

Andalucia Amazing Migrants Tour 7-14th September 2026



Western Black-eared Wheatear



Short-toed eagle

ANDALUCIA TOUR OVERVIEW

ACCOMMODATION

This tour was again hosted at the wonderful accommodation at Huerta Grande! Its geographical location is very close to the raptor watch-points. The migration overhead set in the beautiful woodland, with passerine migration outside the chalets are all great reasons for using this as our accommodation.

The accommodation consists of a lovely set of houses, rooms and timber lodges set in 7 hectares of Laurel forest and Cork Oak trees.

All rooms were en-suite or with separate private bathrooms, plus each came with a small lounge area a kitchenette complete with a fridge, plus tea and coffee facilities. The rooms are clean and simple with modern comfort. There is a 20 metre pool where you can cool down and then look upwards and watch the migration above you!

FOOD

Each morning, we were treated to cereal, muesli, juices, bread, toasts, jams, cheese, hams, fresh tomatoes, tea & coffee! A real, filling and healthy breakfast.

Packed lunches were generally, a selection of filled rolls with cheese, Iberian meats, tomatoes in French sticks, with fruits and sweet pastries. Clients chose what they wished to take with them for the day.

Evening meals were taken at Huerta Grande each evening. They provided us with an excellent range of three course meals with a glass (or more!) of wine or a beer.

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DAY ONE – MONDAY 7TH SEPTEMBER

I collected the group from the airport just before midday and we headed to Huerta Grande. As we headed along the main road, we saw several occupied **White Storks** nests before we reached our accommodation. The rooms were just being finished off so we took the opportunity to do a spot of birding around the camp. We were soon watching our first **Booted** and **Short-toed Eagles** overhead, alongside several **Griffon Vultures**. The bushes held a couple of very smart male **Common Redstarts** which were showing rather well, alongside **2—3 Spotted Flycatchers** and **Blackcaps** in the same area. An Iberian Chiff-chaff was vocal but stayed hidden from view.

We then had lunch, whilst enjoying more migration overhead with the first flock of **Bee-eaters** passing high above us, we need not have worried as we were in for a bumper load more of these delightful aerial acrobats!

After lunch we then headed off to try our luck at Cazalla watchpoint, which proved an excellent decision! Migration was in full flow, and over the next couple of hours we were treated to a superb mix of raptors and storks. One of the highlights was undoubtedly a huge and late flock of **c2500 White Storks** arriving from the hills to the NW, the flock wheeled steadily along the coastline getting closer, but the strong Levante wind discouraged them from trying to cross to Africa, heading slowly back to the hills.

There was a nice steady passage overhead, with **c100 Black Kites**, **c50 Booted Eagles**, **c200 Short-toed Eagles** and **Griffon Vultures**, **4 Marsh Harriers** went past us and then 4-5 flocks of around **c40-50** stunning **Bee-eaters**, alerting us each time with their lovely rippling calls. Late afternoon a group of **Black Storks** appeared, each time they disappeared and reappeared there seem to increase in numbers with eventually at least **25 Black Stork** in a single flock.

We also witnessed our first groups of **Spotless Starlings** from here and groups of **Barn Swallows** were also passing by in small groups, whizzing past us as they headed south towards the Straits of Gibraltar and onwards towards Morocco and Africa.

After a very early start for everyone we headed back to Huerta Grande, where some of the group took the opportunity for a quick dip in the swimming pool before pre-dinner drinks around 730pm. We then had the 3 course dinner before heading off to our rooms around 9pm after a busy day of travel for the clients.

DAY TWO – TUESDAY 8TH SEPTEMBER

For those up early and birding for a few minutes' pre-breakfast there was a nice selection of birds to be seen in the trees and bushes around the parking and dining area!

A couple of **Crested Tit** were close by and occasionally coming to the feeders, the nearby trees offered up **2 Firecrest** and at least **2 Short-toed treecreeper**, **Spotted Flycatchers** were zipping around off perches catching insects, alongside the ubiquitous **Sardinian Warblers**, the latter always easy to hear, not so easy to always see, and the same could be said of a vocal **Cetti's Warbler** and numerous **Blackcaps** around the camp as well.

After breakfast, there were already **Honey Buzzard** and **Booted Eagle** overhead at Huerta! So, I took us off to the nearby watchpoint at Algarrobo, where we were soon joining the official counters and a good crowd of enthusiastic birders. Over the next three hours we were absorbed into the birds and atmosphere of migration as a steady passage of birds passed over our heads.

