



Guía de las aves de la provincia de Sevilla



Andalucía

Field guide to the birds
of the province of
Seville



FIELD GUIDE TO THE BIRDS OF THE PROVINCE OF SEVILLE

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Nature tourism has come to complement the actions that the Provincial Council of Seville has been undertaking to catalyse rural development. The natural heritage of the province is an asset, and it is our obligation to exploit it in a manner which is compatible with the conservation of natural processes.

Within the nature tourism sector, birdwatching is the most popular activity. Steppes, mountains, riverbanks and marshes are host to over 300 different species of bird. The geographical location of the province lies on the most important European migratory route, which attracts many more species and individuals than those which are already habitually to be found in our countryside. The sporadic presence of millions of migrating passerines, birds of prey, waders and other waterfowl enriches the abundance and density of the bird population in our fields.

The province of Seville has been the key to saving some important species from extinction, such as the white-headed duck, red-knobbed coot and the purple gallinule. It has also been a key to the conservation of large birds of prey, such as the black vulture, the Spanish imperial eagle and such emblematic species as the black stork. It is home to one of the relict Andalusian populations of important steppe species such as the bustard, and it is the main wintering quarters for the large, loud, spectacular cranes that come in winter from the north of Europe.

Its different ecosystems are well represented in the mountains of the Sierra Sur, the Sierra Morena, on our steppes, the riverbanks of the Guadalquivir and the marshes at its mouth in Doñana. Locations which are by now iconic, such as La Cañada de Los Pájaros, Dehesa de Abajo, Cerrado Garrido, El Cerro del Hierro, the La Sierra Greenway, La Lantejuela, the Guadiamar Green Corridor and the lower stretch of the River Guadalquivir, are true magnets for birdwatchers the world over.

This birdwatching guide is to help identify the different groups, families and species of birds living in the province of Seville, or which visit us sporadically or during migration. With the guide, we aim to spread knowledge of this sector of the animal kingdom which is so important not just for tourism, but also as an indicator of the environmental health of our countryside. Judging by the results, the status of the different species and the density of their populations, they find themselves in a reasonably good situation. It is the task of all of us to learn about our wild birds, respect them and contribute to their conservation. It is our obligation to leave this legacy to future generations and this guide is a useful instrument to achieve that objective.

Fernando Rodríguez Villalobos

President, Provincial Council of Seville



The province of Seville has become a can't-miss visit for any European birdwatcher. The area of the Guadalquivir marshes, which we call the Sevillian Doñana, is undoubtedly the most important birdwatching site on the Iberian Peninsula. The Brazo del Este - Dehesa de Abajo - Cerrado Garrido area has become the golden triangle for ornithologists.

In the annual Doñana Birdfair event, in Dehesa de Abajo, we can see how birdwatchers from all over the world consider our region to be an unmissable destination to enjoy the waterfowl of Doñana at any time of the year. And we must not forget other very important spots in the province, such as the Sierra Norte mountains, La Lantejuela, the banks of the Guadalquivir, the La Sierra Greenway and all of the Sierra Sur zone, the steppe, the Green Corridor, or the indescribable importance to birds of the rice fields in the estuary area.

There are ever more birdwatching enthusiasts and while it is important to attend to the experts and birdwatchers who come from all over the globe, it is even more important to spread knowledge of our birdlife among the local population, especially the future generations. The great success of the conservation of species and habitats depends on the rural population, which cares for, protects and maintains them, being aware of their importance and their value. It is of little use to engage in conservation from a chair in a large city if we do not win the conviction and cooperation of the people who inhabit our towns, the people who live in and from the countryside. The permanent goal

is environmental education, the challenge and daily task of everyone who wishes to conserve our natural heritage.

The Provincial Council of Seville offers us the opportunity to create a new environmental education instrument. Coordinating this team of professionals, ornithologists, illustrators and designers, among others, we have tried to create a tool that will allow the layperson, the uninitiated, to learn about and identify the different bird species living in the varied ecosystems of the province of Seville, including the urban areas. It is impossible to conserve something which we do not know. Anyone who has the opportunity to enter the world of birdwatching will automatically become a convinced conservationist. I hope that this publication will serve to continue a task which, through public and private initiative, has been undertaken in recent years with great success and phenomenal results.



— THE NATURA 2000 NETWORK —

THE NATURA 2000 NETWORK

The Natura 2000 Network is a European ecological network of biodiversity conservation areas. Throughout Europe, over 27,000 natural spaces make up the Network, representing over 18% of European territory. Thanks to its enormous wealth and diversity of wildlife, Spain is the European country with most land in the Network, with 18,000 spaces, or 30% of the total territory.

The purpose of the Network, the European Union's main nature conservation instrument, is to ensure the long-term survival of the most valuable or endangered species and types of habitat, helping to stop the loss of biodiversity.

The Natura 2000 Network is a conservationist model which, far from being an obstacle to socio-economic development, represents a source of benefits for citizens and for the wider economy in the territories.

Natura 2000 consists of Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) established under the 1992 Habitats Directive and Special Protection Areas (SPA) designated by virtue of the Birds Directive of 1999, further developed under Directive 2009/147/EC.

There are Sites of Community Importance (SCI), which are spaces containing types of natural habitat or species of special value in the European Union. SCIs are called Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) once they have been officially declared by the Member States of the European Union. Special Protection Areas (SPA) are places which contain wild bird species in need of conservation measures in the European Union.



SPECIAL PROTECTION AREAS (SPAs) IN THE PROVINCE DE SEVILLE.

DOÑANA

In the municipalities of Aznalcázar, Isla Mayor, Pilas, La Puebla del Río and Villamanrique de la Condesa, in the province of Seville, there are areas of Doñana which have been declared SPAs, consisting of zones of the National and Natural Park, mainly wet and dry marshes, cropland and some areas of pine forest.

SIERRA NORTE

The Sierra Norte de Sevilla Natural Park is a region of medium-sized mountains located in the north of the province, made up of large areas of dehesa pastureland alternating with holm oak and cork oak forests. In the province of Seville, it straddles the municipalities of El Real de la Jara, Almadén de la Plata, Cazalla de la Sierra, Constantina, El Pedroso, Las Navas de la Concepción, San Nicolás del Puerto, La Puebla de los Infantes, Alanís and Guadalcanal.

BRAZO DEL ESTE

The Brazo del Este Natural Site is one of the old branches of the River Guadalquivir as it passes through the marshes. With a flat landscape full of marshland vegetation, and flowing between croplands, the area is a paradise for bird lovers. It is located in the municipalities of La Puebla del Río, Coria del Río, Utrera, Dos Hermanas, Las Cabezas de San Juan and Lebrija.

CORDOBILLA RESERVOIR

In the municipality of Badolatosa, the reservoir is on the River Genil in the provinces of Seville and Cordoba. Due to its shallow waters and the vegetation consisting of reeds, bulrushes and tamarisk, it is an ideal spot to watch numerous species of waterfowl.

MALPASILLO RESERVOIR

Located to the south of the town of Badolatosa on the steep terrain of the River Genil, this is an area of great ornithological value as it receives numerous species of birds during their migration.

LEBRIJA-LAS CABEZAS ENDORHEIC BASINS

The Lebrija-Las Cabezas Endorheic Basins are some of the last survivors of a large lagoon system that covered all of the land between Seville and Cadiz. It is an area of great ornithological importance, since it is, for the birds, an alternative to Doñana for breeding, reproducing and resting during migration.

PEÑÓN DE ZAFRAMAGÓN

Its main attraction is that it is a very important place for the colony of Griffon vultures that inhabit its crags and the presence of protected species such as Bonelli's Eagle, the Eurasian eagle owl, Egyptian vulture and peregrine falcon. It is situated between the municipalities of Coripe and Olvera.

UTRERA ENDORHEIC BASINS

This is a wet zone made of three shallow, seasonal lagoons. As in the case of other isolated wetlands, these lagoons are of great value to birdlife during the migration of many species of water birds.

GOSQUE LAGOON NATURE RESERVE

This seasonal salt lagoon, located in the municipality of San Martín de la Jara, is usually dry in summer and part of the autumn, until the first rains. It is a habitat for the flamingo, Kentish plover, Eurasian coot and northern pintail.

SEVILLE CAMPIÑA

This protected natural space is located in the south-east of the province de Seville, between the municipalities of Écija, La Lantejuela, Marchena and Osuna. It is a wide, open area of farmland with undulating hillocks, hills and fertile river plains. The territory is dominated by cereal farming, interspersed with irrigated land and olive groves. It is home to interesting birdlife, mainly steppe species and those found in the aquatic habitats of the La Lantejuela endorheic basins.

SITES OF COMMUNITY IMPORTANCE (SCIs) IN THE PROVINCE DE SEVILLE

- **Doñana** (Azncázar, Isla Mayor, Pilas, La Puebla del Río and Villamanrique de la Condesa),
- **Sierra Norte Mountains of Seville** (El Real de la Jara, Almadén de la Plata, Cazalla de la Sierra, Constantina, El Pedroso, Las Navas de la Concepción, San Nicolás del Puerto, La Puebla de los Infantes, Alanís and Guadalcanal)
- **Los Tollos Lagoon** (El Cuervo)
- **North and West Doñana** (Azncázar, La Puebla del Río and Villamanrique de la Condesa),
- **Lower Guadalquivir** (Alcalá del Río, La Rinconada, La Algaba, Seville, Santiponce, Camas, San Juan de Aznalfarache, Gelves, Dos Hermanas, Palomares del Río, Coria del Río, La Puebla del Río, Lebrija and Azncázar)
- **Middle stretch of the River Guadalquivir** (Peñaflor)
- **River Guadaira** (Morón de la Frontera, Coripe and Arahal)
- **Dehesa de Torrecuadros** (Pilas)
- **Pilas Stream** (Pilas)
- **Utrera Endorheic Basins** (Utrera)
- **La Lantejuela Endorheic Basins** (Osuna)
- **Gosque Lagoon** (Martín de la Jara)
- **Sierra de Alanís mountains** (Alanís)
- **River Guadiamar Ecological Corridor** (Azncázar, Azncóllar, Benacazón, El Castillo de las Guardas, El Garrobo, El Madroño, Gerena, Huévar del Aljarafe, Olivares, Sanlúcar la Mayor and Villamanrique de la Condesa)



- **Coripe Lagoon** (Coripe and Morón de la Frontera)
- **Santiago, Salado de Morón and Matabueyes/Garrapata Streams** (Montellano, Utrera, El Coronil and Morón de la Frontera)
- **River Viar** (Castiblanco de los Arroyos and El Pedroso)
- **El Abrevadero Mine** (Villanueva del Río and Minas)
- **Venta de Las Navas** (Constantina)
- **Salado Stream in Lebrija-Las Cabezas** (Utrera, Las Cabezas de San Juan, Lebrija and El Cuervo)
- **Other SCIs in the province de Seville:** River Guadalete, Gullies of the River Retortillo, Middle Stretch of the River Guadalquivir, Río Tinto Ecological Corridor, Rivera de Cala, River Corbones, El Galayo and La Jabata Mines, River Guadaira.



PROTECTED NATURAL SPACES OF THE REGIONAL MINISTRY OF THE ENVIRONMENT OF THE ANDALUSIAN REGIONAL GOVERNMENT IN THE PROVINCE OF SEVILLE

La Red de Espacios Naturales Protegidos de Andalucía (RENPA) se conforma por un total de 243 áreas protegidas, reconocidas por sus valores naturales, históricos y culturales. Sobre las que pueden recaer una o más figuras de protección.

NATIONAL PARKS:

-Doñana National Park

NATURAL PARKS:

-Doñana Natural Park (Aznalcázar, Isla Mayor, Pilas, La Puebla del Río and Villamanrique de la Condesa, in Seville).

-Sierra Norte mountains in Seville (El Real de la Jara, Almadén de la Plata, Cazalla de la Sierra, Constantina, El Pedroso, Las Navas de la Concepción,

San Nicolás del Puerto, La Puebla de los Infantes, Alanís and Guadalcanal).

PERIURBAN PARKS:

- La Corchuela Periurban Park** (Dos Hermanas)
- Hacienda Porzuna Periurban Park** (Mairena del Aljarafe)
- El Gergal Periurban Park** (Guillena)

NATURAL SITES:

- Cordobilla Reservoir Natural Site** (Badolatosa)
- Malpasillo Reservoir Natural Site** (Badolatosa)
- Brazo del Este Natural Site** (La Puebla del Río, Coria del Río, Utrera, Dos Hermanas, Las Cabezas de San Juan and Lebrija)

PROTECTED LANDSCAPES:

- Guadimar Green Corridor Protected Landscape** (Aznalcázar, Aznalcóllar, Benacazón, Huévar, Olivares, Sanlúcar La Mayor and Villamanrique de La Condesa)
- Río Tinto Protected Landscape** (El Madroño)

NATURAL MONUMENTS:

- Huesna Waterfalls** (San Nicolás del Puerto)
- Banks of the River Guadaíra** (Alcalá de Guadaíra)
- Cerro del Hierro** (San Nicolás del Puerto and Constantina).
- Encina de los Perros** (El Madroño)
- Tajos de Mogarejo** (Montellano).
- Chaparro de la Vega** (Coripe)

NATURE RESERVES:

- Peñon de Zaframagón** (Olvera and Coripe)
- Gosque Lagoon** (Martín de la Jara)
- Lebrija-Las Cabezas Endorheic Basins** (Lebrija and Las Cabezas de San Juan)
- La Lantejuela Endorheic Basins** (Osuna)

PRIVATE NATURE RESERVES:

- Dehesa de Abajo** (La Puebla del Río).
- Cañada de los Pájaros** (La Puebla del Río).





— HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE —

The ornithology guide you have in your hands has been drawn up with the idea of bringing Seville’s birdlife to everyone interested in nature and the countryside. You do not have to be a keen ornithologist to enjoy birdwatching or to read specialised guides on the subject. Just the opposite, in fact; our aim in publishing this guide is to bring birdwatching closer to people who love the countryside in general, since the pleasure brought by studying and identifying birds in the field, whether superficially or in depth, does not depend on taking specialised studies or having academic qualifications. The purpose of this guide, then, is to bring birdwatching to everyone who wants to get to know the province of Seville or to improve their knowledge and they will, certainly, become even more fascinated when they are able to identify species and to tell whether it is in its habitat, or if it is migrating, whether it breeds in the area or to understand the threats it suffers.

To this end, we have attempted to include all of the birds that can habitually be found in the province, whether sedentary, nesting or migrating. We have also included some species which only visit occasionally or accidentally, provided that they are considered to have some relevance, either for the number of individuals or their ecological importance, but which can sometimes be seen in our birdwatching expeditions.

Before using this guide, we recommend that you read the description in the fact sheet on each species -which we have included on the following page-, in order to familiarise yourself with the vocabulary used, the organisation of the groups of birds, biometric data (L: length – Wi: wingspan – We: weight) and the graphics used to summarise each bird’s status in the province, the months when they are present and their nesting and breeding seasons.

Degree of threat

Presence and nesting

Biometric data

Name in other languages

Common name

Page of the illustration

Preferred habitats

Scientific name

Distribution map

Group


GREYLAG GOOSE


ES: Ánsar común FR: Oie cendrée DE: Graugans

L: 70 - 90 cm W: 150 - 180 cm. W: 8 - 13 kg.

E F M A M J J A S O N D NA

Anser anser





Ducks and geese

A large, grey goose, it has a pale orange, triangular beak and a fairly bulky body, a thick neck and robust pink legs. The underwing is whitish and obvious in flight. There is no difference between the two sexes.

Its flight is powerful, though with a slow, laborious wingbeat. Flying in families, it adopts well-organised formations, characteristically in a V-formation or oblique lines.

Its preferred habitats are extensive wet areas, preferring grassland or farmland near the coast, estuaries and marshes.

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Field guide to the birds of the province of Seville

ORGANISATION IN GROUPS

The classification of birds is in continuous evolution, since phylogenetics (grouping by genetic relationships) is modifying the orders and the families that have traditionally been used for classification and, furthermore, this scientific classification is not very clear to the average enthusiast. We have therefore decided to create homogenous groups with more recognisable names which, in some cases, may not coincide with their scientific classification but will be clearer and more easily understandable.

ILLUSTRATIONS

Unlike other guides, we have decided not to offer an individual illustration of each species with its fact sheet, but to group all of the illustrations together at the end of each chapter. This will allow us, at a glance, to see the differences, sometimes quite subtle, between one species and another in the same group. By presenting the information in this way, it becomes an invaluable aid not only to identify a particular species, but also to differentiate it from members of its own group. Of course, the individual illustrations of each fact sheet are very comprehensive, pointing out the basic morphological features needed, if any, to identify the bird.

NAME

For each of the species included in the guide, the scientific name, common name and the names in Spanish, French and German are also given.

TEXT

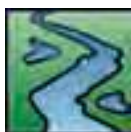
The text gives profuse but, at the same time, concise information about each of the species included in the guide, with data on their characteristic features that will be useful for their identification, a description of their usual habitats, basic information on their ethology and behaviour, the season, approximate dates and preferences for nesting and their distribution and status in the province.

HABITATS

The province of Seville is a territory whose singular origins have resulted in a mosaic made up of numerous ecosystems, though it is not easy for an inexperienced ornithologist to identify them. We have therefore decided to use graphic icons to indicate the type of territory, classified into the following habitats.



MARSHLAND: Ecosystems with predominantly shallow and, normally, seasonal waters. Fairly small shrubs and lake vegetation. These habitats include wet and tidal marshes, marshland watercourses and canals.



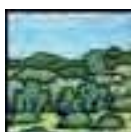
LAKES: An aquatic habitat whose water regime is independent of the marshes, generally with deeper waters and little or no vegetation, limited only to the shores. Lagoons, old branches of the river, fish farms and abandoned quarries fall into this category.



RIPARIAN: This is an ecosystem of streams and rivers with riverside or riparian vegetation. This habitat is also found in gallery forests and small woods associated with lagoons and ponds. It is the ideal environment for many passerine species.



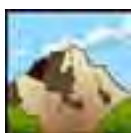
STEPPE: A terrestrial ecosystem with little water. Generally, seasonal herbaceous vegetation and shrubs. These habitats are often found in farming areas.



SHRUBLAND: This ecosystem, also called scrub or brush, is mainly made up of a wide variety of shrubs with some isolated patches of trees such as cork oaks, wild olives or pine trees.



WOODED: An ecosystem dominated by larger plant species, such as pines, wild olive trees or open dehesa pastureland with holm oaks. It is also associated with strata of Mediterranean shrubs, and is one of the most suitable habitats for all types of bird.



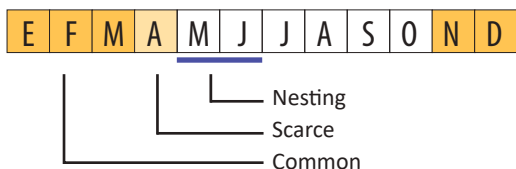
ROCKY: Ecosystems made up of rock formations, such as cliffs, crags, scarps and canyons. It is the ideal habitat for some rock-dwelling birds of prey and passerines.



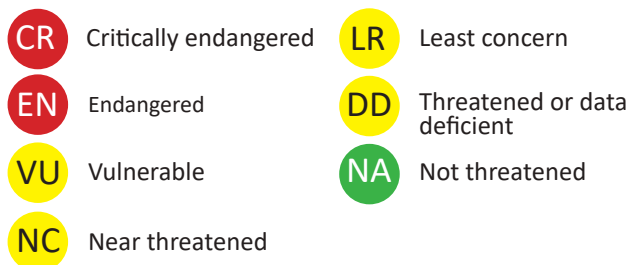
URBAN: Our towns and cities, their constructions, parks and gardens, making a specific ecosystem which is home to a rich variety of fauna that, in some cases, makes it their preferred habitat.

PRESENCE, NESTING AND ABUNDANCE

The descriptive text is accompanied by a graphic which gives the time of year in which the species can be found here and its nesting dates. The graphic is a horizontal bar showing the months of the year, with a darker colour for those times when the bird is most common and easily seen, a lighter colour for the months when it is scarcer and more difficult to see, and white for when it is rare and seen only sporadically. A blue line under the graphic shows the nesting dates.

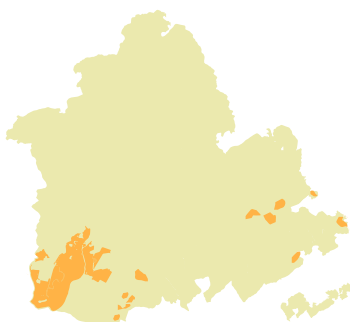


The letters in the circle on the right reflects the degree of threat affecting each species, using the following scale:



DISTRIBUTION MAP

Finally, the distribution map shows us the area where we are most likely to see a given species within the area of study. This does not mean that the birds cannot be seen outside these areas, but it is much easier and frequent to see them here.







— IDENTIFICATION OF BIRDS —

If there is one thing on which we can all agree, it is that the different species display an enormous diversity of shapes, sizes, colours and behaviours, but despite that, there is one thing that all birds have in common: feathers.

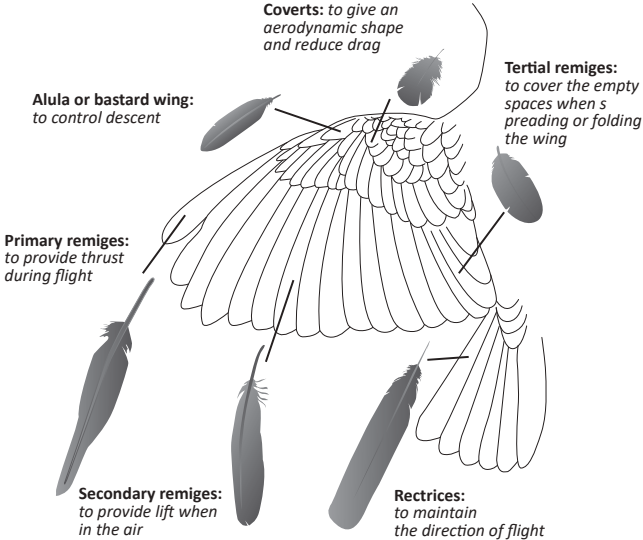
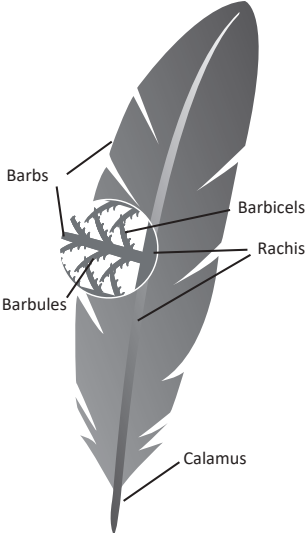
The figure represents the most complex structure of a feather. In evolutionary terms, birds come from reptiles, as can be seen from the scales that they still have on their legs.

Each barb of the vane is a miniature feather. This singular structure of the wing occupies a large surface area, and has a low specific weight, which means that it weighs very little and can remain in optimum condition.

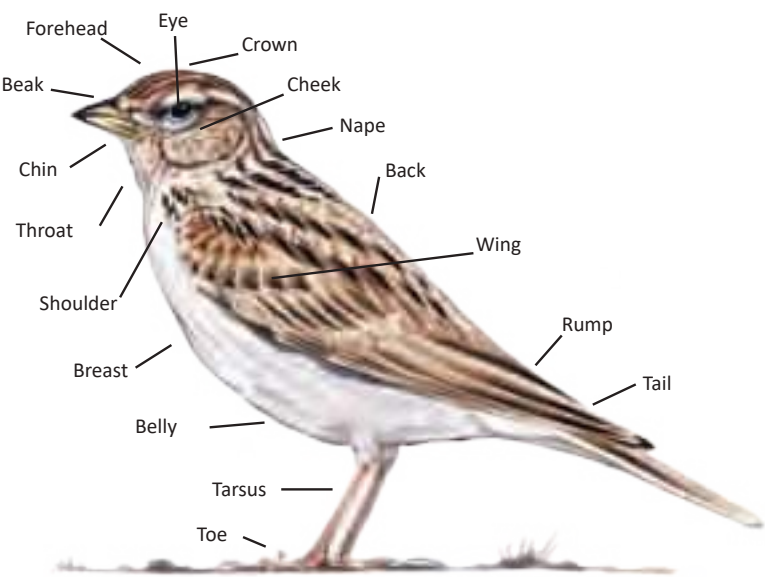
Throughout the process of evolution, feathers have acquired a very specific morphology in order to fulfil a dual function: to protect birds from the external environment and to allow them to fly, since they arose as a new type of protective scale.

And so, each different type of feather on a bird has a specific function:

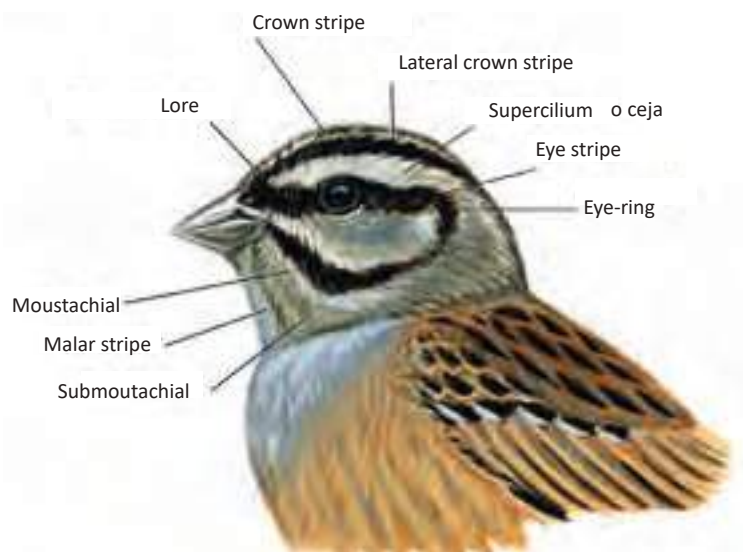
The barbs together make up the "Vane"



Since the movements of the bird in the field are rapid and it is not usually seen for very long, when identifying the species, it is important to gather the maximum amount of information as quickly as possible, before it hides or flies away.



The lines on the heads of birds, mainly passerines, also have scientific names, which are very useful for identification.



HOW TO IDENTIFY A BIRD

When identifying a bird in the field, we should know a number of basic characteristics in order to recognise the species that we are watching.

Sightings of birds are usually fleeting, and so we must be very alert and concentrate on basic aspects of the species, asking the following questions:

1.- How big is it?

This is the total length, from the tip of the beak to the tip of the tail.

Another measurement used in birdwatching is wingspan, which is the distance between the tips of the two wings when they are completely spread out.

In the first instance, to learn the approximate size of a bird, we shall refer to species that are more familiar to us:



Blue tit
11,5 cm



Sparrow
14,5 cm



Starling
21 cm



Blackbird
25 cm



Pigeon
33 cm



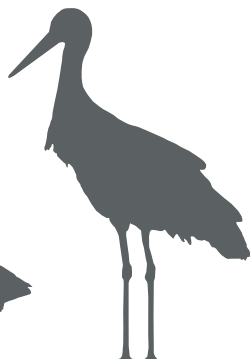
Magpie
45 cm



Duck
58 cm



Goose
80 cm



Stork
100 cm

2.- What shape is the beak?

The shape and length of the beak usually tell us something about its feeding habits: insectivorous, granivorous, predator, fish feeder, filterer, etc..



Wagtail
General insectivore
Small and thin



Hoopoe
Specialised insectivore
Long and thin



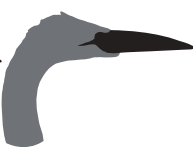
Corn Bunting
Granivorous
Short and robust



Golden Eagle
Predator
Strong and hooked



Godwit
Specialised predator
Thin and very long



Grey Heron
Fish feeder
Dagger-shaped



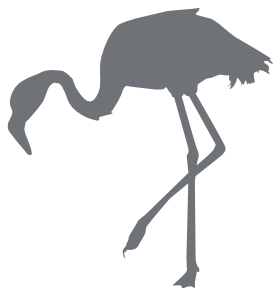
Mallard
Filter feeder
Flat



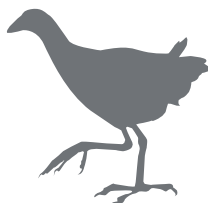
Flamingo
Specialised filter feeder
Thick and curved

3.- How long are the legs?

The length and shape of the legs and toes and the way the bird moves can give us clues about its habitat.



Flamingo
Long legs
For wading



Purple Gallinule
Medium-sized legs
For all purposes



Common Chiffchaff
Short legs
To perch on trees

4.- Does it have any distinctive features?

Observing characteristic patches of colour can help us to identify the bird more clearly and easily. We should pay attention to the bars, patches or stripes on the face, neck, rump and wings, and we should also notice whether there are spots or stripes on any other part of the body.



Great Tit
White patch on neck



Black-Eared Wheatear
Black mask



Cirl Bunting
Yellow supercilium
and malar stripe



House Martin
White rump



Bullfinch
Red breast



Barn Swallow
Red throat and forehead

5.- What shape are the wings?

Many birds can be identified by their silhouette in flight, especially when they are so high that it is not possible to observe any other distinguishing features.



Short-Eared Owl
Rounded



Common Tern
Pointed



Golden Eagle
Splayed feathers



Common Swift
Scythe-shaped

6.- What posture does it have and what are its characteristic movements?

All birds adopt specific postures or have characteristic movements, depending on their feeding habits or how they move about or defend their territory.



Grey Wagtail
Walks with the body in a horizontal position



Scrub Robin
Raises the tail



Great Spotted Woodpecker
Clings vertically to the tree

7.- What is the shape and length of the tail?

This is a very distinctive feature, especially in flight, and is sufficient to identify some specific species.



Rounded



Square



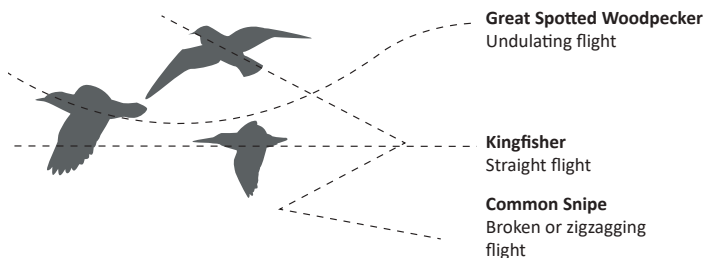
Notched or slightly forked



Deeply forked

8.- How does it fly?

Describing how it flies can help to complete and confirm data about a species.







— BIRD FACTSHEETS

COLOR CODE FOR BIRD GROUPS

Factsheets	Groups	Illustrations
35-42	Ducks and Goose	43-47
51-52	Cormorants and grebes	48-49
53-57	Hérons	61-63
58	Spoonbills and ibis	64
59-60	Storks, flamingos and cranes	64-65
69-71	Rails	66-67
72	Bustards	78
73	Sandgrouses	79
74	Partridges and quails	79
75-77	Seagulls and sea swallows	80-81
83-92	Waders	93-98
99-109	Birds of prey	111-117
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121	Cuckoos	134
122-125	Owls	135-137
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127-128	Coraciformes	138
129-130	Swifts	139
131-132	Woodpeckers	140
141-184	Passerines	185-213

GREYLAG GOOSE

Anser anser

ES: Ánsar común FR: Oie cendrée DE: Graugans

L: 70 - 90 cm Wi: 150 - 180 cm. We: 8 - 13 kg.

E F M A M J J A S O N D

NA

Pg-43



A large, grey goose, it has a pale orange, triangular beak and a fairly bulky body, a thick neck and robust pink legs. The underwing is whitish and obvious in flight. There is no difference between the two sexes.

Its flight is powerful, though with a slow, laborious wingbeat. Flying in families, it adopts well-organised formations, characteristically in a V-formation or oblique lines.

Its preferred habitats are extensive wet areas, preferring grassland or farmland near the coast, estuaries and marshes.

It feeds on grasses, cereals and water plants. Anecdotically, in the Guadalquivir Marshes, the diet of these geese includes a large proportion of sedge bulbs (*Scirpus* spp.), and they ingest sediment and sand to aid in grinding the plants in the gizzard.

Large numbers winter in Seville, arriving in October and remaining with us until mid-March.

It is found mainly in Doñana and occasionally in other wet areas such as the endorheic basins of Utrera, Lebrija - Las Cabezas and the Malpasillo and Cordobilla reservoirs, and they can even be found in the reservoirs of the Sierra Norte mountains, although it is probable that, in some cases, these are birds bred in captivity.

COMMON SHELDUCK

Tadorna tadorna

ES: Tarro blanco FR: Tardone de Belon DE: Brandente

L: 50 - 70 cm Wi: 110 - 130 cm. We: 850 - 1400 g.

E F M A M J J A S O N D

NA

Pg-43



The common shelduck is a large member of the Anatidae family, with an intermediate morphology, between geese and ducks. The upper part of its neck and head are greenish-black, with a red beak and a chestnut strip around the neck. The underwing is white, contrasting with the black remiges. The male has a protuberance on the beak.

Its silhouette in flight and its movements are typical of geese, with a slower wingbeat than other types of duck.

The female nests in rabbit burrows, hollow trees, etc. Like other ducks, during the delicate moulting period, it loses all its feathers at the same time, and cannot fly until they regrow, which supposes a great danger from possible predators. When this moment comes, the chicks are abandoned by their parents before they can fly and they are grouped in "nurseries" guarded by several females.

For this reason, the common shelduck is a very gregarious bird, and it forms large flocks during the postnuptial moult in suitable areas of shallow, brackish water.

Its habitat is muddy and sandy coastlines, although it occasionally nests inland. To breed, it needs appropriate areas with holes, such as sandy dunes, light soils, hollow trees, rabbit burrows or open shrub land.

