

Central Spain



June 18-25, 2005

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Introduction

It was not necessary to study the weather forecasts thoroughly to guess this would be hot birding. Not only was our target central Spain in late June, but on top of it there was a heat wave down there! 30 degrees centigrade at midnight tells a tale of its own. We had got the flight from Copenhagen to Madrid for € 160 (return ticket) on a cold day in December and started planning how to meet our target species the best. We would like to thank Peter Koch, Per Poulsen and Anders Søgård for much help and advice in that respect.

Arriving in Madrid, Barajas at 9 pm we soon arranged a Seat (category C) for € 400 at Europcar. It included extra insurance, three drivers and coverage of the 1880 km we drove during the week, which was 130 km more than allowed as unlimited mileage was unheard of in all four companies we contacted in the airport!

Our main region of interest was Extremadura, especially the area of Monfragüe and the plains to the south. However, we started our itinerary heading north some 100 km to Hoces del Río Duratón for Dupont's Lark, our first target species. It was easy to find the A-1 in the direction of Burgos, some food and a very useful 'Guía Campsa' (a map scaled 1:400.000 in a box set at € 20) before closing time at 10.30 pm at a gas filling station.

Apart from the first night, which meant four hours of attempted highly uncomfortable sleep squeezed in between seats as we were, we stayed the nights in 'hostales' paying around € 55 a night for the three of us for either one or two rooms.

The coffee is excellent in most places, but unless you happen to be very fond of 'bocadillos' (dry bread with cheese, sausage or ham) do not even think about going to rural central Spain for culinary experiences. Neither does it count in favour of the Spanish kitchen that draught beer rarely holds more than 200 ml....

Itinerary

When on sites (a) we noted all species and numbers if possible. When on the road (b) our notes were more subjective meaning that we only noted the species we thought interesting. Hopefully they are interesting for others as well. References are to John Muddeman, A Birdwatching Guide to Extremadura, Essex 2000 (*Mud*), which makes site descriptions unnecessary.

Sat June 18

5 km W Sepúlveda (b) (23.45)

Little Owl 1.

Sun June 19

Hoces del Río Duratón (a)

(00.00-01.15). A stopover at kms 0.8, 1.3 and 1.8 after crossing the dried-out creek.

Stone Curlew 3, Red-necked Nightjar 3, Dupont's Lark 4.



Home of Dupont's Lark, steppe at Hoces del Río Duratón

Hoces del Río Duratón (a) (05.00-11.30).

Our visit was limited to several stopovers along the main track through the area and a walk from the parking lot to 'Ermita de San Frutos' with a look at the adjacent cliffs.

Great Crested Grebe 3, White Stork 14, Black Kite 1, Egyptian Vulture 2, Griffon Vulture 50 (colony on the cliffs), Hen Harrier 1, Short-toed Eagle 1, Booted Eagle 2, Peregrine 3, Kestrel 5, Red-

legged Partridge 5, Stone Curlew 3, Rock Dove 4, Wood Pigeon 2, Stock Dove 1, Red-necked Nightjar 1, Swift 150, Hoopoe 3, Thekla Lark 15, Crested Lark 10, Calandra Lark 25, Dupont's Lark 3, Short-toed Lark 3, Wood Lark 2, Skylark 4, House Martin 2, Crag Martin 2, Tawny Pipit 9, Wren 1, Black Redstart 4, Northern Wheatear 1, Black-eared Wheatear 16, Rock Thrush 3, Blue Rock Thrush 2, Subalpine Warbler 3, Blackbird 2, Sardinian Warbler 2, Orphean Warbler 2 (at the parking lot), Blackcap 2, Woodchat Shrike 4, Southern Grey Shrike 7, Chough 105, Jackdaw 200, Carrion Crow 12, Oriole 2, Spotless Starling 15, Rock Sparrow 200 (from the parking lot and including the cliffs), Serin 1, Greenfinch 1, Chaffinch 1, Goldfinch 5, Linnet 5, Ortolan Bunting 1, Yellowhammer 1, Cirl Bunting 1, Rock Bunting 3, Corn Bunting 5.

Hoces del Río Duraton – Cantalejo – catching N-110 through Segovia and Ávila to the border to Extremadura at Puerto de Tornavacas (b) (11.30-16.30).

White Stork 100+, Red Kite 2, Black Kite 20+, Black Vulture 11, Griffon Vulture 30, Booted Eagle 8, Hoopoe 2, Bee-eater 4, Black-eared Wheatear 1, Woodchat Shrike 5, Azure-winged Magpie 2, Hawfinch 1.

Puerto de Tornavacas (Valle de Jerte) (Mud 2.6)
(a) (16.30-17.45).
Placed at the height of 1275 m this scrubby area proved worthwhile checking.



Spectacled Warbler

Black Kite 1, Stonechat 2, Robin 1, Mistle Thrush 2, Melodious Warbler 2, Subalpine Warbler 1, Dartford Warbler 2, Spectacled Warbler 4, Bonelli's Warbler 5, Short-toed Treecreeper 2, Jay 2, Oriole 1, Serin 10, Chaffinch 1, Ortolan Bunting 5, Cirl Bunting 2, Rock Bunting 1.

