

## Saturday, 30 April 2016

### Zapata and Fuente de Piedra, Malaga Province and Osuna and Donana, Seville Province.

Pick ups and travelling to Villamanrique in the Donana.  
Donana and Extremadura tour Day one.



Jayne and I travelled down to the Car hire company near Malaga Airport where Jayne dropped me off to start a week long tour and continued on to do some shopping. I collected a minibus and then met Mike Langley at a nearby hotel before having a look at a reed filled channel right on the Northern end of the Runway just out side the Airport fence.

We parked and walked along the Southern bank and started the trip list off with **Zitting Cisticola** (Buitrón / Cisticola juncidis), **Nightingale** (Ruisenor Común / Luscinia megarhynchos), **Cetti's** (Ruisenor Bastardo / Cettia cetti), **Reed** (Carricero Común / Acrocephalus scrpaeus) and **Sardinian Warblers** (Curruca Cabecinegra / Sylvia melanocephala), **Common Stonechat** (Tarabilla Común / Saxicola torquata), **Goldfinch** (Jilguero / Carduelis carduelis), **Greenfinch** (Verderón Común / Carduelis chloris), **Linnet** (Pardillo Común / Carduelis cannabina), **Serin** (Verdecillo / Serinus serinus), **Purple Swamp-hen** (Calamon Común / Porphyrio porphyrio), **Mallard** (Anade Azulón / Anas platyrhynchos), **Monk Parakeet** (Cotorra Argentina / Myiopsitta monachus), **Little** (Garceta Común / Egreta garzetta) and **Cattle Egrets** (Garcilla Bueyera / Bubulcus ibis), **Night Heron** (Marinete Común / Nycticorax nycticorax), **Feral Pigeon** (Paloma Bravía / Columba livia), **Collared** (Tórtola Turca / Streptopelia decaocto) and **Turtle Doves** (Tórtola Europea / Streptopelia turtur), **House Martin** (Avión Común / Delichon urbica) and **Common Swifts** (Vencejo

Común / *Apus apus*). Just before the bridge over the channel we turned around and headed back to the van adding **Blackbird** (*Mirlo Común / Turdus merula*), **Red-**



**rumped** (*Golondrina Dáurica / Hirundo daurica*) and **Barn Swallows** (*Golondrina Común / Hirundo rustica*), **Crested Lark** (*Cogujada / Galerida cristata*), **Spotless**



**Starling** (*Estornino Negro / Sturnus unicolor*), **House Sparrow** (*Gorrión Común /*

Passer domesticus), **Common Waxbill** (Estrilda Ondulada / Estrilda astrild) and a few drifting **Yellow-legged Gulls** (Gaviota Patiamarilla / Larus Michahellis).



We got to the van and headed up the motorway calling in at the area that used to be Laguna de Herrera but now drained by the farmers, we did how ever find **Lesser Kestrel** (Cernicola Primilla / Falco naumanni), **Corn Bunting** (Triguero / Emberiza calandra), **Calandra** (Calandria / Melanocorypha calandra) and **Short-toed Larks** (Torrera Común / Calandrella brachydactyla), **Yellow Wagtail** (Lavandera Boyera /



Motacilla flava iberiae), **Raven** (Cuervo / Corvus corax) and **Iberian / Southern Grey Shrike** (Alcaudón Real Meridional / Lanius meridionalis). After checking the fields we drove a track which followed one of the larger drainage channels and added **Great Reed Warbler** (Carricero Tordal / Acrocephalus arundinaceus), **Common Buzzard** (Busardo Ratonero / Buteo buteo), **Marsh Harrier** (Aguilucho Lagunero Occidental / Circus aeruginosus), **Pallid Swift** (Vencejo Pálido / Apus pallidus) as well as **Clouded Yellow** (Colias Común / Colias corcea) and **Large White** (Pieris brassicae).



Our next location was past Antequera and out to a nearby site where we checked an area of grape vines and eventually caught up with a very smart **Rufous Bush Robin** (Alzacola / Cercotrichas galactotes) which was singing from a post in a chainlink fence. In the same area we also saw **Woodpigeon** (Paloma Torcaz / Columba palumbus), **Thekla Lark** (Cogujada Montesina / Galerida theklae) and **Red-legged Partridge** (Perdiz Roja / Alectoris rufa).

Again we continued on along the A92 but only as far as Fuente de Piedra, we stopped at the side of the entrance road pool and immediately picked up a stunning adult summer plumaged **White-winged (Black) Tern** (Fumarel Aliblanco / Chlidonias leucopterus) which was feeding



along with a winter plumaged **Whiskered Tern** (Fumarel Cariblanca / Chlidonias

hybridus). On the same pool we had **Curlew Sandpipers** (Correlimos Zarapitin / *Calidris ferruginea*) x14, **Common Sandpiper** (Andarrios Chico / *Actitis hypoleucos*) x3, **Black-winged Stilt** (Ciguenela Común / *Himantopus himantopus*), **Avocet** (*Avoceta Común* / *Recurvirostra avosetta*) x4, **Little Stint** (Correlimos Menudo / *Calidris minuta*) x5, **Ringed Plover** (Chorlitejo Grande / *Charadrius hiaticula*) x2,



**Ruff** (Combatiente / *Philomachus pugnax*) x5, **Black-tailed Godwit** (Aguja Colinegra / *Limosa limosa*) x1, **Bar-tailed Godwit** (Aguja Colipinta / *Limosa lapponica*) x3, **Glossy Ibis** (Morito Común / *Plegadis falcinellus*) x2, **Greater Flamingo** (Flamenco Común / *Phoenicopterus roseus*), **Eurasian Coot** (Focha Común / *Fulica atra*)



and **Gadwall** (Anade Friso / *Anas strepera*).

We parked and walked out on to the board walk and added a nice male **Ruff** starting to come in to Summer plumage, **Dunlin** (Correlimos Común / *Calidris alpina*) and **Common Redshank** (Archibebe Común / *Tringa totanus*).

We walked around to the view point and scanned the **Greater**

**Flamingo's** out on the main lake and eventually picked out 2 **Lesser Flamingo's** (Flamenco Enano / Phoenicopterus minor), along with **Gull-billed Tern** (Pagaza Piconegra / Gelochelidon nilotica) and **Shelduck** (Tarro Blanco / Tadoma tadorna). We then checked the two hides at the back of the reserve and boosted the list with



**Common** (Porrón Común / Aythya ferina) and **Red-crested Pochards** (Pato Colorado / Netta rufina), **Northern Shoveler** (Pato Cuchara / Anas clypeata), **White-headed Duck** (Malvasia Cabeciblanca / Oxyura leucocephala), **Black-headed Gull** (Gaviota Riedora / Larus ridibundus), **Black Tern** (Fumarel Común / Chlidonias niger), **European Bee-eater** (Abejaruco Común / Merops apiaster) and a pale phase **Booted Eagle** (Aguililla Calzada / Hieraaetus pennatus). Whilst we were there we also recorded **Iberian Blue-tail** (Ichnura graellsii), **Small** (Artogeia rapae) and **Bath Whites** (Blanqiverdosa / Pontia daplidice), **Carpenter Bee** (Xylocopa violacea), **Stripe-necked Terrapin** (Mauremys leprosa) and **Rabbit** (Oryctolagus cuniculus).

