

## **Birding Extremadura and Casa Rural El Recuerdo**

**SPRING TOUR 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2011 – 30<sup>th</sup> April 2011**

**Guests: Eric Tull and Brooke Clibbon**

**Guide: Martin Kelsey**

### **Itinerary**

23<sup>rd</sup> April 2011: Collection mid-morning at Madrid Airport, stop for birding at Arrocampo reservoir and transfer to Casa Rural El Recuerdo, Pago de San Clemente, Trujillo.

24<sup>th</sup> April 2011: Plains south of Zorita and the rice-growing area near Madrigalejo (Palazuelo and Casas del Hito).

25<sup>th</sup> April 2011: Plains east and west of Santa Marta de Magasca

26<sup>th</sup> April 2011: Heath land and cork oak woodland near Jaraicejo and Villuercas mountains.

27<sup>th</sup> April 2011: Monfragüe National Park.

28<sup>th</sup> April 2011: Belén Plains and rice-growing area near Madrigalejo.

29<sup>th</sup> April 2011: Alange and the Roman Bridge in Mérida

30<sup>th</sup> April 2011: Guadiloba reservoir and then transfer to Cáceres.

## TRIP REPORT

### 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2011

We left Madrid shortly after 10.30 am with showers and grey threatening skies, Fortunately, the prospects improved quite soon as we crossed the plains of Castille La Mancha and we started to see a few birds as well, with **White Stork** and **Black Kite** being particularly obvious from the motorway as we headed south-west. Soon after we crossed into Extremadura and after a brief stop in Navalmoral, we found a place for lunch beside the Arrocampo reservoir. A **Purple Swamphen** thundered through the nearby reeds. We made several stops in the area enjoying excellent views of **Savi's Warbler**, **Great Reed Warbler** and **Reed Warbler**, as well as **Squacco Heron** and **Little Bittern**. **Purple Heron** were in abundance and several **Great Egrets** in full breeding plumage were also present. Eric and Brooke also saw two **Bearded Tits** crossing their field of view. We reached Casa Rural El Recuerdo at about 6pm, just as a heavy shower was starting to break, accompanied by some rather close thunder. Nevertheless a welcome was there in the form of a fine male **Serin** calling from a wire next to the bedroom.

### 24<sup>th</sup> April 2011

Today we headed south, past the town of Zorita, to explore the plains near the village of Campo Lugar. It was a beautiful calm morning, with sunshine and impressive cloudscapes. At our first stop we watched **Calandra Larks** singing from rocks and some taking to the wing to perform their song flights overhead. Within minutes we had located a calling male **Little Bustard** in one direction and two **Great Bustards** in the other. From the same point we then found a pair of **Stone Curlew** and whilst watching those, two parties of **Black-bellied Sandgrouse** (totalling seven birds) flew past. What an excellent start of the day! We continued along the small road, adding **Lesser Kestrel**, **Montagu's Harrier**, **Roller** and **Little Owl** to our list.

We then drove past the reservoir of Sierra Brava, which was like a millpond on which we found **Mallard**, **Gadwall** and **Great-crested Grebe**. From there we descended to visit a small pool in the rice fields of Casas del Hito. This was another excellent spot. Two **Melodious Warblers** sang from bushes along the bank, **Red Avadavats** thronged in the rank vegetation, as did a family party of **Stonechat**. We also found and watched at some length an **Iberian Chiffchaff**, feeding in the bushes, its rather pale bill and yellowish tinge to its underparts showing well. On the pool were an interesting range of species: a **Barnacle Goose** feeding along with **Mallard**, a **Spoonbill**, **Gull-billed** and **Little Tern**, a **Spotted Redshank** and **Stone Curlew**.