Puerto de Tornavacas – Plasencia – (via EX-208) Monfragüe (b)
(17.45-19.10).

Booted Eagle 1, Bee-eater 11, Red-rumped Swallow 4, Crag Martin 1, Woodchat Shrike 2, Azure-winged Magpie 3, Oriole 1.

Monfragüe: Salto del Gitano and El Castillo (a) (19.10-21.40)

Black Kite 4, Black Vulture 4, Griffon Vulture 130, Egyptian Vulture 4, Short-toed Eagle 2, Booted Eagle 1, Peregrine 1, Eastern Collared Dove 1, White-rumped Swift 1, Bee-eater 7, Crag Martin 50, House Martin 50, Red-rumped Swallow 35, Black Redstart 2, Blue Tit 2, Great Tit 1, Short-toed Treecreeper 1, Oriole 1, Woodchat Shrike 1, Azure-winged Magpie 7, Cirl Bunting 2.

We stayed the night in Hotel Carvajal, Torrejón el Rubio paying € 55 for an apartment.

Mon June 20



Calandra Lark, also in flocks at this time of year

Finca de Aldeanueva (*Mud 10*) (a)

(6,20-8,00)

From Torrejón del Rubio south to Trujillo, where we took N-521 towards Cáceres and then turned right in the direction of Santa Marta de Magasca. 2.5 km after that turn we were lucky to catch sight of a poor sign saying Finca de Aldeanueva. The road onwards was even poorer, though. We parked our car.

Grey Heron 6, White Stork 15, Cattle Egret 15, Mallard 150, Red Kite 1, Black Kite 30, Montagu's Harrier 2, Buzzard 2, Great Bustard 3, Green Sandpiper 1, Black-bellied Sandgrouse 2, Pintailed Sandgrouse 20, Wood

Pigeon 6, Rock Dove 30, Great Spotted Cuckoo 6 1cy, Long-eared Owl 1, Kingfisher 1, Bee-eater 70, Hoopoe 7, Calandra Lark 30, Thekla Lark 10, Crested Lark 30, House Martin 10, Melodious Warbler 1, Spectacled Warbler 1, Woodchat Shrike 12, Southern Grey Shrike 4, Raven 7, Jackdaw 70, Magpie 3.

Finca de Aldeanueva – Santa Marta de Magasca and onwards 12 km to the SW (*Mud 10*) (b) (8.00-9.00)

White Stork 150, Golden Eagle 1 imm., Bee-eater 20, Spanish Sparrow 2 males (in a group of 200 unidentified sparrows).



Woodchat Shrike, 1 cy

12 km SW of Sta Marta we took a right turn and followed the road to CC-912/EX-390 (*Mud 10*) (a) (9.00-11.05)

White Stork 90, Black Vulture 3, Black Kite 150, Marsh Harrier 1, Montagu's Harrier 14, Lesser Kestrel 10, Kestrel 3, Red-legged Partridge 1, Black-bellied Sandgrouse 13, Pintailed

Sandgrouse 8, Great Spotted Cuckoo 4 1cy, Little Owl 3, Pallid Swift 1, Bee-eater 3, Roller 5 (near or on nestboxes at a small pond to the left right after the turn), Hoopoe 1, Thekla Lark 30, Short-toed Lark 15, Calandra Lark 570, Barn Swallow 35, Black-eared Wheatear 1, Stonechat 2, Woodchat Shrike 22, Southern Grey Shrike 12, Jackdaw 5, Magpie 1, Azure-winged Magpie 2, Spotless Starling 40, Goldfinch 7.

**When on CC-912
we went eastwards
towards Torrejón el
Rubio (b) (11.05-
14.00)**

White Stork 100+, Griffon Vulture 8, Egyptian Vulture 1, Black-winged Kite 1 (just after the road that leads to Monroy to the right there is a colony of White Storks in pine trees on both sides of the CC-912. The track to the left immediately after the colony led to the bird), Spanish Imperial Eagle 1 (take a track to the left at km 48, look for the pylons and the nest), Booted Eagle 2, Short-toed Eagle 1, Turtle Dove 1, Alpine Swift 1, Hoopoe 1, Bee-eater 16, Woodchat Shrike 5, Azure-winged Magpie 10.

**Monfragüe:
Torrejón el Rubio -
Portilla del Tiétar –
Torrejón el Rubio
(Mud 4) (a) (14.00-17.30)**

Grey Heron 1, Cormorant 1, Black Stork 3, Black Kite 8, Egyptian Vulture 2, Griffon Vulture 30, Black Vulture 5, Buzzard 2, Bonelli's Eagle 2 ad. (Villarreal de San Carlos), Spanish Imperial Eagle 2 ad. (hovering over a nest with one chick, Portillo del Tiétar), Kestrel 2, Turtle Dove 2, Alpine Swift 1, Kingfisher 1, Bee-eater 3, Barn Swallow 4, Red-rumped Swallow 10, House Martin 500+ (huge colony under the bridge), Crag Martin 30, White Wagtail 1, Wren 1, Blue Rock Thrush 2, Blackbird 1, Sardinian Warbler 9,

Blackcap 1, Blue Tit 2, Long-tailed Tit 3, Magpie 1, Azure-winged Magpie 4, Cirl Bunting 1, Hawfinch 1.

