

Andalusia recce trip report, 18 - 22 April 2017

# **WILDLIFE TRAVEL**



# **Andalusia 2017**

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#	DATE	LOCATIONS AND NOTES
1	18 April	Flew from the UK to Malaga, visit to Barbate Marshes and La Barca de Vejer.
2	19 April	Morning visit to Tarifa and Sierra de la Plata in the afternoon.
3	20 April	Morning visit to Chipiona and Bonanza, afternoon in Doñana National Park.
4	21 April	Visit to La Denesa de Abajo and <i>espera</i> for Iberian Lynx.
5	22 April	Visit to Doñana marshland with an evening flamenco show in Jerez.



Front cover - Sierra de la Plata.

Above - terns, Doñana National Park.



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### Day One: 18 April. Flew from the UK to Malaga, visit to Barbate Marshes and La Barca de Vejer.

Following a flight into Malaga and transfer to Barbate, we were greeted by a seafood tapas feast in El Campero. This followed with a much-needed leg stretch at the Barbate Marshes, where we found Black-winged Stilt, Kentish Plover, Spoonbill, Great White Egret and Stone Curlew.

The marshes are home to a breeding colony of Collared Pratincole and we enjoyed the spectacle as they flew ahead of us along the path. We also spotted Short-toed Lark, Tawny Pipit and Calandra Lark, with Common Redstart, Pied Flycatcher and Woodchat Shrike spotted amongst the scrub, and Yellow Wagtail and Golden Oriole flying over.

Continuing our journey, we stopped in La Barca de Vejer to visit the only breeding colony of the Northern Bald Ibis in Europe, and had perfect views of these unique looking and critically endangered birds nesting on the cliffs, along with an impressive colony of Cattle Egrets in a nearby reedbed.



Left - Collared Pratincole. Right - Northern Bald Ibis.

### Day Two: 19 April. Morning visit to Tarifa and Sierra de la Plata in the afternoon.

We visited the small town of Tarifa, full of Pallid Swifts darting above our heads to hear about the four species of dolphin (Common, Striped, Bottlenose and Long-finned Pilot Whale) that are resident in the local waters. The dolphins are joined at different times of the year by Killer, Sperm and Fin whales, alongside other marine life such as Bluefin Tuna, Sunfish and Loggerhead Turtle. The wind was too strong to take a boat trip into the Straits of Gibraltar, but we still saw a number of brave Montague's Harriers making landfall following their migration across from Africa.

We visited Sierra de la Plata soaking up the landscape of hills and coast, alongside great views of Short-toed Eagle, Griffon Vulture, Raven and Lesser Kestrel. Following another epic lunch, we visited a local valley to walk through the cork oak woodlands.

After a thrilling aerial clash between a pair of Goshawks and an Egyptian Vulture, we headed for the woods, where we found orchids including the Heart-shaped Serapias *Serapias cordigera*, Sword-leaved Helleborine *Cephalanthera longifolia*, Violet Limadore *Limadum abortivum* and Bee Orchid *Orchis apifera*.

Short-toed Treecreepers sang in the woodland and we spotted a number of long-horned bees on vetch. Many invertebrates were keeping a low profile due to the wind but we did spot Cleopatra, Painted Lady and Cream-spot Tiger, and on returning to our hotel two Great Peacocks (Europe's largest moth).

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### Day Three: 20 April. Morning visit to Chipiona and Bonanza, afternoon in Doñana National Park.

Our day started with a visit to Chipiona; home to a small colony of Little Swifts, where we spent some time watching these superb little birds whizzing around. We had a brief stop at local lakes with Purple Swamphen, Red-crested Pochard and White-headed Duck. Cetti's Warbler, Nightingale and Great Reed Warbler were in full song, and we had fantastic views of a flock of Bee-eaters as they visited the lake to bathe.

We then moved on to nearby Bonanza, where commercial salt pans are home to a wide variety of waders, gulls, terns and wildfowl. We spotted a great range of species including good numbers of Kentish Plover, Dunlin, Curlew Sandpiper and Avocet, along with Little Stint, Slender-billed Gull and a Red-necked Phalarope. Aerial entertainment was provided by Red-rumped Swallows and a Red Kite, with a fantastic fly-by from a squadron of Black Terns. Another quick stop allowed us to enjoy an island lagoon home to nesting Night Heron, Spoonbill and Cattle Egret.



