

## Southern Spain and Extremadura 23/6 - 30/6/2000

Juha Niemi

### GENERAL INFO

#### 1. Participants

- Juha Niemi, email: [juha.niemi@tp.spt.fi](mailto:juha.niemi@tp.spt.fi)
- Markku Santamaa, email: [santamaa@cc.spt.fi](mailto:santamaa@cc.spt.fi)
- Keijo Wahlroos

#### 2. Travel

- Airplane: Helsinki-Malaga. Departure: Friday, June 23, 18:00. Return: Friday, June 30, 22:45
- Car: Opel Astra diesel with air-conditioning rented by Helle Hollis for 42000 pts, incl. total insurance and unlimited mileage
- Journey: We drove 2.850 km, daily totals are given in the section Itinerary

#### 3. Residence

- Sierra Nevada. We stayed one night at hotel El Querra at few km from Granada toward the peak. Price for a room with three single beds was 5000 pts.
- Monfragüe: We stayed 2 nights at Hotel Carvajal at Torrejón El Rubio. Price for a room with two single beds + a room with one bed was 8000 pts.
- La Serena: We stayed one night at a roadside hotel halfway between Campanarion and Castueran. Price for a room with two single beds + a room with one bed was 9000 pts.
- El Rocio: Unfortunately I can't recall the hotels name but the price was 7500 pts for a room with two single beds + a room with one bed.
- Ronda: We stayed one night at Hotel Hula. Price for a room with two single beds + a room with one bed was 7000 pts.
- La Jimena de Libar: We stayed last night at camping area near this village. Two bungalows costs 12000 pts.

The temperature was rather high all the time, generally between 33-37°C in daytime and once it reached +40°C. Because of hot wheather we did have decent meal only once at Hotel Carvajal. The food was good. Mainly we enjoyed lemoncakes, sandwiches and coffee and lots of fresh water and coke.

#### 4. Information

##### Maps

- Michelin 444 Espana centro 1:400000 (880 pts)
- Firestone Andalucia 1:30000 (1450 pts)

## Books and trip reports

- Extremadura (14/4 - 23/4/2000), Yves Baptiste
- Where to watch birds in Southern Spain, Garcia E. & A. Paterson
- A birdwatching guide to Extremadura, John Muddeman
- A Birdwatching guide to Southern Spain, Malcolm Palmer

## ITINERARY

- 23.6. Malaga -> Sierra Nevada 160 km
- 24.6. Sierra Nevada -> Torrejon El Rubio (Extremadura) 616 km
- 25.6. Extremadura, Monfraque until noon and a roundtrip Trujillo -> Monroy 149 km
- 26.6. Torrejon El Rubio -> Mirador De La Bascula -> Monroy -> Sierra De San Pedro -> Aquilar -> Medina -> La Serena 390 km
- 27.6. La Serena until noon -> El Rocio 595 km
- 28.6. El Rocio -> Coto Donana -> Ronda 340 km
- 29.6. Ronda -> El Chorro -> Ronda -> La Jimena de Libar 220 km
- 30.6. La Jimena de Libar -> Tarifa -> Torremolinos -> Malaga airport 325 km.

## BIRDS

### **1. LITTLE GREBE** (*Tachybaptus ruficollis*)

a few birds observed at some ponds

### **2. GREAT CRESTED GREBE** (*Podiceps cristatus*)

some breeding couples at ponds such as Laguna del Rincon and Laguna de Zonar near Aquilar