**Monfragüe: El
Castillo (Mud 4) (a)
(20.10-21.40)**

Black Stork 1, White Stork 2, Griffon Vulture 30, Black Kite 4, Red-legged Partridge 1, White-rumped Swift 1 (seen from the southern side of the castle together with R-r Swallows), Alpine Swift 15, Red-rumped Swallow 20, Blue Rock Thrush 1, Blackbird 1,

Goldfinch 1, Rock Bunting 3.

We stayed another night in Torrejón el Rubio.

Tue June 21



Steppe of Belén

Belén (*Mud 12*) (a)
(6.40-9.30 + 19.40-22.00)

White Stork 120, Grey Heron 1, Cattle Egret 170 (+ 200 in a colony 1 km from Belén), Mallard 60, Black Kite 30, Montagu's Harrier 1, Buzzard 3, Booted Eagle 1, Short-toed Eagle 1, Lesser Kestrel 15, Moorhen 1, Great Bustard 15 ad + 1 chick, Little Bustard 2, Lapwing 6, Green Sandpiper 1, Black-bellied Sandgrouse 12, Wood Pigeon 20, Eastern Collared Dove 1, Little Owl 5, Hoopoe 20, Bee-eater 8, Crested Lark 25, Calandra Lark 150, Barn Swallow 20, Stonechat 1, Fan-tailed Warbler 1, Spotless Starling 600, Woodchat Shrike 10, Southern Grey Shrike 5, Raven 80, Magpie 25, Linnet 5, House Sparrow 150, Spanish Sparrow 1, Corn Bunting 4.

Trujillo (*Mud 12*) (b)
9.45-11.45

White Stork 20, Booted Eagle 1, Lesser Kestrel 16, Pallid Swift 1, Swift 150, Spotless Starling 25.



Southern Grey Shrike

**Trujillo (EX-208) -
Zorita (EX-355) -
Madrigalejo (and
return)** (b) 11.45-13.00 +
19.15-20.30

Cattle Egret 60, Little Egret 3 (at Embalse de Sierra Brava), Black-winged Stilt 1, Bee-eater 4, Hoopoe 5, Roller 10 (at Embalse de Sierra Brava), Calandra Lark 10, Southern Grey Shrike 2, Azure-winged Magpie 12.

**Madrigalejo at km
16.8 (*Mud 17.4*) (a)**
(13-13.40) (note that 17.3
has been turned into a
renovated private road with
no admission)

Little Egret 1, White Stork 40, Marsh Harrier 1, Little Ringed Plover 5, Bee-eater 14, Roller 2, Kingfisher 1, Barn Swallow 25, Sand Martin 1, Stonechat 1, Cetti's Warbler 1, Great Reed Warbler 1, Woodchat Shrike 2, Spanish Sparrow 7, Serin 2, Red Avadavat 5.

Madrigalejo (EX-355+BA-6348+EX-103) –
Puebla de Alcocer (b) (13.40-15.00)

Montagu's Harrier 5.

**Puebla de Alcocer,
el Castillo** (a) (16.40-
18.30)



View from the castle at Puebla de Alcocer



Crag Martin, one of the inhabitants of the castle

White Stork 1, Short-toed Eagle 1, Kestrel 2, Swift 4, Bee-eater 3, Hoopoe 4, Crested Lark 2, Crag Martin 20, Red-rumped Swallow 8, House Martin 10, Black Wheatear 2, Blackbird 2, Sardinian Warbler 2, Great Tit 2, Short-toed Treecreeper 1, Spotless Starling 1, Jackdaw 4, Rock Sparrow 2, Serin 6, Rock Bunting 2.

The next two nights were spent in Hotel Nuria, Trujillo: € 55 for two rooms a night.

Wed June 22

Monfragüe: Arroyo de la Vid (*Mud 4*) (a) (6.30-7.15)

Black Kite 1, Griffon Vulture 14, Egyptian Vulture 1, Little Ringed Plover 2, Bee-eater 4, Kingfisher 1, Red-rumped Swallow 2, House Martin 1, Crag Martin 3, Wood Lark 1, White Wagtail 2, Stonechat 1, Blackbird 5, Blue Rock Thrush 2, Sardinian Warbler 4, Orphean Warbler 1, Blue Tit 1, Long-tailed Tit 6, Woodchat Shrike 2, Azure-winged Magpie 4, Spanish Sparrow 7, Greenfinch 2, Cirl Bunting 2.

Monfragüe: La Higuera + Portilla de Tiétar (*Mud 4*) (8.40-9.30)

Black Stork 1, Black Kite 20, Griffon Vulture 50, Black Vulture 3, Spanish Imperial Eagle 1 (over the nest), Turtle Dove 5, Kingfisher 2, House Martin 20, Crag Martin 50, Wren 1, Sardinian Warbler 2, Subalpine Warbler 4, Woodchat Shrike 2, Jay 2, Hawfinch 3.

Monfragüe (EX-208) – **5 km S Plasencia** (EX-108+ CC-152) – **Toril** (b) (10.45-12.25)

Short-toed Eagle 1, Woodchat Shrike 3.

Toril (a) (12.25-14.00). A track passing a gate leads through olive groves and to a stream.