Further on along the A92 we came off the motorway at Osuna and checked the bridges along the route seeing **Spectacled** (Curruca Tomillera / Sylvia conspicillata) and **Melodious Warblers** (Zarcero Común / Hippolais polyglotta), **Montagu's Harrier** (Aguilucho Cenizo / Circus pygargus), **Common Kestrel** (Cernicalo Vulgar / Falco tinnunculus), **Woodchat Shrike** (Alcaudón Común / Lanius senator), **Great Bustard** (Avutarda Común / Otis tarda), **Collared Pratincole** (Canastera Común / Glareola pratincola), **Griffon Vulture** (Bultre Leonado / Gyps fulvus), **Black Kite** (Milano Negro / Milvus migrans), **White Stork** (Cigüena Blanca / Ciconia ciconia) and **Roller** (Carraca / Coracias garrulus).

We left the Osuna area and hurried over to Sevilla Airport where we met the rest of the group, John and Pam Fielder, Judy Clift, Linda Vincent and Mike Harvey before heading around Sevilla and out to our hotel near to Villamanrique. After checking in we went for a walk in to the nearby woodlands seeing **Iberian / Azure-winged**



**Magpie** (Rabilargo / *Cyanopica cyanus*), **Golden Oriole** (Oropéndola / *Oriolus oriolus*), **Green Woodpecker** (Pito Real / *Picus viridis*), **Common Cuckoo** (Cuco Común / *Cuculus canorus*), **Common Chaffinch** (Pinzón Vulgar / *Fringilla coelebs*), **Blue** (Herrerillo Común / *Parus caeruleus*) and **Great Tits** (Carbonera Común / *Parus major*), **Hoopoe** (Abubilla / *Upupa epops*) and **Short-toed Treecreeper** (Agateador Común / *Certhia brachydactyla*).

Later we had our meal and went to bed after a good start to the tour. During the night **Tawny Owl** (Cárabo Común / *Strix aluco*) was heard calling from the woods.

## Sunday, 1 May 2016

### Donana, Sevilla and Huelva Provinces.

#### A day on the Marshes between El Rocio and Matalascañas in the Donana. Donana and Extremadura tour Day two.

After a very nice breakfast we all met up out at the van and whilst we were waiting there some of the group started the day list off with **House Sparrow** (Gorrión Común / *Passer domesticus*), **Hoopoe** (Abubilla / *Upupa epops*), **Common Cuckoo** (Cuco / Común / *Cuculus canorus*), **Red-rumped** (Golondrina Dáurica / *Hirundo daurica*) and **Barn Swallows** (Golondrina Común / *Hirundo rustica*), **House Martin** (Avión Común / *Delichon urbica*), **Common Swift** (Vencejo Común / *Apus apus*), **Booted Eagle** (Aguililla Calzada / *Hieraetus pennatus*), **Nightingale** (Ruisenor Común / *Luscinia megarhynchos*), **Collared Dove** (Tórtola Turca / *Streptopelia decaocto*), **Woodpigeon** (Paloma Torcaz / *Columba palumbus*), **Great Tit** (Carbonera Común / *Parus major*), **Common Buzzard** (Busardo Ratonero / *Buteo buteo*) and just little

way down the road a very nice group of **White Storks** (Ciguena Blanca / Ciconia ciconia) nesting in some roadside trees.



We made our way across to the well known town of El Rocio on the edge of the Charco de la Boca, a large expanse of water to the south of the town and parked there. We walked along the promenade type walkway which follows the edge of the water and soon started to find some interesting species including **Greater Flamingo's** (Flamenco Común / Phoenicopterus roseus), lots of **Glossy Ibis** (Morito Común /

Plegadis falcinellus) which were flying in continually going to the large colony at the far end of the lake, **Spoonbill** (Espátula Común / Platalea leucorodia), **Greylag Geese** (Ansar Común / Anser anser), **Eurasian Coot** (Focha Común / Fulica atra), **Mallard**



(Anade Azulón / Anas platyrhynchos), **Red-crested** (Pato Colorado / Netta rufina) and **Common Pochards** (Porrón Común / Aythya ferina), **Gadwall** (Anade Friso / Anas strepera), a very smart male **Northern Pintail** (Ánade Rabudo / Anas acuta) which

Linda picked out, **Little** (Garceta Común / Egretta garzetta), **Cattle** (Garcilla Bueyera / Bubulcus ibis) and **Great White Egrets** (Garceta Grande / Egretta alba) all of which were seen in flight over the water, **Black-winged Stilts** (Ciguenela Común / Himantopus himantopus) and a flock of **Black-tailed Godwits** (Aguja Colinegra / Limosa limosa) which eventually dropped in to the grassy islands in the centre of the marsh. We made our way down as far as the SEO visitor centre which was



unfortunately closed but picked up **Black** (Fumarel Común / Chlidonias niger) and **Whiskered Terns** (Fumarel Cariblanca / Chlidonias hybridus), **Yellow-legged Gull** (Gaviota Patiamarilla / Larus Michahellis), **Night Heron** (Marinete Común /

Nycticorax nycticorax), **Reed Warbler** (Carricero Común / Acrocephalus scirpaceus), **Jackdaw** (Grajilla / Corvus monedula), **Common Moorhen** (Gallineta Común / Gallinulas chloropus), **Montagu's Harrier** (Aguilucho Cenizo / Circus pygargus),



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**Black Kite** (Milano Negro / Milvus migrans), distant singles of both **Egyptian Vulture** (Alimoche Común / Neophron percnopterus) and **Spanish Imperial Eagle** (Aguila Imperial Ibérica / Aguila adalberti), **Common Sandpiper** (Andarrios Chico / Actitis hypoleucos) and **Goldfinch** (Jilguero /

Carduelis carduelis).

Even though the centre was closed had viewed the heronrey from the side viewing area and added a single **Squacco** (Garcilla Cangrejera / Ardeola ralloides) to the list as well as 3 distant **Black Storks** (Ciguena Negra / Ciconia nigra), **Common Magpie** (Urraca / Pica pica) and **Greenfinch** (Verderón Común / Carduelis chloris). During the walk back to the van we heard and eventually had brief views of a couple of **Penduline Tits** (Pájaro Moscón / Remiz pendulinus), heard but did not see **Golden Oriole** (Oropéndola / Oriolus oriolus) as well as adding **Grey Heron** (Garza Real / Ardea cinerea), **Yellow Wagtail** (Lavandera Boyera / Motacilla flava iberiae), **Zitting Cisticola** (Buitrón / Cisticola juncidis) and **Serin** (Verdecillo / Serinus serinus) to the day list.



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Our next stop was down the main road to the coast at the Acebuches visitor centre but water levels were disappointingly low as often is the case in the Donana these days but we extended the list during the walk around the three hides with **Iberian / Azure-winged Magpie** (Rabilargo / *Cyanopica cyanus*), **Bonelli's Warbler** (Mosquitero Papialbo / *Phylloscopus bonelli*), **Common Stonechat** (Tarabilla Común / *Saxicola torquata*), a group of heard only **Crested Tits** (Herrerillo Capuchino / *Parus cristatus*), **Corn Bunting** (Triguero / *Emberiza calandra*), **Raven** (Cuervo / *Corvus corax*),



**Little Grebe** (Zampullín Común / *Tachybaptus ruficollis*), **Tree Sparrow** (Gorrión Molinero / *Passer montanus*), a fine looking male **Pied Flycatcher** (Papamoscas Cerrojillo / *Ficedula hypoleuca*), **Orphean** (Curruca Mirlano / *Sylvia hortensis*), **Melodious** (Zarcero Común / *Hippolais polyglotta*) and **Sardinian Warblers** (Curruca Cabecinegra / *Sylvia melanocephala*), **Short-toed Treecreeper** (Agateador Común / *Certhia brachydactyla*), **Woodchat Shrike** (Alcaudón Común / *Lanius senator*) as well as **Bath**



**White** (Blanquiverdosa / *Pontia daplidice*) and **Painted Lady** (*Vanessa cardui*).

There were also masses of wildflowers seen from the boardwalks including **Yellow Sunrose** (*Halimum halimifolium*), **Crown Daisy** (*Chrysanthemum carinatum* var *discolor*), **Grey-leaved Cistus** (*Cistus albidus*), **Small Pink Cistus** (*Cistus crispus*), **Scarlet Pimpernel** (*Anagallis arvensis*), **Mediterranean Catchfly**

(*Silene colorata*), **Campanula specularioides** and many more which still need names.