### **3. BLACK-NECKED GREBE** (*Podiceps nigricollis*)

some breeding couples at ponds such as Laguna del Rincon near Aquilar

### **4. CORY'S SHEARWATER** (*Calonectris diomedea*)

roughly 30 birds on sea at Tarifa

### **5. MEDITERRANEAN SHEAWATER** (*Puffinus (yelkouan) mauretanicus*)

roughly 20 birds on sea at Tarifa

### **6. GREAT CORMORANT** (*Phalacrocorax carbo*)

one bird flying NW at the Mirador De La Bascula, Monfragüe

### **7. CATTLE EGRET** (*Bubulcus ibis*)

frequently observed, in small to large numbers

### **8. LITTLE EGRET** (*Egretta garzetta*)

common in Coto Donana

- 9. GREY HERON** (*Ardea cinerea*)  
few birds irregularly observed near rivers and ponds, also in Coto Donana
- 10. PURPLE HERON** (*Ardea purpurea*)  
2 birds at river in Medina and pretty common in Coto Donana
- 11. LITTLE BITTERN** (*Ixobrychus minutus*)  
2 adult male at river in Medina and a pair in Coto Donana
- 12. NIGHT HERON** (*Nycticorax nycticorax*)  
a few birds at river in Medina and common in Coto Donana
- 13. SQUACCO HERON** (*Ardeola ralloides*)  
a few birds in Coto Donana
- 14. BLACK STORK** (*Ciconia nigra*)  
few birds observed in Monfragüe
- 15. WHITE STORK** (*Ciconia ciconia*)  
common
- 16. EURASIAN SPOONBILL** (*Platalea leucorodia*)  
common in Coto Donana
- 17. GLOSSY IBIS** (*Plegadis falcinellus*)  
several birds observed in Coto Donana
- 18. GREATER FLAMINGO** (*Phoenicopterus ruber*)  
common in Coto Donana
- 19. EGYPTIAN GOOSE** (*Alopochen aegyptiacus*)  
6 birds in Coto Donana, escapes from a waterfowl collection ?
- 20. GREYLAG GOOSE** (*Anser anser*)  
few birds observed in Coto Donana
- 21. GADWALL** (*Anas strepera*)  
a few birds observed in Coto Donana
- 22. MALLARD** (*Anas platyrhynchos*)  
pretty common at ponds and rivers
- 23. TEAL** (*Anas crecca*)  
single male observed in Coto Donana
- 24. SHOVELER** (*Anas clypeata*)  
3 males observed in Coto Donana
- 25. MARBLED DUCK** (*Marmaronetta angustirostris*)  
single bird observed in Coto Donana

- 26. RED-CRESTED POCHARD** (*Netta rufina*)  
a few birds observed at Laguna del Rincon and Coto Donana
- 27. POCHARD** (*Aythya ferina*)  
many birds observed in Coto Donana
- 28. WHITE\_HEADED DUCK** (*Oxyura leucocephala*)  
3 males and one female at Laguna del Rincon
- 29. BLACK KITE** (*Milvus migrans*)  
very abundant in Extremadura and elsewhere as well
- 30. RED KITE** (*Milvus milvus*)  
a few birds observed mainly in Extremadura
- 31. EGYPTIAN VULTURE** (*Neophron percnopterus*)  
a few birds observed in Extremadura
- 32. GRIFFON VULTURE** (*Gyps fulvus*)  
abundant in Extremadura and a few observed above the sierra's elsewhere as well
- 33. BLACK VULTURE** (*Aegypius monachus*)  
roughly 15-20 birds observed in Extremadura. There were three nests at the Mirador de la Báscula
- 34. SHORT-TOED EAGLE** (*Circaetus gallicus*)  
daily observed in Extremadura. 10 birds perched along the road in La Serena
- 35. MARSH HARRIER** (*Circus aeruginosus*)  
2 males and female in Coto Donana
- 36. MONTAGU'S HARRIER** (*Circus pygargus*)  
abundant in the steppes
- 37. EURASIAN SPARROWHAWK** (*Accipiter nisus*)  
one hunting bird at the Mirador de la Báscula
- 38. COMMON BUZZARD** (*Buteo buteo*)  
daily observed
- 39. SPANISH IMPERIAL EAGLE** (*Aquila adalberti*)  
2 adult observed at Sierra de San Pedro
- 40. GOLDEN EAGLE** (*Aquila chrysaetos*)  
a 2nd-calendar bird hunting in La Serena
- 41. BOOTED EAGLE** (*Hieraetus pennatus*)  
regularly observed, mainly pale form, only two dark individual observed