In Seville, they can be found in some parts of Doñana, such as Veta de la Palma, Dehesa de Abajo and, sporadically, other parts of the marsh. They have also occasionally been sighted in the endorheic basins of Utrera and La Lantejuela, and even in the countryside of Seville.

MALLARD

Anas platyrhynchos

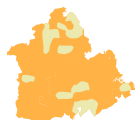
ES: Ánade azulón FR: Carnard colvert DE: Stockente

L: 55 - 65 cm Wi: 80 - 95 cm. We: 750 - 1500 g.

E F M A M J J A S O N D

NA

Pg-43



The mallard is the commonest and most widespread of the surface-feeding Anatidae that we can see in this area. Its physiognomy is unmistakable: green head and neck with blue highlights, a thin white collar and a chestnut breast; the hen is brown, and both have an intense blue speculum. In its eclipse plumage -between June and September-, the drake is almost identical to the hen, though slightly darker.

It is to be found in different aquatic environments and is adapted to almost all types of terrain. It is generally associated with numerous wet environments, such as marshes, marsh pools, rainwater ponds, irrigation ponds, reservoirs and even riverside areas far from large bodies of water.

The mallard is a magnificent flyer and during the moulting period, very large groups come together in wetlands with thick vegetation where they can hide. It is a gregarious species which does not usually fly in formation. A good swimmer, it dives to feed, mainly on the seeds, shoots and roots of water plants.

It nests in areas protected by vegetation, often at considerable distance from lagoons, rivers or pools, and will nest in small ponds or small streams. The nest is constructed in very varied spots, under the protection of vegetation, or in nests abandoned by other birds.

It is the commonest reproducing duck in Seville. There are over 50 citations of it breeding in the nests of birds of prey in trees. As a wintering species, it is very numerous, with over 40,000 individuals and can be found in any part of the province with a body of water, including even small locations far from the main water bodies.

GADWALL

Anas strepera

ES: Ánade friso FR: Carnard chipeau DE: Schnatterente

L: 45 - 55 cm Wi: 85 - 95 cm. We: 650 - 900 g.

E F M A M J J A S O N D

NA

Pg-44



The gadwall is a medium-sized duck with little contrast in the plumage. The drake's nuptial plumage on the back and head is greyish-brown, the speculum is black and white, the breast whitish and the tail is black. Its legs are orange, with marked sexual dimorphism. The female can be distinguished from the mallard it has a lighter throat, the mallard's being more ochre.

In winter, it can be found in reservoirs, lagoons and rivers with little vegetation and during the breeding season, it prefers wetlands with abundant plant cover.

It is gregarious and habitually mixes with other species of duck, generally going unnoticed in groups, and so it must be observed closely to identify the sinuous grey and light brown lines of the male's plumage. It is not a very common species and it is very agile and fast in flight. It is a good swimmer and will dive fairly frequently. It walks well.

The gadwall nests on elevated marshland or small islets, protected by thick vegetation such as thistle, grasses, etc., and several pairs usually nest quite close to each other. The nest is constructed with plant matter or reeds with a lining of down.

Its diet is basically plants and submerged stalks, leaves, the roots of reeds and other water plants. It also stirs up the mud to find small snails and worms.

There are between 2,500 and 4,000 breeding pairs in Spain, concentrated mainly in the marshes of the River Guadalquivir (1,000 - 2,000 pairs).

It is, however, a very common winter visitor and can be found in the Doñana area and on other relatively large bodies of water.

NORTHERN PINTAIL

Anas acutta

ES: Ánade rabudo FR: Carnard pilet DE: Spiessente

L: 50 - 70 cm Wi: 80 - 95 cm. We: 600 - 1200 g.

E F M A M J J A S O N D

NA

Pg-44



The northern pintail is a slim, elegant bird with a long neck and wings, giving it a distinguished, graceful appearance. It is characterised by its chocolate-coloured head, white bib and greenish-bronze speculum, making it a refined example of Spanish birdlife. It has a long black beak, pearl grey at the sides. In its eclipse plumage (July-October), the drake resembles the hen, although a little darker. The name of the species comes from its long tail feather, which it always keeps upright.

It can be found in wet meadows and areas with open, shallow waters and marsh vegetation. It is sometimes found far from water, but always in open terrain, never wooded, with dense, low herbaceous vegetation. In winter, it can be found in protected coastal areas, deltas, estuaries and marshes, as well as open inland lagoons.

It nests in the north of Europe, hiding the nest among the marsh vegetation. The nest is made of piles of plant material lined with down, frequently located in a hole in the earth or a dune. This species, which only breeds when the water level in the marsh is high, never exceeds 100 pairs. In winter, it is a very numerous visitor. Adults which do not breed, either because of the water conditions or the poor physical condition of the individuals, sometimes remain in the area.

As a breeding bird, it is included in the Red List of the birds of Spain and is classified as "Vulnerable".

In the province of Seville, it can be found mainly in the National Park, Veta la Palma, Dehesa de Abajo, in some endorheic basins such as La Lantejuela and occasionally in irrigation ponds, lagoons and reservoirs in other parts of the province.

NORTHERN SHOVELLER

Anas clypeata

ES: Cuchara europeo FR: Carnard souchet DE: Löffelente

L: 44 - 52 cm Wi: 73 - 82 cm. We: 450 - 1000 g.

E F M A M J J A S O N D

NA

Pg-44



This is a fair-sized duck characterised by its black beak which widens at the tip, in the shape of a spatula. The drake has an iridescent dark green head, white breast and chestnut flanks, its back is black, with white scapulars with black borders, and some long blue, white, black and green feathers. The speculum is green and white, the belly white and the legs orange. The hen has pale brownish underparts. In its eclipse plumage (May-December), the drake resembles the hen, though somewhat browner and redder.

It is gregarious during migration and in winter. Its flight is very fast, with the wings set well back. It is a good swimmer and dives quite frequently. It is ungainly when walking. In winter, it can be found in shallow, open, fresh or brackish water, with muddy beds and surrounded by vegetation. It is not often found in coastal waters.

During the breeding season, it nests on meadows with marshland vegetation, marshes and fertile plains with abundant plant cover. It does not form breeding colonies, nesting on the ground, close to water and under the protection of vegetation. The nest is made in a slight hollow in the ground, with grass, leaves and down.

It feeds and rests during the day, though if molested, it will visit the feeding grounds -muddy or boggy waters- at dusk. It is a dabble feeder, filtering the water through the beak on the surface. Its diet is based on freshwater insects, molluscs, seeds, shoots and the leaves of aquatic plants. It is a very common wintering bird but rare as a breeder, reproducing only in years when the water level in the marsh is very high.

Locally, there are only population estimates for some wetlands, such as Doñana (around 50 breeding pairs in optimum years). It can be found in the Doñana area, the lagoons of La Lantejuela, and sporadically in other relatively large bodies of water.

EURASIAN WIGEON*Anas penelope***ES:** Silbón europeo **FR:** Carnard siffleur **DE:** Pfeifente**L:** 45 - 50 cm **W:** 75 - 85 cm. **We:** 500 - 900 g.

E F M A M J J A S O N D

NA

Pg-44



The Eurasian wigeon is a small duck, with a greyish-blue, black tipped beak, a reddish brown head with a yellow forehead and crown, a pinkish-chestnut breast, white belly and vermiculated grey and white flanks. The back is grey with long, chestnut scapulars with white borders. The speculum is dark green, trimmed in black, with a black rump and grey tail. The hen is very different from the drake, with predominantly brown and dark brown tones.

It is very agile in flight, with a pronounced wingbeat which produces a vibrant sound. It is gregarious and in winter rests in large flocks which usually have compact flight patterns.

During the winter, it can be found in large numbers in the Guadalquivir marshes and in some lagoons and pools, still river wetlands or close to estuaries, always in clear, open areas.

It breeds close to shallow open waters, almost always freshwater, with abundant aquatic plants on the bed but little emergent vegetation, in areas with dense plant cover, such as grasses, shrubs and trees.

It normally feeds at night, though it can also do so during the day, usually grazing or dabbling for small aquatic animals and plants.

This species has only been known to breed in Doñana once: a young, non-flying bird ringed during moulting, inside the National Park. As a wintering bird, though, it is one of the commonest, and can exceed 50,000 individuals each season. It is to be found in many areas of Doñana and in some endorheic basins, such as La Lantejuela.

RED CRESTED POCHARD*Netta rufina***ES:** Pato colorado **FR:** Nette rousse **DE:** Kolbenente**L:** 50 - 60 cm **v:** 85 - 90 cm. **We:** 800 - 1300 g.

E F M A M J J A S O N D

VU

Pg-45



This is a sizeable duck, with a large, round head and a fairly long neck. The red-crested pochard is sturdy, with contrasting plumage in the male. In its nuptial plumage, it has a crest with "flaming" orangeish-brown tones. The drake has a red beak and grey-brown dorsal plumage; the breast, central ventral band and the rump are black, the flanks white and the legs orange. The hen is a uniform drab brown colour, with a grey beak and the lower part of the head and throat are whitish. Both sexes have a wide white band along the wing, obvious in flight.

This duck is both a diver and a swimmer, though it does not dive frequently. It has a vigorous wingbeat when flying, generally higher than other divers, and swims quite high on the water. It is a fairly gregarious duck, and can be seen in large flocks which rest and feed repeatedly in the same places.

Found on open, fairly deep waters, with abundant marsh vegetation for nesting and subaquatic plants for feeding, it can also be seen in freshwater marshes, brackish lagoons and slow-moving waters in rivers and streams. It feeds on underwater plants, crustaceans, aquatic insects, roe, tadpoles and even molluscs.

It nests in areas of dense marsh vegetation, on the water or hidden on nearby land. The nest is made of the stalks and leaves of aquatic plants, thickly lined with down.

In Seville, it is a common breeding bird in years with abundant water and as a wintering bird, it is found in large numbers, up to 5,000 individuals. Its habitat is around fairly deep water bodies in the National Park, Veta La Palma, Dehesa de Abajo and the endorheic basins of Lebrija-Los Palacios and La Lantejuela, and has been sighted in some lagoons such as Gosque.

COMMON POCHARD

Aythya ferina

ES: Porrón europeo FR: Fuligule milouin DE: Tafelente

L: 42 - 49 cm Wi: 70 - 80 cm. We: 700 - 1000 g.

E F M A M J J A S O N D

NA

Pg-45



The common pochard is a medium-sized diving duck with a high crown and a slanted profile, terminating in a flat beak with characteristic matt edges and a pale grey bill band. The drake has a reddish-chestnut head, black breast and a grey body, while the hen is brown and has a light, diffuse patch around the beak. In its eclipse plumage -between July and September- the drake resembles the hen, though the head is more chestnut and uniform, and the back is greyer.

The pochard flies quickly, with a rapid wingbeat and the legs towards the back of the body, tucked in behind the tail. Its takeoff from the water, however, is laborious and requires a great effort and so, in the face of danger, it prefers to dive into the water rather than to fly.

Outside the breeding season, it is a gregarious species and forms compact flocks. As it is reluctant to fly, it prefers swimming and diving. The pochard swims fairly low in the water, with the tail on the surface. It does not form breeding colonies, but nests on water with thick plant cover, well hidden among the vegetation, using stalks and the leaves of marsh vegetation and abundant down.

Its principal diet is plant based (seeds and the soft parts of roots and water plants), small invertebrates, amphibians and small fish which it finds on the bed of the wetlands.

The breeding pairs are concentrated mainly on the marshes of the River Guadalquivir (3,000 - 5,000 pairs). In years with plentiful water, its wintering population can vary between 5,000 and 7,000 individuals. It is to be found in the Doñana National Park and Natural Park, Dehesa de Abajo, endorheic basins, lagoons of a certain size and in some reservoirs, such as Malpasillo and Cordobilla.

FERRUGINOUS DUCK

Aythya nyroca

ES: Porrón pardo FR: Fuligule nyroca DE: Moorente

L: 38 - 42 cm Wi: 60 - 67 cm. We: 400 - 1000 g.

E F M A M J J A S O N D

CR

Pg-46



A small diving duck with a long beak, the back of its crown is high and its head is less rounded and longer. The plumage has practically uniform chocolate brown tones, with white lower covert tail feathers in adults. The plumage of the hen is lighter and drabber than the male. The eclipse plumage is similar in both sexes, but the male is more reddish-chestnut.

Critically endangered, it is not very sociable, spending a lot of time diving and swimming among marsh vegetation. It is active mainly at dusk and at night, resting during the day in the water or on land.

A gregarious species, it forms large flocks in areas where it is common. However, it can also be found in smaller numbers and rarely mixes with other species.

It prefers to nest in wet areas, including lagoons, ponds and marshes with dense protective vegetation. It does not form colonies, and nests close to water, on land or among marsh vegetation.

It feeds mainly on water plants, though it will also take small fish, insects, molluscs and tadpoles.

Its presence is sporadic in the wintering season, during migration and at nesting times. There have been many sightings reported of this species in the Doñana area, and we would highlight its presence in an irrigation pond close to the River Guadiamar and in Dehesa de Abajo.

TUFTED DUCK*Aythya fuligula***ES:** Porrón Moñudo **FR:** Fuligule morillon **DE:** Reiherente**L:** 40 - 47 cm **Wi:** 65 - 75 cm. **We:** 500 - 1000 g.

E F M A M J J A S O N D

NA

Pg-46



This medium-sized freshwater diving duck has a chubby, compact appearance, a fairly short beak and a characteristic tuft on its rounded head, which, in the case of the male, is long and recumbent, while in the female it is a short crest.

The white flanks contrast sharply with the rest of the plumage, which is dark. In the nuptial period, the drake has purple highlights on his head and neck, with green highlights on the rest. It has a white strip on the wing which is obvious in flight, and in its eclipse plumage -between July and October- the drake is very similar to the hen, though darker.

The tufted duck is a very good diver, regularly reaching depths of 3 to 4 metres. With no marked preference for eating or roosting grounds, it is a gregarious species and is frequently seen gathered in small flocks. When it dives, it launches itself upwards and forwards before plunging down. In winter, and in more favourable areas, it can gather in very large flocks, though in our area it is seen in smaller groups.

Though it does not breed in the province of Seville, it does so in more northerly parts of the Iberian Peninsula. In these places, it breeds in well protected areas, making its nest on the ground or in clumps of vegetation. The diet of the tufted duck consists mainly of aquatic animals and plants, such as frogs, insects, fish and their roe, which it reaches by diving.

In the Guadalquivir Valley, it is restricted to the marshes and the surrounding area, with very few individuals seen in other Andalusian wetlands. Doñana hosts a very small population, hardly a couple of dozen, and in some seasons it is completely absent. Maximum numbers of only 200-300 have been counted for several decades. On occasions, it is possible to see an individual of this species in summer, possibly birds in poor physical condition. It can be found in some parts of Doñana, in areas with water of a certain depth.

COMMON TEAL*Anas crecca***ES:** Cerceta común **FR:** Sarcelle d'hiver **DE:** Krickente**L:** 35 - 40 cm **Wi:** 55 - 65 cm. **We:** 250 - 400 g.

E F M A M J J A S O N D

NA

Pg-47



The common teal is the smallest, most compact duck in Europe. It has pointed wings and is very agile in flight. The nuptial plumage of the drake has very characteristic tones, with a reddish-chestnut head, an iridescent green eyemask bordered by white line. Both sexes have a green and black speculum and in eclipse -between July and October- the drake is very similar to the hen, though the upper parts are browner.

It is a gregarious bird outside the breeding season, forming small compact flocks which fly with great agility and sharp changes of direction. During the day, it rests in shallow waters with light plant cover, feeding at night in muddy areas with little water. The flock flies to the feeding grounds at dusk, but if the environmental conditions are favourable, it can also feed during the day.

It does not form nesting colonies, breeding on marshes and lagoons, always amid trees and shrubs close to the water. The nest is constructed by the hen, lining a small depression in the ground with dry leaves, ferns and down.

It walks through the water to feed, filtering the water and mud with its beak. It is a good swimmer and dabbles, but rarely dives. Aquatic plants and seeds, as well as insects, worms and molluscs form the main part of its diet.

The common teal only reproduces in years of high rainfall in some areas of the National Park, always in small numbers, never more than 15 - 20 pairs. However, it winters in considerable numbers, though these are subject to significant year-on-year variations related to cold spells in Europe. It can be seen on almost all the main water bodies, both in the Doñana area and in endorheic basins y lagoons.

GARGANEY

ES: Cerceta carretona FR: Sarcelle d'été DE: Knäkente

L: 37 - 41 cm Wi: 60 - 70 cm. We: 300 - 500 g.

E F M A M J J A S O N D



Pg-47

Anas querquedula



The garganey is a small, svelte duck with a short beak and slender neck. In its nuptial plumage, the drake has a characteristic broad, curved white supercilium from the eye to the nape of the neck. The upper parts and the rump are mottled brown, the flanks grey and the belly white. The hen is speckled chestnut. In its eclipse plumage -which lasts a considerable time, from July to October- the drake resembles the hen.

It is rarely seen in large flocks, as it is not particularly gregarious. Its flight is fast, agile and somewhat erratic. It can be observed in small flocks or groups, except during migration, when it becomes more gregarious.

It does not usually dive or tip up, but dabbles by filtering the water with its beak, submerging its head below the water. It feeds mainly during the day, basically on shoots, seeds and leaves of aquatic vegetation, water beetles, small fish, crustaceans, insects y molluscs.

It does not form colonies, nesting in freshwater with good plant cover. It can also be seen on waterlogged plains and wet meadows provided there is emergent or floating vegetation. The female makes the nest, lining a space among the long grass or reeds with down or grass.

The wintering population is very small and varies from one year to another, with very few individuals and in some seasons, none at all. It appears sporadically in many wetlands and sightings are more constant in only a few. The highest numbers are seen in Doñana, though not every winter (54 individuals in January 2002 and 34 in January 2007).

However, large numbers are seen on migratory routes, especially on the prenuptial migration (February-April). It is to be found in some areas of Doñana and the Malpasillo and Cordobilla reservoirs.

MARBLED TEAL

Marmaronetta angustirostris

ES: Cerceta pardilla FR: Sarcelle marbrée DE: Marmelente

L: 39 - 42 cm Wi: 60 - 70 cm. We: 350 - 600 g.

E F M A M J J A S O N D



Pg-46



The marbled teal is a medium-sized duck with basically brown plumage, with light mottling and a dark patch over the eyes. It is the only one of our Anatidae which does not have metallic speculum feathers on the wings. The drake has a mottled crest on the nape.

It can be found in shallow brackish waters, and rather than open water, it prefers to breed in waters with plant cover, such as sedge. In winter, however, it favours deep, open water, with particular preference for marshland watercourses. Several females will often lay their clutches in the same nest, and large numbers of eggs are sometimes found together. It feeds almost exclusively on plants.

Being in danger of extinction, it is difficult to observe this bird, and it has seen an alarming fall in its population as a result of habitat destruction. In Europe, it is only found in southern Spain and Turkey, although there are also small populations in the North of Africa and some Middle Eastern countries and Southwest Asia. In Spain, it can be found in wetlands in Andalusia and eastern Spain. Habitat degradation, hunting, accidental capture in fish and crab nets and the contamination of wetlands are the main causes of its situation in Spain. In the 19th century, it was the commonest duck in the Guadalquivir marshes.

It is important to underline that over the last 11 years, 87% of wintering birds and 61% of breeding birds in Spain were concentrated in two wetlands, the Doñana Nature Area (Marismillas, Las Nuevas and Veta la Palma) and El Hondo Natural Park. Taking into account that the size of the wintering population bears a direct relationship to breeding success and that the most important wetlands are the same for both populations (wintering and breeding), it is essential that the correct conservation policy is implemented in both areas in order to achieve the effective recovery of the species.

WHITE-HEADED DUCK*Oxyura leucocephala***ES:** Malvasía cabeciblanca **FR:** Erismature à tête blanche **DE:** Ruderente**L:** 43 - 48 cm **Wi:** 60 - 70 cm. **We:** 500 - 800 g.

E F M A M J J A S O N D

EN

Pg-47



This is the only European member of the *Oxyura* family, and is characterised by keeping its tail upright when alarmed and during the courtship display. The drakes have a white head with different, singular black caps and a turquoise-blue beak in the mating season. With a stocky appearance and reddish colouring, the hens have light areas on the cheeks and neck, and always have a dark beak.

The white-headed duck is basically an aquatic bird, and so it only flies when forced to do so, taking off with great difficulty and a rapid wingbeat. It can dive to a depth of five metres, remaining underwater for up to half a minute, and it is a good swimmer.

It is found on lagoons with reeds and other marsh vegetation, in which it can hide, and lives in fresh or brackish water, nesting among the reeds and the vegetation. The nest is made of the leaves of aquatic plants and lined with down. The chicks are very early developers, leaving their parents in the first week of life.

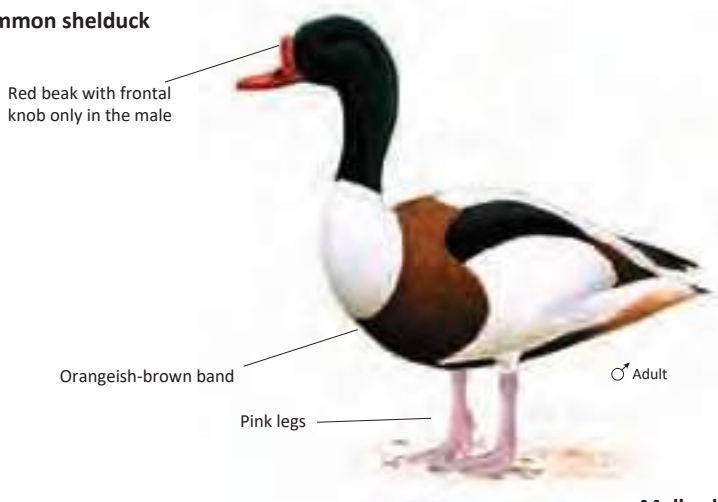
The population in the Iberian Peninsula, although fairly small, is probably the largest in Europe and appears to be rising. It is a migratory bird, wintering in the Mediterranean and Southwest Asia. Numbers are not steady each winter. When rainfall is abundant and regularly distributed, the population wintering in wetlands close to the Mediterranean coast usually exceeds 64% of the total population, in the Guadalquivir Valley it exceeds 30% and the remaining 6% are found in the centre of the peninsula.

The white-headed duck is sedentary in the Iberian Peninsula, but travels in the postnuptial and moulting periods. Postnuptial gatherings of this bird can be seen at the large fish farming ponds at Veta La Palma and it can also be seen in the Doñana National Park, at Dehesa de Abajo, Brazo del Este, at the Malpasillo and Cordobilla reservoirs and the endorheic basins of the province.

Greylag goose



Common shelduck



Mallard



Gadwall



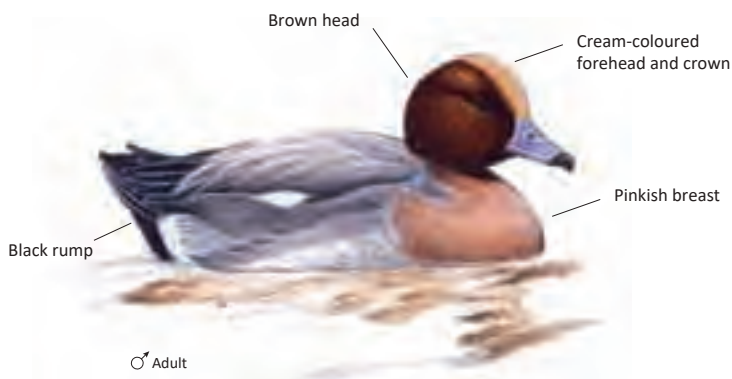
Northern Pintail



Northern shoveller



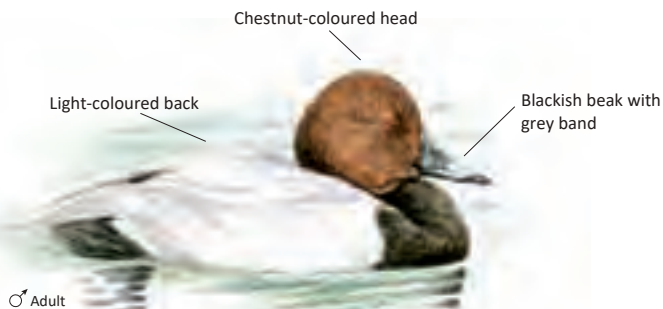
Eurasian widgeon



Red-crested pochard



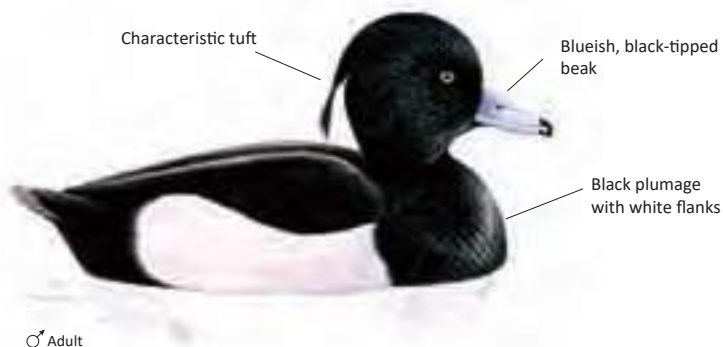
Common pochard



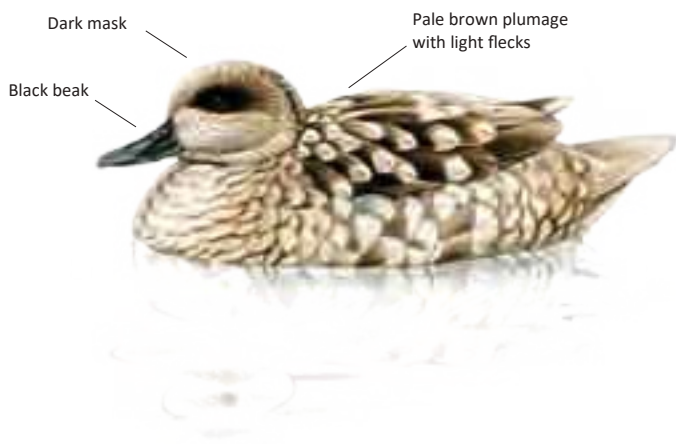
Ferruginous duck



Tufted duck



Marbled teal



Garganey



Common teal



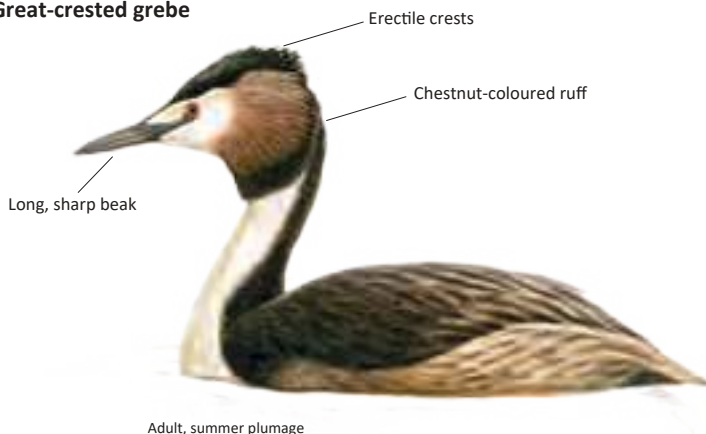
White-headed duck



Great cormorant



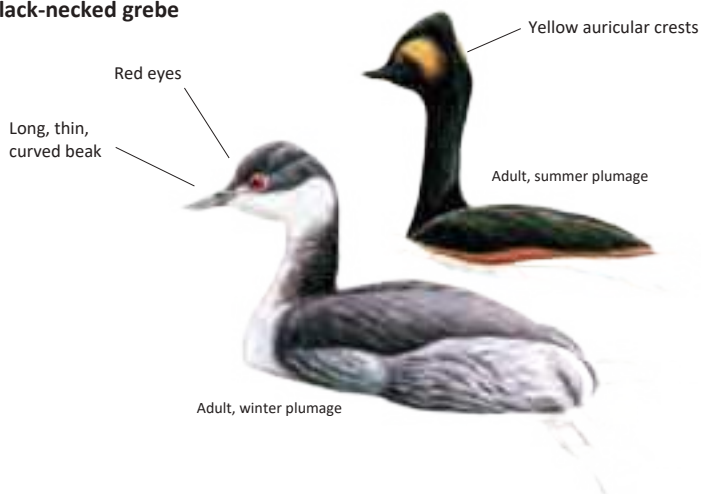
Great-crested grebe



Little grebe



Black-necked grebe



GREAT CORMORANT

Phalacrocorax carbo

ES: Cormorán grande FR: Grand cormoran DE: Kormoran

L: 80 - 100 cm Wi: 130 - 165 cm. We: 2000 - 2400 g.

E F M A M J J J A S O N D

NA

Pg-48



The cormorant is a large aquatic bird with practically black plumage, and a relatively long neck and beak. The yellow beak is slightly hooked at the tip. The throat and cheeks are white, while the upper parts are black and dark brown.

It is a skilful predator, predominantly in marine coastal areas, on islands and freshwater (marsh pools and marshes, lagoons, reservoirs, etc.). It is rarely seen far from the coast, and the furthest it will be found will be in relatively shallow waters on the continental platform. In all events, it is found in shallow water without much vegetation.

It usually establishes itself in areas where the water is shallow and without abundant vegetation. It normally remains for long periods of time on land or on an outcrop emerging from the water. It is a good swimmer and diver and its characteristic pose is with the wings extended to dry its feathers.

It flies low over the water, raising its neck above its body and tail. It feeds voraciously on fish (it is said to be able to eat its own weight in fish in one day), though it also eats small amounts of crustaceans and even algae.

In the province of Seville, it winters in large numbers, and its population rose in 10 years from a few hundred to almost 3,000 individuals in the winter of 1999/2000. The cormorant is an early migrant, and can be seen from the beginning of August. Today, it can be found in any water body in the province where it can fish, including marshes, lagoons, rivers, irrigation and fish farming ponds and reservoirs.

GREAT CRESTED GREBE

Podiceps cristatus

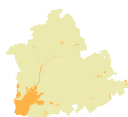
ES: Somormujo lavanco FR: Grebe Grèbe DE: Haubentaucher

L: 40 - 50 cm Wi: 75 - 90 cm. We: 700 - 900 g.

E F M A M J J J A S O N D

NA

Pg-49



This is the largest of the grebes, with the longest neck and beak. During the breeding season, it has a characteristic black double tuft and a conspicuous black and chestnut ruff around the head.

In the winter, its characteristic ruffs disappear and its face becomes white, and the narrow black crown contrasts with the upper part of the cheeks and in front of the "eyebrows". Of its body, we only see its greyish-brown back level with the water.

The great crested grebe is an extraordinary diver, but out of the water it is ungainly and heavy. It runs laboriously over the water to gain speed and height for takeoff.

It has traditionally been hunted by man for its beautiful plumage and because of its fondness for the fry in fish factories, though this situation has improved and its populations have now recovered satisfactorily. It feeds on small fish and molluscs, algae and plants.

The nest is constructed by both birds and is made up of a floating platform of herbaceous matter which is anchored to marsh vegetation or on a lagoon or marsh pool.

It can be found in any part of the province with relatively deep waters, including the reservoirs of the Sierra Norte mountains, though in small numbers. The breeding population, between 500 and 1,000 pairs, depending on the depth of water, is much more numerous and disperse than the much smaller wintering population, which is less than 200 individuals, concentrated mainly in the Doñana National Park.

LITTLE GREBE*Tachybaptus ruficollis***ES:** Zampullín común **FR:** Grèbe Castagneux **DE:** Zwergtaucher**L:** 25 - 29 cm **Wi:** 40 - 45 cm. **We:** 130 - 225 g.

E F M A M J J A S O N D

NA

Pg-49



The little grebe or dabchick is the smallest and shyest of the grebes in the Iberian Peninsula, and is the only one which does not have decorative head feathers at any time of the year. The body seems swollen, with a short neck and a blunt rump.

It is a good swimmer and diver and is more inclined to fly than other grebes, though only for short distances, with the sole exception of migration. On land, it is ungainly, and so rarely leaves the water.

It can remain submerged for 15 - 20 seconds, feeding on small fish, crustaceans -mainly small shrimps and beetles- aquatic insects and the nymphs of dragonflies, as well as some plants, though in smaller quantities.

It nests on the water or the shore, with the pair constructing a floating platform with water plants.

It can be found all over the province on freshwater and on low-lying land, in marsh pools, lagoons and marshy areas, as well as streams and rivers in the summer. In winter, as well as these habitats, they congregate on large inland water bodies and in estuaries and sheltered coastal areas.

Its breeding population in the province is estimated at between 2,000 and 3,000 pairs, with much higher numbers in favourable years. In years with sufficient rainfall, it can even breed in flooded areas of heather and Atlantic shrubland. The wintering population is very high, and may have connections with other populations.

BLACK-NECKED GREBE*Podiceps nigricollis***ES:** Zampullín cuellinegro **FR:** Grèbe à cou noir **DE:** Schwarzhalsstaucher**L:** 25 - 35 cm **Wi:** 45 - 60 cm. **We:** 250 - 325 g.

E F M A M J J A S O N D

DD

Pg-49



Another member of the grebe family (Podicipedidae), the black-necked grebe is the most common species found in marshes, preferring shallow water, though it can also be seen on lakes, lagoons and rivers.

It is easily identified in the breeding season, with its black neck and golden crests on the cheeks, which distinguish it clearly from the little grebe. It is more difficult to identify in its winter plumage, but can be distinguished by its beak (blue-grey and curving slightly upwards) and its more stylised, upright shape.