As we left the area, Brooke spotted a calling **Quail** – what a lucky sighting! We also watched a small party of **Turtle Dove**. A tiny pool held a large number of **Cattle Egret**, a **Little Egret** and a juvenile **Spoonbill**. After coffee on the outskirts of Madrigalejo, we had lunch beside the river Gargaligas. The area was full of the song of **Great Reed Warbler**, **Reed Warbler**, **Cetti's Warbler** and **Nightingale**. The afternoon was spent in the area near Palazuelo, where we made a couple of stops along the Ruercas river, with **Great Reed Warbler** and **Nightingale** present at each stop. Two more **Rollers** were also seen.

We were back at Casa Rural El Recuerdo late afternoon – time for a rest before dinner.

### **25<sup>th</sup> April 2011**

The weather was improving still, with the day being generally sunny with wonderful cloudscapes. We explored the plains to the east of Santa Marta de Magasca, with an initial stop overlooking a large field where sheep grazed. There we found a party of **Pin-tailed Sandgrouse** providing superb views thanks to the excellent morning light. **Calandra Lark** song provided a constant background to us, indeed for all of the day. Proceeding slowly along the road, we had good views of both **Crested** and **Thekla Larks**, **Woodchat Shrike** and **Iberian Grey Shrike**, as well as a fine male **Ortolan Bunting**. We then made our way down a dirt track and, finding a good site to park, spent a memorable period surveying the panoramic vista around us, with the mosaic of shades of

green and brown, depending on land use. During our stay, we had close views of **Black-bellied Sandgrouse** in flight, as well as further sightings of flocks of **Pin-tailed Sandgrouse**. **Great Bustards** were dotted around, seemingly in all directions. A small pool held **Little Grebe**, **Black-winged Stilt**, **Gadwall** and **Mallard**. A juvenile male **Montagu's Harrier** drifted past. Perhaps most interesting were the array of raptors arriving at what must have been a carcass, just out of view: **Black**, **Griffon** and **Egyptian Vultures**, a juvenile **Spanish Imperial Eagle**, **Black Kite** as well as **Ravens**. Just as we were leaving a **Short-toed Eagle** drifted low overhead. What a morning!

After a short stop at a service station, close to Cáceres, we then entered the plains to the west of Santa Marta de Magasca. Several pairs of **Rollers** had taken up residence in the nest boxes set up for them beside the road and as we entered a rough road, there were a few **Montagu's Harriers** quartering a cereal field. Along the road we saw two groups of **Griffon Vultures** with several **Black Vultures** also present, as well as good views of **Greater Short-toed Lark** and a **Red Kite**. We found a spot for lunch, where again there was an excellent panoramic view. **Calandra Larks** sang overhead, whilst a female **Montagu's Harrier** sailed past. Just as we were about to leave however, we discovered that we had a flat tyre, so what was left of the afternoon was spent changing it and heading for Cáceres to get the puncture repaired. Slightly later than planned we were back on the road home, with a fleeting glimpse of a **Golden Eagle** passing overhead as we headed back on the motorway to Trujillo.

## 26<sup>th</sup> April 2011

It was a sunny morning with just a light wind, excellent conditions for the heaths. We explored the lavender and broom heath land near Jaraicejo, a place full of birdsong and where we had great views in this wonderful place of **Spectacled** and **Dartford Warblers**, as well as **Thekla Larks**, **Corn Buntings** and **Iberian Grey Shrikes**. The heath dropped down to a cork oak grove through which we walked before reaching the stream Arroyo de la Vid. Here a **Western Orphean Warbler** was in song and we had excellent views. Subsequently an interaction was noted between two pairs nearby. A **Rock Sparrow** was found singing nearby, whilst the song of **Golden Oriole**, **Nightingale**, **Cetti's Warbler** and **Wood Lark** resounded through this magical place. Overhead passed **Black Stork**, a rather distant **Booted Eagle** and both **Griffon** and **Black Vultures**.