**42. BONELLI'S EAGLE** (*Hieraaetus fasciatus*)

2 adult birds observed at El Chorro

**43. OSPREY** (*Pandion haliaetus*)

one bird observed at the Mirador de la Báscula

**44. LESSER KESTREL** (*Falco naumanni*)

roughly 40 birds observed in La Serena

**45. COMMON KESTREL** (*Falco tinnunculus*)

abundant

**46. RED-LEGGED PARTIDGE** (*Alectoris rufa*)

frequently observed

**47. WATER RAIL** (*Rallus aquaticus*)

calling male in Coto Donana

**48. MOORHEN** (*Gallinula chloropus*)

regular at ponds and in Coto Donana

**49. PURPLE SWAMP-HEN** (*Porphyrio porphyrio*)

11 birds observed in Coto Donana including a chick

**50. COMMON COOT** (*Fulica atra*)

see Moorhen

**51. LITTLE BUSTARD** (*Tetrax tetrax*)

7 birds observed in La Serena including a chick

**52. GREAT BUSTARD** (*Otis tarda*)

10 birds (all males) observed in La Serena

**53. BLACK-WINGED STILT** (*Himantopus himantopus*)

abundant in Coto Donana, a few elsewhere

**54. AVOCET** (*Recurvirostra avosetta*)

abundant in Coto Donana

**55. STONE CURLEW** (*Oedichnemus burhinus*)

several birds observed in La Serena and along the roadside from Trujillo to Monroy

**56. COLLARED PRATINCOLE** (*Glareola pratincola*)

several flying birds in La Serena and in Coto Donana

**57. LITTLE RINGED PLOVER** (*Charadrius dubius*)

couples at larger and smaller embalses

**58. KENTISH PLOVER** (*Charadrius alexandrinus*)

few birds observed in Coto Donana, several birds at beach in Tarifa

- 59. NORTHERN LAPWING** (*Vanellus vanellus*)  
a flock of 6 birds migrating in Coto Donana
- 60. DUNLIN** (*Calidris alpina*)  
2 birds observed at beach in Tarifa
- 61. SANDERLING** (*Calidris alba*)  
3 birds observed at beach in Tarifa
- 62. BLACK-TAILED GODWIT** (*Limosa limosa*)  
very abundant in Coto Donana
- 63. RUFF** (*Philomachus pugnax*)  
2 birds observed in Coto Donana
- 64. REDSHANK** (*Tringa totanus*)  
a few birds observed at Lagunas and in Coto Donana
- 65. SPOTTED REDSHANK** (*Tringa erythropus*)  
roughly 10 birds in Coto Donana
- 66. GREEN SANDPIPER** (*Tringa ochropus*)  
irregularly observed at riversides and ponds
- 67. BLACK-HEADED GULL** (*Larus ridibundus*)  
few birds observed at riversides
- 68. YELLOW-LEGGED GULL** (*Larus cachinnans michahellis*)  
roughly 100 birds observed at beach in Tarifa
- 69. AUDOUIN'S GULL** (*Larus audouinii*)  
11 birds, adults and 2nd-calendar years, observed at beach in Tarifa
- 70. GULL-BILLED TERN** (*Gelochelidon nilotica*)  
a adult bird observed in Coto Donana and 52 birds with a few 1st year at pond between Ronda and El Chorro
- 71. SANDWICH TERN** (*Sterna sandvicensis*)  
a few birds, mainly adults, observed at beach in Tarifa
- 72. LITTLE TERN** (*Sterna albifrons*)  
3 adult birds observed at pond between Ronda and El Chorro and two adults at beach in Tarifa
- 73. WHISKERED TERN** (*Chlidonias hybridus*)  
roughly 170 adult birds in two colonies in Coto Donana
- 74. BLACK-BELLIED SANDGROUSE** (*Pterocles orientalis*)  
a few birds observed in La Serena

- 75. PIN-TAILED SANDGROUSE** (*Pterocles alchata*)  
many birds observed in La Serena
- 76. ROCK PIGEON** (*Columba livia*)  
many birds observed in different sierra's
- 77. WOOD PIGEON** (*Columba palumbus*)  
a few birds observed
- 78. EURASIAN COLLARED DOVE** (*Streptopelia decaocto*)  
calling birds in Medina and in camping area near Tarifa
- 79. TURTLE DOVE** (*Streptopelia turtur*)  
many birds observed
- 80. GREAT SPOTTED CUCKOO** (*Clamator glandarius*)  
2 1st year birds in Coto Donana
- 81. SCOPS OWL** (*Otus scops*)  
2 calling males along roadside between Granada and Sierra Nevada, One of them just outside of the hotel El Querra
- 82. LITTLE OWL** (*Athene noctua*)  
many birds observed especially on the roundtrip Trujillo -> Monroy
- 83. NIGHTJAR** (*Caprimulgus europaeus*)  
singing bird just outside of the hotel El Querra
- 84. COMMON SWIFT** (*Apus apus*)  
abundant
- 85. PALLID SWIFT** (*Apus pallidus*)  
up to 5 birds observed at Laguna del Rincon
- 86. ALPINE SWIFT** (*Apus melba*)  
abundant in sierra's and bridges in Monfragüe and El Chorro
- 87. WHITE-RUMPED SWIFT** (*Apus caffer*)  
2-3 birds observed at castillo de Monfragüe
- 88. COMMON KINGFISHER** (*Alcedo atthis*)  
one bird observed at a river in Sierra de San Pedro
- 89. EUROPEAN BEE-EATER** (*Merops apiaster*)  
very common, daily observed
- 90. EUROPEAN ROLLER** (*Coracias garrulus*)  
a few birds observed along roads

