

Trip report Barcelona/Belchite, Spain 3 – 6 November 2005



*El Planeron nature reserve,
Belchite, Aragon*

General

I, Stefan Cherrug, and my wife, Natalia Delvina, made an extended weekend trip to Barcelona, Catalonia with a day-trip to Belchite, Aragon. We flew with Sterling from Copenhagen to Barcelona taking 2 hours 35. At the Barcelona airport we rented a Citroen C2 with air-conditioning. We stayed at the very good hotel H10 Marina, quite close to the beach and harbour. The weather was fairly good with just light skies and temperatures of just below 20 degrees C in the days and about 15 in the nights. The trip was not mainly for birding purposes but Saturday the 5th was completely devoted for birding in the Belchite area outside Zaragoza, Aragon – a trip for roughly 300 km in one direction. In total 53 species of birds were seen.

Itinerary

Thursday 3rd November

Barcelona airport 13:00-13:30

Little Egret	10 at a small wetland near the airport
Great Cormorant	C. 75 at the same place
House Sparrow	20

Barcelona city 13:30-20:00

Rose-ringed Parakeet	5 seen well and photographed close to the hotel plus several unidentified parakeets.
Feral Pigeon	Common
Common Blackbird	Common
European Robin	Very common
Chiffchaff	1 singing
Grey Wagtail	2
White Wagtail	1
Yellow-legged Gull	15 over the city
Black-headed Gull	C. 10 over the city
House Sparrow	Very common
Common/Spotless Starling	10

Friday 4th November

Barcelona harbour 14:00-17:00

Monk Parakeet	5 seen well and photographed when eating in palm trees.
Common Magpie	5
European Greenfinch	5
House Sparrow	2
European Robin	Very common
Grey Wagtail	Very common.
Common Kingfisher	5
Mediterranean Gull	2 resting on the outer pier
Sandwich Tern	1 adult
Black-headed Gull	10 flying S
Yellow-legged Gull	15
Northern Gannet	50 in all plumages
Spotless Starling	1 adult dived a couple of times
Hawfinch	1 singing
Eurasian Blue Tit	2 heard
Mallard	2
Audoin's Gull	3 flying over 1 1 st cal year flying S. Much grey on the back with proportions resembling Common Gull. Dark areas around the eye.
Unidentified falcon	1 seen quickly. Possibly Peregrine Falcon.
Black Redstart	1



Natasha on Barcelona beach 4th Nov.

Saturday 5th November

Barcelona-Belchite 8:00-11:30

Very good motorways (toll roads) made the trip very fast.

Eurasian Jay	1 Villa Ronda
Crested/Thekla Lark	2
Eurasian Hoopoe	1
European Serin	40
Mistle Thrush	Singles, in total 10
Common Chaffinch	2
Common Wood Pigeon	1 Sagre river
Northern Lapwing	10
Western Jackdaw	10
Red Kite	2
Collared Dove	25
Carrion Crow	5



Information centre Belchite 5th Nov.



Information on the El Planeron, Belchite 5th Nov.

Belchite-area 11:30-15:30

Marsh Harrier	1 adult male + 3
Black Redstart	1
Grey Heron	1
Southern Grey Shrike	2
Dupont 's Lark	1 eventually flushed in the nature reserve El Planeron NE Belchite. The bird was in typical habitat c. 200 m E of the northern tip of the lake, which according to a guide in Belchite, should be the best area for the species.
Common Linnet	4
Lesser Short-toed Lark	15
White Wagtail	5
Common Magpie	5
Common Chaffinch	2
Corn Bunting	20
Calandra Lark	200 on a newly ploughed field
Eurasian Skylark	100 on the same field
Common Stonechat	1
Common Buzzard	3
Common Kestrel	2
Eurasian Griffon Vulture	2 in agricultural area SW Quinto



Typical habitat for Dupont 's Lark Belchite 5th Nov.

Zaragoza – Barcelona 15:30-19:00

Bonelli´s Eagle 1 landed on a motorway-crossing near Leida
White Stork 1 near Leida

Sunday 6th November

Barcelona airport

Eurasian Hoopoe 1
House Sparrow 15

Species list

1. **Mallard** *Anas platyrhynchos*
3 flying over Barcelona harbour 4th.
2. **Northern Gannet** *Morus bassanus*
1 adult dived a couple of times off Barcelona harbour 4th.
3. **Great Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax carbo*
C. 75 at a small wetland near Barcelona airport 3rd.
4. **Little Egret** *Egretta garzetta*
10 at a small wetland near the Barcelona airport 3rd.
5. **Grey Heron** *Ardea cinerea*
2 Belchite-area 5th.
6. **White Stork** *Ciconia ciconia*
1 near Leida 5th,
7. **Red Kite** *Milvus milvus*
2 Barcelona-Belchite 5th.
8. **Eurasian Griffon Vulture** *Gyps fulvus*
2 in agricultural area SW Quinto Belchite-area 5th.
9. **Marsh Harrier** *Circus aeruginosus*
1 adult male + 3 Belchite-area 5th.
10. **Bonelli´s Eagle** *Aquila fasciata*
1 landed on a motorway-crossing near Leida 5th.
11. **Common Buzzard** *Buteo buteo*
3 Belchite-area 5th.
12. **Common Kestrel** *Falco tinnunculus*
2 Belchite-area 5th.

