



The Gibraltar Ornithological & Natural History Society

Gibraltar **Bird Report** 2013

Number 13

**GIBRALTAR BIRD REPORT
2013**

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COVER PHOTOGRAPH: Ruddy Turnstone (*John Henwood*)

EDITORIAL

Dr Ernest Garcia

The best of all records

It is said that a bird in the hand is worth two in the bush. No doubt this is a sentiment that wins the unreserved approval of our local Bird Ringers. At least they release their birds unharmed. Time was when 'what's hit's history, what's missed is mystery' was the adage – meaning that no bird record was really believable unless you could produce the shot bird as proof. It is fortunate that this latter approach to fieldwork is no longer acceptable. Instead, we now have a very worthwhile substitute aid to believability – the camera.



Last April my wife Joan and I had the pleasure of taking part in a GONHS excursion. This is something we can very seldom do, since we live in Surrey. I thoroughly commend the experience to members who live locally. The venue was Windmill Hill flats, where we all enjoyed the spring flowers and a scattering of grounded migrant birds. There was also a trickle of overhead migration that included an Osprey, many Marsh Harriers and a flock of Grey Herons. I was impressed to see that the participant members included a number of wildlife photographers, keen ones if the impressiveness of their equipment can be taken as evidence of strong commitment.

The rapid growth in local interest in wildlife photography is a most welcome development. Clearly it has been boosted enormously by the digital revolution, offering not just instant gratification – no waiting for the developed film to 'come back' – but also the opportunity to take abundant pictures at minimal cost. Now anyone can take a picture of a plant, insect or bird, and the new generation cameras are remarkably good at coping with the shortcomings of their operators (I'm talking personally here). However, there will always be ample scope for really talented photographers to excel and many of the pictures reproduced in this Report and its predecessors are ample proof of their expertise.

As Editor I am most grateful of the support given to the Gibraltar Bird Report by our bird photographers, both local and from the hinterland. These pictures are always readily supplied and without charge. Without them the Report would be a drab affair. I would like to encourage all photographer-readers to join our regulars in submitting their best pictures for the Report. After all, if they are good they merit wider viewing. Pictures do not have to be of rare or uncommon birds: a good picture of a common bird is always better than a bad one of a scarcer one. The exception is where a bird is on the rarities committee list, in which case any picture that can

back up the record is highly welcome. Photographs offered for publication in the Report or Nature News can be sent to the Society's email address. They should be accompanied by the date and location of the picture. The photographer will always be acknowledged in the caption of each published picture. My sincere thanks, once more, to our photographer contributors – please keep them coming.



*Male Pallid Harrier at Jews' Gate, showing the diagnostic black primary wedge
(Luke Phillips)*

Acknowledgements

Charles Perez supplied the records databank and the ringing report, in his capacity as the Society's bird recorder. He helped to check the text, together with Keith Bensusan. Once again I thank Katrina Edmonds of the Meteorological Office for supplying the weather data for the year. The local photographers whose work enhances this Report were Matthew Ashman, Aaron Baglietto, Rocio Espada, Andrew Fortuna, John Henwood, Ernest Garcia, Gilbert Gonzalez, Ray Marsh, Luke Phillips, John Sanchez and Shane Shacaluga. The many people who submitted records during the year comprise the List of Contributors on Page 42.

BIRDS IN GIBRALTAR 2013

Compiled by Ernest Garcia

REVIEW OF THE YEAR

This was an average year in terms of species diversity, with 150 species recorded in or from Gibraltar, two fewer than in 2012. None of them were new to the Gibraltar List although the December 2012 Purple Sandpiper that was the first local record remained with the Turnstones on the Europa Point foreshore into early January 2013. The Turnstones themselves have clearly become a regular component of the local avifauna, a flock of six to eight birds overwintering annually on the rocky southern shoreline. This was not always so: the first Turnstone record at Gibraltar was on 3 November 1975 but sightings have only become at all regular over the past decade or so. The extent of suitable Turnstone habitat locally is very limited but the construction of groynes and the rocky margins to reclaimed land may have increased this recently.

The spring raptor counts were exceptional, a combination of prolonged favourable winds at some key points of the season and the availability of dedicated watchers at the Jews' Gate observatory. Record counts were made of Black Kites (19,683), Short-toed Eagles (2,390), Sparrowhawks (1,592) and Booted Eagles (2,640). In contrast, winds were unfavourable in May and the local counts of Honey Buzzards especially were very poor. The spring passage also saw the arrival of no fewer than three Pallid Harriers, a Lesser Spotted Eagle, two Long-legged Buzzards, five Eleonora's Falcons, three Merlins and a Lanner, in addition to the more regular species. Again in contrast, the autumn raptor passage was very poorly monitored and only some incidental counts were made then.

Seabird watching was also unsystematic this year but there was a welcome increase in the rate of reporting of Shags, including three double-figure counts in autumn which are locally exceptional. The possibility of some local immigration from other colonies arises and the birds deserve closer scrutiny, in case some of the Atlantic subspecies are now appearing in the region. The closest known colonies of these are in southwestern Algarve, Portugal. In the other direction, the nearest colonies of Mediterranean Shags to Gibraltar are in southwestern Almería, although only a handful of pairs nest there.

The other recording highlights of 2013 included sightings of no fewer than nine wader species – ten if one regards the Stone-curlew as a wader – including three Avocets and a Black-winged Stilt; a Night Heron, a flock of seven Spoonbills, a Short-eared Owl, two Yellow-browed Warblers, a remarkable spring tally of nine Wood Warblers, a Goldcrest, a Coat Tit and a Bullfinch. As ever, details of these and all other sightings are given in the Systematic List.

Breeding birds experienced very mixed fortunes. The most abundant species; swifts, warblers and House Sparrows, and the ever-present Yellow-legged Gulls,

were much in evidence as usual. Peregrines, Lesser Kestrels and Common Kestrels all nested successfully but there were fewer breeding pairs of all these species than usual. Little Owls nested as usual but there were no records submitted of the local Eagle Owls, although these can be elusive if not deliberately looked-for. Tawny Owls also appeared to be absent from their regular haunts in the South District. Spotted Flycatchers again bred successfully in the Botanic Gardens. Barbary Partridges were recorded in small numbers as usual but this species at least is likely to be much more in evidence in the near future; its numbers are being boosted by an introduction programme in 2014.



Adult Northern Gannet flying past Europa Point (John Sanchez).

WEATHER SUMMARY 2013

Data provided by courtesy of the Meteorological Office, Gibraltar

This was a relatively dry year, the annual rainfall amounting to only 77% of the long-term average. By comparison, both 2012 (98%) and 2011 (91%) were much wetter. In 2013 it was the second half of the year that was exceptionally dry. March was exceptionally wet (178mm; long-term average 74mm) and both February and April saw above average rainfall. October, November and December were all exceptionally dry. November in particular saw only 14.2mm of rain, Compared with a long-term mean of 126mm. The heaviest precipitation was on February 19th (67.6mm), followed by March 4th (35.8mm). There was no significant rainfall between May 20th and September 26th.

The annual mean temperature was 0.3°C above the long-term average. Temperatures exceeded 30°C on just seven days between July 10th and August 24th, the year maximum of 32.2°C occurring on August 6th, so that this was a relatively cool summer. Daily mean temperatures were at their lowest on February 28th (9.4°C) and the lowest air temperature of the year (6.2 °C) was recorded on the same, relatively late, date.

Annual Statistics

Variable	2013	Average 1968–97
Rainfall	594mm	768mm
Mean temperature	18.5 °C	18.2°C
Annual maximum temperature	32.2 °C	-
Annual minimum temperature	6.2 °C	-
Annual sunshine	n/a	2,710 hours
Westerly winds	180	-
Easterly winds	132	-
Variable winds	53	-
Mean wind speed	12.0 knots	12.5 knots
Thunderstorms	9 days	-
Fog	10 days	21 days

Westerly winds again prevailed in 2013, occurring on 49% of days. Easterlies blew on 36% of days and were especially prevalent during June and for much of the second half of the year. Hence unfavourable winds (non-westerlies) for observing passage of soaring birds affected a large part of the southward passage period

especially, and particularly the peak period of August to mid September. Conversely, largely favourable winds in spring undoubtedly facilitated the record counts of many raptor species that season. An easterly gale occurred on November 28th and southwesterly gales blew on January 19th and December 25th. The last of these was the stormiest episode, giving the highest hourly mean speed of the year of 41 knots and the strongest gust recorded during the year, 59 knots.

Wind direction.

Number of days per month with predominantly westerly, easterly or variable winds

Winds have an easterly or westerly component almost invariably. Days when the wind changed are assigned as assessed by the Meteorological Office.

MONTH	Days when wind was predominantly		
	Westerly	Easterly	Variable
January	28	1	2
February	19	3	6
March	23	5	3
April	15	11	4
May	19	6	6
June	13	17	0
July	7	17	7
August	3	24	4
September	10	15	5
October	14	8	9
November	17	10	3
December	12	15	4

SYSTEMATIC LIST 2013

*Records marked * are pending consideration by the Rarities Panel.*

IMPORTANT NOTES.

Status definitions.

Vagrant: Exceptional at any time in southern Iberia (including Gibraltar), e.g. Allen's Gullinule.

Local Vagrant: Exceptional in Gibraltar but not unusual in southern Spain, e.g. Woodpigeon, Moorhen.

Rare: Seldom recorded in Gibraltar or anywhere in southern Spain, e.g. Alpine Chough and Fieldfare.

Occasional: Seen infrequently and not annually e.g. Rufous Bush Chat.

Regular: Annual in small numbers. e.g. Red-necked Nightjar.

Common: Annual and sometimes numerous, e.g. Black Redstart.

Counts of migrant raptors. (See Appendices 1 for daily totals).

Gibraltar only sees a variable fraction of the passage of raptors across the Strait. Most occur during westerly winds, when a higher proportion of the movements occur at the western end of the Strait. Harriers, falcons and the Osprey show only a limited tendency to seek short sea crossings and so their totals are invariably low. A daily watch is kept during the spring migration period but only partial watching is usually possible in autumn.

Seabird observations.

Most records come from seawatching at Europa Point which is carried out frequently but not daily. The numbers and species recorded vary considerably according to season. Wind direction is also a key variable since migrating seabirds tend to coast into headwinds and are then easily visible from shore. Wintering seabirds may spend extended periods at Gibraltar and so the number of sightings or contacts often exceeds the numbers of individuals actually involved.

Names.

We follow the decisions on classification and nomenclature adopted by the British Ornithologists' Union. However, the adjective 'Eurasian' is omitted from English names where no ambiguity results. Spanish names are those favoured by the Sociedad Española de Ornitología.

Barbary Partridge

Perdiz Moruna

*Alectoris barbara**Resident.*

There were occasional reports of small numbers from the Upper Rock, Windmill Hill and the eastern slopes. The highest counts comprised eight at Signal Station Road on March 15th, seven in the same area on August 29th and seven on the Great Sand Slope on November 3rd.