The migrating raptors and storks weren't particularly low but it was constant with birds moving South and Southwest along the ridge and overhead. Approximate counts for this session were **108 White Stork, 288 Black Kite, 301 Booted Eagle, 14 Short-toed Eagle, 136 Honey Buzzard, 17 Egyptian Vulture, 5 Eurasian Sparrowhawk, Common Buzzard**, a single **Marsh Harrier**, a single **Black Stork** and a ringtail Harrier that eventually proved to be a **Hen Harrier**.

Whilst enjoying the constant steady passage of raptors and storks, everyone was checking each bird and suddenly there was an excited shout of 'falcon...probably Eleonora's' Fortunately with some good directions, most birders were on to the bird, and also some lightning-fast reactions from a couple of young birders with cameras enabled us to confirm the ID of the **Eleonora's Falcon!**

Groups of other birds were passing by with **Pallid Swifts, 2 Alpine Swifts** and around **c200 Bee-eaters** in several groups, also **Barn Swallow, Sand Martin and House Martin** plus our first **Red-rumped Swallow** with around six amongst these groups of hirundines. plus **2 Yellow Wagtails** were heard passing over.

The '**Kestrels**' in the autumn as always proved a conundrum, without adult males, splitting Lesser and Common is very tricky, and several passed by, but all were left as Common/Lesser! The bushes nearby held **Sardinian Warbler, Iberian Chiff-chaff, Stonechat, Greenfinch** and **Goldfinch**.

We next stopped off at Cazalla, partly for a lunch stop and to see what was passing there. We had a similar mixture of birds, but with the bonus of **14 Egyptian Vultures** and a clear-cut male **Lesser Kestrel**.

Early afternoon we headed off to Playa de los Lances beach pools and fields as it was light winds and relatively undisturbed! The walk out was interrupted to watch a good flock of **c100 Corn Bunting**, there was quite a flock feeding on the ground, though a little distant, a few perching up much closer. A **Hoopoe** appeared in the paddock area but disappeared over the hedge all too quickly! Then heading towards the shore, the expected **Cattle Egrets** and numerous **Zitting Cisticola** and **Common Stonechats** appeared. A small group of **Bee-eaters** flew past close by just overhead and lots of **Spotless Starlings** were feeding around the cattle.

The shore pools held a roosting gull flock with mainly **c30 Yellow-legged Gulls**, but also 3 adult **Audouin's Gulls**...very smart! There was a good number of 100+ shorebirds, the bulk being **Sanderling** and **Ringed Plover** but in amongst these were **5+ Kentish Plover, 5 Whimbrel, 2 Common Redshank, 3 Ruff, 5 Dunlin**, with single **Spoonbill, Grey Heron** and **Little Egret**. **Crested Larks** appeared flitting around in the grassland, plus **2-3 Iberian Yellow Wagtails** and **3 Northern Wheatears**.

It was now late afternoon and hot, there was no sign of the usual Tawny Pipits though a really nice surprise arrived as we were heading back towards the minibus. A juvenile **Spanish Imperial Eagle** was hunting the fields on the hillside on the other side of the road. Distant but reasonable scope views as it hunted up and down the slopes, everyone getting prolonged views!

Once back at the minibus we stopped off at the nearby garage for toilets and cold drinks. I decided a bit of minibus birding out of the sun would be a good option along the Valle de Sanctuario, we were soon marvelling at a group of around **40 Bee-eaters** perched on the wires, hunting insects low over the fields in front of us. We then picked of four **Woodchat Shrikes** one after another along the fenceline, including one chestnut headed adult.

Several **Northern Wheatears** appeared along the field edges, a flock of “sparrows” were mainly House, but scrutiny paid off with **2-3 male Spanish Sparrow** amongst them. Next up was a lovely **juvenile Montagu’s harrier** hunting the hillside adjacent to the minibus, feeding alongside around **c20 Kestrels**, presumably **Lesser Kestrels** based on the number and the insect-hunting behaviour. The Monty’s gave us all good, prolonged views, shortly before we spotted a second **Montagu’s Harrier** this time an adult female. Eventually after much searching **2 Tawny Pipits** appeared, and we got nice views as they fed in amongst the thistles.

We now headed back to Huerta Grande, where despite searching out shade and/or the swimming pool the birding wasn’t finished! A lazy hour by and around the pool gave up **15 Alpine Swifts**, **5 Black Stork**, **100 Pallid Swift**, **35 Honey Buzzard**, **10 Booted Eagle**, **6 Marsh Harrier**, **20 Bee-eater**, a **Hobby**, a flyover **Hawfinch** and a **Pied Flycatcher**!