By now it was getting on so we dropped down to the coast and had some lunch in a bar on the eastern side of Matalascañas before having a look at a rather packed beach where Pam, John and Judy went for a paddle while the rest of us scanned the sea picking up 3+ **Sandwich** (*Charrán Patinegro* / *Sterna sandvicensis*) and 5 less expected **Caspian Terns** (*Pagaza Piquiroja* / *Sterna caspia*) and lots of **Pallid Swift** (*Vencejo Pálido* / *Apus pallidus*) which screamed continually over head.

We retraced our steps back up towards El Rocio and the checked the board walks out



at Acebrón Centre but there were quite a few people about so we went down to the area of open water nearby and scanned the reed beds from the track. Straight away we had nice views of a couple of **Squacco Herons**, a **Purple Heron** (*Garza Imperial* / *Ardea purpurea*) in flight, **Cetti's Warbler** (*Ruisenor Bastardo* / *Cettia cetti*), **Purple Swamp-hen** (*Calamon Común* / *Porphyrio porphyrio*) and best of all a singing **Savi's Warbler** (*Buscarla Unicolor* / *Locustella luscinioides*) which showed well in a clump of Rushes reasonably close. In the same area we had **Yellow Lupin** (*Lupinus luteus*), **Royal Fern** (*Osmunda regalis*), **Lesser-snapdragon** (*Misopates orontium*) a **Greenshank** (*Archibebe Claro* / *Tringa nebularia*), **Common Chaffinch** (*Pinzón Vulgar* / *Fringilla coelebs*), **Black-necked Grebe** (*Zampullín Cullinegro* / *Podiceps nigricollis*), **Long-tailed** (*Mito* / *Aegithalos caudatus*) and **Coal Tits** (*Carbonero Garrapinos* / *Parus ater*), **Large Psammodromus** (*Lagartija colilarga* / *Psammodromus algerus*), **Perez's Frog** (*Rana Común* / *Pelophylax perezii*) and **Carpenter Bee** (*Xylocopa violacea*).

Once we returned to the car we drove just down the road and did the loop woodland walk around the Palacio de Acebrón where we saw or heard **Wren** (*Chochin* / *Troglodytes troglodytes*), **Spotted Flycatcher** (*Papamoscas Gris* / *Muscicapa striata*), **Green Woodpecker** (*Pito Real* / *Picus viridis*), 3 **Common Waxbill** (*Estrilda Ondulada* / *Estrilda astrild*) and then just as we were about to reach Mike Harvey came up and said that he had just had the main target bird for this site a **Lesser-**

**spotted Woodpecker** (*Dryobates minor*) but by the time we returned to where he had seen it it had gone. We did find a couple of **Iberian Blue-tails** (*Ischnura graellsii*) before we returned to the car and then made our way back to the hotel. We had our evening meal and retired after a tiring day.





## Monday, 2 May 2016

**El Corredor Verde, Cañada de la Rianzuela, Visitor centre J.A. Valverde and on the way back to Villamanrique, Sevilla and Huelva Provinces.**

**More time around the marshes and lakes of the Donana. Donana and Extremadura tour Day three.**



We started a little before breakfast and heard a calling **Tawny Owl** (Cárabo Común / Strix aluco) and a **Common Cuckoo** (Cuco Común / Cuculus canorus) which was calling from the top of a dead tree nearby. After breakfast we checked the area around

the car park and continued the day list with **House Sparrow** (Gorrión Común / Passer domesticus),

**Iberian / Azure-winged Magpie** (Rabilargo / Cyanopica cyanus),

**Mallard** (Anade Azulón / Anas platyrhynchos),

**Hoopoe** (Abubilla / Upupa epops),



**Collared** (Tórtola Turca / *Streptopelia decaocto*) and **Turtle Doves** (Tórtola Europea / *Streptopelia turtur*), **Common Swift** (Vencejo Común / *Apus apus*), **Common Waxbill** (Estrilda Ondulada / *Estrilda astrild*), **Nightingale** (Ruisenor Común / *Luscinia megarhynchos*), **House Martin** (Avión Común / *Delichon urbica*), **Red-rumped** (Golondrina Dáurica / *Hirundo daurica*) and **Barn Swallows** (Golondrina Común / *Hirundo rustica*) and the continually present **Black Kites** (Milano Negro / *Milvus migrans*).

Once we were all aboard the van we headed a short way East to the start of a drive along the El Corredor Verde, right at the start we had a walk in amongst the Stone



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Pine woods and found **Serin** (Verdecillo / *Serinus serinus*), **Green Woodpecker** (Pito Real / *Picus viridis*), **Sardinian** (Curruca Cabecinegra / *Sylvia melanocephala*) and **Orphean Warblers** (Curruca Mirlano / *Sylvia hortensis*), **European Bee-eater** (Abejaruco Común / *Merops apiaster*), **Great Tit** (Carbonera Común / *Parus major*), **Tree Sparrow** (Gorrión Molinero / *Passer montanus*), **Greenfinch** (Verderón Común / *Carduelis chloris*),



**Goldfinch** (Jilguero / *Carduelis carduelis*), **Common Buzzard** (Busardo Ratonero / *Buteo buteo*), **Woodpigeon** (Paloma Torcaz / *Columba palumbus*) and **Spotted Flycatcher** (Papamoscas Gris / *Muscicapa striata*) and Mike Harvey then pulled another one out of the bag when he showed

us a nice photograph of a **Green-Striped White** (*Euchloe belemia*) he had just seen.

We moved on along the track to a large irrigation pool where we scanned the small area of water that was visible and added **Great Crested Grebe** (Somormujo Lavanco / Podiceps cristatus), **Eurasian Coot** (Focha Común / Fulica atra) and **Mallard** (Anade Azulón / Anas platyrhynchos) and on the surrounding fields we located **Black-winged Stilt** (Ciguenela Común / Himantopus himantopus), **Linnet** (Pardillo Común / Carduelis cannabina), **Spanish Sparrow** (Gorrión Moruno / Passer hispaniolensis), **Zitting Cisticola** (Buitrón / Cisticola juncidis), **Common Sandpiper** (Andarrios Chico / Actitis hypoleucos), **Red-legged Partridge** (Perdiz Roja / Alectoris rufa), **Cetti's Warbler** (Ruisenor Bastardo / Cettia cetti), **Little Ringed Plover** (Chorlitejo Chico / Charadrius dubius), **Common Magpie** (Urraca / Pica pica) and a few fly over **Yellow-legged Gulls** (Gaviota Patiamarilla / Larus Michahellis).



