets hoping it might ease. It didn't, so we pushed on anyway, climbing up to 2000m above Sort where a small ski station gives access to some high altitude woodland. As we climbed, the rain turned to snow and was laying on the road. Once we reached the ski station, it was a white out! Clearly we were not going to see any Citril Finches here! We wound our way back down, and a couple of kms from the main road at the bottom we stopped to view a roadside **Hawfinch** which was perched close to the van. The rain had in fact now stopped, so we decided to take the opportunity to have a walk and see what was around. There were lots of Chaffinches about, and in fact we saw many hundreds today at several sites, hinting at a return passage. A female **Hawfinch** was seen perched, and a **Firecrest** was roaming through the bushes accompanied by two Long-tailed Tits. Several times we heard the distinctive call of the now split **Iberian Green Woodpecker**, and had three or four brief flight views of maybe three different birds.

Lunch was at the picnic area at Congost de Collegats, and this proved a good move as the improving weather had started to encourage the **Griffon Vultures** to venture off their ledges. Almost right away, we picked up a **Lammergeier** over the crags, and had some good scope views over the next half hour of up to three different birds soaring above us. One landed briefly on the rocks, and its plumage could be seen well through the scope – the upperparts almost have an oily look about them when seen well. A great spot by one of the group was a pair of adult **Golden Eagles** sitting on the hill behind us, surveying their territory. One took flight, and circled with some Griffons, giving a nice comparison. After lunch, we took a walk down into the spectacular gorge, hoping we might find a wintering Wallcreeper which had been present recently. We didn't get lucky today, but enjoyed watching the **Dippers** along the river, which were singing and obviously getting ready for the breeding season. Another **Lammergeier** cruised along the ridge above us, too. Heading back south out towards Tremp, we were running out of time to do much more birding today and so decided to try and squeeze in one of the sites which the weather had scuppered in the morning. This took us to the edge of the Boumort reserve, and now with a bit of sun behind us we could enjoy great views of the **Griffon Vultures**. Among them, we picked out two **Black Vultures**, here at their only regular site in the Pyrenees. Another **Lammergeier**, and single **Golden Eagle**, were also seen, while a migrant **Black Kite** headed north and circled among the vultures. Despite the weather, we had done pretty well, and now we had a two hour run out towards Huesca and our base for the next three nights in Arbanies. Birds along the way included **White Stork**, **Cattle Egret** and **Red Kite** – here's hoping for a bit more sun tomorrow!

TUESDAY 6TH MARCH – *Sunny spells and rain showers, 10C*

A fabulous days birding today despite a somewhat frustrating start! We headed straight to Vadiello to search for **Wallcreeper**, since it was a beautiful calm and sunny morning and we knew the sun would be warming the rock faces of the quarries, tunnels and cliffs along the road to Vadiello dam. This has always been our prime site for seeing **Wallcreeper** in the past, and indeed we thought are luck was going to be in again as a bird flew along the road in front of us as we approached the entrance to one of the tunnels. It landed for a second, then flew again and flipped around the corner of the cliff out of view. No problem, it would surely be feeding in the sunshine on the cliff face just beyond the tunnel – but no! We searched for two hours, and never saw it again!! This was obviously a frustrating experience indeed, and in fact there wasn't too much else to see here either – **Griffon Vultures** cruising low overhead, lots of **Crag Martins** and a nice **Firecrest** being about the best of it. We did have a brief glimpse of an adult **Egyptian Vulture** though, and two **Rock Sparrows** flew over calling. Winding our way back down past Loporzano, we called in to Quicena and had a quick coffee and toilet stop there before making our next move.