Left - Little Swift. Right - White-headed Duck. Bottom - Doñana National Park.

After another marathon lunch in Sanlúcar de Barrameda we crossed the Guadalquivir River into Doñana National Park. We had a tour around the southern route of the National Park to experience its range of sand dune, marsh and scrub habitats. On the beach were mixed gull and tern flocks including Little Tern,



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Sandwich Tern and Audouin's Gull. The marshes were holding plenty of water and a stop here found plenty of birds including Purple Heron, Flamingo, Black-necked Grebe, Turtle Dove, Booted Eagle, and the majestic Spanish Imperial Eagle.

### Day Four: 21 April. Visit to La Denesa de Abajo and *espera* for Iberian Lynx.

The day began with a walk through the pine woodlands surrounding the hotel, with Hoopoe, Sardinian Warbler, Serin and Western Bonelli's Warbler amongst the morning chorus, while the local Azure-winged Magpies did an effective job of ensuring a passing Raven moved on quickly. Along the woodland tracks we also found fresh tracks of Iberian Lynx.

We headed to La Denesa de Abajo for the fourth Doñana Birdfair, taking some time before the fair started to explore the lagoon and surrounding area, spotting Whinchat, Gadwall and the beautiful Crimson Speckled moth, along with Small Skipper and Small Copper butterflies.

Following the Birdfair we headed to pine woodlands, deep in the heart of Iberian Lynx territory. Although we didn't spot a lynx on this occasion we had a number of good spots, including mating Bee-eaters, along with the soundtrack of a Tawny Owl being mobbed by Blackbirds, and Garden Dormice beginning the night's foraging. A nightjar appearing in the dusk rounded off a day of good sightings.

### Day Five: 22 April. Visit to Doñana marshland with an evening flamenco show in Jerez.

A final visit to marshlands in Doñana included good numbers of species including Zitting Cisticola, Night Heron, and Gull-billed Tern. The sunny weather enticed more dragonflies and butterflies out, including Western Dappled White, Clouded Yellow and Painted Lady.

Following a picnic lunch overseen by White Storks drifting over, we headed on to the hotel in Jerez for a bit of free time before our farewell dinner with a fantastic flamenco show.



Top - Sierra de la Plata. Left - Western Dappled White. Centre - White Stork. Right - Great Peacock

Thank you to the Andalusia Tourist Board for organising a great trip and to all the other travellers in the group for a very fun few days. **Laurie Jackson, Wildlife Travel. June 2017.**

**ANDALUSIA 2017: some highlights**

ENGLISH NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME
<b>BIRDS</b>	
<b>Family Anatidae (Ducks, Geese and Swans)</b>	
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>
Gadwall	<i>Anas strepera</i>
Shoveler	<i>Anas clypeata</i>
Pochard	<i>Aythya ferina</i>
Red-crested Pochard	<i>Netta rufina</i>
White-headed Duck	<i>Oxyura leucocephala</i>
<b>Family Phasianinae (Partridges and Pheasants)</b>	
Red-legged Partridge	<i>Alectoris rufa</i>
Quail	<i>Corturnix corturnix</i>
<b>Family Podicipedidae (Grebes)</b>	
Black-necked Grebe	<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>
Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>
Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>
<b>Family Phalacrocoracidae (Cormorants)</b>	
Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>
<b>Family Ardeidae (Herons)</b>	
Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>
Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>
Squacco Heron	<i>Ardeola ralloides</i>
Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>
Great Egret	<i>Casmerodius albus</i>
Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>
Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>
<b>Family Ciconiidae (Storks)</b>	
White Stork	<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>
<b>Family Threskiornithidae (Ibises)</b>	
Glossy Ibis	<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>
Northern Bald Ibis	<i>Geronticus eremita</i>
Eurasian Spoonbill	<i>Platalea leucorodia</i>
<b>Family Phoenicopteridae (Flamingos)</b>	
Greater Flamingo	<i>Phoenicopterus ruber</i>
<b>Family Accipitridae (Hawks, Eagles and Vultures)</b>	
Griffon Vulture	<i>Gyps fulvus</i>
Egyptian Vulture	<i>Neophron percnopterus</i>
Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>
Spanish Imperial Eagle	<i>Aquila adalberti</i>
Short-toed Eagle	<i>Circus gallicus</i>
Booted Eagle	<i>Aquila pennata</i>
Red Kite	<i>Milvus milvus</i>
Black Kite	<i>Milvus nigrans</i>
Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>
Montagu's Harrier	<i>Circus pygargus</i>
Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>
Goshawk	<i>Accipiter gentilis</i>
<b>Family Falconidae (Falcons)</b>	
Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>
Lesser Kestrel	<i>Falco naumanni</i>
Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>
<b>Family Rallidae (Rails and Crakes)</b>	
Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>