Night Heron 1 (at the creek), Grey Heron 3, White Stork 1, Gadwall 20, Mallard 4, Black Kite 5, Red Kite 2, Black Vulture 2, Buzzard 3, Short-toed Eagle 2, Booted Eagle 1 (dark phase), Bee-eater 18, Kingfisher 1, Hoopoe 1, Crested Lark 10, Bank Swallow 150, White Wagtail 1, Nightingale 1, Blue Tit 5, Long-tailed tit 3, Woodchat Shrike 5, Spotless Starling 5, Raven 5, Azure-winged Magpie 9, Goldfinch 1.

Trujillo, the bullring (*Mud 12*) (b) (19.15-20.15)

Cattle Egret 10, Lesser Kestrel 17 ad., 3 1cy, 2 pulli, Hoopoe 1.



Lesser Kestrel on the roof of the bullring, Trujillo

Belén (*Mud 12*)
(a) (20.25-22.20)

White Stork 150, Mallard 15, Montagu's Harrier 2, Buzzard 3, Lesser Kestrel 10, Great Bustard 8, Little Bustard 13, Red-legged Partridge 1, Moorhen 1, Stone Curlew 4, Black-bellied Sandgrouse 2, Wood Pigeon 10, Little Owl 6, Bee-eater 10, Hoopoe 5, Crested Lark 30, Calandra Lark 60, Stonechat 8, Fan-tailed Warbler 1, Sardinian Warbler 1, Spectacled Warbler 1, Spotless Starling 400, Southern Grey Shrike 5, Magpie 35, House Sparrow 100.

Thu June 23

Valle del Jerte
(*Mud 2*) (a)
(7.45-8.30)

Peregrine 1, Wood Pigeon 1, Swift 5, Grey Wagtail 1, Wren 1, Nightingale 1, Robin 2, Blackbird 4, Blackcap 6, Nuthatch 2, Oriole 1, Jay 2, Serin 2, Chaffinch 1.

Puerto de Tornavacas (*Mud 2*)
(a) (9.30-10.10)

Pallid Swift 1, Swift 5, Woodlark 1, Stonechat 1, Dunnock 1, Blackbird 8, Mistle Thrush 3, Dartford Warbler 2, Spectacled Warbler 6, Serin 2, Goldfinch 4, Chaffinch 10, Ortolan Bunting 6.

White Stork 1, Hobby 2, Swift 1, Great Spotted Woodpecker 2, Green Woodpecker 3, Woodlark 1, Swallow 3, Crag Martin 3, Grey Wagtail 4, Tree Pipit 1, Dunnock 1, Wren 3, Robin 2, Black Redstart 8, Blackbird 1, Blackcap 7, Sardinian Warbler 1, Dartford Warbler 2, Western Bonelli's Warbler 12, Crested Tit 2, Coal Tit 25, Great Tit 6, Short-toed Treecreeper 6, Firecrest 5, Goldcrest 10, Carrion Crow 1, Jay 1, House Sparrow 20, Serin 7, Citril Finch 1 male, Goldfinch 5, Chaffinch 15, Crossbill 4, Rock Bunting 11.

Los Gredos:

Navahondilla, El

Parador (*Mud 2*) (a)

(11.30-15.00). Suddenly the weather had changed into rain, thunder, lightning and most unexpectedly: 12 degrees centigrade at noon. Quite a change from 30 degrees at midnight!



Ortolan Bunting, abundant near the parking lot of Parque Sierra de Gredos

Hoyos del Espino (AV-931) – Parque

Regional Sierra de Gredos (*Mud 1*) (a)

(15.20-20.40). This included a walk of 6 km from the parking lot to Laguna Grande de Gredos, which proved the only site for the Alpine Accentor and three Ibex, by the way.

Red Kite 1, Black Kite 1, Griffon Vulture 3, Golden Eagle 1 imm., Booted Eagle 1, Short-toed Eagle 1, Quail 2, Swift 12, Great Spotted Cuckoo 1 ad., Wood Lark 1, Skylark 2, Water Pipit 12, Yellow Wagtail 8, Wheatear 19, Stonechat 5, Dunnock 23, Alpine Accentor 4, Wren 1, Black Redstart

12, Mistle Thrush 6, Bluethroat 4, Rock Thrush 7, Dartford Warbler 1, Whitethroat 1, Raven 4, Chaffinch 5, Serin 18, Linnet 37, Ortolan Bunting 11, Rock Bunting 4.

We stayed the night in Avila at € 70 for two rooms in the centre.

Fri June 24

Hoces del Río

Duración (a) (7.40-9.25 +
18.30- 22.00)

Black Kite 1, Egyptian Vulture 2, Griffon Vulture 30, Short-toed Eagle 1, Booted Eagle 2, Peregrine 1, Kestrel 4, Red-legged Partridge 2, Stone Curlew 2, Swift 20, Bee-eater 1, Hoopoe 1, Crested Lark 10, Thekla Lark 20, Skylark 8, Calandra Lark 15,

Dupont's Lark 3 (at km 2.2 and km 2.4 (on both sides of the road sign), Short-toed Lark 3 (and a nest with 5 young 5 m from the road), Tawny Pipit 3, Wren 1, Northern Wheatear 1, Black-eared Wheatear 3, Subalpine Warbler 1, Blackbird 2, Sardinian Warbler 1, Orphean Warbler 1 (at the parking lot), Blackcap 2, Woodchat Shrike 4, Southern Grey Shrike 2, Chough 73, Raven 1, Jackdaw 6, Carrion Crow 2, Rock Sparrow 11 (at the parking lot), Linnet 6, Rock Bunting 2.

