

Trip Report — Spain: La Mancha, Coto Donana & Extremadura 2026

April 18-30, 2026 with Godfried Schreur & Willy Perez



Pin-tailed Sandgrouse was the bird of the trip for sure and here Jeanette Shores got this incredible picture of a male the day that we visit Donana.

This Spain 2026 tour was a real success with a combination of nature, culture and a great group of birders. We started in Madrid with a very nice introductory morning visiting one of the nicest parks in the center of the city, Parque El Retiro, a perfect place to begin our adventure. After experiencing a bit of Madrid, we drove south to La Mancha with several stops that were very productive. The wetland and marshes in La Mancha were full of birds, and the visit to the famous windmills was just fantastic. La Sierra de Andujar mountains were full of nature and a stunning landscape, with the view of Embalse del Jandula a spectacular sight to be enjoyed.



These European Rollers were so active in displaying that they didn't notice that they were too close to a White Stork nest. Robert McNab got this perfect shot of them in full action.

Our first cultural visit in Cordoba was the Roman Bridge, followed by the Cordoba Cathedral, both of which gave us real insight into the past of the people who lived in that area so long ago. Arriving at El Rocio was another surprise, with no paved roads, and horses and riders enjoying the chilled life of this wonderful place. Our visit to Donana proved why it is considered the best place to watch birds in Europe, with its magnificent wetlands and fantastic coast line, a brilliant place to build up our bird list.



During this trip we did some cultural activities. Here the group is enjoying a city tour in the very picturesque town of Trujillo. Photo by guide Willy Perez.

Our days in Extremadura were so special, not only for the birds, but also for the rich culture, being in the land of the Conquistadores. Our city tour in Trujillo gave us a clear understanding about the people who left for Central and South América and where they had started out from. The scenery in Monfrague was phenomenal, and watching all the vultures was superb. Last but not least, we went to Sierra de Gredos National Park where we actually saw snow and experienced a bit of a cold weather.

So ... what about the birds? I have to say that the birds on the entire trip were superb, and with the diversity it was hard for people to choose their favorite. We had European Rollers displaying and some rolled so much that they ended up in a White Stork nest! European Bee-eaters gave us a show of colors and their melodious song was very pleasant to hear.



The Red-knobbed Coot is a rare bird in Europe but we managed to see some of them when we visit Donana. Jeanette Shores got a nice photo of a chick being fed by its parent.

We also witnessed the unique feeding methods of Greater Flamingos and Slender-billed Gulls. Other birds were appreciated for their unique appearance; here are some examples: Common Hoopoe with its long, curved bill, White-headed Duck with its disproportional bill, and Eurasian Wryneck with its incredible camouflage. The trip was also exceptional for raptors. Five species of Eagles were seen well, the best ones being Bonelli's and Spanish Eagles. The Vultures at Salto del Gitano in Monfrague were a nice spectacle; Eurasian Griffon, Egyptian and Cinereous gave us a show. For some people, the display of Great Bustard was something to remember, for others the intense yellow of the Eurasian Golden Oriole, or even the elegance and care of the Great-crested Grebe, and the eye-catching throat of the Bluethroat.



Jeanette Shores got this brilliant photo of a Great Crested Grebe with some chicks; can you see them?

Other birds we appreciated were the owls; Little Owl for some, but I really enjoyed the roosting Eurasian Scops-Owl and Long-Eared Owl. They were just fantastic. All said and done, the stand-out winners were the incredible Pin-Tailed Sandgrouse that we got to see so close, which according to Godfried was the best view of this species ever on our tours!

As well as birds, we had a great collection of other wildlife: snakes swimming, frogs calling, lizards sunbathing and mammals running free. Certainly, everyone enjoyed watching them, but the curious Wild Pig and the show-off Iberian Ibex took the prize.



The Iberian Green Woodpecker, as you can see here, spends a lot of time on the ground feeding on ants, and guide Willy Perez managed to get this photo at El Retiro park.

Overall, we had an incredible trip and I would like to thank you all for joining Godfried and me for this wonderful adventure. I have to say that we certainly enjoyed birding with you people and we hope that we will see you again soon.