It forms colonies, though it is not uncommon to see it alone or in pairs. Its complex courtship display takes place between April and June, as does that of the great crested grebe, but it is rarely seen, as the display takes place at night. After the courtship, the parent birds construct a nest among the reeds with aquatic plants, where they lay a clutch of 3 or 4 white eggs, which are incubated by both. As with other grebes, when threatened, they cover the nest with leaves before fleeing. The chicks abandon the nest on hatching and are sometimes carried by the parents for up to 4 weeks.

It can be found in any part of the province where there is relatively deep water, including the reservoirs of the Sierra Norte mountains, though in lower numbers. It feeds mainly on aquatic insects and larvae, but depending on the environmental conditions, it can also feed on crustaceans, amphibians and small fish.

In Seville, the black-necked grebe is found mainly in the Doñana area, though it is not uncommon to find it in other wetlands such as endorheic basins and the larger lagoons. The breeding population is around 1,000 to 2,000 pairs, generally close to colonies of whiskered tern (*Chlidonias hybrida*). The population of wintering birds is fairly low, estimated at around 800 individuals.

EURASIAN BITTERN

Botaurus stellaris

ES: Avetoro común FR: Butor étoilé DE: Grosse Rohrdommel

L: 70 - 80 cm Wi: 125 - 135 cm. We: 1000 - 1500 g.

E F M A M J J A S O N D

CR

Pg-61



Formally more numerous, the Eurasian bittern is today easier to hear than to see, with very few sightings of the species in Doñana.

Its call sounds like a foghorn and can be heard from a distance of over a kilometre. It lives alone in marshes, preferring areas of dense vegetation, preferably reeds. It can also be found in slow-moving waters, riverbanks and the shores of lakes, always close to dense reed beds.

In appearance, it is a large heron with mottled brown plumage and black and dark chestnut bars. It has short legs and large feet, both greenish in colour. When walking, it has a characteristic posture, hunched with its head down. The plumage camouflages the bird among the reeds and if surprised, it takes a cryptic posture, stretching and pointing its head upwards.

The nest, constructed by the female, is a disorderly tangle of reeds and other plants in which it lays a clutch of 4 to 6 eggs between April and May. The chicks leave the nest after two or three weeks and begin to fly at eight weeks. Its diet is based on small fish, amphibians, insects and sometimes small mammals and birds.

The Doñana National Park is one of its main wetland wintering spots.

An average of 18 individuals are usually recorded in the census of wintering birds in Andalusia. There are no breeding pairs in the province of Seville, though since 2002, some nests have been observed which, in all events, whether migratory or breeding nests, appear to be circumstantial.

It can be found at Brazo del Este, Entremuros, in rice fields, Veta la Palma and in the National Park.

LITTLE BITTERN

Ixobrychus minutus

ES: Avetorillo común FR: Blongios nain DE: Zwergrohrdommel

L: 33 - 38 cm v: 50 - 60 cm. We: 140 - 160 g.

E F M A M J J A S O N D

VU

Pg-61



The little bittern is the smallest of the Spanish herons, hardly bigger than a pigeon. It lives in marshy habitats with plentiful reed beds. It is a shy bird, active at dusk, which usually passes unnoticed. This is helped by its plumage, which blends in with the reeds, and its habit of adopting a posture, similar to the bittern, stretching and pointing its beak upwards.

The adult birds have bi-coloured plumage, with a black crown and back in the male, and brown in the female, both having cream-coloured underparts. The young, which resemble the female, are brown with dark stripes. It flies infrequently, especially during the breeding season, remaining hidden among the reeds and coming out to feed on small fish, amphibians and insects at nightfall. It flies with its neck tucked in and its legs stretched out, with a short, regular wingbeat. Its call is a short, deep honk repeated at short intervals.

During the breeding season, it builds a nest among the reeds where it lays 4 to 6 matte white eggs. Both parents incubate and feed the chicks, which are ridiculous and which remain in the nest until they are approximately one month old.

In the province of Seville, the little bittern is a relatively common breeding species in favourable years, and is a migrant which is found in large numbers on both passages, though fairly scarce as a wintering bird. It can be found mainly on the marshes of the Guadalquivir and nearby areas, though it can also be found around the main wetlands of the province, such as rivers, streams, lagoons, reservoirs, etc.

NIGHT HERON

Nycticorax nycticorax

ES: Martinete común **FR:** Héron bihoreau **DE:** Nachtreiher

L: 58 - 65 cm **Wi:** 90 - 105 cm. **We:** 600 - 750 g.

E F M A M J J A S O N D

LR

Pg-61



The night heron is a medium-sized member of the Ardeidae family. Stocky in appearance and with fairly short legs, it is active at dusk and at night. The adult, during the breeding season, has a long white crest on the nape, contrasting with the crown and the yellow-green back. The forehead, cheeks and belly are white, with grey wings and yellow legs.

Found at the water's edge or on fertile plains close to water, it can also be seen on meadows and more arid zones and can live among cork oaks, holm oaks, pine groves, tamarisk and marshland vegetation. It forms nesting colonies in areas with vegetation close to continental water bodies (marsh pools, lagoons, slow-moving river waters, etc.). During migration, it can be found in coastal areas. It is a very agile bird on land, walking and running among the vegetation. It will swim quite frequently, and can move easily among the branches of trees.

It feeds alone or in small groups, ambushing its prey in shallow water, when prowling among the vegetation or sometimes even when flying. Its basic diet is aquatic animals, such as fish, amphibians, insects, etc., and sometimes small mammals.

During the day, it passes unnoticed and it can often be seen in roosting colonies. At dusk and at dawn, it will fly to its feeding grounds, forming long strings and sometimes travelling several kilometres from its roost. It also congregates to reproduce, often mixing with other herons and forming very noisy breeding colonies.

In good years, between 1,500 and 2,000 pairs can reproduce in the province. The main population is found in the Guadalquivir marshes, but they can also frequently be found near the main bodies of water of the province.

CATTLE EGRET

Bubulcus ibis

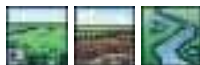
ES: Garcilla bueyera **FR:** Héron garde-boeufs **DE:** Kuhreiher

L: 45 - 55 cm **Wi:** 82 - 95 cm. **We:** 300 - 400 g.

E F M A M J J A S O N D

NA

Pg-62



This is a fairly small heron with a short, thick neck, practically white plumage, with orange-ochre patches on the throat, back and the back of its head, which are less pronounced in winter. It has a yellow beak and green legs. The male and female are similar.

It takes its name from its symbiotic relationship with cattle, on which it often perches, eating the parasites on its skin. The cattle egret is active in the daytime, leaving its nocturnal roost for its feeding grounds in fairly large flocks. Just before twilight, they gather in flocks to return together to the roost, in trees or among rushes and reeds.

The cattle egret searches for food on dry terrain, crop fields and in shallow waters. In Doñana, it mainly feeds on orthoptera and other small animals, as well as small fish, tadpoles and molluscs.

Its nests in colonies in trees, among reed beds or shrubs, with both sexes building an untidy platform of branches and water plants, generally in trees, but also among bushes and reeds fairly close to the water.

It is a very abundant breeding species, with 6,000 to 8,000 pairs reproducing every year. It is a very common winter visitor, with around 20,000 - 25,000 individuals. It forms very large roosts in different parts of the marshes and nearby zones. There have even been citations of trans-oceanic migration. It can be found in all parts of the province except in areas of thick forest and high mountains.

LITTLE EGRET

Egretta garzetta

ES: Garceta común FR: Aigrette garzette DE: Seidenreiher

L: 55 - 65 cm Wi: 88 - 106 cm. We: 400 - 500 g.

E F M A M J J A S O N D

NA

Pg-62



A medium-sized heron with snow-white plumage, a long, black, sword-shaped beak, long black legs with strikingly long yellow toes. The adult, in the breeding season, has a long hanging plume and diffuse scapulars.

It can be found in shallow marshes, with little plant coverage or density, in lagoons, irrigation canals, still river waters, rice paddies and wet meadows, etc.

In flight, it has the same silhouette as herons, with its head tucked between the shoulders and its long legs stretching backwards.

It hunts on foot in wet areas and in shallow waters, though it sometimes visits dry terrain. It ambushes its prey, remaining immobile with its beak pointing directly towards the water. Its diet consists of small fish, reptiles, crustaceans, frogs and insects.

It nests in colonies in areas close to marshes, rice paddies, reed beds and lagoons, always close to bodies of water. The nest is built in the branches of trees or in bushes, among reeds and sometimes on the ground. It usually forms mixed colonies with other heron species.

A very abundant breeding species, with some 6,400 breeding pairs per year in Andalusia, some 10,000 and 15,000 individuals winter mainly in the Guadalquivir marshes and can be found in wet areas and nearby cropland. It is very abundant in Brazo del Este, in the Doñana area, but less common in the rest of the province and with few found in wooded areas or the Sierra Norte, where it is only found close to large reservoirs, sometimes in breeding colonies, as in the case of the Melonares reservoir.

GREAT EGRET

Egretta alba

ES: Garceta grande FR: Grande aigrette DE: Silberreiher

L: 85 - 100 cm Wi: 145 - 170 cm. We: 1000 - 1500 g.

E F M A M J J A S O N D

NA

Pg-62



Similar in size to the grey heron and in shape to the little egret, the wintering population of the great egret is increasing significantly in Doñana, currently estimated at between 30 and 40 individuals. Like the little egret, its plumage is totally white. Its beak is yellow and proportionally shorter than in the little egret, and it has greenish-black legs and feet.

Its lives in marshy land and usually remains among the vegetation at the edge of shallow waters to ambush fish, insects and amphibians.

A less social bird than other herons, it usually prefers isolated spots far from towns or villages. It takes flight with a deep, hoarse croak at the slightest indication of human presence. In flight, it is agile with light movements, and its silhouette is more stylised than other herons.

It breeds among marshland vegetation and sometimes, as in Doñana, in colonies camouflaged among other herons. The nest is made with marsh vegetation or twigs, and it lays a clutch of 3 to 6 light blue eggs which are incubated by both parents.

The numbers of this bird have increased spectacularly since the year 2000 and, from being an occasional visitor, it now has a population of some 100 - 150 individuals. It can be found mainly in the Guadalquivir marshes, with very few sightings in other areas.

SQUACCO HERON

Ardeola ralloides

ES: Garcilla cangrejera **FR:** Rousserolle turdoïde **DE:** Drosselrohrsänger

L: 40 - 50 cm **Wi:** 75 - 90 cm. **We:** 230 - 350 g.

E F M A M J J A S O N D

CR

Pg-63



The squacco is a small to medium-sized heron, smaller than the cattle egret and bigger than the little bittern. It has a characteristic ochre-amethyst colour, with a long crest which hangs over its back, contrasting with the white wings, rump and tail. Its plumage is duller in winter. The sexes resemble each other.

It can be found in wet areas with fresh water and abundant vegetation, preferring thickets of reeds, rushes and canes to hunt for food. It moves easily through this vegetation, whose stalks it can climb with ease.

It is eminently a daytime bird, and is most active in the early morning and at dusk, which are its favourite hunting times.

The basic diet of the squacco heron is small prey such as fish, crabs, molluscs, amphibians, insects, etc. It often travels far from the colony to seek food for its chicks, fishing alone on the shore, in deep waters or perched on a cane.

It forms breeding colonies, usually mixed with other herons, though always in small numbers. However, it can breed alone, in isolation or near other herons. Its nest is made of stalks and branches of marshland vegetation, covered with a small roof of twigs, in reed beds or shrubs.

It is a summer bird and is mainly found in the Doñana area and Brazo del Este, with an estimated maximum number of 250 - 300 breeding pairs. It rarely exceeds twenty individuals in winter, and over half of all annual sightings are in the Guadalquivir marshes. It has been seen in the endorheic basins and at some inland spots in the Guadalquivir basin.

PURPLE HERON

Ardea purpurea

ES: Garza imperial **FR:** Héron pourpré **DE:** Purpurreiher

L: 70 - 90 cm **Wi:** 110 - 145 cm. **We:** 700 - 1700 g.

E F M A M J J A S O N D

VU

Pg-63



Though somewhat smaller than the grey heron, the purple heron is one of the larger members of the family found in Spain. It inhabits wet areas, preferably with abundant marshland vegetation. Its colour is generally darker than the grey heron, with a reddish head and neck and two black lateral lines, a black crown with two recumbent crests, a reddish breast and slate grey wings. When young, the colours are less contrastive than in adults, being darker on the back and with lighter underparts.

The nest, which generally forms part of a noisy breeding colony, is a bulky mass of dry reeds hidden deep in the reed bed. It usually lays a clutch of between 4 and 6 blueish-green eggs which are incubated, generally by the female, for 25 to 30 days. The young usually abandon the nest at a week and a half and can fly at six weeks.

Its main diet is molluscs, crustaceans, fish, amphibians and insects, which it ambushes standing immobile among the vegetation.

The purple heron is a summer species, arriving in large numbers from early March, and quickly beginning its courtship display and nesting, after which it leaves for warmer climes. There are some wintering individuals, generally young birds, though they are never seen in large numbers.

Although the main breeding area is in Doñana and the Guadalquivir marshes, where there is an estimated current population of 1,200 breeding pairs in favourable years, it can also be found, though in lower numbers, along the Guadalquivir basin and in lagoons and in the endorheic basins of the province.

GREY HERON

Ardea cinerea

ES: Garza real **FR:** Héron cendré **DE:** Fischreiher

L: 85 - 100 cm **Wi:** 160 - 180 cm. **We:** 1400 - 2000 g.

E F M A M J J A S O N D

NA

Pg-63



This is the largest and most widespread heron in western and central Europe, though not in the Iberian Peninsula, despite being very common here. It is large, grey and slim, with long legs and neck. It has a very long, yellow dagger-shaped beak, with a black eye band that ends in a long black crest on a white head.

The upper parts and tail are grey, contrasting with the remiges and the black patch on the shoulder, and its underparts and neck are greyish-white. The neck has a thin black line running down the front.

It is found throughout the area at the edge of wet zones, especially where there is shallow water, though it can also hunt further afield, on farmland or meadows.

It breeds in colonies close to bodies of water, such as rainwater ponds, marshes, rivers and reservoirs, almost always where there are large trees. It constructs a platform of branches or sedge gathered by the male. It can, however, also nest on flattened reeds or cliffs. Its main diet is fish, beetles and frogs, as well as small mammals.

The main breeding area, as in the case of the purple heron, is in the Guadalquivir marshes, where it forms large colonies with other herons in the Lucio de las Gangas, Veta de Alí and Casa Neves. Its population today exceeds 1,200 individuals and is rising. In the rest of the area, though in smaller numbers, it can be found in almost all of the wetlands of the province, including the reservoirs of the Sierra Norte where there is a significant breeding colony at the Melonares reservoir.

EURASIAN SPOONBILL

*Platalea leucorodia***ES:** Espátula común **FR:** Spatule blanche **DE:** Löffler**L:** 80 - 93 cm **Wi:** 120 - 135 cm. **We:** 1000 - 1800 g.

E F M A M J J A S O N D

VU

Pg-64



This is a large, white bird, similar in appearance to the heron and with a spoon-shaped beak to which it owes its name. In summer, the adults have a recumbent crest on the nape and white plumage on which pale yellow patches stand out at the base of the neck.

It is found in or close to shallow, open waters: marshes, shallow or muddy waters, the shoreline, etc.

It nests in colonies in areas of dense marshland vegetation, such as reed beds, or in trees close to aquatic environments. The chicks are nidicolous, abandoning the nest at about four weeks.

When excited, it claps its jaws, giving occasional grunts. It feeds on water plants, insect larvae, small fish and tadpoles, frogspawn, worms and water snails.

During the 1970s, it had practically disappeared as a nesting bird in Spain, but the protection offered by the Odiel and Guadalquivir marshes allowed its population to recover.

It is found mainly in the Guadalquivir marshes and nearby areas, where the breeding population is in constant increase. It is scarce as a wintering species in rice fields, salt pools and fish-farming areas. A large proportion of wintering birds in the province come from the Dutch population. An increasing number of sightings are reported in endorheic basins.

GLOSSY IBIS

*Plegadis falcinellus***ES:** Morito común **FR:** Ibis falcinelle **DE:** Brauner Sichler**L:** 55 - 75 cm **Wi:** 80 - 100 cm. **We:** 1000 - 1500 g.

E F M A M J J A S O N D

EN

Pg-64



This is a dark, sinuous, ancient-looking ibis, characterised by a long, downward curving beak and long legs.

In the breeding season, it has generally dark brown colouring with purple and green highlights. At other times, the plumage is not so dark and the head and neck have whitish stripes. The legs and beak are olive-greenish, which can be darker or lighter depending on the time of year.

In flight, the glossy ibis has a rapid wingbeat and often glides at quite high altitude. It is a fairly sociable species, gathering to eat in small flocks, mainly in muddy and sandy areas, using its long beak to probe for food.

It nests in colonies in marshy areas, often mingling with herons and usually walks slowly as it hunts, though it may sometimes swim. The diet of the glossy ibis consists of water insects, crustaceans, molluscs, worms, etc. The habitats where it can be found include marshes and marshy zones in the south of the Doñana area, and it can frequently be seen perched on trees.

It had ceased to reproduce in the province until 1996, when it once again bred in the Guadalquivir marshes, and has done so every year since then. In recent winters, large groups have been seen in roosts close to the rice fields (Brazo del Este), in the marsh pools of the FAO and in the caños, or marshland watercourses, at Guadimar. There has been a sharp increase in the population of this bird, and it is increasingly common to see it in other wetlands, such as endorheic basins.

WHITE STORK

Ciconia ciconia

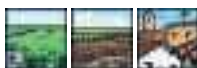
ES: Cigüeña blanca **FR:** Cigogne blanche **DE:** Weissstorch

L: 94 - 100 cm **Wi:** 180 - 220 cm. **We:** 2,5 - 4,5 Kg.

E F M A M J J A S O N D

NA

Pg-44



Among all of our fauna, the white stork is one of the best-known birds and among the most accessible to the public. It is a large, black and white wading bird with white plumage in all of its body except the wings, which are black. Its beak and legs are very long and red.

The white stork has become very accustomed to human presence, and so it can be found nesting and perching on churches, belfries, electricity pylons, etc. In general, it shows special affinity for human constructions and the urban areas close to Doñana.

An excellent flyer, the stork takes full advantage of thermal updraughts, which it uses to rise to a great height and fly in circles, always with its neck stretched out. It is active in the daytime and gathers in large flocks with other storks in places where there is abundant food, with flocks of thousands of individuals having been sighted.

It can live alone or together with other pairs and it has a very wide, varied diet, hunting animal prey of any kind, such as insects, mice, amphibians, molluscs, reptiles, the chicks of other birds, crustaceans, fish, etc. Undigested remains are regurgitated in the form of pellets. It also feeds on refuse generated by humans, which it seeks in landfills.

Traditionally, it was not a wintering bird in Spain but, today, ever increasing numbers of individuals remain here all year around. The wintering population is a much more scattered population than the breeding birds, which occupy all of the north-west of the province, but are much rarer in the rest. The white stork occupies a large variety of habitats, with the exception of dense woodland, areas of junipers and rocky terrain. Of note is Dehesa de Abajo (La Puebla del Río), where we can find Europe's largest tree-breeding colony in all of Europe, with a census of over 400 nests.

BLACK STORK

Ciconia nigra

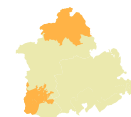
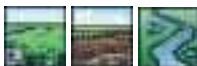
ES: Cigüeña negra **FR:** Cigogne noire **DE:** Schwarzstorch

L: 90 - 105 cm **Wi:** 150 - 200 cm. **We:** 2,5 - 3 Kg.

E F M A M J J A S O N D

EN

Pg-65



The black stork is very similar in size and appearance to the common or white stork, from which it is clearly differentiated by its shiny black plumage with purple and green highlights, in which the white underparts stand out - the lower part of the breast, abdomen, lower covert feathers of the tail and axilla. Adults have a long, straight beak which, like the legs, is red. There is no sexual dimorphism.

An excellent flyer, it can reach high altitudes even without updraughts to facilitate ascent. Against the light and in flight, it can be distinguished from the common stork as it clearly holds its neck downwards.

This is a much less sociable bird than the common stork and is wilder in nature, preferring to live in solitude. And so, although there may be several pairs in the same territory, the black stork prefers to breed in isolation, several kilometres from its neighbours.

The diet of the black stork is made up mainly of fish, water snakes, frogs, water rats, etc. It also eats insects, such as Hemiptera, beetles and dragonflies, as well as some plants.

In the province of Seville, there are three populations: the breeding population in the Sierra Norte, the wintering population in the Guadalquivir marshes and numerous European individuals that cross the province during migration. The breeding population in the Sierra Norte mountains nests in rocky areas and in trees, and is growing in number. The wintering population occupies areas of the marshes, pastureland and rice fields in the Doñana National Park, Natural Park and surrounding areas, with significant numbers of individuals also found in Brazo del Este.

GREATER FLAMINGO

*Phoenicopterus roseus***ES:** Flamenco común **FR:** Flamant rose **DE:** Flamingo**L:** 125 - 150 cm **Wi:** 140 - 170 cm. **We:** 2500 - 4000 g.

E F M A M J J A S O N D

LR

Pg-64



The flamingo is a large wading bird with white and pink plumage, extremely long pink legs and neck and a characteristic short, thick, downward-curving beak. Young flamingos have greyish-brown plumage. There is no difference between the sexes.

Its silhouette in flight is striking, with the neck and head fully stretched out forwards and slightly downwards. It walks slowly through shallow waters, dipping its beak into the water in search of food, its diet being the organic matter found in the mud, small molluscs, algae, crustaceans, larvae and insects.

A very vulnerable bird, its breeding colonies are threatened mainly by wild boar and foxes. For this reason, the birds we see in the province in summer fly every day to and from the Fuente de Piedra lagoon in Malaga.

It can be found in coastal wetlands, marshes, muddy beaches and lagoons. It nests in colonies on small islets in lagoons or salt ponds and its nest is made of a pile of mud which emerges several centimetres out of the water.

In the province of Seville, the most important gatherings of this species are to be found in the Guadalquivir marshes but it can also be seen in endorheic basins and the larger lagoons.

The species is considered an occasional breeder, which occurs when annual rainfall exceeds 600 mm. The number of breeding pairs varies from 300 to 3,000, and they are rarely successful, since the marshes dry out before the chicks are grown. The number of wintering birds in the province fluctuates between 25,000 and 30,000.

COMMON CRANE

*Grus grus***ES:** Grulla común **FR:** Grue cendrée **DE:** Kranich**L:** 100 - 120 cm **Wi:** 180 - 220 cm. **We:** 4500 - 6000 g.

E F M A M J J A S O N D

LR

Pg-65



The crane is a large bird with a slender figure and ash-grey plumage, except the primary, covert and secondary feathers on the wings, which are black, as is the tail. The head is black with a red crown and white sides, the neck is long, thin and black and the legs are long and black.

A very evasive species, it takes flight at the slightest sign of danger. In winter, it is very gregarious, and occasionally forms flocks of hundreds of individuals.

In flight, it is slow but majestic, with a deep wingbeat and when flying in groups it always adopts a characteristic "V" formation.

In the province of Seville, it can be seen in winter, with flocks arriving in early October and leaving in mid-March. Its preferred habitats are swampy marshes, farmland and meadows, rice fields, the shores of lagoons and dehesas, or areas of scattered holm oak pastureland.

To find its food, it scratches in the wet earth, seeking mainly wild fruit, leguminous and cereal seeds, grasses, roots and invertebrates, occasionally feeding on reptiles, amphibians and small mammals.

The largest concentrations of the species are to be found in the marshy areas of Doñana and nearby cropland, with a density of over 5,000 individuals. Isolated individuals and small groups can be found in other parts of the countryside of Seville, dehesa pastureland to the south of the Sierra Norte and the Malpasillo and Cordobilla reservoirs, the latter probably due to their proximity to the Fuente de Piedra lagoons.

Eurasian bittern

Very cryptic
plumage

Thick neck

Relatively short legs

Little bittern

Blank rump
and upperparts

Striated breast

♂ Adult

Night heron

Long, white
head feathers

Red iris

Grey rump
and wings

White breast

Adult

Cattle egret

Short, yellow beak

Yellowish crown

Dark yellowish legs
when breeding

Adult



Little egret

Long, dark beak

Dark legs with yellow toes

Adult,
summer plumage

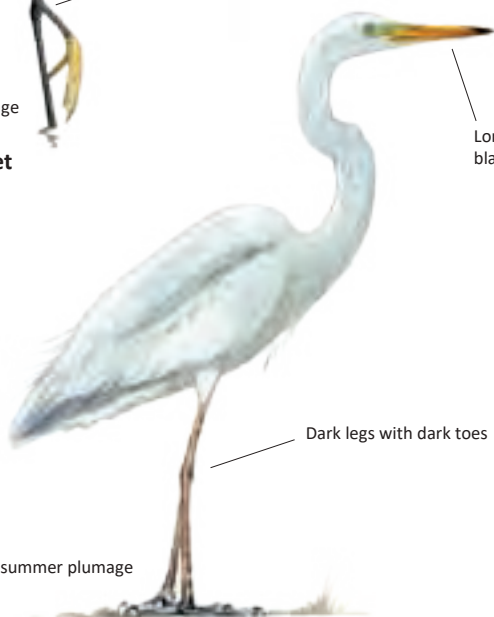


Great egret

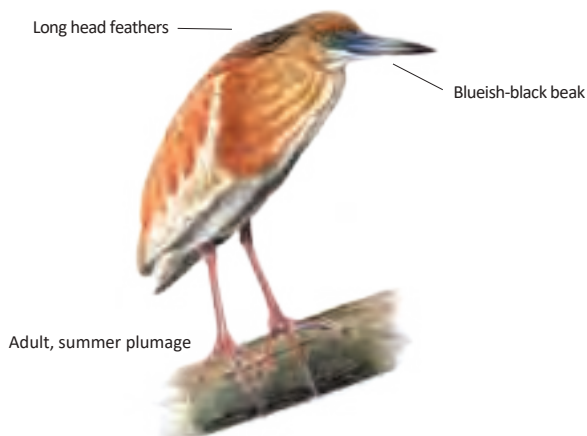
Long, yellow,
black-tipped beak

Dark legs with dark toes

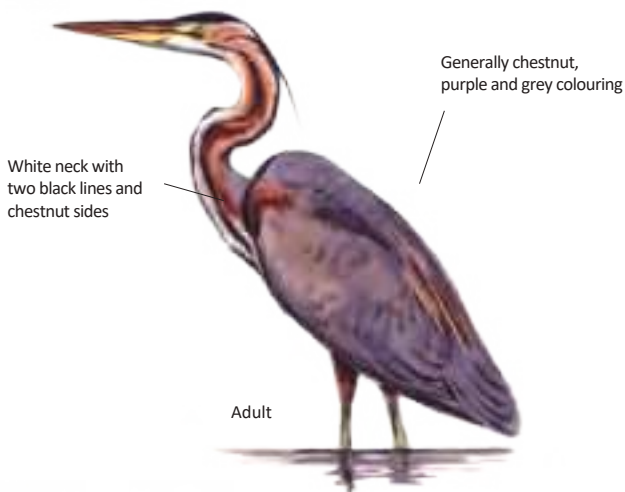
Adult, summer plumage



Squacco heron



Purple Heron



Grey heron



Eurasian spoonbill

Unmistakable
spoon-shaped beak

Head crests, more
obvious in breeders

Ochre patch
visible in breeders



Adult

Glossy ibis

Reddish-brown colouring
with blueish-green iridescence

Characteristic long, curved beak



Adult, summer plumage

Specialised pink,
black-tipped beak

Greater flamingo

Crimson-red wing
coverts

Whitish colouring
with pink tinge

Adulto



White stork

White neck and back



Black stork

Skin around the red eye

Black neck and back



Red crown

Common crane

Crest of hanging
feathers

Generally ash-grey
colouring

Adult



Red-knobbeed coot

Red knobs, only in breeders

Rounded in front of the eye



Adult, breeding plumage

Eurasian coot

Pointed in front of the eye



Adult

Common moorhen

Frontal shield and red, yellow-tipped beak

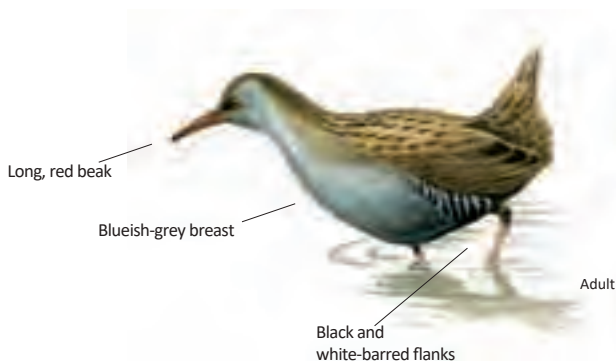


Adult

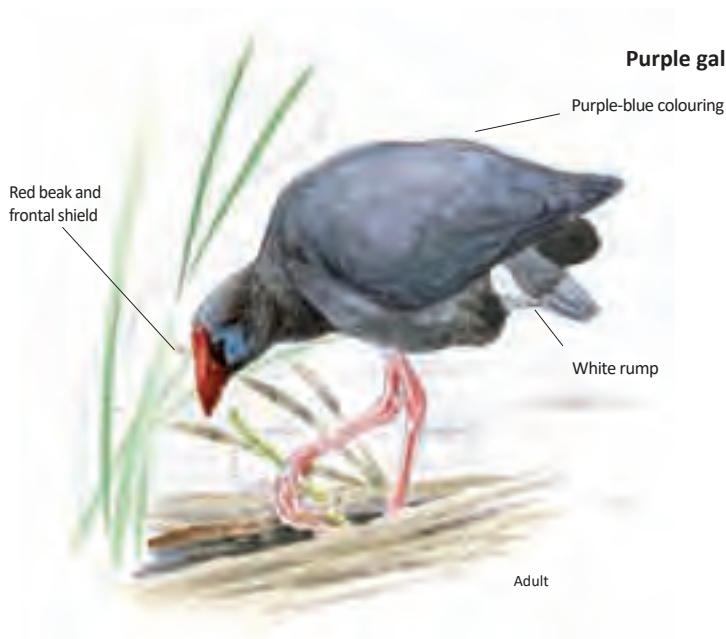
White rump

White line

Water rail



Purple gallinule



EURASIAN COOT

Fulica atra

ES: Focha común **FR:** Foulque macroule **DE:** Blässhuhn

L: 36 - 38 cm **Wi:** 70 - 80 cm. **We:** 600 - 900 g.

E F M A M J J J A S O N D

NA

Pg-66



The Eurasian coot is a robust water bird with slate black plumage and an iridescent jet black head, with its characteristic white frontal shield that meets the beak, which is also white. It has green legs and lobulated feet.

With a highly-developed territorial instinct, it is quite aggressive and has a propensity to fight with its congeners. It prefers large, open bodies of water and frequently breeds in loose colonies.

Both sexes build a solid nest of reeds in shallow water which may float or be anchored to submerged branches.

It is characterised by its apparent difficulty in taking flight, splashing vigorously over the water for several metres until, finally, it manages to lift off.

The Eurasian coot is sedentary and partially migratory. It feeds on the stalks of reeds, the roots of water plants, grains and seeds, newts, tadpoles, insects, dragonfly nymphs and small fish, though at times it will also feed on the eggs and chicks of other birds. It dives to feed and can remain under water for up to half a minute. In winter, it forms large groups on open bodies of still, shallow, fresh or salt water which are rich in microphytes and plants. During this season, it avoids small wetlands or areas without marshland vegetation.

A very common bird, its mean population in the province is 30,000 individuals. As an omnivore, predominantly feeding on plant matter, it is comfortable in different types of wetlands, such as lakes, lagoons, salt ponds, irrigation ponds, flood cultivars and large ponds, both in periurban areas and on irrigation or dry farming cropland.

RED-KNOBBED COOT

Fulica cristata

ES: Focha moruna **FR:** Foulque à crête **DE:** Kammlässhuhn

L: 38 - 42 cm **Wi:** 75 - 85 cm. **We:** 700 - 1000 g.

E F M A M J J J A S O N D

CR

Pg-66



Very similar to the Eurasian coot, though larger in size, it has similar plumage, except for the two very characteristic red knobs on the forehead, more obvious in the males in the spring. These knobs are not seen outside the breeding season and it is more difficult to distinguish them, but they can be differentiated by the rounder shape of the plumage in front of the eye, which in the Eurasian coot is sharper. Another difference is the blueish tone of the beak, which is pinker in the Eurasian coot. Also known as the crested coot, it is in danger of extinction.

In the Iberian Peninsula, it occupies the same biotope as the Eurasian coot, that is, bodies of water with abundant shoreline vegetation, though its habits are more secretive and it is less sociable, making it very difficult to sight this species in open areas.

The nest is constructed by both sexes on medium-depth waters, where it floats among the marshland vegetation.

It feeds on the stalks and roots of water plants, seeds and aquatic insects.

The red-knobbed coot used to be so common that it was thought that individuals of this species were the males and those of the Eurasian coot were the females. This demonstrates the vulnerability of the species in the face of change to its habitat and water quality.

In Seville, the main population is found in the Guadalquivir marshes and nearby areas, such as Veta la Palma, Dehesa de Abajo, Cañada de los Pájaros and Brazo del Este, though it can also be found in small numbers in the other major lagoons in the province. Today, between 70 and 80 pairs breed in the province, thanks to conservation measures and captive breeding programmes.

COMMON MOORHEN

Gallinula chloropus

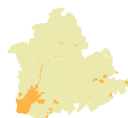
ES: Gallineta común FR: Poule d'aigua DE: Teichhuhn

L: 36 - 38 cm Wi: 70 - 80 cm. We: 600 - 900 g.