We moved on along the track heading south making several stops on the way getting nice views of **Whinchat** (Tarabilla Nortena / Saxicola rubetra), **Melodious Warbler** (Zarcero Común / Hippolais polyglotta), **Raven** (Cuervo / Corvus corax), **Common Stonechat** (Tarabilla Común / Saxicola torquata), **Common**

**Kestrel** (Cernicalo Vulgar / Falco tinnunculus), **Yellow Wagtail** (Lavandera Boyera / Motacilla flava iberiae) and **Pallid Swift** (Vencejo Pálido / Apus pallidus) along with **Bath** (Blanqiverdosa / Pontia daplidice) and **Small White** (Artogeia rapae), **Small Copper** (Lycaena phlaeas) and **Clouded Yellow** (Colias Común / Colias corcea).



We came off the end of the track and checked out a small wetland on the roadside, we parked and had a walk along a track above the area and picked up **Glossy Ibis** (Morito Común / Plegadis falcinellus), more **Purple Swamp-hens** (Calamon Común / Porphyrio porphyrio) than have ever seen in one place before, **Purple Heron**

(Garza Imperial / *Ardea purpurea*), 2x male **Marsh Harriers** (*Aguilucho Lagunero Occidental* / *Circus aeruginosus*), **Spoonbill** (*Espátula Común* / *Platalea leucorodia*), **Squacco Heron** (*Garcilla Cangrejera* / *Ardeola ralloides*), **Little** (*Garceta Común* / *Egretta garzetta*) and **Cattle Egrets** (*Garcilla Bueyera* / *Bubulcus ibis*), **Common Kestrel** (*Cernicalo Vulgar* / *Falco tinnunculus*), **White Stork** (*Cigüena Blanca* / *Ciconia ciconia*), **Reed** (*Carricero Común* / *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*) and a couple of **Western Olivaceous Warblers** (*Zarcero Pálido Occidental* / *Hippolais opaca*) but they were very hard to find in a very strong wind.

Just down the road we stopped along side a much larger lake at a couple of points and



got the scopes out and found **Greater Flamingo's** (*Flamenco Común* / *Phoenicopterus roseus*), **Red-crested** (*Pato Colorado* / *Netta rufina*) and **Common Pochards** (*Porrón Común* / *Aythya ferina*), **Northern Shoveler** (*Pato Cuchara* / *Anas clypeata*), **Spoonbills**, **Gadwall** (*Anade Friso* / *Anas strepera*), **Black-necked** (*Zampullín Cullinegro* / *Podiceps nigricollis*), **Little** (*Zampullín Común* / *Tachybaptus ruficollis*) and **Great Crested Grebes**, **Mallard**, **Eurasian Coot** and **Red-knobbed Coots** (*Focha cornuda* / *Fulca cristata*), **Common Moorhen** (*Gallineta Común* / *Gallinulas chloropus*), **Purple Swamp-hen**, a couple of fly over **Collared Pratincoles** (*Canastera Común* / *Glareola pratincola*), **Great Reed** (*Carricero Tordal* / *Acrocephalus arundinaceus*) and more **Western Olivaceous Warblers**, **Common Swift**, loads of **Black Kites** and a fine male **Black-headed Weaver** (*Ploceus melanocephalus*) which was sat near three of their pendulous nests in the Tamarisk bushes.

We moved on along the road and had lunch before return back



along the same road making a quick stop at the lake again at a spot where there had been a couple of other vehicle loads of birds on the way up. Here we saw all the species we had seen earlier but this time we had very close views of a nice **Red-knobbed Coot**.

We left this site and headed along the track down to the J.A.Valverde Centre, on the way we had nice views of several **Lesser Kestrels** (*Cernicola Primilla* / *Falco naumanni*), **Little Owl** (*Mochuelo Europeo* / *Athene noctua*), several **Great White Egrets** (*Garceta Grande* / *Egretta alba*), **Yellow Wagtail** (*Lavandera Boyera* / *Motacilla flava iberiae*) and a very pale looking **Short-toed Eagle** (*Culebrera Europeo* / *Circaetus gallicus*) probably one of last years birds.



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Once we were at the centre we had a look at the main lake through the glass windows seeing several **Avocet** (*Avoceta Común* / *Recurvirostra avosetta*) which were the only new species seen here but there were good numbers of **Glossy Ibis**, **Cattle Egrets**, **Greater Flamingo's**, **Eurasian Coot**, **Black-winged Stilts**, **Spotless Starling** (*Estornino Negro* / *Sturnus unicolor*), **Spotted Flycatcher**, **Western Olivaceous Warblers**, **Purple Swamp-hen**, a nice male **Marsh Harrier** and males of both



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**Vagrant** (*Anax ephippiger*) and **Lesser Emperor** (*Anax parthenope*).

We took a short drive out on the track near by and picked up several very smart **Whinchats** (*Tarabilla Nortena* / *Saxicola rubetra*), 2 **Lesser Short-toed Larks** (*Terrera Marismena* / *Calandrella rufescens*)

which took quite a while to find in the salt marsh type vegetation, **Yellow Wagtails**, **Hoopoe** and out on an area of water a hundred plus **Ringed Plover** (Chorlitejo Grande / Charadrius hiaticula).

Once we had finish in this area we took a different route back to the hotel seeing some



stunning **Purple** and **Grey Herons** (Garza Real / Ardea cinerea), 4x **Greenshanks** (Archibebe Claro / Tringa nebularia) in one of the larger channels, **Short-toed Larks** (Terrera Común / Calandrella brachydactyla) on the tracks and several of the more common **Crested Larks** (Cogujada / Galerida cristata).



We got back to the hotel and had our evening meal slightly earlier than the previous evening and then went for a walk in the hotel grounds where we heard **Tawny** and **Little Owls** (Mochuelo Europeo / Athene noctua) and several **Red-necked Nightjars** (Chotacabras Cuellirrojo / Caprimulgus ruficollis) before heading off to bed.

## Tuesday, 3 May 2016

**North of Hinosos, Sevilla Province, Embalse de Corvales, Merida and Belen Plains near Trujillo, Extremadura.**

**The change of location day, heading north from the Donana into Extremadura. Donana and Extremadura tour Day four.**

We started the day on a road heading north from Hinosos, our first stop was on the roadside where we checked the nearby woodlands. Most of the group walked north



whist Pam spent some time painting the wild flowers around the van. We soon started to see and hear species in the Olives and Poplars including **Nightingale** (Ruisenor Común / Luscinia megarhynchos), **Cetti's** (Ruisenor Bastardo / Cettia cetti) and **Sardinian Warbler** (Curruca Cabecinegra / Sylvia melanocephala), **Wren** (Chochin / Troglodytes troglodytes), **Serin** (Verdecillo / Serinus serinus), **Tree Sparrow** (Gorrión Molinero / Passer montanus), **Raven** (Cuervo / Corvus corax), **Turtle Dove** (Tórtola Europea / Streptopelia turtur), **Spotted Flycatcher** (Papamoscas Gris / Muscicapa striata), **Woodchat Shrike** (Alcaudón Común / Lanius senator), **Blackbird** (Mirlo Común / Turdus merula), **Black Kite** (Milano Negro / Milvus migrans), **Iberian / Azure-winged Magpie** (Rabilargo / Cyanopica cyanus), **Red-rumped** (Golondrina Dáurica / Hirudo daurica) and **Barn Swallows** (Golondrina

Común / *Hirundo rustica*), **Common Swift** (Vencejo Común / *Apus apus*) and a couple of new species **Blackcap** (*Curruca Capirotada* / *Sylvia atricailla*) and **Garden Warbler** (*Curruca Mosquitera* / *Sylvia borin*).



