



## BIRD MIGRATION IN THE STRAIT OF GIBRALTAR

8 – 12 September 2023



Honey buzzard

Our birding holidays will be focused on Tarifa, an excellent area to witness the busiest migration fly-way of Western Europe, with numerous raptors species on the list. This tour includes a Whaleboat trip into the Strait of Gibraltar, where we should get some of the local sea mammals and some seabirds. This exciting tour allows you to see migration at its best. **Important: the wind direction and strength are important during bird migration. Therefore, our itinerary might be changed to maximize the bird sightings.**



## **Flights**

Arrival and departure from Málaga airport.

## **Food**

All included in the price from lunch on day 1 to lunch on day 5. Dinner at the hotel will consist of traditional Spanish meals (starter, main course, and dessert) with local wine. The guide will prepare our picnic lunch.

## **Accommodation**

Nice rural hotel near the main birding areas. En-suite double room in bungalows with garden and swimming pool.



Our hotel

## **Cost**

1200 €/ person. Single supplement 150 €

## **Dates**

September 8-12th 2023



## Itinerary

### Day 1: Málaga airport – Tarifa (2 h 10 min)

After check-in at the hotel, we will spend the rest of the day birding in Sierra de la Plata. Near here, there have been breeding records of White-rumped and Little Swifts, two rare European species. Apart from looking for both species, we will keep an eye on Subalpine Warbler, Blue-Rock Thrush, Black-eared Wheatear, and Red-rumped Swallow, among others. Not far from here, Red-necked Nightjars roost during the migration. The rest of the day will be spent in La Janda, a top birding site where Yellow Wagtails, Spanish Sparrows, Purple Heron, and Squacco Heron are found. Other interesting species which can be found are Black-winged Kite, Bonelli's Eagle, and Spanish Imperial Eagle.



Bald Ibis



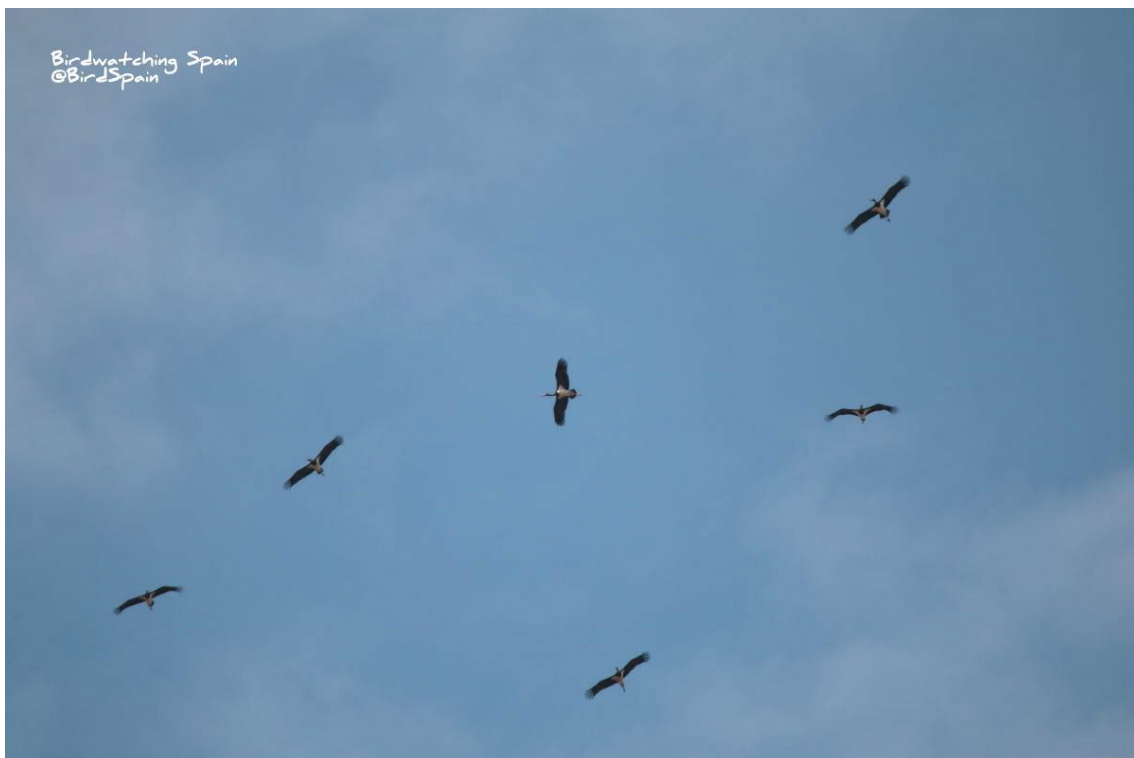
**Day 2: Los Lances Beach – Algeciras watchpoints (We will choose the best viewpoints depending on the weather).**

After breakfast and before the raptors activity kicks off, we will visit Los Lances beach, one of the best places to see gulls, terns, and waders on migration. We should check among the more familiar species of terns for Lesser Crested Tern, which turns yearly. The rest of the day will be spent at different watch points looking for more migrants.

**Day 3: Boat trip - Barbate marshes**

Today we will be enrolled in a boat trip where Pilot whales, Bottlenose dolphins, or even Orcas can be seen with a bit of luck. In addition, there will be good chances for Cory's and Balearic Shearwater, Terns, and Skuas. After lunch, we will drive west to visit Barbate wetland. Osprey, Caspian Tern, and different species of waders and Slender-billed gulls are likely to be found here.

\* The schedule for the boat trip will depend on weather and sea conditions



Black Storks



#### Day 4: Los Alcornocales Natural Park– The Palmones Bay

On our fourth day, we will visit the restricted area in the Cork Oak Forest Natural Park or "Los Alcornocales Natural Park", which holds many passerines and raptors, especially on days with strong winds when many birds take shelter in the forest. Some of the birds we look for are Sardinian Warbler, Bonelli's Warbler, Firecrest, Short-toed Trecreeper, Golden Oriole, and Woodchat Shrike.

The rest of the day will be spent in Palmones Bay where there are good chances of observing Ospreys, Herons, Egrets, and Waders. Later, we will explore the watchpoint around Tarifa. We might get both species of Storks, Booted and Short-toed Eagles, European Honey Buzzard, and maybe Montagu's harrier. Rarer migrants might turn up any time during our stay in this hot spot, so we will look for Rüppell's Vulture and Long-legged Buzzard.



Egyptian vulture



## **Day 5: Tarifa – Málaga**

If flight times allow, we will do some birding before going to Málaga airport. White-headed Duck, Red-knobbed Coot, Whiskered Tern, and Mediterranean Gull are some interesting birds that can be found in this reserve.