Cory's Shearwater

Pardela Cenicienta

*Calonectris diomedea**Common in summer and on passage. A few remain in winter.*

The only submitted record early in the year was of 100 off Europa Point on February 19th. There was an unusual large westward influx into the Strait, estimated at hundreds per minute, on May 25th: the birds may have been involved in a feeding movement or perhaps displaced by weather conditions, but no obvious explanation is available.

The usual summer observations of feeding groups off Europa Point, thought to involve birds of Atlantic origin, were reported from late May until September. The numbers involved on most occasions were modest, seldom exceeding 30 birds, although there were over 100 present on July 13th and 14th. Larger numbers were seen from the end of September until early November, when many of the birds were clearly migrants leaving the Mediterranean. The larger counts were 250 on September 29th, 200 on October 7th, 300 on October 14th, 300 on October 19th and 700 on October 23rd. The last observation was on November 3rd, when 45 flew west in 15 minutes.

Balearic Shearwater

Pardela Balear

*Puffinus mauretanicus**Common offshore, including regular passage.*

Four were off Europa Point on January 29th and there were four there on February 17th and eight on February 19th. All other records fell between June 7th and October 27th. There were reports on 18 dates during this latter period, totalling only 201 birds, all from or near Europa Point. They included 45 on June 15th and 30 on September 29th.

Northern Gannet

Alcatraz Atlántico

*Morus bassanus**Common offshore, especially in autumn and winter and on passage.*

There were reports throughout the year, all from Europa Point, but the largest count during the winter months was of just 14 on February 17th. Observations of summering birds usually involved two or three individuals but there were 11 on June 7th and 15th and 10 on July 16th. Somewhat larger numbers were seen during months when passage occurs but no systematic counts were made of the movements; the larger counts were of 25 on March 16th, 50 on October 14th, 100 on October 19th, 40 on October 23rd and 45 on October 27th.

Great Cormorant

Cormorán Grande

*Phalacrocorax carbo**Regular in small numbers, mainly winter.*

Small numbers were present around the coastline until mid-March. The Little Bay loafing site attracted up to 12 during January–February. Seven were on the

western end of the airfield runway on February 10th and three were at the Eastside Reclamation on February 12th. Eight were soaring over Catalan Bay on March 23rd, before heading north. Six northbound migrants were seen from Jews Gate on March 24th, followed by 17 there on April 2nd. One was still in the harbour on April 5th.

The first returning birds seen were seven at Europa Point on October 5th. The Little Bay roost attracted up to 13 birds during November and December, with 20 present there on December 16th.

Shag

Cormorán Moñudo

Phalacrocorax aristotelis

Several pairs are resident.

There were the usual observations of ones and twos from Europa Point during the first half of the year. The second half saw some larger counts that suggest some immigration if not population increase. A flock of 14 in V-formation rounded the Point eastwards on July 24th. Notable one-hour counts, all of different individuals since they flew in the same direction, included seven on August 27th, nine on October 6th, ten on October 8th and 11 on October 23rd. One was with Great Cormorants in Little Bay on December 16th.

Night Heron

Martinete Común

Nycticorax nycticorax

Occasional migrant.

A juvenile was on the Europa Point foreshore on July 28th.

Cattle Egret

Garcilla Bueyera

Bubulcus ibis

Occasional migrant and occasional in winter.

A single bird, perhaps the same individual, was at Little Bay on February 3rd and on the East Side reclamation on February 12th and 17th. It or another was seen at the Nuns' Well, Europa Point, on April 22nd. One was at Little Bay on December 18th.



Cattle Egret at Little Bay (Aaron Baglietto)

Little Egret

Garceta Común

*Egretta garzetta**Occasional migrant and occasional in winter.*

Single birds were reported on five dates between January 24th and February 14th at scattered locations around the coastline; Sandy Bay, Little Bay, the harbour and the western end of the runway. One was seen from Jews' Gate on April 29th.

Grey Heron

Garza Real

*Ardea cinerea**Occasional migrant and occasional in winter.*

Northbound migrants were seen on three dates from Jews' Gate: on February 20th (2), March 25th (5) and April 29th (1). There were 13 southbound birds in total, on six dates between July 24th and October 8th.

Black Stork

Cigüeña Negra

*Ciconia nigra**Common migrant.*

There were 298 seen in spring, between February 10th and May 29th. They included 47 on February 23rd, 41 on March 10th and 42 on March 19th. There were no records later in the year.

White Stork

Cigüeña Blanca

*Ciconia ciconia**Common migrant, but most bypass Gibraltar to the west.*

The spring total of 1,304, between January 16th and April 10th, was noteworthy locally. A straggler or wandering bird was over the town on May 19th. Three were over Windmill Hill on September 16th and single birds were over the town on September 18th and Europa Point on September 30th.

Spoonbill

Espátula Común

*Platalea leucorodia**Local vagrant.*

A flock of seven flew north off Camp Bay on October 4th.

Greater Flamingo

Flamenco Común

*Phoenicopterus roseus**Irregular migrant, occurring most years.*

Flocks of various sizes were reported on nine dates between April 4th and May 18th. There were two flocks, of ten and 150 birds, coasting northwards on April 4th, followed by 18 on April 8th and 200 on April 9th, also entering the Mediterranean. There was an unusual report on April 11th of a flock of 70 that was first seen sitting on the sea about a mile southwest of Europa Point; these took off and flew westwards. The other reports comprised flocks of 20 on April 15th, 22 west on April 21st, 150 on April 30th and 18 east on May 18th.



Greater Flamingos after take-off from the sea near Europa Point (Rocio Espada)

Honey Buzzard

Abejero Europeo

*Pernis apivorus**Common migrant.*

The spring passage was exceptionally poor. The first observations, of 723 birds on April 26th, made for a promising start but the principal passage period in early May was poorly covered locally. The seasonal total was just 3,835 birds and the largest day count was 1,350 on May 10th. The last reported was a single bird on June 8th.

The autumn passage was not monitored at all and there were only a few incidental reports, totalling a locally trivial 53 birds, between August 20th and October 6th.

Black Kite

Milano Negro

*Milvus migrans**Common migrant.*

The spring passage was exceptional and set a new record of 19,683 birds. The first reports were of single birds on January 28th and February 2nd. Passage accelerated from mid-February onwards. Notable day-counts were 1096 on February 23rd, 3556 on February 28th, 1570 on March 10th, 4149 on March 19th and 1064 on March 20th. The movement continued through April and May, the last arrivals being seen on June 6th.

There were no systematic autumn counts of raptor movements. Nevertheless, 4,240 southbound Black Kites were reported between July 15th and October 5th, including 2,115 on August 7th, 1,052 on August 8th and 837 on August 21st.

Red Kite

Milano Real

*Milvus milvus**Annual but very scarce migrant.*

Only one was seen: over the Upper Rock on August 7th.

Egyptian Vulture

Alimoche Común

*Neophron percnopterus**Regular migrant.*

Spring migrants totalled 75, between February 20th and May 16th, including 14 on March 10th. In autumn there were reports on just five dates: these totalled 33 birds, including 24 on September 5th.

Griffon Vulture

Buitre Leonado

*Gyps fulvus**Common migrant.*

The spring passage was unexceptional, largely because the latter part of the season, when this species is most numerous, was poorly monitored. In all 351 birds were counted. One on February 9th and two on February 10th were early sightings.

The remainder arrived between March 8th and June 19th, principally after mid-May. As usual, a number of tired birds crash-landed in the sea and others landed in Gibraltar, all having suffered intense mobbing by Yellow-legged Gulls. No fewer than five were rescued from the sea by various vessels on May 28th. Rescued birds were rehabilitated before wing-tagging and release.



Rescued Griffon Vultures awaiting release (Gilbert Gonzalez)

Very few reports of autumn migrants were received but there was a flock of 735 over Gibraltar on October 29th, a typical passage date, none of which are thought to have crossed the Strait locally. A juvenile that was picked up on the Catalan Bay foreshore on November 9th was released on December 20th: it was reported from Ceuta, 20 km due south on the southern side of the Strait, on December 30th.



Wing-tagged juvenile Griffon Vulture KM is released after rehabilitation by the Society's raptor unit (Aaron Baglietto)

Short-toed Eagle

Culebrera Europea

*Circaetus gallicus**Common migrant. Occasional in summer and has wintered.*

The spring count totalled 2,390 birds, a new record and greatly exceeding the 1,550 recorded in 2009. The first bird seen was on February 20th. As usual, the passage peaked in March, when the bulk of the breeding population arrives. There was a marked concentration between March 8th and March 13th, when 1,724 birds were counted, including 602 on the first of these dates. Prior to the year 2000 the March 8th total alone would have been regarded as an impressive total for an entire season: an observation that supports the reported recent population increases in Iberia and France. Passage continued on a modest scale throughout April and May, the last bird arriving on June 18th.

Small numbers appeared over the Rock on several dates in autumn. They totalled just 83, between August 13th and November 5th.

Marsh Harrier

Aguilucho Lagunero

*Circus aeruginosus**Common migrant.*

Spring migrants totalled 223, between February 20th and May 19th, the highest day count being 28 on March 20th. Eight were reported in autumn between September 7th and October 5th.

Hen Harrier

Aguilucho Pálido

*Circus cyaneus**Regular but scarce migrant.*

The spring total, of 17 between February 28th and April 26th, was exceptional.

Pallid Harrier*

Aguilucho Papialbo

*Circus macrourus**Vagrant.*

Three were seen and photographed on northward passage at Jews' Gate in spring in April. They comprised an adult male on April 5th, a female on April 6th and another female on April 26th. Fifth to seventh records. All were seen by Steven Norman. Luke Phillips, Ashley Watts and Steve Hales also saw the first two individuals.



Female Pallid Harrier at Jews' Gate. The dark cheek patch and pale collar, and the dark secondaries, are distinctive. The orange tones below suggest that this is a first-summer bird (Luke Phillips)

Montagu's Harrier

Aguilucho Cenizo

*Circus pygargus**Common migrant.*

There were 79 seen in spring, between March 18th and April 28th, an average count of a species that is never numerous locally. They included 18 on April 9th. One was seen from Europa Point on September 16th.

Goshawk

Azor Común

*Accipiter gentilis**Occasional, migrant.*

A juvenile was chasing Yellow-legged Gulls around the cliffs of Windmill Hill on August 20th.

Sparrowhawk

Gavilán Común

*Accipiter nisus**Common migrant.*

The spring total of 1,592 birds was quite exceptional and eclipsed the previous record count of 1,094 birds in 2009. There was an early bird on February 5th but the remainder passed between February 20th and May 19th. There were 100+ counts on five days, including 302 on March 29th.

In autumn there were reports of 138 individuals between September 5th and October 28th. One was seen from the Botanic Gardens on December 18th and one was hunting at Middle Hill on December 22nd.

