

Birding around Malaga province (2016.10.26)  
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Joe's targets for the day have led us to the Valley of the Guadalhorce, El Chorro, farmlands and Fuente de Piedra.

Click here for the complete list of birds observed: <http://www.birdaytrip.es/blog/item/612-birding-around-malaga-province-andalucia-southern-spain-2016-10-26>

This birdaytrip was Mary's birthday present for Joe.

Our first stop of the day was at Rio Grande where we found a new for the season, the Water Pipit, Great Egret, a single Black Stork and a Blue Rock Thrush, one of Joe's targets, in a ruined farmhouse, among other typical inhabitants of the river.

The cliffs at El Chorro provided nice views of huge flocks of Griffon Vultures and a few very close ones searching for thermals to follow their friends. We could also spot Iberian Grey Shrike, another target for Joe, Bonelli's Eagle, Black Wheatear, Crag Martins and the calls of an extremely elusive but close Dartford Warbler.

The farmlands showed a few late Wheatears and very nice views of Black Redstarts, one of Joe's wishes for the day as well.

There were Cranes (Joe's reason to come to the Fuente de Piedra Lake) with the Flamingos. The lake is looking better after the last rains; I hope it rains much more in the coming days. We could spot another "late" there, a Pied Flycatcher, and, no without difficulty, we finally discovered a beautiful male Spanish Sparrow in the open. We searched for the Bluethroat, another target for the day, but we could not find it so we headed to Zapata, the last stage of our tour.

We ticked some new species on the list like Common Waxbill and Red-legged Partridge and could even have a glimpse of an Egyptian Mongoose sneaking in the reeds. Finally, to put a brilliant end to the day, we had wonderful views of several Bluethroats.



Bluethroat (*Luscinia svecica* ssp. *cyanecula*)



Black Stork (*Ciconia nigra*)



Robin (*Erithacus rubecula*)



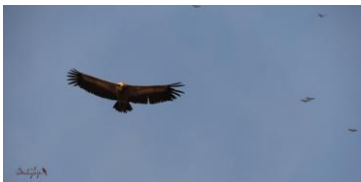
Blue Rock Thrush (*Monticola solitarius*)



Common Crossbill (*Loxia curvirostra*)



Thekla Lark (*Galerida theklae*)



Griffon Vulture (*Gyps fulvus*)



Black Redstart (*Phoenicurus ochruros*)



Spanish Terrapins (*Mauremys leprosa*)



Spanish Sparrow (*Passer hispaniolensis*)