The Castillo de Montearagon would be our next stop, only five minutes along the winding lane up from Quicena. We paused in a nice sunny spot on the south side of the slope, and even before we got out of the van we could see our main target bird – a lovely male **Black Wheatear**. We saw three birds altogether, and throughout our stop we could also see and hear several **Thekla Larks** in typical habitat on the boulder-strewn sparsely vegetated slopes. A **Dartford Warbler** called and whizzed low over the scrub, and a **Rock Bunting** showed really well as it first flew past us giving its distinctive 'sip' call, before landing in a fig tree in full view. It was nice to really get stuck into some good birding here, and all the time we were picking up **Griffon Vultures** and the odd **Black Kite** moving low along the ridge overhead. Mayhem struck though, when one of the group calmly announced that a **Lammergeier** was passing by! It slinked off over the ridge very quickly, and we all cursed the fact we had missed it coming right over us, as we were watching the **Black Wheatear**! The **Lammergeier** must have heard us, as it promptly turned and came straight back, passing so low directly overhead that we could see the whites of its eyes! An amazing view, but all the more unexpected given the low elevation, well away from the mountains. Carles said it was the first time he had ever seen one so low. Continuing up to the castle, we lunched in the company of more **Thekla Larks**, and enjoyed the superb views north to the snow-capped Sierra de Guarra.



Wallcreeper – fantastic views at the second attempt today!

After our failure to connect successfully with **Wallcreeper** in the morning, we decided now to make the 45 minute journey up to Los Mallos de Riglos to try again there. We drive through showers of rain, but as we arrived the weather cleared and the sky was full of soaring Griffon Vultures. Around the car park, we had brilliant views of up to five **Hawfinch**, and there were Blackcaps in every bush. Winding our way up to the small chapel, we found a good spot to set up and scan the vast puddingstone peaks for our target. The landscape is so big, that a tiny Wallcreeper can be extremely hard to spot and you certainly need luck to connect with one. Half an hour of scanning yielded nothing, but overhead we were treated to our first flocks of **Common Cranes**, bugling as they circled high over the spectacular crags. Quite a sight! **Red-billed Chough**, Sparrowhawk and Peregrine were also seen, before we opted to take a walk along the rocky path which runs along the base of the cliffs. Walking slowly and scanning with the naked eye, we suddenly spotted a movement way up on the crags – it was a **Wallcreeper**! The sunshine had enticed the bird out onto the rock face, and it tumbled down like a leaf falling on the breeze, hitting the cliff lower down in front of us before bouncing along over the face with consummate ease, flashing its crimson spotted wings as it went. This was obviously a big target for everyone, and a lifer for some, so ten minutes of good scope views were very welcome indeed! We wandered back through the village, enjoying more views of the **Hawfinches** as we went.

Our day would end today around Embalse de Sotonera, an excellent area for general birding which did not disappoint us today. From the fringes of the village of Montmesa, we could scan over the field to the low hills beyond with the sun behind us. There were large numbers of Corn Buntings, White Wagtails and **Spotless Starlings** feeding there, with flocks of many hundreds of the latter looking really fine in the evening sunshine. Over the ridge, we watched in awe as a big flock of **Common Cranes** flew low towards us calling – the light was absolutely stunning! We didn't know what to look at next – a flock of sixty **Rock Sparrows** had just flown up onto the wires in front of us at the same moment, and a **Short-toed Eagle** was migrating north along the ridge in the distance! Behind us, a kettle of fifty or more **Black Kites** was spiralling up into a thermal, heading north on their migration towards the Pyrenees. We could see a storm approaching from the west, and no doubt so

could the birds, who were hurrying to find a safe roosting place in the hills before the weather grounded their progress. Taking one of the farm tracks down onto the agricultural plain at the north end of the reservoir, we found around 2000 **Cranes** feeding. The light again was magnificent, and the sight and sound combined of these birds was quite something. All around, the air was full of the song of **Calandra Larks**, and we had some great views of these too. Marsh Harrier and three **Great White Egrets** rounded off another exciting session. With the end of the day approaching, we headed to the raised observation hide overlooking the reedbed at the top end of the reservoir. Unfortunately, the aforementioned storm finally reached us, bringing a deluge of rain horizontally on strong winds. We had to give up for the day, but not before a family group of **Wild Boar** had appeared and run right across the field we were scanning! With a spectacular rainbow over the landscape, it was time to head back to base – so many highlights today!



