



EUROPEAN CONSERVATION ACTION NETWORK

Conservation Visit to the Picos de Europa, Spain

13th – 30th June 2011



Lammergeier Reintroduction

Conservation Report & Bird Summary

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In 2007 The European Conservation Action Network (EuCAN) was created by the Kingcombe Trust – a registered conservation charity (Reg. 1054758) - which operates from the Kingcombe Centre in west Dorset. The initiative is in association with the Dorset Branch of Butterfly Conservation and is funded through the Leonardo da Vinci section of the European Union Lifelong Learning Programme. Since its inception EuCAN has gained partners in France, Poland, Czech Republic, Hungary, Romania and Spain. For further information contact Nigel Spring (tel: 0044.1963.23559; email: nigelspring@yahoo.co.uk), or visit www.kingcombecentre.org.uk.

Introduction

EuCAN conservation projects set out to fulfil a range of social, cultural and environmental objectives as part of its mission and, as a result, provide the opportunity to create trips which are both personally stimulating and collectively worthwhile. This holistic approach to environmental conservation and cross-boundary lifelong learning consequently targets a wide demographic and a spectrum of backgrounds and interests.

It was very unfortunate not to have received Leonardo funding for 2011 but despite this the intended trip to Spain still got the go-ahead. The destination was the Picos de Europa (Peaks of Europe) which form part of the Cantabrian mountain range of northern Spain. Leaving a glorious sunny Weymouth, four excited and intrepid conservation enthusiasts headed to Kent, picking up two more on the way. After catching the Calais ferry the next day, a long drive awaited us through France heading towards our first destination of La Brenne National Park. There we were joined by our last passenger and spent a day exploring the superb bird and butterfly life of this low-lying wetland area of central France.

A further two days of driving south and we eventually arrived at the Fundacion Para Conservacion del Quebrantahuesos (FCQ) otherwise known as the Bearded Vulture Foundation just outside the Picos De Europa national park. There we met our project conservation counterparts Diego Martín Cortés and José Carlos González Ruíz who were to organise our conservation activities for the duration of the trip.

Lammergeier conservation

The Lammergeier (*Gypaeetus barbatus*) or Bearded Vulture represents the second largest raptorial bird in Europe with a wingspan of up to 10 feet in length and weighing up to 7kg. It's an Old World vulture found in the larger mountain ranges of Africa, Asia with smaller populations in Europe (1,600–13,000 ft above sea level). Akin with typical vultures they do not actively hunt their prey but scavenge for carrion instead. Unlike typical vultures, however, they have a feathered head and neck as they specialise in feeding on the bones of

a carcass rather than the meat itself, which allows the birds to keep their head and neck feathers clean – hence the name ‘Bearded’ Vulture. Their Spanish name, Quebrantahuesos translates as ‘bone crusher’ based on the bird’s ability of dropping bones over flat areas of rock to break into smaller, more manageable pieces which they then swallow whole.

Lammergeiers became extinct in the Picos around 50 years ago, largely as a result of indirect persecution through widespread bait poisoning of wolves and Golden Eagles, and changes in the way farmers grazed livestock on the upper Cantabrian slopes. Trophy hunting and egg collecting also played their part in the demise of this sensitive and specialised species. In continental terms, it has only been the relatively sustainable Pyrenean Lammergeier population that has made it possible to conceive a reintroduction programme to other European mountain ranges. The Pyrenees currently hold 80% of Europe’s breeding population which is strong enough to selectively take suitable eggs for rearing in Spain and begin the monumental task of producing a natural free flying population in the Picos.

Much of the conservation activity of the Picos Lammergeier reintroduction is orchestrated from the new and hugely impressive visitor centre in Benia de Onis. This multifunction building aims to not only promote the conservation work for this species but also to promote the Asturian landscape, biodiversity and pastoral heritage at the same time, through sophisticated visual displays, cinema and education rooms. The building also serves as the project management base where the post-reintroduction monitoring, logistics and communication takes place. I have been to many high profile nature visitor centres before but this has to rank as one of the very best. The locally hand crafted model replicas of the regions’ most spectacular raptors were stunning and, in my opinion, the perfect way to illustrate the majesty of these enigmatic species to the visiting public.

