

BIRD REPORT OF EXTREMADURA AND SOUTHERN SPAIN

19th May - 27 May 2004
Compiled by Derek Marsh



ITINERARY

The party consisted of Adrian Richards, Mike Morley and Myself. Flights were arranged through Rynair from Stanstead to Valladolid Villanubla airport cost £34.14p each, car hire through Holiday Auto's. A Peugeot 207 with air con cost £183.00. The first four nights of our stay in Extremadura was at a farmhouse called Casa Rural Las Canteras booked online a week before leaving at a cost of e68 per night for three people. We had a two night stay outside Sevilla at Los Palacios y Villafranca in a * Hotel San Sebastian cost e48 per night for 3 people, and two nights in the Hostal Puerto Tornavacas in Tornavacas, Valle del Jerte, just inside the border of Extremadura, cost e48 per night for three people. All accommodations included breakfast and were all very clean. The whole trip cost me only £380.00 including a fine of e42 we had to pay for an illegal traffic manoeuvre made by Mike. The weather was mainly dry and overcast and sunny at times with an enormous storm late afternoon on 21st.

Places Visited

Day 1

Travelled to our accommodation Casa Rural Las Canteras just outside Trujillo, it took about 4 hours to cover the 200 miles because there were a lot of road repairs the last 50 miles

Day 2

Birded till dusk in Monfrague National Park, target birds; Rock Bunting, Booted Eagle, Larks, Spanish Imperial Eagle, Azure-winged Magpies, White-rumped Swift, Red-necked Nightjar, Black Stork etc.

Day 3

Birded the plains between Trujillo and Caceres along the back roads for Sandgrouse, Larks, Bustards and Black-winged Kites.

Day 4

Today went to Embalse de Arrocampo Almaraza for water birds and then to Valdecanas de Tajo.

Day 5

Early start and headed South, detoured to River Rucas near Vegas Atlas for Common Waxbill and Avadavat and then onto Laguna Hondilla Espera, Cadiz for Red-nobbed Coot.

Day 6

Birded Cadiz area around Laguna de la Mejorada near Los Palacios y Villafranca for Rufous Bush Robin and Western Olivaceous Warbler etc.

Day 7

Drove North to Valle del Jerte for woodland and mountain species.

Day 8

Birded Valle del Jerte again today.

Day 9

Headed back to the airport and had time for a couple of hours birding in woods about 5 miles away from there which was very productive. We got harassed by the civil guard for birding at the airport, they're not used to British birders yet at this small airport. Arrived back in the U.K. on time at 16.00 hours

List of birds seen

White Storks nest Casa Rural Las Canteras Extremadura



Little Grebe	Seen on most small pools of water in the Extremadura area 8 seen between Trujillo and Torrejon el Rubio 22/5.
Great Crested Grebe	Only 1 seen at at Embalse de Arrocampo Almaraza, Extremadura, 22/5
Black-necked Grebe	2, seen Laguna Hondilla Espera, Cadiz, 23/5
Little Bittern	Few birds. Seen well seen at Embalse de Arrocampo Almaraza, Extremadura, 22/5, also seen well on along a river at Vegas Atlas, 23/5
Night Heron	Common at Embalse de Arrocampo Almaraza, Extremadura, 22/5
Cattle Egret	Very common. Large numbers seen most days
Little Egret	1, seen near Trujillo 22/3
Great White Egret	1, in flight Laguna de la Mejorada, Los Palacios y Villafranca, Cadiz, 24/5
Grey Heron	Common at Embalse de Arrocampo Almaraza, Extremadura, 22/5
Purple Heron	Common at Embalse de Arrocampo Almaraza, Extremadura, 22/5. At least 9 seen.
Black Stork	2 seen from Santuario y Castillo de Monfrague, Extremadura, 20/5
White Stork	Very common seen everywhere.
Gadwall	Few birds seen Laguna Hondilla Espera, Cadiz, 23/5
Mallard	Fairly common seen most days.
Red-crested Potchard	10+ Laguna Hondilla Espera, Cadiz, 23/5
Potchard	Few birds present Laguna Hondilla Espera, Cadiz, 23/5
White-headed Duck	5+ Laguna Hondilla Espera, Cadiz, 23/5
Honey Buzzard	Odd bird seen around Monfrague and Extremadura, 20/5