Wild flowers seen here included **Eruca** (*Eruca sativa*), **Mediterranean Catchfly** (*Silene colorata*), **Blue Hounds-tongue** (*Cynoglossum creticum*), **Dove's Foot Cranesbill** (*Geranium molle*), **Common Fumitory** (*Fumaria officinalis*), **Star Clover** (*Trifolium stellatum*), **Common Mallow** (*Malva sylvestris*), **Corn Poppy** (*Papaver rhoeas*), **Milk Thistle** (*Silybum marianum*), **Crown Daisy** (*Chrysanthemum carinatum* var *discolor*), **Field marigold** (*Calendula arvensis*), **Purple Bugloss** (*Echium plantagineum*), **White Mignonette** (*Reseda Alba*) and **Rabbits bread** (*Andryala integrifolia*).



We moved up the road and checked a couple of areas of Grape vines and picked up **Little Owl** (Mochuelo Europeo / *Athene noctua*), **Zitting Cisticola** (Buitrón / *Cisticola juncidis*), **Corn Bunting** (Triguero / *Emberiza calandra*), **Common Cuckoo** (Cuco Común / *Cuculus canorus*), **Common Stonechat** (Tarabilla Común / *Saxicola torquata*),

**Whinchat** (Tarabilla Nortena / Saxicola rubetra) as well as **Painted Lady** (Vanessa cardui), **Western Dappled White** (Euchloe crameri) and **Large Psammodromus** (Lagartija colilarga / Psammodromus algirus).



We moved a little further up the road and in to some **Cork Oak** (Quercus suber) woodland where we had a walk to see what we could find, species found included

**Short-toed Treecreeper** (Agateador Común / Certhia brachydactyla), **Blue** (Herrerillo Común / Parus caeruleus), **Great** (Carbonera Común / Parus major) and **Crested Tits** (Herrerillo Capuchino / Parus cristatus), **Nightingale**, **Iberian / Azure-winged Magpie**, **Spotless Starling** (Estornino Negro / Sturnus unicolor), **Blackcap**, **Woodpigeon** (Paloma Torcaz / Columba palumbus), **Common Chaffinch** (Pinzón Vulgar / Fringilla coelebs), **Orphean** (Curruca Mirlano / Sylvia

hortensis) and **Garden Warbler**, **European Bee-eater** (Abejaruco Común / Merops apiaster) and a very nice **Wryneck** (Torcecuello / Jynx torquilla) which showed very well for the whole group.



In the same area we had **Meadow Brown** (*Maniola jurtina* ssp *hispulla*), **Small White** (*Artogeia rapae*), **Speckled Wood** (*Pararge aegeria*) and **Small Heath** (*Coenonympha pamphilus* F *lyllus*).



Time clicked on so we hit the road and started the drive north stopping for lunch before having a few hours around the beautiful woodlands surrounding the Embalse de Cornalvo to the east of Mérida. We parked on a roadside and had a walk down

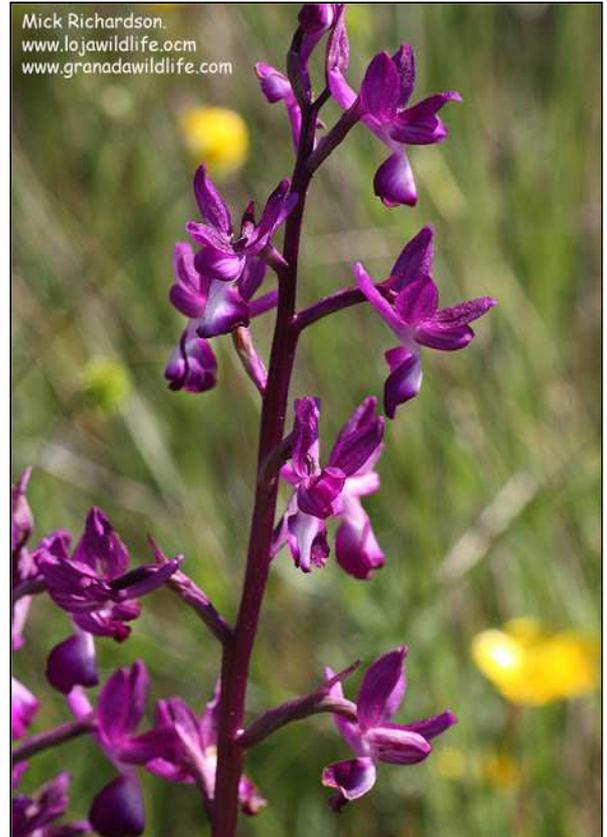


through some sunning **Cistus** and wild flower meadows amongst the Cork Oak woods until we reached the lake, on the way down we saw **Gum Cistus** (*Cistus ladanifer*), **French Lavender** (*Lavandula stoechas*), **Spotted Rockrose** (*Tuberaria guttata*) and out on the grass areas around the lake **Tounge** (*Serapias lingua*) and **Small-tongue Orchid** (*Serapias parviflora*). Birds seen included **Thekla Lark** (*Cogujada Montesina* / *Galerida theklae*), **Spotted Flycatcher**, **Serin** (*Verdecillo* / *Serinus serinus*), **Melodious Warbler** (*Zarcero Común* / *Hippolais polyglotta*), **Hoopoe** (*Abubilla* / *Upupa epops*), **Griffon Vulture** (*Bultre Leonado* / *Gyps fulvus*) and **Raven** (*Cuervo* / *Corvus corax*).

On our way back to the motorway to

complete the last 80 or so KM of the trip we found several spikes of **Lax-flowered Orchid** (*Orchis laxiflora*) and on the journey north we picked up **Crag Martin** (*Avión Roquero* / *Ptyonoprogne rupestris*), **Montagu's Harrier** (*Aguilucho Cenizo* / *Circus pygargus*) and **European Black Vulture** (*Buitre Negro* / *Aegypius monachus*).

After the trip we decided to book in at the very smart NH hotel in the Centre of Trujillo and then go out into the main square and have something to eat and drink, whilst we were eating we did see **Jackdaw** (*Grajilla* / *Corvus monedula*), **Lesser Kestrel** (*Cernicola Primilla* / *Falco naumanni*) and hundreds of **Common Swifts**.



**Thursday, 5 May 2016**

**Belen Plain, Santa Marta de Magasca area, Extremadura.**

**Bustards, Sandgrouse and Eagles.**

**Donana and Extremadura tour Day Six.**



We again met out on the steps above the main square in Trujillo and whilst we were waiting for the group to assemble we picked up the expected **Common Swift**



(Vencejo Común / Apus apus), **White Stork** (Cigüena Blanca / Ciconia ciconia), **Spotless Starling** (Estornino Negro / Sturnus unicolor), **Barn Swallows** (Golondrina Común / Hirundo rustica), **House Sparrows** (Gorrión Común / Passer domesticus), **Jackdaw** (Grajilla / Corvus monedula) and **Feral Pigeons** (Paloma Bravía / Columba livia).