To successfully reintroduce any species of macro fauna has historically been an often long, expensive and problematic concept in nature conservation, and raptor reintroductions are no exception. They are often fraught with social, political and logistically complex issues before, during and after the reintroduction project. However, they have proved to be one of the more powerful tools in proactive nature conservation – a focal symbol to push a wider environmental agenda. The Lammergeier reintroduction represents the modern conservation model where the primary conservation objective can only be achieved if both the socioeconomic and the environmental surroundings are supportive, sustainable and, most importantly, symbiotic.

Akin with other large raptors Lammergeiers are an apex species, not predatory but reliant on the availability of large mammals as their primary food source of carrion. Historically, Lammergeiers would have fed predominantly on wild native ungulates such as the Cantabrian Chamois, but today this high altitude habitat is also occupied by domesticated grazing livestock of sheep and goats. An apparent endless supply of food which has been exploited by existing Griffon and Egyptian Vultures as well as eagles, buzzards, kites and

corvids. However, these free ranging livestock might, along with Lammergeiers, become a thing of the past if mountain farming continues to become less viable.

The impressive headquarters and visitor centre of the Fundación para la Conservación del Quebrantahuesos. Stunning model Lammergeier replica with myself and project ornithologist José Carlos González Rulz inside the FCQ.



Asturian farming

There are various factors that are threatening the existence of the Asturian mountain farmer, who can trace their ancestry and occupation back several centuries. Along with cider and spiced meat, this region is famed for its rich, blended cheeses. The cheese is produced from sheep, goats and cattle which spend the summer months grazing the verdant mountain slopes. It is produced in small limestone churning huts high up on remote plateaus, where the shepherds live in tiny stone cottages which double-up as drying rooms for the cheese. This tradition has been carried out for countless generations but its future is threatened with European legislation that dictates how dairy produce is manufactured and stored. Inevitably, the rustic conditions of the cheese houses cannot comply with these governed hygiene regulations. Consequently, much of the cheese cannot be commercially sold and can only be distributed privately or personally consumed. Like many aspects of traditional farming, life is hard and the rewards are modest compared with modern industries in the region. It is mainly bachelors who farm the mountains and their isolation means they have very little contact with other people outside of a few intrepid tourists and walkers. The young male shepherds have a far greater exposure to modern culture and a broader range of career opportunities which their predecessors were less influenced by.

The existence of these rural communities is fundamental to the identity and connectivity of the Asturian history and culture, and the natural heritage of the Picos de Europa. The presence of the mountain farmer is built into the conservation model for the Lammergeier

reintroduction. Without the cheese making there would be no mountain livestock grazing, which in turn would dramatically reduce the availability of carrion, and therefore make it more difficult to predict scavenging opportunities for a re-established competitor. These farmers are the natural human denizens of this rugged landscape. It is not only their farming activities that support and preserve biodiversity function but it is also their ability to operate as observers of biodiversity change and sentinels of biodiversity threat.



Seasonal mountain huts for producing the distinctive Asturian cheeses



Cattle grazing the verdant alpine slopes of the Picos de Europa.

EuCAN work

Although the Lammergeier reintroduction involves many biologists and conservationists from Spain and France, the project has only recently begun to disseminate its activities to a wider European audience. The EuCAN visit represented the first foreign conservation organisation to take an active part with the project on the ground. As our contingent was largely made up of non-specialist volunteers, the work was designed to be of a practical nature, but work which would bring us into direct contact with the key stakeholders of the project. In doing so, the FCQ benefitted from much needed help with vital manual tasks while EuCAN fulfilled its aims of cementing a new European conservation partner and the promotion of cross boundary learning in a new part of the region.

‘A bridge too far’

Building metaphorical bridges is a big part of the EuCAN remit, but for our first task it was carried out in the literal sense. Several of the local Picos farmers had wanted to graze their livestock herds on a previously inaccessible mountain side separated by a steep sided, boulder strewn river called the Casanu. Inevitably this would increase their farming capacity and provide new feeding opportunities for the Lammergeiers which had been observed to roam the locality. Though not a wide river, the montane topography meant that

constructing a bridge that would support livestock crossings and withstand seasonal floods, would mean that the structure had to last for the duration. The bridge was pre-built at the FCQ head quarters by the EuCAN volunteers, dismantled and transported by Land Rover to as close to the bridge site as possible, high up on a mountain pass. This meant that a team of twelve, including the farmers and the FCQ personnel, dragged, rolled, carried and hurled four solid steel girders down 800m of precipitous, rocky, bracken covered mountain slope in the mid-day sun.