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ENGLISH NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME
Eurasian Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>
Purple Swampphen	<i>Porphyrio porphyrio</i>
<b>Family Haematopodidae (Oystercatchers)</b>	
Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>
<b>Family Recurvirostridae (Avocets and Stilts)</b>	
Pied Avocet	<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>
Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>
<b>Family Burhinidae (Stone Curlews)</b>	
Eurasian Stone-curlew	<i>Burhinus oedipnemus</i>
<b>Family Glareolidae (Pratincoles)</b>	
Collared Pratincole	<i>Glareola pratincola</i>
<b>Family Charadriidae (Plovers)</b>	
Little Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>
Kentish Plover	<i>Charadrius alexandrinus</i>
Grey Plover	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>
<b>Family Scolopacidae (Sandpipers)</b>	
Sanderling	<i>Calidris alba</i>
Dunlin	<i>Calidris alpina</i>
Curlew Sandpiper	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>
Little Stint	<i>Calidris minuta</i>
Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>
Common Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>
Red-necked Phalarope	<i>Phalaropus lobatus</i>
<b>Family Laridae (Gulls)</b>	
Black-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>
Slender-billed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus genei</i>
Yellow-legged Gull	<i>Larus michahellis</i>
Audouin's Gull	<i>Larus audouinii</i>
<b>Family Sternidae (Terns)</b>	
Little Tern	<i>Sterna albifrons</i>
Sandwich Tern	<i>Sterna sandvicensis</i>
Gull-billed Tern	<i>Gelochelidon nilotica</i>
Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>
Caspian Tern	<i>Sterna caspia</i>
Black Tern	<i>Chlidonias niger</i>
<b>Family Columbidae (Pigeons and Doves)</b>	
Rock Dove/Feral Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>
Woodpigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>
Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>
Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>
<b>Family Cuculidae (Cuckoos)</b>	
Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>
<b>Family Strigidae (Owls)</b>	
Tawny Owl	<i>Strix aluco</i>
<b>Family Caprimulgidae (Nightjars)</b>	
Red-necked Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus ruficollis</i>
<b>Family Apodidae (Swifts)</b>	
Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>
Pallid Swift	<i>Apus pallidus</i>
Alpine Swift	<i>Tachymarptis melba</i>
Little Swift	<i>Apus affinis</i>
<b>Family Upupidae (Hoopes)</b>	
Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>
<b>Family Alcedinidae (Kingfishers)</b>	

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ENGLISH NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME
Common Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>
<b>Family Meropidae (Bee-eaters)</b>	
Bee-eater	<i>Merops apiaster</i>
<b>Family Alaudidae (Larks)</b>	
Crested Lark	<i>Galerida cristata</i>
Thekla Lark	<i>Galerida theklae</i>
Short-toed Lark	<i>Calandrella brachydactyla</i>
Calandra Lark	<i>Melanocorypha calandra</i>
<b>Family Hirundinidae (Swallows and Martins)</b>	
Sand Martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>
Crag Martin	<i>Ptyonoprogne rupestris</i>
Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>
Red-rumped Swallow	<i>Hirundo daurica</i>
House Martin	<i>Delichon urbica</i>
<b>Family Motacillidae (Wagtails and Pipits)</b>	
Tawny Pipit	<i>Anthus campestris</i>
White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla (alba) alba</i>
Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava</i>
<b>Family Prunellidae (Accentors)</b>	
Dunnock	<i>Prunella modularis</i>
<b>Family Muscicapidae (Flycatchers and Chats)</b>	
Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>
Nightingale	<i>Luscinia megarhynchos</i>
Common Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>
Northern Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>
Whinchat	<i>Saxicola rubetra</i>
European Stonechat	<i>Saxicola torquata</i>
Pied Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula hypoleuca</i>
<b>Family Turdidae (Thrushes)</b>	
Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>
<b>Family Sylviidae (Scrub Warblers)</b>	
Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>
Common Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia communis</i>
<b>Family Cisticolidae (Cisticolas)</b>	
Zitting Cisticola	<i>Cisticola juncidis</i>
<b>Family Cettiidae (Bush Warblers)</b>	
Cetti's Warbler	<i>Cettia cetti</i>
<b>Family Acrocephalidae (Reed Warblers)</b>	
Great Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus arundinaceus</i>
Olivaceous Warbler	<i>Iduna pallida</i>
<b>Family Phylloscopidae (Leaf Warblers)</b>	
Willow Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>
Western Bonelli's Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus bonelli</i>
<b>Family Paridae ( Tits)</b>	
Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>
Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>
<b>Family Certhiidae (Treecreepers)</b>	
Short-toed Treecreeper	<i>Certhia brachydactyla</i>
<b>Family Laniidae (Shrikes)</b>	
Woodchat Shrike	<i>Lanius senator</i>
<b>Family Corvidae (Crows)</b>	
Azure-winged Magpie	<i>Cyanopica cyanus</i>
Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>
Jackdaw	<i>Corvus monedula</i>