Overnight and Evening meal – Huerta Grande



Image © Eduardo Campos Wals

The Eleonora's Falcon at Algarobbo



Zitting Cisticola



Migrating White Storks – a flock of c2500 was passing on our first afternoon



A fresh juvenile plumaged Woodchat Shrike, several seen near Tarifa



Flocks and flocks of European Bee-eaters passed us on the first two days



These Bee-eaters were perching and feeding from the roadside wires

DAY THREE – WEDNSDAY 9TH SEPTEMBER

We had a regular breakfast at 8am, the wind had now changed to a fresh Westerly (Poniente) breeze. We enjoyed a bit of birding pre-breakfast at Huerta Grande with a superb flock of **c100 Alpine Swift**, a tight group spinning in circles above the reception area, also **10 Honey Buzzard**, **10 Black Kite**, a **Griffon Vulture** and **2 Short-toed Eagle** were also on the move early in the day.

We now headed towards the Bolonia area, to look at a Griffon Vulture colony, on arrival it was a little quiet, with just a small number of Vultures. There was an adult **Egyptian Vulture** overhead though and some light migration with several **Honey Buzzard**, **2 Booted Eagle**, and **Black Kite** passing down the valley plus **c40 Bee-eaters**. A little later suddenly around **80 Griffons** appeared from the South, circling and headed into the cliff faces. I suddenly noticed a good dark candidate for Rüppell's Vulture, it banked overhead and I managed to get the group on to it and fire off a few record shots that confirmed the bird as a **2cy Rüppell's Vulture**.

Further scanning resulted in some other good birds, a nice group of **Crag Martins** were hunting insects, and **2 Blue Rock thrush** were scoped on the cliff tops, and a **Golden Oriole** was also calling from the trees above, but we never got close to seeing it! But the pick of the birds was a fine, **juvenile Bonelli's Eagle** that gave good scope views.

It was warming up now and we headed onwards towards Barbate lagoons, arriving around 1pm we took our lunch in the shade under the bushes whilst scanning the first lagoons.

As expected, there were plenty of birds to see, offering up a whole range of wetland species. The immediately obvious were Spoonbills and **Greater Flamingos**. Close by was a mass of **c150 Audouin's Gulls**, with **Yellow-legged** and **Lesser black-backed Gulls** for company. Also obvious were **Black-winged Stilts**, **c50 Avocet** a flock of **c100 Black-tailed Godwit**, and numerous **Sanderling** plus a flock of **c30 Glossy Ibis** flew over.

After lunch we started picking out more waders, with a **Curlew Sandpiper**, a single **Common Sandpiper**, **Greenshank**, **3 Turnstone**, **4 Ruff** & **10 Dunlin**. We then moved position and further searching, revealed a large flock of **c300 Ringed Plover**, that also carried **c50 Kentish Plover**, and a single **Stone Curlew**.

In the nearby channel a couple of **Little Terns** were fishing up and down and then searching through the distant gulls revealed **8 Caspian Terns** plus **12 Grey Plover**.

Away from the water, the fenceline and nearby scrub also produced **2 Northern Wheatear**, **5 Woodchat Shrike**, **Crested lark**, **Stonechat**, **Iberian Chiff-chaff**, **6 Lesser/Common Kestrel**, **Marsh Harrier** and **Booted Eagle**.

As we headed out, we had been tipped off to check the cattle enclosures for Bald Ibis, and fortunately there were still at least **10 Bald Ibis** feeding very close to the track, also **Yellow Wagtail** in amongst them.

Our final stop of the day was another tip off from a visiting birder, who had told us of a Western Black-eared Wheatear he had seen at La Janda on the entrance track. We made the stop and were soon checking several **Northern Wheatear**, a flock of **12 Yellow Wagtails** also appeared. The **Western Black-eared Wheatear** proved to be the last bird at the bottom of the track, an absolute stunner, it posed for pictures - in full apricot, blacks and whites!

Overnight and Evening meal – Huerta Grande



Eurasian Spoonbill



Black-winged Stilt



One of several obliging Bald ibis at Barbate



This stunning Western Black-eared Wheatear was at La Janda

DAY FOUR – THURSDAY 10TH SEPTEMBER

After breakfast, I decided we would spend a bit of time birding at Huerta Grande wandering through the wooded area this morning, as we were due to go out on a boat from Tarifa around lunchtime.

Eventually after wandering around for an hour, **Spotted Flycatcher, Firecrest, Iberian Chiffchaff, Blackcap, Short-toed Treecreeper, Nuthatch** and **Crested Tit** had all showed fairly well at close range, whilst **Hawfinches** this year were proving to be more flyover views than perched!