The following day was spent traversing the mountain slope once again – this time carrying the wooden panels needed to adjoin the supporting girders and provide a walking surface for the bridge. Our laden bergens were carrying the equivalent weight of a small child on our backs and we had to improvise any way we could to get ourselves down the mountain in one piece. The bridge build progressed with a lot less drama than the transporting of the materials and by the afternoon it was mission accomplished. We had time to take a wondrous bio-diverse walk along the river through an ecotonal assortment of acid and alkaline plant communities, relic cider orchards and an unexpected roosting colony of Greater horseshoe Bats.



The difficult process of getting steel girders down a mountain and the eventual completed bridge



‘Life is a cage’

A pivotal part of any animal reintroduction is the moment when a captive species is released to the unforgiving wilderness. Up until now the chicks have experienced an entirely controlled and manipulated life. After being taken from their Pyrenean natal site, they are then incubated and hatched at a breeding facility in eastern Spain. They are then reared in specially built cages designed to mimic their natural nesting environment - using lifelike hand puppets to act as surrogate parents. When they are one month old they are

introduced to their subsequent release site where they will spend a further three months maturing before finally being released. Other than carrying radio transmitters these birds are effectively free-flying and independent in a new and unfamiliar landscape. Lammergeiers nest in remote and inaccessible mountain ledges so siting a release pen has to be as well matched to the birds' needs as possible and located in an area where constant observation can be conducted without the risk of disturbance. The fledglings require a site with a large vista that has a proximate take off area where they can avoid crashing into rocks on their first tentative and ungainly maiden flights.

All the cage components were left in situ following the previous year's reintroduction so it was our job to put the cages together ready for the second pair of chicks that were due to fledge in a month or so time. A grey blanket of cloud cloaked our panorama as we carefully placed the steel cage walls together. This was no ordinary release pen and it soon became apparent why it would take all of us to build this, no ordinary, of bird cages. The cage was big enough and strong enough to house a pair of lions. A dividing wall is required to separate both the chicks, as in the wild the more dominant bird usually kills the weaker chick. With an eight foot wing span these birds need all this room to allow them to gain as much wing strength as possible before they take to the skies. The second day was brilliant sunshine and Red-billed and Alpine Choughs playfully danced above and beneath us as we begun to add steel support pegs and envelope the cage in straw matting to shelter the birds and make the structure blend in more easily to their surroundings.

A few added adjustments and we had finished by late morning so we took the opportunity to go on a long hike through this spectacular national park, trying to put names to every bird, plant and butterfly that we stumbled upon.



Erecting the enormous release pen in preparation for the arrival of two more Lammergeier chicks

‘Shear exhaustion’

Perhaps the most anticipated part of the work was actively helping out the mountain farmers with the herding and shearing of their sheep flocks. Anticipated as neither of us had worked hands-on with sheep before. Our group was split into two, with one half assisting the shearing encampment high up on an alpine plateau, while my cohort assisted a farming family in a one of the villages lower down the mountain.

There was little time for contemplation before we had received instruction to corral and administer worming drugs to 150 sheep in sweltering 37 degree heat. It was a heat wave in the Picos and the task we were set was daunting to say the least. After deciding what roles to take and how exactly we were going to go about it, we simply had to just go for it. One by one we would select a sheep, grab it by the fleece, horns and legs, drag it to the corner of a pen, flip it on its rump, prise its mouth open and insert the worming gun. After flipping the third sheep I was close to passing out and knew that my technique needed urgent revision. All my strength was used to lift the sheep off the ground, and in such heat and altitude I was struggling to find breath. We figured out that we could administer the drug without flipping them and, as a result, we began to make progress, doing remarkably well considering the complete lack of experience.