So, until then, just keep birding!

Other animals along the way.

European rabbit (*Oryctolagus cuniculus*)

Iberian Hare (*Lepus granatensis*)

Red fox (*Vulpes vulpes*)

Iberian lynx (*Lynx pardinus*)

Eurasian wild pig (*Sus scrofa*)

Common fallow deer (*Dama dama*)

Western red deer (*Cervus elaphus*)

Iberian ibex (*Capra pyrenaica*)

Iberian pond turtle (*Mauremys leprosa*)

Red-eared slider turtle (*Trachemys scripta*)
Wall lizard (*Podarcis guadarramae*)
Green Iberian wall lizard (*Podarcis virescens*)
Iberian grass snake (*Natrix astreptophora*)
Ocellated lizard (Timon Lepidus)
Large Psammodromus (*Psammoldromus algirus*)
Iberian green frog (*Pelophylax perezi*)
Iberian spadefoot toad (*Pelobates cultripes*)
Old World Swallowtail Butterfly (*Papilio machaon*)
Small tortoiseshell (*Aglais urticae*)
You can see my complete trip report on eBird at this
link: <https://ebird.org/tripreport/530907>

Abrazos from Dorset, Willy

Field Guides Birding Tours-Spain : La Mancha, Coto Donana & Extremadura 2026 (With Godfried Schreur & Willy Perez)



19 – 29 Apr 2026 (11 days) Link-only



Spain

Andalucía | Castilla y León | Castilla-La Mancha | Extremadura | Madrid, Comunidad de

Subregions

Willian Perez



For a narrative summary of this tour, including a Field Guides photo gallery and additional...

 198

Species Observed










 71





















Checklists





















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Species Observed





















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57	Graylag Goose <i>Anser anser</i>	 4
8	Egyptian Goose <i>Alopochen aegyptiaca</i> *	 3
30	Common Shelduck <i>Tadorna tadorna</i>	 4
2	Garganey <i>Spatula querquedula</i>	 1
12	Northern Shoveler <i>Spatula clypeata</i>	 3
15	Gadwall <i>Mareca strepera</i>	 5
77	Mallard <i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	 14
15	Marbled Duck <i>Marmaronetta angustirostris</i>	 4
101	Red-crested Pochard <i>Netta rufina</i>	 6





















94	Common Pochard <i>Aythya ferina</i>	▶  6
6	Ferruginous Duck <i>Aythya nyroca</i>	▶  1
35	White-headed Duck <i>Oxyura leucocephala</i>	▶  3
X	Common Quail <i>Coturnix coturnix</i>	▶  2
12	Red-legged Partridge <i>Alectoris rufa</i>	▶  6
100	Rock Pigeon <i>Columba livia</i> *	▶  6
15	Stock Dove <i>Columba oenas</i>	▶  1
107	Common Wood-Pigeon <i>Columba palumbus</i>	▶  18
8	European Turtle-Dove <i>Streptopelia turtur</i>	▶  3
42	Eurasian Collared-Dove <i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	▶  15
6	Pin-tailed Sandgrouse <i>Pterocles alchata</i>	▶  2
10	Black-bellied Sandgrouse <i>Pterocles orientalis</i> ✓	▶  1
12	Great Bustard <i>Otis tarda</i>	▶  4
1	Little Bustard <i>Tetrax tetrax</i>	▶  1
5	Great Spotted Cuckoo <i>Clamator glandarius</i>	▶  3
6	Common Cuckoo <i>Cuculus canorus</i>	▶  9
18	Alpine Swift <i>Tachymarptis melba</i>	▶  2
225	Common Swift <i>Apus apus</i>	▶  10
3	Pallid Swift <i>Apus pallidus</i>	▶  2
1	Water Rail <i>Rallus aquaticus</i>	▶  1





