Black Kites – migration in action over Montmesa this afternoon

WEDNESDAY 7TH MARCH – *A cold and sunny day, 3C*

We headed north up into the high Pyrenees today, experiencing quite a lot of snow which had clearly come down in the storms of yesterday evening. The Monrepos pass was quite beautiful, with deep snow at the road side and all the peaks around dusted with the white stuff too – the road of course was clear as a bell – the Spanish are rather better prepared than us Brits for this kind of weather! Our first port of call would be the isolated mountain of Oroel, just south of the town of Jaca which sits as the gateway to the high Pyrenees to the north. As we wound our way up the hillside, the snow began to pile up deeper by the side of the road, and we wondered what the little track up to the parador would be like! Thankfully a refuse lorry went up just in front of us, and helped clear the way so we could easily navigate to the top. Here we found a winter wonderland, with the trees hanging in snow

and spectacular views all around – but would we see any birds!? Well we had to work quite hard, but a stroll along the track through the pine forest yielded some superb views of **Crested Tit** and **Short-toed Treecreeper**, which were two of our main targets for this location. Our third was Black Woodpecker, and we did actually hear one close to the path giving the fantastic ‘pleeeee’ call, but despite our best efforts we could not locate it. Heading down the mountain again, we had a nice bonus in the road on the way down with a mixed flock of Chaffinch and **Cirl Bunting** – about ten of the latter including a lovely male feeding just in front of the van.

After a coffee stop in Jaca [with a lovely squadron of **Common Cranes** migrating north overhead], we made our way north up the valley towards the French border, and the ski resort at Astun. What spectacular scenery! There was so much snow up here, that everything just looked stunning in the afternoon sunshine. Reaching the ski station, our main target bird was instantly on view – the charismatic **Alpine Chough**. We shared a little of our lunch with the birds to entice them down close to us, and we therefore enjoyed superb views of about twenty birds. Their amazing calls are quite uncorvid-like, and are certainly a feature of this snowy setting. Taking a short walk around the ski centre buildings, we found a group of four **Alpine Accentors** foraging on the wooden decking outside the café – and what views! The birds were literally picking about in perfect light no more than 5 metres away, totally unperturbed by people walking past! After filling up our memory cards with pictures, we returned to the van to enjoy lunch in the sunshine with the **Alpine Choughs** – lovely stuff!



Alpine Chough – not difficult to get good views of them around Astun today!

Back down the valley of the Rio Aragon, we paused for a 'two minute stop' by the stone bridge to check for small birds in the little meadows there. We didn't see any, but instead enjoyed a raptor-fest overhead! A subadult **Golden Eagle** was circling overhead, and scanning around we had a Red Kite, two Griffon Vultures and a **Northern Goshawk** in the same view! Over the cliffs behind us, two different **Lammergeiers** were seen, including a fine adult which closed its wings and bombed down across the cliff face, and two more **Golden Eagles** – both adults this time – were circling in the sunshine. The gushing river hosted a **Dipper** and Grey Wagtail – not bad for a quick stop! With some time to spare in the afternoon, we decided to check out a new site for us at San Juan de la Pena, with the earlier missed **Black Woodpecker** firmly in mind. This turned out to be a lovely location, and we made two or three stops in the forest on the way up the hillside, noting plenty of evidence of activity of our quarry. At the top, a lovely open meadow provided a good vista for spotting raptors moving over, and we had cracking views of two **Egyptian Vultures**, closely followed by two different adult **Lammergeiers** which circled right overhead – we were doing really well for this species on the tour this year! Just as we were about to leave, we heard a **Black Woodpecker** calling, but despite the bird playing cat and mouse with us in the pines around the meadow, we never saw it – quite frustrating! In the end we had to admit defeat and start making our way back down the mountain, thinking we had missed out on this one for the trip. As luck would have it though, as we were driving down through the pines, a **Black Woodpecker** flew in and landed on a tree right next to the road. It saw us and quickly flew, but bounded off low down the road in front of the van so that we could see it! Some of us saw it again perched on a tree down below us, before it flew again and melted away into the forest – a super way to end the day!