By mid afternoon we suspended drug administering and drove up the dramatic mountain track with José to join the shearing encampment up on the high plateau. The camp was frenetic with intense shearing activity, though there was an overwhelming sense of community spirit and banter between the assortment of farming and conservation participants. The annual sheep shear is one of the key dates in the Asturian farming calendar and, as such, is an opportunity to celebrate with the local sheep farming community young and old. The village women had prepared an enormous feast for lunch including a fine barbeque with all the lamb chops one could possibly eat. Despite the intense heat and anticipated post-lunch shearing, there was a remarkable amount of alcohol consumed. We took time to relax under canvas shade as we looked out over the Cantabrian peaks and the shimmering Bay of Biscay, while Water Pipits scurried purposefully around us catching insects to feed their young.



Looking down on one of the mountain villages where we assisted with the sheep shearing



Shearing encampment on a high mountain plateau overlooking the Bay of Biscay

The following day we returned to the mountain villages to continue the shearing with all hands on deck. The farmers had continued with their evening's merriment until 4 am so their recovery meant that we were a little late getting started. There were only two sets of electric clippers to go round so we had to resort to manual clipping with traditional shears. Our main job was to grab a sheep and turn it over so we could tie the legs together and cut the fleece around the belly in preparation for the full fleece removal.

The sad part of the work was discovering that the large tractor cart we had filled to the brim with wool was essentially worthless. Sheep's wool is now a surplus commodity in the Picos, which is compounded by the fact that farmers face severe restrictions on how and where they can dispose of it. It is another indictment of the apathy towards the supporting and maintaining of rural industries. Removing the value from a by-product in livestock farming is a negative but all too familiar aspect of the traditional upland farmer and another blow to an already vulnerable way of life.

Bird Life

The Picos de Europa has more similarities with UK flora and fauna compared with other Iberian regions due to its wetter and cooler climate. Whereas much of Spain takes on an arid, sundrenched appearance by midsummer, the Cantabrian range remains green throughout the season and, in this respect, you could be mistaken for walking in the Alps or Pyrenees. One delightful aspect of spending so much time in the hills and mountains is that the altitude meant we would get to see some breathtaking wild flower meadows, which would have otherwise been past their best at this time of year in lower lying regions. At times we were physically unable to walk more than twenty yards without stopping to identify or photograph the gorgeous calcareous and alpine flora, and its accompanying rich montane fauna.



The exact spot where we had superb views of Short-toed Eagle, Crag Martin and Rock Bunting



Heart-flowered Orchids where found in the unspoilt, rich montane meadows

The Picos Mountains extend right down to the northern Spanish coastline so there are few low lying areas of notable expanse. This has a great influence on the bird types encountered in the region as typical Mediterranean lowland species are largely absent or much less frequent. Our time in the Picos came at the tail end of the breeding season for temperate European birds so it was going to be difficult to see many passerine species which had already bred and become less vocal and obvious. For raptors this is not an issue as they spend so much of their time in the air. Like much of Spain wherever you went in the Picos there always appeared to be Griffon Vultures soaring on thermals – their enormous broad wings and disproportionate short tail, coupled with their apparent abundance, meant that we were soon able to separate them from the other large raptors. After Lammergeiers, Griffons are the largest raptor in the Picos and it was wonderful to see them distributed in such strong numbers. On several occasions Diego and José would pick out active Griffon nests, as parents circled and alighted on wild, inaccessible cliff ledges to attend their supersize offspring.

From time to time the much smaller but distinctive Egyptian Vulture would make an appearance - their striking black and white plumage viewed against a dark mountainside made them stand out from all the other large raptors and corvids. We saw good numbers of Golden Eagle in the more remote mountain areas where they would often occupy the higher slopes. Lower down we had superb views of Short-toed Eagles actively hunting for reptiles. Considerably smaller than Golden Eagles these summer migrants patrol the lower slopes, slowly quartering short vegetation before a brief hover to locate and snatch their serpent prey. Black Kite and Common Buzzard could be found in the foothills, towns and villages and were among the most confiding of all the raptors encountered during the trip. Along with Ravens, Red-billed Choughs appeared to be present wherever we went in the Picos – their echoing social calls and aerobatic interactions make them perhaps the most conspicuous and entertaining of the region's birds. As their name suggests, Alpine Choughs breed at a higher altitude to their crimson beaked cousins but, where their ranges overlapped, they were found to be surprisingly gregarious and tolerant of one another.

