



# HONEYGUIDE WILDLIFE HOLIDAYS

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36 Thunder Lane, Thorpe St Andrew, Norwich, NR7 OPX  
Telephone: Norwich (0603) 300552 evenings and weekends

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## SPRING IN THE SPANISH PYRENEES

23 April - 2 May 1992

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Spring in the Spanish Pyrenees  
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List of participants

Diana Waller	London
Margaret Biggs	Ipswich
Richard and Joan Rutt	Falmouth
Michael and Doreen Pill	North Walsham, Norfolk
Andrew and Karin Clews	Uckfield, East Sussex

Tomas Andres Mora from the Sociedad Espanola de Ornithologia (Spanish Ornithological Society) spoke to the group on 28 April.

Leader: Chris Durdin

Our hosts: John and Viv Boucher, The Painting School and Centre for Study Tours, Calle Mayor 30, Berdun, Huesca, Spain.

*Illustrations by Rob Hume*

Thursday 23 April - Bilbao to Berdun

It was sunny and warm as we stepped onto the tarmac at Bilbao airport after a smooth flight from Heathrow. John Boucher from Berdun's Painting School met us and led us to the luxurious coach in which Jose took us east to Berdun.

The richness of northern Spain for birds of prey was apparent from the start with many buzzards, a score or more black kites and as many red kites on route, plus griffon vultures over distant hillsides. The starlings were spotless and the wagtails white. Stopping for *cafe con leche* there was the first of hundreds of corn buntings in song and a clump of crosswort. Great crested grebes and a mallard on the Embalse de Yesa were the typically sparse selection on this reservoir; we also passed three villages abandoned due to the reservoir's flooding of the local farmland.

Swallows, house martins and swifts were at Berdun as we too arrived after our spring flight. After a welcome from John and Viv Boucher we were shown to our delightful, highly individual rooms in the converted Aragonese house of the Painting School. Tea in the comfortable lounge - the scene of many gatherings - was followed by the short walk to supper. A black redstart sang on the church roof as we went across the town square. In Prudencia's absence in hospital in Zaragoza, Santas, her sister, had prepared the first of many tasty and often surprising meals.

The local Scop's owl was calling after supper, as it did every evening, and two barn owls flew out of the church tower.

Friday 24 April - Rio Aragon and Rio Veral

It was distinctly cool as Doreen, Michael and Margaret joined me for a pre-breakfast birdwatch before what turned into a hot, sunny day. A hoopoe on a wire from the churchyard was followed by spotless starling, black redstart and the local (introduced) collared doves. A tree sparrow shot out of a hole in the wall below. Round the corner overlooking the tree'd slopes of Berdun a flutey whistle caught our ears; a male golden oriole half exposed in a pine tree. Serins and black kites were added, both soon to be commonplace.

After breakfast of *cafe*, brown bread, butter and marmalade/jam we reassembled at the painting school for a few words of advice from John Boucher. A little later we met by the arch where you go through the wall into Berdun. After admiring ivy-leaved toadflax and snapdragons growing out of the wall we turned our attention to first-class views of four different finches - serin, linnet, goldfinch and greenfinch. Heading into the 'badlands' - an area once wooded but now scrub and rock ridges - a sparrowhawk soared overhead, then a griffon vulture joined the red and black kites.

Down the hill a male black redstart showed well, a nightingale sang in the open and a scratchy song alerted us to a subalpine warbler. Turning to the shrubs we noted box, amelanchier (snowy mespilus), wayfaring tree, barberry

and dogwood. Stonechat and wheatear appeared before we crossed the bridge over the river Veral.

A Cetti's warbler shouted from the willow scrub by the river. On the wooded edge of the small fields opposite the deserted pink house a male pied flycatcher was flycatching; growing in the fields were wild grape hyacinths. A lady orchid was found on the limestone hillside along with shrubby gromwell and white rockrose. An adult Egyptian vulture came over and we found the charming cinnamon-coloured brown vetch (*Lathyrus setifolius*). Then it was back over the bridge, past the quivering aspen and to Prudencia's for lunch.

