

100+ Birds Costa del Sol Birdwatching Challenge (2016.04.22)
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The arrival of more breeding species has increased the amount of birds observed to 117 this month.

(Click here for a complete list of birds: <http://www.birdaytrip.es/blog/item/548-100-birds-costa-del-sol-birdwatching-challenge-malaga-andalucia-southern-spain-2016-04-22>)

We started the day early in the morning at Montes de Malaga, where we could hear Scops Owl, Woodlark, Red-necked Nightjar and Tawny Owl before dawn. No surprises with respect to other typical wood birds in the area.

The visit to El Torcal allowed nice views of Griffon Vulture, Alpine Swift, Black Wheatear, Blue Rock Thrush, Chough, Crag Martin, Melodious Warbler, Rock Sparrow, Subalpine Warbler and Thekla Lark.

The pools around the Visitors Centre at Fuente de Piedra hosted Black, Whiskered and Gull-billed Terns and waders were represented by Avocets, Black-winged Stilts, Common, Wood and Curlew Sandpipers, Redshank, Dunlin, Little Stint, Ringed, Little Ringed and Kentish Plovers and Ruff. The Laguneto showed very close Flamingos and waterfowl like White-headed Duck and Red-crested Pochards, with the Purple Swamphen showing up among the reeds. There were two Lesser Flamingos amongst the Greater ones in the lake bed.

The tour through the farmlands gave Crested, Calandra and Short-toed Larks. As we approached Campillos, we heard Quail and Little Bustard hiding in the wheat and enjoyed the display flights of several Montagu's Harriers. We could also find lonely Rollers and Stone Curlews. This time, the bird 100 was a Wheatear in this area.

We had nice views of Bee-eaters, that have started digging their burrows at Rio Grande, along with Cattle and Little Egrets and Collared Pratincole.

Our last destination was Zapata, where we could add Common Waxbill, Great Reed warbler, Little Bittern, Short-toed Eagle and White Stork (a flock of four individuals flying near Campanillas).



Montagu's Harrier (*Circus pygargus*)



Thekla Lark (*Galerida theklae*)



Greater Flamingo (*Phoenicopterus roseus*)



Gull-billed Tern (*Gelochelidon nilotica*)



Black Tern (*Chlidonias niger*)



Short-toed Lark (*Calandrella brachydactyla*)



Collared Pratincole (*Glareola pratincola*)