E F M A M J J A S O N D

NA

Pg-66



A medium-sized, black rail, it is characterised by its yellow-tipped beak and red frontal shield, with the base of the beak of the same colour. It has a noticeable irregular white line down the two flanks and the white undertail coverts.

With the build of a small chicken, it has a longer tail and legs. It swims well and nods as it moves through the water. The moorhen flies low and splashes during its laborious takeoff, which is similar to the Eurasian coot.

It breeds on lagoons, ponds and marshland with vegetation, though it can also nest some distance from the water or in bushes.

It feeds on wild fruit and seeds, water plants, insects, worms and larvae.

The moorhen was one of the commonest water birds in the Doñana district, but habitat destruction and its culinary virtues mean that the bird, sometimes known as the marsh hen, has become very rare. Today, the population appears to be increasing, but numbers in the province are still low, with no more than 250 pairs.

It can be found in any wetland in the province, especially in lentic waters such as reservoirs, marshes, rice fields and riparian woodland. During the breeding season, it occupies a wider variety of habitats. The largest populations are to be found in the National Park, Entremuros, Dehesa de Abajo, Corta de los Olivillos, the old branches of the river and the drainage channels of the rice fields, which have become their preferred breeding areas.

WATER RAIL

Rallus aquaticus

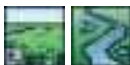
ES: Rascón europeo FR: Râle d'eau DE: Wasserralle

L: 25 - 28 cm Wi: 35 - 45 cm. We: 90 - 140 g.

E F M A M J J A S O N D

DD

Pg-67



A medium-sized rail whose upper parts are reddish-brown, with dark longitudinal spotting. The throat, breast and top of the abdomen are a light slate grey, and the rest of the abdomen is grey with whitish lines, while the flanks are black with transversal white bars. It has a long, red beak. The female plumage is drabber than the male.

The water rail is active in daytime and mainly at dusk, though it can also be active on moonlit nights. Not a very sociable bird, it remains almost always alone. We only see it in company in bad weather, when several individuals group together to seek food or to roost.

Its habitat is shallow wet areas and marshes with abundant marshland vegetation, and so can be found in slow-moving river waters, reed beds, irrigation channels, lakes and lagoons, etc. The call of the rail sounds like a rabbit being murdered.

It feeds mainly on insects and their larvae, molluscs, crustaceans and worms, etc., which it usually hunts in wet and muddy areas and in the water. In winter, it also feeds on the shoots and seeds of plants, and occasionally on small birds and very small mammals.

Both sexes build the nest with reeds, close to the water, in a reed bed, lagoon, river or swampy area. The nest is a platform of dried plants which is then covered with leaves.

According to the latest data, it is difficult to give a figure for the breeding population in the province, though it must exceed 500 pairs. However, we know that numbers increase considerably in winter. It is located mainly in the Guadalquivir marshes and nearby wet areas, such as Brazo del Este.

PURPLE GALLINULE

Porphyrio porphyrio

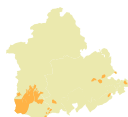
ES: Calamon común **FR:** Talève sultane **DE:** Purpurhuhn

L: 38 - 42 cm **Wi:** 75 - 85 cm. **We:** 700 - 1000 g.

E F M A M J J A S O N D

NA

Pg-67



This is Europe's largest rail, of approximately the size of a chicken. It has an iridescent purplish-blue colour contrasting with the vivid coral red of the beak and legs. This is a beautiful marshland bird, both secretive and elusive, which makes it very difficult to observe.

With its long toes, it is agile and can climb easily among stalks and reeds. It is found in areas with dense marshland vegetation, though in undisturbed spots, it will reveal itself and walk along on the shore. It does not often swim and flies well, at low altitude, with its red legs hanging behind.

It feeds on aquatic and marshland plants, consuming both the stalks and the roots, as well as insects, fish, amphibians, rodents and the chicks of other birds, mainly the moorhen.

The nest is a large, flat structure which it hides among marshland vegetation. In the Iberian Peninsula, it can now be found in almost all of the wetlands.

The purple gallinule, sometimes called the swamp hen or the sultana, has gone from being on the verge of extinction to being a very common bird in the south of the province. It has benefited greatly from the introduction of rice farming, with winter populations of up to 5,500 individuals being sighted on rice fields. In exceptional years, the wintering population can reach 14,000 birds. Doñana is the main nucleus of both its breeding and wintering populations, together with other significant wet areas such as Brazo del Este.

It is distributed mainly among the wetlands of the south of the province, provided there is sufficient marshland vegetation, in the Guadalquivir marshes and nearby areas, as well as endorheic basins and lagoons.

GREAT BUSTARD

Otis tarda

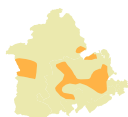
ES: Avutarda común **FR:** Grade Outarde **DE:** Grosstrappe

L: 75 - 100 cm **Wi:** 190 - 250 cm. **We:** 12 - 18 Kg.

E F M A M J J A S O N D

VU

Pg-78



The great bustard is the largest bird found in Spain and one of the heaviest flying birds in the world. The male is much larger than the female, and can weigh over 18 kg, while the female rarely reaches 8 kg. The plumage is similar in both sexes, with predominantly brown tones on the back, and transversally barred feathers. The head and neck are grey, becoming a reddish-brown colour nearer the chest. The plumage of the abdomen is completely white.

It is a typical inhabitant of dry-farming cereal steppes, alternating with fallow or uncultivated land, and pastureland. In the summer, it may visit sunflower crops, areas with disperse tree cover and even olive groves or open dehesa pastureland.

At the end of the winter, the males develop their nuptial plumage, in which bristles of thin feathers, of about 15 to 20 cm, stand out on each side of the beak. The courtship display is especially spectacular, with the male displaying in front of the other males and females, kicking the ground and shaking its wings. It then spreads its tail, raising it against its back and crossing its long primaries so that the tips stand out, it raises the scapulars and turns them around, giving an appearance of being almost completely white, with the wings hanging down, the head tucked between the shoulders and the whiskery bristles erect. After mating, the female lays one to three greenish eggs with mottled brown patches. The nest is a simple scrape in the ground, thinly covered with dry vegetation. The first chicks can be seen in late May and early June, after four weeks of incubation.

The great bustard can be found mainly in the Campiñas de Sevilla Special Protection Area, spread between the municipalities of Écija, Lantejuela, Marchena and Osuna. This is one of the main nuclei of the bird in Andalusia, and the population includes a quarter of all the males in the region. It can also be seen in some of the cereal-growing areas of La Campana and Fuentes de Andalucía and in the Olivares area and on nearby farmland.

LITTLE BUSTARD

Tetrax tetrax

ES: Sisón común **FR:** Outarde canepetière **DE:** Zwergtrappe

L: 40 - 45 cm **Wi:** 90 - 115 cm. **We:** 600 - 900 g.

E F M A M J J A S O N D

VU

Pg-78



The little bustard is a medium-sized steppe bird, but is much smaller than its larger relative, the great bustard. The hood, back and the upper part of the wings are ochre in colour, with thin black striated lines. The face, throat and upper neck are dark grey, bordered by a white collar that contrasts with a wide black band, complemented by another black and white collar. The breast and abdomen are white, while the beak and legs are a greyish-yellow colour.

It can be found in open areas, such as cereal fields, pastureland and non-wooded areas, generally very extensive and with good herbaceous cover. It is a timid bird, though not as wary as the great bustard. In situations of danger, it prefers to walk away, and only in the case of imminent risk does it take flight.

A very gregarious species throughout the year, it stays in groups both on the ground and in flight, whether travelling or fleeing. It flies more lightly than the great bustard, and it is faster and noisier. The diet of the little bustard consists of cereals, grasses, herbaceous plants, insects and small invertebrates.

The nesting season is between May and July, and the nest is made in a small scrape, which is generally left bare or has little lining, and is hidden among the grass.

It can be found in the countryside of Seville, with a slightly larger area of distribution than the great bustard, in cereal-growing areas and pastureland from Olivares to the Guadimar. Sightings have also been reported in some cultivars in Lebrija and the National Park.

PIN-TAILED SANDGROUSE

Pterocles alcata

ES: Ganga ibérica **FR:** Ganga cata **DE:** Spiessflughuhn

L: 30 - 39 cm **Wi:** 50 - 60 cm. **We:** 400 - 550 g.

E F M A M J J A S O N D

VU

Pg-79



The pin-tailed sandgrouse is a medium-sized species, smaller than the black-bellied sandgrouse, with long, sharp streamers in the central tail feathers. The dorsal plumage of the male is greyish-brown, mottled with yellow, a black bib and throat, and a chestnut band on the chest. The female has black bars on the back, two or three black strips across the chest and a white throat. In winter, both sexes are very similar in appearance, with duller plumage.

It lives in semi-arid areas, steppes, pastureland, extensive dry-farming cropland, areas of sea-blight and dry marshes. The pin-tailed sandgrouse is a gregarious bird, and frequently flies many kilometres in groups when it needs to travel from its arid habitats to sources of water. It carries water to its chicks in its crop and in its breast feathers, which it soaks in the water.

It flies very rapidly, often skimming the ground, with a deep wingbeat. However, it is an eminently terrestrial bird, and it can normally be seen walking on the ground seeking food.

The nesting season is between April and June, when it nests in isolated pairs, making a small scrape in the dry ground, which it lines thinly with plants and hides beneath the steppe vegetation.

The diet of the pin-tailed sandgrouse is almost exclusively seeds and the green shoots of plants.

In the province of Seville, it can be found in two main populations, one in the countryside around Mairena del Alcor, Carmona, Marchena, Fuentes de Andalucía and Écija, and the other in the Guadalquivir marshes, in dry marshes and areas of sea-blight, as well as in some zones near Aznalcázar, Entremuros, Vuelta de la Arena, Marismas de Tierras Bajas and parts of the National Park.

BLACK-BELLIED SANDGROUSE

Troglodytes orientalis

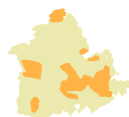
ES: Ganga ortega **FR:** Ganga unibande **DE:** Sandflughuhn

L: 34 - 36 cm **Wi:** 65 - 70 cm. **We:** 450 - 670 g.

E F M A M J J A S O N D

VU

Pg-79



Somewhat bigger and more robust than the pin-tailed sandgrouse, from which it can easily be distinguished by the large black patch on the abdomen. The male has grey tones on the head and neck, except the throat, which is orange. A black band separates the neck from the salmon-coloured breast. The belly is black. The beak and legs are grey. The female is less striking than the male, with earthier colouring and a mottled head and neck.

Like the pin-tailed sandgrouse, it is found in semiarid areas but is more comfortable in terrain with more tree and bush cover. It can be seen on fallow or uncultivated land and dry pastureland, avoiding areas of shrub and taller crops.

A gregarious bird, it feeds mainly on the seeds of grasses and leguminous plants, often also eating their leaves. It can fly long distances to sources of water, where it groups at dawn and dusk.

It nests in a shallow scrape in the ground, where it lays two or three mottled greenish cryptic eggs. Both sexes incubate the eggs and care for the young, but only the male brings water, by soaking its breast feathers.

The population of this bird is low in Seville, estimated at some 50 individuals. The main population is found in the countryside, mainly in the Marchena and Fuentes de Andalucía area, with some sightings on the pastureland around Osuna and Estepa. Some have been seen in the Lebrija – Las Cabezas de San Juan area and in the north of the Sierra Norte mountains, in the municipalities of Guadalcanal and Alanís.

RED-LEGGED PARTRIDGE

*Alectoris rufa***ES:** Perdiz roja Partridge **FR:** Perdrix rouge **DE:** Rothuhn**L:** 32 - 34 cm **Wi:** 45 - 50 cm. **We:** 400 - 550 g.

E F M A M J J A S O N D

NA

Pg-79



The red-legged partridge, sometimes called the French partridge, is a medium-sized Galliform with very characteristic brown plumage and a striated black collar, white supercilium, grey forehead and chestnut, black and white transversally barred flanks. The beak and eyelids are red, as are the legs. It has a black line from the forehead through the eyes and descending around the white throat. The female resembles the male, though with a more stylised head.

The bird prefers living on the ground and is very comfortable running or walking quickly. In flight, it is quick, alternating powerful wing beats and gliding in its short, straight flights. It will generally land quickly, especially if it finds protective plant cover, and continue walking among the vegetation. When it takes flight, the members of the flock fly in different directions to confuse the predator. It enjoys dust baths.

It is a very active and loquacious species, and the males can frequently be heard calling repeatedly.

It is very gregarious, often found in small flocks, though the pairs breed in isolation.

Nesting between May and July, it makes its nest on the ground with grass and straw. It feeds mainly on cereals, wild seeds and herbaceous shoots, also including many insects in its diet.

A very common, sedentary species, it is widely distributed throughout the province, and can be found in most habitats except wet areas, but has a preference for cereal crops, shrubland and open dehesa pastureland. In general, it can be seen on steppes and in relatively dry areas.

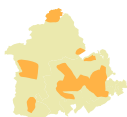
COMMON QUAIL

*Coturnix coturnix***ES:** Codorniz común **FR:** Caille des blés **DE:** Wachtel**L:** 15 - 18 cm **Wi:** 32 - 35 cm. **We:** 70 - 135 g.

E F M A M J J A S O N D

NA

Pg-79



A small Galliform, the quail is a very common bird in the Iberian Peninsula, though it is a very unsociable and elusive species, and so it is not easy to observe, since it runs quickly and walks very stealthily. The upper plumage is a sandy chestnut colour, while the underparts are paler. It has brownish lines on the head and the reddish-chestnut colour is not seen in the tail. The male has a long pale supercilium, while the female is drabber, with black patches on the chest.

It is an eminently ground-dwelling bird, and remains on the ground for most of the time. It only takes flight in the presence of latent danger or when absolutely necessary, but will first lie low and attempt to remain unseen. In flight, it is very quick and has a vigorous wingbeat. It can be found in open areas and on pastureland, herbaceous crops, marshland and shrubland.

The quail is a gregarious species only during the winter since, during the summer, it is accompanied only by its partner, with which it seeks its diet of seeds of all kinds, cereals and grass shoots, as well as worms and insects. It hides its nest among the vegetation on the ground, preferring herbaceous cover. The nest consists of a small scrape lined with dry grasses.

It is a regular and very rare wintering species, and the lack of data regarding the wintering population makes it impossible to determine its evolution in this respect.

In the province, as in the rest of Spain, its population has fallen alarmingly. Certain agricultural practices, indiscriminate hunting and inexplicable hunting regulations are the main reasons for the sharp fall in numbers. It can be seen in all parts of the province, except areas with tree cover or dense shrubland, and so it is not to be found in most of the Sierra Norte (except for the herbaceous crops in the northern part) and the Sierra Sur mountains and forest areas in the south of the province.

WHISKERED TERN

Gelochelidon nilotica

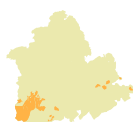
ES: Fumarel cariblanco **FR:** Guilfette moustac **DE:** Trauerseeschwalbe

L: 23 - 29 cm **Wi:** 57 - 70 cm. **We:** 70 - 90 g.

E F M A M J J A S O N D



Pg-80



Somewhat bigger than the black tern, the whiskered tern can be differentiated by its black hood during the nuptial period, contrasting with the white cheeks and neck and the upper and underparts, which are blueish-grey. The beak is dark red, and the sexes resemble each other.

It can be found in marshy zones, in somewhat deeper water than other terns, on fertile plains close to marshland pools and lagoons, as well as in coastal and estuary waters.

It feeds on water insects, frogs, small fish, crustaceans and tadpoles.

Like the black tern, it is also agile in flight, with a deep wingbeat and sometimes gliding. It hovers low over the water, and then plunges down into the water, though at times it also hunts its prey from the surface. It is a good swimmer, frequently landing on the water and also on outcrops.

It nests in disperse colonies on islands with water plants or shallow water with vegetation. The nest is made from marsh plants on a floating platform, which it covers with lighter plant material.

As a breeding species, it is quite numerous in the province, with approximately 1,200 to 1,500 pairs over the last 15 years. However, as a wintering bird, it is relatively scarce in the area, with between 300 and 500 individuals. It can be found in the Doñana area, nearby wetlands and in endorheic basins.

GULL-BILLED TERN

Gelochelidon nilotica

ES: Pagaza piconegra **FR:** Sterne hansel **DE:** Lachseeschwalbe

L: 35 - 43 cm **Wi:** 85 - 110 cm. **We:** 300 - 500 g.

E F M A M J J A S O N D



Pg-80



The gull-billed tern is a sea swallow that resembles a common tern, having a robust build, a strong, black beak and a forked grey tail. In its nuptial plumage, the adult has a black hood, ash-grey upper parts and white cheeks and underparts.

With agile, straight flight and a deep wingbeat, the gull-billed tern is not very aquatic in its habits, hunting on the wing, although it also captures its prey on land, sometimes running in groups.

It feeds on small fish, insects, worms, crustaceans and tadpoles, its favourite prey being the mole cricket.

A colonial bird, it nests on high marshland, sandy zones and on mud banks with sparse vegetation, constructing the nest in a small scrape which it lightly lines with herbaceous plants. Outside the breeding season, it can be seen on the marshes, uncultivated land close to water and on inland lagoons.

The current breeding population in the province is between 800 and 1,200 pairs, which prefer to make their nests in natural marshes, provided that the water conditions are appropriate, though they can also gather in large colonies in transformed marshland areas, such as rice fields or fish farms.

It can be found in the main wetlands of our area of study, in the Guadalquivir marshes and neighbouring areas, in endorheic basins and large lagoons.

LITTLE TERN*Sterna albifrons***ES:** Charrancito común **FR:** Sterne naine **DE:** Zwergseeschwalbe**L:** 20 - 25 cm **Wi:** 55 - 55 cm. **We:** 50 - 65 g.

E F M A M J J A S O N D

VU

Pg-80



A sea swallow which, as its name suggests, is small in size. It has a striking white patch on the forehead which contrasts with the black crown. It has a grey back, and a long, yellow, black-tipped beak, which is met on the head by a dark melanistic line which passes around the eye and reaches the nape. The legs are yellow and the tail, which has a shallow fork, is greyish in the centre and white at the sides. The two sexes resemble each other.

It can commonly be seen on lagoons and at different times it can be found in estuaries, coastal areas and inland marshes. It is mainly active in the daytime, spending the daylight hours patrolling its hunting territory in circles or zigzagging, and at other times landing on the ground or perching on a higher vantage point.

It is a sociable bird when nesting, and breeds in colonies of different sizes. In the breeding colonies, it is particularly hostile to intruders, and can even skim the heads of people who approach too closely. Outside the breeding season, it can be seen on its own, in pairs or in very small flocks.

Graceful in flight, its wingbeat is rapid and it often hovers and then plunges down into the water. In this way, it feeds on small fish, crustaceans, molluscs, insects, etc. It nests in colonies on sandy or stony beaches, both on the coast or inland, building a simple nest in a shallow scrape, with a little added material, such as scraps of straw, small pebbles, etc.

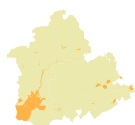
The little tern can be found in wet areas in the south west of the province, the Doñana National Park and Natural Park and nearby areas, and the endorheic basins of Lebrija, Las Cabezas and Utrera. The breeding population is estimated at between 500 and 700 pairs and it is an occasional wintering species. During the migratory passages, its numbers increase considerably.

BLACK-HEADED GULL*Larus ridibundus***ES:** Gaviota reidora **FR:** Mouette rieuse **DE:** Lachmöwe**L:** 34 - 37 cm **Wi:** 100 - 110 cm. **We:** 225 - 350 g.

E F M A M J J A S O N D

NA

Pg-81



The black-headed gull is a small gull whose head is actually chocolate brown in summer and white in the winter. The back and wings are grey, the wing tips black and it has a characteristic triangular white patch in front of the wings. The rest of the plumage is white, the legs and beak are red and both sexes are the same.

It is a very sociable species, both when breeding and at other times of the year. It flies in "V" formation when travelling together between the roost and the feeding grounds. Its Latin name, which means laughing gull, comes from the enormous hubbub raised by its flocks, with a cacophony of dozens of individual voices.

It is not uncommon to see large groups of black-headed gulls taking advantage of the results of human activity, feeding at landfills or hunting invertebrates revealed by tractors working the soil. In flight, it is agile and energetic, very similar to the common tern, sometimes hovering to plunge into the water and capture its prey. It nests in fairly large colonies, with both sexes constructing a large pile of leaves and dry vegetation on a scrape in the ground.

The black-headed gull has a very varied diet, from fish and waste to crustaceans, molluscs, worms, insects and other animals and plants.

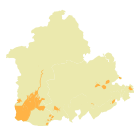
A recent breeding species, it has begun to reproduce in the last 18 years, mainly as a result of the transformation of natural marshes into fish farms (Veta la Palma). However, since then, small numbers have also attempted to breed in the National Park. The breeding population is estimated at around 200 pairs. As a wintering species, it is very numerous and the increase in its inland population has been evident in recent years. It can be found in almost all of the wetlands, marshes, marshland watercourses, marsh pools, lagoons, rice fields, ponds and rivers.

YELLOW-LEGGED GULL*Larus michaellis***ES:** Gaviota patiamarilla **FR:** Goéland leucophée **DE:** Weisskopfmöwe**L:** 55 - 65 cm **Wi:** 130 - 150 cm. **We:** 750 - 1200 g.

E F M A M J J A S O N D

NA

Pg-81



The yellow-legged gull is the commonest gull on our coasts, and is characterised by its grey back, white underparts, yellow beak with a red patch on the underside and its yellow legs. It has a red eye-ring and a very white head. The grey wings contrast with the black wing tips.

Its flight is very powerful and straight, at medium to high altitude, with a strong, constant wingbeat. It frequently lands on the water and swims well. It has very varied hunting methods, pecking in the sand, diving onto its prey in the water, hovering a short distance away, and hawking for insects in the air, etc.

In its breeding colonies, it is a vociferous bird, giving strident, repeated cries both in flight and when it has landed and in its feeding or roosting grounds. In winter, it is somewhat quieter, except when excited. It gathers in flocks to roost, usually on beaches or mudflats, on islet shores, etc. The nest is constructed very close to others, on the beach, shorelines, etc. The nest is relatively large and is made of diverse material. It can frequently be seen on beaches and shorelines with little vegetation, rocky environments, urban and periurban coastal areas, and especially in reservoirs and other lentic wetlands and very fragmented agricultural mosaics.

The very varied diet of the yellow-legged gull includes marine animals, fish waste and urban refuse, molluscs, eggs and chicks, etc. It is a habitual visitor to landfills, and this has allowed its expansion from the coast to inland areas.

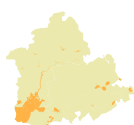
Marshland transformation has helped it to settle as a breeding species in the area of our study, and has contributed to the constant increase in its population in the 1970s and 80s, which today seems to have stabilised. During migration and wintering, its numbers increase considerably. It can today be found in any significant wetland in the south of the province.

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL*Larus fuscus***ES:** Gaviota sombría **FR:** Goéland brun **DE:** Heringsmöwe**L:** 50 - 65 cm **Wi:** 120 - 150 cm. **We:** 650 - 1000 g.

E F M A M J J A S O N D

NA

Pg-81



The lesser black-backed gull is a fair sized, robust gull which is characterised by its distinctive dark back, contrasting with the rest of its body, which is white. The distal primaries are almost black, with white tips. The sexes resemble each other.

More migratory than other gulls, it usually travels in flocks which generally fly in lines or in groups, following the coast at a variable altitude, depending on the weather conditions.

It is a gregarious species but is more unsociable and aggressive than other gulls, being less accustomed to human presence.

Though it is a mainly marine gull, its habitats are varied, but it usually chooses wet areas of different kinds, such as reservoirs, lakes, gravel pits, salt ponds, marshes, lagoons, etc., where it also establishes its main roosts.

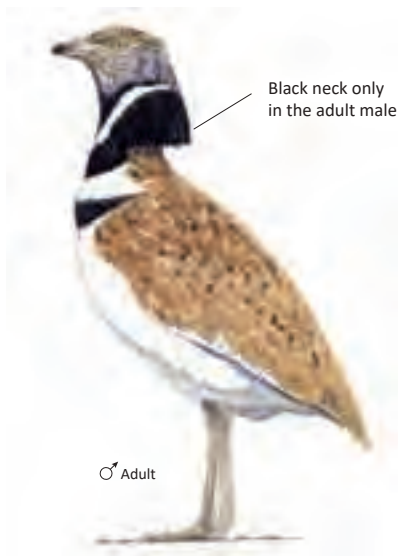
With a very varied diet, it visits landfills and eats fish, dead animals, the chicks or eggs of other birds, rodents and even plants.

The lesser black-backed gull is a very numerous wintering species, with up to 25,000 or 30,000 individuals. In the spring and summer, it disappears from practically all of the area, except fish farms, where it forms small groups of immature non-breeding individuals together with other similar species. It can be found in any large body of water in the province, including some reservoirs of the Sierra Norte, though in small numbers.

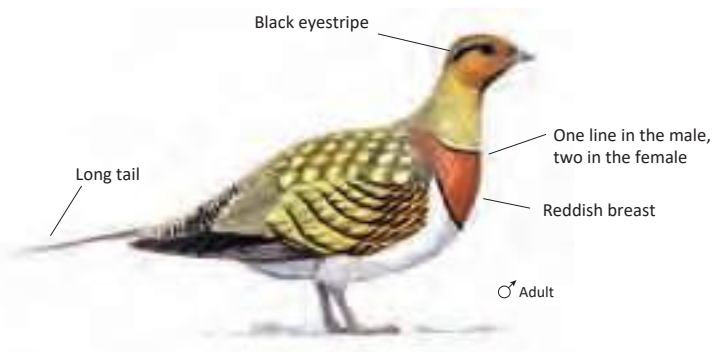
Great bustard



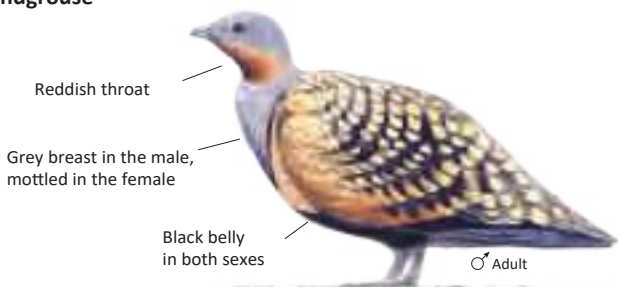
Little bustard



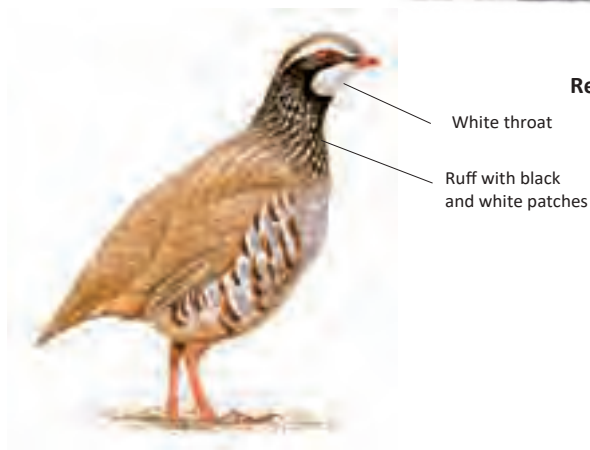
Pin-tailed sandgrouse



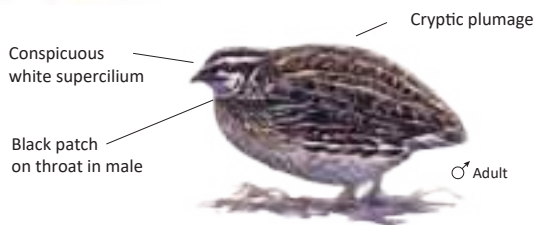
Black-bellied sandgrouse



Red-legged partridge



Common quail



Whiskered tern



Gull-billed tern



Black-headed gull

Chocolate-coloured
head only in adults
in summer

Reddish beak



Adult, summer plumage

Yellow-legged gull

Light grey colouring

Obvious red patch

Adult, summer plumage

Bright yellow legs



Lesser black-backed gull

Less obvious red patch

Slate grey colouring

Adult, summer plumage



COLLARED PRATINCOLE

Glareola pratincola

ES: Canastera común **FR:** Glaréole à collier **DE:** Brachschwalbe

L: 28 - 29 cm **Wi:** 60 - 70 cm. **We:** 60 - 100 g.

E F M A M J J A S O N D

EN

Pg-93



The collared pratincole is a medium-sized wader, though its appearance is more reminiscent of a sea swallow than a wader. It has a black tail with a pronounced fork, which is white on the underside. Its back has olive-brown plumage, and the rear edge of the wing is dark. The belly has a lighter ochre tone, with a very characteristic wide, cream-coloured bib bordered with black. The two sexes are the same.

It can be seen around pools, marshes and semi-wet plains, and even on mudflats dried by the sun and with low-level vegetation. It can also be found on muddy beaches with vegetation and on higher marshland, almost always close to water.

A colonial species, it nests on open terrain, without high vegetation, directly in a shallow scrape in the ground -which may be the hoof print of a horse or a small hole-unprotected by any lining, or on beaches, in marshes or areas close to irrigated land.

The main diet of the collared pratincole is insects, such as grasshoppers and dragonflies, which it hawks on the wing.

In the Iberian Peninsula, it is a summer species, whose winter quarters are not well-known, though it periodically appears in large numbers in the Doñana area.

The colonies in the province, despite having over 500 nests in some years, rarely breed more than 50 - 60 chicks successfully. In the nesting season, these birds are vulnerable to the damage caused by domestic and wild ungulates.

It can be found throughout the Guadalquivir Valley in areas of low vegetation and almost always close to wet areas of any type.

PIED AVOCET

Recurvirostra avosetta

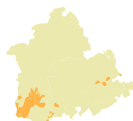
ES: Avoceta común **FR:** Avocette **DE:** Säbelschnäbler

L: 42 - 46 cm **Wi:** 67 - 77 cm. **We:** 250 - 700 g.

E F M A M J J A S O N D

LR

Pg-93



The avocet is a small, energetic, elegant wader, characterised by its very long, thin, upward-curving beak and its black and white colouring, lead-blue webbed feet and long legs. It has a black crown, a black band on the scapulars and another on the wing coverts, and on the wing tips. The two sexes are the same.

We can find it on lagoons, pools, muddy beaches, estuaries, etc., and it tends to prefer slightly saline waters. It breeds in colonies on land, on islets in lagoons, high marshland, meadows of halophile plants, etc., in a large nest made with grasses which it piles up, or taking advantage of small sandy depressions.

It feeds by filtering the water with sideways movements of the beak, like a duck -it has semi-webbed feet-, living mainly on the adults and larvae of aquatic insects, flies, annelids, molluscs and crustaceans. In deeper waters, it swims well with half of its body submerged, in much the same way as a duck.

Found all year round in the Peninsula, the avocet breeds in large numbers in the province, and a large percentage of these birds breed in fish-farming areas, with little success, suffering heavy predation by the yellow-legged gull.

Its wintering grounds are very much concentrated in Andalusia and, of the estimated 14,000 individuals, 83% are found in the Atlantic region to the south, specifically in the Doñana Natural Site (with over half of the wintering population in Spain, mainly concentrated at Veta la Palma). The species can also frequently be seen in the endorheic basins and shallow lagoons of the province.

BLACK-WINGED STILT*Himantopus himantopus***ES:** Cigüeñuela común **FR:** Échasse blanche **DE:** Stelzenläufer**L:** 35 - 40 cm **Wi:** 67 - 83 cm. **We:** 160 - 200 g.

E F M A M J J A S O N D

VU

Pg-93



The black-winged stilt is a white bird with a black back, very long red or pink legs which trail out far beyond the tail in flight. It has a long neck, a small head and a long, thin, straight, blackish beak.

We can find it in the marshes, irrigation channels with vegetation, shorelines, etc. It shows no preference for fresh or somewhat salty water, and can even be found on the beach, though it generally establishes itself in swampy areas with shallow waters

Aggressive with intruders in its breeding colonies, it is relatively gregarious though its tendency is to gather in small flocks. In autumn, it often forms larger flocks which can sometimes have hundreds of individuals.

In its breeding colonies, it makes a nest of woven grasses in areas of light vegetation, usually on the ground, on mud or in shallow water in a pond. It feeds on molluscs, worms, insects and larvae.

In winter, 87% of the 10,906 birds recorded in the censuses of wintering waterfowl in Spain are concentrated in western Andalusia, and specifically in the Guadalquivir Valley. The Doñana Nature Area hosts 44% of the individuals, and more specifically, within this area, Veta la Palma stands out. There are also large populations in some areas of the province of Seville, such as the Zarracatín Lagoon, the Olivillos area of the river, the Guadaira Canal and Brazo del Este.

Birds that were ringed in Doñana as chicks have been recovered in Africa close to the equator. In winter, the province hosts individuals from other countries all over Europe, but mainly from France.

COMMON RINGED PLOVER*Charadrius hiaticula***ES:** Chorlitejo grande **FR:** Grand gravelot **DE:** Sandregenpfeifer**L:** 17 - 20 cm **Wi:** 35 - 50 cm. **We:** 55 - 75 g.

E F M A M J J A S O N D

NA

Pg-94



The common ringed plover is a small bird, with a chubby appearance and white and brownish tones. On the head, it has a black mask which reaches the nape, a white forehead and a white supercilium reaching behind the eyes, two profuse collars, the upper one white and the other black. The crown, back and upperwing coverts are an earthy-brown colour and the underparts and throat are white. The short, light-coloured beak has a dark tip and the legs are yellow. In flight, a white strip is obvious on the wing.