Lammergeier – one of five seen today, this one right overhead

THURSDAY 8TH MARCH – *Calm and cloudy day, sunny later, 16C*

Today we set off south towards Zaragoza for the last part of our trip, and the second big target bird of the tour – the **Dupont's Lark** or 'Ghost Bird'. The ninety minute journey on fast roads took us through some dark cloudy weather and spots of rain, but it was already brightening up as we reached the SEO reserve at El Planeron, one of the best sites in the region to connect with our quarry. These are vast open steppes and the wind can often be a real problem here, so we were delighted, and a little excited, by the fact that there was virtually no wind at all – how would the larks perform? We have had so much success with seeing this often very difficult bird, at one particular spot on the reserve, so we headed directly there and parked to see if there would be any activity. Setting up our scopes, we carefully and quietly scanned the area below us, which was full of a cacophony of lark song. Calandra, Thekla and Lesser Short-toed Larks were all common, and the air was thick with their sounds. All the time the Calandra Larks were song-flighting above us with their slow, deliberate wing beats and masterful mimicry. After about half an hour, we heard our first snatch of Dupont's Lark song, and this spurred us to scan harder! A cycle of events followed, whereby the lark would sing [often sounding very close] for a couple of minutes, followed by a break of around half an hour with nothing. We knew that the bird would be scurrying on the ground between tussocks of grass feeding in between these bouts of song, and that we just had to keep looking! After two hours though, we could not see it, and decided to head on down the track in the van to try another area. Driving with the windows down, we almost immediately heard a Dupont's singing and it was so close! We slowly crept out of the vehicle to check for the bird and there it was, perched in the open on top of a small shrub about twenty metres away. It was so difficult to describe to the group which shrub it was one, so we opted to grab a couple of scopes and set them quickly on the bird. The first person got an amazing view, but then the bird flew straight up into the air and performed a song flight, landing in cover along the top of a ridge about 200 metres away – bugger!



Dupont's Lark – photo doesn't do justice to the views!

Thankfully though, Carles picked it up again almost straight away, climbing slowly up into a tussock. Now we could scope it and everyone was soon watching the bird through their own scope – we could see that it was singing, but amazingly even at this range we could not hear it at all. It just showed how well they throw their voice in the direction they are facing when singing. Eventually the bird flew up in song flight again, and as it flew towards us, the song sounded so loud, now that it was facing us! It landed out of view again, but with some patience we relocated it and had some cracking views as it began to sing from a typical perch in the top of a low shrub. After about 5 minutes of views, the bird climbed down onto the ground again and now we were able to watch it feeding, scurrying quickly across openings between the grass clumps and then pecking ferociously at the ground among the roots of the tiny shrubs. Because we now had it in view, it was quite easy to follow, and frequently it would appear in full view between shrubs and everyone could get some fantastic views. Our efforts had been justly rewarded! An **Iberian Grey Shrike** was about the only other noteworthy sighting here, before we moved on to the small town of Quinto for a coffee and toilet stop. Along the way, we had to make an impromptu stop, for two **Great-spotted Cuckoos** sitting right beside the road – surprisingly, our first ones ever on the tour.



Great-spotted Cuckoo – a lovely surprise by the roadside in Los Monegros

After coffee, we drove along to Bujaraloz where we would have lunch beside two small ponds at the edge of the town. The reeds here were full of migrant Common Chiffchaffs, with maybe thirty or more sallying out over the water to catch insects. A Water Pipit was also a nice addition, and lunch itself was definitely welcome too! Our target for the afternoon would be to try and find some of the **Great Bustards** which are resident in the agricultural steppes of the area called Los Monegros, and so we set off to explore a criss-cross of farm tracks which afford excellent views across the terrain. It took us about half an hour to find them – a group of eight males striding across a wheat field in lovely light. They were just the right distance away, so that we could get out and scope them without disturbing. They really did look magnificent, but we were amazed when they decided to settle down in the crop, which was only a few inches tall. By flattening themselves into hollows in the field, some of them totally disappeared and you could only see the head! Incredible that such a big bird could hide so easily. We were about to pack up and move on, when they suddenly all shot up and took flight, doing a big circuit around before flying directly back towards us and settling again in the same field. We had seen them extremely well, so we left them to it and went off to explore more tracks in search of other steppe birds. A lagoon added Common Shelduck to our list, and a female Marsh Harrier flew over, and navigating some steppe tracks gave us cracking views of a pair of **Little Owls** in a stone wall, and a **Merlin** struggling off across a field carrying prey.



