A short trip to Spain from 12th-16 th of April 2023

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In this short report Dutch Birding (CSNA) taxonomy is used.

Itinerary:

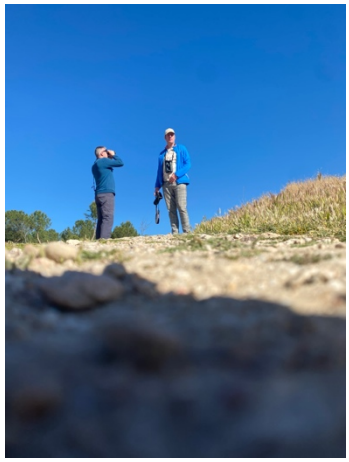
12-04 Madrid- Ablitas
13-04 Ablitas- Orbaitzeta- Sorogain- Orbaitzeta
14-04 Orbeitzeta- La Pedriza- El Escorial (bosque de Herrería)
15-04 El Escorial- El Pardo- El Cubillo de Uceda (Las Dehesas)- Cabanillas del Campo- Madrid
16-04 El Pardo- Parque del Oeste

Wednesday afternoon we drove from Madrid north and tried to find Dupont's Lark early in the evening in the desert habitat south-east of Ablitas at Peñadil, Montecillo y Monterey, but due to hard wind, low temperature and quite heavy rain we were not able to find it.

Thursday morning at same spot we had more luck with the weather (no wind and sunny, but cold) and witnessed a nice morning chorus of some ten Dupont's Larks when still dark. It took us about two hours to see one, but luckily it showed well.
Thursday afternoon we drove to Orbaitzeta in the western part of the Pyrenees for Lilford's Woodpecker. Although it rained and temperatures were at the lowest 2 degrees, we managed to find a nice male within two hours. That same afternoon we went to Albergue de Sorogain (not far from Orbaitzeta), where a pair of Iberian Dunnock was present (we knew about this place via Max Berlijn).

On Friday morning we tried for some better views of Lilford's Woodpecker. It was present at the same place in the forest, but we didn't see it any better (still raining). The presence of two species of treecreeper in this forest is worth mentioning as well.
In the afternoon we drove back to Madrid and birded a few hours at La Pedriza, Manzanares El Real resulting in the first Iberian Magpies and Spanish Imperial Eagle. Afterwards we tried Iberian Pied Flycatcher at El Bosque de Herrería near El Escorial (tip by Max Berlijn/Leo Heemskerk). But due to hard wind and hence low bird activity we had only brief views of one flycatcher.

Early on Saturday we tried again at El Escorial. The weather had improved, and five singing Iberian Pied Flycatchers were present! El Bosque de Herrería is a very good spot for this taxon with easy access and many nesting boxes hanging in the park. They had probably just arrived from their wintering grounds as they all were very active. Other birds here were among others Iberian Green Woodpecker, Little Spotted Woodpecker, Great Spotted Woodpecker and Western Bonelli's Warbler.
Afterwards we drove to El Pardo to be in time for Spanish Imperial Eagle and vultures. Spectacular birding there with multiple Spanish Imperial Eagles, Cinereous and Griffon Vultures, a few Booted Eagles as well as a Great Spotted Cuckoo. Saturday afternoon we tried Las Dehesas around El Cubillo de Uceda for Iberian Grey Shrike. We saw one at a great distance, but strangely so we were not able to find it back. It proved to be the only bird of the trip…In the same area six Iberian Magpies, a Hen and a Montagu's Harrier gave views. Later in the afternoon on Saturday we birded around Cabanillas del Campo for Great Bustard. We easily found about 20 birds. In the evening, we drove back to Madrid.



Sunday morning was spent at El Pardo where we again witnessed a fine show of Spanish Imperial Eagles (even one calling adult), Cinereous and Griffon Vultures circling around. Further two Great Spotted Cuckoos and a flyby Purple Heron. Before we had to deliver the car, we visited Parque del Oeste in Madrid, where an Iberian Green Woodpecker showed well.