Black-winged Kite	1, seen along a track just north of Caceres, 21/5
Black Kite	Very common, especially in Extremadura. Seen daily.
Red Kite	Up to 8 seen when driving from Villanubla airport to Extremadura, 19/5, and the odd bird seen around Extremadura
Egyptian Vulture	2, seen from Santuario y Castillo de Monfrague, Extremadura, 20/5
Griffin Vulture	Most common raptor around Monfrague and Extremadura, seen in large numbers.
Black Vulture	7+ Monfrague Park, 20/5 also odd bird seen around Extremadura, throughout our stay in that area.
Short-toed Eagle	Seen Monfrague, 20/5 also 1 seen Valle del Jerte, 25/5 and 26/5
Marsh Harrier	Couple of birds seen around the plains of Trujillo and Caceres 21/5, also 1, seen Embalse de Arrocampo, 22/5
Montagu's Harrier	10+ around the plains of Trujillo and Caceres 21/5.
Buzzard	Odd bird seen usually perched on roadside poles
Spanish Imperial Eagle	Adult and 2 young seen at nest on a pylon west of Torrejon el Rubio, 20/5 and again, 21/5
Booted Eagle	First seen near Torrejon el Rubio, 20/5 and often encountered around Extremadura, 2 seen Valle del Jerte, 25/5.
Lesser Kestrel	Common around Monfrague and Extremadura, seen on all days in that area.
Kestrel	Seen at Villanubla airport on 19/5 and 27/5 and the odd bird encountered in most area's visited
Red-legged Partridge	Often seen in farmland where we stayed for our first four nights near Trujillo
Moorhen	Fairly common, on most smaller pools in Extremadura very common on the paddy fields around Vegas Atlas, 23/5
Purple Swamp-hen	5, seen at at Embalse de Arrocampo Almaraza, Extremadura, 22/5
Coot	Good numbers seen Laguna Hondilla Espera, Cadiz, 23/5
Red-knobbed Coot	2, Laguna Hondilla Espera, also 2 neck collared birds with 3 young there, 23/5
Little Bustard	Common in the fields around our accommodation Casa Rural Las Canteras just north west of Trujillo, calling and displaying birds seen there while eating breakfast
Great Bustard	1, first seen up the road from Casa Rural Las Canteras, 21/5 also seen just north east of Caceres, 21/5, total of 7 seen .
Black-Winged Stilt	2, in flight Embalse de Arrocampo Almaraza, 22/5, good numbers seen near Los Palacios y Villafranca, Cadiz, 24/3.
Stone Curlew	1, first seen up the road from Casa Rural Las Canteras, 21/5 also 1 seen just north east of Caceres, 21/5
Collared Pratincole	Good numbers seen around the paddy fields near Sta Amalia East of Merida, 23/5, also common around Los Palacios y Villafranca, area Cadiz, 24/3.
Golden Plover	2, summer plumage birds just north east of Caceres, 21/5.
Lapwing	Only 1 seen in a paddy field near Sta Amalia East of Merida, 23/5.
Lesser Black-backed Gull	1, seen near Los Palacios y Villafranca, 24/3.
Yellow-legged Gull	1, seen near Los Palacios y Villafranca 24/3.
Black-bellied Sandgrouse	9, seen in fields just north east of Caceres, 21/5.
Pin-tailed Sandgrouse	10, seen with prolonged flight views just north east of Caceres, 21/5.
Feral Pigeon	Common seen most days
Woodpigeon	Common seen most days, particularly abundant Valle del Jerte, 25/-26/5