49	Eurasian Moorhen <i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	▶  10
220	Eurasian Coot <i>Fulica atra</i>	▶  6
7	Red-knobbed Coot <i>Fulica cristata</i>	▶  1
2	Western Swamphen <i>Porphyrio porphyrio</i>	▶  1
171	Black-winged Stilt <i>Himantopus himantopus</i>	▶  8
24	Pied Avocet <i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>	▶  3
25	Eurasian Oystercatcher <i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>	▶  1
50	Black-bellied Plover <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>	▶  1
22	Common Ringed Plover <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>	▶  1
1	Little Ringed Plover <i>Thinornis dubius</i>	▶  1
24	Northern Lapwing <i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	▶  3
5	Kentish Plover <i>Anarhynchus alexandrinus</i>	▶  2
42	Eurasian Whimbrel <i>Numenius phaeopus</i>	▶  2
1	Black-tailed Godwit <i>Limosa limosa</i>	▶  1
2	Common Snipe <i>Gallinago gallinago</i>	▶  1
30	Common Sandpiper <i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>	▶  5
15	Wood Sandpiper <i>Tringa glareola</i>	▶  2
4	Common Greenshank <i>Tringa nebularia</i>	▶  2
15	Ruddy Turnstone <i>Arenaria interpres</i>	▶  1
13	Ruff <i>Calidris pugnax</i>	▶  3





















260	Sanderling <i>Calidris alba</i>	▶  1
1	Dunlin <i>Calidris alpina</i>	▶  1
2	Little Stint <i>Calidris minuta</i>	▶  1
21	Collared Pratincole <i>Glareola pratincola</i>	▶  3
1	Slender-billed Gull <i>Chroicocephalus genei</i>	▶  1
214	Black-headed Gull <i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>	▶  7
120	Audouin's Gull <i>Ichthyaetus audouinii</i>	▶  1
90	Yellow-legged Gull <i>Larus michahellis</i>	▶  1
121	Lesser Black-backed Gull <i>Larus fuscus</i>	▶  2
45	Little Tern <i>Sternula albifrons</i>	▶  1
21	Gull-billed Tern <i>Gelochelidon nilotica</i>	▶  7
3	Caspian Tern <i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>	▶  1
99	Whiskered Tern <i>Chlidonias hybrida</i>	▶  6
2	Black Tern <i>Chlidonias niger</i>	▶  1
1	Common Tern <i>Sterna hirundo</i>	▶  1
20	Sandwich Tern <i>Thalasseus sandvicensis</i>	▶  1
1171	Greater Flamingo <i>Phoenicopterus roseus</i>	▶  8
15	Little Grebe <i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>	▶  3
21	Great Crested Grebe <i>Podiceps cristatus</i>	▶  4
46	Eared Grebe <i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>	▶  4

10	Black Stork <i>Ciconia nigra</i>	▶  5
71	White Stork <i>Ciconia ciconia</i>	▶  17
25	Northern Gannet <i>Morus bassanus</i>	▶  1
18	Great Cormorant <i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>	▶  7
659	Glossy Ibis <i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>	▶  7
73	Eurasian Spoonbill <i>Platalea leucorodia</i>	▶  5
3	Little Bittern <i>Botaurus minutus</i>	▶  3
45	Black-crowned Night Heron <i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>	▶  3
39	Little Egret <i>Egretta garzetta</i>	▶  4
6	Squacco Heron <i>Ardeola ralloides</i>	▶  2
252	Western Cattle-Egret <i>Ardea ibis</i>	▶  5
5	Great Egret <i>Ardea alba</i>	▶  2
31	Gray Heron <i>Ardea cinerea</i>	▶  10
16	Purple Heron <i>Ardea purpurea</i>	▶  4
1	Osprey <i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	▶  1
5	Egyptian Vulture <i>Neophron percnopterus</i>	▶  3
85	Cinereous Vulture <i>Aegypius monachus</i>	▶  17
353	Eurasian Griffon <i>Gyps fulvus</i>	▶  25
4	Short-toed Snake-Eagle <i>Circaetus gallicus</i>	▶  4
13	Booted Eagle <i>Hieraetus pennatus</i>	▶  10