13. **Unidentified falcon** *Falco sp.*
1 seen quickly Barcelona harbour 4th. Possibly Peregrine Falcon.
14. **Northern Lapwing** *Vanellus vanellus*
10 Barcelona-Belchite 5th.
15. **Mediterranean Gull** *Larus melanocephalus*
1 adult Barcelona harbour 4th.
16. **Black-headed Gull** *Larus ridibundus*
C. 10 over the city Barcelona city 3rd and 15 Barcelona harbour 4th.
17. **Audouin´s Gull** *Larus audouinii*
1 1st cal year flying S Barcelona harbour 4th.
18. **Yellow-legged Gull** *Larus michahellis*
15 over the city Barcelona city 3rd and 50 in all plumages Barcelona harbour 4th.
19. **Sandwich Tern** *Sterna sandvicensis*
10 flying S Barcelona harbour 4th.
20. **Feral Pigeon** *Columba livia*
Common Barcelona city 3rd.
21. **Common Wood Pigeon** *Columba palumbus*
1 Sagre river Barcelona-Belchite 5th.
22. **Collared Dove** *Streptopelia decaocto*
25 Barcelona-Belchite 5th.
23. **Rose-ringed Parakeet** *Psittacula krameri*
5 Barcelona city 3rd plus several unidentified parakeets Barcelona city all days.



Rose-ringed Parakeet Barcelona city 3rd Nov.

24. **Monk Parakeet** *Myiopsitta monachus*
5 Barcelona harbour 4th.



Monk Parakeet Barcelona city 4th Nov.

25. **Common Kingfisher** *Alcedo atthis*
2 resting on the outer pier Barcelona harbour 4th.
26. **Eurasian Hoopoe** *Upupa epops*
1 Barcelona-Belchite 5th and 1 Barcelona airport 6th.
27. **Dupont´s Lark** *Chersophilus duponti*
1 flushed in the nature reserve El Planeron NE Belchite 5th.
28. **Calandra Lark** *Melanocorypha calandra*
200 on a newly ploughed field Belchite-area 5th.
29. **Lesser Short-toed Lark** *Calandrella rufescens*
15 El Planeron, Belchite-area 5th.
30. **Crested/Thekla Lark** *Galerida cristata/G. theklae*
2 Barcelona-Belchite 5th.
31. **Eurasian Skylark** *Alauda arvensis*
100 Belchite-area 5th.
32. **Grey Wagtail** *Motacilla cinerea*
2 Barcelona city 3rd and 5 Barcelona harbour 4th.

33. **White Wagtail** *Motacilla alba alba*
1 Barcelona city 3rd and 5 Belchite-area 5th.
34. **European Robin** *Erithacus rubecula*
Very common Barcelona city 3rd and very common Barcelona harbour 4th.
35. **Black Redstart** *Phoenicurus ochruros*
1 Barcelona harbour 4th and 1 Belchite-area 5th.
36. **Common Stonechat** *Saxicola torquata*
1 near a farm Belchite-area 5th.
37. **Common Blackbird** *Turdus merula*
Common Barcelona city all days.
38. **Mistle Thrush** *Turdus viscivorus*
Singles, in total 10 Barcelona-Belchite 5th.
39. **Chiffchaff** *Phylloscopus collybita*
1 singing Barcelona city 3rd.
40. **Eurasian Blue Tit** *Parus caeruleus*
2 Barcelona harbour 4th.
41. **Southern Grey Shrike** *Lanius meridionalis*
2 Belchite-area 5th.
42. **Eurasian Jay** *Garrulus glandarius*
1 Villa Ronda 5th.
43. **Common Magpie** *Pica pica*
5 Barcelona harbour 4th and 5 Belchite-area 5th.
44. **Western Jackdaw** *Corvus monedula*
10 Barcelona-Belchite 5th.
45. **Carrion Crow** *Corvus corone corone*
5 Barcelona-Belchite 5th.
46. **Spotless Starling** *Sturnus unicolor*
1 singing Barcelona harbour 4th.
Common/Spotless Starling *Sturnus vulgaris/S. unicolor*
10 Barcelona city 3rd, and several more seen all days.
47. **House Sparrow** *Passer domesticus*
20 Barcelona airport 3rd, very common Barcelona city 3rd, very common Barcelona harbour 4th and 15 Barcelona airport 6th.
48. **Common Chaffinch** *Fringilla coelebs*
2 Barcelona-Belchite 5th and 2 Belchite-area 5th.

49. **European Serin** *Serinus serinus*
40 Barcelona-Belchite 5th.
50. **European Greenfinch** *Carduelis chloris*
2 Barcelona harbour 4th.
51. **Hawfinch** *Coccothraustes coccothraustes*
2 heard Barcelona harbour 4th.
52. **Common Linnet** *Carduelis cannabina*
4 Belchite-area 5th.
53. **Corn Bunting** *Emberiza calandra*
20 Belchite-area 5th.