We then headed east to the edge of the Villuercas mountains, stopping at the beautiful Almonte gorge south of Retamosa. Here we found two **Grey Wagtails**. We had lunch in a belt of cork oak woodland below some rocky crags. **Red-billed Choughs** mobbed **Ravens** above us. Around us the place seemed to have **Short-toed Treecreepers** everywhere, as well as a large herd of wandering goats, their bells ringing across the valley. But we also found a singing **Subalpine Warbler**, and heard **Nuthatch** and **Great Spotted Woodpecker**. Our final stop was in deciduous Pyrenean oak, where a **Western Bonelli's Warbler** was singing but stubbornly stayed out of view. However, just



before we headed for home, we had views of **Mistle Thrush** and **Robin**, whilst a **Blackcap** gave its fluty song nearby.



**27<sup>th</sup> April 2011**

The conditions were near perfect for a visit to Monfragüe National Park with sunshine, light winds and just a little cloud. The 18,000 hectare park lies surrounded with *dehesa* woodland, hunting ground for many of the raptors which breed in the park. Our first stop was overlooking the iconic rock face of Peña Falcón, aptly named with a pair of **Peregrine** resident. A few **Griffon Vultures** were soaring whilst others were at their nests or simply perched on the cliff. One of the first birds seen was a **Rock Bunting**, perched high on a ledge, but within minutes we had had much closer views. A **Hawfinch** also flew past. With the Griffon Vultures were the occasional **Black Vulture**, **Egyptian Vulture** and **Black Stork**, but we did not have to wait long until we heard the diagnostic barking call of **Spanish Imperial Eagle**. We had several sightings of two birds, the final view being the best as a bird sailed in front of the cliff face.

We then moved to another impressive viewpoint, the Portilla del Tiétar, having made a brief stop en route to watch a **Black-eared Wheatear** and a **Hawfinch**. Here we were lucky enough to have pointed out the juvenile **Eagle Owl**, now fledged and resting beneath a Tree Heath. Whilst we were there a few snatches of **Rufous Bush Robin** song was heard, but from dense vegetation which made it difficult to find the bird. After coffee we moved to a belt of pines we were

looked for but failed to find **Crested Tit** (Martin hearing just two call notes distantly), but we enjoyed watching some very confident **Azure-winged Magpies** and listened to **Turtle Doves** and **Golden Orioles**. **Booted Eagles**, **Short-toed Eagles** and **Egyptian Vultures** passed overhead.

We made a second stop at Peña Falcon, getting views of a **White-rumped Swift** and then completed the day at the large bridge nearby watching hundreds of **House Martins**, a few **Alpine Swifts** and finally being treated with views of a pair of **Bonelli's Eagle** perched and then flying across the river.

In the evening, we walked at dusk, hearing **Red-necked Nightjar**, **Scops Owl** and **Little Owl** and getting views of a **Long-eared Owl** in flight as it crossed the track before giving its quiet hoot from a pine tree.

**28<sup>th</sup> April 2011**



It was another dry day with clear sunshine for most of it, but clouds gathered in the late afternoon and as night fell, thunder rumbled to the south. The morning was spent crossing the nearby Belén Plains. Its predominantly grazing area extends north-east of Trujillo. Here white round blobs standing out in the green landscape can only mean one thing: a displaying **Great Bustard** and we found two males in full “foam-bath” display – one accompanied by a rather disinterested female. Whilst stopping to watch these, careful scanning also located a total of four male **Little Bustards** and a fifth was found not far from the road. Two **Stone Curlews** were also seen. The roadside fences and bushes were also productive: excellent views of a **Great Spotted Cuckoo** and a couple

of fine **Whinchats**, as well as numerous **Corn Buntings** carrying food for young. We must also have seen at least 150 **Griffon Vultures** in two assemblies, gathering seemingly at a carcass on the second occasion, at least judging by the squabbling taking place at the centre of the group.

After coffee near the motorway we headed south east, back to the rice-growing area near Madrigalejo. At the Gargaligas river, we watched **Great Reed Warblers**, **Golden Oriole** and found two passage **Garden Warblers**. Not far away on the Rio Ruercas, a **Willow Warbler** was also on passage and we had good views of **Melodious Warbler**, **Great Spotted Woodpecker** and a **Common Waxbill**. Two **Rollers** were seen nearby as well as a **Little Ringed Plover**. We made a final stop at the Ruercas near Palazuelo where a memorable sighting was had of **Golden Oriole**, flying low over the placid water, its reflection brilliant.