3	Spanish Eagle <i>Aquila adalberti</i>	▶  3
3	Golden Eagle <i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>	▶  2
2	Bonelli's Eagle <i>Aquila fasciata</i>	▶  1
19	Western Marsh Harrier <i>Circus aeruginosus</i>	▶  5
1	Montagu's Harrier <i>Circus pygargus</i>	▶  1
5	Red Kite <i>Milvus milvus</i>	▶  3
102	Black Kite <i>Milvus migrans</i>	▶  22
11	Common Buzzard <i>Buteo buteo</i>	▶  4
1	Western Barn Owl <i>Tyto alba</i> ✓	▶  1
2	Eurasian Scops-Owl <i>Otus scops</i>	▶  2
4	Little Owl <i>Athene noctua</i>	▶  4
3	Long-eared Owl <i>Asio otus</i> ✓	▶  2
17	Common Hoopoe <i>Upupa epops</i>	▶  13
86	European Bee-eater <i>Merops apiaster</i>	▶  14
6	European Roller <i>Coracias garrulus</i>	▶  2
1	Eurasian Wryneck <i>Jynx torquilla</i>	▶  1
2	Great Spotted Woodpecker <i>Dendrocopos major</i>	▶  4
1	Lesser Spotted Woodpecker <i>Dryobates minor</i>	▶  1
5	Iberian Green Woodpecker <i>Picus sharpei</i>	▶  4
52	Lesser Kestrel <i>Falco naumanni</i>	▶  5

15	Eurasian Kestrel <i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	▶  10
1	Eurasian Hobby <i>Falco subbuteo</i>	▶  1
3	Peregrine Falcon <i>Falco peregrinus</i>	▶  2
7	Monk Parakeet <i>Myiopsitta monachus</i> *	▶  1
8	Eurasian Golden Oriole <i>Oriolus oriolus</i>	▶  2
6	Iberian Gray Shrike <i>Lanius meridionalis</i>	▶  5
15	Woodchat Shrike <i>Lanius senator</i>	▶  9
2	Eurasian Jay <i>Garrulus glandarius</i>	▶  2
57	Iberian Magpie <i>Cyanopica cooki</i>	▶  6
48	Eurasian Magpie <i>Pica pica</i>	▶  14
1	Red-billed Chough <i>Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax</i>	▶  1
34	Eurasian Jackdaw <i>Coloeus monedula</i>	▶  6
6	Carrion Crow <i>Corvus corone</i>	▶  3
15	Common Raven <i>Corvus corax</i>	▶  7
15	Coal Tit <i>Parus ater</i>	▶  5
5	Crested Tit <i>Lophophanes cristatus</i>	▶  3
22	Eurasian Blue Tit <i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>	▶  9
24	Great Tit <i>Parus major</i>	▶  11
4	Eurasian Penduline-Tit <i>Remiz pendulinus</i> ✓	▶  4
5	Wood Lark <i>Lullula arborea</i>	▶  3



8	Eurasian Skylark <i>Alauda arvensis</i>	▶  2
13	Thekla's Lark <i>Galerida theklae</i>	▶  6
17	Crested Lark <i>Galerida cristata</i>	▶  7
10	Greater Short-toed Lark <i>Calandrella brachydactyla</i>	▶  3
25	Calandra Lark <i>Melanocorypha calandra</i>	▶  5
3	Mediterranean Short-toed Lark <i>Alaudala rufescens</i>	▶  2
18	Zitting Cisticola <i>Cisticola juncidis</i>	▶  8
2	Melodious Warbler <i>Hippolais polyglotta</i>	▶  1
27	Common Reed Warbler <i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>	▶  7
6	Great Reed Warbler <i>Acrocephalus arundinaceus</i>	▶  5
3	Savi's Warbler <i>Locustella luscinioides</i>	▶  2
27	Bank Swallow <i>Riparia riparia</i>	▶  3
68	Eurasian Crag-Martin <i>Ptyonoprogne rupestris</i>	▶  12
127	Barn Swallow <i>Hirundo rustica</i>	▶  18
697	Western House-Martin <i>Delichon urbicum</i>	▶  15
23	European Red-rumped Swallow <i>Cecropis rufula</i>	▶  12
7	Western Bonelli's Warbler <i>Phylloscopus bonelli</i>	▶  4
3	Willow Warbler <i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>	▶  2
1	Common Chiffchaff <i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>	▶  1
1	Iberian Chiffchaff <i>Phylloscopus ibericus</i>	▶  1

