



**TROPICAL  
BIRDING**



# **SOUTHERN SPAIN: THE EUROPE INTROTOUR**

**A Tropical Birding  
Set Departure**

**April 6-14, 2024  
Guide: Ken Behrens**

**Photos by Ken Behrens**

## **TOUR SUMMARY**

Spain is well known as one of the tourism capitals of the world. Its cultural treasures are justly renowned. What's less known is that it has some of Europe's best birding. If you have never birded in Europe before, this is a great place to start. And if you have birded elsewhere on the continent, Spain is sure to have a lot of new species and provide a wonderful experience.

One of the beauties of this trip is that we're based in just two picturesque and historical small towns: Trujillo, Extremadura, and El Rocio, Andalucia. These towns are so delightful that when the group compiled its favorite experiences of the trip, these towns themselves scored number one and two! Of course, there was great birding in the woodland and cliffs of Monfragüe, the steppes surrounding Trujillo, and the wetlands and woodlands of the Doñana region. Highlights of Monfragüe included Spanish (Imperial) Eagle (see the cover photo above), Cinereous Griffon, Black Stork, and Western Subalpine Warbler. The steppes had a very different suite of birds, which included Great and Little Bustards, Pin-tailed and Black-bellied Sandgrouse, and legions of Calandra Larks. The estuaries of Andalucia are some of Europe's most diverse

birding areas. Just a few of many highlights included White-headed and Marbled Ducks, Greater Flamingo, Western Swamphen, Red-knobbed Coot, and Collared Pratincole.

The accommodations throughout this trip are very comfortable, and the food was superb, including excellent seafood, olives, and perhaps the world's best pork, often in the form of the famous Iberian *jamon*.

For an immersive experience of this trip's highlights, check out the 5-minute video trip report: ,

### [VIDEO TRIP REPORT on YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sfqKkYDht8k)

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## ITINERARY

- April 6** Arrival in Madrid. Night Madrid.
- April 7** Madrid to Monfragüe NP. Night Trujillo, Extremadura.
- April 8** Morning Belen and Caceres Steppes. Afternoon Monfragüe NP. Night Trujillo.
- April 9** Morning Caceres Steppe. Afternoon at Arrocampo Reservoir. Night Trujillo.
- April 10** Morning Caceres Steppe. Drive to El Rocio, Andalusia. Night El Rocio.
- April 11** Doñana NP. Night El Rocio.
- April 12** Morning Odiel Estuary. Afternoon Doñana NP. Night El Rocio.
- April 13** Morning Doñana NP. Drive to Sevilla. Night Sevilla.
- April 14** Departure from Sevilla (flight to Barcelona for those joining the northern Spain trip)

## BIRD LIST

The full list, including numbers and many other details, can be see as part of the [eBird trip report](https://ebird.org/tripreport/229980) for this trip: <https://ebird.org/tripreport/229980>

## NON-BIRD LIST

Red Deer	<i>Cervus elaphus</i>
Iberian Hare	<i>Lepus granatensis</i>
European Rabbit	<i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i>
Red Fox	<i>Vulpes vulpes</i>
Large Psammmodromus	<i>Psammmodromus algirus</i>
Iberian Green Frog	<i>Pelophylax perezi</i>