001 Ruddy Shelduck *Tadorna ferruginea*
1 flying over El Pardo 16-04

002 Gadwall *Anas s strepera*
2 flying over El Pardo 16-04

003 Mallard *Anas p platyrhynchos*
a few around Madrid

004 Red-legged Partridge *Alectoris rufa (hispanica/intercedens)*
one calling Peñadil, Montecillo y Monterey 13-04
2 (pair) Cabanillas del Campo 15-04)

005 Feral Pigeon *Columba livia domestica*
common

006 Stock Dove *Columba o oenas*
1 at El Parque del Oeste 16-04

007 Common Wood Pigeon *Columba p palumbus*
common

008 Pallid Swift *Apus pallidus brehmorum*
3-4 migrating Cabanillas del Campo

009 Common Swift *Apus a apus*
a few migrating around Madrid

010 Great Spotted Cuckoo *Clamator glandiarius*
1 adult El Pardo 15-4
2 adult El Pardo 16-04

011 Common Cuckoo *Cuculus c canorus/bangsi*
1 calling El Pardo 15-04
1 calling El Cubillo de Uceda 15-04
1 calling El Pardo 16-04

012 Common Moorhen *Gallinula c chloropus*
1 Ablitas 12-04
1 between La Pedriza and El Escorial 14-04

013 Great Bustard *Otis t tarda*
ca 20 Cabanillas del Campo

014 White Stork *Ciconia c ciconia*
Common

015 Grey Heron *Ardea c cinerea*
a few around Madrid

016 Purple Heron *Ardea p purpurea*
1 flying over El Pardo 16-04

017 Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus*
3 flying over El Pardo 15-04

018 Great Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo sinensis*
1 El Pardo 15-04
2 El Pardo 16-04

019 Griffon Vulture *Gyps f fulvus*
common

020 Cinereous Vulture *Aegypius monachus*
1 between La Pedriza and El Escorial 14-04
3-4 at El Pardo 15 and 16-04

021 Booted Eagle *Aquila pennata*
ca 10 between Madrid and the Pyrenees

022 Spanish Imperial Eagle *Aquila adalberti*

1 immature La Pedriza 14-04
3-4 immature El Pardo 15 and 16-04
1 adult El Pardo 16-04
1 immature El Parque del Oeste

023 Western Marsh Harrier *Circus a aeruginosus*

2-3 between Madrid and Pyrenees

024 Hen Harrier *Circus cyaneus*

1 El Cubillo de Uceda 15-04

025 Montagu's Harrier *Circus pygargus*

1 male between Madrid and El Cubillo de Uceda 15-04
2 male El Cubillo de Uceda 15-04
2 (male and female) Cabanillas del Campo 15-04

026 Red Kite *Milvus m milvus*

common

027 Black Kite *Milvus m migrans*

common

028 Common Buzzard *Buteo b buteo*
3-4 between Madrid and Pyrenees

029 Eurasian Scops Owl O*tus scops mallorcae*
1 calling Soto de Real 15-04

030 Eurasian Hoopoe *Upupa e epops*
a few between Madrid and the Pyrenees

031 European Bee-eater *Merops apiaster*
a few migrating around Madrid

032 Iberian Green Woodpecker *Picus sharpei*
1 calling Orbaitzeta 13-04
2 Bosque de Herrería 14 and 15-04
1 male El Parque del Oeste 16-04