Our first stop was out on the Belen Plain, on the way we had **Corn Bunting** (Triguero / *Emberiza calandra*), **Iberian / Azure-winged Magpie** (Rabilargo / *Cyanopica cyanus*), **Woodchat Shrike** (Alcaudón Común / *Lanius senator*) and **Common**



**Magpie** (*Urraca / Pica pica*) and once there we quickly located the first of the days **Great Bustards** (*Avutarda Común / Otis tarda*) as well as loads of **Calandra** (*Calandria / Melanocorypha calandra*) and **Crested Larks** (*Cogujada / Galerida cristata*), more feeding **White Storks**, a calling **Hoopoe** (*Abubilla / Upupa epops*), a **Grey Heron** (*Garza Real / Ardea cinerea*) which flapped across in the distance, **European Bee-eater** (*Abejaruco Común / Merops apiaster*) and a grounded **Griffon Vulture** (*Bultre Leonado / Gyps fulvus*) which was sat on a rock a couple of hundred meters away. We continued on down the road and parked again, this time we were in a slight dip but we scanned the area again and found a good number of **Cattle Egrets** (*Garcilla Bueyera / Bubulcus ibis*), **Raven** (*Cuervo / Corvus corax*), **Common Buzzard** (*Busardo Ratonero / Buteo buteo*), **Black Kite** (*Milano Negro / Milvus migrans*), **Red-rumped Swallow** (*Golondrina Dáurica / Hirundo daurica*), **Mallard** (*Anade Azulón / Anas platyrhynchos*), **Iberian / Southern Grey Shrike** (*Alcaudón Real Meridional / Lanius meridionalis*), a fly through **Black-winged Stilt** (*Ciguenela Común / Himantopus himantopus*) and then two nice new species for the trip, first a brief view of a flying **Little Bustard** (*Sisón Común / Tetrax tetrax*) and then a **Great Spotted Cuckoo** (*Crialo Europeo / Clamator glandarius*) which was sat on a fence post on the far side of the fields in front of us, later we saw this and another bird in flight. We retraced our way back along the road and stopped at another spot on the way back where we had good prolonged views of a calling male **Little Bustard** and a couple more **Great Bustards** but they were along way off over the fields.

We continued on out on to the fields to the west of Trujillo and as soon as we came off the main road and out on to the quieter roads and tracks we started to find some interesting species including a small flock of 6 **Black-bellied Sandgrouse** (Ganga



Ortega / *Pterocles orientalis*) which landed just out of sight in the next field to where we were. In the same area we had several **Lesser Kestrels** (*Cernicola Primilla* / *Falco naumanni*), **Rollers** (*Carraca* / *Coracias garrulus*) and a fine male **Montagu's Harrier** (*Aguilucho Cenizo* / *Circus pygargus*) which flapped low over the same area.

We moved on along the next road and spent quite a while searching for **Great**

**Bustards** but could not find any on the ground and only managed a brief flight view, we did however see and hear **Calandra** and **Crested Larks**, **Gadwall** (*Anas strepera* / *Anas strepera*), **European Black** (*Buitre Negro* / *Aegypius monachus*) and **Griffon Vultures** (*Bultre Leonado* / *Gyps fulvus*) which due to the cloudy weather were quite low, **Common Quail** (*Codorniz Común* / *Coturnix coturnix*), **Zitting Cisticola** (*Buitrón* / *Cisticola juncidis*) and then a very smart immature **Golden Eagle** (*Águila Real* / *Aquila chrysaetos*) which was sat on a large concrete post a long way off but did a nice flyby and came quite a bit closer and flushed a **Little Bustard** as it came.



We continued on along the track then spotted a largish group of **Black Kites** and a single **Red Kite** (*Milano Real* / *Milvus milvus*) low over a stubble field harassing a much larger raptor which turned out to be an immature **Spanish Imperial Eagle** (*Aguila Imperial Ibérica* / *Aguila adalberti*) which flew off low but quickly to get out of their

way.

We continued on around the track to where we thought the **Eagle** had dropped but found no sign of it. We turned around and made our way back to the motorway and

then along one junction west to a bar for lunch. Later we went back to the same track we had just left to check the roadside hide that we had seen earlier but was swamped by a coach load of birders at the time.

We arrived and scanned the surrounding fields and picked up two more **Great Bustards**, **Rollers**, and on a pool down in a nearby dip **Gadwall** and **Little Grebe** (Zampullín Común / Tachybaptus ruficollis).



The weather had taken a turn for the worst so we headed back towards Trujillo but as things improved we took a side road and checked the oak woodlands and fields along its length until we reached a village where we turned around, along this stretch of road



we had the largest female **Goshawk** (Azor Común / Accipitor gentillis) I have ever seen sat on a post, then in a tree and in flight, as well as **Rock Sparrow** (Gorrión Chillón / Petronia petronia), **Iberian / Southern Grey Shrike**, **Serin** (Verdecillo / Serinus serinus), **Common Chaffinch** (Pinzón Vulgar / Fringilla coelebs), **Sardinian Warbler** (Curruca Cabecinegra / Sylvia melanocephala), yet

another **Great Bustard**, **Common Kestrel** (Cernicalo Vulgar / Falco tinnunculus) and a couple of **Iberian Brown Hares** (Lepus europaeus / capensis). As we drove

back we took a drive along a track we had spotted on the way out which turned out to be one of the best chooses we were to make during the trip.



We stopped on a low ridge which gave us nice views all around and had the best views so far of a **Great Bustard**, a soaring **Short-toed Eagle** (*Culebrera Europeo / Circaetus gallicus*) and then the birds of the day, Judy picked up a couple of Sandgrouse in flight which we all thought would be more **Black-bellied** but then they turned and showed us bright white underparts confirming them to be the much more



difficult to find **Pin-tailed Sandgrouse** (Ganga Ibérica / *Pterocles alchata*) and if this was not good enough another four soon followed and landed in the same area but in to grass that was just too deep for us to see them. A couple of minutes later we had a large eagle species flying away from us which looked too dark to be **Golden** again but we could not be sure what it was until a few minutes later when it flew back towards us and landed in a large Eucalyptus tree and showed well giving us a chance to see all the white markings on the shoulders and in the wings telling us it was in fact an adult **Spanish Imperial**. It later flew off away from us and was joined by a second adult bird which landed in a distant bush but soon moved on again. This was a fantastic way to finish the day.

## Friday, 6 May 2016

**Monfrague, Embalse de Almaraz-Arrocampo and Belen Plain, Extremadura.**

**Mountains, Lakes, Plains and Rain but that did not spoil the birding. Donana and Extremadura tour Day Seven.**



After looking at the weather reports we decided to head north in to the mountains instead of south out on to the plain and in general this turned out to be a very wise move as for most of the day the only rain we saw was whilst we were moving between sites but we did finish just slightly earlier than normal as the rain got quite bad out on the Belen Plain area at the end of the day.

We drove north and made our first stop by the bridge over the Rio Tozo and in the 30 minutes or so we were there we recorded 33 different species including **Reed** (Carricero Común / *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*), **Great Reed** (Carricero Tordal /

Acrocephalus arundinaceus), **Cetti's** (Ruisenor Bastardo / Cettia cetti) and **Sardinian Warblers** (Curruca Cabecinegra / Sylvia melanocephala), **Hoopoe** (Abubilla / Upupa epops), **Corn Bunting** (Triguero / Emberiza calandra), **Common Chaffinch** (Pinzón



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Vulgar / Fringilla coelebs), **Red-rumped Swallow** (Golondrina Dáurica / Hirundo daurica), **Grey** (Garza Real / Ardea cinerea) and **Purple Herons** (Garza Imperial / Ardea purpurea), **Gadwall** (Anade Friso / Anas strepera), **Kingfisher** (Martin



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Pescador / Alcedo atthis), **Golden Oriole** (Oropéndola / Oriolus oriolus), **European Bee-eater** (Abejaruco Común / Merops apiaster), **White Wagtail** (Lavandera Blanca / Montacilla alba), **Cirl Bunting** (Escribano Soteno / Emberiza cirlus), **Common**

**Cuckoo** (Cuco Común / *Cuculus canorus*), **Zitting Cisticola** (Buitrón / *Cisticola juncidis*), **Spanish Sparrow** (Gorrión Moruno / *Passer hispaniolensis*), **House Martin** (Avión Común / *Delichon urbica*), **Woodchat Shrike** (Alcaudón Común / *Lanius senator*), **Iberian / Azure-winged Magpie** (Rabilargo / *Cyanopica cyanus*)



and **Common Swift** (Vencejo Común / *Apus apus*). In the same area we hear lots of **Perez's Frog** (*Rana Común / Pelophylax perezii*) and saw a couple of fast moving **Large Psammodromus** (*Lagartija colilarga / Psammodromus algirus*).