The common ringed plover is fairly gregarious in character, but forms quite small flocks. It is normal to find it in the company of other waders, including other types of plover, dunlins and redshanks.

It flies in straight lines, with rapid movements and at ground level. On the ground, it is agile and lively as it moves, with short, dashing runs, then stopping suddenly in the same way as other plovers and dunlins. When alarmed, it bobs its head up and down. It feeds mainly on molluscs, crustaceans, insects and even some plants.

It nests in Atlantic Europe and Greenland, the nest consisting of an uncovered scrape in the ground, though sometimes it hides it among the vegetation.

In the province, it is a common wintering species and is very common as a migrant, mainly frequenting marshes with light vegetation, semi-dry lagoons, estuaries, etc. Some non-breeding individuals remain here over the summer.

Of the estimated population of over 10,000 individuals, 86% are to be found in Andalusia in the Atlantic region, to the south, with a large number in the Doñana Nature Area. It can also be found in other wetlands, such as the endorheic basins.

LITTLE RINGED PLOVER

Charadrius dubius

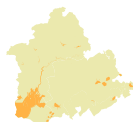
ES: Chorlitoje chico FR: Petit gravelot DE: Flussregenpfeifer

L: 14 - 18 cm Wi: 35 - 45 cm. We: 30 - 50 g.

E F M A M J J J A S O N D

DD

Pg-94



The little ringed plover is one of the few wading birds that breed in the marshes of the Guadalquivir. It has a short, rounded head, a brown back and a white belly, with a wide black strip on the neck. It also has a black strip behind the eye and a white one on the forehead, a short beak and yellow legs. There is no difference between the sexes.

During the breeding season, it is a fairly noisy bird, and even more so when alarmed, when it uses distraction strategies, acting as if it were wounded in order to lure the danger away from the nest.

It nests on the ground, among pebbles or gravel, constructing a nest in a small depression which it covers with scraps of straw. In the breeding season, it can be seen in solitary pairs or alone but relatively close to others of its species, without forming colonies.

During migration and wintering, it can be seen in small flocks which move in formation and evolve in unison. When it feeds, it runs nimbly over the ground or the mud, basing its diet mainly on insects, spiders, small molluscs and worms.

This is a relatively rare breeding species in Seville, with around 200 nesting pairs. However, their population is increasing in the province as a result of the extraction of aggregates, which generates habitats suitable for the species. It is, though, a relatively numerous wintering species, with numbers reaching several thousand. During its migratory passage, the little ringed plover is more numerous. It can be found in most of the wetlands of the province, mainly in those of the Doñana area, although it also lives and nests further inland, and can even be found in some of the wet zones of the Sierra Norte.

KENTISH PLOVER

Charadrius alexandrinus

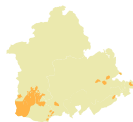
ES: Chorlitoje patinegro FR: Gravelot à collier interrompu DE: Seeregenpfeifer

L: 15 - 17 cm Wi: 45 - 50 cm. We: 40 - 60 g.

E F M A M J J J A S O N D

EN

Pg-94



A small plover, it has an uninterrupted pectoral band and dark sides, beak and legs. From the beak, a black mask runs back to the auriculars. Like the common ringed plover, the Kentish plover has a white strip on the wing, though it is narrower. It has a white forehead with a black band above it and a reddish nape. The back is brown and the underparts white, except for some small black patches on the upper breast. In the female, these patches are brown.

During migration, it can mainly be seen frequenting marshes with light vegetation, lagoons, etc. As a nesting species, it is found in spring and summer in marshes, lagoons and coastal areas.

The Kentish plover is gregarious in nature, forming larger flocks than the common ringed plover, and it can also be found in the company of other waders, including other plovers, dunlins and redshanks.

It flies in straight lines, with rapid movements and at low altitude. On the ground, it is agile and lively in its movements, with short, rapid dashes alternating with sudden stops, similar to other plovers and dunlins. It feeds mainly on insects, molluscs, worms, crustaceans and other water animals.

It is a very common breeding species in the province, estimated at over 1,000 pairs, and it is also a common wintering bird, with between 3,000 and 4,000 individuals. It is abundant in migration as well, with tens of thousands of individuals. Although its distribution is wider than the common ringed plover, it is less widespread than the little ringed plover. It can be found in the Doñana area and the endorheic basins.

GREY PLOVER

Pluvialis squatarola

ES: Chorlito gris **FR:** Pluvier argenté **DE:** Kiebitzregenpfeifer

L: 25 - 30 cm **Wi:** 55 - 70 cm. **We:** 200 - 300 g.

E F M A M J J A S O N D

NA

Pg-95



The grey plover is a medium-sized wader, bulky in appearance and with nuptial plumage that is basically black in the underparts with light upperparts. In flight, it has a characteristic patch under the wings and white specks on the rump and the wing band.

It has a white forehead and crown with greyish patches, the back is blackish-brown, heavily barred with white, and the underparts, basically the breast, belly, throat and front of the head, are black. The underparts of the female are a little browner.

The basic habitat of the species is marshland close to the coast, and it has a "hunched", almost "despondent" posture as it waits on sandbanks for the tide to fall. It usually mixes in small flocks with other coastal waders, although it sometimes forms large, loose flocks.

In winter, its diet is basically worms, molluscs, small crabs and other crustaceans, while in summer, it becomes more insectivorous, feeding on worms, slugs, insects and spiders.

Approximately 1,000 individuals of the species winter in the province, while migrating birds are much more numerous, with numbers rising to over 5,000. It is, therefore, a rare, non-reproducing winter visitor, coming from Arctic areas (North America, northern Russia and Siberia), which we can observe during its migration, when it chooses coastal areas. Due to its migratory nature, outside the breeding season, it can be found as far south as Australia or South America.

As it is a coastal bird, we find it exclusively in the lower part of the Guadalquivir estuary, in the National Park and Veta la Palma.

DUNLIN

Calidris alpina

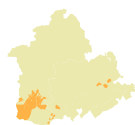
ES: Correlimos común **FR:** Bécasseau variable **DE:** Alpenstranläufer

L: 16 - 20 cm **Wi:** 35 - 45 cm. **We:** 40 - 70 g.

E F M A M J J A S O N D

EN

Pg-95



This dunlin is the commonest and most widespread of all the family. A small wader, its winter plumage has barred brownish-grey upperparts which, in the breeding season, have a reddish-chestnut tone striped with black. It has a very light upper pectoral zone and a black belly. In flight, the sides of the tail and the wing band are white. The beak curves slightly downwards, and both sexes are the same.

It flies in a "Z" pattern, making the movements in unison with the rest of the flock. It is, therefore, a fairly gregarious bird, gathering in quite large flocks, depending on its abundance. It often runs on the beach in time with the waves, with synchronised movements, often being seen with other waders.

In Seville, it can be seen during practically all of the year, as its migratory flows overlap, and it is often found in the Guadalquivir estuary, on the edge of marsh pools and lagoons, and on marine and inland mudflats.

During migration, it usually travels at night, frequently stopping at a given spot for several days. It eats mainly worms, crustaceans, insects and larvae, which it finds in sand recently uncovered by the water, or in soft mud, although on occasions it also feeds on plants.

It is the most numerous among the *Calidris* genus, with an estimated population in the province of around 50,000 individuals. During migration, numbers rise significantly. The main dunlin population is to be found in the Guadalquivir marshes and nearby zones, though it is not uncommon to find it in other wetlands in the province, such as the endorheic basins and other shallow lagoons.

GREEN SANDPIPER

Tringa ochropus

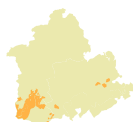
ES: Andarrios grande **FR:** Chevalier cul-blanc **DE:** Waldwasserläufer

L: 21 - 25 cm **Wi:** 57 - 61 cm. **We:** 70 - 90 g.

E F M A M J J A S O N D

NA

Pg-95



This is a dark-coloured sandpiper, with greyish-chestnut plumage on the back and white on the belly. The breast is slightly mottled, the rump white and the uppertail coverts have black bars at the tip. The underside of the wing is also dark, both sexes having the same plumage.

In flight, the wings are characteristically very wide and the feet do not usually extend beyond the short tail. It has a rapid, stuttering wingbeat, ascending to considerable height or zigzagging close to the ground. It usually dives steeply down from its high altitude escape flight. It can frequently be seen on its own patrolling the banks of rivers. It only gathers in flocks for migration, but even then they are not usually of great size.

During migration and the winter, it can be found on the banks of rivers, streams, marshes and lagoons, generally in sheltered areas and on relatively small bodies of water.

Not very gregarious and somewhat unsociable, it camouflages itself well among the vegetation. We only notice its presence when it takes flight or makes its shrill call. When it can be seen, it is normally alone or in pairs, and it is more difficult to find it in small flocks.

It usually pecks in the mud or shallow waters to find its food, which basically consists of insects and other aquatic animals such as crustaceans, molluscs and worms, as well as some water plants.

The green sandpiper is a wintering species, with not more than 500 individuals located mainly in Doñana and the surrounding area, though it can also be found on inland waters, such as the endorheic basins.

COMMON SANDPIPER

Actitis hypoleucos

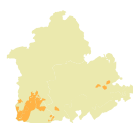
ES: Andarrios chico **FR:** Chevalier guignette **DE:** Flussuferläufer

L: 18 - 21 cm **Wi:** 32 - 35 cm. **We:** 50 - 80 g.

E F M A M J J A S O N D

NA

Pg-95



The size of a starling, this is a small sandpiper with dark brown plumage on its upperparts, pure white underparts, and a light greyish colour on the sides of the neck. In flight, it has an obvious white wing band and a whitish tone on the rear edge of the secondaries. The two sexes are similar in appearance.

The common sandpiper has a very typical flight pattern, flying low over the water, with spasmodic wing beats and gliding for short distances, with arched wings. When on land, it usually bobs its head and tail up and down and, to rest, it often perches on islets, branches, stones or fallen trees, etc. It can be found on the banks of rivers, lakes and lagoons, and during migration we can also find it on beaches and the coast. It swims and dives well, though rarely. It is almost always seen alone or in small groups.

During migration, it gathers in larger flocks, travelling at dusk, at a fairly high altitude and with the whole flock continually calling. When feeding, it walks quickly along the shores where it seeks its prey, mainly aquatic insects, worms and some plants.

It nests on the ground, on the banks of rivers, streams and lagoons or in the shelter of clumps of vegetation near the water. The nest is a simple construction in a small scrape or a gap between stones, which it sometimes lines thinly with leaves and straw.

In the province, we find it mainly during the periods of migratory passage, with some individuals found in the breeding season, although successful breeding has not been confirmed. It is present in many wetlands of the province, mainly in the Doñana area and the endorheic basins, though during the breeding season, it tends to prefer more inland waters.

COMMON GREENSHANK

Tringa nebularia

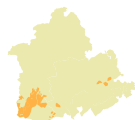
ES: Archibebe claro FR: Chevalier aboyeur DE: Grünschenkel

L: 30 - 33 cm Wi: 68 - 70 cm. We: 150 - 250 g.

E F M A M J J A S O N D

NA

Pg-96



The common greenshank is a large wader characterised by its fairly light winter plumage, with greyish tones on the back. The belly is fairly light, with copious white plumage. It can be distinguished from the common redshank by the greenish-yellow legs; in flight, we cannot see the white wing band. The greyish-blue beak is long and robust and is curved slightly upwards.

Its flight is fast and erratic, landing quite frequently on walls, rocks, trees, etc., especially in the breeding season.

It is not too gregarious, though it can be seen in groups of 3 - 4 individuals. During migration and in winter, it can gather in large flocks.

Feeding in shallow waters and on the shore, it eats insects, crustaceans, worms, molluscs and even small aquatic invertebrates, but rarely eats plants.

We can find it in wet zones, especially marsh ponds, marshes, lagoons and watercourses, as well as in coastal and river areas. During the breeding season, it can be seen in open areas, open land with low shrubs, pastureland, etc., close to rivers and lagoons.

Not a numerous wintering species, it must number around 1,000 individuals, rising during the migratory passage to 4,000 - 8,000 birds. It is mainly to be found in the wetlands of Doñana and nearby, though it is not uncommon to find it in other wet zones such as the endorheic basins, lagoons and reservoirs.

COMMON REDSHANK

Tringa totanus

ES: Arcibebe común FR: Chevalier gambette DE: Rotschenkel

L: 24 - 29 cm Wi: 45 - 53 cm. We: 85 - 170 g.

E F M A M J J A S O N D

DD

Pg-96



The common redshank is the most numerous and widespread of the large waders, and has characteristic greyish-brown plumage profusely mottled with darker patches. The belly, which is also mottled, is much lighter, and the wing has a conspicuous white band on the rear edges which is obvious in flight. The rump is white, and the legs and beak are an orangeish-red colour with a black tip. In summer, the plumage of the redshank is darker. The two sexes are similar in appearance.

It nests in wet zones, often on small mounds of grass on which both sexes make a small, well-concealed depression, which the female lines with dry grass.

Feeding mainly on insects, molluscs and small worms, it will also eat plants, but in smaller quantities. Its flight is fast, at times direct, and at other times, erratic.

The muddy shorelines of lagoons and rivers, salt pools, drainage channels on farmland, estuaries, etc., are its usual habitat, and it is not uncommon to see it perch on low posts, walls or stones.

It is found mainly in the southern part of the province, in the Doñana area and nearby wet zones, though it can also be found in other wet areas, such as the endorheic basins.

The breeding population in the province has fallen alarmingly in recent decades. In good years, it is estimated at between 1,500 and 2,000 pairs, mainly in the marshes of the National Park and rice-growing areas.

SPOTTED REDSHANK

Actitis erythropus

ES: Archibebe oscuro FR: Chevalier arlequin DE: Dunkler Wasserläufer

L: 29 - 31 cm Wi: 50 - 65 cm. We: 140 - 250 g.

E F M A M J J A S O N D

NA

Pg-96



The spotted redshank is a wader with a much longer beak, neck and legs than the common redshank, and it also has a more elegant appearance. It does not have the characteristic white wing band of the common redshank and the plumage on its back is greyer, and it also has red legs.

The nuptial plumage is dark grey on the head, neck and underparts, with fine, white mottling and light bars on the belly, flanks and undertail coverts. In winter, the young bird has darker plumage than the adult, with a greyer tone.

Like the rest of the redshanks, the spotted redshank is not a particularly gregarious wader. It is has a more svelte figure, a more upright posture and is more active than the common redshank, and feeds mainly on insects, molluscs, crustaceans and worms, small aquatic vertebrates and some plants.

It prefers a coastal habitat, but can be found in any type of aquatic environment, such as marshes, rice fields, lakes, etc.

In our study, we found it mainly in the Guadalquivir marshes, rice fields and nearby areas, like Veta la Palma, Dehesa de Abajo and Brazo del Este, though it can also sometimes be found in some of the endorheic basins.

RUFF

Philomachus pugnax

ES: Combatiente FR: Combattant varié DE: Kampfpläuer

L: 20 - 30 cm Wi: 48 - 60 cm. We: 170 - 240 g.

E F M A M J J A S O N D

NA

Pg-97



The ruff is a large wader with a short neck, small beak and not very long legs. In summer, in its breeding grounds, it is unmistakable, with a crest on the back of its head and a colourful ruff for display, with blackish, white, striped and vermiculated feathers. There is marked sexual dimorphism, and the male is considerably larger than the female (29 and 23 centimetres respectively).

In general, when it visits the area, the plumage on its back has a scaly appearance, with brown tones and light-edged feathers. The belly and undertail coverts are light and the tail is dark brown. It has long legs and a short, strong beak. In winter, males, females and young display a wide range of tones and colours.

When breeding, the males engage in prenuptial fights and combat, until the female chooses her pair by standing in the micro-territory of one of the pretenders. They also perform ceremonies to attract the females, though they do not form stable pairs, the males being sexually promiscuous.

The preferred habitat of the ruff is mainly rice fields, marshes, shallow reservoirs and irrigated land, as well as wet pastureland. In Doñana, it can be found in the marshes and rice fields.

The ruff is a very common wintering bird and, during migration, its numbers increase considerably. It is easy to see the courtship display and even attempts at copulation, but it has never been confirmed that the ruff has bred successfully in the province. Although its main population is found on the Guadalquivir marshes, it can also be seen in most of the important wetlands of Seville.

EURASIAN CURLEW

Numenius arquata

ES: Zarapito real **FR:** Courlis cendré **DE:** Grosser Brachvogel

L: 50 - 60 cm **Wi:** 80 - 105 cm. **We:** 600 - 1100 g.

E F M A M J J A S O N D

VU

Pg-97



The Eurasian curlew is the largest wader in Europe, and has a characteristic long, downward-curving beak, generally dark-barred, creamy-brown plumage which is thicker on the back, and a very striking white rump.

The absence of bars on the crown makes it easy to distinguish from other curlews. The head has several longitudinal striations, though they do not form a hood, and neither does it have wide bars. The tail is brownish and barred, the wings are brown with numerous lighter patches on the upper wing and with a completely white underwing.

It is to be found on muddy beaches, estuaries and marshes, sandy dunes and meadows. During migration, it can be seen inland. An unsociable, wary bird, it takes flight at the slightest sign of danger, flying at altitude and to a considerable distance, it does not land nearby.

A fairly gregarious bird, it usually gathers in large flocks, depending on the population. Sometimes, it can be seen with other large waders, such as oystercatchers and godwits, and it can migrate at night, in which case it almost continuously makes its striking call.

It usually wades in the mud or walks through shallow waters in search of its prey, with a diet consisting basically of molluscs, crustaceans, small fish, amphibians, earthworms, insects and their larvae. It sometimes also eats plants, such as algae, the seeds of low plants or fruit.

The wintering population of the Eurasian curlew in the province is not very high, being somewhat more common during migration. It can be found in the Guadalquivir estuary in areas close to the mouth of the river, such as Veta la Palma and areas of the National Park.

COMMON SNIPE

Gallinago gallinago

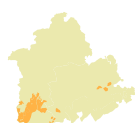
ES: Agachadiza común **FR:** Bécassine des marais **DE:** Bekassine

L: 25 - 27 cm **Wi:** 40 - 47 cm. **We:** 100 - 120 g.

E F M A M J J A S O N D

NA

Pg-98



The snipe is a medium-sized wader with reddish-brown and black colouring, with ochre bars. Likewise, its brown head has striking ochre-coloured strips, and its long, straight beak definitively characterises this small, elusive bird. The two sexes are similar in appearance.

This is a solitary bird, though we can often see it in pairs or, at most, in threes, and it occasionally gathers in small flocks.

Basically active at dusk, it is a very elusive bird which habitually hides among the vegetation. In flight, its typical trajectory is a zigzag, giving a hoarse cry, flying away and then returning to the starting point.

Feeding in wet, muddy areas with low plant cover, it eats mainly worms, water beetles, mosquito larvae, woodlice and snails, and some seeds of marsh plants.

It is to be found in areas of fresh or brackish water, with abundant vegetation, on the grassy banks of rivers, streams and lakes, in marshes, swampy areas, wet meadows and plains, reed beds, etc. It is highly valued by hunters.

In the province, it appears during migration and is an abundant species in winter, though it is very difficult to estimate the number of birds wintering in the marshes. It can be found in most of the wetlands of the province which meet its habitat requirements: low, dense vegetation, organically rich soil and food. Among the areas where it is most likely to appear are the fertile plains of the lower Guadalquivir basin and marshes, and we can also find it in the Doñana area, Brazo del Este, endorheic basins, etc.

EURASIAN WOODCOCK

Scolopax rusticola

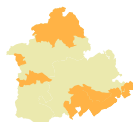
ES: Chocha perdiz FR: Bécasse des bois DE: Waldschnepfe

L: 33 - 38 cm Wi: 55 - 65 cm. We: 300 - 350 g.

E F M A M J J A S O N D

DD

Pg-98



The Eurasian woodcock is a large wader with a very long beak, short legs and large eyes high up towards the back of the head. Its plumage is brown and reddish, with a very patchy, barred back, making it very cryptic. The belly is lighter, with dark transversal striations. There are practically no differences between the sexes or by age.

Highly confident in its camouflage, it waits until the last moment before taking flight. It flies erratically at a low height, zigzagging. It is active at dusk and at night.

As in spring, in winter it is also an eminently forest-dwelling bird and shows a clear preference for any type of forest, including riparian woods, oak forests, mixed woods, pine groves, holm oaks, etc., and will also inhabit eucalyptus or conifer plantations. It can also be found on cropland and pastureland, always in the vicinity of nearby woods.

Its long beak is used to probe for food among the leaf litter, and its diet is based on earthworms, maggots, larvae, molluscs and other invertebrates. It nests on the ground, hidden among the leaf litter, normally close to bushes. The female lays a clutch of 2 to 5 light coloured eggs with brown patches.

The Eurasian woodcock migrates nocturnally, alone or in small, loose groups. The autumn migration begins in October and reaches its peak in November. Wintering individuals remain in the Iberian Peninsula until January and throughout February and March they return to the breeding grounds.

Not common as a wintering bird, we can find it in the wooded areas of the province: Sierra Norte, Sierra Sur and the forests of Doñana.

BLACK-TAILED GODWIT

Limosa limosa

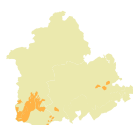
ES: Aguja colinegra FR: Barge à queue noire DE: Uferschnepfe

L: 42 - 48 cm Wi: 67 - 77 cm. We: 250 - 700 g.

E F M A M J J A S O N D

NA

Pg-97



The black-tailed godwit is a large wader, with long legs and beak, a small head, and the basal half of the beak is a reddish-pink colour with a black tip. In spring, it has vivid, contrasting plumage but in winter, both sexes have more uniform greyish-brown colours on the back with lighter tones on the belly.

It can be found in grassy areas of the marshes, on muddy beaches, lagoons, the banks of the Guadalquivir, etc., as well as in brush or wet Atlantic shrubland, and sometimes even among dune vegetation.

Usually seeking food in shallow areas, it can also frequently be seen in deeper waters, wading until the water almost reaches its breast. It feeds on insects, earthworms, grasshoppers, molluscs, maggots, etc.

It almost always nests on uncovered terrain or among herbaceous plants, and sometimes on dunes or among shrubs. The nest is built in a shallow scrape which it covers with grass.

In the autumn and spring, small groups or flocks gather together, though in more favourable areas of the marshes, larger flocks can be found, with over a hundred individuals.

Of the wintering black-tailed godwits, 79% can be found on Andalusian wetlands on the Atlantic coast, with most being recorded in the Guadalquivir marshes.

Very common in Brazo del Este, it is not unusual to find it in other wetlands, such as lagoons or the endorheic basins.

NORTHERN LAPWING

Vanellus vanellus

ES: Avefría europea FR: Vanneau huppé DE: Kiebitz

L: 28 - 30 cm Wi: 70 - 75 cm. We: 200 - 300 g.

E F M A M J J A S O N D

LR

Pg-98



The lapwing is a medium-sized Charadriiforme, black and white in colour with greenish iridescence, rounded wings and a short tail which is obvious in flight. It has a characteristic thin crest, a wide black bib, and long legs. In the light of the sun, the iridescence becomes a bright, greenish reflection on the back. The two sexes are similar in appearance.

It is a very sociable bird which we almost always find in large flocks. As its habitat, it prefers rice fields, moors, mudflats, heather, estuaries, marshes and plains close to wetlands. Due to the conversion of its original habitats into cropland and pastureland, the lapwing has had to adapt to these new conditions by expanding its distribution to these ecosystems, though it does not move far from wet areas. Its flight is erratic, with a slow wingbeat and a swaying trajectory. On land, it walks slowly, though it can run at speed.

Although it is eminently a daytime bird, it can be active until well into the night. It is a good swimmer, but it is not frequently seen in the water. It feeds on land in small groups which, as the day wears on, become more numerous. During migration, it can travel in flocks which are often enormous. Forming breeding colonies which are not very dense, it establishes its nest on a scrape in the ground which it lines with dry grass for the breeding season between March and June. It feeds mainly on insects, molluscs and earthworms, which it captures by scraping the ground.

The Iberian populations of the species are sedentary, though large numbers of lapwing from western and central Europe come here to winter, arriving from November and remaining until March. It is found mainly in areas close to water, the Guadalquivir marshes, lagoons and endorheic basins, but also on cropland in the Campiña farmland area of Seville, always close to significant bodies of water. It is not uncommon to see it on the cropland and pastureland of the Sierra Norte.

STONE CURLEW

Burhinus oedipnemos

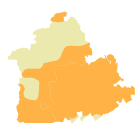
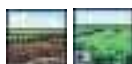
ES: Alcaraván común FR: Oedicnème criard DE: Triel

L: 40 - 45 cm Wi: 77 - 85 cm. We: 350 - 500 g.

E F M A M J J A S O N D

VU

Pg-98



The stone curlew is a slim, medium-sized bird. The plumage is an earthy colour and it has a tawny appearance, lighter on the underparts and darker with brown mottling on the upperparts. The head is rounded and the beak is short, with striking yellow eyes. The two sexes are the same.

The stone curlew is an eminently terrestrial bird, typical of open, dry zones, such as dry marshes, uncultivated land, sandy areas, marsh beaches, stubble, etc., generally with little humidity or vegetation, though it can also be found in marshy areas and on the coast in winter. It runs quickly, with its neck tucked in, though when it stops, it stands upright. It takes off laboriously, and so before doing so it will keep low, and then fly at a low altitude with a slow wingbeat, gliding intermittently.

It is active at dusk and at night though, in quiet areas, it also feeds during the day. A sociable species, it can frequently be seen in small flocks which keep in contact by calling frequently.

The nesting season is from March to July, and it fills a small scrape with plant remains and small stones, close to vegetation. It feeds mainly on snails, earthworms, slugs, land insects and their larvae, etc. It will occasionally hunt small vertebrates, such as voles, mice and frogs.

A regular breeder, there are an estimated 300 pairs in the province. We cannot give exact figures for the total number of wintering birds, but it must be several thousand, as they have been observed in groups of up to 500 individuals. The stone curlew can be found throughout the province, except in areas of dense forest, and is easier to find in dry marshes and the farmed countryside.

Collared pratincole

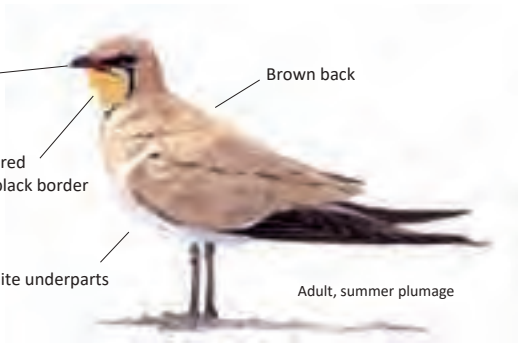
Red, black-tipped beak

Brown back

Cream-coloured throat with black border

White underparts

Adult, summer plumage



Black and white colouring

Pied avocet

Characteristic thin, upward-curving beak

Adult



Black-winged stilt

Long, thin, sharp beak

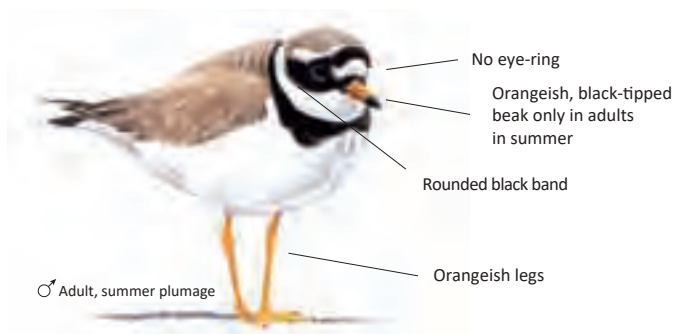
Dark back

Long, reddish legs

Adult



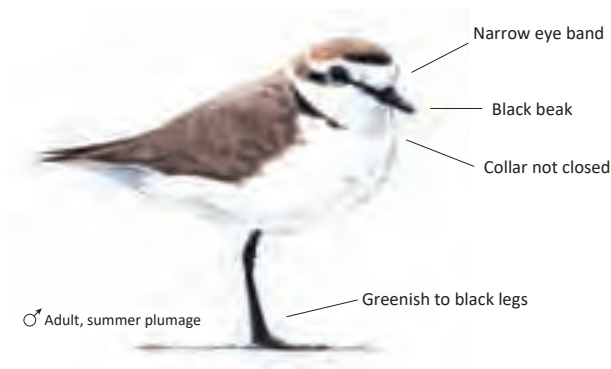
Common ringed plover



Little ringed plover



Kentish plover



Grey plover

Black face,
neck and breast
in adults in summer



♂ Adult, summer plumage

Dunlin

Long, curved beak



♂ Adult, summer plumage

Darker belly in adults in summer

Green sandpiper

White stripe
in front of the eye

Dark, mottled back

No separation

Adult, summer plumage



Common Sandpiper

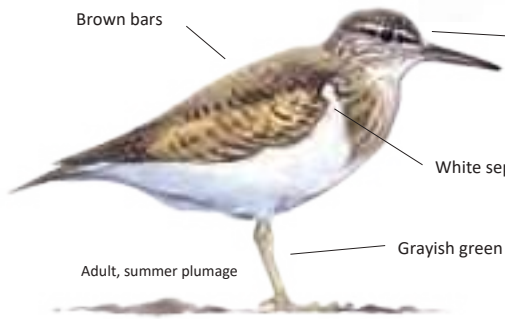
Dark stripe in front
of the eye

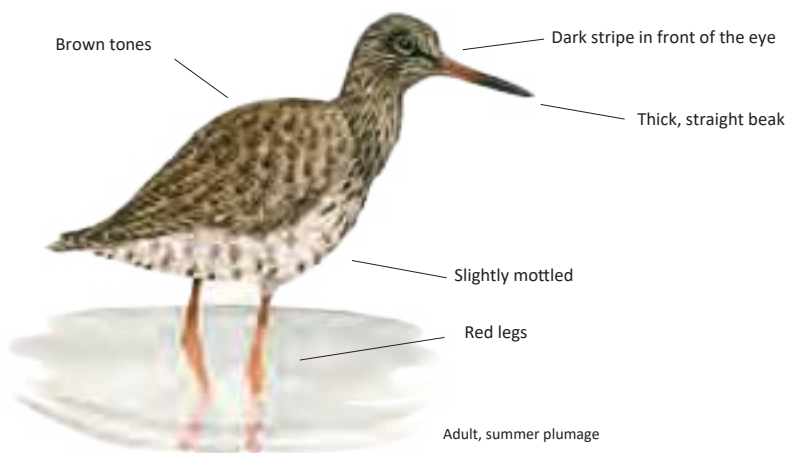
White separation

Grayish green legs

Brown bars

Adult, summer plumage



Common redshank**Common greenshank****Spotted redshank**

Ruff

Curved beak

Dark feathers with
light edges

Adult, winter plumage

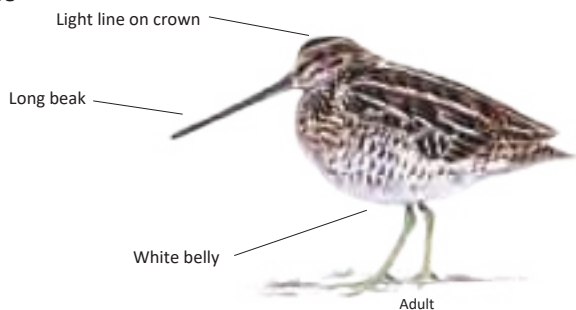
Black-tailed godwitBlack and
white tailLong, almost straight,
black-tipped beak

Adult, winter plumage

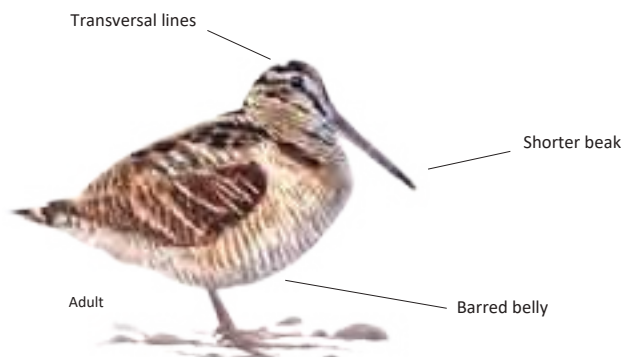
Eurasian curlewCharacteristic long,
curved beak

Adult

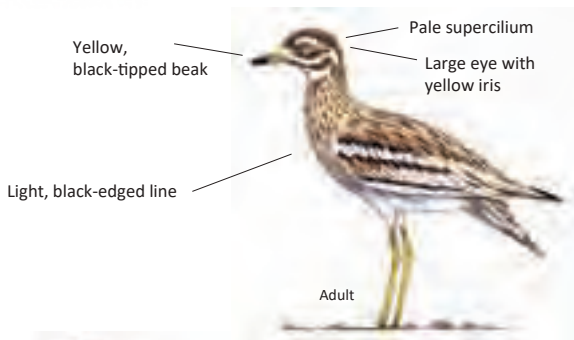
Common snipe



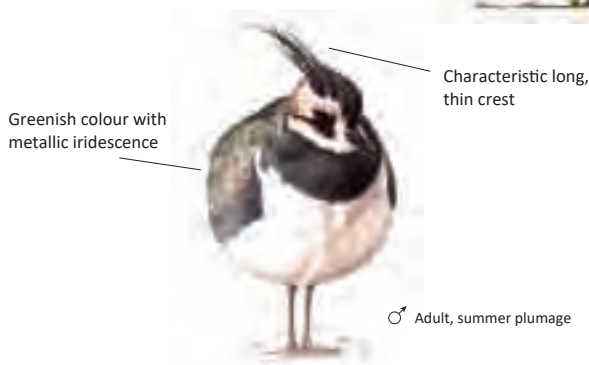
Eurasian woodcock



Stone curlew



Northern lapwing



EGYPTIAN VULTURE

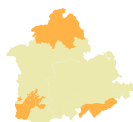
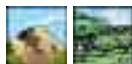
Neophron percnopterus

ES: Alimoche común **FR:** Percnoptère d'Égypte **DE:** Schmutzgeier

L: 55 - 70 cm **Wi:** 150 - 170 cm. **We:** 1600 - 2100 g.