Collared Dove	Fairly common seen most days.
Turtle Dove	1, Portilla del Tietar, Monfrague, 20/5 odd bird seen and heard most days.
Great-spotted Cuckoo	Only 1 seen at at Embalse de Arrocampo Almaraza, Extremadura, 22/5
Cuckoo	1, in a wooded river valley at Valdecanas de Tajo near Embalse de Arrocampo Almaraza, 22/5, odd bird heard or seen most days.
Little Owl	1, seen near our accommodation Casa Rural Las Canteras, 20/5, probably the same bird seen again on other occasions
Red-necked Nightjar	2, Heard calling and seen in flight in very good light near Portilla del Tietar, Monfrague, 20/5
Swift	Very common large numbers seen most days
Pallid Swift	2, seen well Valle del Jerte, 26/5
Alpine Swift	Good numbers seen from Santuario y Castillo de Monfrague, Extremadura, 20/5, seen most days in the Extremadura area fairly common around river bridges.
White-rumped Swift	5+ seen very well from Santuario y Castillo de Monfrague, Extremadura, 20/5.
Kingfisher	1, Embalse de Arrocampo Almaraza, Extremadura, 22/5
Bee-eater	Very common around our accommodation Casa Rural Las Canteras seen there daily, seen elsewhere most days
Roller	6, seen on wires by nest boxes just north east of Caceres, 21/5. also odd bird seen near Caceres when passing there 25/5.
Hoopoe	Fairly common odd birds encountered most days
Green Woodpecker	2, of which 1 seen well on a wooden power pole being of the race sharpie in woods near Villanubla airport, 27/5
Great-spotted Woodpecker	1, Valle del Jerte, 25/5
Short-toed Lark	1, seen near our accommodation Casa Rural Las Canteras, 21/5
Calandra Lark	Very common near our accommodation Casa Rural Las Canteras, 50+ seen there, 21/5 and seen in all suitable habitats in Extremadura
Crested Lark	Very common seen daily in all area's visited
Thekla Lark	Fairly common on higher ground seen most days
Wood Lark	2 or 3 seen, 25-26/5 Valle del Jerte
Skylark	Only seen around Villanubla airport on 27/5, very common there.
Sand Martin	Not that common just the odd birds seen most days
Crag Martin	Common at all suitable habitats and seen daily in the Extremadura area
Swallow	Faily common seen most days
Red-rumped Swallow	Common seen Daily.
House Martin	Extremely common seen daily.
Grey Wagtail	1, seen Portilla del Tietar, 20/5. Seen both days in Valle del Jerte.
White Wagtail	Odd bird seen most days in all habitats
Wren	1, at Valdecanas de Tajo, 22/5
Dunnock	2, at over 1000 meters altitude in the Montes de Tras la Sierra off the Valle del Jerte.26/5
Robin	1, at Valdecanas de Tajo, 22/5, common Valle del Jerte, 25-26/5
Rufous Bush Robin	Up to 6 birds seen by large row of Prickly Pears at Laguna de la Mejorada, Los Palacios y Villafranca, 24/5
Nightingale	Common heard daily 1 st bird seen Laguna Hondilla Espera, Cadiz, 23/5

Black Redstart	1, Santuario y Castillo de Monfrague, 20/5, 2, Valle del Jerte, 25/5, 4, Villanubla airport, 27/5, the birds at Monfrague and the airport were the darker race birds aterrimus
Stonechat	Faily common seen most days
Northern Wheatear	2, fine males in the Montes de Tras la Sierra off the Valle del Jerte, 26/5
Black-eared Wheatear	1, Villanubla airport, 19/5, pale and black throated forms seen around Extremadura
Rock Thrush	1, stunning male in the Montes de Tras la Sierra off the Valle del Jerte. 26/5
Blue Rock Thrush	2+ Monfrague Park, 20/5
Blackbird	Surprisingly common seen daily.
Cetti's Warbler	3, seen and many heard at Embalse de Arrocampo Almaraza, Extremadura, 22/5, also seen and heard in most wetland areas
Fan-tailed Warbler	First seen near Caceres, 21/5, 20+ Embalse de Arrocampo, 22/5, common encounter anywhere.
Savi's Warbler	2, seen well Embalse de Arrocampo, 22/5
Reed Warbler	Common Embalse de Arrocampo, 22/5, seen and heard in all reedy area's visited
Great Reed Warbler	5, Embalse de Arrocampo, 22/5, 10+ River Rucas near Vegas Atlas, 23/5
Western Olivaceous Warbler	2, just outside Los Palacios y Villafranca, Cadiz, 23/5 and 4+ Laguna de la Mejorada, Los Palacios y Villafranca 24/5.
Melodious Warbler	Odd bird seen in Extremadura, 2 seen in woods near Villanubla airport, 27/5
Dartford Warbler	1, Monfrague 20/5 and at least 3 seen Montes de Tras la Sierra, 26/5
Subalpine Warbler	1, Monfrague 20/5, common in scrubby area near Villanubla airport, 27/5, 10+, seen.
Sardinian Warbler	1, Laguna Hondilla Espera, 23/5, often heard in suitable habitats
Whitethroat	Fairly common Montes de Tras la Sierra, 25-26/5
Blackcap	2, Monfrague 20/5, and seen most days in suitable habitats
Bonelli's Warbler	1, seen in woods near Villanubla airport, 27/5
Iberian Chiffchaff	2, Laguna de la Mejorada, Los Palacios y Villafranca, Cadiz, 24/5
Long-tailed Tit	Common around Santuario y Castillo de Monfrague, Extremadura, 20/5
Blue Tit	Common seen in all suitable habitats.
Great Tit	Common seen in all suitable habitats.
Nuthatch	Common in the woods in Montes de Tras la Sierra, 25-26/5
Short-toed Treecreeper	Fairly common in the woods Montes de Tras la Sierra, 25-26/5
Golden Oriole	1, at Valdecanas de Tajo, 22/5, 1, near Vegas Atlas, 23/5, good numbers seen Valle del Jerte, 25-26/5
Southern Grey Shrike	1, near Trujillo, 20/5, and the odd bird seen in the plains around Caceres, 21/5 and often seen perched on wires while driving
Woodchat Shrike	Fairly common seen in all suitable habitats.
Jay	Common in the woods in Montes de Tras la Sierra, 25-26/5
Azure-winged Magpie	First seen on route from the airport in Extremadura, 19/5, 30+ Monfrague, 20/5 and very common around the cherry orchards in Valle del Jerte, 25-26/5, seen daily except in the Cadiz area.
Magpie	Common especially around the cherry orchards in Valle del Jerte, 25-26/5
Chough	Small numbers seen and heard from Santuario y Castillo de Monfrague, 20/5
Jackdaw	Fairly common seen in all suitable habitats usually in small flocks.