We then headed up to the Northwest corner of Huerta Grande with a lovely boardwalk and views across to the Straits of Gibraltar. From here we were able to watch some nice migration overhead, the birds seemingly just on the right line as they passed from the mountain ridge over our heads and out towards the coast. Over the next hour we watched on as **c200 Honey Buzzard, 8 Egyptian Vulture, 2 Short-toed eagle, 20 Booted Eagle, 20 Black Kite** and an **Osprey** plus a flock of **Bee-eaters** all passed South directly overhead, also some nice views of **Griffon Vulture**. The bushes here also held two smart **Common Redstart**, both moulting males, plus **2-3 Spotted Flycatcher** in the same area.

Around 11am we headed to the Port of Tarifa to take a boat trip out into the Straits of Gibraltar. An informative 30-minute talk is given by the company with lots of interesting information about the whales and Dolphins plus behaviour and conservation in the Strait. The first birds we noted were **Yellow-legged gulls!** But soon followed a single **Balearic Shearwater** then **2-3 Cory's Shearwaters**, then **2-3 Sunfish** were noted as their floppy dorsal fin broke the surface.

The excitement continued, as soon after the skipper located our first cetaceans, several **Bottle-nosed Dolphins**, we had good views of these and as we were watching them a group of distant **Black Terns** came into view. There were at least **30 Black Terns** and we went on to see several more groups, all passing West towards the Atlantic waters, presumably on migration from the Mediterranean and further East.

Next up was a nice pod of **Long-finned Pilot Whales**, eventually we had a very large group of maybe **30+ Long-finned Pilot Whales** but a mother with calf proved very popular and the group came extremely close to the boat and we were able to watch them dive and slowly submerge under the boat! A short video of them here - <https://youtu.be/wXTwhAKSsqY>

We had almost continuous Pilot Whales over the next hour, plus more **Black Terns** and a closer photographed **Cory's/Scopoli's Shearwater**, unfortunately my pictures proved inconclusive, though the heavier secondary moult would have favoured Scopoli's.

As we headed back inshore, we had more passing 'marsh terns' one of the flocks caught our attention as these were paler and we realised there was a group of around **c20 Whiskered Tern**, with more **Black Terns** behind them, we probably had around **c120 Black Tern** in total, by far the most I have ever seen in the Straits. Maybe the persistent Levante winds of the last week were a factor.

We now headed back to Huerta Grande as we had planned an early dinner to enable an evening visit to La Janda.

It was still hot, so we took our time to head over to La Janda where I had planned an evening session to look at the rice fields and canal areas until dusk.

The tracks and canals soon offered up nice a flock of **White Stork**, **Green Sandpiper**, a group of **Glossy Ibis** flew past, and then a **Purple Heron** was flushed from a ditch. Two **Montagu's Harriers** appeared, one of them being the unusual dark morph, with a closer adult female performing very well closer to the minibus. **Marsh Harriers** were also out hunting, whilst the power lines hosted an almost continuous group of **Turtle Doves**, we probably ended up with a round **c30 Turtle Doves** an encouraging number compared to the last few autumns.

The fields and canal hedgerows were busy with flocks of **Goldfinch**, **Greenfinch**, **Linnet** and **Corn Bunting** and we spied several **Spanish Sparrows** amongst a very large 'sparrow' flock! Plus, two obliging **Hoopoes** showed very well along the track in front of the minibus.

Shortly after this we found **2 Black-winged Kites** perched on the wires and had reasonable scope views, as the light dropped there was an impressive gathering of **c1000 Martins and Swallows** gathering to roost, plus **5 Black-crowned Night heron** flew over.

The final birding of the day proved to be an exciting experience as the sun dropped from view. In the half-light a **Little Owl** was heard calling, then a second, and eventually one appeared silhouetted against the skyline on top of an old barn roof.

As we wandered along the track looking for Red-necked Nightjar, **Stone Curlews** were vocal and a **Tawny Owl** called from nearby. Finally, the distinctive shape of a Nightjar appeared, flying close past us several times then **2 Red-necked Nightjars** were right overhead, with one eventually landing on the tarmac and allowing us to slowly approach within a few metres, a great end to a very good day!



Long-finned Pilot Whales



Good to see 30+ Turtle Doves



One of the very obliging Hoopoes!



This adult female Montagu's Harrier showed well at La Janda



White Stork at La Janda

DAY FIVE – FRIDAY 11TH SEPTEMBER

We had a regular breakfast at 8am and left promptly just before 9am, our destination was around 2 hours away high up in the Grazelema mountains. A destination reached by the slow winding roads up from the coast, but through stunning scenery and an opportunity to see some different birds!