It is all too easy to overlook small birds while focussing on big raptors in such an expansive and stately landscape but the high peaks of the Picos possess some of the most sought after passerines in all of Europe. We had arranged a day to search for the three most iconic passerines of the Cantabrians – Snowfinch, Alpine Accentor and, the star attraction, Wallcreeper. At this time of year you have to climb in excess of 2000m above sea level to stand any chance of seeing them and, unfortunately, our planned ascent was cancelled due to bad weather and poor visibility. We did, however, have great views of Rock Bunting, Crag Martin and a handsome adult male Black-eared Wheatear along with the more widespread Northern Wheatears. As well as other typical upland species, such as Stonecat and Whinchat, I was alerted to a small green bird calling from a scrubby perch during a long hike through one of the Picos' open grazed valleys. After a quick deduction of potential candidates and some frantic indicative reading, the bird was identified as a Citril Finch – a

fairly scarce and localised species in the Mediterranean. Perhaps the most numerous of the region's upland birds were Water Pipit and, ironically, the trickiest to identify. In the UK this species is a winter visitor to lowland wet grassland and coastal areas, but in their continental breeding range they inhabit open montane habitats – much the same as Meadow Pipits do in Britain.

For the most part we had very sunny and settled weather during the trip which meant there were still quite a few species singing even though they were probably in post-breeding moult and skulking in behaviour. Iberian Chiffchaff was heard almost everywhere while Western Bonelli's Warblers preferred the deciduous forested areas of the valleys. Occasionally, Melodious Warbler could be heard although it was an unfamiliar song, so identification was based on process of elimination rather than recognition. During the bridge build a Black Woodpecker flew over my head, but frustratingly I missed it, despite Diego's best efforts to alert me. Their far carrying call was to taunt me for the rest of the day and Europe's biggest woodpecker still eludes me to this day. Wrynecks are altogether more ubiquitous within southern Europe and their bounding flight and vociferous nature makes these, otherwise cryptic birds, rather more conspicuous than their crow-sized relative. It was often during moments to catch breath whilst walking that we had time to take notice of the bird activity around us. On one occasion we were entertained by the frenetic activity of Firecrests as we lay slumped with exhaustion on our ascent back from the first day of bridge building.

We stayed at a traditional Asturian house, tucked away in a small hill village named Llueves, a mile north of the busy market town of Cangas de Onis. Each evening we were treated to the captivating displays of European Nightjars as they chased around the gardens catching moths on the wing and watched as sparring males aerially competed over females. As dusk fell we would listen out each evening for the ethereal like churing calls of proclaiming males – announcing the start of their mysterious crepuscular endeavours along with the more familiar calls of Tawny Owls.

Our busy schedule meant that we didn't spend much time around our house and village to enjoy the local birdlife. We did have the customary breeding Black Redstarts in Llueves and also noted singing Golden Oriole and reeling Grasshopper Warblers nearby. Daily visits into town produced more Black Redstarts as well as endearing Serins - with their effervescent song jingling from overhead cables and rooftops. Grey Wagtails and a nesting colony of Sand Martins hunted flies in the Sella River which ran through the town centre. The surprise bird here was a Common Redstart, which I've seen in wide array of habitats in Britain and abroad, but never quite such an urbanised setting as this.



Our traditional Asturian house in Llieves



The Sella River which ran through Cangas de Onis

Considering this was a practical conservation trip and not a specific ecological study, we managed to record 131 bird species including the birds recorded in France and the Dover-Calais ferry crossing. We found this remarkable as bird recording was certainly not a prime objective, and coupled with the time of year, we had amassed a rather impressive and diverse bird list. The icing on the cake would have been to catch up with Deva, our radio tagged Lammergeier, but due to an ongoing fault with the transmitter, the bird's locality had been lost both prior to our arrival and during our time in the Picos.

The Hunt for Deva

In the last few days we received a rather exciting call from HQ stating that a GPS signal was now being relayed back to them. We scrambled our crew and headed off with Diego in search for Deva, stopping off at key lookout points around her known haunts. We soon picked up a strong signal as we looked down through a valley, and I was furiously scoping every raptor in the distance, but all were carrying short, rounded tails. It was apparent she was on the move and heading away from us, so with telemetry aerial and tripod legs hastily retracted; we sped off in convoyed pursuit of this elusive winged beast through the winding mountain gorge roads deep within the national park. Diego was trying to pre-empt her route as we stopped off at another vantage point. With heads craned vertically, we systematically eliminated each and every raptor – zoning in on their tails looking for the distinctive big 'diamond'. We had breathtaking views of an adult Golden Eagle perched imperiously above us - causing a brief distraction, but our real quarry was once again not to be seen. It was evident that the steep chasmic walls enclosing us were blocking Diego's radio signals even though Deva could have practically been on top of us. Either way she remained both visually and audibly undetectable despite her tantalising proximity. Three further stops and we eventually ran out of mountain road – having exhausted all our options in the sweltering midday heat. We tried again the following day for one last ditch effort but this time we were unable to receive any signal from the radio transmitter despite searching