E F M A M J J J A S O N D

EN



The Egyptian vulture is a medium-sized bird of prey, the smallest of the vultures seen in our skies. Except for the remiges, which are black, it has yellowish-white plumage especially in the underparts. The face and cheeks are bare, and yellow in colour. The beak is yellow with a black tip and the legs are pink.

Generally a solitary bird, it only gathers in small groups for migration and to seek food. The adults usually arrive in the Peninsula in late February and March, when it devotes itself to a painstaking search for a nesting site. Once it has bred and the chicks have left the nest, in August, it begins its return migration to its African wintering quarters. The juveniles, once they have made this journey, will not return to our shores until they reach maturity, remaining in Africa for several years.

With a diet partially based on carrion, the Egyptian vulture often feeds on remains left by other, bigger vultures, though it also feeds on insects, reptiles, amphibians and dying fish, as well as small mammals. With the reappearance of poisoned bait, the population of the Egyptian vulture -as in the rest of Spain- is falling drastically.

It is to be seen above all during its courtship rituals, in the Sierra Sur and Sierra Norte areas, being rarer in Doñana. Due to the long distances it travels to seek food, it is not uncommon to see it in other parts of the province, sometimes taking advantage of thermal currents while camouflaged among storks. In winter, the Egyptian vulture can be found around the Guadalquivir marshes, gathering in communal roosts. It typically occupies marshy areas, feeding on the bodies of dead individuals from the large concentrations of waterfowl, and on the landfills and dunghills of human settlements in the area.

GRIFFON VULTURE

Gyps fulvus

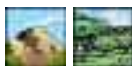
ES: Buitre leonado **FR:** Vautour fauve **DE:** Gänsegeier

L: 95 - 110 cm **Wi:** 230 - 270 cm. **We:** 7 - 11 kg.

E F M A M J J J A S O N D

NA

Pg-111



The griffon vulture is one of the largest birds of prey in our skies. Its silhouette in flight rapidly betrays its presence, as it has long, wide wings with splayed primaries, and a short, dark, square tail. The head and neck are covered with a whiteish down, at the base of which there is a ruff of cream-coloured feathers. The plumage is generally tawny, except the remiges and rectrices, which are dark brown. The beak is bone-coloured and the cere and legs are dark grey.

The species is more typical of mountainous areas with rocky crags although, as it travels long distances in search of carrion, it can be found flying over any ecosystem: marshes, plains, deforested hillsides and disperse woodland, etc. Majestic in flight, the characteristic, spectacular manoeuvres of its nuptial flight can be seen in the months of December and January.

A fairly gregarious and sociable bird, it often gathers in very numerous colonies, seeking food in groups while flying over large areas of terrain.

It very skilfully exploits thermal updraughts which allow it to fly almost effortlessly. It almost always rests and roosts in its breeding grounds, despite the enormous distances that it habitually travels.

Feeding exclusively on carrion, mainly mammals, it is the principal carrion-eating species among our birdlife, preferring the carcasses of large animals.

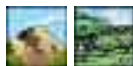
As in the rest of the Iberian Peninsula, the griffon vulture has seen a significant increase in its populations in the province. They can be found mainly in the Sierra Norte and the Sierra Sur, with the populations at Cortados del Río Viar and Peñón de Zaframagón standing out.

BLACK VULTURE*Aegypius monachus***ES:** Buitre negro **FR:** Vautour moine **DE:** Mönchsgeier**L:** 95 - 110 cm **Wi:** 250 - 290 cm. **We:** 7 - 11 kg.

E F M A M J J A S O N D

EN

Pg-111



The black vulture is one of the biggest, heaviest birds of prey in the world. Its silhouette in flight is massive and powerful, similar to that of the griffon vulture, though its colouring is different and the head and beak are bigger, as is the tail, which is wedge-shaped.

The general plumage is a uniform blackish-brown, with a bald neck (black down) and a brown ruff. The cere is a blueish colour and the legs are very light grey. The two sexes are the same.

In our area of study, it is found outside the breeding season, and will be seen on wooded plains, open countryside and in the marshes. It is less gregarious than the griffon vulture, and so is usually seen alone or in very small groups, gliding majestically over forested areas and making incursions into other ecosystems.

Travelling considerable distances in search of food, it is found far from its breeding or roosting sites and, as an expert glider, it can fly at high altitude, apparently motionless. In low-altitude flight, its wingbeat and gliding are slow and heavy.

It feeds mainly on carrion, though it occasionally hunts ailing animals, generally injured or feeble vertebrates. It usually coincides with the griffon vulture in its carrion, though the griffon vulture will usually allow it space. It should be remembered that the black vulture is more aggressive and is bigger and heavier.

Like the griffon vulture, though in lower numbers, it can be found in both the Sierra Norte and the Sierra Sur where, unlike the griffon vulture, it makes its nest mainly in trees such as holm oaks, cork oaks and pines.

OSPREY*Pandion haliaetus***ES:** Águila pescadora **FR:** Balbuzard pêcheur **DE:** Fischadler**L:** 50 - 60 cm **Wi:** 145 - 170 cm. **We:** 1200 - 2000 g.

E F M A M J J A S O N D

VU

Pg-112



The osprey is a medium-sized, fish-eating bird of prey, with narrow wings. The feet and legs, often bowed, are robust, bare and scaly. The upperparts are dark chestnut, contrasting with the white underparts, which have dark flecks. With a dark chestnut band on the sides of its head, it has long wings which are noticeably angled in flight. The two sexes are the same.

In flight, the upperparts are dark brown, in contrast with the underparts, which are whitish with a brownish band across the breast and dark striations, and a short tail. It also shows a characteristic profile in flight, with its elbows bent upwards.

It chooses fixed spots as perches, such as trunks emerging from the water, where we can see it striking curious, priest-like poses, showing no interest whatsoever in the ducks swimming around it.

A gregarious species, it is often almost colonial when breeding, though generally it is seen alone. It lives on a diet consisting almost exclusively of fish.

Flying over the water, it spots its prey, hovers over the water and plunges straight down, partially submerging to capture the fish with its claws. It then perches on a dry tree, post or a rock close to the water.

It is to be found in the southern part of the province, where it is a regular wintering species, with between 30 and 50 individuals. Some birds remain in the area until the summer, when we can sometimes see the first migrants. Mainly seen in the Doñana area and the Guadalquivir estuary, it occasionally flies upriver, even reaching the city of Seville.

SPANISH IMPERIAL EAGLE

Aquila adalberti

ES: Águila imperial ibérica FR: Spanischer Kaiseradler DE: Aigle ibérique

L: 68 - 83 cm Wi: 180 - 220 cm. We: 2800 - 3500 g.

E F M A M J J A S O N D

CR

Pg-112



The Spanish imperial eagle is one of the jewels in the crown of nature in the province. In danger of extinction, it is easy to identify - a large bird of prey, generally with very dark brown plumage and a robust build, characterised by its white shoulders and upper wings. The nape and top of the neck are pearl grey and the cere and legs are yellow, with brown eyes and a grey and black beak. The female is larger than the male.

It can be seen in wooded areas with clearings and shrubland, and it always needs a tree to nest. Majestic in flight, it usually flies at great height during the central hours of hot days. In the early hours of the morning, it perches on vantage points offering clear views, waiting for its prey to emerge from its refuge.

The Spanish imperial eagle is an expert hunter and very ably dominates the land, of which it is lord and master when it patrols its territory. It lives in pairs in a defined territory where it remains all of its life.

It feeds mainly on medium-sized mammals, fundamentally rabbits and hares, although it also captures birds, reptiles and fish, and will even eat carrion when prey is scarce.

The nesting season is February to August, when it builds a large nest in the crown of the largest trees in the territory.

There are two breeding populations in the province, one in Doñana and the other in the Sierra Norte. The Doñana population has around 11 pairs and in the Sierra Norte there are some 16. Thanks to the measures taken to protect this species, these two populations are in constant increase.

GOLDEN EAGLE

Aquila chrysaetos

ES: Águila real FR: Aigle royal DE: Steinadler

L: 76 - 96 cm Wi: 180 - 230 cm. We: 2900 - 6750 g.

E F M A M J J A S O N D

VU

Pg-112



The golden eagle is the largest of our eagles. Its plumage is generally brown, except the back of the head, neck and the upper edge of the wings, which are golden. The tail has diffuse transversal bands. Its very long, wide wings are sometimes curved upwards. The cere and legs are yellow and it has a strong, blackish beak. The female is larger than the male.

A bird of prey which is very powerful and silent in flight, the golden eagle prefers wooded mountainous zones. It usually rests on high vantage points, often in tall trees. Its territory overlaps that of the Spanish imperial eagle, and so they compete fiercely for food and breeding grounds.

It is a fairly solitary bird, though it can be seen in pairs throughout the year since, when they choose a territory, they do not usually leave it.

Its flight is majestic and powerful, almost always gliding at a great height, sometimes circling. When hunting, it dives spectacularly, plunging vertically downwards.

The golden eagle feeds mainly on mammals, though it also hunts birds, reptiles and fish, and can capture prey heavier than itself. When prey is scarce, it resorts to the carrion of livestock and will even take household pets.

In the province of Seville, it is a sedentary bird, especially the adults, since the juveniles will usually disperse. It can be found in the Sierra Norte, where there is an important breeding population which is increasing moderately each year. There are today around 40 breeding pairs.

SHORT-TOED EAGLE

Circaetus gallicus

ES: Culebrera europea **FR:** Circaète Jean-le-Blanc **DE:** Schlangenadler

L: 55 - 70 cm **Wi:** 160 - 175 cm. **We:** 1400 - 2600 g.

E F M A M J J A S O N D

NA

Pg-113



A relatively large bird of prey, the short-toed eagle can be distinguished by the dark plumage on the upperparts and the light underparts, with a darker bib and very light wings with strings of small patches. It has a large head and front-facing eyes, which are lemon-coloured. The cere, beak and legs are grey, and the tarsi are bare. It has a paler phase, with a lighter bib and belly.

It is to be found in wooded areas with clearings and shrubland, such as pine forest, holm oak groves, farmyards, etc., where it makes its breeding ground, as well as on marshy plains and coastal dunes with trees.

When flying, it takes advantage of thermal updraughts, gliding and circling. It has specialised in hunting snakes, which it finds while gliding at a great height during the hottest hours of the day, when they are at their most vulnerable. It will wait for long periods perched on vantage points offering a clear view, to ambush reptiles and other prey.

The nesting season is from March to August, when it constructs a nest in the crown of a tree with dry branches which it then lines with fresher herbaceous plants, green stalks and leaves. The nest is not very large in relation to the size of the bird, as it lays only one egg.

There are an estimated 80 breeding pairs in the province. In recent years, it has been confirmed that 5 to 10 individuals winter in the Doñana area. Migrating individuals also visit, with the prenuptial passage beginning in February and the postnuptial in August. We can also find it in the Sierra Norte, Sierra Sur and Doñana and the surrounding area, though it is not uncommon to see it in other parts of the province.

BOOTED EAGLE

Hieraaetus pennatus

ES: Águila calzada **FR:** Aigle botté **DE:** Zwergadler

L: 42 - 51 cm **Wi:** 110- 135 cm. **We:** 650 - 1100 g.

E F M A M J J A S O N D

NA

Pg-113



Of medium size, the booted eagle is characterised by its relatively long tail and by its two phases: the light phase plumage is dark brown with some light and creamy tones, and yellowish underparts, while the dark phase plumage is generically brown. The eyes are an amber colour, and the beak is grey and black. The cere is yellow, as are the legs, which are covered with feathers as far as the toes. The female is larger than the male.

Found in wooded areas, both coniferous and broadleaf, with alternating clearings that allow it to hunt, it can also be seen, though less frequently, in riverside undergrowth, small woods, marshes, etc.

It usually glides for long periods, first rising in circles on the air currents. Its flight is very fast, flying in and out among the trees, hovering and diving. It uses perches in trees or on rock faces to rest.

Using different hunting techniques, it can stalk its prey and pounce on it on the ground or in flight, taking it by surprise, and diving down to the trees and capturing it as it perches there. It feeds on all kinds of birds and reptiles, often also eating mammals and insects. The nest is built high up in tall trees, though sometimes lower down, using the holm oak on these occasions. It makes its nest with dry branches, which it then lines with finer green grasses.

It is abundant as a breeder, common as a migratory bird and rare as a wintering species, though there is a notable increase in numbers in winter. As a breeding bird, it is distributed unevenly throughout the territory but, as it chooses wooded areas, it can be found more easily in the Sierra Norte and Sierra Sur, also having a significant breeding population in Doñana. Sightings of individuals in winter in the Peninsula appear to be located mainly in wet zones, and it has been recorded frequently in wetlands such as the Guadalquivir marshes.

BONELLI'S EAGLE

Aquila fasciata

ES: Águila perdicera **FR:** Aigle de Bonelli **DE:** Habichtsadler

L: 65 - 72 cm **Wi:** 145 - 165 cm. **We:** 1500 - 2500 g.

E F M A M J J A S O N D

VU

Pg-113



Bonelli's eagle is a large bird of prey, with rounded wings and a long tail. The upperparts are dark brown and the underparts white. Under the wings, there is a black band from the body to the front of the wing, and the leading edge is white. The tail has a wide, black terminal band. The female is larger than the male.

It can be found in wooded areas, though it can also be seen in marshes and on flat terrain. A powerful bird able to capture large prey, in flight, it is very quick, plunging in steep dives, like a falcon.

Usually, it glides at height, almost always in pairs, though it can also stalk its prey from a perch, and even capture them on the ground.

The breeding season is from February to May, and though it sometimes begins to build its nest in mid-autumn, it usually breeds early in the year. It prefers to build the nest on crags, though when there are none available, it will sometimes nest in trees. The nest, which is large and not very elaborate, is made of branches and then lined with green stalks and leaves. The female only lays one clutch a year.

In areas with abundant prey, several individuals may hunt together, mainly for live prey, from mammals (rabbits, rats and hares) to reptiles (especially lizards), as well as medium-sized birds.

It is a rare, sedentary bird and it can be found in wooded areas alternating with shrubland in the Sierra Norte and Sierra Sur areas. It is possible to find young, immature individuals in dispersion throughout the territory, though always in low numbers.

RED KITE

Milvus milvus

ES: Milano real **FR:** Milan royal **DE:** Rotmilan

L: 60 - 65 cm **Wi:** 145 - 165 cm. **We:** 750 - 1300 g.

E F M A M J J A S O N D

CR

Pg-114



The red kite is a medium-sized bird of prey. Its plumage is generally reddish and striped, or with brown patches. The head is light grey with brown lines, and it has lemon-coloured eyes and a black beak, while the cere and legs are yellow. The tail has a deep fork. Juveniles are similar in appearance, though the tail is much shorter. The two sexes resemble each other, but the female is larger.

It can be found in wooded areas of both pine and deciduous trees, interspersed with cropland or clearings with little vegetation or shrubs. It is not particularly territorial, and pairs can locate quite close to each other when food is abundant.

The red kite is a true master of gliding, and is quite gregarious during the winter. It establishes communal roosts with numerous individuals, which can be seen during the day gliding together. During migration, it also gathers in relatively large flocks.

In general, it will feed on any prey which is not very quick, mainly young birds, reptiles, rodents, frogs, insects and even carrion from roadkill and landfills.

Nesting from April to June, it built its nest in large trees, making it with branches which it then lines with hair, wool and even plastic and any other kind of waste.

Not very numerous as a wintering bird, it is distributed throughout the entire territory in wooded zones, mainly in Doñana (Aznalcázar - Puebla del Río pine groves) and Sierra Norte, and is not found or is rare in the south-east of the province. The red kite has suffered a great setback as a breeding bird over the last two decades, and current estimates of its population do not exceed 10 pairs.

BLACK KITE*Milvus migrans***ES:** Milano negro **FR:** Milan noir **DE:** Schwarzmilan**L:** 55 - 60 cm **Wi:** 130 - 150 cm. **We:** 650 - 2600 g.

E F M A M J J A S O N D

NA

Pg-114



A medium-sized bird of prey, the plumage of the black kite is generally brown in tone, becoming darker towards the remiges and the tail, which is forked, though less so than the red kite. With a black beak and amber eyes, it has a yellow cere and legs. The head is grey with brown stripes which run along all of the body. There is no sexual dimorphism.

The habitat of the black kite is forested and wooded zones, often close to rivers, lakes and marshy environments. Outside the breeding season, it can be found in the most varied biotopes, but always close to wooded and even anthropised areas.

As a relatively gregarious species, it will breed in fairly dense colonies. A highly-skilled glider, it performs all manner of acrobatics in the mating season.

As it does not have powerful talons, the black kite almost always captures its prey on the ground, and it is an opportunistic feeder, often resorting to easy prey, such as wounded, diseased or dying birds. It also takes advantage of roadkill and landfills.

It nests from April to July, building a nest with branches which it lines with all kinds of waste material. The nest is almost always built in a tree, usually a pine, cork oak, etc., and on rare occasions it will build it among rocks or even on the ground.

Abundant as a migrant, it is rare as a wintering species. It can be seen overflying almost the entire province, though the greatest concentrations are found in forested areas close to water, with significant populations at Dehesa de Abajo and the pine groves of La Puebla del Río-Aznalcázar.

COMMON BUZZARD*Buteo buteo***ES:** Busardo ratonero **FR:** Aigle botté **DE:** Zwergadler**L:** 50 - 57 cm **Wi:** 113 - 128 cm. **We:** 550 - 1200 g.

E F M A M J J A S O N D

VU

Pg-114



The common buzzard is a medium-sized bird of prey, with generally brown tones, uniform on the back and with white bars on the breast and belly. The cere and the legs are yellow, the beak is black and the eyes brown. It has no feathers on the tarsi. The female is slightly larger than the male.

This is a very adaptable bird as regards the habitats where it can be found, being seen in wooded areas interspersed with crops, clearings and low scrub.

This buzzard is one of the commonest and best-known birds of prey, and can be seen as it rests on fence posts on the roadside and on paths in the province. It is territorial and lives in pairs in harmony with other species, occupying small territories.

In flight, it has a relatively slow wingbeat and it can often be seen hovering and gliding while scanning its territory. It hunts by ambushing its prey from high vantage points, awaiting the opportunity to pounce when the prey leaves its refuge. Its diet includes any animal of a size up to and including that of a rabbit, and it will catch any prey from mammals, birds or frogs to fish and insects. Likewise, it will also feed on carrion, including roadkill, and even scavenge on landfills.

It nests from March to June, mainly in trees. The nest is built of branches, lined with green leaves.

This is a habitual, resident bird and it is distributed unevenly throughout the province, preferring wooded or shrub ecosystems close to water, but it is less common on farmland and meadows. This makes it easier to find in the Sierra Norte and Sierra Sur mountains and in the forest area of Doñana. In winter and during the migratory passage of birds from the north, its numbers increase considerably.

WESTERN MARSH HARRIER

Circus aeruginosus

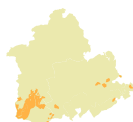
ES: Aguilucho lagunero FR: Busard des roseaux DE: Rohrweihe

L: 45 - 50 cm Wi: 110 - 125 cm. We: 400 - 800 g.

E F M A M J J A S O N D

EN

Pg-115



The western marsh harrier is a slender, long-tailed, medium-sized bird of prey, with a head similar to that of a barn owl and long wings with fingers raised in the form of an open "V". It is the largest of the harriers. The male has three colours, varying from lighter colours to grey, and the female and sub-adults are chocolate-coloured with a cream head and leading edge.

It flies low, prowling the ground between reed beds and sea-blite, pouncing suddenly on its prey. With a marked preference for swampy terrain, when it appears, always suddenly, it causes panic among the water birds. However, it is not strong enough to capture large prey.

It nests in swampy or marshy areas, or near rainwater pools with large reed beds. The female builds a large nest of water plants lined with grass, among the thick marshland vegetation, usually surrounded by water.

The very varied diet is based mainly on water rats, coots, moorhens and other birds, and it will also eat chicks and eggs, as well as frogs and snakes. Occasionally, it may feed on carrion such as dead fish.

Numerous as a wintering bird, it is scarce as a breeder, with between 50 and 60 breeding pairs.

It can be found in any sizeable wetland in the province with plant cover on the banks, but it is not uncommon to find it hunting in other environments, such as cropland, pastureland or low scrub.

HEN HARRIER

Circus cyaneus

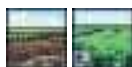
ES: Aguilucho pálido FR: Busard Saint-Martin DE: Kornweihe

L: 45 - 55 cm Wi: 97 - 118 cm. We: 300 - 700 g.

E F M A M J J A S O N D

NA

Pg-115



The hen harrier is slightly larger than its relative, the Montagu's harrier. In our area, if you see a harrier -the males are grey and the females dark brown with a white rump- between April and September, it is a Montagu's harrier, but in the winter, it is a hen harrier. A relatively small bird of prey, the male is a uniform ash-grey colour, except for its belly and tail coverts, which are white.

It can be found in shrubland alternating with pastureland, crops or wetlands. Most of the day is spent flying low over the ground, alternately beating its wings slowly and gliding. When it spots its prey, it hovers over it and dives down, killing it. It always hunts on land and is present throughout Doñana, being more numerous in the northern zone.

During migration, it flies up to high altitudes, travelling rapidly in small groups. At dusk, it stops to rest, forming communal roosts on land and resuming the migration at dawn the next day.

The diet of the hen harrier is basically small mammals, though it will also hunt birds, reptiles, amphibians and insects.

The hen harrier is not very numerous as a wintering or migrating species, with figures varying from 50 to 100 individuals. It takes over in the province from the Montagu's harrier, which arrives in mid-October. As explained above, in winter, communal roosts of the hen harrier can frequently be seen.

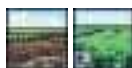
It is to be found mainly in the countryside of Seville and cultivated areas around Doñana.

MONTAGUS'S HARRIER*Circus pygargus***ES:** Aguilucho cenizo **FR:** Busard cendré **DE:** Wiesenweihe**L:** 39 - 46 cm **Wi:** 102 - 116 cm. **We:** 275 - 650 g.

E F M A M J J A S O N D

NA

Pg-115



The Montagu's harrier is a relatively small bird of prey, the male having uniform grey plumage with black primary remiges, and a whitish belly and leg feathers. The beak is black and the cere, eyes and legs are yellow. The female is larger than the male, and has generally brown plumage with a sandy-coloured belly and breast, speckled with brown.

This is a bird of prey typical of steppes and open areas, wet zones and pastureland, and it can frequently be seen flying or gliding at low altitude, often skimming the shrub or crops.

Very agile in flight, it frequently performs turns and acrobatics to catch its prey unaware, diving down steeply onto it. It can often be seen on the ground, and also perched on shrubs or small trees.

A territorial species, it will, though, usually allow neighbouring pairs to breed relatively close to it, so it is somewhat colonial in nature.

The nesting season is between April and July, and it normally builds its nest on the ground, among the vegetation, made of a platform of twigs, grasses and cereal stalks.

The basic diet of the Montagu's harrier is made up of reptiles and mammals, birds, amphibians and insects.

Scarce as a breeding species, its population is threatened by new cereal harvesting techniques, with mechanised harvesters and the introduction of early varieties which do not allow the chicks to develop fully before the harvest. It can be found flying over the cereal fields of the Seville countryside and the Doñana area.

EUROPEAN HONEY BUZZARD*Pernis apivorus***ES:** Abejero europeo **FR:** Bondrée apivore **DE:** Wespenbussard**L:** 52 - 59 cm **Wi:** 113 - 135 cm. **We:** 600 - 1100 g.

E F M A M J J A S O N D

NA

Pg-116



This is a medium-sized bird of prey with plumage very similar to that of the common buzzard, but more stylised and slender, with a different silhouette in flight. The back is dark brown and the inner areas white with brown patches. It has two phases, the light phase plumage, described above, and the dark phase plumage, with brown tones on the underparts. The cere and the beak are grey and the eyes and legs yellow, with bare tarsi.

The European honey buzzard can be found in forests with large, well-developed trees, riverside undergrowth and, in general, any forested area with clearings and cropland nearby. During migration and in winter, it can also be seen in the marshes and in open country.

It is not a particularly territorial bird and in the breeding season it can only be seen alone or in pairs.

Skilful in flight, it often glides and sometimes hovers. It will perch on trees or land on the ground, where it moves easily, and will even run.

The basic diet of the European honey buzzard is small mammals, amphibians, reptiles and insects, though it has specialised in Hymenoptera, preferring the underground nests of wasps and bumblebees, which it unearths easily with its strong legs and talons, feeding mainly on the eggs, larvae, honey and even the adult insects.

It is scarce as a migrant in the province, and sightings of the species are generally in flight and at high altitude, as they pass, rarely landing.

EURASIAN SPARROWHAWK

Accipiter nisus

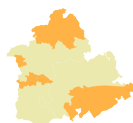
ES: Gavilán común FR: Épervier d'Europe DE: Sperber

L: 29 - 40 cm Wi: 60 - 80 cm. We: 550 - 1200 g.

E F M A M J J A S O N D

NA

Pg-116



Very similar to the northern goshawk, from which it can be distinguished by the sparrowhawk's smaller size and longer, wader's legs. The wings are also shorter and more rounded. The upperparts of the male are a dark slate colour and the underparts have a wavy reddish-brown pattern. The female, which is larger, has brownish upperparts, a dark brown wavy pattern on the underparts and a white supercilium.

The sparrowhawk is skilled in flight, and prefers wooded zones as a habitat, alternating with clearings and shrub vegetation, riverside undergrowth, woods close to pastureland and cropland, etc.

It is quite frequently seen circling at high altitude, alternating wing beats and gliding. It usually goes unnoticed in the field, as it remains hidden among trees. Like the goshawk, the sparrowhawk hunts by surprise, using its speed and agility to fly low and pounce on its prey, which are basically small birds (sparrows, finches, thrushes, etc.), though it will occasionally hunt small mammals, such as young rabbits, voles and mice, and even insects.

The nesting season is from May to July, and it makes its nest in tall trees, using branches and dry sticks of uniform size, with no lining.

It is rare as a sedentary species, but in September it can be seen more frequently in the province of Seville, when the postnuptial passage takes place; with the prenuptial passage being in the month of July. Sightings are easier during the migratory passage. As a migrant and wintering bird, it is an abundant species that can be found in the wooded areas of the province: Sierra Norte, Sierra Sur and the forested areas of Doñana.

NORTHERN GOSHAWK

Accipiter gentilis

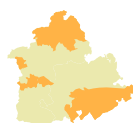
ES: Azor común FR: Autour des palombes DE: Habicht

L: 45 - 65 cm Wi: 95 - 125 cm. We: 500 - 1500 g.

E F M A M J J A S O N D

NA

Pg-116



The goshawk is a relatively large bird of prey with shiny greyish-brown plumage which is compact on the upperparts and has narrow brown bars on the underparts. Very similar to the sparrowhawk, with rounded wings and a very long tail, the beak is black and the eyes amber. The female is larger than the male.

A secretive bird, it can be found in wooded zones of all types, from conifers and Mediterranean forest to broadleaf woods. It frequently seeks out zones close to the edges of wooded areas or clearings. In all events, it is a solitary, silent bird of prey that always remains under the cover of the woodland.

A great hunter, the goshawk is an expert in the surprise attack, at which it is particularly fast and precise. Its size and power allow it to capture medium-sized prey and its conspicuous tail makes it possible to perform brusque changes of direction in its lightning-fast attacks. It is a very territorial species, establishing its territory in pairs. It launches immediate attacks on other birds of its species which trespass on its territory.

It has fixed perches from which it hunts, and others on which it devours its prey, called plucking perches. It feeds on medium-sized birds, mammals and even reptiles.

Nesting from March to June, it builds a very bulky nest in the highest trees with branches lined with green leaves.

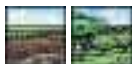
A rare, sedentary bird, there are currently approximately 20 - 25 breeding pairs in the province. It can also be seen when migrating or wintering, though in low numbers, and can be found in the wooded areas of the province: Sierra Norte, the forests of Doñana, and to lesser extent in the Sierra Sur, but it is not found in the Guadalquivir Valley.

BLACK-SHOULDERED KITE*Elanus caeruleus***ES:** Elanio común **FR:** Élanion blanc **DE:** Gleitaar**L:** 31 - 36 cm **Wi:** 71 - 85 cm. **We:** 150 - 310 g.

E F M A M J J A S O N D

VU

Pg-115



The black-shouldered kite is a relatively small bird of prey that we can identify easily by its similarity to a seagull and its similarity to the kestrel when hovering. It has grey and white plumage: the cheeks, belly and breast are white, the back is grey and the upper wing has a very dark grey patch. The crown and nape are light grey, almost white. The red eyes, black beak and yellow cere and legs allow positive identification.

It is to be found in open zones with isolated trees where it can breed, very often close to irrigated or cultivated land. Frequently hovering to locate its prey, it is active at twilight due to its marked preference for rodents.

Hunting mainly in the early hours of the day, ambushing from trees or posts, or stalking in flight, it will hover at a moderate altitude and launch itself onto its prey.

Its diet is based especially on micro-mammals, though it will also capture birds, reptiles and insects.

Nesting is from February to July, almost always in the side branches of relatively low trees, making a shallow nest of thin dry twigs lined with straw. It builds a new nest every year.

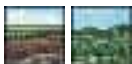
In the province, the black-shouldered kite has seen a progressive rise in the number of breeding pairs, though it is still scarce. With the exception of the south-eastern area, where it is not found or is very scarce, we can find it in any part of the province where the woodland is not excessively dense, such as marshes, steppes, cropland, dehesa pastureland and loose woodland.

COMMON KESTREL*Falco tinnunculus***ES:** Cernícalo común **FR:** Faucon crécerelle **DE:** Turmfalke**L:** 31 - 39 cm **Wi:** 65 - 78 cm. **We:** 150 - 300 g.

E F M A M J J A S O N D

NA

Pg-117



The common kestrel is a small diurnal bird of prey with pointed wings and a long tail. In the male, the head, rump and tail are blueish-grey and it has a very characteristic wide black band almost at the end of the tail. The female is a little larger than the male and has a barred tail, also with a black band.

Adapting easily to any terrain, it can be seen in all parts of the province in areas of shrubland, woodland interspersed with clearings, steppes, human settlements, the gullies of river basins, etc.

It is less gregarious than the lesser kestrel, especially when breeding, and pairs establish themselves at a distance from others.

In flight, it is fast and alternates the wingbeat with gliding. It can characteristically be seen hovering motionless in the air and plunging down when it identifies its prey. With a very varied diet, it feeds basically on small land animals such as reptiles, birds and mammals (mainly voles and mice), also hunting insects on the wing.

A territorial species, it nests alone, although it has neighbourly relations with other pairs. It does not build a nest, but almost always takes advantage of cavities in tree trunks, the abandoned nests of birds of the crow family, rocky outcrops, buildings, etc.

The common kestrel is abundant as a sedentary bird, and there is an influx of European wintering and migrating individuals. It can be found throughout the province, except in areas of dense woodland, its preferred habitat being dry-farming cropland.

LESSER KESTREL

Falco naumanni

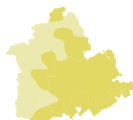
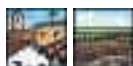
ES: Cernícalo primilla **FR:** Faucon crécerellette **DE:** Rötelfalke

L: 25 - 30 cm **Wi:** 65 - 70 cm. **We:** 90 - 170 g.

E F M A M J J A S O N D

LR

Pg-117



The lesser kestrel is very similar to the common kestrel, but more graceful. The plumage of the upperparts is a reddish-chestnut colour without the dark mottling found in the common kestrel, and the head and tail are more blueish. The moustachials are not very marked and the underparts are brown with tawny patches, the remiges are black, the beak grey and black, and the cere and legs are yellow with white claws. The female is somewhat larger, and its plumage is predominantly brown with dark barring.

It can be found in open areas, such as extensive cropland, pastureland and steppe areas, always close to rural or urban areas, breeding in colonies in belfries, churches, old buildings, ruins, etc. Migration is in small groups, without taking much rest and completing the journey in a short period of time. The lesser kestrel is a very restless, vociferous bird of prey, constantly flying, performing brusque acrobatics and circling. It hovers to find its prey, plunging down vertically onto it.

A very gregarious bird, the breeding colonies can have hundreds of individuals, and it can frequently be seen in small groups gliding at a medium altitude. It naps and roosts on the rock walls and crags where it establishes its colony.

It feeds on insects, mainly flying insects, which it hawks. It also hunts other land arthropods, amphibians, reptiles and small birds and mammals. The breeding season is from May to July, when it shares a colony which it establishes in human constructions. It does not build a nest, but takes advantage of crevices and cracks in walls.

It is scarce as a breeding species, but can be seen in the south-eastern part of the province, in open areas with scattered buildings and towns or villages. The breeding population in the city of Seville is notable, with some 150 breeding pairs, though in recent years, there has been a downward trend in this population.

EURASIAN HOBBY

Falco subbuteo

ES: Alcotán europeo **FR:** Faucon hobereau **DE:** Baumfalke

L: 28 - 35 cm **Wi:** 70- 85 cm. **We:** 130 - 350 g.