Chick pea soup, spinach, salad and red wine was followed by a short siesta before we gathered for the afternoon walk to the Aragon river. On the outskirts of the village we all enjoyed good telescope views of crested lark and corn bunting. Further along the road there were several of the delicate rush-leaved narcissus in flower. A careful reading of the alpine flower book identified the milk-vetch we had already seen by the Veral as false vetch *Astralagus monspessulanus* and the Spanish broom as the larger flowered west Pyrenean subspecies *Genista hispanica occidentalis*.

A tawny pipit was found in a flock of migrant wheatears on a bare field. Then a glorious grey male Montagu's harrier drifted slowly past, disappeared from view then returned and floated past in full view for what seemed an age. Skylarks sang, scarce swallowtail butterflies flew around and a yellow wagtail flew past as we went down the hill to the river. A chorus of frogs called from still backwaters; little ringed plovers were displaying and mating on a gravel flat in the river and common sandpipers bobbed near the LRPs. Karin paddled in the cool waters.

John's black Citroen appeared to ferry us back to Berdun. Those not in the first car load saw four bee-eaters circle round and a couple of great spotted woodpeckers flying over the river.

The regular evening log was followed by slides of Pyrenean wildlife, with special emphasis on birds of prey in flight to aid identification skills we used more than any other during our stay.

#### Saturday 25 April - St Juan de la Pena

Another hot day was already on the cards as we were collected by our driver for the week, Enrique. First stop, for an hour, was the pretty village of St Cruz. The Romanesque church was partly under scaffolding; intricate village chimneys were admired. A short walk up the footpath towards St Juan, glorious banks of blue and white hepatica mingled with cowslips.

At St Juan de la Pena (St John of the rock) family parties of crossbills flew around as we enjoyed a coffee outside the 17th century monastery, abandoned since Napoleon's day. The little brown job that settled on the sign turned out to be a rock sparrow, sitting conveniently still while this often elusive bird was studied through the 'scope. Across the meadow a family party of crossbills sat still in a pine while a human family party played underneath.

The woods up the slope were full of hepatica and Pyrenean violet. A few wild daffodils (a white Pyrenean subspecies *Narcissus pseudonarcissus alpestris*) were still flowering under the trees. The knoll beyond, though high enough to give superb views in every direction, was still and warm. Hoopoes called and superb cleopatra butterflies flew around us as we tucked into packed lunches, including the inevitable raw carrot. Wild flowers included sheets of rush-leaved narcissus. Birds included ravens and a constant fly-past of griffons.

After lunch we descended and went through the woods. The small birds all seemed to be in the tree tops, but with patience firecrest and crested tits were identified, plus scores of coal tits. Only Andrew saw a red squirrel, but then he missed the first lammergeier of the trip which flew over the wood. We all despaired at the suicidal tendencies of the procession moth caterpillars travelling nose to tail in convoy across the road.

After another drink and a brief game of table football our final call was down the hill at the original 11th century monastery built into a large overhang. Now substantially restored, the site now includes a multi-language display (opening conveniently at 4pm) as well as restored vaults and cloisters.

#### Sunday 26 April - Binies Gorge

After a later breakfast than usual (8.30) at which a golden oriole was seen from the window, John and Viv ferried us to the start of this attractive gorge close to Berdun. The entrance to the gorge (*Foz* or *Hoz* in Spanish) is marked by two impressive rocks on which were growing many large rosettes of Pyrenean saxifrage. This was a pottery sort of day with flowers and butterflies to the fore, but bird interest too with choughs (red-billed), grey wagtails, crag martins and griffons with us right through the gorge.

Flowers found included:

Bladder senna, blue gromwell, wood spurge, Pyrenean hyacinth, Montpellier maple, rock soapwort, blue aphyllantes (blue grass-lily in Polunin), *Petrocoptis pyrenaica*, and navelwort.

Scarce swallowtail butterflies were everywhere; strongly flying Camberwell beauties appeared several times. Spanish festoon, orange tip, brimstone and speckled wood were also noted. Diana found a dead Tau Emperor moth.

Joan and Richard joined us after church for lunch in the shade by the river Veral at the top of the gorge. An exploration of the river gravel found alpine toadflax at a surprisingly low altitude and a bizarre clump of purple flowers under some willow scrub which after a while we named as purple toothwort (*Lathraea clandestina*).

Lizards were common in the gorge as elsewhere; Iberian wall lizard and Large Psammodromus (*Psammodromus algirus*) were identified. But on the reptile/amphibian front the high spot was on a pool separated from the fast flowing river by a wall. Here we watched through the 'scope a grass snake - the Iberian form without head markings - pursuing and failing to catch a common frog.