Once well up into the mountains, with the windows down we could now hear now the repetitive song of Cirl Buntings. We arrived just before 11am and still cool enough for the mountain passerines to be active, first birds were **2 Subalpine Warblers** hopping around in the bushes as we entered the valley. Once parked, we started to slowly take the track up the valley and were soon enjoying our first proper views of **Cirl Bunting**, quickly followed by **2 Rock Bunting**. Several **Black Redstarts** appeared, then after a while of scanning John located the first of **4 Black Wheatears**, good scope views and then one singing a little closer.

We continued further up the track and could hear **Blue Rock Thrush** singing, eventually **3-4 Blue Rock Thrush** appeared, with a nice male sitting in view again giving good scope views. A Lark flew up briefly giving a short call, most probably a Thekla, after a bit of scanning we located two **Thekla's Larks** walking along the ground in and out of view in the vegetation. Several more warblers appeared and disappeared all too quickly but one was a **Garden Warbler**, several others were **Sardinian** and a couple seen too briefly were female/juvenile **Subalpine Warblers**.

We had scored very well with the target birds and now our eyes turned to the skies to a concentration of **Griffon Vulture** circling above the far ridge. We were repeatedly checking through these birds and had a **Short-toed Eagle** and **2 Booted Eagles**. Nearby the sound of a **Peregrine** turned our attention to the other opposing ridge and eventually a **Peregrine** appeared and landed on the cliff edge, shortly joined in flight again by a second **Peregrine**.

A pair of **Ravens** ‘cronked’ near the circling **Griffons** and an **Egyptian Vulture** appeared, then John suddenly shouted “Eagle” – indeed a young **Golden Eagle** was up there amongst the circling birds, distant but not unreasonable scope views...if you could locate it in the cloudless skies amongst the other circling birds! We walked a little further up the valley, a flock of **Goldfinches**, included a single **Serin** and the highest copse also held **2 Spotted Flycatcher** and a **Common Redstart**.

What a great morning’s birding! We found a shady spot to have our lunch and then headed back down the valley, the Vultures were again circling and this time another eagle was circling close by. Similar in size and shape to the Golden Eagle we had seen earlier, but very different plumage with tawny orange body and wing coverts contrasting with dark tail, dark secondaries and inner primaries, with pale window between inner primaries and black fingered primaries at end of the wing, a juvenile **Spanish Imperial Eagle** and spied **2 Iberian Ibex** just before departing, a nice mammal surprise.

It was later afternoon by the time we reached Caceres and I decided on an hours stop to break up the journey, we stood at the lovely watchpoint with views from the mountains to the sea, enjoying the super close views of **Griffon Vultures** wheeling around us at head height, as well as some close **Red-rumped Swallows** and another **2 Peregrines** for the day!

Overnight and Evening meal – Huerta Grande



© Chris Mills

The young distant Golden Eagle at Llanos, Grazalema mountains



A couple of young Iberian Ibex



A super close Griffon Vulture circles past

DAY SIX – SATURDAY 12TH SEPTEMBER

After breakfast we headed out on the road to Laguna de Medina, a large lake that fluctuates both in water levels and birds, after a wet winter I was assured, it was busy with wildfowl and wetland birds!

We arrived mid-morning, the walk down gave us a **Woodchat Shrike** and a **Common Redstart**, plus the brief notes of a **Nightingale** and we were soon enjoying scanning through a mass of wildfowl.

Over the next two and half hours we walked the track and watched from a well-positioned hide. The most numerous wildfowl were **Coot** with thousands present, fortunately and we were very grateful to a local birder who had a **Crested Coot** in his scope and pointed it out! The slightly smaller size and bill colour could be seen, and eventually the two little red bumps on the head.

We were soon searching through a good array of birds with several **Red-crested Pochard**, **100 Common Pochard**, **10 Gadwall**, several **Shoveler** and **Moorhen** lots of **Little** and **Great crested Grebe** plus **2-3 Black-necked Grebe**, amongst these we also found at least **5 Ferruginous Ducks** and **5 White-headed Duck**. The reedbeds below the hide had a vocal **Cetti's Warbler** and a second **Nightingale** was giving the odd note, and a **Common Kingfisher** flashed by a couple of times. The walk back gave us views of **Sardinian Warbler** and a migrant **Garden Warbler**, though frustrating views of a large warbler that may have been a Western Orphean Warbler slipped through our hands. A cracking morning with 40 species recorded, and quite a few species that we hadn't seen so far.