We moved on along the road to the car park right at the bottom of the hill up to the Castillo of Monfrague, on the way there we saw a very smart pale phase **Booted Eagle** (*Aguililla Calzada / Hieraaetus pennatus*), **Barn Swallow** (*Golondrina Común / Hirundo rustica*) and several **Crag Martins** (*Avión Roquero / Ptyonoprogne rupestris*).

From the car park six of us walked up to the next parking area just below the castillo whilst Pam got the paints out again near the van, on the way up we heard and saw **Goldfinch** (*Jilguero / Carduelis carduelis*), a singing **Woodlark** (*Totovia / Lullula arborea*), **Long-tailed** (*Mito / Aegithalos caudatus*), **Great** (*Carbonera Común / Parus major*) and **Blue Tits** (*Herrerillo Común / Parus caeruleus*), **Serin** (*Verdecillo / Serinus serinus*), **Short-toed Treecreeper** (*Agateador Común / Certhia brachydactyla*), **Raven** (*Cuervo / Corvus corax*), **Wren** (*Chochin / Troglodytes troglodytes*), **Jay** (*Arrendajo / Garrulus glandarius*), **Blackcap** (*Curruca Capirotada / Sylvia atricailla*), a male **Subalpine Warbler** (*Curruca Carrasquena / Sylvia cantillans*) and near to the top of the walk **Griffon** (*Bultre Leonado / Gyps fulvus*), **European Black** (*Buitre Negro / Aegyptius monachus*) and **Egyptian Vultures** (*Alimoche Común / Neophron percnopterus*) and a singing male **Blue-rock Thrush** (*Roquero Solitario / Monticola solitarius*). Just after reaching





the top we checked a small area of wildflowers and found several species including **Common Grape Hyacinth** (*Muscari neglectum*), **Crown Daisy** (*Chrysanthemum carinatum*), **Brown Bluebell** (*Jacinto bastardo / Dipcadi serotinum*), **Borage** (*Borago officinalis*), **Common Snapdragon** (*Antirrhinum major*), **Great Mullein** (*Verbascum giganteum*), **Milk Thistle** (*Silybum marianum*), **Purple Bugloss** (*Echium plantagineum*), **Rosy garlic** (*Allium roseum*) and **Star Clover** (*Trifolium stellatum*) before starting to make our way back to the van. On the way down we felt a few spots of rain which quickly turned in to a real down pour, Mike L, Mike H, Judy, Linda and



I sheltered under a rather porous Oak tree whilst John pushed on down to the van getting rather damp on the way.

Once we were back at the van and had dried off a tad we moved on to Pena Falcon just down the road but we did not stay long as the place was heaving with a rather noisy crowd of coach

trippers, but before we moved on we saw several more **Griffon Vultures**, some drying out after the rain, **Peregrine Falcon** (*Halcón Peregrino / Falco peregrinus*), **Black Redstart** (*Colirrojo Tizón / Phoenicurus ochruros*), **Black Stork** (*Ciguena Negra / Ciconia nigra*) and **Rock Bunting** (*Escribano Montesino / Emberiza cia*).

Again we continued on a short way to the long bridge over the river where we again picked out **Alpine Swifts** (Vencejo Real / Apus melba) from amongst the hundreds of **House Martins** and up on a ridge a pair of **Bonelli's Eagle** (Aguila-azor / Hieraeetus faciatus), one of which was sat in a dead tree and the other on a rock.



We made a brief stop near the next dam and saw quite a few more European Black Vultures amongst a large group of **Griffons** and an **Egyptian Vulture** sat on a nest. Our last stop before lunch was back at the last view point where we set the scopes up and watched the **Spanish Imperial Eagle** (Aguila Imperial Ibérica / Aguila adalberti) which was flying off to the right of the main crag, it was soon joined by the other bird



of the pair and the both landed in a tree on the opposite side of the river. The one bird flew off and disappeared but the second bird flew up and landed on the crags and then flew up again and had a squabble with a **Griffon** before returning to the original tree, quite a show!!!! In the same area we had **Turtle Dove** (Tórtola Europea / Streptopelia turtur), **Robin** (Petirrojo Europeo / Erithacus rubecula), **Nightingale** (Ruisenor Común / Luscinia megarhynchos) and **Woodpigeon** (Paloma Torcaz / Columba palumbus).

After getting such stunning views of the **Eagle** we were already for some lunch so stopped just a short way up the road at a bar and sat out side where we could still do some birding and whilst we ate our sandwiches and Potata Bravas we sa and heard **Wryneck** (Torcecuello / Jynx torquilla), **Rock Sparrow** (Gorrión Chillón / Petronia petronia), **White Stork** (Ciguena Blanca / Ciconia ciconia) and what looked like an



**Italian Sparrow** (the hybrid between House and Spanish which were both there) which were new for the day and another 22 species.



After Lunch we continued on along the same road northish and then jumped on to the motorway going east for a few Kms before coming off again and going south to the large area of water called the Embalse de Almaraz-Arrocampo where we had a look at the reed beds ear the first locked hide. On the way in we had a single and only **Sand Martin** (Avión

Zapador / Riparia riparia) of the trip and over the reeds at least three **Little Bittern** (Avetorillo Común / Ixobrychus minutus) two females and a stunning male. In the same area we also had **Little** (Garceta Común / Egretta garzetta), **Cattle** (Garcilla

Bueyera / Bubulcus ibis) and **Great White Egret** (Garceta Grande / Egretta alba), **Purple** and **Grey Herons**, **Spoonbill** (Espátula Común / Platalea leucorodia), plenty of fighting **Purple Swamp-hens** (Calamon Común / Porphyrio porphyrio), **Common Moorhen** (Gallineta Común / Gallinulas chloropus) and **Common Magpie** (Urraca / Pica pica). After a while we got back into the van and drove around to the next hide getting more good views of a second male **Little Bittern** and from the ramp up to the hide where we joined a group of other birders we saw both **Gull-billed** (Pagaza Piconegra / Gelochelidon nilotica) and **Little Terns** (Charrancito Común / Sterna albifrons), **Great Crested Grebe** (Somormujo Lavanco / Podiceps cristatus), **Great Cormorant** (Cormorán Grande / Phalacrocorax carbo) another **Great White Egret** and a **Squacco** (Garcilla Cangrejera / Ardeola ralloides) which gave us an impressive



