

100+ Birds Malaga Bird Watching Tour October (2016.10.14)
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I was 26 birds behind when I arrived to the Mouth of the Guadalhorce...

Click here for the complete list of the 106 birds observed:

<http://www.birdaytrip.es/blog/item/609-100-birds-malaga-bird-watching-tour-in-october-costa-del-sol-andalucia-southern-spain-2016-10-14>

My good friend and bird photographer Jari Seppälä, from Finland, came with me to this October challenge, so I will include a link to his pictures once he sorts everything out when back at home.

Robin was the first bird to wake up at dawn in Montes de Malaga. While watching a Chiffchaff calling from a Holm Oak, we could clearly hear the “opposite” call of an Iberian Chiffchaff, making it the most outstanding observation there along with other typical forest birds like Cirl Bunting, Common Crossbil, Crested Tit, Firecrest, Nuthatch and Short-toed Treecreeper.

El Torcal gave us one of the “firsts” of the season, a Starling following a flock of Spotless ones. We could also spot Griffon Vulture, Corn and Rock Buntings, Serins singing like crazy!, Thekla Lark and lots of Black Redstarts.

The first species at Fuente de Piedra was the Stone Curlew resting in the furrows followed by two Hoopoes in one of the dried lakes by the Visitors Centre. Then a flock of Red-rumped Swallows flew by followed by a Sparrowhawk in search for breakfast. We celebrated the first calls and flocks of the Meadow Pipits. There were lots of Lesser Black-backed and Black-headed Gulls in the lake bed. The Greater Flamingos and Black-winged Stilts were accompanied by... the first Cranes of the season!

When heading to the Laguneto, we heard the call of a Little Owl that we could eventually, though not without difficulty, spot resting in a Tamarisk.

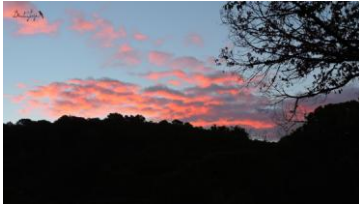
In one of our scans of the farmlands, we spotted a Black-winged Kite sitting on a Holm Oak.

The visit to El Chorro provided us with all the desired targets: Bonelli’s Eagle, Black Wheatear, Blue Rock Thrush and a funny, but always short, performance of a Dartford Warbler.

The visit to the Guadalhorce Valley should let us as close as possible to the 100 target. After spotting Great Egret, Common and Green Sandpipers, Grey Heron, Little Egret, White and Grey Wagtails, and the flight of a Common Buzzard, we had only 74 birds on the list...

Jari was departing to Finland the day after so he wished me good luck and said goodbye in Guadalmar, so I got into the reserve alone with my eyes wide open... Monk Parakeet, Shoveler, White-headed Duck, Little Grebe, Kingfisher, Coot, Gadwall, Teal, Pochard, Redstart (I was lucky!), Snipe, Reed warbler, Shelduck, Curlew Sandpiper (a bit lucky again!), Audouin’s Gull, Sanderling, Mediterranean Gull, Grey Plover, Dunlin, Slender-billed Gull (lucky again as I did not see them lately over here!), Turnstone, Sandwich Tern, Spoonbill (very lucky!), Gannet and, while searching for the shearwaters from the beach... a nice young Great Skua flying after a seagull! That was a stroke of luck as they can only occasionally be spotted from the beach.

I kept walking across the beach to finish the day at the Laguna Grande. Then, in one of those swirls where many Gannets dive together, I found Balearic and Scopoli's Shearwaters. Once at the Laguna Grande, Little Ringed and Ringed Plovers, Greenshank and Ruff for a total of 106 birds.



Dawn at Monte de Malaga



Spanish Ibex (*Capra pyrenaica*) at El Torcal



Hoopoes (*Upupa epops*)



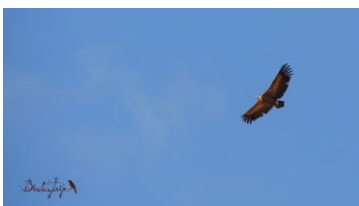
Stone Curlews (*Burhinus oedicnemus*)



Wheatear (*Oenanthe oenanthe*)



Red-legged Partridges (*Alectoris rufa*)



Griffon Vulture (*Gyps fulvus*)



Great Egret (*Casmerodius albus*)



Kingfisher (*Alcedo atthis*)



Little Grebe (*Tachybaptus ruficollis*)



Audouin's Gull (*Larus audouinii*)



Slender-billed Gull (*Chroicocephalus genei*)



Spoonbill (*Platalea leucorodia*) and Flamingos (*Phoenicopterus roseus*)



Ringed Plover (*Charadrius hiaticula*)



Dusk at the Laguna Grande (Mouth of the Guadalhorce Nature Reserve)