



Birdwatching Holidays in Spain, Morocco & more...

BOLETAS Birdwatching centre

22192 Loporzano (Huesca) – Spain

tel/fax 00 34 974 262027 or 01162 889318

e.mail: josele@boletas.org // www.boletas.org

Esther Diago Millán - NIF 38493051K

BIRD HIGHLIGHTS

TOUR EAST TURKEY	DATES May 17th to 27th 2013
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Party: Phil Hall ,Carolyn Hall,Terry Cox,Sue Cox,Andy Rhodes,Alison Rhodes,John Packer,Santi Sunyer
Neil Frampton,Michael Gillett,Karl Evans,Dave Anderson,Dennis Hall

Tour Leader : Josele J Saiz , Murat Bozogan

Total Number of Species : 174

Weather & Sites:

Day 1 – 17.05.13	Cloudy 27°C Kayseri – Sultan Marshes
Day 2 – 18.05.13	Cloudy & Sunny – 25°C Sultan Marshes – Camardi – Aladaglar Mountains – Emily Valley
Day 3 – 19.05.13	Sunny with some clouds – 25°C Argalik Chukuru – Cinbar Canyon – Celaller- Emily Valley
Day 4 – 20.05.13	Sunny and nice 25°C Nidge University – Gosku Delta
Day 5 – 21.05.13	Sunny and nice 29°C Gosku Delta
Day 6 – 22.05.13	Sunny 29°C Diokensarea - Kirmeth
Day 7 – 23.05.13	Sunny 31°C Durnalik - Birecik
Day 8 – 24.05.13	Sunny but hot 33°C Birecik
Day 9 – 25.05.13	Sunny with some showers 24°C Urfa Steppes - Bezova
Day 10 – 26.05.13	Sunny Nice 25°C Nermut Mountains -
Day 11 – 27.05.13	Adiyaman to Istanbul Airport

RECOMMENDED SIGNS:

Vista/Seen (X) Oida/Heard (H) Abundant (XXX) Common (XX) Rare (+) Juvenile (Juv) Immature (Im) Adult (ad) Female Male

93.	Yellow-billed Cough	<i>Pyrrhocorax graculus</i>			x								x
94.	Eurasian Jackdaw	<i>Corvus monedula</i>	x		x			x					
95.	Rook	<i>Corvus frugilegus</i>									x		
96.	Hooded Crow	<i>Corvus cornix</i>	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
97.	Sombre Tit	<i>Parus lugubris</i>								x			
98.	Coal Tit	<i>Parus ater</i>			x			x	x				
99.	Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>		x	x	x							
100.	Blue Tit	<i>Parus caeruleus</i>			x	x		x					
101.	Sand Martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>	x				x		x	x			
102.	Eurasian Crag-martin	<i>Hirundo rupestris</i>		x	x	x							
103.	Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>		x		x	x		x	x	x	x	x
104.	Northern House-martin	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>			x		x		x	x			x
105.	Red-rumped Swallow	<i>Hirundo daurica</i>				x	x	x	x				x
106.	Calandra Lark	<i>Melanocorypha calandra</i>		x			x						xx
107.	Bimaculated lark	<i>Melanocorypha bimaculata</i>			x								
108.	Greater Short-toed Lark	<i>Calandrella brachydactyla</i>		x	x	x	x						x
109.	Lesser Short-toed Lark	<i>Calandrella rufescens</i>		x		x							x
110.	Horned Lark	<i>Eremophila alpestris</i>			x								x
111.	Crested Lark	<i>Galerida cristata</i>		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
112.	Wood Lark	<i>Lullula arborea</i>		x									
113.	White-spectacled Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus xanthopygos</i>					x	x			x	x	
114.	Graceful Prinia	<i>Prinia gracilis</i>				x	x	x	x	x			
115.	Cetti's Warbler	<i>Cettia cetti</i>				H					H		
116.	Great Reed-warbler	<i>Acrocephalus arundinaceus</i>		h		h		h	h		x		
117.	Moustached Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus melanopogon</i>				x					x		
118.	Sedge Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i>									x		
119.	Eurasian Reed-warbler	<i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>				x	x	x			x		
120.	Eastern Olivaceous Warbler	<i>Hippolais pallida</i>		h				x	x	x	h		x
121.	Upcher's Warbler	<i>Hippolais languida</i>							x				x
122.	Olive-tree Warbler	<i>Hippolais olivetorum</i>						x					
123.	Lesser Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia curruca</i>		x	x								
124.	Orphean Warbler	<i>Sylvia hortensis</i>						x	x				
125.	Common Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia communis</i>			x	x							
126.	Sardinian Warbler	<i>Sylvia melanocephala</i>					x						
127.	Menetries's Warbler	<i>Sylvia mystacea</i>							x	x	x	x	
128.	Rueppell's Warbler	<i>Sylvia rueppelli</i>						x					
129.	Iraq Babbler	<i>Turdoides altirostris</i>									x		
130.	Bearded Tit	<i>Panurus biarmicus</i>				x							
131.	Krueper's Nuthatch	<i>Sitta krueperi</i>						x					
132.	Western Rock-nuthatch	<i>Sitta neumayer</i>		x	x			x					x
133.	Eastern Rock-nuthatch	<i>Sitta tephronota</i>							x				
134.	Rosy Starling	<i>Sturnus roseus</i>	x	x									x
135.	Common Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
136.	Eurasian Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>		x	x	x	x	x	x	x			
137.	Common Nightingale	<i>Luscinia megarhynchos</i>		h	x	h							
138.	White-throated Robin	<i>Irania gutturalis</i>							x				xx

	REPTAILS													
	Spurge Tighted Tortoise													
	Striped Necked Terrapin													
	Anatolian Agama													
	Anatolian Tree frog													

