

100+ Birds Malaga Birding Tour in September (2016.09.28)
by BIRDAYTRIP
www.birdaytrip.com

The "Way of the 100 Birds" gave us another great birding day!

Click here for the complete list of 113 birds observed:

<http://www.birdaytrip.es/blog/item/603-100-birds-malaga-bird-watching-challenge-costa-del-sol-andalucia-southern-spain-2016-09-28>

Another success of the 100+ Malaga Team! We decided to focus our trip on the forest, the mountain and the coastal wetland today by visiting Montes de Malaga, El Torcal, Zapata and the Mouth of the Guadalhorce.

Most of the typical forest birds showed up at Montes de Malaga including Firecrest and Short-toed Treecreeper. The first to wake up was the Robin and the highlight of our visit was the presence of our friend "Foxy" that only comes out when the whole team meets.

The visit to El Torcal was fantastic. We found a big flock of Corn Buntings, the first Hoopoe of the day and a Sparrowhawk on our way up to the Visitors Centre. The site was populated by a lot of very interesting birds on passage like Garden and Subalpine Warblers, Whitethroat, Redstart, Wheatear, Whinchat and two of the gems of the day: Rock Thrush and Ortolan Bunting (with serious doubts about this bird as some features correspond to the Ortolan Bunting and others are a bit misleading but do not direct you to Rock, Cirl or Corn Bunting either...).

We could also spot some of the typical residents like Blue Rock Thrush, Rock and Cirl Buntings, Black Redstart, Crag Martin and Griffon Vulture. Looking to a big raptor in flight along the ridge, it turned out to be a Golden Eagle, which soon was escorted by the Peregrine Falcon.

The visit to Zapata started with an Osprey eating a fish on top of a pylon and followed with a wonderful flock of Stone Curlews. Cattle and Little Egrets, Red-rumped Swallows, Cetti's Warbler, Crested Lark and Kingfisher were present at the river along with Booted Eagle and Marsh Harrier.

The Mouth of the Guadalhorce is showing a very good face. Ducks, including White-headed Duck, waders, with Kentish Plover, Black-winged Stilt and Bar-tailed Godwit, and seagulls, with some Audouin's ones provided the Team with a lot of species.

Watching seabirds at the beach gave the team the bird 100: Scopoli's Shearwater, that glided in the waves with Balearic ones and Gannets.

Another great birding day in the best possible company!