Common Buzzard

Busardo Ratonero

*Buteo buteo**Regular but scarce migrant, formerly common. Occasional in winter.*

Spring birds totalled 15, between February 20th and April 30th. One was over the Rock on November 2nd.

Long-legged Buzzard*

Busardo Moro

*Buteo rufinus**Vagrant. Has wintered.*

One was sitting on railings near Jews' Gate on January 6th. Another was seen there on February 20th.

Lesser Spotted Eagle*

Águila Pomerana

*Aquila pomarina**Vagrant.*

An adult flew north past Jews' Gate on April 8th. Sixth record (Steven Norman and others).



Lesser Spotted Eagle at Jews' Gate. Note the distinctive double carpal crescent that is characteristic of this species (Luke Phillips)

Booted Eagle

Aguililla Calzada

*Aquila pennata**Common migrant. Occasional in winter.*

The spring total of 2,640 birds was a new record and far in excess of the previous highest count, of 1,572 in 2008. As usual, arrivals were protracted and occurred between March 8th and June 19th. The highest day-counts were in late March and comprised 280 on March 25th, 266 on March 26th and 713 on March 29th.

Some numbers appeared over Gibraltar on numerous dates in autumn, typically during levanter weather when most birds fail to cross the Strait. They totalled 1,879 between July 22nd and November 2nd, including 200 on August 21st, 349 on September 5th and 200 on September 24th. A juvenile was an unexpected catch for the mist-netters at Jews' Gate on September 23rd. One was over the city on December 17th.

Osprey

Águila Pescadora

*Pandion haliaetus**Regular migrant and occasional in winter. Bred formerly.*

Spring birds totalled 65, between March 17th and April 30th. They included ten on March 18th. Single birds were seen on September 11th and 27th.

Lesser Kestrel

Cernícalo Primilla

*Falco naumanni**Scarce breeding species and regular but scarce on passage. Occasional in winter.*

Only five pairs nested at the North Face colony, a sharp decline from the 13 pairs that bred in 2012. They fledged a total of 17 young. The ongoing decline of the colony may be at least partly due to the usurpation of nest sites by the increasing colony of feral-origin Rock Doves on the North Face.

There were 51 apparent spring migrants reported, between February 23rd and April 9th. One was over the Rock on September 26th.

Common Kestrel

Cernícalo Vulgar

*Falco tinnunculus**Resident. Common migrant.*

Only five occupied nests were found, compared with eight in 2012. All were successful, fledging a total of 17 young.

There were 118 apparent spring migrants reported, between February 23rd and April 30th. Much later, five arrived flying north at Europa Point on July 28th and three flew north there on August 3rd, all perhaps post-breeding dispersers from Morocco.

Merlin

Esmerejón

*Falco columbarius**Occasional migrant.*

Single birds flew north at Jews' Gate on March 19th, 24th and 26th.

Hobby

Alcotán Europeo

*Falco subbuteo**Regular but scarce migrant in spring, scarcer in autumn.*

There were 34 seen in spring, between April 2nd and May 11th.

Eleonora's Falcon

Halcón de Eleonora

*Falco eleonorae**Regular but scarce, mainly in late summer.*

There were four early observations of single birds between March 18th and March 25th, some or all of which may have involved the same individual. One was seen on May 16th. All the observations were from Jews' Gate.



Light morph Eleonora's Falcon (Shane Shacaluga)

Lanner Falcon*

Halcón Borní

*Falco biarmicus**Rare migrant.*

A female was over Windmill Hill on May 8th.

Peregrine Falcon

Halcón Peregrino

*Falco peregrinus**Resident. Some migrants may occur.*

Four pairs raised a total of 13 young. Two other pairs nested but were unsuccessful.

A number of apparent migrants were reported in spring but these are always difficult to distinguish from resident birds. However, a large, pale Peregrine, with a relatively narrow moustachial stripe, that was sitting on a wall at Europa Point on February 3rd, seems likely to have been of one of the northern migrant races, perhaps *F. p. calidus*.

Oystercatcher

Ostrero Euroasiático

*Haematopus ostralegus**Occasional migrant.*

Three flew west at Europa Point on August 6th.

Black-winged Stilt

Cigüeñuela Común

*Himantopus himantopus**Local vagrant, migrant.*One was seen at Camp Bay on May 29th.*Black-winged Stilt at Camp Bay (Gilbert Gonzalez)***Avocet**

Avoceta Común

*Recurvirostra avosetta**Occasional, migrant.*Three were seen from Europa Point on May 29th.**Stone-curlew**

Alcaraván Común

*Burhinus oediconemus**Occasional migrant.*One was on Windmill Hill on September 11th.**Sanderling***

Correlimos Tridáctilo

*Calidris alba**Occasional, winter.*

There were four records, all of birds seen on Western Beach. They involved three birds on January 30th, four on February 10th and a single bird on November 14th and 16th.



Sanderling at Western Beach (John Sanchez)

Purple Sandpiper*

Correlimos Oscuro

Calidris maritima

Vagrant.

The bird that was accompanying Turnstones on the Europa Point foreshore on December 30th 2012, the first Gibraltar record (GBR 12: 8), was last seen there on January 12th.

Whimbrel

Zarapito Trinador

Numenius phaeopus

Regular migrant. Occasional in winter.

One was on the Europa Point foreshore on October 6th.

Common Redshank

Archibebe Común

Tringa totanus

Occasional migrant.

One was seen from Europa Point on October 27th.

Common Sandpiper

Andarrios Común

Actitis hypoleucos

Regular migrant. Occasional in winter.

One was at Western Beach on January 31st. A flock of ten flew south at Rosia Bay

on July 23rd and one was at Europa Point on July 24th. One was in Sandy Bay on November 16th.

Turnstone

Vuelvepiedras Común

Arenaria interpres

Regular, mainly in winter.

A small flock of up to six birds frequented the Europa Point foreshore in January and up to mid February. There were eight present on January 29th. Three birds were at Europa Point on March 21st. Elsewhere, one was on Little Bay beach on February 8th.

The first returning birds seen on the Foreshore were three on September 12th and up to six were again present there from October until the end of the year.

Pomarine Skua

Págalo Pomarino

Stercorarius pomarinus

Occasional migrant.

Single birds were off Europa Point on June 15th and July 16th.

Arctic Skua

Págalo Parásito

Stercorarius parasiticus

Present all year.

One was seen well offshore on October 20th.

Great Skua

Págalo Grande

Stercorarius skua

Present all year. Common on passage.

Observations at Europa Point on four dates at Europa Point between February 11th and March 16th involved 11 birds. A further ten were reported between October 3rd and October 27th.

Black-headed Gull

Gaviota Reidora

Chroicocephalus ridibundus

Common migrant and common in winter.

Much larger numbers than have been present in recent years were noted at both ends of 2013, largely at Europa Point. There were gatherings there of 220 on January 1st, 210 on January 27th, 550 on February 11th and 150 on February 17th. Flocks of up to 40 were reported on various other dates up to March 16th.

The first returning birds were two adults and a juvenile on July 3rd. Numbers remained sparse for most of the rest of the year, counts totalling 20 birds in July, two in August, six in September, 118 in October and 146 in November, although no systematic monitoring took place. A count of 114 at Europa Point on Dec 13th was noteworthy.

Mediterranean Gull

Gaviota Cabecinegra

Larus melanocephalus

Common migrant and common in winter.

Single birds were at Europa Point on January 1st and 27th, February 17th and March 16th. There were 26 there on February 19th: 17 first-year birds, seven second-years and two adults. Four were present on February 24th. A total of 14 flew south off Catalan Bay in an hour on March 21st.

Small numbers were seen on westward passage at Europa Point on 12 dates between June 14th and August 26th. They totalled 45, most of them adults but including four juveniles on July 16th and two juveniles on August 3rd. There were subsequent observations of single birds on four dates between September 27th and October 19th.



Juvenile Mediterranean Gull moulting into first-winter plumage. Aveiro, Portugal, September (Ernest Garcia)

Audouin's Gull

Gaviota de Audouin

Larus audouinii

Common on passage. Some remain in winter.

Only two single birds were reported in spring, on February 19th and April 13th.

There were frequent reports from Europa Point during the postbreeding passage period but no systematic counts were made. The observations totalled 12 birds in June, 342 in July, 267 in August, 12 in September and 20 in October. The latest report was on October 23rd. All records came from Europa Point with the exception of a flock of ten seen on the Eastside Reclamation on August 17th.

Lesser Black-backed Gull

Gaviota Sombría

Larus fuscus

Regular on passage and in winter. Formerly common.

Only a few individuals were reported. There were six in total on three dates between January 1st and March 16th, and ten on six dates between September 6th and October 26th.

Yellow-legged Gull

Gaviota Patiamarilla

*Larus michahellis**Common resident.***Kittiwake**

Gaviota Tridáctila

*Rissa tridactyla**Regular but scarce in winter.*The sole record was of an adult at Europa Point on February 19th.**Black Tern**

Fumarel Común

*Chlidonias niger**Common migrant in some years.*One was at Europa Point on May 11th.**Sandwich Tern**

Charrán Patinegro

*Sterna sandvicensis**Common migrant and common in winter.*

A few wintering individuals were present during the first quarter of the year and the last spring records were of six in Camp Bay on April 7th and one at Europa Point on the same day.

Returning birds were first reported on September 11th. There were no notable counts of passage, the largest number reported being 28 off Europa Point on October 5th. Four wintering birds were in Little Bay on December 16th and 18th.

Common Tern

Charrán Común

*Sterna hirundo**Common migrant.*Two were seen from Europa Point on September 30th and there were 12 there on October 3rd.**Razorbill**

Alca Común

*Alca torda**Common migrant and common in winter.*Ten were at Europa Point on February 19th.**Rock Dove**

Paloma Bravía

*Columba livia**Wild birds occasional. Feral population established.*The winter bird count on January 19th found 179. They included 32 in the city and 31 at Europort but there were also 98 in 'ancestral' habitat on the East Side.**Collared Dove**

Tórtola Turca

*Streptopelia decaocto**Resident since 1991.*

The winter bird count on January 19th found 47 individuals, chiefly in town gardens, the Botanic Gardens and the South District, although five were at Four Corners and five in total were seen between Camp Bay and Europa Point.

Turtle Dove

Tórtola Europea

*Streptopelia turtur**Regular but scarce migrant.*

Single birds were ringed at Jews' Gate on April 15th, 22nd and 23rd. One was in the Botanic Gardens on May 21st. Four individuals were reported between September 5th and September 25th, three on the Upper Rock and one at Windmill Hill.

Great Spotted Cuckoo

Críalo Europeo

*Clamator glandarius**Occasional migrant.*

Single birds were in the Botanic Gardens on February 12th and at Sandy Bay on April 17th.

Scops Owl

Autillo Europeo

*Otus scops**Common migrant. Has bred.*

Single birds were ringed at Jews' Gate on April 8th and 23rd. A further nine were ringed between October 3rd and 29th, all of them at Jews' Gate.