a large area. This was our last day in the Picos so we had to concede defeat, but the thrill of chasing such an evocative and charismatic creature that we had spent the entire trip discussing and learning about was memorable in itself. So perhaps it left me with a wry smile knowing that our four wheels and sophisticated equipment was no match for this beguiling emperor of the skies.

The combined efforts of radio telemetry and telescope scanning were not enough to locate Deva our tagged Lammergeier



The experience

It takes me a long time to digest and reflect upon all the stimuli, knowledge and experiences a trip like this provides. This is because EuCAN wholeheartedly fulfils its mission statement of setting out to engage its participants in the mechanics of environmental conservation whilst integrating them within the social fabric and cultural backdrop which underpins the conservation work. In a relatively short space of time working with the FCQ and local farmers, I felt as though I had understood the motives and direction of the reintroduction project. The project itself felt dynamic and well executed and I was both impressed and surprised at the amount of resources that had gone into the project's infrastructure as well as the actual reintroduction operation. The ambivalence in nature conservation towards macro fauna reintroduction is as old as reintroductions themselves. However, raptor reintroductions continue to increase throughout Europe with each successful species recovery acting as demonstrable response to all the sceptics who believe that no interference is better than positive interference. There are of course very justifiable arguments for not reintroducing apex fauna back to a region. Passionate wildlife conservationists and species' champions must not be blinkered to the concerns of the area's stakeholders who are rightfully protective of any activities or factors which could impact on their livelihoods and impede on their way of life.

Like many large-scale government funded conservation initiatives, this reintroduction project was conceived in response to NATURA 2000 ecological network, born from the European Union's Habitats Directive. To address the need for providing ecological corridors while simultaneously encouraging social engagement, the Spanish government and affiliated environmental parties recognised an opportunity to use the Lammergeiers as both a symbol and a link to unite these principle aims. As a result, it would take the most hardened cynic to accuse this initiative of lacking sincerity, robustness or longevity. The project is still in its embryonic stage as far as establishing a free-flying population in the Picos, and the road still remains uncertain and unpredictable. But the success or failure of this reintroduction should ideally not detract from the bigger and more important picture. The key agenda here still remains the preservation and improvement of the region's pastoral heritage, landscape and biodiversity function, all supported by a sustainable economy. In this respect, it is clearly a model replicated throughout the region and wider world in the modern conservation ethos. As long as consecutive Spanish governments honour existing environmental policies and initiatives, then hopefully these projects will have enough momentum to overcome the plethora of project related and socio-political obstacles which will inevitably occur.

Acknowledgments

The Picos trip lived up to and surpassed my expectations and I thoroughly enjoyed the region, its people and wildlife. It was made all the more pleasurable with the company I shared. All interesting people with different backgrounds, who each brought their own perspectives, thoughts and qualities to the trip. Thanks to Julian, Maeve, Poppy, Daniel and Chris for suffering my incurable peculiarities and marginal avian obsessions. Also, big respect to Diego and José for accommodating us so well and immersing us in Asturian culture. Special thanks undoubtedly go to Steve Bennett whose patience, tolerance and spectacularly impressive leadership, logistical and practical skills got six eager Lammergeier crusaders to Spain and back without any physical or emotional scars. And last but not least, Nigel Spring and Kathy Henderson for, amidst funding uncertainty, arranging the trip in the first place and once again creating such valuable opportunities.