E F M A M J J J A S O N D

VU

Pg-117



The hobby is a small, brown falcon with a conspicuous narrow, black moustachial stripe and long wings. With slate-grey plumage on the upperparts, the breast is yellowish-white dotted with brown, and the underparts are deeply barred with black. The cheeks and throat are white, the thigh feathers and undertail feathers are reddish, the cere and legs are yellow, and the beak is dark grey. The female is larger than the male.

It can be found in wooded zones which are not very dense, interspersed with clearings, pastureland and low scrub, as well as in riverside undergrowth. In general, it will choose areas of dispersed woodland which offer open ground for hunting.

The Eurasian hobby is very fast and skilful when hunting. Its flight is straight and it plunges vertically down onto its prey, or flies in circles, hawking for insects which it catches with its claws and eats in the air, without landing. With mainly daytime habits, the hobby can continue hunting until well into the night.

It chooses prominent, high branches to perch and its diet is almost exclusively small birds and insects (grasshoppers, dragonflies and other flying insects), occasionally hunting bats and larger birds. The breeding season is from June to September, using the nests of the crow family and other birds of prey, in large trees. It does not repair the nest in any way, and lays only one clutch a year.

Scarce as a breeding species, it can be found in forest areas dispersed throughout the province, even in smaller woods alternating with clearings, undergrowth, riverbanks, low-density dehesa pastureland, dispersed woodland, etc. The main population in our area is around Doñana, with a breeding population of over 20 pairs. There are few winter visitors and they are not reliable, making migratory passages in the months of April and September.

PEREGRINE FALCON

Falco peregrinus

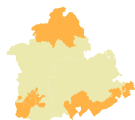
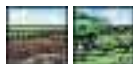
ES: Halcón peregrino **FR:** Faucon pèlerin **DE:** Wanderfalke-peregrinus

L: 38 - 50 cm **Wi:** 90 - 115 cm. **We:** 600 - 1300 g.

E F M A M J J A S O N D

VU

Pg-117



This is a medium-sized falcon with a dark, slate-coloured moustachial on its head, which is the same colour. The throat is white and the bib is pale yellow, trimmed with brown. The back and upper wings are slate-coloured, and the breast and belly have dark striations. The female has almost the same plumage, perhaps a little darker, and is larger than the male.

The peregrine falcon is very skilled in flight; it is very fast with a pronounced wingbeat when flying at cruising speed, and it is devastating in its plunging dive onto its prey. It usually circles at a great height, scanning, and diving at high speed on any prey it finds, killing it in the air and then recovering it before it hits the ground.

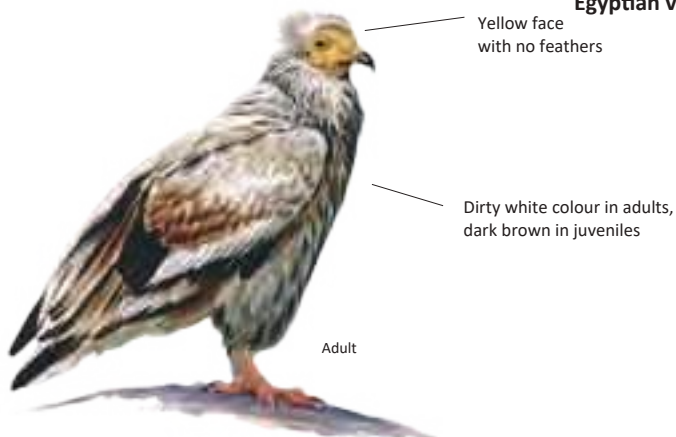
A very territorial species, it will immediately attack any other falcons or birds of prey when they stray into its territory. It always has a specific plucking perch where it cleans and eats its prey. It also has fixed resting spots and roosts, located on rocky ledges, large trees, posts or abandoned buildings.

A fairly vociferous bird, it calls repeatedly in a shrill, strident tone, especially during the breeding season.

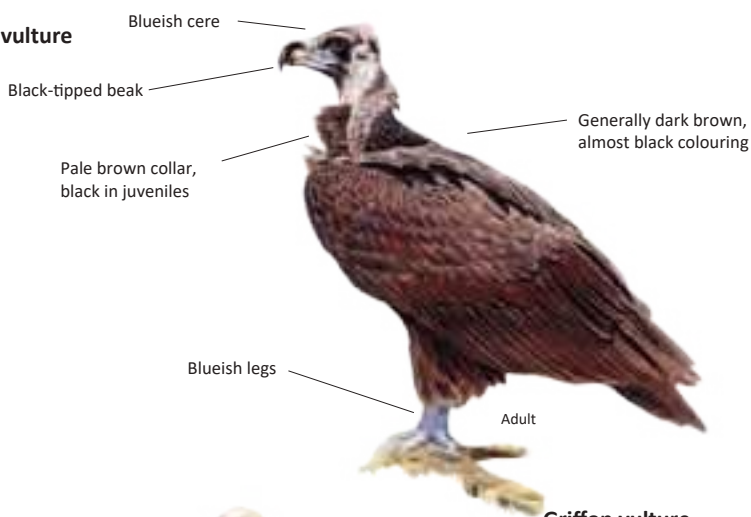
It feeds mainly on birds, which it captures on the wing, and other vertebrates, especially mammals.

Though scarce as a breeding species, its numbers increase considerably in the winter. In the province of Seville, it is increasingly rare and difficult to find. The largest populations are in the Sierra Sur, though it can also be found in the Sierra Norte and around Doñana, while its presence is only sporadic in the rest of the territory.

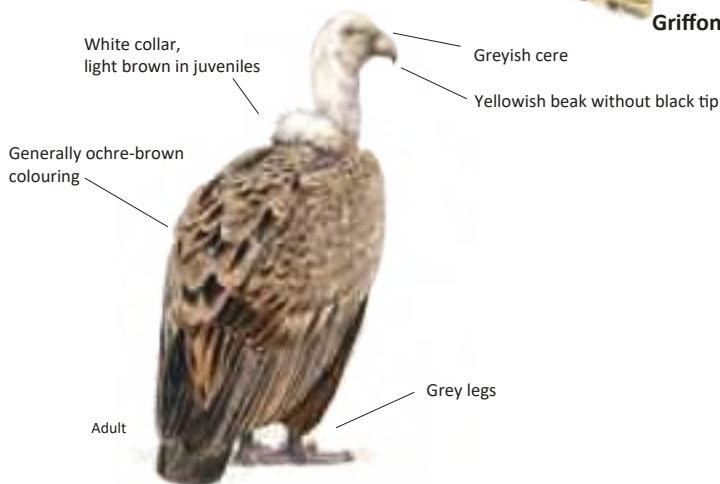
Egyptian vulture



Black vulture



Griffon vulture



Osprey

White head with
black eyestripe

White belly



Spanish imperial eagle

Pale rump,
face and neck

White shoulders in adults

Dark colouring in adults

Adult



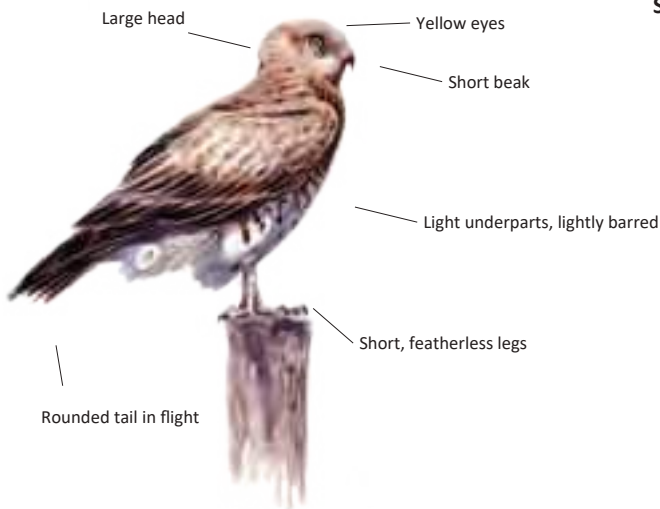
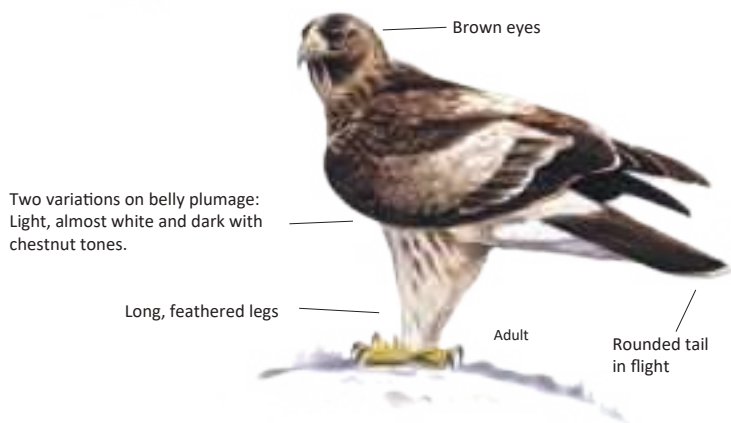
Golden eagle

Golden tones
on head and neck

Dark brown colouring

Adult



Short-toed eagle**Booted eagle****Bonelli's eagle**

Red kite



Black kite



Common buzzard



Marsh harrier



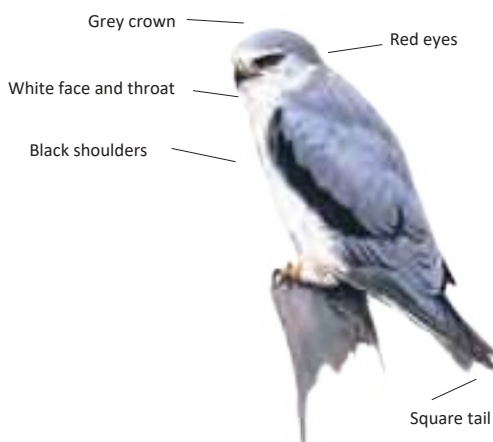
Hen harrier



Montagu's harrier



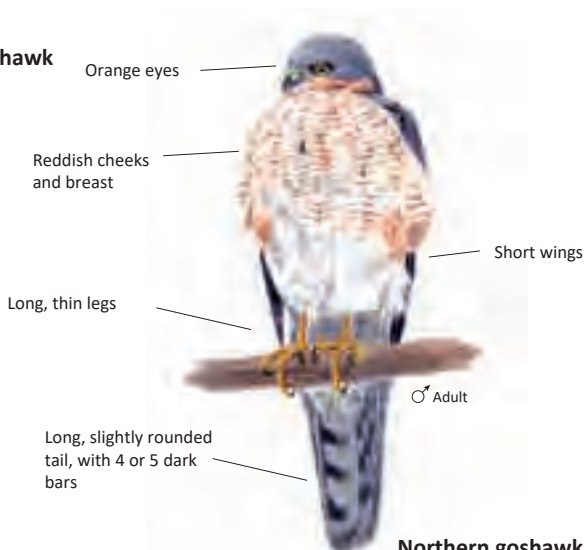
Black-shouldered kite



European honey buzzard



Eurasian sparrowhawk



Northern goshawk



Lesser kestrel

Plain
reddish-brown
back

Plain grey head

No moustachial

Little mottling

♂ Adult

Pale claws

Common kestrel

Mottled grey head

Mottled, light
brown back

Dark moustachial

Densely mottled

Dark claws

♂ Adult

Eurasian hobby

White supercilium

Striated breast

Red "trousers"

Adult

Peregrine Falcon

No white
supercilium

Mask with wide,
dark moustachial

Fine bars on breast

Adult

ROCK DOVE

Columba livia

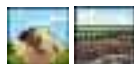
ES: Paloma bravía **FR:** Pigeon biset **DE:** Felsentaube

L: 31 - 35 cm **Wi:** 63 - 70 cm. **We:** 250 - 350 g.

E F M A M J J A S O N D

NA

Pg-133



The plumage of the rock dove is predominantly blueish-grey, with a light grey back and darker belly, and there are two eye-catching black bands on the wings. The eyes are red, the beak short and dark, the cere is light and the legs are orange. An ancestor of the domestic dove, it is today difficult to distinguish wild from domestic birds.

Its natural habitat is cliffs and crags, preferably on the coast, but also rock faces on rivers and in gullies. The domestic variety can be found in cities, towns and isolated buildings. To feed, it visits farming areas and cereal cropland.

Agile in flight, its wing beat is vigorous, characterised by the noise it makes on takeoff, caused by the wings clapping above its head. In flight, it will glide with its wings held in a V shape. It forms agile flocks that move in synchrony.

A granivorous species, its diet is based on the seeds of cereals, leguminous and herbaceous plants, complemented with leaves and invertebrates. In summer, it visits watering spots where it drinks without having to raise its head like other birds.

It breeds alone or in colonies, mainly in spring and summer, although it can breed all year round. The rock dove is monogamous and establishes bonds that can last all its life. The nest is made of twigs and dry grass, located in crevices, caves or cornices on rock faces or buildings.

A sedentary species in the province of Seville, its exact distribution is masked by hybrid populations. Consequently, it can be found throughout the province, but it is difficult to distinguish whether or not it is a wild bird.

COMMON WOODPIGEON

Columba palumbus

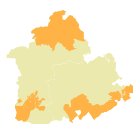
ES: Paloma torcaz **FR:** Pigeon ramier **DE:** Ringeltaube

L: 40 - 45 cm **Wi:** 75 - 80 cm. **We:** 350 - 650 g.

E F M A M J J A S O N D

NA

Pg-133



The common woodpigeon is a large pigeon with an attractive white mark on the wing and on the sides of the neck. The head, neck and tail are grey, the tip of the tail is black, and it has a green, purple and white patch on the sides of the neck. The back and wings are greyish-brown and the breast is a pale purplish-grey. The two sexes resemble each other.

It is found basically in wooded areas, cropland, meadows and clearings alternating with patches of woodland, etc., and also appears in parks and gardens in the city. In flight, it is fast and has a deep, ample wingbeat, making a characteristic noise on takeoff as the ends of its wings clap together.

The common woodpigeon is a very gregarious species, especially in winter, when it gathers in flocks which can number thousands.

On the ground, it moves easily, where it frequently walks and remains a good part of its time in search of food. Despite this, however, it habitually perches on trees, preferring the clear branches of the crown of the tree. It mixes with other pigeons and doves, and even has mixed roosts.

The basis of its diet is seeds and fruit, both wild and cultivated, such as olives, acorns, berries and grasses, as well as insects.

Breeding from April to September, it constructs a light platform made of twigs in trees or high scrub. It lays two clutches a year.

It is an abundant breeding species, and in winter is joined by migrating birds from the north. It can be found in the wooded areas of the province: Sierra Norte, Sierra Sur, the forested area of Doñana and even in riverside undergrowth and pastureland with scattered trees.

EUROPEAN TURTLE DOVE

Streptopelia turtur

ES: Tórtola europea FR: Tourterelle des bois DE: Turteltaube

L: 25 - 28 cm Wi: 47 - 53 cm. We: 100 - 150 g.

E F M A M J J A S O N D

VU

Pg-133



The European turtle dove is a small, brown dove with a fairly long tail. The head, neck and breast are a light violet-grey in colour, with black and white bars on both sides of the neck. The back is grey and the upper wing is reddish-brown with black patches, and the belly is whitish.

The turtle dove is to be found in wooded areas of both broadleaf trees and conifers, in shrubland with disperse trees and riverside undergrowth. It is a gregarious species, though it is almost always seen in pairs or small flocks.

It flies in a straight line with a rapid wingbeat and frequently lands on the ground, though it also does so in shrubland and bushes, trees, overhead cables, etc. During the autumn migration, it gathers in larger flocks, travelling each day to communal roosts, from where it leaves again at dawn.

Its diet is based almost exclusively on wild seeds and grain, although it also feeds on plant shoots and occasionally captures molluscs, then visiting its watering spots.

Breeding from May to August, it builds its nest close to other pairs but does not form colonies. The nest is made in trees, shrubs and bushes and consists of a fragile platform made with thin twigs and roots.

The European turtle dove is not a numerous breeding species and its population has been declining sharply in recent decades. Its numbers increase with the arrival of migrant birds from the north. The main threats are habitat destruction and the intense hunting pressure which it suffers. It can be found in the wooded zones of the province: Sierra Norte, Sierra Sur, the forest area of Doñana, and even riverside undergrowth and pastureland with scattered trees.

COLLARED DOVE

Streptopelia decaocto

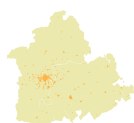
ES: Tórtola turca FR: Tourterelle turque DE: Türkentaube

L: 31 - 33 cm Wi: 47 - 55 cm. We: 150 - 200 g.

E F M A M J J A S O N D

NA

Pg-133



The collared dove is slightly larger and has a more stylised appearance than its relative, the European turtle dove. It has a greyish-beige colour with pink tones on the head and breast. The back and upper part of the wings are light brown, while the underwing is blueish-grey. The tail is long with a white tip and a black base. It has a characteristic narrow, black collar trimmed in white running round the sides of its neck and the nape. Juveniles do not have this collar. The collared dove has a characteristic call, which is a high, penetrating cooing (coo-coooo-coo), which it repeats persistently.

In the 20th century, the collared dove has seen one of the greatest ever dispersions by birds anywhere in the world. The original habitat of the species was the temperate and subtropical regions of Asia, but from 1930, it has spread spectacularly throughout Europe, reaching our peninsula in the early 1970s, occupying it completely today.

Though its original distribution covered open areas, such as cropland, steppes and loose shrubland, in Europe, it usually occupies urban environments, and is one of the most common species in our towns and cities.

It is not a wary bird and is gregarious, gathering in groups which can become numerous. It feeds mainly on grain and seeds and, at times, the green parts of plants and even small invertebrates. The breeding season is from February to October, and it builds its nest in trees and bushes and, occasionally, in cavities in buildings. The nest consists of a platform of twigs and leaves. It may lay several clutches a year.

Very common in all our towns, it can also occasionally be seen in marshy areas and steppes.

COMMON CUCKOO

Cuculus canorus

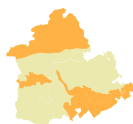
ES: Cuco común **FR:** Coucou gris **DE:** Kuckuck

L: 32 - 35 cm **Wi:** 55 - 65 cm. **We:** 100 - 130 g.

E F M A M J J J A S O N D



Pg-134



The cuckoo is a medium-sized bird with a slate-grey back and a striking barred, pointed, white-tipped tail. The underparts are white, but with profuse dark grey bars. The head, side of the neck and bib are ash-coloured with a black beak and reddish legs. The female has a phase of reddish colouring. It is a shy bird that almost always betrays its presence through its song, which is melodious and monotonously repetitive, with an onomatopoeic "cuckoo" that is absolutely unmistakable.

A fairly solitary bird, except at certain times during migration, it remains among the branches of trees, flying from place to place in a straight flight, with a rapid wingbeat, gliding briefly before perching. On the ground, it waddles as it walks or hops, frequently perching on trees, shrubs, posts and walls. Though difficult to see, it can be found throughout Doñana in riverside undergrowth, areas of scrub dotted with dispersed trees, in woods, fruit orchards, reed beds, pastureland, salty or brackish coastal lagoons, etc.

It is a polyandrous, parasitic species. The female lays 8 to 12 eggs with different colouring in each case, which it skilfully lays in the nests of other species. Each female cuckoo can even specialise in a given species. The nidulous newborn chick will push the legitimate progeny over the edge of the nest, either as eggs or chicks, in order to monopolise all of the food for itself. It feeds on insects of all kinds (especially caterpillars), molluscs and maggots. At times it is forced to adopt the feeding habits of its "hosts" while it is a chick.

In our area, it is numerous as a breeding species, increasing its numbers sharply during migration. It can be seen relatively frequently in the Sierra Norte and Sierra Sur, the forests of Doñana, and in ligneous crops throughout the province.

GREAT SPOTTED CUCKOO

Clamator glandarius

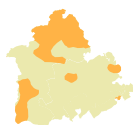
ES: Críalo europeo **FR:** Coucou geai **DE:** Häherkuckuck

L: 35 - 40 cm **Wi:** 55 - 65 cm. **We:** 120 - 125 g.

E F M A M J J J A S O N D



Pg-134



The great spotted cuckoo is a medium-sized bird with brown plumage mottled with white, a fairly long tail and a conspicuous crest. The underparts are a creamy-whitish colour, the tail is blackish-brown with a white tip, the beak is blackish and the legs, blackish-grey.

The great spotted cuckoo can be found in wooded habitats inhabited by members of the crow family, such as the edges of disperse woodland, on plains with shrubs, scattered trees and low scrub, olive groves, pine groves (especially where there are plentiful pine processionaries), parks, etc. A very garrulous, sociable bird, it can frequently be seen in pairs and small groups (especially juveniles). Its flight is powerful and direct, similar to the magpie, and it can frequently be seen perched on walls.

It is a parasite of other birds, mainly magpies, although there have been cases of great spotted cuckoo eggs in the nests of other members of the crow family, such as the raven, jackdaw, carrion crow and the azure-winged magpie. The female spies on the conduct of a crow until it is able to visit the nest, removing one of the eggs of the original clutch and replacing it with one or more of its own. When the chicks hatch, as the intruders are larger than the host's chicks, they receive more food from the "foster parents" and, with their greater strength, they push the original chicks out of the nest. They feed mainly on pine processionaries and, occasionally, molluscs and even micro-mammals.

In our area, the great spotted cuckoo is uncommon as a breeding or migrating bird. Over the last 20 years, the species has fallen alarmingly in number as a breeder in the province. It arrives at its wintering grounds very early, the first sighting being at the beginning of January. It can be seen in any part of the province where there are pine groves with pine processionaries and magpies or azure-winged magpies, such as the Sierra Norte, the pine groves of Puebla del Río-Aznalcázar, some parts of the Sierra Sur and other pine groves in the province.

EURASIAN EAGLE OWL

Bubo bubo

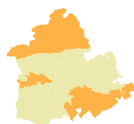
ES: Búho real **FR:** Grand-duc d'Europe **DE:** Uhu

L: 60 - 75 cm **Wi:** 140 - 190 cm. **We:** 1500 - 4000 g.

E F M A M J J A S O N D

NA

Pg-135



The Eurasian eagle owl is the great nocturnal bird of prey among our Iberian fauna, with tawny chestnut plumage, striking "ears" and large orange eyes. The dorsal plumage has light ochre, dark brown and greyish patches. The throat is white and the belly tawny, both having brown markings. It has an incomplete facial disc which is yellowish in colour with brown patches and the beak is black. The female is more corpulent than the male.

Traditionally persecuted by man as a result of popular superstition, it takes refuge in wooded areas of difficult access, on abrupt hillsides and steppes. Active at twilight and at night, during the day it remains hidden, sleeping in cavities in rocky crags or hollows in old trees in isolated areas.

In flight, it is silent and it tends to remain close to the tree canopy or to the ground in order to disappear quickly. It is not very sociable and is seen alone or, at most, in pairs, except in the time prior to the chicks leaving the nest, when they are accompanied by the parent birds.

The eagle owl feeds on rabbits, rats, hares and members of the crow family, occasionally capturing frogs, fish and the chicks of other birds.

The mating ritual is very early, almost in midwinter. It breeds from February to July, making its nest preferably among rocks, and sometimes in hollows in large trees, though it may also take advantage of the old nest of a diurnal bird of prey.

A resident species in the Iberian Peninsula, it is increasingly numerous. It can be found in wooded areas of the province: Sierra Norte and Sierra Sur, the forested area of Doñana, riverside undergrowth and other more or less densely wooded parts of the province.

LONG-EARED OWL

Asio otus

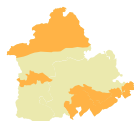
ES: Búho chico **FR:** Hibou moyen-duc **DE:** Waldohreule

L: 35 - 38 cm **Wi:** 85 - 95 cm. **We:** 210 - 330 g.

E F M A M J J A S O N D

DD

Pg-135



The long-eared owl is a medium-sized nocturnal bird of prey which is similar in appearance to the Eurasian eagle owl, with conspicuous "ears", yellowish-orange eyes and a complete facial disc. Its plumage is ochre with pale mottling and dark stripes. The upperparts are greyish-brown and reddish with many stripes, bars, vermiculation and other patches. The underparts are a more or less light ochre colour with longitudinal brown patches, and the lower belly, legs and undertail coverts are a light whitish-ochre colour. The beak and claws are black. There is no sexual dimorphism.

The preferred habitat of the long-eared owl is conifer woods, -mainly pines-, though it is also found in broadleaf forests. Its hunting grounds are open terrain close to patches of tree cover. Sometimes nesting in shrubland, in the province, it is also frequent to see the long-eared owl in olive groves.

Active at twilight and at night, it remains hidden among the vegetation during the day, well camouflaged, almost always close to the trunk of a tree. It is not a gregarious species, but during migration and the winter, it usually forms small flocks, mainly to sleep in communal roosts of between 10 and 30 birds.

It feeds basically on micro-mammals (voles, field mice, rats, etc.), occasionally hunting large insects, reptiles and amphibians. Nesting from February to June, it builds its nest in a hollow in a tree or in the old nest of a black kite.

A sedentary bird, it is not numerous in the province. It can be found in wooded areas close to open terrain within the area of study: Sierra Norte and Sierra Sur, the pine groves of Aznalcázar-Puebla del Río and disperse woodland, including olive groves.

SHORT-EARED OWL

Asio flammeus

ES: Búho campestre **FR:** Hibou des marais **DE:** Sumpfohreule

L: 32 - 40 cm **Wi:** 95 - 105 cm. **We:** 250 - 450 g.

E F M A M J J A S O N D

NA

Pg-135



The short-eared owl has pale yellowish plumage on the back and whitish in the belly area, which is heavily mottled and barred with dark patches. It has long, rounded wings with barred black patches. The yellow eyes have dark eye-rings, giving it a somewhat mysterious appearance. The sexes are similar, except in flight, when the female has a dark line on the underwing.

The short-eared owl is to be found on open terrain: marshes, wet fields, halophile grassland, swampy terrain, etc., and it has markedly diurnal habits. Its flight is undulating and it has a slow wingbeat, gliding intermittently with a swaying motion, then hovering with its wings making a slapping sound.

It breeds on the ground, in a scrape among heather, reeds or canes, lining the nest thickly with vegetation.

The diet of the short-eared owl is mainly voles and other micro-mammals, prey which influence the number and quantity of clutches laid: when voles are very abundant, it lays more eggs and raises two broods in a single season.

In the province of Seville, it is a regular but scarce wintering species, with no more than 100 individuals concentrated in the Doñana area, although there have been isolated sightings in some of the endorheic basins. However, during migration, the population is higher, with groups of 15 to 30 individuals having been detected in the natural marshlands. The Huerta Tejada roost is an outstanding site.

EURASIAN SCOOPS OWL

Otus scops

ES: Autillo europeo **FR:** Petit-duc scops **DE:** Zwergohreule

L: 19 - 21 cm **Wi:** 45- 55 cm. **We:** 75 - 140 g.

E F M A M J J A S O N D

DD

Pg-136



The scoops owl is a small nocturnal bird of prey with two feather crests or false "ears" and patched, vermiculated blackish-brown feathers. The plumage is greyish-brown or reddish, the eyes are yellow or greenish-yellow and the tarsi are feathered down to the beginning of the toes.

This singular bird of prey can be found in not-too-dense wooded zones, such as copses, undergrowth, parks and gardens, close to inhabited areas and even within urban areas.

It is active at twilight and nocturnally, and so during the day it will remain on the branch of a tree, close to the trunk, in an upright position and well camouflaged. It is a migratory bird which arrives in Andalusia in the spring, in mid-March, and leaves in October or November, though some individuals remain with us over the winter.

Flying very silently between the trees, it hawks its prey in flight or pounces on it from a perch. Its basic diet is insects, although it also hunts small vertebrates such as mice and voles, lizards and small birds. The undigested remains of its prey are regurgitated as pellets.

The breeding season is from late April until June, and sometimes lasts until July. It builds its nest in hollow trees, walls or rocky crags, and sometimes on the remains of other birds' nests.

The winter population is very low, and there are only citations of isolated individuals in the peripheral area of Doñana and the Sierra Norte. It is not numerous as a breeding species, with no more than an estimated 150 pairs in the whole of the territory. During the migratory passages, the scoops owl is abundant in the province, and it can be found throughout the territory except those areas without tree cover, and it is not unusual to find it in our parks and gardens.

LITTLE OWL

Athene noctua

ES: Mochuelo europeo **FR:** Chevêche d'Athéna **DE:** Steinkauz

L: 21 - 23 cm **Wi:** 50 - 55 cm. **We:** 150 - 200 g.

E F M A M J J A S O N D

DD

Pg-136



The little owl is a small bird which, unlike other owls, does not have the classic feather crest or "ears". Its back plumage is dark brown, mottled and with white stripes, but the underparts are light and profusely covered with longitudinal brown patches. The eyes are yellow and it has no facial disc. There is no sexual dimorphism.

It can be found in areas of disperse woodland, such as holm oak groves, olive groves, riverside undergrowth, steppes, etc., and can frequently be seen perched in open spots such as roof-tops, fence posts, ruined buildings and walls, even during the day.

A very sedentary species, it has adapted and learned to frequent anthropised areas. Its flight is rapid, swerving and it flies at low altitude. It is eminently a twilight bird, and it is almost always seen alone, though during short periods it gathers in small family groups.

The main diet of the little owl is micro-mammals (mice, shrews, dormice), small birds, frogs, lizards, insects and beetles, earwigs and crane flies.

The breeding season is from March to June, though sometimes it extends until July or August. The little owl builds its nest in any cavity in a tree or in an abandoned building or farmhouse, rabbit burrow, etc.

As it is not a very demanding species with respect to habitat, it can be found in any part of the province. Anecdotally, and as an example of its affinity for tree cropland, over 70% of individuals are to be found in olive groves adjacent to protected areas.

TAWNY OWL

Strix aluco

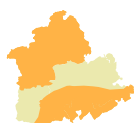
ES: Cárabo común **FR:** Chouette hulotte **DE:** Waldkauz

L: 37 - 39 cm **Wi:** 80 - 95 cm. **We:** 330 - 600 g.

E F M A M J J A S O N D

NA

Pg-136



The tawny owl is a medium-sized, squat owl with a large head and round facial disc. It has two phases of plumage, one, eminently brown and the other, greyish. Both are profusely barred and mottled. The wings are wide and rounded, and the eyes are large and completely dark. The beak is greenish-yellow. There is great individual variation between the owls with grey, brown and chestnut colouring, though this is not determined by sex or age. Apart from the fact that the female is larger than the male, there is no sexual dimorphism.

Its principal habitat is woods and forested areas of all kinds, preferring deciduous trees and frequently found in Mediterranean forests. It frequents both forested areas and extensive parks and gardens with large trees.

Very nocturnal in its habits, at nightfall, it becomes active, preferring to hunt in wooded areas alternating with clearings. Its flight is very silent, with a regular wingbeat, generally at low altitude.

It feeds mainly on insects, birds, small mammals and, more rarely, fish and frogs, which it very often swallows whole. The undigested remains are regurgitated in the form of pellets, which are usually left dispersed around the countryside, as it does not have fixed perches. Normally, it will breed from February to May, building its nest in hollows in trees, though it sometimes occupies the nests of larger birds or even squirrels, on the ground, in cavities in walls, ruins, etc.

A common, resident species, it is well distributed through the forests of the province and we can see it mainly in the Sierra Norte, Sierra Sur and the forest area of Doñana, but it can be found in any wooded area.

BARN OWL

Tyto alba

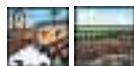
ES: Lechuza común **FR:** Effraie des clochers **DE:** Schleiereule

L: 30 - 40 cm **Wi:** 85 - 95 cm. **We:** 200 - 450 g.

E F M A M J J A S O N D

NA

Pg-137



The barn owl is a medium-sized nocturnal bird of prey with a golden-brown back and a white or yellowish-brown belly. It has a white face in which its dark eyes stand out against a complete facial disc. The tail is barred and is brown with reddish tones. The legs are long and have white feathers down to the tarsi. There is hardly any sexual dimorphism, though the female is somewhat greyer.

Showing a certain preference for anthropised zones, such as ruins, old buildings, barns, parks and churches, it can also be found in wooded areas, cropland and steppes. The barn owl is a very solitary species which, with some exceptions during the migration period, is only seen, at most, in pairs.

Active at night and in the twilight, it flies silently until it locates its possible prey by ear, when it plunges down onto it. At other times, it will hunt from a perch, where it eats its prey once captured. Its habitual perches can easily be identified by the large number of pellets on the ground.

It feeds mainly on micro-mammals, such as mice, voles and dormice, as well as small birds, beetles, frogs and bats.

The breeding season is from March to October, and it nests in buildings, hollows in trees and on ledges. The nest is a slight scrape full of remains on which the female lays its eggs.

The barn owl is a sedentary species which habitually breeds throughout the province, mainly in the rice fields and marshes of Isla Mayor. In winter, individuals from central Europe arrive in the territory. It is fairly ubiquitous, and can be found in any part of our region.

EUROPEAN NIGHTJAR

Caprimulgus europaceus

ES: Chotacabras europeo **FR:** Engoulevent d'Europe **DE:** Ziegenmelker

L: 25 - 28 cm **Wi:** 55 - 60 cm. **We:** 50 - 100 g.

E F M A M J J A S O N D

VU

Pg-137



The nightjar is a small to medium-sized bird with a large head, short beak and enormous mouth. Its plumage is in grey and brown tones, with dark brown mottling which camouflages it among the leaf litter on the ground. It has white patches on the tip of its outer rectrices, and three white patches below its long wings.