Carrion Crow	Odd pair seen most days .
Raven	2, Portilla del Tietar, Monfrague, 20/5, also seen at Montes de Tras la Sierra, 25-26/5
Spotless Starling	Very common seen at the airport before getting into the hire car seen in large numbers daily.
House Sparrow	Very common seen daily.
Spanish Sparrow	Not so common as House Sparrow, good numbers Monfrague, 20/5, common around Embalse de Arrocampo, 22/5
Common Waxbill	10+ River Ruelas near Vegas Atlas, 23/5
Avadavat	8+ River Ruelas near Vegas Atlas, 23/5
Chaffinch	Common seen or heard daily in the Extremadura
Serin	Common seen or heard daily in the Extremadura area and down south, very common in Valle del Jerte, 25-26/5
Greenfinch	Odd birds seen most days.
Goldfinch	Small numbers encountered most days
Linnet	Fairly common small numbers encountered most days
Hawfinch	First seen Monfrague, 20/5, 7+Valdecanas de Tajo,22/5 common around the cherry orchards in Valle del Jerte, 25-26/5,
Cirl Bunting	3+ seen Montes de Tras la Sierra, 25/5
Rock Bunting	1, seen Portilla del Tietar, Monfrague, 20/5, small numbers seen in the Montes de Tras la Sierra off the Valle del Jerte, 25-26/5
Ortolan Buntings	Up to 7 seen on both visits to Montes de Tras la Sierra off the Valle del Jerte, 25-26/5
Corn Bunting	Common heard daily and seen most Days.

Number of species seen 135

Valle del Jerte Spain



Butterflies	Mammals	Amphibians/ Reptiles	Dragonflies	Fish
Swallowtail	Fox	Common Toad	Boyeria Irene	Barbel
Spanish Festoon	Rabbit	Bosca's Newt	Gomphus Pulchellus	Brown Trout
Large White	Deer sp	Marsh Frog	Brachythemis Leucosticta	
Black-veined White	Hare	European Pond Terrapin	Orthetrum Trinacria	
Bath White		Moorish Gecko		
Orange-Tip		Ocellated Lizard		
Clouded Yellow		Large Psammodromus		
Brimstone		Montpellier Snake		
False Ilex-Hairstreak		Viperine Snake		
Small Copper				
Purple-Shot Copper				
Osiris Blue				
Common Blue				
Red Admiral				
Peacock				

Noble Fritillary				
Marsh Fritillary				
Spanish Marbled White				
Meadow Brown				
Spanish Gatekeeper				
Small Skipper				
Large Skipper				