### 29<sup>th</sup> April 2011

As we headed south-west on the A5 motorway to Mérida, very threatening storm clouds were gathering ahead of us, with bands of clear weather further off. We debated on what the weather prospects were, but as we turned south from Mérida towards Alange, it became obvious. The castle on top of the massive crag was set against storm clouds and as we set off to walk beside the reservoir there the rain started to pelt down. Through the pouring rain we could see **Gull-billed Tern** out over the water, and **Blue Rock Thrush**, **Rock Bunting** and **Willow Warbler** on the rocky slopes and bushes. A few brave **Alpine Swifts** wheeled above us, but **House Martins** were mainly taking shelter. We retreated, sodden, to the car and sat there waiting for the rain to abate. It seemed to do so, so off we set again. However, the further we got, the clearer it also became that the car was parked in relative shelter, and as we progressed, so the rain and wind became stronger. There was little point proceeding, so we headed back to Mérida, stopping just to see a wonderful **White Stork** colony on old buildings beside the road. Mercifully, by the time we reached the Roman Bridge in Mérida, the rain had reduced almost to nothing. Almost as soon as we had arrived a **Penduline Tit** was heard calling and we obtained wonderful views of this most exquisite bird as it fed on reed mace seed heads just feet away from us. The day was looking better already! Next followed several good views of **Little Bittern**, a couple of **Black-crowned Night Heron**, **Purple Swamphen**, and sightings of **Common**, **Pallid** and **Alpine Swift**, the latter being spectacularly close. We then headed to a restaurant near the bridge where we warmed ourselves with a plate of delicious pasta soup. The rain looked as if it had passed, so we decided to try Alange again. On the way we passed through another shower of rain, but luckily on our arrival the conditions had improved. We walked along the same track as in the morning, but this time a little further. A **Bonelli's Eagle** appeared over the crag, soon joined by its mate, and they hung motionless in the strong head winds. Whilst they were still above us, we found our target bird: a male **Black Wheatear** sat atop a low section of the rock face. For the next fifteen minutes we enjoyed prolonged and rewarding views as it "parachuted" in a fluttering flight down rock faces, or sat perched above. Back to the car park, for a late lunch and then we returned



home, through yet another heavy downpour and finally along a section of quiet country road where we counted no fewer than nine **Woodchat Shrikes!**



**30<sup>th</sup> April 2011**

Despite the inclement weather, we made best use of a final few minutes of birding in the morning, before the arrival in Cáceres with a stop at the Guadiloba reservoir where **Collared Pratincoles** were seen in flight and on the ground, as well as a **Little Tern**. We visited the spectacular **White Stork** colony on the edge of Malpartida de Cáceres, where perhaps 70 platforms beside a luxury hotel all accommodate nests. Then it was time for Eric and Brooke to pick up their hire car and head south to Andalucía for the second leg of their holiday in Spain.

#### **List of species seen**

Particular attention was made on this holiday to prioritise new species for two well-travelled and experienced birders, rather than maximising a holiday list, nevertheless (and despite a poor showing of passage waders) an excellent total of **153 species of birds were noted**. These are listed below.

1. **Little Grebe**: Present on small pools on the plains.