*Scops Owl (Luke Phillips)***Eagle Owl**

Búho Reál

*Bubo bubo**Recently re-established resident.*

No observations were submitted.

Little Owl

Mochuelo Común

*Athene noctua**Scarce resident.*

Young birds were recorded at five sites, where a total of 17 young are known to have fledged.

Tawny Owl

Cárabo Europeo

*Strix aluco**Occasional. May breed.*

One was at Bruce's Farm on September 26th. However, there were no records during the year from the South District, including the garden of The Mount and Jews' Gate, an area that has been the principal haunt of the species since it was first recorded regularly in Gibraltar in the 1990s.

Short-eared Owl

Búho Campestre

*Asio flammeus**Local vagrant.*

One was flushed from Windmill Hill on April 26th.

European Nightjar

Chotacabras Gris

*Caprimulgus europaeus**Regular migrant.*

One was ringed at Jews' Gate on April 30th. One was at Governor's Lookout on September 26th. An exceptional 19 were ringed on the Upper Rock between October 6th and October 27th.

Red-necked Nightjar

Chotacabras Pardo

*Caprimulgus ruficollis**Regular migrant.*

The only spring records were of three ringed at Jews' Gate on April 17th, 21st and 23rd. One was at Bruce's Farm on September 23rd and two were at Governor's Lookout on September 25th and again on the following day. Five more were ringed between October 4th and October 9th, three of them at Middle Hill.

Common Swift

Vencejo Común

*Apus apus**Common migrant and summer resident.*

Large numbers were seen on passage from Jews' Gate on several dates in late April, especially on April 28th when thousands passed. Hundreds of southbound migrants were over the Rock on July 29th.

Pallid Swift

Vencejo Pálido

*Apus pallidus**Common migrant and summer resident.*

One at Watergardens on February 17th was the earliest recorded. There were 150 over the Westside area on March 21st. Some 40 nests in roof space on Gib V, a modern apartment block at Westside, were occupied on August 14th: three contained second clutches of 1–2 eggs and the others each held 1–2 second brood young.

Alpine Swift

Vencejo Real

*Apus melba**Regular but scarce migrant. Scarce summer resident.*

A total of 69 were seen from Jews' Gate on six dates between March 13th and April 29th. They included a flock of 40 on March 13th.

Common Kingfisher

Martín Pescador

*Alcedo atthis**Regular but scarce on passage and in winter.*

One was in the harbour at the Old Mole on February 17th.

European Bee-eater

Abejaruco Común

*Merops apiaster**Common migrant.*

Spring migrants were seen or heard almost daily from Jews' Gate between March 22nd and April 15th. Those counted totalled 1,238 birds, including 450 on April 9th. There were just six reports of southbound migrants seen or heard, between August 26th and September 21st. They included 22 on the latter date.

Hoopoe

Abubilla

*Upupa epops**Common migrant.*

Some 52 birds were reported, chiefly from the Upper Rock, Windmill Hill and the Botanic Gardens, between February 16th and April 5th. The largest day count was eight on March 16th. Seven were ringed between February 16th and March 18th.

A further 26 were seen between July 7th and October 10th and single birds were ringed on October 7th and 9th.

Wryneck

Torcecuello

*Jynx torquilla**Regular but scarce migrant. Occasional in winter.*

One caught at Jews' Gate on February 25th had originally been ringed there on September 28th 2011 and retrapped on March 19th 2012: it was again retrapped on September 15th 2013. Another bird was ringed on September 14th.

Short-toed Lark

Terrera Común

*Calandrella brachydactyla**Regular but scarce migrant.*

One was seen from Jews' Gate on March 24th.

Sky Lark

Alondra Común

*Alauda arvensis**Regular but scarce migrant. Occasional in winter.*

One was on Windmill Hill on October 15th and 18th and there were three there on October 27th. Three arrived from seawards at the Europa Point foreshore on October 28th.

Sand Martin

Avión Zapador

*Riparia riparia**Regular but scarce migrant.*

A total of 34 migrants were seen flying north at Jews' Gate on six dates between March 3rd and April 9th. The 23 that passed on the first of these dates comprise a noteworthy count given the remarkable scarcity of this species locally.

Crag Martin

Avión Roquero

*Ptyonoprogne rupestris**Common migrant and winter resident. Has bred.*

Birds seen during the winter bird count on January 19th totalled 133. Wintering birds were last seen on April 3rd. The largest early year count was of 120 at Jews' Gate on March 17th. Returning birds were first seen on October 7th, when there were seven over the Vineyards, but no groups larger than 20 birds were reported during the second winter period.

Barn Swallow

Golondrina Común

*Hirundo rustica**Common migrant. Former summer resident.*

Spring passage was apparent on numerous dates from February 2nd to April 28th. Birds counted from Jews' Gate during this period totalled 849, including 102 on March 14th and 108 on April 5th.

A juvenile was at Europa Point on June 7th and three juveniles flew south there on June 21st. Only a few autumn records were received and these included 34 around Jews' Gate on September 22nd and 30 over the Upper Rock on September 29th. The last report was of one on October 26th.

House Martin

Avión Común

*Delichon urbicum**Common migrant. Scarce summer resident.*

Northbound migrants were seen on numerous dates between January 19th and April 20th, in small numbers. Birds counted at Jews' Gate totalled 974 during this period, including 157 on February 11th and 161 on March 1st.

The few submitted records from the second half of the year comprised 15 over the Upper Rock on September 29th and 12 at Europa Point on October 20th.

Red-rumped Swallow

Golondrina Dáurica

*Cecropis daurica**Common migrant. Has bred.*

Some migrants were reported from Jews' Gate on 23 dates between February 14th and April 29th. Birds counted totalled 118. Two were seen from Jews' Gate on September 24th, four were at Europa Point on September 30th and three were over Middle Hill on October 10th.

Tawny Pipit

Bisbita Campestre

*Anthus campestris**Common migrant.*

Single birds were seen from Jews' Gate on April 3rd and September 9th. One was on Windmill Hill on October 5th and one was on the foreshore on October 6th. One was ringed at Middle Hill on October 7th.

Tree Pipit

Bisbita Arbóreo

*Anthus trivialis**Common migrant.*

Single birds were reported from Jews' Gate on four dates between March 16th and April 6th and four were ringed there between April 8th and 30th. Two more were ringed in autumn at Jews' Gate, on September 24th and October 8th.

Meadow Pipit

Bisbita Pratense

*Anthus pratensis**Common migrant and common in winter.*

The winter bird count on January 19th found 14 birds, ten of them around Europa Point and the foreshore there and four on Windmill Hill. Ten were on Windmill Hill on February 18th. Visible migration was seen from Jews' Gate on 21 dates between February 20th and April 9th; birds counted totalled 261, including 99 on April 1st.

Returning birds were noted from October 8th. The largest count was of 65 at Windmill Hill on October 27th and audible passage was evident especially during October 24th to 28th. Three were on Windmill Hill on December 13th.

Yellow Wagtail

Lavandera Boyera

Motacilla flava

Regular but scarce migrant.

Two were at Lathbury Barracks on February 22nd. A further 17 were seen from Jews' Gate between March 25th and April 8th. In autumn 18 were seen and others heard between September 11th and October 6th.

Grey Wagtail

Lavandera Cascadeña

Motacilla cinerea

Regular but scarce; migrant and in winter. Has bred.

Four unseasonal sightings of single birds in the South District between June 14th and July 23rd call to mind the exceptional successful nesting in that area in 2006 (GBR 6: 31–32). Later in the year there was one in the Botanic Gardens on September 17th. Two at the Europa Point foreshore on October 6th and one was in that area on October 23rd. Two were at Little Bay on December 18th. Single birds were ringed at Jews' Gate on September 20th and October 17th.

White Wagtail

Lavandera Blanca

Motacilla alba

Regular but scarce migrant. Regular in winter. Has bred.

The winter bird count on January 19th found nine birds, four of them around Four Corners. Single birds were at Europa Point on February 19th, Jews' Gate on March 13th and Windmill Hill on March 16th. One was at the Air Terminal on July 12th. In autumn 16 birds were seen in total between October 11th and November 14th, including six at the Western Beach car park on the latter date.

Wren

Chochín

Troglodytes troglodytes

Common resident.

The winter bird count on January 19th found 119 birds. They were widely distributed and included five in the Botanic Gardens and 14 in other South District gardens but there were none seen on the East Side. Birds ringed totalled 17, only one of which was during the first half of the year.

Hedge Accentor

Acentor Común

Prunella modularis

Occasional migrant and in winter.

One was ringed at Jews' Gate on March 13th.

Robin

Petirrojo Europeo

Erithacus rubecula

Common migrant and winter resident. Has bred.

The winter bird count on January 19th found 112 widely distributed birds, although none were seen on the East Side. There were 220 ringed in spring. The last of these was on April 18th with the exception of a bird that was caught at Jews' Gate on May 1st. One in the Botanic Gardens on August 21st, another caught at Jews' Gate on August 28th and single birds also at Jews' Gate on September 11th and 14th were also unseasonal but there was no evidence of breeding this year.

Returning migrants began to arrive in numbers in late September: 396 were ringed between September 26th and the end of the year, with the usual passage peak seen in October.

Nightingale

Ruiseñor Común

Luscinia megarhynchos

Common migrant. Has bred.

In spring 37 were ringed at Jews' Gate, between March 22nd and April 24th. One was in a Ficus tree at the Air Terminal on March 24th and two were on Windmill Hill on April 12th but no other sight records were received.

One was singing at Jews' Gate, where nesting has occurred occasionally, on August 12th. A further 17 were ringed on the Upper Rock between August 3rd and October 6th.

Black Redstart

Colirrojo Tizón

Phoenicurus ochruros

Common migrant and common in winter.

The winter bird count on January 19th found 71 birds. There were 12 on Windmill Hill on March 17th. Relatively few were ringed during the year: 105 in spring, the last on March 21st, and only 65 in autumn, the first on October 11th. The largest numbers seen on Windmill Hill in autumn were 30 on October 27th and 25 on November 3rd.

Common Redstart

Colirrojo Real

Phoenicurus phoenicurus

Common migrant.

The first observation was of a male seen drinking at the Jews' Gate pond on March 16th. There were 26 ringed in spring, between March 17th and May 2nd.

One was in the Botanic Gardens on April 9th.

Some 20 individuals were seen in autumn, most of them on Windmill Hill, where there were seven on October 5th. A further 55 individuals were ringed on the Upper Rock, between August 11th and October 27th.

Whinchat

Tarabilla Norteña

Saxicola rubetra

Common migrant.

Only one was recorded in spring, an individual that was trapped at Jews' Gate on April 21st. In autumn on Windmill Hill there were five on September 11th, three on October 2nd and 12 on October 5th. One was at Europa Point on October 5th.

Stonechat

Tarabilla Común

Saxicola torquatus

Common migrant and common in winter.