Hoces del Río Duración – Sepúlveda

(b) (9.25-10.00)

Little Owl 1, Bee-eater 1, Southern Grey Shrike 1, Raven 1, Rock Sparrow 1 (singing from the roof of the church in Villaseca).

Sepúlveda (b) (9.25-
12.30)

Griffon Vulture 10, Grey Wagtail 1, Nightingale 1, Garden Warbler 1, Western Bonelli's Warbler 1, Serin 2.

We stayed the night just outside Sepúlveda at the price of € 55 for two rooms.

Systematic List of Birds Observed

It should be noted that date, time and other specifications do not occur on this list as they are supposedly easy to find in the itinerary once you know the place of observation. However, as it is our aim to make it easy to find some of the more interesting species certain details concerning the observations are given. Observations are mentioned chronologically. In the case of a site being visited more than once counts varying are mentioned by means of /.

Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus*

3 Hoces del Río Duración.

Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*

1 Portilla de Tiétar.

Night Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax*

1 Toril (at the creek).

Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis*

15 Finca de Aldeanueva, 370 Belén (including 200 in a colony 1 km from Belén), 60 Trujillo – Madrigalejo, 10 Trujillo.

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*

3 Embalse de Sierra Brava, 1 Madrigalejo.

Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea*

Few, most 6 Finca de Aldeanueva.

White Stork *Ciconia ciconia*

Extremely common, virtually nests in every village. Biggest flocks: 120 Belén, 240 Santa Marta de Magasca, 100+ SW of Torrejón el Rubio.

Black Stork *Ciconia negra*

3/1 Portilla de Tiétar, 1 El Castillo, Monfragüe

Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*

150 Finca de Aldeanueva and 60 Belén were the biggest conglomerations.

Gadwall *Anas strepera*

20 Toril.

Black-winged Kite *Elanus caeruleus*

1, going NE from Cáceres on the CC-912 (Mud), now EX-390 on the map, passing the road that leads to Monroy to the right there is a colony of White Storks in pine trees on both sides of the road. The track to the left immediately after the colony led to the bird on a pylon.

Black Kite *Milvus migrans*

Abundant, most 150 Santa Marta de Magasca.

Red Kite *Milvus milvus*

2 Cantalejo, 1 Finca de Aldeanueva, 2 Toril, 1 Sierra de Gredos.

Egyptian Vulture *Neophron percnopterus*

2/2 Hoces del Río Duratón, 4/2 Monfragüe, 1 SW Torrejón el Rubio, 1 Arroyo de la Vid.

Griffon Vulture *Gyps fulvus*

Common, most 50 Hoces del Río Duratón (colony on the cliffs at Ermita de los Frutos), 130 Monfragüe (colony at Salto el Gitano), 50 Monfragüe (Portilla de Tiétar).

Black Vulture *Aegypius monachus*

11 Hoces del Río Duratón – Puerto de Tornavacas, 4 Salto el Gitano, 3 Santa Marta de Magasca, 5/3 Torrejón el Rubio – Portilla de Tiétar, 2 Toril.

Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus*

1 Santa Marta de Magasca, 1 Madrigalejo.

Hen Harrier *Circus cyaneus*

1 Hoces del Río Duratón.

Montagu's Harrier *Circus pygargus*

2 Finca de Aldeanueva, 14 Santa Marta de Magasca, 1/2 Belén, 5 W Puebla de Alcocer.

Buzzard *Buteo buteo*

Seen from time to time, most 3/3 Belén, 3 Toril.

Short-toed Eagle *Circaetus gallicus*

1/1 Hoces del Río Duratón, 2 Monfragüe, 1 SW Torrejón el Rubio, 1 Belén, 1 Puebla de Alcocer, 1 W Toril, 2 Toril, 2 Hoyos del Espino – Parque Regional de los Gredos.

Golden Eagle *Aquila chrysaetos*

1 imm. Santa Marta de Magasca, 1 imm. Parque Regional de los Gredos.

Spanish Imperial Eagle *Aquila adalberti*

1 ad. with a nest in a pylon off CC-912 SW of Torrejón el Rubio, a track to the left at km 48, 2 ad./1 ad. at a nest with one chick, Portillo del Tiétar.

Booted Eagle *Hieraaetus pennatus*

2/2 Hoces del Río Duratón, 8 Hoces del Río Duratón – Puerto de Tornavacas, 1 Puerto de Tornavacas – Monfragüe, 1 Salto de Gitano, Monfragüe, 2 SW Torrejón el Rubio, 1 Belén, 1 Trujillo, 1 Toril (the only dark phase recorded), 1 Parque Regional de los Gredos.

Bonelli's Eagle *Hieraaetus fasciatus*

2 ad. Villarreal de San Carlos, Monfragüe.

Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus*

Noted with regularity, most 5/4 Hoces del Río Duratón.