Some were taken home by John at this point, others were ferried to the bridge over the Veral to take the 2½ mile walk along the Veral, back through the badlands and home. Then a shower before dinner with champagne (thank you Richard) to mark your leader's birthday.

#### Monday 27 April - The gorges of Arbayun and Lumbier

An early start with breakfast at 7.15 and eight o'clock departure, all designed to catch the early vulture. Scores of griffon vultures roost in the enormous gorge of Arbayun and rise out as the day warms. True to form, having arrived at 9.25 the first griffon came low overhead at 9.40. We based ourselves at the viewing platform that overlooks the gorge and allowed the birds to come to us, but with forays into the adjacent scrub to look for wild flowers.

Three alpine swifts came over, browner and larger than the Berdun swifts and with their white belly clearly visible. Not long after a male peregrine flew through at great speed pursuing an alpine swift but nowhere near to catching it. The female peregrine also appeared and they sat in telescope view towards the end of the cliffs opposite. A blue rock thrush also stayed helpfully put.

Many griffons, some with half grown youngsters, were found on the cliffs, though most of the several score leaving the gorge gained height at the far end and came over us fairly high. An immature Bonelli's eagle spent a long time gliding and soaring overhead, helpful for this elusive raptor that is often difficult to identify in its variable immature plumage.

Most impressive of the flowers were scores of Pyrenean snakeshead, the delightful local fritillary. As well as the now familiar asphodels, lady orchids and blue aphyllantes, we found round-leaved birthwort with its bizarre tubular flowers with a brown flap-like hood.

It was 12.20 when Enrique left us at the start of Lumbier gorge and drove off to meet us at the other end. The rock by where we left the minibus had two small but interesting ferns - rusty-backed fern and maidenhair spleenwort. The walk through the gorge is easy on the feet as it's a disused railway line and we were grateful for the shade of the rocks. 30 red-billed choughs swished (the call) around us. Both crag and house martins were building mud nests on the rocks and alpine swifts put in several appearances. Large snapdragons (*Antirrhinum majus*) were in full, deep-pink flower.

Between the first and second tunnel we stopped for lunch in the shade in the company of a Cetti's warbler. A superb pale phase booted eagle moved slowly across the gorge, appearing again a little later. Beyond the second tunnel the gorge ends though there is a long ridge on the left. There was generally less bird activity out of the gorge though two short-toed eagles were seen well and a golden oriole sang briefly from the riverside poplars.

Botanising in the scrub between the track and the river there were our first early spider orchids, many more lady orchids and one super yellow bee orchid (*Orchis lutea*). Blue perennial flax flowers dotted the trackside.

Wild jasmine was found just beyond the second tunnel; perfoliate honeysuckle and shrubby restharrow were identified. The butterflies, including Moroccan orange-tip and clouded yellow, were out in force. A young ladder snake was found, dead, on the path; only the young have the ladder pattern in this non-venomous species.

At the end of the old railway track we turned right through Liedena, over the River Irati and found Enrique and the bus. The bar there was rather smokey so we adjourned for a drink to Yesa. A group of bee-eaters flew over the bar's unkempt garden and another Cetti's warbler sang nearby. A brief stop at the eastern end of the Embalse de Yesa was mainly to see if the reservoir was as birdless as it seemed; there were plenty of great crested grebes and the odd mallard but that was it.

After supper, back in Berdun, it was such a balmy night that a walk in the twilight was the natural thing to do. A quail called 'wet-my-lips' from the rock sparrow spot. From the churchyard the local Scop's owls were just incredible; two competing males on wires and rooftops in the light of Berdun's new street lamps.

#### Tuesday 28 April - High Pyrenees at Puerto de Pourtalet

Margaret demonstrated that Scop's owls can be seen at dawn as well as at dusk - though no-one else had the oomph to join her!

In Enrique's safe hands we were at the *frontera* with France in well under two hours where it was cool and there was plenty of snow on the ground. After coffee we passed brilliant patches of purple saxifrage on the roadside rocks then headed up the hill. Several alpine choughs flew around, skylarks sang and water pipits perched on rocks, though never for long. Black redstarts, crag martins and wheatears completed the bird list - until a lammergeier flew over.