Bird of the tour

- Phil Hall , **Red-fronted Serin**
- Carolyn Hall, **Blue-cheeked Bee-eater**
- Terry Cox, **Caspian Snowcock**
- Sue Cox, **Caspian Snowcock**
- Andy Rhodes, , **Red-fronted Serin**
- Alison Rhodes, **Blue-checked Bee-eater**
- John Packer, , **Red-fronted Serin**
- Santi Sunyer, **Red-fronted Serin**
- Neil Frampton, **White-throated Robin**
- Michael Gillett, **White-breasted Kingfisher**
- Karl Evans, **Kittiwate**
- Dave Anderson, **Caspian Snowcock**
- Dennis Hall, **Caspian Snowcock**
- Josele Saiz , **White-breasted Kingfisher**
- Murat Bozogan **White-breasted Kingfisher**

EASTERN TURKEY, 17TH TO 27TH MAY, 2013 - WHAT WE SAW

With the help of a good local guide, the efforts of all concerned and some good fortune, we managed to see all of the Turkish specialities expected on this tour. My thanks go to all of those involved.

White Pelican –Rare at this time of the year. A group of at least 70 individuals migrating through the Cellaller Mountains

Bald Ibis – This endangered species was protected in Turkey from the beginning of the 80’s, and as a result a small population still exists. We visited the Bald Ibis centre in Birecik, where nearly 120 birds are still breeding in semi wild conditions. It was a shame to hear that two birds who left the centre on migration movement and were radio tracked, were found dead due to human persecution. Combined

with the wild Moroccan population, there is however some future for them.

Caspian Snowcock - One the most exciting experiences of the trip and in my birding experience; superb landscapes, spectacular birding, including 5 top birds and a great team to enjoy them. At 4.30am we were taken up to 2,300 metres in the Ala Daglar mountains. Extreme habitat indeed, above the alpine meadows and below the high peaks. Deep and steep rock formations is the preferred habitat of this species. A few birds were singing in the vast and deep valley when we arrived. Later, a few more birds were also singing in the rocky area just above us, their constant peculiar whistle helping us to locate them where we 'scoped them to the delight of the group.

See-see Partridge – The species was common in the steppe area of Urfa in Anatolia.

Black Francolin – One bird, singing on the top of a bush offered prolonged views through the telescope, on one early morning birding trip in the Goksu Delta. At Bozova, another bird was singing, but not seen.

Striated Scops Owl - Well known place near Birecik. We visited twice and we had brief views of a single bird attending the nest in a poplar tree. Some of the party went before dusk to the same area having good views of a couple mating.

White-breasted Kingfisher – We failed to localise any bird when visiting the area near Kirmith. Visiting another suitable area, we saw two birds singing and flying above the tree line. One of them alternatively perched on a wire against the last reddish light of the day and in a tree allowing the group superb views.

Pied Kingfisher – Few birds, hovering and fishing along the river at Kirmith.

Blue-cheeked Bee-eater - Interesting colony in a small village near Bozova, where hundreds of holes along a sandy hill hosted at least 60 of this species along with nesting European Bee-eaters.

Bimaculated Lark – One bird found in the middle of nowhere after half hour searching through vast mountains plains. Excellent views.

Radde's Accentor - One bird protecting its territory was active in the early morning when looking for the Caspian Snowcock. Excellent close views and photographic opportunities.

White-throated Robin – Our first birds had white bellies and throat, a scarce morph only found near Durnalik, this washed morph disappointed some birders as they expected more colourful individuals. Excellent views of the standard morph in the Nemrut mountains however.

Finsch's Wheatear – Widespread in a few areas we visited.

Kurdish Wheatear – Another highlight of the tour. One female found near Durnalik but no male. On the last day we found at least three pairs on the way to the Nemrut mountains, but one pair was especially active by the side of the road few yards below the party.

Graceful Warbler – Common bird in the Goksu Delta.

Upcher's Warbler – Several birds seen on two visits we had in the Durnalik area, also good views at Birecik. A single bird was singing at Nemrut mountains.

Olive Tree Warbler - Several males were found in a regular breeding area near Diokelsareia. Murat

performed an extraordinary moment of bird guiding skills.

Menetries Warbler – Several birds seen in different areas at Birecik.

Ruppell's Warbler – Two males responding to tapes near the Olive Tree Warblers in the “golden corner”.

Sombre Tit – Best birds found in the GOLDEN STOP near Durnalik where in ten minutes we had several of the specialities we were looking for.

Kruper's Nuthatch – A pair responded to tapes near Silifke.

Eastern Rock Nuthatch – First pair was seen on a walk on the slopes of the Isikli village. Another pair was perched on a rock for a long time when at the GOLDEN STOP.

Masked Shrike – Two birds seen when looking for Olive-Tree Warbler.

Rose-coloured Starling – Rare migrant. A flock of 20 individuals were very active in the gardens near Nemrut mountains

Dead Sea Sparrow - Superb bird. We found two new colonies by the River Euphrates at Birecik.

Pale Rock Sparrow – When visiting the Durnalik area several birds were very active on the high rocky slopes.

Yellow-throated Petronia (Sparrow) – One single bird was found in the Pistachio orchards near Birecik .

Red-fronted Serin - One of the stars of the tour. A lovely small finch with a deep black head and crowned with a beautiful red-orange jewel to the front. We saw several flocks of birds in the Emily Valley.

Desert Finch – Lovely birds, but scarce in the areas we visited. We briefly 'scoped one young bird on a tree and briefly an adult in the same area.

Cinereous Bunting – Common monotonous singer on the rocky slopes at Kirmith and Nermut mountains.

Pigmy Cormorant – Common bird along the Euphrates River.