Lesser Kestrel *Falco naumanni*

10 Santa Marta de Magasca, 15/10 Belén, 16 Trujillo centre, 17 ad., 3 1cy, 2 pulli Trujillo bullring.

Hobby *Falco subbuteo*

2 Nahondilla, Los Gredos.

Peregrine *Falco peregrinus*

3/1 Hoces del Río Duratón (at Ermita de los Frutos), 1 Salto de Gitano, Monfragüe, 1 Valle del Jerte.

Red-legged Partridge *Alectoris rufa*

5/2 Hoces del Río Duratón, 1 Santa Marta de Magasca, 1 El Castillo, Monfragüe, 1 Belén.

Quail *Coturnix coturnix*

2 Parque Regional de los Gredos.

Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus*

1/1 Belén.

Little Bustard *Tetrax tetrax*

2/13 Belén.

Great Bustard *Otis tarda*

3 Finca de Aldeanueva, 15 ad. + 1 chick/8 ad. Belén,

Stone Curlew *Burhinus oedicnemus*

3/2 Hoces del Río Duratón, 4 Belén.

Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus*

1 N Madrigalejo.

Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius*

5 Madrigalejo, 2 Arroyo de la Vid, Monfragüe.

Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*

6 Belén.

Green Sandpiper *Tringa ochropus*

1 Finca de Aldeanueva, 1 Belén.

Black-bellied Sandgrouse *Pterocles orientalis*

2 Finca de Aldeanueva, 13 Santa Marta de Magasca, 12/2 Belén.

Pin-tailed Sandgrouse *Pterocles alchata*

20 Finca de Aldeanueva, 8 Santa Marta de Magasca.

Wood Pigeon *Columba palumbus*

Scattered observations, most 20 Belén.

Rock Dove *Columba livia*

Seen occasionally, presumably feral all of them.

Stock Dove *Columba oenas*

1 Hoces del Río Duratón.

Eastern Collared Dove *Streptopelia decaocto*

1 Salto de Gitano, Monfragüe, 1 Belén.

Turtle Dove *Streptopelia turtur*

1 SW Torrejón el Rubio, 2 Portilla de Tiétar, Monfragüe, 5 La Higuera, Monfragüe.

Great Spotted Cuckoo *Clamator glandarius*

6 1 cy Finca de Aldeanueva, 4 1 cy Santa Marta de Magasca, 1 ad. Parque Regional de los Gredos.

Cuckoo *Cuculus canorus*

Noted a few along the way.

Little Owl *Athene noctua*

1 5 km SW Sepúlveda, 3 Santa Marta de Magasca, 5/6 Belén, 1 Hoces de Duratón – Sepúlveda.

Long-eared Owl *Asio otus*

1 Finca de Aldeanueva.

Red-necked Nightjar *Caprimulgus ruficollis*

3 Hoces del Río Duratón. The birds were heard at stopovers at kms 0.8, 1.3 and 1.8 after crossing the dried-out creek. The sounds came from the groves visible from the plain to the right (when coming from Sepúlveda).

Alpine Swift *Apus melba*

1 SW Torrejón el Rubio, 1 Monfragüe, 15 El Castillo, Monfragüe.

Swift *Apus apus*

Biggest gatherings: 150 Hoces del Río Duratón, 150 Trujillo.

Pallid Swift *Apus pallidus*

1 Santa Marta de Magasca, 1 Trujillo centre, 1 Trujillo, bullring, 1 Puerto de Tornavaca.

White-rumped Swift *Apus caffer*

1 Salto de Gitano, Monfragüe, 1/1 El Castillo, Monfragüe (seen from the southern side of the castle together with R-r Swallows).

Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis*

1 Finca de Aldeanueva, 1 Portilla de Tiétar, Monfragüe, 2 La Higuerilla, Monfragüe, 1 Madrigalejo, 1 Arroyo de la Vid, Monfragüe, 1 Toril.

Bee-eater *Merops apiaster*

Very common, most 70 Finca de Aldeanueva.

Roller *Coracias garrulous*

5 on or near nestboxes at a small pond right after turning on to a track to the right 12 km SW of Santa Marta de Magasca, 10 at nestboxes Embalse de Sierra Brava, 2 Madrigalejo.

Hoopoe *Upupa epops*

Single observations at many sites, besides 3 Hoces del Río Duratón, 7 Finca de Aldeanueva, 20/5 Belén, 4 Puebla de Alcocer.

Green Woodpecker *Picus viridis sharpei*

3 Navahondillas, Sierra de los Gredos.

Great Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos major*

Noted a few.

Dupont's Lark *Chersophilus duponti*

4/3/3 Hoces del Río Duratón (at km 2.2 and km 2.4 (on both sides of the road sign). The birds proved highly elusive! Despite spending one morning and two evenings in the area - with the larks singing actively on both sides of the road - we only had one sighting. Best advice is probably to stay in the car and with lot of patience scan the ground continuously.

Calandra Lark *Melanocorypha calandra*

25/15 Hoces del Río Duratón 570 Santa Marta de Magasca, 150/60 Belén, 10 Embalse de Sierra Brava.

Short-toed Lark *Calandrella brachydactyla*

3/3 (and a nest with 5 young 5 m from the road) Hoces del Río Duratón, 15 Santa Marta de Magasca.

