

100+ Birds Malaga Birding Tour (2016.11.16)
by BIRDAYTRIP
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I could not believe I just reached the target!

Click here for the complete list of birds observed: <http://www.birdaytrip.es/blog/item/616-100-birds-malaga-birding-tour-costa-del-sol-malaga-andalucia-southern-spain-2016-11-16>

I did not spot any extraordinary bird in any of the sites I visited. I could have been a bit lucky with Black-tailed Godwit, Ruff and Grey Plover, three typical birds on a rather late passage, at the Mouth of the Guadalhorce, and a Merlin on the way to Fuente de Piedra.

So I was 16 birds behind before I entered the farmlands and the Fuente de Piedra Lake after visiting Montes de Malaga, the Mouth of the Guadalhorce, Zapata, Rio Grande and El Chorro. With all the little lakes in the farmlands still dry, I was not very confident that I could reach the target...

Then Raven over the road, a nice flock of Little Bustards near Campillos, Corn Buntings in the fallows, Wood Pigeons, that I very much missed at Montes de Malaga, sitting on the wires, the first Cranes of the day, the above mentioned Merlin in flight between Cantarranas and Las Latas, an adorable Little Owl sitting on a sign by the road, first Jackdaws in a ruined farmhouse, flocks of Linnets...

Once at the Visitors Centre, I had a look in the little puddle below the Cerro del Palo view point where I found Lapwing, Water Pipit and the Snipes I missed at the Mouth of the Guadalhorce, where I had already ticked the Greater Flamingo.

I could not believe there were not any Stone Curlews around the tower when I got into the Visitors Centre. I stopped again, place the scope and found... one! I was only 3 birds behind. It was late to reach El Torcal and maybe I could not spot so many new birds for the list there so I thought of owls and headed to Archidona.

So I sat in an olive grove, in front of a big tree where some Long-eared Owls use to winter just with the last lights of the day. An Azure-winged Magpie was still in the open before flying to its roosting branch. After a while, the Long-eared Owl came out and, after a two seconds search around, flew off and disappeared.

I then went for victory to a cliff where the Eagle Owls live near Archidona and the owl was already hooting when I got down the car! What a great end for a marvelous day... and night!



Black-necked Grebes (*Podiceps nigricollis*)



Black-headed Gull (*Chroicocephalus ridibundus*)



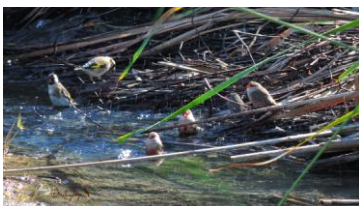
Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax carbo*)



Booted Eagle (*Aquila pennata*) resting among Cormorants (*Phalacrocorax carbo*)



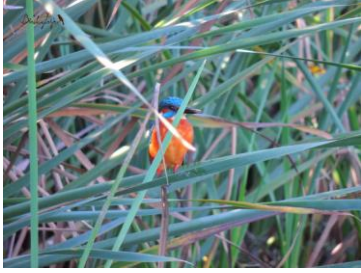
Greater Flamingos (*Phoenicopterus roseus*) and Little Egrete (*Egretta garzetta*)



Goldfinches (*Carduelis carduelis*) and Common Waxbills (*Estrilda astrild*)



Hoopoe (*Upupa epops*)



Kingfisher (*Alcedo atthis*)



Crested Lark (*Galerida cristata*)



Green Sandpiper (*Tringa ochropus*)



Black Wheatear (*Oenanthe leucura*)



Little Bustards (*Tetrax tetrax*)