033 Great Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopus major hispanus*
1 Bosque de Herrería 15-04

034 Lilford's Woodpecker *Dendrocopus lilfordi*
1 male Orbaitzeta 13 and 14-04

035 Lesser Spotted Woodpecker *Dryobates minor buturlini*
1 Bosque de Herrería 15-04

036 Common Kestrel *Falco t tinnunculus*
a few between Madrid and the Pyrenees

037 Peregine Falcon *Falco peregrinus (brookei?)*
1 El Cubillo de Uceda 15-04

038 Monk Parakeet *Myiopsitta monachus*
3 El Parque del Oeste 16-04

039 Iberian Grey Shrike *Lanius merdionalis*
1 El Cubillo de Uceda 15-04

040 Woodchat Shrike *Lanius s senator*
1 El Pardo 15-04
1 El Cubillo de Uceda

041 Iberian Magpie *Cyanopica cooki*
5 La Pedriza 14-04
6 El Cubillo de Uceda

042 Eurasian Magpie *Pica pica melanotos*
Common

043 Eurasian Jay *Garrulus glandiarus (fasciatus?)*
3 Orbaitzeta 13-04

044 Western Jackdaw *Corvus monedula spermologus*
a few around Madrid

045 Carrion Crow *Corvus c corone*
a few between Madrid and the Pyrenees

046 Northern Raven *Corvus corax hispanus*
a few between Madrid and the Pyrenees

047 Goldcrest *Regulus r regulus*
2-3 Orbaitzeta 13-04

048 Common Firecrest *Regulus i ignicapilla*
1 La Pedriza 14-04

049 Eurasian Blue Tit *Cyanistes cyaneus ogliastrae*
common

050 Great Tit *Parus m major/corsus*
a few in the Pyrenees and around Madrid

051 European Crested Tit *Lophophanes cristatus weigoldi/mitratus*
common

052 Eurasian Coal Tit *Periparus ater vieriae*
a few in the Pyrenees and around Madrid

053 Marsh Tit *Poecile p palustris*
2 Orbaitzeta 13 and 14-04

054 Woodlark *Lullula arborea pallida*
1-2 Peñadil, Montecillo y Monterey 12 and 13-04

055 Crested Lark *Gelerida cristata pallida*
quite common

056 Greater Short-toed Lark *Calandrella b brachydactyla*
quite common

057 Calandra Lark *Melanocorypha c calandra*
quite common

058 Dupont's Lark *Chersophilus d duponti*
about 10 Peñadil, Montecillo y Monterey 13-04

059 Barn Swallow *Hirundo r rustica*
common
060 Common House Martin *Delichon u urbicum*
a few around Madrid
061 Red-rumped Swallow *Cecropis daurica rufula*
1 La Pedriza 14-04
1 Madrid 15-04

062 Cetti's Warbler *Cettia c cetti*
3 El Pardo 15 and 16-04

063 Long-tailed Tit *Aegithalos caudatus taiti*
a few in the Pyrenees and around Madrid

064 Western Bonelli's Warbler *Phylloscopus bonelli*
2 Bosque de Herrería 14 and 125-04

065 Common Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus c collybita*
1 Pyrenees 14-04

066 Eurasian Blackcap *Sylvia a atricapilla/pauluccii*
common

067 Eurasian Nuthatch *Sitta europaea hispaniensis*
common

068 Eurasian Treecreeper *Certhia familiaris macrodactyla*
1-2 Orbaitzeta 13-04

069 Short-toed Treecreeper *Certhia b brachydactyla/megarhynchos*
common

070 Eurasian Wren *Nannus t trochlodytes*
a few Pyrenees and around Madrid

071 Spotless Starling *Sturnus unicolor*
common

072 Ring Ouzel *Turdus t torquatus/alpestris*
1 Albergue de Sorogain 13-04

073 Common Blackbird *Turdus m merula*
quite common

074 Song Thrush *Turdus p philomelos*
quite common Pyrenees and around Madrid

075 Mistle Thrush *Turdus v viscivorus*
3-4 Albergua de Sorogain 13-04
2 La Pedriza 14-04

076 European Robin *Erithacus r rubecula*
common

077 Common Nightingale *Luscinia m megarhynchos*
3 El Pardo 15 and 16-04

078 Iberian Pied Flycatcher *Ficedula hypoleuca iberiae*
5 males El Bosque de Herrería 14 and 15-04

079 Western Black Redstart *Phoenicurus ochruros gibraltariensis*
a few Pyrenees and around Madrid

080 European Stonechat *Saxicola r rubicola*
a few between Madrid and the Pyrenees

081 Northern Wheatear *Oenanthe o oenanthe/leucorhoa*
1 Peñadil, Montecillo y Monterey 12 and 14-04
1 Cabanillas del Campo 15-04

082 Iberian Dunnock *Prunella mabbotti*
2 (male and female) Albergue de Sorogain 13-04

083 House Sparrow *Passer domesticus balearoibericus*
quite common

084 Tree Sparrow *Passer m montanus*
quite common around Madrid

085 Spanish Wagtail *Motacilla cinereocapilla iberiae*
about 10 El Cubillo de Uceda

086 Grey Wagtail *Motacilla c cinerea*
2-3 Pyrenees

087 White Wagtail *Motacilla alba*
a few between Madrid and Pyrenees

088 Tree Pipit *Anthus t trivialis*
2 migrating el Pardo 16-04

089 Meadow Pipit *Anthus pratensis*
1 Peñadil, Montecillo y Monterey 13-04

090 Common Chaffinch *Fringilla c coelebs*
common

091 Hawfinch *Coccothraustes c coccothraustes*
3-4 El Pardo 15 and 16-04

092 European Greenfinh *Chloris chloris aurantiiventris/voousi*
a few between Madrid and Pyrenees

093 Common Linnet *Linaria cannabina mediterranea*
quite common

094 European Goldfinch *Carduelis carduelis parva*
quite common

095 European Serin *Serinus serinu*
common

096 Corn Bunting *Emberiza c calandra*
quite common

097 Cirl Bunting *Emberiza cirlus*
3 La Pedriza 14-04

098 Yellowhammer *Emberiza c citrinella*
1 Albergue de Sorogain 13-04

Mammals:

European Roe Deer *Capreolus capreolus*

Iberian Hare *Lepus granatensis*

Rabbit *Oryctolagus cuniculus*

Red Squirrel *Sciurus vulgaris*