- 91. HOOPOE** (*Upupa epops*)  
daily and frequently seen
- 92. GREAT SPOTTED WOODPECKER** (*Dendrocopos major*)  
few birds observed
- 93. CALANDRA LARK** (*Melanocorypha calandra*)  
numerous in the plains in La Serena
- 94. SHORT-TOED LARK** (*Calandrella brachydactyla*)  
many birds in the plains in Coto Donana, also juveniles
- 95. LESSER SHORT\_TOED LARK** (*Calandrella rufescens*)  
up to 10 birds in the dry plains in Coto Donana, also juveniles
- 96. CRESTED LARK** (*Galerida cristata*)  
very common
- 97. THEKLA LARK** (*Galerida theklae*)  
only 4 birds observed in dry valley in La Serena
- 98. WOOD LARK** (*Lullula arborea*)  
singing male in Sierra Nevada and one bird near El Chorro
- 99. SKY LARK** (*Alauda arvensis*)  
2 birds in Sierra Nevada
- 100. SAND MARTIN** (*Riparia riparia*)  
few birds observed at Laguna del Rincon
- 101. CRAG MARTIN** (*Ptyonoprogne rupestris*)  
frequently and daily observed, abundant in different sierra's
- 102. BARN SWALLOW** (*Hirundo rustica*)  
common
- 103. RED-RUMPED SWALLOW** (*Hirundo daurica*)  
pretty common
- 104. HOUSE MARTIN** (*Delichon urbica*)  
very common
- 105. TAWNY PIPIT** (*Anthus campestris*)  
3 singing males in Sierra Nevada
- 106. BLUE-HEADED WAGTAIL** (*Motacilla flava*)  
4 birds observed in Coto Donana
- 107. GREY WAGTAIL** (*Motacilla cinerea*)  
a few birds observed at rivers and sierra's

**108. WHITE WAGTAIL** (*Motacilla alba*)

few birds observed

**109. WREN** (*Troglodytes troglodytes*)

a few singing males in different sierra's

**110. ALPINE ACCENTOR** (*Prunella collaris*)

one bird eventually found after 6 hours search at altitude of approximately 3000m in Sierra Nevada!