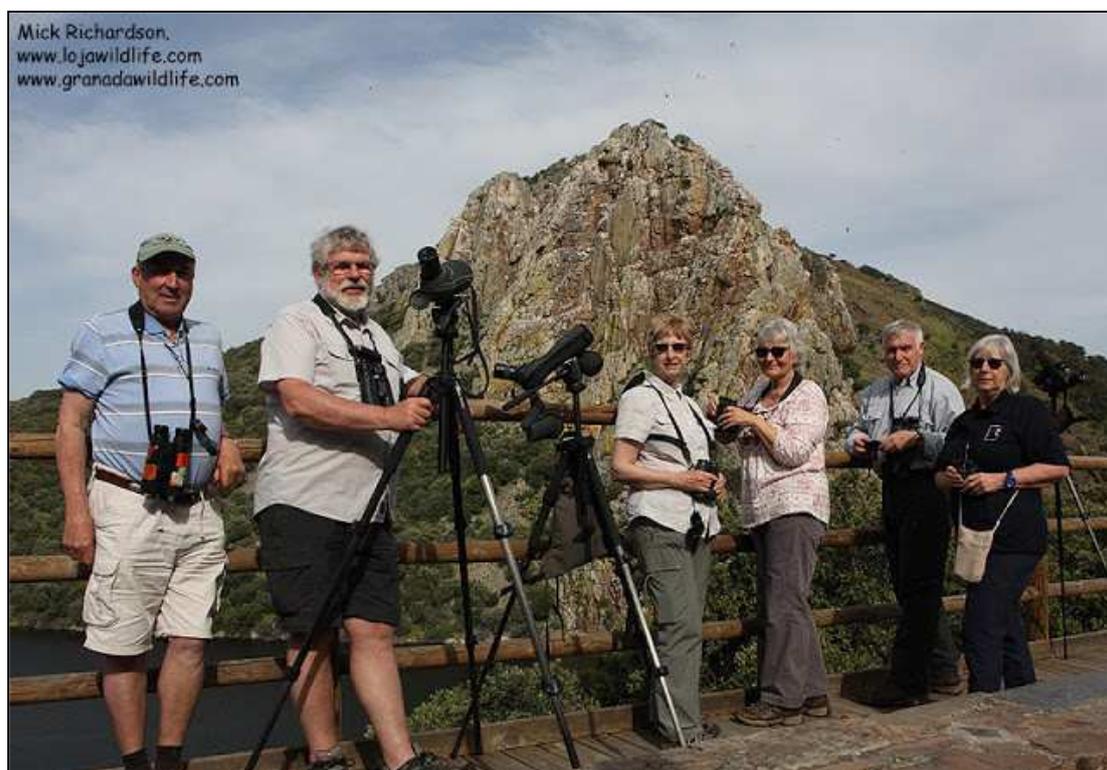
list of **herons** for the site. We moved around the lake a little further but the rain started to get quite heavy and started to make the lake look like it was steaming as it got very heavy so we made a dash for it and headed back down to Trujillo and out on to the Belen Plain.

Out on the plain the visibility was not too good and we only saw **Mallard** (Anade Azulón / Anas platyrhynchos), **Crested Lark** (Cogujada / Galerida cristata), **Corn Bunting** and **White Stork** before we called it a day and went back to the hotel for a very nice meal there on our last night.

## Saturday, 7 May 2016

### Trujillo to Sevilla Airport, Fuente de Piedra, Guadalhorce, Malaga Airport and Home.

Our last day of the tour with a few new species.  
Donana and Extremadura tour Day Eight.



We were up and out fairly quickly after breakfast and made our way south on a cross country route to a site where we were going to be looking for more **Bustards** and **Sandgrouse**, on the way we passed the Embalse deZújar and in an area of broom scrub we made a stop after I had a male **Black-eared Wheatear** (Collalba Rubia / Oenanthe hispanica) flew across in front of us. We parked and eventually found another bird perched and added **Common Stonechat** (Tarabilla Común / Saxicola torquata) and a little further along the road our first **Stone Curlew** (Alcaraván Común / Burhinus oedicephalus) of the trip with a **Little Owl** (Mochuelo Europeo / Athene noctua), **Hoopoe** (Abubilla / Upupa epops), **Great Spotted Cuckoo** (Criollo Europeo / Clamator glandarius), **Common Magpie** (Urraca / Pica pica), **Cattle Egret** (Garcilla Bueyera / Bubulcus ibis), **Calandra Lark** (Calandria / Melanocorypha calandra), **Lesser Kestrel** (Cernicola Primilla / Falco naumanni) and **White Stork** (Ciguena Blanca / Ciconia ciconia).

Just before we arrived at the spot we were heading for we stopped on the road side and watched fine male and female **Montagu's Harriers** (Aguilucho Cenizo / Circus pygargus), **Roller** (Carraca / Coracias garrulus) and a couple of **Little Bustard** (Sisón Común / Tetrax tetrax) which flushed up just for a moment and dived back in to a crop field.

We found the track we were looking for and drove to a nice high point and scanned the fields and by the time we had finished we had found 14 **Great Bustards**, two more **Little Owls**, male and female **Little Bustards** chasing each other and **Ravens**.



Time had moved on very quickly which meant our next stop was to be the Airport at Sevilla where Mike Langley and I said goodbye to Mike H, Pam and John, Judy and Linda and saw them off in to the Airport. Mike and I then hit the road again and called in at Fuente de Piedra on our way down to Malaga Airport but it was much



quieter than on the way out but we did see **Common** (Andarrios Chico / *Actitis hypoleucos*) and **Curlew Sandpipers** (*Correlimos Zarapitin* / *Calidris ferruginea*), **Dunlin** (*Correlimos Común* / *Calidris alpina*), **Little Stint** (*Correlimos Menudo* / *Calidris minuta*), **Black-winged Stilt** (*Ciguenela Común* / *Himantopus himantopus*), **Avocet** (*Avoceta Común* / *Recurvirostra avosetta*), **Eurasian Coot** (*Focha Común* /



*Fulica atra*), **Common Moorhen** (*Gallineta Común* / *Gallinulas chloropus*), **Mallard** (*Anade Azulón* / *Anas platyrhynchos*), **Gadwall** (*Anade Friso* / *Anas strepera*), **Gull-billed Tern** (*Pagaza Piconegra* / *Gelochelidon nilotica*), **Greater Flamingo** (*Flamenco Común* / *Phoenicopterus roseus*), **House Martin** (*Avión Común* / *Delichon urbica*) and **Barn Swallow** (*Golondrina Común* / *Hirundo rustica*).

From here we went just down the road to some pine woodlands and had a walk adding **Dartford Warbler** (*Curruca Rabilarga* / *Sylvia undata*), **Serin** (*Verdecillo* / *Serinus serinus*), **Woodchat Shrike** (*Alcaudón Común* / *Lanius senator*), **Common Crossbill** (*Piquituerto Común* / *Loxia curvirostra*), **Common Chaffinch** (*Pinzón Vulgar* / *Fringilla coelebs*), **Green Woodpecker** (*Pito Real* / *Picus viridis*), **Spotted Flycatcher** (*Papamoscas Gris* / *Muscicapa striata*), **Greenfinch** (*Verderón Común* / *Carduelis chloris*) and **Blackbird** (*Mirlo Común* / *Turdus merula*).

We dropped down the motorways to Malaga and made our last call at the western seawatch point at Guadalhorce and soon started to find interesting species including **Sanderling** (*Correlimos Tridáctilo* / *Calidris alba*), **Ruddy Turnstone** (*Vuelvepiedras Común* / *Arenaria interpres*), **Kentish** (*Chorlitojeo Patinegro* / *Charadrius alexandrinus*) and **Little Ringed Plovers** (*Chorlitojeo Chico* / *Charadrius dubius*), **Black-winged Stilt**, **Yellow-legged Gull** (*Gaviota Patiamarilla* / *Larus Michahellis*), **Little Egret** (*Garceta Común* / *Egretta garzetta*), 2x **Little Terns** (*Charrancito Común* / *Sterna albifrons*) and **Monk Parakeet** (*Cotorra Argentina* / *Myiopsitta monachus*).

Once Mike repacked his back we made our way to the Airport and said goodbye before I headed off and dropped the Van off before Jayne picked me up and we went home.

The species total ended up at **175** which included some cracking species which we had great views of. Thanks to the group for making this a memorable trip with their hard work and great company.