

# SPANISH PYRENEES

## Wallcreeper & Alpine Special

March 2-7



### Birding Areas & Highlights

The Pyrenees boast an amazing variety of habitat – snow-covered mountain tops, puddingstone peaks or Mallos, alpine pastures & mixed woodland, whilst the foothills or Pre-Pyrenean ranges are characterised by sheer rocky cliffs and deep ravines, divided by drier, broader river valleys & reservoirs.

The foothills and mountaintops are home to Wallcreeper, one of Europe's most sought after and enigmatic birds, along with Lammergeier, Alpine Chough, Alpine Accentor & Snow Finch, all to be found at lower altitudes at this time of year.

Exciting "Close Encounters" of Griffon Vultures may be had at a local Vulture feeding station, whilst reservoirs may well still hold flocks of Greater Flamingos. Lower down the "Plains" are home to Little Bustard, Stone Curlew & Calandra Lark.

For added attraction, a supporting cast will possibly include Golden Eagle, Red-billed Chough, Crag Martin, Wood Lark, Blue Rock Thrush, Black Wheatear, Black-bellied Dipper, Spotless Starling, Sardinian & Fan-tailed Warblers, Firecrest, Cirl & Rock Buntings.

### Accommodation & Itinerary

Morning flight from Gatwick to Barcelona, driving west towards Huesca, and staying 5 nts. at the *Hosteria de Guara*, a family-run hotel in the small village of Bierge situated in the Pre-Pyrenees region within the Sierra de Guara National Park.

From here we shall explore the high border passes of the Central Pyrenees at Portalet or Formigal, the Sierra de Guara NP, the spectacular perpendicular red sandstone cliffs at Riglos and the plains of Los Monegros, plus visiting Embalse de Sotenera.

Return early evening flight back to Gatwick.

**Cost.** £1445 (s/s £95)

**Deposit:** £200

**B/L due:** Jan. 2

**Included.** 5 nts. accommodation & b/fast at the *Hosteria de Guara*, full transportation and guidance (including excellent local guide) throughout.

**Not included.** Return flight Gatwick to Barcelona (approx. £155), travel insurance, lunches, drinks, gratuities & items of a personal nature.

**(NB: Cost based on 7 guests min, with £1 = €1.1)**