



**TROPICAL
BIRDING**



**NORTHERN
SPAIN:
PYRENEES,
STEPPES, AND
DELTEBRE**

A Tropical Birding
Set Departure

April 14-20, 2024
Guide: Ken Behrens

Photos by Ken Behrens

TOUR SUMMARY

This trip can either be a stand-alone trip, or serve as an extension to Tropical Birding's popular Southern Spain Europe Introtour. In terms of giving an overall experience of Spain's huge diversity, this trip is an excellent complement to the southern trip. The towering and snowy Pyrenees Mountains are drastically different, and the eastern steppes around Belchite are also distinct from those of Extremadura. The wetlands of the Ebro Delta do resemble those of southern Spain, but offer better chances at many species, and a highly diverse mix of birds. The trip starts and ends in Barcelona, one of Spain's most culturally rich and beautiful cities.

In the Pyrenees we faced some challenging weather, with gusting frigid winds. Although we didn't manage to locate Wallcreeper, we did have many other great species such as Bearded Vulture (also known as Lammergeier), Black Woodpecker, Iberian Green Woodpecker, Marsh Tit, Goldcrest, Eurasian Treecreeper, and Water Pipit. The windy weather followed us onto the Belchite steppes, but nonetheless, we succeeded in getting several excellent views of the legendarily difficult Dupont's Lark. We also enjoyed some productive birding in the woodlands

along the Ebro River, finding migrants like Common Redstart and European Pied Flycatcher, plus resident Eurasian Penduline-Tits. We enjoyed better weather for the last morning on the steppes and our short time in the Ebro Delta. In the delta, migration was hitting full swing. A few of many highlights included Collared Pratincole, Audouin's, Mediterranean, and Slender-billed Gulls, Little Tern, and scarce migrants Red-throated Pipit and Ortolan Bunting.

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=_xMxc1ksmFE)

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ITINERARY

- April 14** Arrival Barcelona. Drive to Hecho, in the Pyrenees. Night Hecho.
April 15-16 Hecho Valley and surrounding areas. Nights Hecho.
April 17 Morning San Juan de la Peña. Afternoon Belchite steppes. Night Belchite.
April 18 Belchite steppes and Ebro River. Night Belchite.
April 19 Belchite steppes. Drive to Ebro Delta NP. Night Deltebre.
April 20 Morning Ebro Delta NP. Drive to Barcelona.

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/229998) for this trip: <https://ebird.org/tripreport/229998>

NON-BIRD LIST

Pyrenean Chamois	<i>Rupicapra pyrenaica</i>
Roe Deer	<i>Capreolus capreolus</i>
European Rabbit	<i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i>
Eurasian Red Squirrel	<i>Sciurus vulgaris</i>
Pond Slider	<i>Trachemys scripta</i>
Common Wall Lizard	<i>Podarcis muralis</i>