2. **Great Crested Grebe:** Seen at Sierra Brava and Arrocampo reservoirs.
3. **Great Cormorant:** Seen at Arrocampo.
4. **Little Bittern:** Seen at Arrocampo and from Roman Bridge, Mérida.
5. **Black-crowned Night Heron:** Two seen from Roman Bridge, Mérida.
6. **Squacco Heron:** One seen at Arrocampo.
7. **Cattle Egret:** Seen at Arrocampo, on the rice fields, Alange and Mérida.
8. **Little Egret:** Seen at Arrocampo and on the rice fields.
9. **Great Egret:** At least three seen at Arrocampo.
10. **Grey Heron:** Seen almost daily.
11. **Purple Heron:** Common at Arrocampo.
12. **Black Stork:** One seen over the rice fields on 24<sup>th</sup> April and several in the Villuercas Mountains and at Monfragüe.
13. **White Stork:** Seen daily.
14. **Spoonbill:** Two seen at Casas del Hito on 24<sup>th</sup> April.
15. **Barnacle Goose:** One adult on pool at Casas del Hito on 24<sup>th</sup> April.
16. **Gadwall:** Seen at Arrocampo, on Sierra Brava and at Casas del Hito, on a pool near Santa Marta de Magasca and on the Guadiloba reservoir.
17. **Teal:** One seen on pool at Casas del Hito.
18. **Mallard:** Seen almost daily.
19. **Shoveler:** About six at Casas del Hito.
20. **Common Pochard:** One at Arrocampo on 23<sup>rd</sup> April.
21. **Black Kite:** Seen daily.
22. **Red Kite:** Seen almost daily.
23. **Egyptian Vulture:** Seen almost daily.
24. **Griffon Vulture:** Seen almost daily.
25. **Black Vulture:** Seen almost daily.

26. **Short-toed Eagle:** Seen almost daily.
27. **Marsh Harrier:** Seen on rice fields and at Arrocampo.
28. **Montagu's Harrier:** Seen on plains near Campo Lugar and Santa Marta de Magasca.
29. **Northern Goshawk:** A very distant accipiter in Monfragüe on 27<sup>th</sup> April showing obvious white thighs, long wings and rather slow wing beats was probably this species. A pair has a territory in that area.
30. **Common Buzzard:** Seen almost daily.
31. **Spanish Imperial Eagle:** One juvenile near Santa Marta de Magasca and two adults in Monfragüe.
32. **Golden Eagle:** Brief view of an adult seen passing over head as we drove on motorway between Cáceres and Trujillo on 25<sup>th</sup> April and very distant views of a displaying eagle which was probably this species in Villuercas mountains on 26<sup>th</sup> April.
33. **Booted Eagle:** Seen almost daily.
34. **Bonelli's Eagle:** Two seen in Monfragüe on 27<sup>th</sup> April and two at Alange on 29<sup>th</sup>.
35. **Lesser Kestrel:** Seen everyday, especially at Trujillo and on the plains.
36. **Common Kestrel:** Seen almost daily.
37. **Peregrine Falcon:** Two at Monfragüe.
38. **Red-legged Partridge:** Seen or heard almost daily.
39. **Quail:** One seen at Casas del Hito and heard on plains.
40. **Moorhen:** Seen in suitable habitat.
41. **Purple Swamphen:** Several seen at Arrocampo and two from Roman Bridge, Mérida.
42. **Common Coot:** At least two on lake in San Lazaro Park, Trujillo.
43. **Little Bustard:** Displaying males seen on Campo Lugar road and on Belén plains.
44. **Great Bustard:** About 15 (including displaying males) seen on visits to Campo Lugar, Santa Marta de Magasca and Belén Plains.