We now headed further north to Bonanza salt-pan area, it was now hot and we birded the pans from the minibus, with a stop, search and drive approach. There was a good variety of waders on the mid pools, with **c40 Great Ringed Plover**, **25 Kentish Plover**, **c60 Black-tailed Godwit**, **30 Common Redshank**, **30 Dunlin**, **20 Sanderling**, **15 Black-winged Stilt** and **25 Avocet**. Searching through these flocks revealed several **Little Stint** at least **c40 Curlew Sandpiper**, **Greenshank**, **Spotted Redshank** and **Common Sandpiper**. There were also good numbers of gulls on the last pools with great views of **c15 Slender-billed Gulls**, accompanying **Yellow-legged** and **Black-head Gulls**, plus a single **Caspian Tern** flew over and then **2 Osprey** were watched fishing.

The morning had flown by with such absorbing birding, time was pressing on! We stopped off in the woodland for lunch in the shade, then took the short walk to view Laguna del Tarelo. There was some closer **White-headed Duck** here, a couple of **Little Ringed Plovers**, **20 Shoveler**, a **Black-necked Grebe**, several **Glossy Ibis**. I couldn't initially locate any Marbled Duck, this is normally a reliable spot for them! After quite a bit of searching I eventually located **2 Marbled Duck** sat under the foliage of some overhanging vegetation, not the best views but occasionally they would move and we got scope views! Also roosting with the **Shoveler** was an eclipse **Garganey**, which took a while to eventually move and show off its distinctive facial markings.

Whilst walking back several **Spotted Flycatchers** and **3 Pied Flycatchers** showed well in the pines, we now had just enough time to head off to the Little Swifts nearby. We arrived at the now well-known Chipiona harbour spot and were treated almost immediately to good views of **Little Swifts**, with probably 4 individuals seen entering the nesting area. We reached Huerta Grande just after 6pm after a busy day and a great day's birding.

Overnight and Evening meal – Huerta Grande



A fresh juvenile Curlew sandpiper



A juvenile Osprey fishing over the salt pans



A smart Slender-billed Gull picking insects from the surface



Lovely mirror image of waders on the salt pans

DAY SEVEN – SUNDAY 13TH SEPTEMBER

Today was our last day, and after two very busy days and the chance of some more migration it was nice to have a relaxed local day, birding some of the watchpoints and estuary areas.

We started the day by heading to Palmones Harbour, the walk through the parkland area gave us **2-3 Spotted** and **Pied Flycatchers**. The raised hide with a top platform is ideal for scanning the estuary and today the tide was just rising from its lowest point, so ideal and there was a nice selection of shorebirds with **5 Whimbrel** posing nicely and calling in flight, also **2 Greater Flamingo**, **Great Ringed Plover**, **Redshank**, **Greenshank**, **Black-winged Stilt** and **Common Sandpiper**. Along the shoreline a group of a dozen **Grey Herons** were out feeding in the channels, **4 Glossy Ibis** flew over, and an **Osprey** was sat perched on a pylon whilst a group of **White Storks** were also feeding in the area nearby, with a further **c250 White Storks** passing overhead. We also noticed quite a few passing raptors were steadily moving along the coastal ridges, so it made sense to head to the nearby Algarrobo watchpoint.

We arrived here late morning and had a very enjoyable couple of hours with birds pretty much constantly on view. I suspect that with the strong Levante wind was holding most of the birds up with the exception of maybe Honey Buzzards and the Osprey, both very strong flyers.

We watched the spectacle play out with 2 flocks of **220** and **330 White Storks** passing along the ridge, an **Osprey** went through high and direct, as did a single **Black Stork** and **5 Honey Buzzard**. However, at least **c100 Short-toed Eagle**, **c150 Booted Eagle**, **10 Black Kite**, **2 Sparrowhawk** and **25 Egyptian Vulture** passed over us but gathered circling on the far coastal ridge. Also passing through were **Bee-eaters** and **Barn Swallows**, a few **House Martin** and the odd **Sand martin** these seemed to be heading quickly and directly.

By early afternoon, the ridge to the South of us seemed to have raptors circling along every bit of it! I decided it would be worth exploring the old military roads to the East of Getares. We climbed higher and higher along this ridge on the old single-track road and eventually found a good position. From here the spectacle was in full flow with masses mainly just above us, but with some birds passing below us! There were at least 500 Eagles, with around **c200 Short-toed** and **c300 Booted Eagle** also a few **Black Kites** and occasional **Egyptian Vulture** and a nice concentration of **Pallid Swift**.

I spotted a **Golden Oriole** in flight, but it was gone in a second and swallowed up in the trees at the bottom of the valley, before anyone had chance to get their bino's on it!

A remarkable day of migration was rounded off with a bit of pool time, where a **Hobby** passed over, **7 Hawfinches** flew past and we all marvelled at an army of ants who dragged a fair size Gecko from the pool side several metres to a wall and then vertically up a stone wall on to the ant's final destination above the wall!

The final evening was rounded off with a lovely meal, a beer and a glass of wine!