Crested Lark *Galerida cristata*

Some observations, most 25 Belén,

Thekla Lark *Galerida theklae*

Observed with regularity, most 15 Hoces del Río Duratón, 30 Santa Marta de Magasca.

Woodlark *Lullula arborea*

2 Hoces del Río Duratón, 1 Arroyo de la Vid, Monfragüe, 1 Puerto de Tornavacas, 1 Parque Regional de los Gredos.

Skylark *Alauda arvensis*

Few observations, most 8 Hoces del Río Duratón.

Crag Martin *Ptyonoprogne rupestris*

Frequently seen in apt habitat, most 50/30 Monfragüe, 20 Puebla de Alcocer.

Bank Martin *Riparia riparia*

1 Madrigalejo.

Rødrygget Sval *Hirundo daurica*

Many observations, biggest gatherings 35/55 Monfragüe.

Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica*

Commonly seen, most 150 Toril.

House Martin *Delichon urbica*

Many observations, the bridge in Monfragüe held at least 500 pairs.

Tawny Pipit *Anthus campestris*

9/3 Hoces del Río Duratón.

Tree Pipit *Anthus trivialis*

1 Navahondilla, Los Gredos

Water Pipit *Anthus spinoletta*
12 Parque Regional de los Gredos.

White Wagtail *Motacilla Alba*
Few noted.

Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea*
1 Valle del Jerte, 4 Navahondilla, Los Gredos, 1 Sepúlveda.

Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava iberiae*
8 Hoyos del Espino – Parque Regional de los Gredos.

Wren *Troglodytes troglodytes*
Noted occasionally.

Dunnock *Prunella modularis*
Single observations, except 23 Parque Regional de los Gredos.

Alpine Accentor *Prunella collaris*
4 Parque Regional de los Gredos at La Laguna Grande – so you have to walk 3 km both ways to see this species following a rather stony track from the parking lot.

Robin *Erithacus rubecula*
Noted singly.

Nightingale *Luscinia megarhynchos*
1 Toril, 1 Valle del Jerte, 1 Sepúlveda.

Bluethroat *Luscinia svecica*
4 Parque Regional de los Gredos.

Black Redstart *Phoenicurus ochruros*
4 Hoces del Río Duratón, 2 Monfragüe, 8 Navahondillas, Los Gredos, 12 Parque Regional de los Gredos.

Stonechat *Saxicola torquata*
2/1 Puerto de Tornavacas, 1 Santa Marta de Magasca, 1/8 Belén, 1 Madrigalejo, 1 Arroyo de la Vid, Monfragüe, 5 Parque Regional de los Gredos.

Black-eared Wheatear *Oenanthe hispanica*

16/3 Hoces del Río Duratón, 1 Hoces del Río Duratón – Puerto de Tornavacas, 1 Santa Marta de Magasca.

Black Wheatear *Oenanthe leucura*

2 El Castillo, Puebla de Alcocer.

Wheatear *Oenanthe oenanthe*

1/1 Hoces del Río Duratón, 19 Parque Regional de los Gredos.

Rock Thrush *Monticola saxatilis*

3 Hoces del Río Duratón, 7 Parque Regional de los Gredos.

Blue Rock Thrush *Monticola solitarius*

2 Hoces del Río Duratón, 2 Portilla de Tiétar, Monfragüe 1 El Castillo, Monfragüe, 2 Arroyo de la Vid, Monfragüe.

Blackbird *Turdus merula*

Noted at times, most 5 Arroyo de la Vid, Monfragüe, 8 Puerto de Tornavacas.

Mistle Thrush *Turdus viscivorus*

2/3 Puerto de Tornavacas, 6 Parque Regional de los Gredos.

Fan-tailed Warbler *Cisticola juncidis*

1/1 Belén.

Cetti's Warbler *Cetti cetti*

1 Madrigalejo.

Great Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus arundinaceus*

1 Madrigalejo.

Melodious Warbler *Hippolais polyglotta*

2 Puerto de Tornavacas, 1 Finca de Aldeanueva

Dartford Warbler *Sylvia undata*

2/2 Puerto de Tornavacas, 2 Navahondillas, Los Gredos, 1 Parque Regional de los Gredos.

Spectacled Warbler *Sylvia conspicillata*

4/6 Puerto de Tornavacas, 1 Finca de Aldeanueva, 1 Belén.

Subalpine Warbler *Sylvia cantillans*

3/1 Hoces del Río Duratón, 1 Puerto de Tornavacas, 4 La Higuera, Monfragüe.

Orphean Warbler *Sylvia hortensis*

2/1 Hoces del Río Duratón (at the parking lot), 1 Arroyo de la Vid, Monfragüe.

Sardinian Warbler *Sylvia melanocephala*

2/1 Hoces del Río Duratón, 9/2 Monfragüe, 2 Puebla de Alcocer, 4 Arroyo de la Vid, Monfragüe, 1 Belén, 1 Navahondillas, Los Gredos.