45. **Black-winged Stilt:** Seen almost daily.
46. **Stone Curlew:** Two seen at Campo Lugar, one at Casas del Hito and three on Belén Plains.
47. **Collared Pratincole:** A small flock seen distantly south of Madrigalejo and about ten at Guadiloba on 29<sup>th</sup> April.
48. **Little Ringed Plover:** 2 at Casas del Hito on 24<sup>th</sup> April and 1 at Rio Ruercas on 28<sup>th</sup> April.
49. **Spotted Redshank:** One in breeding plumage at Casas del Hito on 24<sup>th</sup> April.
50. **Greenshank:** One heard at Guadiloba on 30<sup>th</sup> April.
51. **Common Sandpiper:** Seen at Arrocampo and on rice fields.
52. **Gull-billed Tern:** Seen on the rice fields and at Alange.
53. **Little Tern:** Singles at Casas del Hito and at Guadiloba.
54. **Black-headed Gull:** Seen on rice fields and at Alange.
55. **Lesser Black-backed Gull:** Three or four seen at Alange.
56. **Black-bellied Sandgrouse:** Two small parties (total about 7 birds) near Campo Lugar on 24<sup>th</sup> April and about 10 near Santa Marta de Magasca on 25<sup>th</sup> April.
57. **Pin-tailed Sandgrouse:** About 40 seen near Santa Marta de Magasca on 25<sup>th</sup> April.
58. **Rock Dove/Feral Pigeon:** See daily.
59. **Wood Pigeon:** Seen almost daily.
60. **Collared Dove:** Seen daily.
61. **Turtle Dove:** About five seen at Casas del Hito on 24<sup>th</sup> April and also heard in Monfragüe
62. **Great Spotted Cuckoo:** Two on Belén Plains on 28<sup>th</sup> April – a distant view and a very confiding individual.
63. **Common Cuckoo:** Heard almost daily and several sightings.
64. **Scops Owl:** Calling most evenings in Pago de San Clemente.
65. **Eagle Owl:** Fledged chick seen in Monfragüe on 27<sup>th</sup> April.

66. **Little Owl:** Seen on Campo Lugar road and Belén plains and heard most evenings at Pago de San Clemente.
67. **Long-eared Owl:** One seen on 27<sup>th</sup> April at Pago de San Clemente.
68. **Red-necked Nightjar:** Calling most evenings in Pago de San Clemente.
69. **Alpine Swift:** Seen in Monfragüe, Alange and Mérida
70. **Pallid Swift:** Seen in Mérida.
71. **Common Swift:** Seen in Monfragüe and Mérida, as well as over other towns.
72. **White-rumped Swift:** One seen in Monfragüe on 27<sup>th</sup> April.
73. **Kingfisher:** Seen along rivers in the rice fields.
74. **Bee-eater:** Seen daily.
75. **Roller:** Seen on both visits to the rice fields, as well as near Santa Marta de Magasca.
76. **Hoopoe:** Seen daily.
77. **Great Spotted Woodpecker:** Seen near Rio Ruercas and heard in the Villuercas Mountains.
78. **Calandra Lark:** Seen on plains.
79. **Short-toed Lark:** Seen on plains.
80. **Crested Lark:** Seen almost daily.
81. **Thekla Lark:** Seen almost daily.
82. **Woodlark:** Seen at Jaraicejo.
83. **Sand Martin:** Present at Arrocampo and a few seen near Santa Marta de Magasca.
84. **Crag Martin:** Seen at Monfragüe and Alange.
85. **Barn Swallow:** Seen daily.
86. **Red-rumped Swallow:** Seen daily.
87. **House Martin:** Seen daily.



88. **Tawny Pipit:** One on Belén Plains on 28<sup>th</sup> April.
89. **Yellow Wagtail:** Seen on rice fields on 24<sup>th</sup> April.
90. **Grey Wagtail:** Seen on Rio Almonte on 26<sup>th</sup> April.
91. **White Wagtail:** Seen almost daily.
92. **Wren:** Singing in Villuercas and Monfragüe.
93. **Rufous Bush Robin:** One singing in Monfragüe on 27<sup>th</sup> April.
94. **Robin:** Singing in Villuercas and Monfragüe.
95. **Nightingale:** Seen and/or heard daily.
96. **Black Redstart:** Seen at Monfragüe.
97. **Stonechat:** Seen almost daily.
98. **Whinchat:** Two seen on Belén on 28<sup>th</sup> April.
99. **Black-eared Wheatear:** One male seen in Monfragüe on 27<sup>th</sup> April.
100. **Black Wheatear:** One male at Alange on 29<sup>th</sup> April.
101. **Blue Rock Thrush:** Several seen in Monfragüe and Alange.
102. **Blackbird:** Seen daily.
103. **Mistle Thrush:** Seen in Villuercas mountains.
104. **Cetti's Warbler:** Seen or heard almost daily.
105. **Zitting Cisticola:** Seen almost daily.
106. **Savi's Warbler:** Several singing at Arrocampo on 23<sup>rd</sup> April.
107. **Reed Warbler:** Singing at Arrocampo, on rice fields and in Mérida.
108. **Great Reed Warbler:** Singing at Arrocampo, on rice fields and in Mérida.
109. **Melodious Warbler:** Singing at several sites in rice fields.
110. **Dartford Warbler:** Several in song at Jaraicejo on 26<sup>th</sup> April and Monfragüe.
111. **Spectacled Warbler:** At least two males seen at Jaraicejo on 26<sup>th</sup> April.