Booted Eagle passing by at eye level



A fresh juvenile Black Kite passing by at eye level



An adult male Honey Buzzard passes overhead



An adult Egyptian vulture passing by at eye level



Flock of migrating White Storks



The skies above us were full on the last day of Booted and Short-toed Eagles

DAY EIGHT – FRIDAY 12TH SEPTEMBER

We had breakfast at 8.00am, thanked the staff at Huerta Grande, and then loaded up the minibus one last time and headed for the airport. The groups flight had arrived, and everyone was away safely on time.



The group up in the Grazelema mountains

Final Overview & Systematic Bird List

This was another great trip to Andalucia, and we recorded a total of 152 species.

Though species numbers are a minor part of the experience, the truly fantastic migration that passes through this region is nothing less than a truly spiritual experience for keen birdwatchers!

	Species	Scientific name
1	Garganey	<i>Spatula querquedula</i>
2	Northern Shoveler	<i>Spatula clypeata</i>
3	Gadwall	<i>Mareca strepera</i>
4	Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>
5	Marbled Duck	<i>Marmaronetta angustirostris</i>
6	Red-crested Pochard	<i>Netta rufina</i>
7	Common Pochard	<i>Aythya ferina</i>
8	Ferruginous Duck	<i>Aythya nyroca</i>
9	White-headed Duck	<i>Oxyura leucocephala</i>
10	Common Shelduck	<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>
11	Common Pheasant	<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>
12	Red-legged Partridge	<i>Alectoris rufa</i>
13	Rock Dove/Feral Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>
14	Common Woodpigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>
15	European Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>
16	Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>
17	Red-necked Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus ruficollis</i>
18	Alpine Swift	<i>Tachymarptis melba</i>
19	Pallid Swift	<i>Apus pallidus</i>
20	Little Swift	<i>Apus affinis</i>
21	Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>
22	Eurasian Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>
23	Red-knobbed Coot	<i>Fulica cristata</i>
24	Stone-curlew	<i>Burhinus oedicephalus</i>
25	Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>
26	Pied Avocet	<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>
27	Grey Plover	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>
28	Common Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>
29	Little Ringed Plover	<i>Thinornis dubius</i>
30	Kentish Plover	<i>Anarhynchus alexandrinus</i>
31	Eurasian Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>
32	Black-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa limosa</i>
33	Common Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>
34	Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>
35	Green Sandpiper	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>
36	Common Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>
37	Spotted Redshank	<i>Tringa erythropus</i>
38	Common Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>
39	Ruddy Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>
40	Ruff	<i>Calidris pugnax</i>
41	Curlew Sandpiper	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>
42	Sanderling	<i>Calidris alba</i>
43	Dunlin	<i>Calidris alpina</i>
44	Little Stint	<i>Calidris minuta</i>
45	Slender-billed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus genei</i>

46	Black-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>
47	Audouin's Gull	<i>Ichthyaetus audouinii</i>
48	Yellow-legged Gull	<i>Larus michahellis</i>
49	Lesser Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus fuscus</i>
50	Little Tern	<i>Sternula albifrons</i>
51	Caspian Tern	<i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>
52	Whiskered Tern	<i>Chlidonias hybrida</i>
53	Black Tern	<i>Chlidonias niger</i>
54	Sandwich Tern	<i>Thalasseus sandvicensis</i>
55	Greater Flamingo	<i>Phoenicopterus roseus</i>
56	Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>
57	Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>
58	Black-necked Grebe	<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>
59	Cory's Shearwater	<i>Calonectris borealis</i>
60	Balearic Shearwater	<i>Puffinus mauretanicus</i>
61	Black Stork	<i>Ciconia nigra</i>
62	White Stork	<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>
63	Great Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>
64	Glossy Ibis	<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>
65	Northern Bald Ibis	<i>Geronticus eremita</i>
66	Eurasian Spoonbill	<i>Platalea leucorodia</i>
67	Black-crowned Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>
68	Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>
69	Western Cattle-Egret	<i>Ardea ibis</i>
70	Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>
71	Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>
72	Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>
73	Black-winged Kite	<i>Elanus caeruleus</i>
74	Egyptian Vulture	<i>Neophron percnopterus</i>
75	European Honey-buzzard	<i>Pernis apivorus</i>
76	Ruppell's Griffon	<i>Gyps rueppelli</i>
77	Griffon Vulture	<i>Gyps fulvus</i>
78	Short-toed Eagle	<i>Circaetus gallicus</i>
79	Booted Eagle	<i>Hieraaetus pennatus</i>
80	Spanish Eagle	<i>Aquila adalberti</i>
81	Golden Eagle	<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>
82	Bonelli's Eagle	<i>Aquila fasciata</i>
83	Eurasian Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>
84	Western Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>
85	Hen Harrier	<i>Circus cyaneus</i>
86	Montagu's Harrier	<i>Circus pygargus</i>
87	Black Kite	<i>Milvus migrans</i>
88	Common Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>
89	Little Owl	<i>Athene noctua</i>
90	Tawny Owl	<i>Strix aluco</i>
91	Common Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>