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ENGLISH NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME
Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>
<b>Family Sturnidae (Starlings)</b>	
Spotless Starling	<i>Sturnus unicolor</i>
<b>Family Oriolidae (Orioles)</b>	
Golden Oriole	<i>Oriolus oriolus</i>
<b>Family Passeridae (Sparrows)</b>	
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>
Spanish Sparrow	<i>Passer hispaniolensis</i>
Tree Sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>
<b>Family Fringillidae (Finches)</b>	
Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>
Linnet	<i>Carduelis cannabina</i>
Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>
Greenfinch	<i>Carduelis chloris</i>
Serín	<i>Serinus serinus</i>
<b>Family Emberizidae (Buntings)</b>	
Cirl Bunting	<i>Emberiza cirlus</i>
Corn Bunting	<i>Emberiza calandra</i>

ENGLISH NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME
<b>LEPIDOPTERA - Butterflies</b>	
<b>Family Hesperidae (Skippers)</b>	
Small Skipper	<i>Thymelicus sylvestris</i>
<b>Family Papilionidae (Swallowtails, Festoons, Apollos)</b>	
Southern Scarce Swallowtail	<i>Iphiclydes podalirius feisthamelii</i>
<b>Family Pieridae (Whites)</b>	
Western Dappled White	<i>Euchloe crameri</i>
Small White	<i>Pieris rapae</i>
Clouded Yellow	<i>Colias crocea</i>
Cleopatra	<i>Gonepteryx cleopatra</i>
<b>Family Lycaenidae (Blues, Coppers, Hairstreaks)</b>	
Small Copper	<i>Lycaena phlaeas</i>
<b>Family Nymphalidae (Nymphs, Fritillaries and Browns)</b>	
Painted Lady	<i>Vanessa cardui</i>
<b>LEPIDOPTERA - Moths</b>	
<b>Family Saturniidae (Emperor Moths)</b>	
Great Peacock	<i>Saturnia pyri</i>
<b>Family Sphingidae (Hawkmoths)</b>	
Hummingbird Hawk-moth	<i>Macroglossum stellatarum</i>
<b>Family Erebidae (Underwings, Tigers, Tussocks)</b>	
Crimson Speckled	<i>Utetheisa pulchella</i>
Cream-spot Tiger	<i>Arctia villica</i>

ENGLISH NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME
<b>MAMMALS</b>	
Roe Deer	<i>Capreolus capreolus</i>
Red Deer	<i>Cervus elaphus</i>

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ENGLISH NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME
Wild Boar	<i>Sus scrofa</i>
<b>REPTILES</b>	
Spanish Terrapin	<i>Mauremys leprosa</i>
Red-eared Slider	<i>Trachemys scripta</i>
<b>HYMENOPTERA - Bees, wasps, ants, sawflies</b>	
a long-horned bee	<i>Eucera</i> sp.
Violet Carpenter Bee	<i>Xylocopa violacea</i>
<b>COLEOPTERA - Beetles</b>	
Lesser Stag Beetle	<i>Dorcus parallelipipedus</i>