The winter bird count on January 19th found eight birds, four of them on Windmill Hill. Two were on the Europa Point foreshore on January 7th and two were on Windmill Hill on February 18th. Single birds were ringed at Jews' Gate on February 15th and 16th. Numbers on Windmill Hill peaked at 14 on March 17th but there were no records submitted after this date.

The first autumn records were on October 6th, when there was one at Europa Point and five on the foreshore there. On Windmill Hill there were 15 on October 15th and

12 on October 18th. Five remained on Windmill Hill on December 13th. Four were ringed between October 8th and 19th.

Northern Wheatear

Collalba Gris

Oenanthe oenanthe

Common migrant.

Only seven were reported in spring, between March 17th and April 26th. Eight were on Windmill Hill on September 11th and a further 10 individuals in total were reported from there or Europa Point up to October 2nd. There was a significant fall on October 5th, when there were 50+ on Windmill Hill and four at Europa Point. A further six individuals were reported between October 6th and 15th. One that was ringed on Middle Hill on October 10th was retrapped there four days later.



Northern Wheatear (Andrew Fortuna)

Blue Rock Thrush

Roquero Solitario

Monticola solitarius

Scarce resident.

Individuals were reported from the usual locations. The winter bird count on January 19th found ten birds. A count of five at the Europa Foreshore on October 18th coincided with three on Windmill Hill the same day.

Ring Ouzel

Mirlo Capiblanco

Turdus torquatus

Occasional migrant.

One was seen near the summit cable-car station on October 24th.

Blackbird

Mirlo Común

*Turdus merula**Common resident.*

The winter bird count on January 19th found 139 birds, including 33 in South District gardens and 15 in the Botanic Gardens. A recently fledged juvenile was in the Botanic Gardens on April 3rd. Birds ringed totalled 138.

Song Thrush

Zorzal Común

*Turdus philomelos**Common migrant and winter resident.*

The winter bird count on January 19th found ten birds, nine on the Upper Rock and one on Windmill Hill. Two were at Governor's Lookout on January 17th and one was on Windmill Hill on March 16th and 17th. The ringers at Jews' Gate caught 23 between February 7th and March 2nd.

There were frequent observations in autumn, from October 7th onwards. They included 86 birds ringed between October 7th and November 6th. Some 20 birds were on Windmill Hill on October 27th and there were 20 on Middle Hill on October 28th. Three were on Windmill Hill on December 13th.

Mistle Thrush

Zorzal Charlo

*Turdus viscivorus**Local vagrant.*

One was at Windmill Hill on October 5th.

Zitting Cisticola

Buitrón

*Cisticola juncidis**Common migrant and common in winter. Some breed.*

The winter bird count on January 19th found six, three on Windmill Hill and three on the Great Sand Slopes. No reports of nesting were received. Three were on Windmill Hill on February 18th and there were three there on March 16th and 17th. One was near the Air Terminal on June 16th. A further 20 in total were reported on eight dates between September 8th and October 27th, chiefly on Windmill Hill.

Grasshopper Warbler

Buscarla Pintoja

*Locustella naevia**Occasional migrant.*

Four individuals were ringed, on April 28th, October 2nd and October 7th (two birds).

Reed Warbler

Carricero Común

*Acrocephalus scirpaceus**Common migrant.*

All records were of individuals trapped by ringers in the dense scrub of the Upper Rock. All but one were caught at Jews' Gate, the exception being trapped at Middle Hill in October. There were three in spring, between April 20th and 22nd, and 20 in autumn, between August 11th and October 15th.

Melodious Warbler

Zarcero Común

*Hippolais polyglotta**Common migrant.*

Eleven were ringed at Jews' Gate between April 9th and April 23rd. One was in the Botanic Gardens on May 21st. A further 17 were ringed on the Upper Rock between August 1st and September 13th.

Blackcap

Curruca Capirotada

*Sylvia atricapilla**Common resident and also a common migrant and wintering species.*

The winter bird count on January 19th found 206 birds, only one of which was on the East Side. In total, 1,838 were ringed during the year, 1,443 of them in autumn.

Garden Warbler

Curruca Mosquitera

*Sylvia borin**Common migrant.*

Records were of birds caught by ringers. There were 37 in spring, between April 7th and May 2nd, and 104 in autumn, between August 25th and October 30th.

Orphean Warbler

Curruca Mirlona

*Sylvia hortensis**Common migrant.*

All those recorded were birds trapped by ringers. There were 12 in spring, between April 1st and May 2nd, and 19 in autumn, between August 25th and October 11th.

Common Whitethroat

Curruca Zarcera

*Sylvia communis**Common migrant.*

All those recorded were birds trapped by ringers. There were 26 in spring, between April 1st and May 1st, and 24 in autumn, between August 20th and October 7th.

Dartford Warbler

Curruca Rabilarga

*Sylvia undata**Regular migrant. Occasional in winter. Has bred.*

Five were seen on Windmill Hill between February 18th and March 17th. Single birds were ringed on February 17th and 21st, and on October 9th and 12th.

Subalpine Warbler

Curruca Carrasqueña

*Sylvia cantillans**Common migrant.*

The earliest bird was one ringed at Jews' Gate on March 8th, a late first date for a species that often appears during the first half of February. A further 21 were ringed up to April 22nd. The few sight records totalled some 12 birds and included two on Windmill Hill on March 16th and 17th.

One was on Windmill Hill on October 5th. Eight were ringed between September 8th and October 6th.

Sardinian Warbler

Curruca Cabecinegra

*Sylvia melanocephala**Common resident.*

The winter bird count on January 19th found 223 birds. Birds ringed totalled 288.

Yellow-browed Warbler*

Mosquitero Bilistado

*Phylloscopus inornatus**Vagrant.*

Single birds were ringed at Jews' Gate on October 19th and 20th. Fourth and fifth records (Ray Marsh, Ian Lees, Adam Webster & Christine White).



Yellow-browed Warbler (Ray Marsh)

Western Bonelli's Warbler Mosquitero Papialbo *Phylloscopus bonelli*
Common migrant.

Birds ringed in spring totalled 54 between March 17th and May 1st. There were very few sight records and most of these were from Jews' Gate. They included one in the Botanic Gardens on April 11th. Just nine were ringed in autumn, between August 3rd and October 10th.

Wood Warbler Mosquitero Silbador *Phylloscopus sibilatrix*
Occasional migrant.

Nine were ringed in spring, an exceptional total. They were caught between April 17th and 30th and included three on April 19th.

Common Chiffchaff Mosquitero Común *Phylloscopus collybita*
Common migrant and common in winter.

The winter bird count on January 19th found 88 birds. Small numbers were reported in spring, the largest concentration being eight at the Europa Point foreshore on March 16th. Birds ringed in spring totalled 73, the last of these on April 23rd.

A further 144 were ringed between September 25th and the end of the year. Up to eight were on Windmill Hill from mid October onwards.

Iberian Chiffchaff

Mosquitero Ibérico

*Phylloscopus ibericus**Regular migrant.*

There were scattered records in spring, between February 15th and April 18th, some of them of birds heard. Thirteen were ringed during this period.

Birds were much more evident in autumn, when there were frequent records from the Upper Rock; especially at Middle Hill, as well as observations from the Botanic Gardens and Windmill Hill. Records fell between August 8th and October 17th and included 58 birds trapped by ringers. The largest site count was of eight at Governor's Lookout on September 24th.

Willow Warbler

Mosquitero Musical

*Phylloscopus trochilus**Common migrant.*

Most of those reported were birds caught by ringers. There were 197 ringed in spring, between March 16th and May 2nd, and 60 in autumn, between August 20th and October 16th. Sight records included six on Windmill Hill on March 17th and single birds there on April 12th and 26th. In autumn there were single birds at Governor's Lookout on September 24th and 25th, two on Windmill Hill on October 2nd and one on Windmill Hill on October 6th.

Goldcrest*

Reyezuelo Sencillo

*Regulus regulus**Rare migrant.*

A first-year male was ringed at Jews' Gate on March 2nd. Ninth record (Stephen Norman).

Firecrest

Reyezuelo Listado

*Regulus ignicapilla**Regular but scarce migrant. Regular in winter.*

One was at Governor's Lookout on January 17th. The winter bird count on January 19th found four birds, three on the Upper Rock and one in a South District garden.

Spotted Flycatcher

Papamoscas Gris

*Muscicapa striata**Common migrant. Breeds in the Botanic Gardens.*

A pair nested in the Botanic Gardens for the fifth consecutive year. The first bird was seen there on May 6th and there were two on May 22nd. The pair fledged five young, which left the nest on July 3rd. The last observation in the Gardens was of one on September 9th.

Elsewhere two were in the gardens of The Convent on May 31st and one was heard at Rock Cottage on July 27th. Two were on Windmill Hill on October 5th. Seven were ringed in spring, between April 20th and May 2nd, and eight in autumn, between August 12th and October 22nd.

Pied Flycatcher

Papamoscas Cerrojillo

*Ficedula hypoleuca**Common migrant.*

The few sight records in spring included one in the Botanic Gardens on April 30th and two there on May 7th. However, larger numbers than usual were caught by ringers during both seasons. There were 95 ringed in spring, between April 6th and May 1st.

Birds ringed in autumn totalled 116, between August 22nd and October 24th. A new ringing site at Middle Hill accounted for a good proportion of the autumn birds. Sight records included three at Governor's Lookout on September 26th and single birds at Windmill Hill on October 2nd and in the Botanic Gardens on October 9th.

Coal Tit*

Carbonero Garrapinos

Periparus ater

Local vagrant.

One was caught and ringed at Jews' Gate on October 28th. Ninth recent record (Ian Lees et. al.).



Coal Tit (Matt Ashman)

Blue Tit

Herrerillo Común

Cyanistes caeruleus

Common resident.

The winter bird count on January 19th found 49 birds. Birds ringed totalled 65, only one of which was caught during the first half of the year. They included 55 juvenile or first-year birds.

Great Tit

Carbonero Común

Parus major

Scarce resident.

The winter bird count on January 19th found only one, in the Botanic Gardens. Eleven were ringed on the Upper Rock, all of them between August 6th and October 25th. They included four juveniles in August that clearly cannot have travelled very far and may have been from a local nest.