Alpine marmots were a prime aim of this visit and they did us proud. These large furry rodents - introduced from the Alps - ran, called and sat on top of rocks. Unfortunately the cloud dropped before we were able to find chamois on the rocky slopes above, and the sometimes fast changing mountain weather went from sun to rain to hail as we sheltered under an overhanging rock. The spring had come late to these slopes this year and we were too early for most of the mountain flowers, but we did find Pyrenean buttercup, spurge laurel, wild daffodil (*Narcissus pseudonarcissus*), white crocus, yellow whitlow-grass, a spring gentian, and tiny oxlips.

Passing a lizard on the cold slopes we rejoined the bus and dropped down the mountain side to meadows just below Formigal. Here we could enjoy cool sunshine and see the clouds where we had come from. More to the point, the gentians were flowering in the meadow, little patches of brilliant blue spring gentians and a perfect pair of the deeper, bolder trumpet gentian. Elder-flowered orchids, in both creamy-yellow and purple forms were there; so too were patches of golden cinquefoil, spiked Pyrenean speedwell (*Veronica panae*), coltsfoot and *Androsace villosa*.

To cap it all, two lammergeiers flew as slowly and as low overhead as you could wish for. One was carrying some (unidentified) prey in its talons; they glided down the mountain and away until they became only dots in the distance.



At a brief photostop for the abandoned village on the other side of the embalse, a specimen of common kidney vetch was taken. Over drinks at Enrique's friend's bar in Escarillo it was found to be the Pyrenean subspecies *Anthyllis vulneraria foronda*.

Before supper we were joined by Tomas Andres Mora of the Sociedad Espanola de Ornitologia. Tomas showed us slides explaining the harsh dry climate and the astonishing geology of the Spanish steppes at Belchite near Zaragoza, further south in the region of Aragon. Viv ably translated and assisted by Latin names the story of this vital conservation project was well told. *Honeyguide's* check for 36,250 pesetas (£200) was presented to Tomas as the group's contribution to protecting the Spanish wildlife we were appreciating so much.

After supper and the usual log, we had the added bonus of a discourse on knitting. Richard's knitting expertise and knowledge had become known and Viv had collected a number of knitted items from around the village - all handed down styles, not patterns, which Richard interpreted for our interest.

Wednesday 29 April - Riglos and Loarre

The sandstone cliffs at Riglos are impressive from a distance or close to. Riglos village though is attractive in its own right; we climbed its steep cobbled streets until we found a handy view from some house foundations over the slopes and cliffs. A peregrine appeared, harried a griffon and went behind the cliff; an adult Egyptian vulture hung in the air. Viv from the Painting School was with us as we first went left under the cliffs. There were a few rockclimbers - from France - thinking about an assault on the cliffs, but not the nuisance (to the vultures) that they sometimes are.

A Sardinian warbler flicked to and fro between the scrub; serins and black redstarts sat in fine view and the most brilliant green greenfinch perched on top of a conifer. Passing back through the village we walked through the tiny, terraced, irrigated fields until we found a sheltered spot for lunch. Flowers found included rock soapwort, blue gromwell and a tiny white *Linaria* in large clumps. A rock bunting joined us briefly as we sat.

Approaching Loarre Castle, some miles south of Riglos, a hoopoe dropped into an almond grove. We searched for it without luck; a cool breeze had sprung up so it was probably keeping its head down. Another hoopoe offered better views as we sat outside the castle. Flowers here included Pyrenean honeysuckle, tufted milkwort, yellow woundwort and mignonette. Viv is well used to bringing architectural tours here and she acted as our guide and tutor on the history of this 11th century, pre-Romanesque castle, an unexpected cultural bonus to the holiday.

Thursday 30 April - Around Berdun

A lammergeier glided past the window at breakfast in full, magnificent view. A female crossbill sat for a while on a conifer; the collared dove was on its usual perch. The local griffons were there too, taking advantage of the uplift Berdun provides on a breezy day. Then, after breakfast, we took up Jose Louis's invitation to visit the village bakery and watch the breadmaking.

While Andrew went off to the Veral, the main party went towards the Aragon. There must have been 50 or more wheatears plus a few whinchats and tawny pipit in the fields and under the almonds. We continued past the pink sainfoin and over the river. In the still of the willows between the edge of the poplars and the Aragon several migrants had stopped to refuel; spotted and pied flycatchers, willow and garden warblers. Common sandpipers flitted over the river alongside. John kindly fetched us and took us back for lunch, a generous paella.