Whitethroat *Sylvia communis*

1 Hoyos del Espino – Parque Regional de los Gredos.

Garden Warbler *Sylvia borin*

1 Sepúlveda.

Blackcap *Sylvia atricapilla*

Occasional, most 6 Valle del Jerte, 7 Navahondillas, Los Gredos,

Western Bonelli's Warbler *Phylloscopus bonelli*

5 Puerto de Tornavacas, 12 Navahondillas, Los Gredos, 1 Sepúlveda.

Goldcrest *Regulus regulus*

10 Navahondillas, Los Gredos.

Firecrest *Regulus ignicapillus*

5 Navahondillas, Los Gredos.

Long-tailed Tit *Aegithalos caudatus*

3 Monfragüe, 6 Arroyo de la Vid, Monfragüe, 3 Toril.

Crested Tit *Parus cristatus*

2 Navahondillas, Los Gredos.

Coal Tit *Parus ater*

25 Navahondillas, Los Gredos.

Blue Tit *Parus caeruleus ultramarinus*

Noted in small numbers.

Great Tit *Parus major*

Few noted, most **6** Navahondillas, Los Gredos.

Short-toed Tree-creeper *Certhiabrachydactyla*

2 Puerto de Tornavacas, **1** Monfragüe, **1** Puebla de Alcocer, **6** Navahondillas, Los Gredos.

Nuthatch *Sitta europaea*

2 Valle del Jerte.

Oriole *Oriolus oriolus*

2 Hoces del Río Duratón, **1** Puerto de Tornavacas, **1** Puerto de Tornavacas – Monfragüe, **1** Monfragüe, **1** Valle del Jerte.

Southern Grey Shrike *Lanius meridionalis*

7 Hoces del Río Duratón, **4** Finca de Aldeanueva, **12** Santa Marta de Magasca, **5/5** Belén were highest numbers. Besides some scattered observations.

Woodchat Shrike *Lanius senator*

Commonly seen throughout, and many **1** cys. Biggest numbers were **12** Finca de Aldeanueva, **22** Santa Marta de Magasca, **10** Belén.

Jay *Garrulus glandarius*

Single observations.

Azure-winged Magpie *Cyanopica cyanus*

Commonly seen, most **7** Monfragüe, **10** SW Torrejón el Rubio, **12** Trujillo – Madrigalejo, **9** Toril.

Magpie *Pica pica*

35 Belén, otherwise not that numerous.

Chough *Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax*

105/73 Hoces del Río Duratón.

Jackdaw *Corvus monedula*

200 Hoces del Río Duratón, **70** Finca de Aldeanueva. Otherwise seen regularly in limited numbers.

Carrion Crow *Corvus corone*

12 Hoces del Río Duratón was highest number recorded. Few observations.

Raven *Corvus corax*

7 Finca de Aldeanueva, 5 Toril, 4 Parque Regional de los Gredos. Besides single observations.

Spotless Starling *Sturnus unicolor*

400 Belén. All in all a very common sight around .

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*

150/100 Belén was highest number. Widespread and numerous.

Spanish Sparrow *Passer hispaniolensis*

2 Santa Marta de Magasca, 1 Belén, 7 Madrigalejo, 7 Arroyo de la Vid, Monfragüe.

Rock Sparrow *Petronia petronia*

200/6 Hoces del Río Duratón, from the parking lot and to Ermita de los Frutos, 2 Puebla de Alcocer, 1 singing from the roof of the church in Villaseca, Sepúlveda.

Red Avadavat *Amandava amandava*

5 Madrigalejo at km 16.8, a small pond with surrounding scrub. It is placed to the right when coming from Trujillo.

Chaffinch *Fringilla coelebs*

15 Navahondillas, Los Gredos was the biggest number, otherwise noted mostly singly.

Serín *Serinus serinus*

10 Puerto de Tornavacas, 6 Puebla de Alcocer, 7 Navahondillas, Los Gredos, 18 Parque Regional de los Gredos. Besides some scattered observations.

Citril Finch *Serinus serinus*

1 male Navahondillas, Los Gredos, just opposite El Parador downhill.

Greenfinch *Carduelis chloris*

Single observations.

Goldfinch *Carduelis carduelis*

Scattered observations, 7 Santa Marta de Magasca was highest count.

Linnet *Carduelis cannabina*

37 Parque Regional de los Gredos. Otherwise small gatherings.

Common Crossbill *Loxia curvirostra*

4 Navahondillas, Los Gredos.

Hawfinch *Coccothraustes coccothraustes*

1/3 Monfragüe, 1 Hoces del Río Duratón – Puerto de Tornavacas.

Yellowhammer *Emberiza citrinella*

1 Hoces del Río Duratón.

Cirl Bunting *Emberiza cirrus*

1 Hoces del Río Duratón, 2 Puerto de Tornavacas, 2 El Castillo, Monfragüe, 1 Monfragüe, 2 Arroyo de la Vid, Monfragüe.

Rock Bunting *Emberiza cia*

3/2 Hoces del Río Duratón, 1 Puerto de Tornavacas, 3 El Castillo, Monfragüe, 2 Puebla de Alcocer, 11 Navahondillas, Los Gredos, 4 Parque Regional de los Gredos.

Ortolan Bunting *Emberiza hortulana*

1 Hoces del Río Duratón, 5/6 Puerto de Tornavacas, 11 Parque Regional de los Gredos.

Corn Bunting *Miliaria calandra*

5 Hoces del Río Duratón, 4 Belén.