Short-toed Treecreeper

Agateador Común

*Certhia brachydactyla**Occasional migrant and occasional in winter.*One was seen at Bruce's Farm on September 18th.**Golden Oriole**

Oropéndola

*Oriolus oriolus**Regular migrant.*One was seen from Jews' Gate on April 14th and there were two there on September 5th. Single birds were ringed on April 20th and May 1st.**Woodchat Shrike**

Alcaudón Común

*Lanius senator**Common migrant. Has bred.*The first observation was of one on Windmill Hill on March 16th. A further 22 individuals were seen up to May 1st, including three in the Botanic Gardens on March 28th and nine around Jews' Gate on April 14th. Eight were ringed between March 17th and April 20th.A juvenile on Windmill Hill on August 20th was followed by another there on September 8th. Three were ringed between August 6th and September 3rd.**Jackdaw**

Grajilla

*Corvus monedula**Occasional. Has bred.*One flew north at Jews' Gate on April 2nd. Another flew southwest there seven hours later on the same day. One was over Windmill Hill on April 12th.**Raven**

Cuervo

*Corvus corax**Recently re-established resident.*One found in poor condition in the Botanic Gardens on January 19th may have been the survivor of the local pair, whose partner died in 2012. It could not be caught and later disappeared. There were a number of records during the year, usually of birds seen over the Upper Rock, but it was not clear whether or not a replacement pair had yet become established. Single birds were seen on January 31st, February 3rd, February 5th, March 19th, April 10th and July 3rd. Two together were reported on March 20th, April 1st and 3rd and June 22nd, suggesting the presence of an established pair. There were also four on April 10th and five on September 27th.**Spotless Starling**

Estornino Negro

*Sturnus unicolor**Common resident.*The winter bird count on January 19th found 39 birds. The feeding flock that frequents Windmill Hill numbered 65 birds on March 17th and 34 on December 13th.**Common Starling**

Estornino Pinto

*Sturnus vulgaris**Common in some winters.*The winter bird count on January 19th found 22 birds on Windmill Hill, where there were also 11 Spotless Starlings. Otherwise very few were reported. One was on Windmill Hill on March 16th and 17th. There were eight there on December 13th.

House Sparrow

Gorrión Común

*Passer domesticus**Common resident.*

The winter bird count on January 19th found an exceptional 721 birds, including 253 on the East Side, 173 in the North Front cemetery and 108 in South District gardens. Birds ringed totalled 18.

Spanish Sparrow

Gorrión Moruno

*Passer hispaniolensis**Occasional migrant.*

Four were seen from Jews' Gate on April 6th.

Chaffinch

Pinzón Vulgar

*Fringilla coelebs**Common migrant and common in winter.*

The winter bird count on January 19th found 49 birds, most of them on the Upper Rock and in gardens. Two were at Governor's Lookout on January 17th and a pair may have nested at that site in spring since an adult was seen feeding a fledgling there on May 27th. Nesting has rarely been reported in Gibraltar but is easily overlooked.

Birds on northward passage seen from Jews' Gate in spring totalled 224, the last on April 6th. Only a few were reported in autumn, from October 6th onwards. Birds ringed totalled 48, 36 of them in spring.

European Serin

Verdecillo

*Serinus serinus**Common migrant and common in winter. Some resident.*

The winter bird count on January 19th found five birds: three on the Upper Rock, one on the Great Sand Slopes and one Windmill Hill. Some 160 spring migrants were seen on scattered dates between February 7th and April 21st, chiefly from Jews' Gate. Single birds were in the Botanic Gardens on May 29th and July 4th, and at Europa Point on July 16th and 18th. Small numbers of returning migrants appeared from October 20th into November. There were three on Windmill Hill on December 13th.

Greenfinch

Verderón Común

*Carduelis chloris**Common migrant and common in winter. Some resident.*

The winter bird count on January 19th found 32 birds, chiefly on the Upper Rock. Only small numbers were reported on visible passage during both seasons. The largest numbers noted were 100 at Jews' Gate on March 9th and 61 there on March 29th. Birds ringed totalled 106: 37 in spring up to April 26th and 69 in autumn, the first on August 5th.

Goldfinch

Jilguero

*Carduelis carduelis**Common migrant and common in winter. Has bred.*

Small numbers were reported regularly on northward passage at Jews' Gate throughout March and until April 11th. The largest day counts there were of 106 on March 26th and 210 on April 6th. Returning migrants were first reported on October 24th. There were 51 on Windmill Hill on November 3rd. Only 11 were ringed.

Siskin

Lúgano

*Carduelis spinus**Regular but scarce migrant. Occasional in winter.*

All observations were during the first half of the year. There were two in the Botanic Gardens on February 11th, five there on March 16th and a single bird at the same site on April 11th. Two were ringed at Jews' Gate on February 15th and another one was caught there on April 9th. A further 18 migrants were seen from Jews' Gate in March and early April, including four on April 9th.

Linnet

Pardillo Común

*Carduelis cannabina**Common migrant.*

Migrants were seen from Jews' Gate on 13 dates between March 14th and April 11th. They totalled 209, including 91 on April 6th. There were a few reports of migrants during the second half of October.

Bullfinch*

Camachuelo Común

*Pyrrhula pyrrhula**Rare migrant.*

A first-year male was ringed at Jews' Gate on March 19th.

Cirl Bunting

Escribano Soteño

*Emberiza cirlus**Occasional migrant.*

One was on the Europa Point foreshore on January 7th. It was seen again there on January 19th.

Rock Bunting

Escribano Montesino

*Emberiza cia**Occasional, chiefly in winter. Has bred.*

One was on the lower sand slope near Blackstrap Cove on February 9th. One was ringed at Jews' Gate on February 15th. One was on Windmill Hill on March 17th.

Ortolan Bunting

Escribano Hortelano

*Emberiza hortulana**Regular but scarce migrant.*

One was ringed at Jews' Gate on April 21st. Another was ringed at Middle Hill on October 3rd.

Corn Bunting

Triguero

*Emberiza calandra**Regular but scarce migrant and occasional in winter.*

One was on Windmill Hill on March 17th.

CONTRIBUTORS TO BIRDS IN GIBRALTAR 2013

The Gibraltar Bird Report relies on the submission of information by many people, whose contributions are gratefully acknowledged. We are once again particularly grateful to Keith Bensusan and Charles Perez, and our ringers-in residence: Yvonne Benting, John Cromarty, Ian Lees, Ray Marsh, Stephen Norman and Ian Thompson, who each submitted large numbers of records. The full list of observers is as follows. Those who were also, or mainly, involved with the ringing programme are listed in addition in the Ringing Report. Our apologies to anyone who has been inadvertently omitted.

Andrew Abrines	Gilbert Gonzalez	Charles Perez
Paul Acolina	Rhian Guillem	Mark Pizzaro
Robin Atrill	Jon Hammond	Ann Powell
Aaron Baglietto	David Hardaker	Carlton Powell
Felix Bandres	John Henwood	Vincent Robba
Denis Beltran	Clive Horrocks	John Sanchez
Keith Bensusan	Jane Horrocks	Sharon Sanchez
Yvonne Benting	John Hughes	Shane Shacaluga
Jose Luis	Bonavia Martin	Izzard Robin Scott
Victor Bossano	Suvi Jarvis	Rueben Senior
John Cortes	Terry Jesty	Eric Shaw
Clive Chapman	John Kempster	Julia Springett
John Cromarty	Jutta Kuester	Robin Springett
Mark Cutts	Ian Lees	Ian Thompson
Roger Dickey	Linda Lowndes	Chris Tydman
John Elliott	Bettina Manner	Peter Tyler
Rocio Espada	Al Marfe	Harry Van-Gils
George Felipes	Ray Marsh	Michael Wahnon
Nicholas Ferrary	Paul Montegriffo	Sue Walsh
Clive Finlayson	Marie Mosquera	Stephen Warr
Stewart Finlayson	Mario Mosquera	John Wells
Andrew Fortuna	Karl Netto	Sue Wells
Denise Foster	Stephen Norman	Jill Yeoman
Ernest Garcia	Stanley Olivera	Albert Yome

RINGING REPORT 2013

Charles Perez

Gibraltar Ringing Group, GONHS, PO. Box 843, Gibraltar

The Gibraltar Ringing Group, working under the auspices of the British Trust for Ornithology, is based at the Strait of Gibraltar Bird Observatory at Jews' Gate on the Upper Rock. Ringing commenced on February 3rd and continued until May 2nd, with occasional breaks due to inclement weather. The spring operation was once again run by resident ringer Stephen Norman. Ringing resumed on August 1st until November 10th. A ringing demonstration also took place at the Gibraltar Botanic Gardens during Eurobirdwatch day on the morning of October 5th. A tri-services expedition, led by Robin and Julia Springett, carried out a five-week intensive ringing operation at the northern end of the Rock at Middle Hill, from September 24th until October 19th. This area looked promising and had been successful in the past, and it did not disappoint. There were 77 ringing days in the first half of the year and 98 ringing days in the second (6 less and 47 days more respectively than the previous year). This was due to a meritorious effort by Ian Thompson and Yvonne Benting, who ran the Observatory throughout the hot months of August and September. Ringing took place from sunrise until early afternoon, occasionally continuing throughout the day when many migrants were about.

In total, 5,350 birds were captured, comprising 4,918 new birds and 432 retraps. There were five controls of foreign-ringed birds, two Blackcaps from Belgium, another Blackcap from the United Kingdom, a Willow Warbler from Norway and a Swedish Robin. This last bird was wintering around the Observatory and was trapped on February 15th and 25th. Overall 62 species were handled, three more than in 2012, including the fourth and fifth Yellow-browed Warblers for Gibraltar. Ringing totals are summarised in Table 1.

The start of the year was exceptional with **February** producing 692 new birds and 92 retraps. This was over twice the catch of that month the previous year and was not due to any exceptional weather-related incidents. Nevertheless conditions were favourable for wintering and early passage birds, including easterly winds that resulted in calm conditions that facilitated 22 days of ringing during the month. The site held many wintering birds on the first ringing day resulting in a catch of 66 birds that included 25 Blackcaps and 27 Robins. Blackcaps and Robins continued to dominate the catch for the month, with 275 and 156 birds respectively. The 14th and 15th were notable with a total of 138 birds that included 67 Blackcaps, 43 Robins and a variety of other species such as two Siskins, a Sparrowhawk, a Goldfinch, a Stonechat, a Rock Bunting and the first trans-Saharan migrant, an Iberian Chiffchaff. The following day the first Hoopoe of the season was trapped, with another a day later. Wintering Crag Martins on the east side of the Rock flew past the netting site in the early morning and 31 birds were ringed during the month. Other interesting totals for the month included 22 Song Thrushes, 69 Black Redstarts, 23 Common

Chiffchaffs, 37 Sardinian Warblers, 26 Chaffinches and 24 Greenfinches. A Yellow-legged Gull flew into the nets on the 14th, a Wryneck on the 25th, a Linnet on the 27th and a Red-rumped Swallow on the 28th. This last was only the fourth local ringing record of this hirundine.

