

100+ Birds Malaga Birding Tour (2017.02.27)
by BIRDAYTRIP
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I tried a different strategy today that provided me with 101 species in a month with still very short days!

Click here for the complete list of birds observed: <http://www.birdaytrip.es/blog/item/647-100-birds-malaga-birding-tour-costa-del-sol-andalucia-southern-spain>

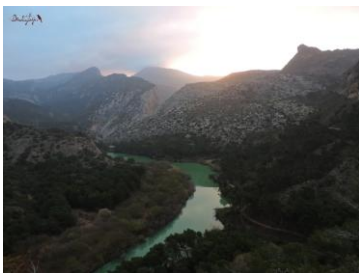
The break of dawn at El Chorro showed most of the typical forest birds. I stayed there until I could spot the silhouette of the Golden Eagle making dives over his territory among the Griffon Vultures.

Out of the forest, I also witnessed an intense fight between the Bonelli's Eagle and a Griffon Vulture that had mistaken its flight height across the cliff, and the Bonelli's with the Peregrine Falcon, that showed their stunning skills in the air. Blue Rock Thrush, Black Wheatear, Dartford Warbler and Thekla Lark were also present in the area. The mimicking songs of an Iberian Grey Shrike made me leave the truck to make visual contact with it and allowed my finding of a lovely Fan-lipped Orchid.

My next move was a good breakfast and a tour across the farmlands, where I got Crested and Calandra Larks, Cranes and my first Red-rumped Swallow of the year.

Once at the Fuente de Piedra lake, there was a big flock of Cattle Egrets, many of them wearing nice summer plumages, the White Storks that have been present this winter, my first Yellow Wagtails of the season as well, a few White-headed Ducks at the Laguneto, where there also was a Red-crested Pochard, that has been absent during our long drought period.

The Mouth of the Guadalhorce is showing good in the last weeks. Booted Eagle and Osprey, Spoonbill, a nice flock of adult Greater Flamingos looking for a way to get in from the sea, Sanderling, Grey Plover, Oystercatcher, Kentish Plover and very active Sandwich Terns at the beach apart from the common birds at this site: Black-winged Stilt, Black-necked Grebes, herons, egrets, finches, etc.



Gaitanejo



Great Crested Grebe (*Podiceps cristatus*)



Dartford Warbler (*Sylvia undata*)



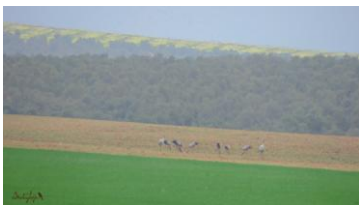
Rock Bunting (*Emberiza cia*)



Fan-lipped Orchid (*Orchis collina*)



Grey Heron (*Ardea cinerea*)



Cranes (*Grus grus*)



Iberian Hare (*Lepus granatensis*)



Black-tailed Godwit (*Limosa limosa*) and Cattle Egrets (*Bubulcus ibis*)



Serin (*Serinus serinus*)



Spoonbill (*Platalea leucorodia*)



Black-winged Stilt (*Himantopus himantopus*)