After a siesta we returned to the Veral. Where a week earlier there had been a few lady orchids there were now scores, including striking white ones left of the track that goes straight up to the fields beyond. The grape hyacinths had all but gone over, but early spider orchids were now out. Two brilliant bee-eaters perched in glorious view on exposed

branches. There were more flycatchers, a pale phase booted eagle and fly honeysuckle by the door of the old barn.

We returned to hear John's fascinating illustrated talk on the culture, history, buildings and lifestyle of Berdun and the area.

#### Friday 1 May - Hecho and Fago

For our final day we headed north towards the mountains and passes. First stop was the village of Hecho, picturesque but with many new buildings on its fringes. We walked through the village where we stopped to buy *torta*, the local sweet bread, past a crossbill in a garden then stopped for a coffee in the bar with boar's head.

The scenery and rushing mountain rivers were as striking as anywhere on the holiday as we continued up the Hecho valley. At the second road tunnel we stopped to search for a wallcreeper on the rocks without success, but did see a hovering short-toed eagle. The campsite at the top of the road was fairly busy, being a public holiday, so we continued a little further until a cry of "black woodpecker" from Margaret brought us to a stop. We reversed and saw this large dark bird fly from the ground and into the wood.

A search for the woodpecker failed to find it, not surprisingly, but it seemed like a good spot for lunch. From there a black-bellied dipper could be seen on and off a log and rocks in the river below.

From there we went into the village of Anso, which means bear in the mountain dialect, although the brown bears are nearing extinction in the Pyrenees. If anything this village is even prettier than Hecho. The church was open but the pastor was not at home to arrange access to the vestments collection. A drink/ice cream in the village followed, then we drove to the new road through Fago gorge. Two enormous stone slabs act as an entrance to the gorge, and there we left the bus with instructions to Enrique to find us further down the gorge in two hours time.

"If you want to see a golden eagle stick with me" I said optimistically. But it turned out to be so as an eagle joined the soaring griffons, a fine conclusion to the many birds of prey of the holiday. Two peas - felted vetch and a slender vetch *Lathyrus bauhinii* were added to the botanists' records.

Viv Boucher joined us for our last meal accompanied by champagne, limericks and a kiss for Santas.

### Butterflies

With a butterfly net more species could have been identified, but the list below still includes some real goodies.

Scarce swallowtail  
 Orange tip  
 Moroccan orange-tip  
 Brimstone  
 Cleopatra  
 Clouded yellow  
 Spanish festoon  
 Large white  
 Wood white  
 Speckled wood  
 Camberwell beauty  
 Red admiral  
 Peacock  
 Small copper



### Reptiles and amphibians

Two lizards were identified both in Binies gorge; Iberian wall lizard and large psammotromous. Also in Binies was the grass snake - Iberian subspecies without head markings - pursuing common frogs. Lumbier was where the recently dead young ladder snake was found, complete with the ladder markings lost as an adult.

### BIRD LOG

Total bird species seen (✓) or heard (H) on the trip was 97. Of these, 16 were birds of prey, including owls. This ignores the white stork nest unoccupied when we passed it between Bilbao and Berdun but allows the introduced collared doves and gives the benefit of the doubt to the rock doves/feral pigeons at Riglos.

	BILBAO - BERDUN	BERDUN	ST JUAN DE LA PEÑA	BINIES	ARBANUN + LUMBIER	POURTALET	RIGLOS + LOARE	BERDUN	HECHO + FAGO
	23 APL	24 APL	25 APL	26 APL	27 APL	28 APL	29 APL	30 APL	1 MAY
Great crested grebe	✓				✓		✓		
Grey heron									✓
Mallard	✓				✓		✓		
Black kite	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Red kite	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Lammergeier			-	-	-	3		-	
Egyptian vulture		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓

	BLEAD -BERDUN	BERDUN	ST JUAN DE LA PEÑA	BINIES	ARRAYUN + LUMBIER	POURTALLET	RIGLOS + LORRELE	BERDUN	HECHO + FAGO
	23 APL	24 APL	25 APL	26 APL	27 APL	29 APL	29 APL	30 APL	1 MAY
Griffon vulture	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Short-toed eagle					✓				✓
Montagu's harrier		✓					✓		
Sparrowhawk		✓			✓				
Buzzard	✓	✓				✓			
Golden eagle									✓
Booted eagle					✓			✓	
Bonelli's eagle					✓				
Kestrel	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	
Peregrine					✓		✓		
Red-legged partridge	✓					✓	✓	✓	
Quail					H				
Little ringed plover		✓							
Common sandpiper		✓		✓				✓	
Herring gull	✓								
Rock dove/feral pigeon							✓		
Woodpigeon							✓		✓
Collared dove	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
Turtle dove							✓		✓
Cuckoo			H		H				H
Barn owl	✓		✓						
Scop's owl	H	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	H	H	H
Swift	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Alpine swift			✓		✓		✓		✓
Bee-eater		4		5	✓		4	2	
Hoopoe		✓	H				✓		
Black woodpecker									✓
Green woodpecker				✓				H	H
Great spotted woodpecker		✓	✓					H	
Crested lark	✓	✓	✓	H	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Woodlark				✓		✓			
Skylark		✓				✓		✓	H
Crag martin			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
Swallow	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
House martin	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Tawny pipit		✓						✓	
Water pipit						✓			
Yellow wagtail		✓							
Grey wagtail			✓	✓	✓				✓
White wagtail	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Dipper									✓
Wren		H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H
Duncock			H			H			
Robin		✓	✓	H			✓	H	
Nightingale	H	✓	✓	✓	✓	H	H	✓	H
Black redstart	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Whinchat								✓	
Stonechat		✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	
Wheatear		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Blue rock thrush					✓				✓
Blackbird		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Mistle thrush			✓		✓				
Cetti's warbler		H		H	H			H	
Subalpine warbler		✓		✓	✓				

	BILBAO -BERDUN	BERDUN	ST JUAN DE LA PEÑA	BINKES	ARBAYUN + LUMBIER	AVIETALET	RIGLOS + LOARRE	BERDUN	HECHO + FAGO
	23 APL	24 APL	25 APL	26 APL	27 APL	28 APL	29 APL	30 APL	1 MAY
Sardinian warbler							✓		
Garden warbler								✓	
Blackcap		✓	✓	✓	H			✓	✓
Chiffchaff		H	H						
Willow warbler					H			✓	
Firecrest			✓	H					
Spotted flycatcher								✓	
Pied flycatcher		✓	✓					✓	
Long-tailed tit			✓	✓					
Crested tit			✓						
Coal tit			✓						H
Blue tit		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Great tit		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	H	✓	✓
Golden oriole		✓			H			✓	
Woodchat shrike								✓	
Jay		✓	H			✓	✓		
Magpie	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Alpine chough						✓			
Chough				✓	✓		✓		✓
Jackdaw					✓		✓		
Carrion crow	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Raven		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Spotless starling	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
House sparrow	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Tree sparrow		✓		✓				H	✓
Rock sparrow			✓						✓
Chaffinch		✓	✓	✓	✓	H	✓	✓	✓
Serin		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Greenfinch		✓		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
Goldfinch	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Linnet		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
Crossbill			✓					✓	✓
Yellowhammer						✓			
Girl bunting		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
Rock bunting							✓		
Corn bunting	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓





# SOCIEDAD ESPAÑOLA DE ORNITOLOGÍA

Facultad de Biología,  
28040 Madrid, Spain

Tel. 91 - 549 35 54  
Fax 91 - 394 50 75



1992 AÑO DE LA  
CIGÜEÑA

Chris Durdin  
HONEYGUIDE  
36, Thunder Lane  
Thorpe St. Andrew  
Norwich, NR7 0PX  
INGLATERRA

1st June, 1992

Dear Chris,

Once again I wish to thank you for contributing with your donation to the Spanish Steppes Conservation Campaign. On 6th June we are opening the Belchite Reserve and its information centre. The purchasing of these first 450 ha would not have been possible without the support of sponsors and the personal donations we have received.

Please extend my thanks to your customers. I hope that our reserves officer was able to put across the importance of the matter they have contributed to and that they enjoyed the slide show.

I am attaching a copy of our magazine La Garcilla with a colour article about the reserve. I hope you like it.

Best regards.

Juan M. Varela

*En favor  
de las Aves*