92	European Bee-eater	<i>Merops apiaster</i>
93	Common Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>
94	Great Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>
95	Lesser Kestrel	<i>Falco naumanni</i>
96	Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>
97	Eleonora's Falcon	<i>Falco eleonora</i>
98	Eurasian Hobby	<i>Falco subbuteo</i>
99	Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>
100	Eurasian Golden Oriole	<i>Oriolus oriolus</i>
101	Woodchat Shrike	<i>Lanius senator</i>
102	Eurasian Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>
103	Eurasian Jackdaw	<i>Coloeus monedula</i>
104	Common Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>
105	Crested Tit	<i>Lophophanes cristatus</i>
106	Eurasian Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>
107	Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>
108	Thekla's Lark	<i>Galerida theklæ</i>
109	Crested Lark	<i>Galerida cristata</i>
110	Zitting Cisticola	<i>Cisticola juncidis</i>
111	Sand Martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>
112	Eurasian Crag Martin	<i>Ptyonoprogne rupestris</i>
113	Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>
114	Western House Martin	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>
115	European Red-rumped Swallow	<i>Cecropis rufula</i>
116	Iberian Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus ibericus</i>
117	Cetti's Warbler	<i>Cettia cetti</i>
118	Eurasian Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>
119	Garden Warbler	<i>Sylvia borin</i>
120	Sardinian Warbler	<i>Curruca melanocephala</i>
121	Western Subalpine Warbler	<i>Curruca iberiae</i>
122	Common Firecrest	<i>Regulus ignicapilla</i>
123	Eurasian Nuthatch	<i>Sitta europaea</i>
124	Short-toed Treecreeper	<i>Certhia brachydactyla</i>
125	Eurasian Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>
126	Spotless Starling	<i>Sturnus unicolor</i>
127	Eurasian Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>
128	Spotted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>
129	European Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>
130	Common Nightingale	<i>Luscinia megarhynchos</i>
131	European Pied Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula hypoleuca</i>
132	Common Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>
133	Black Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>
134	Blue Rock Thrush	<i>Monticola solitarius</i>
135	European Stonechat	<i>Saxicola rubicola</i>
136	Northern Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>
137	Western Black-eared Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe hispanica</i>

138	Black Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe leucura</i>
139	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>
140	Spanish Sparrow	<i>Passer hispaniolensis</i>
141	Western Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava</i>
142	Pied Wagtail/White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>
143	Tawny Pipit	<i>Anthus campestris</i>
144	Common Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>
145	Hawfinch	<i>Coccothraustes coccothraustes</i>
146	European Greenfinch	<i>Chloris chloris</i>
147	Common Linnet	<i>Linaria cannabina</i>
148	European Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>
149	European Serin	<i>Serinus serinus</i>
150	Corn Bunting	<i>Emberiza calandra</i>
151	Rock Bunting	<i>Emberiza cia</i>
152	Cirl Bunting	<i>Emberiza cirlus</i>

OTHER WILDLIFE RECORDED

	Butterflies	
	Swallowtail butterfly	<i>Papilio machaon</i>
	Painted Lady	<i>Vanessa cardui</i>
	Cetaceans	
	Long-finned Pilot Whale	<i>Globicephala melas</i>
	Bottle-nosed Dolphin	
	Fish	
	Ocean Sunfish	<i>Mola Mola</i>
	Dragonflies	
	Northern Banded Groundling	<i>Brachythemis impartita</i>
	Southern Hawker	<i>Aeshna affinis</i>
	Lesser Emperor	<i>Anax parthenope</i>
	Scarlet Darter	<i>Crocothemis erythraea</i>
	Mammals	
	Iberian Rabbit	<i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i>
	Roe Dee	<i>Capreolus capreolus</i>
	Iberian Ibex	<i>Capra pyrenaica</i>
	Rat	<i>Rattus norvegicus</i>
	European Mongoose	<i>Herpestes ichneumon</i>
	Reptiles & Snakes	
	Mediterranean House Gecko	<i>Hemidactylus turcicus</i>
	Iberian Wall Lizard	<i>Podarcis virescens</i>
	Viperine Snake	<i>Matrx maura</i>

Thanks

I would like to say a special thanks to Katrin and her staff at Huerta Grande and thanks to the group of clients who joined me, we had a wonderful truly wonderful tour.