**111. RUFOUS BUSH ROBIN** (*Cercotrichas galactotes*)

a pair at Laguna del Rincon

**112. EUROPEAN ROBIN** (*Erithacus rubecula*)

2 birds in Sierra Nevada

**113. RUFOUS NIGHTINGALE** (*Luscinia megarhynchos*)

few birds observed in bushes and a singing male

**114. BLACK REDSTART** (*Phoenicurus ochruros*)

abundant in different sierra's

**115. STONECHAT** (*Saxicola torquata*)

regularly observed

**116. NORTHERN WHEATEAR** (*Oenanthe oenanthe*)

many birds observed in Sierra Nevada

**117. BLACK-EARED WHEATEAR** (*Oenanthe hispanica*)

regularly observed

**118. BLACK WHEATEAR** (*Oenanthe leucura*)

2 males in sierra's between Ronda and El Chorro

**119. BLUE ROCK TRUSH** (*Monticola solitarius*)

abundant in different sierra's and Monfragüe

**120. ROCK THRUSH** (*Monticola saxatilis*)

a few singing males observed only in Sierra Nevada

**121. BLACKBIRD** (*Turdus merula*)

regularly observed

**122. MISTLE TRUSH** (*Turdus viscivorus*)

one bird observed in Monfragüe

**123. FAN-TAILED WARBLER** (*Cisticola juncidis*)

common in Coto Donana

- 124. REED WARBLER** (*Acrocephalus scirpaceus*)  
common in Coto Donana
- 125. GREAT REED WARBLER** (*Acrocephalus arundinaceus*)  
common in every reedbeds
- 126. MELODIOUS WARBLER** (*Hippolais polyglotta*)  
a few birds observed in riverside bushes
- 127. DARTFORD WARBLER** (*Sylvia undata*)  
a few birds observed in Coto Donana
- 128. SPECTACLED WARBLER** (*Sylvia conspicillata*)  
a few birds observed in La Serena including 1st years
- 129. SUBALPINE WARBLER** (*Sylvia cantillans*)  
a few birds observed in Monfragüe and in different sierra's including 1st years
- 130. SARDINIAN WARBLER** (*Sylvia melanocephala*)  
almost daily observed
- 131. BLACKCAP** (*Sylvia atricapilla*)  
a few singing males observed
- 132. ORPHEAN WARBLER** (*Sylvia hortensis*)  
2 birds were observed in Monfragüe
- 133. BONELLI'S WARBLER** (*Phylloscopus bonelli*)  
abundant near Ronda and La Jimena de Libar
- 134. CHIFFCHAFF** (*Phylloscopus collybita*)  
one singing male in Sierra Nevada
- 135. SPOTTED FLYCATCHER** (*Muscicapa striata*)  
a pair with fledglings near La Jimena de Libar
- 136. LONG-TAILED TIT** (*Aegithalos caudatus*)  
daily observed in Monfragüe
- 137. BLUE TIT** (*Parus caeruleus*)  
frequently observed
- 138. GREAT TIT** (*Parus major*)  
frequently observed
- 139. CRESTED TIT** (*Parus cristatus*)  
a few birds between Ronda and El Chorro
- 140. COAL TIT** (*Parus ater*)  
a few birds between Ronda and El Chorro

- 141. WOOD NUTHATCH** (*Sitta europaea*)  
a few birds between Ronda and El Chorro and near La Jimena de Libar
- 142. SHORT-TOED TREECREEPER** (*Certhia brachydactyla*)  
a few birds near La Jimena de Libar and in Coto Donana
- 143. GOLDEN ORIOLE** (*Oriolus oriolus*)  
frequently observed
- 144. SOUTHERN GREY SHRIKE** (*Lanius meridionalis*)  
regularly observed
- 145. WOODCHAT SHRIKE** (*Lanius senator*)  
very numerous
- 146. EURASIAN JAY** (*Garrulus glandarius*)  
irregularly observed
- 147. AZURE-WINGED MAGPIE** (*Cyanopica cyana*)  
abundant especially in Monfragüe, flocks with 1st years
- 148. MAGPIE** (*Pica pica*)  
regularly observed
- 149. CHOUGH** (*Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax*)  
5 birds observed in Sierra Nevada and a few more in sierra's between Ronda and El Chorro
- 150. JACKDAW** (*Corvus monedula*)  
frequently observed
- 151. CARRION CROW** (*Corvus corone*)  
regularly seen, though mainly in small numbers
- 152. RAVEN** (*Corvus corax*)  
irregularly observed
- 153. SPOTLESS STARLING** (*Sturnus unicolor*)  
abundant
- 154. HOUSE SPARROW** (*Passer domesticus*)  
very common
- 155. SPANISH SPARROW** (*Passer hispaniolensis*)  
common in Extremadura
- 156. ROCK SPARROW** (*Petronia petronia*)  
common in Sierra Nevada, a few observed in different sierra's as well
- 157. CHAFFINCH** (*Fringilla coelebs*)  
irregularly observed

**158. SERIN** (*Serinus serinus*)

abundant

**159. GREENFINCH** (*Carduelis chloris*)

irregularly observed

**160. GOLDFINCH** (*Carduelis carduelis*)

very common

**161. LINNET** (*Carduelis cannabina*)

common

**162. CROSSBILL** (*Loxia curvirostra*)

calling birds between Ronda and El Chorro

**163. HAWFINCH** (*Coccothraustes coccothraustes*)

one bird observed in Monfragüe

**164. CIRL BUNTING** (*Emberiza cirlus*)

a few birds observed

**165. ROCK BUNTING** (*Emberiza cia*)

many birds observed especially in Sierra Nevada

**166. CORN BUNTING** (*Miliaria calandra*)

very abundant