In contrast, **March** was rather poor, with only 314 new birds and 57 retraps. This was mainly due to unfavourable weather, with rain and gales at the beginning of the month, remaining cloudy with showers until the end of the month, hampering the ringing effort and at times stopping all activity. Despite this, numbers of wintering birds were departing and 46 Common Chiffchaffs and 36 Black Redstarts were ringed, with the last of the latter on the 21st. Blackcaps and Robins, the two most commonly ringed species at the Observatory, were still moving through the site with 66 and 55 birds respectively caught during the month, although numbers of Robins were steadily decreasing by the end of the month. The arrival of trans-Saharan migrants was impeded by the weather and only small numbers were trapped. A Hoopoe and a Subalpine Warbler on the 8th and an Iberian Chiffchaff on the 9th was a slow start, but the situation improved somewhat thereafter, with three Hoopoes on March 14th and the arrival of Bonelli's and Willow Warblers, Woodchat Shrikes, Common Redstarts and Nightingales towards the end of the month. Interesting species captured during the period were a Goldcrest and a Blue Rock Thrush on the 2nd, a Dunnock on the 13th, a Bullfinch on the 19th and a Common Kestrel on the 27th. Four Sparrowhawks were also trapped as they moved through the netting site after having crossed the Strait.

After a wet start to **April**, the weather improved and a total of 603 new birds and 26 retraps were processed. The winds turned to easterly from the 13th, providing ideal ringing conditions during the period and a good variety of migrants were ringed. The most common migrant trapped was the Willow Warbler: 177 were ringed during the month, of which 102 were trapped during March 20th to 22nd, including a Norwegian control on the 22nd. Pied Flycatchers were also prominent with the first of 94 birds on the 6th and 80 during March 17th to 23rd. Early arrivals included an Orphean Warbler on the 1st, a Garden Warbler on the 7th and a Melodious Warbler on the 9th. There were good totals of some species including 33 Garden Warblers, 49 Bonelli's Warblers, 25 Common Whitethroats, 31 Nightingales and 22 Common Redstarts. The total of nine Wood Warblers caught from April 17th, with three on the 19th, was outstanding for this locally scarce migrant. Other migrants trapped included three Red-necked Nightjars, two Scops Owls, five Woodchat Shrikes, four Tree Pipits, three Turtle Doves, a Golden Oriole on the 20th, a Whinchat and an Ortolan Bunting on the 21st and a Grasshopper Warbler on the 28th. Migrant Blackcaps continued to appear throughout the month and 67 were caught in total, including a Belgian control on April 20th.

Only 19 birds were ringed in **May**, on the first two days of the month, after which the ringing season ended. These included four Willow Warblers, four Garden Warblers, two Spotted Flycatchers and single Robin, Common Whitethroat, Common Redstart, Pied Flycatcher, Golden Oriole, House Sparrow and Bonelli's Warbler.

The post-nuptial campaign commenced earlier than usual on **August** 1st, and already small numbers of trans-Saharan migrants were heading south, with catches including a Melodious Warbler on the 1st, a Nightingale on the 3rd, a Woodchat Shrike on the 6th, an Iberian Chiffchaff and a Bonelli's Warbler on the 8th, a Reed Warbler and a Common Redstart on the 11th and a Spotted Flycatcher on the 12th. Catches increased slightly at the end of the month and in total 13 Reed Warblers, 12 Melodious Warblers, ten Iberian Chiffchaffs, six Nightingales, six Bonelli's Warblers and four Orphean Warblers were captured. A single Garden Warbler was trapped on the 25th. Resident and juvenile birds dominated the month's catch with 77 Blackcaps, 41 Blackbirds, 20 Greenfinches and 87 Sardinian Warblers, giving a total for the month of 339 new birds and 31 retraps.

The start to **September** was dominated by easterly winds with some levanter cloud until mid month, when some days of westerlies, interspersed with days of easterlies, gave way to rain showers on the 28th and 29th. These conditions would usually herald the arrival of migrants, but unfortunately the catches were poor, with totals augmented by the successful campaign at Middle Hill that commenced on September 25th. The Observatory managed 28 days of ringing for the month for a total of 249 new birds and 54 retraps, with Middle Hill trapping 130 new birds and 18 retraps in the last five days of the month.

There are interesting comparisons to be made between the two sites during the early stages of the campaign. Whereas the Observatory trapped 42 Blackcaps and 18 Blackbirds for the month, at Middle Hill the catch was 11 and 24 birds respectively. Sardinian Warblers were evenly spread, with 31 and 36 birds. Iberian Chiffchaffs seemed to prefer the Middle Hill site with 15 birds, compared with eight for the Observatory. This was corroborated by observational data since the Iberian Chiffchaff could be heard constantly calling around the Middle Hill site but there was little corresponding activity around the Observatory.

The Observatory dominated the catch for certain species in September with three Reed Warblers, eight Melodious Warblers with the last on the 13th, ten Orphean Warblers, nine of ten Common Whitethroats, and 13 of 15 Garden Warblers. It also accounted for a greater variety of species than Middle Hill, including a Woodchat Shrike on the 3rd, a Great Tit on the 12th, a Wryneck on the 14th, a Grey Wagtail on the 20th, a Tree Pipit the 24th, a Common Chiffchaff on the 25th and a Spotted Flycatcher on the 26th.

The winds in **October** were predominantly westerly, with some northwesterlies and a short spell of easterlies between the 6th and 10th of the month, but the expected heavy levanter cloud that provides ideal fall conditions did not develop. Trans-Saharan migrants continued appear early in the month, including three Nightingales up to October 6th, five Red-necked Nightjars up to the 9th, four Reed Warblers up to the 10th, four Orphean Warblers up to the 11th, 31 Common Redstarts up to the 13th with a late bird on the 27th, 19 Common Nightjars up to the 27th and 86 Garden Warblers; with the last bird at the end of the month.

Middle Hill continued to be the main recipient of Iberian Chiffchaffs and Pied Flycatchers with 21 of 24 birds up to October 17th and 49 of 63 birds up to the 24th, indicating the significance of the habitat difference at this site.

Other interesting species trapped in October at Middle Hill included two Grasshopper Warblers: with another at the Observatory on the 2nd, an Ortolan Bunting on the 3rd, a Tawny Pipit on the 7th, a Bonelli's Warbler and a Northern Wheatear on the 10th, a Grey Wagtail on the 17th and a Coal Tit on the 28th: only the ninth recent record of this last species.

Wintering birds began to arrive in good numbers in October with the main species, Blackcaps and Robins, dominating the catch at Middle Hill and the Observatory, with 423 and 828 birds respectively of the former species and 155 and 204 respectively of the latter. The arrival of Song Thrushes took place from the 7th, with the main influx from the 25th of the month, giving a total of 82 birds ringed. Common Chiffchaffs arrived from mid month, giving a total of 127 birds, but Black Redstart numbers were low due to unfavourable winds and totalled 53 birds. Finch passage was also affected, with a low midmonth passage that produced only ten Chaffinches, 22 Serins, 35 Greenfinches, six Goldfinches and two Linnets trapped and ringed during the month.

There were eight ringing days in **November** until the 10th, giving a total of 75 birds. Westerlies were prevalent but moderate north-westerlies prevented the use of some of the nets. There were 24 Robins, 14 Common Chiffchaffs, 12 Black Redstarts and ten Blackcaps ringed during the period. Also trapped were a Blue Rock Thrush on the 2nd, a Chaffinch on the 7th and a Greenfinch on the 8th.

Acknowledgements: Special thanks must go to the ringers in charge of the Observatory. They were Stephen Norman from early February until early May, Ian Thompson and Yvonne Bunting during August and September, the Triservices team led by Robin and Julia Springett at Middle Hill in late September and October, Ray Marsh for four weeks in October, Ian Lees at the end of October and John Cromarty who covered early November.

Other visiting and local ringers included Mark Anderton, Matthew Ashman, Peter Bennett, Jez Blackburn, Laura Blackburn, Mark Cutts, Simon Davies, Roger Dickey, Ian Dillon, Andy Dixon, Michael Easton, John Fletcher, Denise Foster, Katie Fuller, Colin Gay, Rosalyn Gay, Anita Glover, Derek Gruar, Stephen Hales, Kenneth Hindmarch, Paul House, John Kempster, Linda Lowndes, Bettina Manner, Jeremy Martin, Charles Perez, Luke Phillips, Carlton Powell, Joe Serra, Kelly Thomas, Paul Tinsley-Marshall, Susan Walsh, Adam Webster, Allason Weir, Christine White and Jill Yeoman. My apologies to any ringer who may have been omitted inadvertently.

TABLE 1. ANNUAL RINGING TOTALS 2013

SPECIES	Spring 2013	Autumn 2013	Total 2013	Total 2012	Total 2011	Totals 91-13
Quail	-	-	-	-	-	12
Cory's Shearwater	-	-	-	-	-	3
Leach's Petrel	-	-	-	-	-	2
Little Bittern	-	-	-	-	-	1
Night Heron	-	-	-	-	-	1
Honey Buzzard	-	-	-	-	-	7
Black Kite	-	-	-	-	-	5
Griffon Vulture	-	-	-	-	-	14
Short-toed Eagle	-	-	-	1	-	9
Sparrowhawk	8	2	10	4	5	48
Booted Eagle	-	1	1	-	1	6
Bonelli's Eagle	-	-	-	-	-	1
Lesser Kestrel	-	-	-	-	-	1
Common Kestrel	1	1	2	1	3	27
Merlin	-	-	-	-	1	1
Hobby	-	-	-	-	-	3
Peregrine	-	-	-	-	1	8
Purple Swamphen	-	-	-	-	-	1
Woodcock	-	-	-	-	-	1
Yellow-legged Gull	2	-	2	-	3	557
Puffin	-	-	-	-	-	1
Collared Dove	-	-	-	1	1	11
Turtle Dove	3	-	3	-	1	22
Great Spotted Cuckoo	-	-	-	-	-	3
Common Cuckoo	-	-	-	-	-	1
Barn Owl	-	-	-	-	-	1
Long-eared Owl	-	-	-	-	-	1
Scops Owl	2	9	11	6	4	108
Eagle Owl	-	-	-	-	-	1
Little Owl	-	-	-	-	-	13
European Nightjar	1	19	20	9	9	63
Red-necked Nightjar	3	5	8	4	9	86
Common Swift	-	-	-	-	-	62
Pallid Swift	-	-	-	-	-	33
Common Kingfisher	-	-	-	1	-	8
European Bee-eater	-	-	-	1	-	22
Hoopoe	7	2	9	2	11	82
Wryneck	-	1	1	1	2	31
Thekla Lark	-	-	-	-	-	2
Wood Lark	-	-	-	-	-	3
Crag Martin	45	-	45	13	26	430
Barn Swallow	-	4	4	1	5	107
Red-rumped Swallow	1	-	1	-	1	4
House Martin	-	-	-	-	-	7
Richard's Pipit	-	-	-	-	-	1