Systematic Bird List – species seen or heard in France, Spain and the English Channel

Common name	Scientific name
Mute Swan	<i>Cynus olor</i>
Greylag Goose	<i>Anser anser</i>
Canada Goose	<i>Branta canadensis</i>
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>
Gadwall	<i>Anas strepera</i>
Wigeon	<i>Anas penelope</i>
Shoveler	<i>Anas clypeata</i>
Pochard	<i>Aythya ferina</i>
Tufted Duck	<i>Aythya fuligula</i>
Red-legged Partridge	<i>Alectoris rufa</i>
Grey Partridge	<i>Perdix perdix</i>
Pheasant	<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>
Black-necked Grebe	<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>
Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>
Great-crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>
Fulmar	<i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>
Gannet	<i>Morus bassanus</i>
Shag	<i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis</i>
Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>
Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>
Cattle Egret	<i>Bulbulcus ibis</i>
Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>
Great-white Egret	<i>Casmerodius albus</i>
Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinera</i>
Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>
White Stork	<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>
Griffon Vulture	<i>Gyps fulvus</i>
Egyptian Vulture	<i>Neophron percnopterus</i>
Golden Eagle	<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>
Short-toed Eagle	<i>Circaetus gallicus</i>
Black Kite	<i>Milvus migrans</i>
Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>
Common Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>
Peregrine	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>
Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>
Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>
Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>
Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>
Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>
Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>
Curlew	<i>Numenius arquata</i>
Ruff	<i>Philomachus pugnax</i>

Black-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>
Herring Gull	<i>Larus argentatus</i>
Yellow-legged Gull	<i>Larus michahellis</i>
Great Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus marinus</i>
Lesser Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus fuscus</i>
Kittiwake	<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>
Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>
Whiskered Tern	<i>Chlidonias hybrida</i>
Guillemot	<i>Uria aalge</i>
Feral Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>
Wood Pigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>
Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>
Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>
Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>
Tawny Owl	<i>Strix aluco</i>
Barn Owl	<i>Tyto alba</i>
Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus europaeus</i>
Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>
Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>
Bee-eater	<i>Merops apiaster</i>
Black Woodpecker	<i>Dryocopus martius</i>
Green Woodpecker	<i>Picus viridis</i>
Great-spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopus major</i>
Middle-spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopus medius</i>
Wryneck	<i>Jynx torquilla</i>
Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>
Sand Martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>
Crag Martin	<i>Ptyonoprogne rupestris</i>
Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>
House Martin	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>
Water Pipit	<i>Anthus spinoletta</i>
Tree Pipit	<i>Anthus trivialis</i>
White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>
Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>
Dipper	<i>Cinclus cinclus</i>
Dunnock	<i>Prunella modularis</i>
Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>
Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>
Black Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>
Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>
Black-eared Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe hispanica</i>
Whinchat	<i>Saxicola rubetra</i>
Stonechat	<i>Saxicola torquatus</i>
Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>
Mistle Thrush	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>
Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>

Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>
Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia communis</i>
Sedge Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i>
Grasshopper Warbler	<i>Locustella naevia</i>
Cetti's Warbler	<i>Cettia cetti</i>
Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>
Melodious Warbler	<i>Hippolais polygotta</i>
Willow Warbler	<i>Phyllocopus trichilus</i>
Wood Warbler	<i>Phyllocopus sibilatrix</i>
Western Bonelli's Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus bonelli</i>
Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>
Iberian Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus ibericus</i>
Goldcrest	<i>Regulus regulus</i>
Firecrest	<i>Regulus ignicapilla</i>
Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>
Spotted Flycatcher	<i>Musicapa striata</i>
Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>
Coal Tit	<i>Pariparus ater</i>
Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>
Marsh Tit	<i>Poecile palustris</i>
Long-tailed Tit	<i>Aegatalus caudatus</i>
Nuthatch	<i>Sitta europaea</i>
Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>
Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>
Jackdaw	<i>Corvus monedula</i>
Chough	<i>Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax</i>
Alpine Chough	<i>Pyrrhocorax graculus</i>
Rook	<i>Corvus frugilegus</i>
Carrion Crow	<i>Corvus corone</i>
Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>
Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>
Golden Oriole	<i>Oriolus oriolus</i>
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>
Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>
Linnet	<i>Carduelis cannabina</i>
Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>
Greenfinch	<i>Carduelis chloris</i>
Citrl Finch	<i>Carduelis citrinella</i>
Serin	<i>Serinus serinus</i>
Reed Bunting	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>
Yellowhammer	<i>Emberiza citrinella</i>
Corn Bunting	<i>Emberiza calandra</i>
Rock Bunting	<i>Emberiza cia</i>

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