Great Bustards – part of the small population clinging on in Los Monegros

Eventually we reached the big saline lagoon by a derelict salt works, and with the warm sun on our backs wandered down to scan for waders. There were lots of **Kentish Plovers** here, but not much else. Two sparring **Hoopoes** were a nice bonus though, fanning their crests and giving a croaking call which most of us had never heard before. It was by now gone 4pm, and time to start making our way

west across the steppe towards Lecera where we would be staying tonight. We scanned many fields along the way, hoping to find sandgrouse, but it wasn't to be today. We had a ten minute stop by the old ruined town at Belchite, a legacy of the Spanish Civil War, and added **Blue Rock Thrush**, **Sardinian Warbler**, **Serin** and **Crag Martin** in the process. From here it was a short ten minute hop to our accommodation, and it was a treat to arrive with about ninety minutes to ourselves before dinner – it had been a long day!

FRIDAY 9TH MARCH – *A calm and sunny day, 20C*

Our warmest day of the trip so far saw us 'mopping up' on some good birds en route back to Barcelona for our evening flight to Gatwick. We opted for a slightly earlier breakfast, in order to maximise our birding time, and so we were packed up and on the road by 0745 heading back into the steppes of Los Monegros. Sandgrouse had been the biggest omission of our list from yesterday, and we knew a nice area near Candasnos where flocks had been feeding in recent days so decided to check out the area. This was a spot Carles knew well and as we drove up, he said 'they are often in this field' – and there they were! With the sun behind us, we were able to get cracking scope views of a group of **Pin-tailed Sandgrouse**, and in the still morning air their fantastic calls were ringing all around us. We found another, larger group a little further away and then spotted two **Black-bellied Sandgrouse** in the same field. These were beaten by a pair in the field right next to the road, with the mountains and almond blossom behind them – the quintessential view of spring in the steppes. The male was particularly stunning, and the light was really good despite the haze just beginning to develop. This whole area was also full of **Calandra Larks**, which were singing all around us, and we had fun picking out the mimicry from their complex songs – Spectacled Warbler and Bee-eater being favourites! Driving a little further on down the road, we found four more **Pin-tailed Sandgrouse** right next to the van, with one taking flight and passing low over the road in front of us. The other three stayed behind, feeding quietly, and we were wowed by their stunning plumage – a great result!



Pin-tailed Sandgrouse – fantastic views in Los Monegros today

From here we made our way further east, with a stop planned in Lleida steppes for another target species, the ever-impressive **Eagle Owl**. Arriving at the nesting cliff, we could see three well grown and healthy looking **Eagle Owl** chicks gazing out at us with fierce orange eyes. They did a bit of preening and climbing around, and we could see that they had been feasting on the local **Woodpigeons** from the remains scattered around the nest! We scanned hard but couldn't find the adults today – a **Black Wheatear**, and stunning **Short-toed Eagle** overhead, were some compensation.



Young Eagle Owls – two of three chicks seen at a nest in Lleida steppes

Now we made our way back to Barcelona, leaving ourselves with a couple of hours to explore the Llobregat delta right by the airport, before catching our flight. It was a beautiful warm sunny afternoon here, and the skies above the lagoons were full of **Barn Swallows**, **Sand Martin**, **House Martin** and **Crag Martin** all getting ready to head north. **Cetti's Warbler**, **Sardinian Warbler** and **Crested Tit** were all seen well around the reserve and **Common Chiffchaffs** were amazingly numerous, sallying out from the reed edge in hordes. A nice surprise were a pair of **Stone Curlews** which flew in and circled us before dropping onto the marsh – we saw another one later on in flight from one of the hides. We hoped to glimpse a **Moustached Warbler** here, and despite hearing one and both Ashley and Carles getting a view, we weren't able to get the group onto one on this occasion. They can be very skulky! From the first hide, we found lots of **Shoveler**, **Gadwall**, **Common Teal** and **Eurasian Wigeon**, plus a nice **Wood Sandpiper** which flew in and landed on one of the islands. The second hide added ten lovely **Glossy Ibis**, a female **Pintail** and a brace of **Common Snipe**, while a **Purple Swamp-hen** called but remained hidden. Time had finally caught up with us and we

now had to make the short hop round to the airport, where our flight departed on time back to the UK.