Tawny Pipit	-	1	1	-	-	13
Tree Pipit	4	2	6	1	3	77
Meadow Pipit	-	-	-	2	-	38
Yellow Wagtail	-	-	-	-	-	3
Grey Wagtail	-	2	2	-	-	17
Wren	1	16	17	7	16	315
Duncock	1	-	1	2	3	22
Rufous Bush Chat	-	-	-	-	-	2
Robin	220	397	617	650	1156	9695
Nightingale	37	17	54	31	59	844
Bluethroat	-	-	-	4	1	8
Black Redstart	105	65	170	489	886	5969
Common Redstart	26	55	81	62	65	930
Whinchat	1	-	1	1	2	44
Stonechat	2	4	6	10	22	202
Black-eared Wheatear	-	-	-	1	-	26
Northern Wheatear	-	1	1	2	2	37
Rock Thrush	-	-	-	-	-	4
Blue Rock Thrush	2	1	3	7	7	66
Ring Ouzel	-	-	-	1	2	9
Blackbird	11	127	138	50	130	2109
Song Thrush	23	86	109	82	125	1003
Redwing	-	-	-	-	-	7
Cetti's Warbler	-	-	-	-	1	3
Zitting Cisticola	-	-	-	-	-	24
Grasshopper Warbler	1	3	4	-	2	31
Sedge Warbler	-	-	-	1	1	6
Reed Warbler	3	20	23	9	15	236
Great Reed Warbler	-	-	-	-	-	1
Olivaceous Warbler	-	-	-	-	-	4
Icterine Warbler	-	-	-	-	-	4
Melodious Warbler	11	17	28	4	26	668
Blackcap	395	1443	1838	1544	2286	19924
Garden Warbler	37	104	141	77	86	2232
Lesser Whitethroat	-	-	-	-	-	2
Orphean Warbler	12	19	31	3	21	332
Common Whitethroat	26	24	50	16	28	554
Spectacled Warbler	-	-	-	2	3	21
Dartford Warbler	2	2	4	4	4	80
Subalpine Warbler	22	8	30	35	36	538
Sardinian Warbler	51	237	288	234	518	5296
Yellow-browed Warbler	-	2	2	-	-	3
Bonelli's Warbler	54	9	63	68	111	1348
Wood Warbler	9	-	9	-	5	52
Common Chiffchaff	73	144	217	248	454	4733
Iberian Chiffchaff	13	58	71	27	62	374
Mountain Chiffchaff	-	-	-	-	-	1
Willow Warbler	197	60	257	269	368	5062
Goldcrest	1	-	1	1	-	5
Firecrest	-	-	-	3	4	30

Spotted Flycatcher	7	8	15	1	4	279
Red-breasted Flycatcher			-	-	-	1
Pied Flycatcher	95	116	211	65	51	1725
Long-tailed Tit	-	-	-	-	-	5
Coal Tit	-	1	1	-	-	2
Blue Tit	1	64	65	29	50	876
Great Tit	-	8	8	2	5	87
Short-toed Treecreeper	-	-	-	-	1	19
Golden Oriole	2	-	2	-	-	16
Woodchat Shrike	8	3	11	5	8	183
Spotless Starling	-	-	-	-	-	35
House Sparrow	5	13	18	1	28	874
Spanish Sparrow	-	-	-	-	-	6
House/Spanish Sparrow	-	-	-	-	-	1
Chaffinch	36	12	48	47	57	557
Brambling	-	-	-	-	1	3
Serin	6	22	28	32	37	579
Greenfinch	37	69	106	108	189	2859
Goldfinch	5	6	11	9	13	489
Siskin	3		3	-	-	156
Linnet	4	2	6	4	3	75
Trumpeter Finch	-	-	-	-	1	1
Common Rosefinch	-	-	-	-	-	1
Bullfinch	1	-	1	-	-	19
Hawfinch	-	-	-	-	1	2
Cirl Bunting	-	-	-	-	1	1
Rock Bunting	1	-	1	-	-	7
Ortolan Bunting	1	1	2	-	-	29
Little Bunting	-	-	-	1	1	2
Corn Bunting	-	-	-	-	1	9
TOTAL	1625	3293	4918	4296	7045	73713



APPENDIX 1. MINIMUM DAILY TOTALS OF SOARING MIGRANTS. SPRING 2013

See Systematic List for records of species represented by fewer than ten individuals

	White Stork	Black Stork	Honey-buzzard	Black Kite	Griffon Vulture	Egyptian Vulture	Short-toed Eagle	Marsh Harrier	Hen Harrier	Montagu's Harrier	Sparrowhawk	Common Buzzard	Booted Eagle	Osprey	Common Kestrel	Lesser Kestrel	Hobby	Day Totals
16-Jan	150																	150
28-Jan				1														1
2-Feb				1														1
5-Feb											1							1
6-Feb				42														42
8-Feb				1														1
9-Feb					1													1
10-Feb		2		1	2													5
11-Feb				10														10
12-Feb				1														1
13-Feb	1			7														8
17-Feb				2														2
18-Feb				220														220
20-Feb	40			178		4	1	1			1	1						226
21-Feb				4														4
22-Feb	6			121														127
23-Feb	164	47		1096		12	6								2	1		1328
24-Feb		8		415			27	3							1	3		457
28-Feb	25	7		3556			14	5	1		1				1	4		3614
1-Mar				573		2	23	2			2							602
3-Mar				150				1										151
8-Mar	206	13		537	1	7	602	1			1		6		1	2		1377
9-Mar		25		130			2				4							161
10-Mar	441	41		1570		14	454	11			13		8		8	1		2561
11-Mar	77	10		281	1		396				14		19		2	1		801
13-Mar	2			326			270	1			11		9		5	6		630
14-Mar	4			31			61	4			31		3		3			137
17-Mar				1			3	6			8		1	2		1		22
18-Mar	2	18		98		4	95	20		1	48		31	10		2		329
19-Mar		42		4149	2	6	38	7		3				4	6	2		4259
20-Mar	16	8		1064		2	115	28	1	10	121	1	94	6	10	6		1482
22-Mar		1		4				14	2	1	19		1	1				43
23-Mar				2	3					2	4			1				12
24-Mar	146	16		482	48	1	24	5	2	2	46	1	28	2	3	1		807
25-Mar				99		2	41	7		4	88	3	280		4	2		530
26-Mar				81			10	9	1	1	99	2	266	5	3	1		478
27-Mar				44			2	3		8	36		33	4	1	1		132

28-Mar		1		21				1		5		20						48
29-Mar				490			34	9		3	302	3	713	3	9	4		1570
30-Mar				1			2	2			2		2					9
1-Apr		8		326		1	7	10		7	113		151	2	15	5		645
2-Apr				194	17		1	4	3	1	142	1	123	4	6	2	3	501
3-Apr		26		42				5	1	2	33		86	5	4	2	1	207
4-Apr		3									3		1					7
5-Apr				32						1	1		21		2			57
6-Apr	18	5		202	2		23	7	2		73	1	233	2	1	1	2	572
7-Apr				189				4			5		20	1				219
8-Apr		8		966	10	1	40	16	1	3	61		162	1	3	2	3	1277
9-Apr				170	1	1	7	7	1	18	101		57	4	13	1	5	386
10-Apr	4			76			15	9	1	4	59		68	2	7		1	246
11-Apr	1	1		111	1	1	6	1		2	48		61	1	4		2	240
12-Apr				37				1			26			2	3		5	74
15-Apr				24														24
19-Apr				1							2		1					4
21-Apr				9				1					1					11
22-Apr											1							1
26-Apr			723	730	7	2	22	10	1	5	38	1	15	2			8	1564
27-Apr			4	246		5		1			6		11					273
28-Apr	3	3	70				4			1	6		4					91
29-Apr	5	42	31	3			2	1			9		5	1			2	101
30-Apr			776	7		1		5			2	1	7		1		1	801
8-May			300	2			1											303
9-May			260	45		1	3						5					314
10-May			1350	22		4	3											1379
11-May																	1	1
15-May				63		3					1		6					73
16-May			12	117	40	1	2				2		45					219
18-May			1	16	8		2				2		3					32
19-May	1		109	79				1			1		3					194
20-May			56	12									2					70
21-May			56	12									4					72
22-May			40	10	5													55
23-May			68	22	26		1						5					122
28-May				8	28								12					48
29-May					20													20
30-May					40													40
31-May			30	10			26						10					76
5-Jun				8	2													10
6-Jun			4	4	35		1											44
8-Jun			1															1
9-Jun					8		3						2					13
18-Jun							1											1
19-Jun					40								2					42
TOTALS	1304	298	3835	19683	351	75	2390	223	17	79	1592	15	2640	65	118	51	34	32770

	Honey Buzzard	Black Kite	Giffon Vulture	Egyptian Vulture	Short-toed Eagle	Sparrowhawk	Booted Eagle	DAY TOTALS
18-Sep	19					2	6	27
19-Sep	5						1	6
20-Sep							50	50
21-Sep							60	60
22-Sep							60	60
23-Sep							120	120
24-Sep				2		20	200	222
25-Sep	8	15				30	65	118
26-Sep		3	2		2	20	70	97
27-Sep	6					8	9	23
28-Sep	1						1	2
29-Sep	4					2		6
30-Sep	2	1				12	2	17
05-Oct	3	5				16	2	26
06-Oct	1							1
08-Oct						3	8	11
09-Oct							25	25
10-Oct						1	80	81
11-Oct				5	17	5	105	132
13-Oct			6					6
16-Oct						2		2
18-Oct							2	2
19-Oct						4		4
20-Oct						4		4
27-Oct						1		1
28-Oct					3	1	1	5
29-Oct			735					735
02-Nov					5			5
04-Nov			4					4
05-Nov			13		1			14
09-Nov			1					1
TOTALS	53	4240	761	33	83	138	1874	7182

CONTRIBUTING TO THE GIBRALTAR BIRD REPORT

All records of birds seen in or from Gibraltar are welcomed for incorporation into the Society's archives and for publication in the annual reports. Records from adjacent regions of Spain are also gratefully received.

Records should be sent to the Recorder, Charles E. Perez, Gibraltar Ornithological and Natural History Society, PO Box 843, Gibraltar, email records@gonhs.org. Records of rarities should be accompanied by a full description. The list of species for which such documentation is required may be viewed on the GONHS website.

Other contributions for the Report should be sent to the Editor, email efjgarcia@gmail.com

THE GIBRALTAR ORNITHOLOGICAL & NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

The Gibraltar Ornithological & Natural History Society (GONHS) was founded in 1976. Its aims are to promote the study and protection of the natural history of Gibraltar, the Strait and its hinterland.

GONHS, a Gibraltar Registered Charity, is a membership-based nongovernmental organisation. It is the Gibraltar Partner of BirdLife International, and a member of The World Conservation Union (IUCN) and the Bird Club Partnership of the British Trust for Ornithology.

The Society is active in many fields of biological research, nature conservation, and wildlife management.

We very much welcome membership applications from persons who support our aims. The annual subscription is £15 for individuals (£5 for under-18s and senior citizens), £20 for families and £100 for Business Supporters. Join by sending your name, address and a cheque, made out to "GONHS", to the Membership Secretary, GONHS, c/o The Gibraltar Botanic Gardens, The Alameda, Red Sands Road, P.O.Box 843, Gibraltar.



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GIBRALTAR BIRD REPORT 2013

EDITOR

Dr. Ernest Garcia

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