112. **Subalpine Warbler:** Seen at Monfragüe and in the Villuercas mountains.
113. **Sardinian Warbler:** Seen almost daily.
114. **Western Orphean Warbler:** Several seen at Jaraicejo on 26<sup>th</sup> April.
115. **Garden Warbler:** Two passage birds feeding on mulberries beside Rio Gargaligas on 28<sup>th</sup> April.
116. **Blackcap:** Recorded at Valdecañas and Monfragüe.
117. **Western Bonelli's Warbler:** One singing in Villuercas on 26<sup>th</sup> April.
118. **Iberian Chiffchaff:** One at Casas del Hito on 24<sup>th</sup> April.
119. **Willow Warbler:** Seen beside Rio Ruercas on 28<sup>th</sup> April and at Alange on 29<sup>th</sup> April.
120. **Long-tailed Tit:** Seen at several sites during the week.
121. **Crested Tit:** Heard by Martin only in Monfragüe on 27<sup>th</sup> April.
122. **Blue Tit:** Seen almost daily.
123. **Great Tit:** Seen almost daily.
124. **Bearded Tit:** Two seen at Arrocampo 23<sup>rd</sup> April
125. **Nuthatch:** Seen in the Villuercas mountains.
126. **Short-toed Treecreeper:** Seen in Villuercas mountains and Monfragüe.
127. **Penduline Tit:** Excellent views of a male from Roman Bridge, Mérida on 29<sup>th</sup> April.
128. **Golden Oriole:** Seen and heard at several sites, especially in riverine sites in the rice fields.
129. **Iberian Grey Shrike:** Seen almost daily.
130. **Woodchat Shrike:** Seen daily.
131. **Jay:** Seen at Jaraicejo.
132. **Azure-winged Magpie:** Seen daily.

133. **Magpie:** Seen daily.
134. **Red-billed Chough:** Recorded in Villuercas mountains on 26<sup>th</sup> April.
135. **Jackdaw:** Seen almost daily.
136. **Raven:** Seen almost daily.
137. **Spotless Starling:** Seen daily.
138. **House Sparrow:** Seen daily.
139. **Spanish Sparrow:** Seen almost daily.
140. **Tree Sparrow:** Seen on rice fields and at Arrocampo.
141. **Rock Sparrow:** Singing in Jaraicejo on 26<sup>th</sup> April.
142. **Common Waxbill:** Seen on rice fields.
143. **Red Avadavat:** Many seen on rice fields.
144. **Chaffinch:** Seen almost daily.
145. **Serin:** Seen daily.
146. **Greenfinch:** Seen at Naval moral, Monfragüe and Mérida.
147. **Goldfinch:** Seen almost daily.
148. **Linnet:** Seen in Monfragüe, rice fields and Alange.
149. **Hawfinch:** Seen in Monfragüe on 27<sup>th</sup> April.
150. **Cirl Bunting:** Recorded in Villuercas and Monfragüe.
151. **Rock Bunting:** Seen at Monfragüe and Alange.
152. **Ortolan Bunting:** A male near Santa Marta de Magasca on 25<sup>th</sup> April.
153. **Corn Bunting:** Seen daily.