SYSTEMATIC LIST

1. Northern Gannet
2. Little Grebe
3. Great Cormorant
4. Grey Heron
5. Cattle Egret
6. Great White Egret
7. Glossy Ibis
8. White Stork
9. Greylag Goose
10. Eurasian Wigeon
11. Gadwall
12. Common Teal
13. Northern Pintail
14. Mallard
15. Northern Shoveler
16. Common Pochard
17. Eurasian Griffon Vulture
18. Black Vulture
19. Egyptian Vulture
20. Lammergeier
21. Common Kestrel
22. Merlin
23. Peregrine
24. Marsh Harrier
25. Common Buzzard
26. Red Kite
27. Black Kite
28. Eurasian Sparrowhawk
29. Northern Goshawk
30. Golden Eagle
31. Short-toed Eagle
32. Red-legged Partridge
33. Pyrenean Grey Partridge
34. Common Moorhen
35. Common Coot
36. Common Crane
37. Great Bustard
38. Little Bustard
39. Stone Curlew
40. Northern Lapwing
41. European Golden Plover
42. Kentish Plover
43. Little-ringed Plover
44. Wood Sandpiper
45. Common Snipe
46. Black-headed Gull
47. Audouin's Gull
48. Yellow-legged Gull
49. Pin-tailed Sandgrouse
50. Black-bellied Sandgrouse

51. Woodpigeon
52. Collared Dove
53. Rock Dove
54. Stock Dove
55. Monk Parakeet
56. Little Owl
57. Eagle Owl
58. European Hoopoe
59. Great-spotted Cuckoo
60. Great-spotted Woodpecker
61. Iberian Green Woodpecker
62. Black Woodpecker
63. Thekla Lark
64. Crested Lark
65. Calandra Lark
66. Skylark
67. Lesser Short-toed Lark
68. Dupont's Lark
69. Crag Martin
70. House Martin
71. Barn Swallow
72. Sand Martin
73. Meadow Pipit
74. Water Pipit
75. Grey Wagtail
76. White Wagtail
77. Dipper
78. Wren
79. European Robin
80. Black Redstart
81. Common Stonechat
82. Black Wheatear
83. Alpine Accentor
84. Common Blackbird
85. Song Thrush
86. Mistle Thrush
87. Blue Rock Thrush
88. Cetti's Warbler
89. Common Chiffchaff
90. Blackcap
91. Sardinian Warbler
92. Dartford Warbler
93. Moustached Warbler
94. Firecrest
95. Blue Tit
96. Great Tit
97. Coal Tit
98. Crested Tit
99. Long-tailed Tit
100. Short-toed Treecreeper
101. Wallcreeper
102. European Nuthatch
103. Iberian Grey Shrike
104. Western Jackdaw
105. Common Magpie

106. Eurasian Jay
107. Carrion Crow
108. Common Raven
109. Red-billed Chough
110. Alpine Chough
111. Spotless Starling
112. Common Starling
113. House Sparrow
114. Rock Sparrow
115. Chaffinch
116. Brambling
117. Greenfinch
118. Goldfinch
119. European Serin
120. Eurasian Siskin
121. Hawfinch
122. Bullfinch
123. Snow Finch
124. Common Linnet
125. Corn Bunting
126. Cirl Bunting
127. Rock Bunting
128. Reed Bunting
129. Yellowhammer

Other Wildlife

1. Roe Deer
2. Fallow Deer
3. Pyrenean Chamois
4. Wild Boar
5. Rabbit

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