29	Cetti's Warbler <i>Cettia cetti</i>	▶  10
14	Long-tailed Tit <i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>	▶  4
18	Eurasian Blackcap <i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>	▶  7
5	Garden Warbler <i>Sylvia borin</i>	▶  2
1	Western Orphean Warbler <i>Curruca hortensis</i> ✓	▶  1
11	Sardinian Warbler <i>Curruca melanocephala</i>	▶  8
3	Western Subalpine Warbler <i>Curruca iberiae</i>	▶  3
14	Greater Whitethroat <i>Curruca communis</i>	▶  5
1	Spectacled Warbler <i>Curruca conspicillata</i>	▶  1
4	Dartford Warbler <i>Curruca undata</i>	▶  3
3	Common Firecrest <i>Regulus ignicapilla</i>	▶  2
3	Eurasian Nuthatch <i>Sitta europaea</i>	▶  2
6	Short-toed Treecreeper <i>Certhia brachydactyla</i>	▶  5
10	Eurasian Wren <i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	▶  7
2	White-throated Dipper <i>Cinclus cinclus</i>	▶  1
264	Spotless Starling <i>Sturnus unicolor</i>	▶  19
1	Mistle Thrush <i>Turdus viscivorus</i>	▶  1
49	Eurasian Blackbird <i>Turdus merula</i>	▶  10
5	European Robin <i>Erithacus rubecula</i>	▶  2
45	Common Nightingale <i>Luscinia megarhynchos</i>	▶  13

3	Bluethroat <i>Luscinia svecica</i> ✓	▶ 2
5	European Pied Flycatcher <i>Ficedula hypoleuca</i>	▶ 4
2	Common Redstart <i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>	▶ 2
10	Black Redstart <i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>	▶ 6
9	Blue Rock-Thrush <i>Monticola solitarius</i>	▶ 4
5	Whinchat <i>Saxicola rubetra</i>	▶ 3
24	European Stonechat <i>Saxicola rubicola</i>	▶ 13
9	Northern Wheatear <i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>	▶ 3
2	Western Black-eared Wheatear <i>Oenanthe hispanica</i>	▶ 1
2	Black Wheatear <i>Oenanthe leucura</i>	▶ 1
16	Dunnock <i>Prunella modularis</i>	▶ 3
190	House Sparrow <i>Passer domesticus</i>	▶ 22
30	Spanish Sparrow <i>Passer hispaniolensis</i>	▶ 3
24	Eurasian Tree Sparrow <i>Passer montanus</i>	▶ 2
7	Rock Sparrow <i>Petronia petronia</i>	▶ 2
6	Gray Wagtail <i>Motacilla cinerea</i>	▶ 4
13	Western Yellow Wagtail <i>Motacilla flava</i>	▶ 6
12	White Wagtail <i>Motacilla alba</i>	▶ 7
67	Common Chaffinch <i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	▶ 13
1	Hawfinch <i>Coccothraustes coccothraustes</i>	▶ 1

- 13 **European Greenfinch** *Chloris chloris* ▶  8
- 18 **Eurasian Linnet** *Linaria cannabina* ▶  5
- 13 **Red Crossbill** *Loxia curvirostra* ▶  2
- 62 **European Goldfinch** *Carduelis carduelis* ▶  20
- 39 **European Serin** *Serinus serinus* ▶  13
- 52 **Corn Bunting** *Emberiza calandra* ▶  15
- 14 **Rock Bunting** *Emberiza cia* ▶  7
- 2 **Cirl Bunting** *Emberiza cirlus* ▶  3
- 5 **Ortolan Bunting** *Emberiza hortulana* ▶  3

ADDITIONAL TAXA

- 50 **Common/Pallid Swift** *Apus apus/pallidus* ▶  2
- 3 **Thekla's/Crested Lark** *Galerida theklae/cristata* ▶  1