

Some notes on interesting animals seen during a stay from July 4th to 15th, 2016 in southern and southwestern Spain

On July 4th we, which means my wife, our 9-year-old son and me, reach **Sevilla**, where we can stay in the flat of friends, by car coming from Catalonia.

On the next afternoon we drive to an area SW of the town, **east of Villamanrique de la Condesa**.

On 6th we move to a hotel NW of **Tarifa** („Dos Mares“), where we stay for two nights. The first afternoon I try to see White-rumped Swift in **Atlanterra** for about five hours, but I fail.

We do a three-hours **whale-watching-trip** in the afternoon of the 7th with FIRRM off Tarifa.

Our aim of the 8th is **Gibraltar** with its apes. Ugly city, bad indications but the animals always worth the trouble. The same day we drive to **Jimena de la Frontera** („The Royal Artillery Factory“), where we stay until 10th, when we go back to **Sevilla** until 16th. On this journey we pass an area **W of Alcala de los Gazules** to see Olivaceous Warbler (without success) and later **Laguna Hondilla (one of the „Lagunas de Espera“)** N of **Arcos de la Frontera** in order to show my family White-headed Ducks, which does not work either.

On 11th I go to **Chipiona** to see the Little Swifts – something really easy.

The next day we do an organized Jeep-tour through the **Coto Doñana**, due to drought not really recommendable at this time of the year. In contrary the **lagoon of El Rocio** has a lot of water, but the light is already fading when we get there.

On 13th I visit an area between **Almonte** and **Bollulos Par del Condado** to see Western Rufous-tailed Scrub Robin, which is very easy, and again the place mentioned on 4th.

The not mentioned days we stay in Sevilla.

As I have not written a complete diary, I can give information only about some species, starting with the **birds** (order as in Svensson et al: Der neue Kosmos Vogelführer):

Cory's Shearwater	07/07	10+		whale-watching trip	
Balearic Shearwater	07/07	1		whale-watching trip	
Gannet	07/12	1	2 nd year	week/ill/exhausted	beach southeast of Matalascañas
Night Heron	07/12	5+			El Rocio
Squacco Egret	07/12	5+			El Rocio
Glossy Ibis	07/12	+			El Rocio
Spoonbill	07/12	+			El Rocio
Flamingo	07/12	+			El Rocio
Greylag Goose	07/12	+			El Rocio
Gadwall	07/10	20+			Laguna Hondilla
Ferruginous Duck	07/10	1			Laguna Hondilla



Griffon Vulture

in all suitable, mostly rocky habitats,
e.g. Jimena de la Frontera

Short-toed Eagle	seen about 1 every second day, often from the car
Booted Eagle	quite abundant, seen nearly daily
Montague's Harrier	07/11 2 S of Sevilla
Lesser Kestrel	colonies in Sevilla (cathedral), Jimena de la Frontera, ...?
Oystercatcher	07/12 ca. 30 beach southeast of Matalascañas
Audouin's Gull	07/12 200+ beach southeast of Matalascañas 1 with white ring AXVR (some more rings not readable)
Tawny Owl	07/05 heard east of Villamanrique de la Condesa
Little Owl	07/05 heard east of Villamanrique de la Condesa 07/13 1 between Almonte and Bollullos Par del Condado
Scops Owl	07/08 heard Jimena de la Frontera



Red-necked Nightjar

07/05 1 + 1 heard
east of Villamanrique de la Condesa

07/08 heard
Jimena de la Frontera

Pallid Swift 10s in most of the visited harbour-cities, e.g. Atlanterra, Chipiona



White-rumped Swift

07/10 1 Rio de Álamo
W of Alcalá de los Gazules

(36°27'58.35" N, 5°46'57.18" E)

Little Swift

07/11 20+
Chipiona-harbour



Thekla Lark 07/12 only identified bird in the entrance of El Acebuche/Doñana

Western Rufous-tailed Scrub Robin

07/13 2 between Almonte and
Bollullos Par del Condado,
(37°30'10.24" N, -6°53'23.02" E /
37°29'81.82" N, -6°53'31.61" E),
both singing at 4 pm at nearly 40° C



Western Olivaceous Warbler 07/10 2 singing Laguna Hondilla
(36°87'28.73 N, -5°86'17.48" E)

Azure-winged Magpie 07/05 and 07/13 east of Villamanrique de la Condesa
07/12 El Acebuche/Doñana,
at both sites flocks of up to 30 ind.

Mammals:



Orca

07/07 3 (m/f/f), watched for >1 hour
whale-watching trip
off Tarifa

Fin Whale

07/07 1
whale-watching trip
off Tarifa



Red Deer	07/12	10+	Coto de Doñana
Fallow Deer	07/12	30+	Coto de Doñana
Wild Boar	07/12	7	Coto de Doñana

Reptiles:

Ocellated Lizard	07/05	2	east of Villamanrique de la Condesa
	07/08	1	Jimena de la Frontera

Spiny-footed Lizard

07/13 2
east of Villamanrique de la Condesa

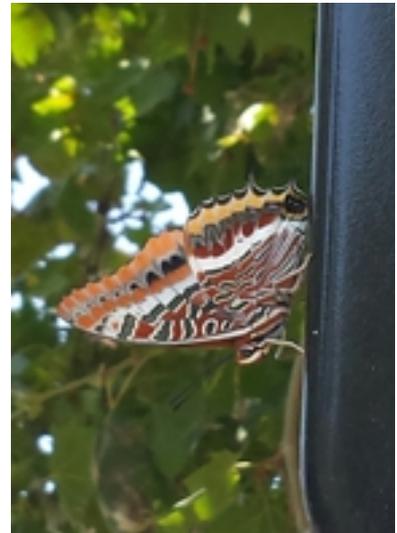


Large Psammodromus	07/08	1	Jimena de la Frontera
European Pond Terrapin	07/09	35+	Jimena de la Frontera/Rio Hozgarganta (bridge)
Horseshoe Whip Snake	07/08	1	Jimena de la Frontera/Rio Hozgarganta (bridge)

... and one **Butterfly**:

Tailed Pasha

07/11	1	Sevilla
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