The European nightjar is active at night, and it gives a characteristic deep churring sound, generally in the hours of darkness. It can be found on extensive flat land, sandy areas with brush, scrubland, pastureland and livestock farms.

The European nightjar is not a gregarious bird, though during migration it can be seen in small flocks, being most active during the dawn twilight and before the evening twilight. It can frequently be seen perched on fence posts along the roadside during the night, which is confirmed by the high number of road kills that the species has suffered for decades.

It feeds mainly on insects, which it generally hunts on the wing. Nevertheless, on numerous occasions it will hover in the air to capture its prey on the ground. It is particularly attracted by livestock farms, due to the abundance of insects that are drawn by the animals. It is for this reason that it received its Spanish name ("chotacabras"), and not to the false belief that it sought the milk of goats.

A species seen in the summer and very scarce in the province, its distribution is, in fact, in the northern half of the Iberian Peninsula. There have, though, been numerous records of the species in our area and even unconfirmed indications that it has bred. It can be seen mainly during the autumn migratory passage, between August and November, mainly in the month of October.

RED-NECKED NIGHTJAR

Caprimulgus ruficollis

ES: Chotacabras cuellirrojo **FR:** Engoulevent à collier roux **DE:** Rothals-Ziegenmelker

L: 30 - 35 cm **Wi:** 58- 65 cm. **We:** 90 - 100 g.

E F M A M J J A S O N D

DD

Pg-137



The plumage of the red-necked nightjar is curiously mottled and has a generally reddish-brown tone. This colouring and the white on its throat are aspects which differentiate it from the European nightjar. With long, sharp wings, it has white patches, which are also seen on the tip of its tail. The white patches on the tail are a more reddish colour in the female, making them less visible.

The preferred habitat of the red-necked nightjar is steppes and open ground, such as marshes, pastureland, uncultivated land, woods with undergrowth, pine groves, etc.

Active at twilight, it can be seen throughout the province overflying the marshes, cropland and undergrowth with its indecisive flight, characterised by gentle, undulating movements, while showing its long wings and tail.

During the day, it rests among the leaf litter, where it is expertly camouflaged, and will only change its position when it is disturbed, in which case it will fly to a nearby location.

Basically insectivorous (especially Orthoptera and caterpillars), it captures its prey by hawking with its enormous mouth, though it can also do so on the ground.

Its nesting season is between April and June, making its nest in a small scrape in the ground, with no lining, on cropland or in nearby woodland.

There are an estimated 1,000 to 1,500 breeding pairs in the province. There are only around ten citations of the red-necked nightjar in winter.

COMMON KINGFISHER

Alcedo atthis

ES: Martín pescador FR: Martin-pêcheur d'Europe DE: Eisvogel

L: 15 - 18 cm Wi: 25 - 35 cm. We: 30 - 45 g.

E F M A M J J A S O N D

VU

Pg-138



One of the most unmistakable birds among our fauna, it is small and squat and has very characteristic plumage and morphology, with its shiny blueish-green tones standing out, and vivid orange underparts. The tail is very short and the wings rounded. It has a sharp, powerful dark beak and two cream-coloured patches on its sides and throat. Its legs are an orangeish-red colour.

It can be seen throughout the province on streams, lagoons and rivers, preferably in a good state of conservation and with clean water, as well as in salty or brackish lagoons and irrigation channels. Normally, it will fly at high speed following the watercourse, occasionally calling in its loud voice. It usually perches on a branch or any other object emerging from the water to fish, diving straight down into the water.

Frequently, it can be found alone or in pairs, but at the end of the breeding season, with luck, it can be seen in family groups.

The main diet of the common kingfisher is small fish, insects and their aquatic larvae.

A nesting species, it is found on the earthy banks of rivers and streams, almost always at the water's edge, although on some occasions, it can be found further from the water. To nest, it digs a half-metre tunnel with a chamber at the end, which it lines with different materials, fish remains, etc.

As a resident species, it is relatively numerous in the province, with numbers increasing in winter and found, as we have said, in clean waters with abundant marshland vegetation.

EUROPEAN BEE-EATER

Merops apiaster

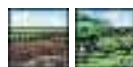
ES: Abejaruco europeo FR: Guêpier d'Europe DE: Bienenfresser

L: 27 - 29 cm Wi: 44 - 49 cm. We: 50 - 65 g.

E F M A M J J A S O N D

NA

Pg-138



This is a bird with some of the most beautiful, eye-catching plumage to be found anywhere in Europe, with a long, slightly curved beak and long wings. The upperparts have vivid reddish and pale yellow tones, the wings are greenish and the rump is yellow. The underparts are blueish, separated from the throat by a yellow bib with a subtle black line. The two central rectrices, which are longer than the rest, extend backwards from the tail.

Its preferred habitats are on flat land, often close to water and steep banks nearby. It hunts in areas of low scrub, plains with scattered trees, and shows a preference for terrain with high perches. The bee-eater is a sociable bird and can be seen in flocks which are not too numerous, flying skilfully, often circling, and making its characteristic call.

Fundamentally, it feeds on insects, which it hawks, especially Hymenoptera (including bees, to which it owes its name), dragonflies, beetles, etc.

A colonial species when breeding, it almost always seeks the sandy banks of rivers or dry watercourses, quarries, crags, or it simply nests on the ground in a small depression or hollow in the earth, preferring ground that is easy to excavate. The pair dig a horizontal tunnel, pecking at the ground or the bank and kicking out the earth or sand behind them. The female lays its eggs in this unlined breeding chamber.

Numbers have diminished in recent decades, due fundamentally to the transformation of land for farming purposes. It can be found in spring and summer, distributed throughout the area, usually close to water. The best places to see bee-eaters are the breeding colonies on the banks of the Guadalquivir, Dehesa de Abajo, and in some parts of the Green Corridor.

HOOPOE

Upupa epops

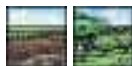
ES: Abubilla **FR:** Huppe fasciée **DE:** Wiedehopf

L: 25 - 29 cm **Wi:** 45 - 50 cm. **We:** 60 - 75 g.

E F M A M J J A S O N D

NA

Pg-138



The hoopoe is a beautiful, unmistakable bird that can be easily identified from its generic pinkish-brown plumage (belly, head, neck and upperparts), its eye-catching crest with black and white tips on the head, which it can fan out, and the back and wings which have a striking black and white barred design. It has black eyes and a long, black, slightly curved beak.

With an unmistakable call, large numbers of hoopoes can be seen in parks, loose wooded zones, gardens, copses and riverside undergrowth. It almost always walks on the ground, with fairly paused movements, and raises or lowers its crest depending on the circumstances and its mood.

It has a characteristic undulating flight, spreading and folding its wings in spasmodic wing-beats. It perches on fences, posts, walls and trees, and is usually seen alone, in pairs or in small family groups.

It feeds mainly on insects, which it catches with its long beak inside cavities at the base of trees or on the ground. It also catches maggots, molluscs, lizards, small birds and mammals. Breeding mainly in April to June, it makes its nest in hollows in trees where it often takes advantage of the holes made by woodpeckers, in ruins, buildings or piles of stones.

The breeding population of the hoopoe in the province is several hundred pairs. The species has been recorded as breeding in mid winter (December and January). It is common as a wintering bird, with several thousand individuals in the area. It is particularly abundant during migration, and can be found throughout the province, though it is easier to find in areas of disperse tree cover, riverside undergrowth and gardens.

EUROPEAN ROLLER

Coracias garrulus

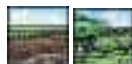
ES: Carraca europea **FR:** Rollier d'Europe **DE:** Blauracke

L: 30 - 32 cm **Wi:** 66- 73 cm. **We:** 100 - 160 g.

E F M A M J J A S O N D

VU

Pg-138



The roller is medium-sized bird with eye-catching, unmistakable colouring. The plumage is generally blueish in tone, from indigo in the tail to the greenish-blue of the head. The back is reddish-chestnut and the tips of the remiges are black. The head and beak are relatively large for its size. The two sexes are the same, with more striking colouring during the breeding season. Juveniles have less vivid colouring.

The roller prefers open habitats, pastureland, steppes, farmed countryside, cropland and nearby areas with disperse tree cover, such as dehesa pastureland, pine groves and riverbank undergrowth, but it is not found in thick woods or very arid areas.

It establishes breeding grounds which it defends very aggressively. It is thought that it chooses territories successfully used for breeding in previous years by common kestrels.

Feeding mainly on a great variety of flying insects, it traps them in flight with great precision, sometimes completing its diet with other land vertebrates, such as lizards, mice and snakes.

The nest is built in different cavities: hollow trees, buildings or sandy banks. The female begins to lay from May to June, when it lays 4 or 5 white eggs. Both sexes care for the chicks.

A relatively numerous summer bird, it arrives in our territory in mid-April. It is to be found throughout the farmed countryside of Seville in areas with adequate breeding spots: trees, banks, buildings, etc. It can also be found on the croplands of Sanlúcar la Mayor and Olivares (Torre San Antonio). There have been isolated citations in some parts of the Sierra Norte.

COMMON SWIFT

Apus apus

ES: Vencejo común **FR:** Martinet noir **DE:** Mauersegler

L: 15 - 18 cm **Wi:** 40 - 48 cm. **We:** 25 - 40 g.

E F M A M J J A S O N D

NA

Pg-139



The common swift is a small bird, but is striking, as it has a uniform, almost black plumage and a very characteristic silhouette in flight, with very long sharp wings and a forked tail. The chin is whitish and the feathers are dark brown, with greenish iridescence on the back. The beak and the short legs are black, and there is no sexual dimorphism.

Active during the day, the swift is an eminently urban species, proliferating in towns and cities, and also seen on rocky cliffs and crags.

The swift is a fairly sociable species and lives mainly in the air, a fact which has caused its legs to atrophy, making it practically impossible to take flight from a horizontal surface.

It feeds in the air, sometimes it mates in the air and it even appears that it sleeps in the air, and so only individuals which have to incubate or feed their chicks return to their nests after sunrise.

Its diet is based on flying insects, especially flies, mosquitoes, ants, small beetles and moths, or what has been called "aerial plankton". It drinks water directly from pools and lagoons, skimming the surface.

The swift breeds from late May until August, making its nest in any type of cavity, crack or hole in walls, roof tiles, cliffs, etc.

This is a very abundant breeding and migrating species in the towns and nearby areas of the province. Wintering individuals arrive in the territory in February and March, and can be seen until September or October. During migration, tens of thousands of individuals can be seen.

PALLID SWIFT

Apus pallidus

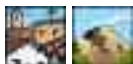
ES: Vencejo pálido **FR:** Martinet pâle **DE:** Fahlsegler

L: 16 - 17 cm **Wi:** 39 - 46 cm. **We:** 40 - 45 g.

E F M A M J J J A S O N D

NA

Pg-139



Very similar and difficult to distinguish from the common swift, it has a generally lighter and more brownish colouring, the patch on the throat is wider and the belly lighter, with a scalier appearance. The two sexes are the same and the juveniles are a little lighter than the adults.

The habitat of the pallid swift is the same as that of the common swift, towns and cliff faces, preferably coastal, and it is common to see the two species together in mixed groups.

The area of distribution of the species in the Iberian Peninsula is more restricted than that of the common swift, being found only in the southern half and the Mediterranean coastal area.

Like the common swift, it spends almost all of its life in the air, landing only to nest. It feeds on the small insects that make up aerial plankton, which it captures by flying with its mouth open.

The breeding season is from March to October, normally laying two clutches a year. The nest, which it makes in natural cavities or in buildings, consists of a crescent shape of plant material and feathers bonded with saliva. The female lays two or three white eggs.

Much scarcer than the common swift, it is not a numerous breeder or migrant. It can be found camouflaged among flocks of common swift in the towns of the province, though it sometimes forms separate colonies, and so each neighbourhood could be home to a different species.

ALPINE SWIFT

Apus melba

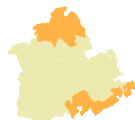
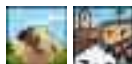
ES: Vencejo real **FR:** Martinet à ventre blanc **DE:** Alpensegler

L: 20 - 23 cm **Wi:** 51 - 58 cm **We:** 75 - 120 g.

E F M A M J J A S O N D

NA

Pg-139



The Alpine swift is the largest of the swifts found in Spain. It has the typical swift silhouette, bow-shaped, with a short, forked tail and long, thin, pointed wings. Its colouring is generally olive-brown. The belly and throat are white, which differentiates it from the other swifts of the province. There is no sexual dimorphism, and juveniles are somewhat darker with white-edged feathers.

Like the other members of its family, it spends almost all its life flying, and it can be found in groups both in open spaces and on cliffs or in towns. It shows a greater preference for cliffs than other species of swift, though it also frequently makes use of rural buildings, such as bridges or dams, and even urban buildings.

Its diet is the same as its relatives, aerial plankton made up of insects, though it usually hunts at a higher altitude for larger prey.

Although it remains with us for a considerable time, it only lays one clutch of two or three elongated white eggs between May and August. It builds its nest in cavities or cracks in rocks or buildings, but can also do so on vertical walls. The nest is made of plant material and feathers bonded with saliva. Although it can breed in pairs, reproduction is generally in colonies which, in the case of the Alpine swift, are particularly noisy.

A summer bird which is not very numerous, it can be found in gullies and on rocky crags in the Sierra Norte and Sierra Sur.

EURASIAN WRYNECK

Jynx torquilla

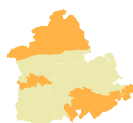
ES: Torcecuellos euroasiático FR: Torcol fourmillier DE: Wendehals

L: 15 - 17 cm Wi: 25- 27 cm. We: 30 - 40 g.

E F M A M J J A S O N D

LR

Pg-140



The wryneck is a small woodpecker and it owes its name to the great flexibility of its neck. A slender bird, it is characterised by its mottled greyish-brown back, the bars on its underparts and its tail striped with grey and brown lines, sprinkled with small black and grey spots. The beak and legs are brown, and the legs have two toes pointing forwards and two pointing back. There is no sexual dimorphism.

During the breeding season, the wryneck is found mainly in areas of loose woodland, thick undergrowth, large parks and gardens, etc., while in the migration season, its habitat extends to horticultural areas, orchards and other wooded areas.

Although it is an eminently arboreal species, it frequently lands on the ground. Curiously, when it feels threatened or in the mating season, its behaviour changes, and it bristles up its head feathers, twists its neck and "hisses", which gives it the appearance of a snake. It also uses this technique to scare away other birds in order to use their nests.

Despite belonging to the same family as the woodpeckers (Picidae), the wryneck does not peck for its food, but extracts it from the bark with its long tongue. Its preferred diet consists of ants and their larvae, though it will also eat moths, spiders, etc.

A sedentary species which is not very numerous, its population rises in the spring and summer. It can be found in the wooded areas of the province: Sierra Norte and Sierra Sur and the forested area of Doñana. Reproduction has only been confirmed in the Sierra Norte.

EUROPEAN GREEN WOODPECKER

Picus viridis

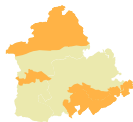
ES: Pito real FR: Pic vert DE: Grünspecht

L: 30 - 35 cm Wi: 40 - 45 cm. We: 150 - 230 g.

E F M A M J J A S O N D

NA

Pg-140



The European green woodpecker has an essentially matte green plumage, both on the upperparts and the underparts, though the latter are somewhat more greyish. The crown is an intense red colour and the rump is yellow. Another defining characteristic which, in turn, serves to distinguish between the sexes, is the eye-catching bar on the cheek, under the eye, which in the male is red and in the female, black. The beak is black, green and greyish and in the shape of a dagger. The legs are an olive grey colour.

Found mainly in wooded areas, riverside undergrowth and even in large gardens, the European green woodpecker can be seen climbing up the trunks of trees, supported on its strong tail and clinging on with its claws. It is very shy of human beings, and will creep around the tree trunk when it feels it is being watched, in order to avoid being seen. A sedentary bird, it only flies around when it needs to search for food.

The nesting season is from March to July, though the date can sometimes be earlier. It makes a hole in a tree trunk for its nest, where only one clutch is laid each year.

It feeds on small invertebrates -mainly wood-eating insects- which it captures by inserting its long tongue into the fissures of the trunk and ant nests. Populations living in coastal areas base their diet on small crustaceans found among the seaweed.

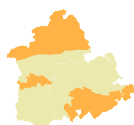
The population of European green woodpeckers in the province has fallen alarmingly, but even so it can be considered a fairly common species. It is to be found mainly in the wooded areas of the province, preferably conifers and deciduous trees, though it will not snub other habitats, and can even be found in areas with disperse tree cover.

GREAT SPOTTED WOODPECKER*Dendrocopos major***ES:** Pico picapinos **FR:** Pic épeiche **DE:** Buntspecht**L:** 22 - 23 cm **Wi:** 38 - 44 cm. **We:** 70 - 90 g.

E F M A M J J A S O N D

NA

Pg-140



The great spotted woodpecker is a medium-sized bird, with pied plumage and a red or black hood with white patches on the shoulders. Its most striking characteristic is the intense red of its undertail coverts. The male has a crimson patch on the nape which differentiates it from the female. The tail is black, edged in white on the sides, the eyes are red, the beak is black and the legs, greenish-grey.

The preferred habitat of the species is wooded areas, though it can occasionally be found in riverside undergrowth and, less frequently, in large parks.

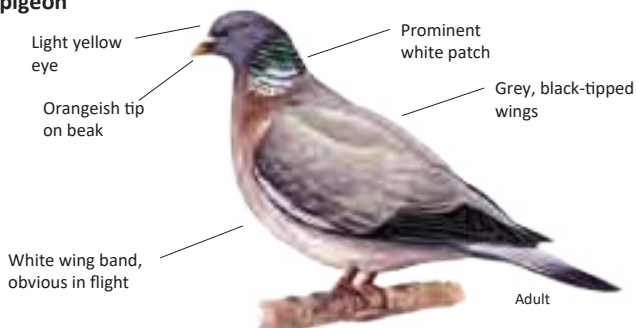
The great spotted woodpecker exhibits some curious behaviour. It will seek a dry branch, hollow trunk or metal object and, clinging to it, rapidly hammer it with its beak, rhythmically and repeatedly, to make a drumming sound. As is logical, during the breeding season, it drums more frequently in order to attract the female. It is not a gregarious bird and it is sedentary, though it can travel considerable distances in search of food.

Breeding mainly between the months of May and July, it makes its nest by drilling a hole in a tree trunk or uses a pre-existing hole. On occasions, it will nest in artificial nestboxes, and it only lays one clutch each year.

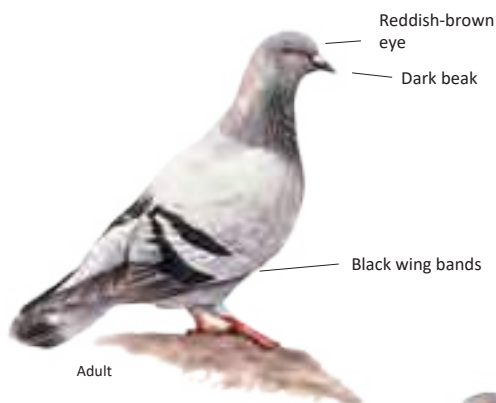
Its basic diet consists of moths, wasps, some spiders and beetle larvae, also eating pine nuts which it extracts from the pine cone by hammering it with its beak, after placing it in a crevice in the tree to hold it firm.

The species is abundant in the province as a breeder, being located in forested areas and showing a preference for conifer woods. The best areas to see it are the Sierra Norte, the pine groves of Aznalcázar-La Puebla del Río and some parts of the Sierra Sur.

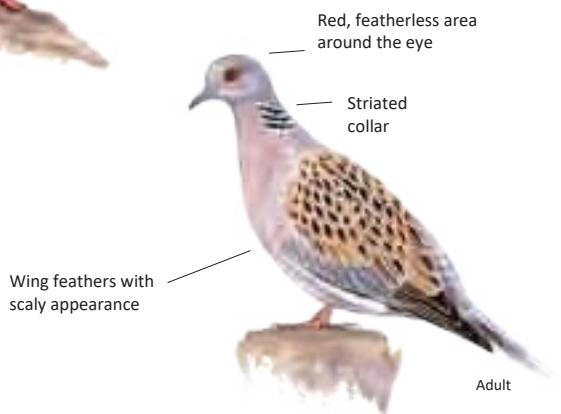
Common wood pigeon



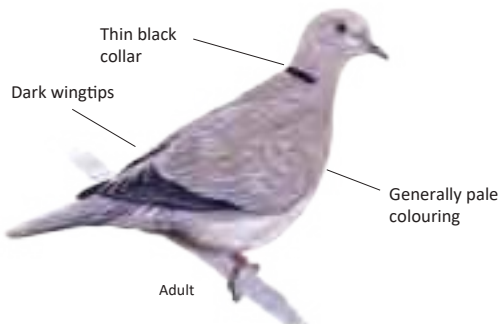
Rock dove



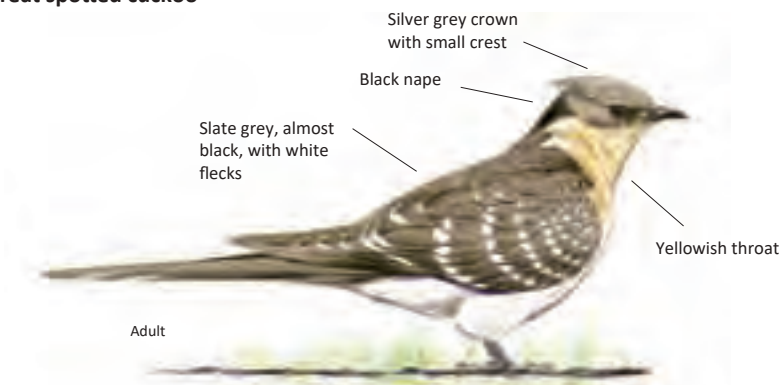
European turtle dove



Collared dove



Great spotted cuckoo



Common cuckoo



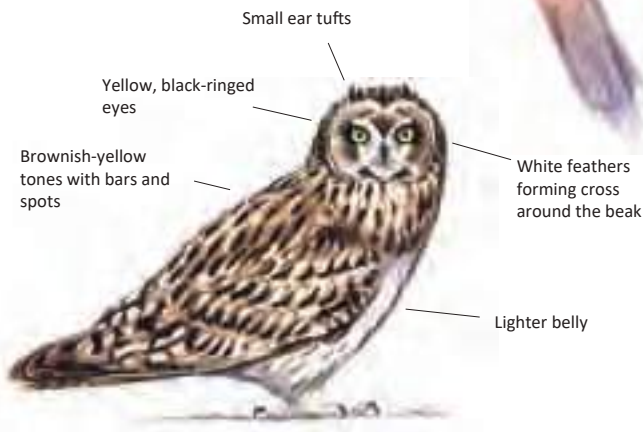
Eurasian eagle owl



Long-eared owl



Short-eared owl



Eurasian scops owl

Proportionally very large, wide ear tufts

Yellow eyes

Greyish or reddish-brown cryptic colouring with patches and streaks

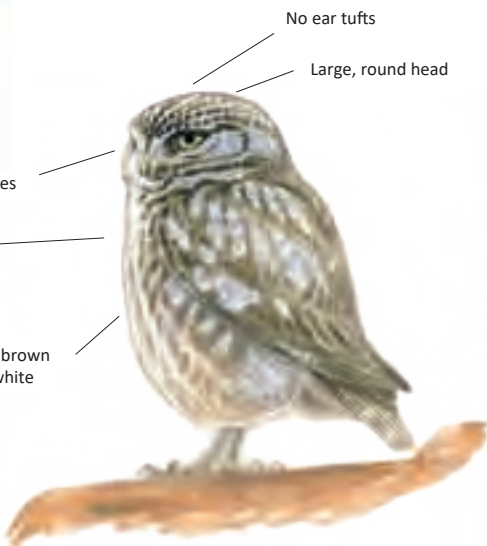
Small size

Little owl

Yellow eyes

Generally squat appearance

Greyish and brown tones with white mottling



No ear tufts

Large, round head

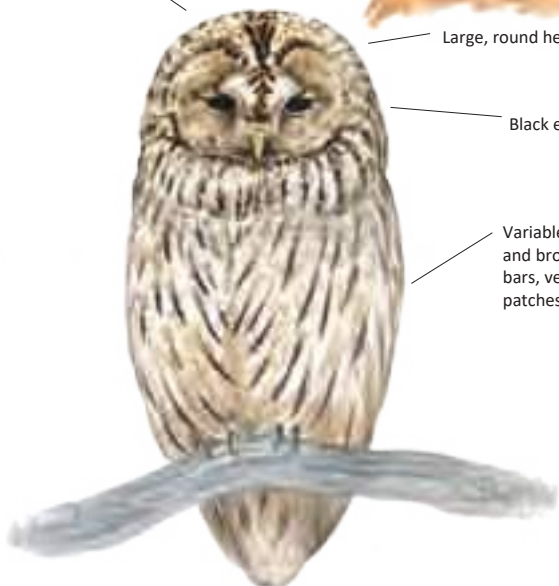
No eared tufts

Large, round head

Tawny owl

Black eyes

Variable greyish, reddish and brown colouring with bars, vermiculation or patches



Barn owl

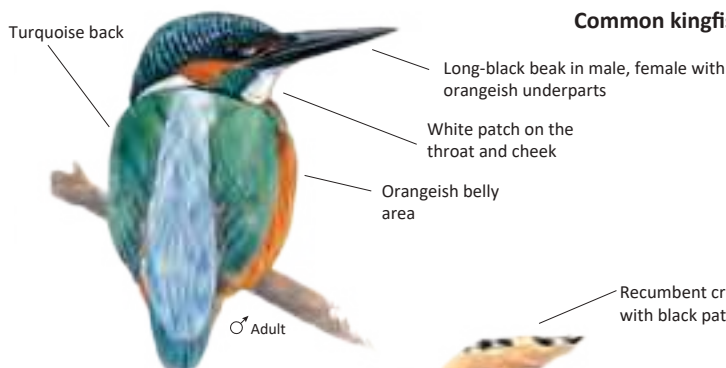
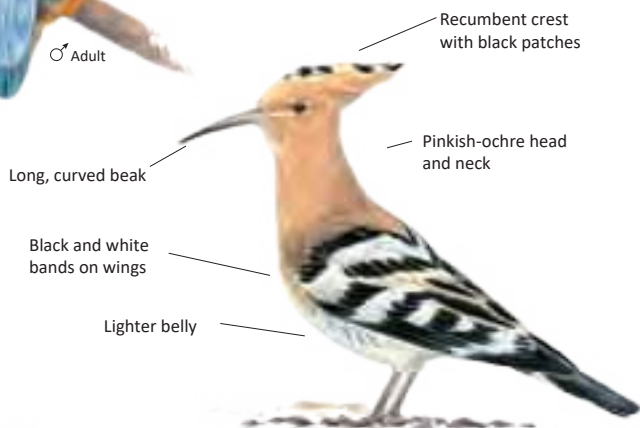
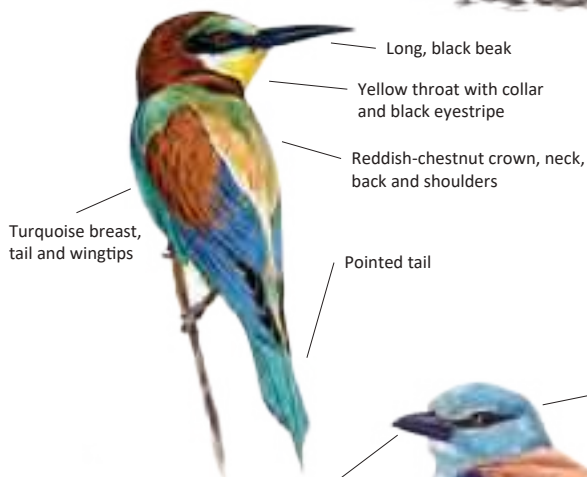
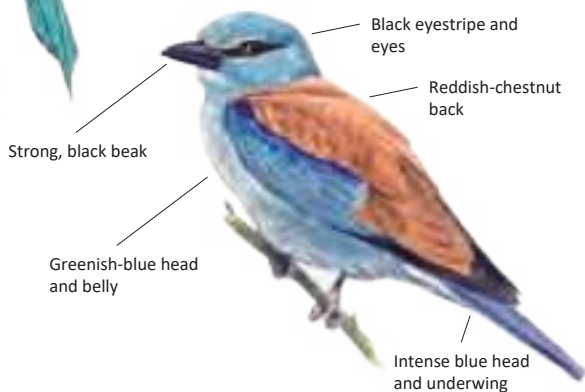


European nightjar

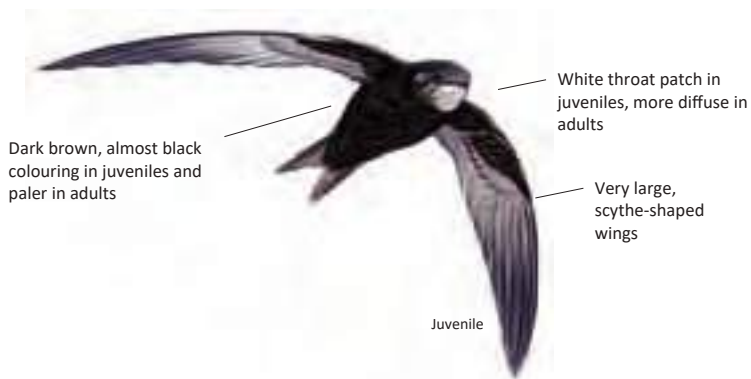


Red-necked nightjar

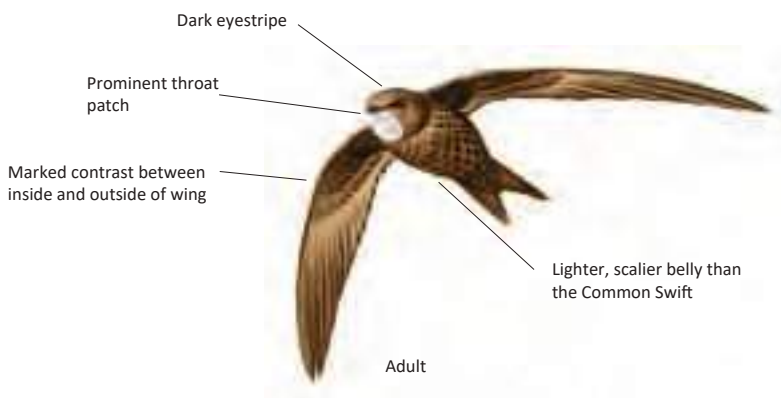


Common kingfisher**Hoopoe****European bee-eater****European roller**

Common swift



Pallid swift



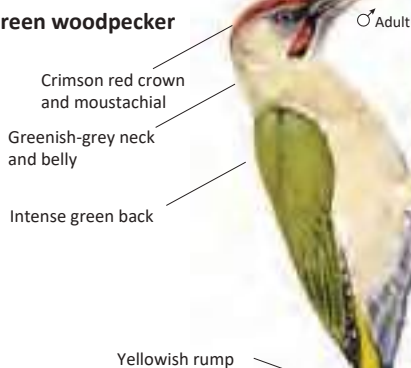
Alpine swift



Eurasian wryneck



European green woodpecker



Great spotted woodpecker

CALANDRA LARK

Melanocorypha calandria

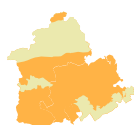
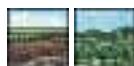
ES: Calandria común FR: Alouette calandre DE: Kalanderlerche

L: 17 - 20 cm Wi: 35 - 40 cm. We: 45 - 70 g.

E F M A M J J A S O N D

NA

Pg-185



The calandra lark is a fairly large member of the lark family, of robust appearance and with thick beak and black patches on the sides of the neck. On its back, the plumage is a heavily mottled blackish-brown colour, the underparts are whitish and the ochre breast is barred with brown. The tail is bordered in white. The patches are much smaller on the plumage of the female.

Very graceful in the air, it flies in synchrony with the rest of the flock, though not usually rising very high above the ground. At dusk, it usually seeks refuge among nearby vegetation.

In the province of Seville, the calandra lark can be found in extensive cereal cropland areas, grassland, high moorland and open country. It spends a lot of its time on the ground, though it can also be seen perched on shrubs or bushes.

The calandra lark is a fairly gregarious species outside the breeding season. It feeds mainly on herbaceous plants, seeds, insects and other invertebrates (beetles and flies), which it captures on the wing.

Nesting is from March to July, making the nest on the ground, protected by bushes, on a shallow scrape which it then lines with grasses.

The calandra lark is a common sedentary species, with some wintering and migrant individuals. Some of the flocks seen from mid-August may be made up of migrant individuals. In February, it becomes very visible during breeding and choirs of males can be heard singing. It can be found in non-forested areas of the province, especially in the cropland of the Seville countryside.

GREATER SHORT-TOED LARK *Calandrella brachydactyla*

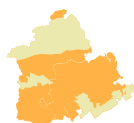
ES: Terrera común FR: Alouette calandrelle DE: Kurzzeihenlerche

L: 14 - 16 cm Wi: 28 - 30 cm. We: 20 - 25 g.

E F M A M J J A S O N D

NA

Pg-185



A small lark with earthy-brown plumage and blackish-brown bars, its back has a slightly mottled ochre tone, with a whitish belly and no bars. It has a very distinctive dark patch on both sides of the breast. The tail is dark brown with white borders. The sexes resemble each other.

Its habitat is open terrain with low vegetation, such as transformed marshland, areas bordering natural marshes, sandy terrain, muddy areas in the dry season, steppe-type pastureland and cropland (areas of stubble or seeded land). Its mimetic plumage camouflages it well against the earth.

A gregarious species except during the breeding season, it gathers in small flocks that take flight suddenly with undulating movements, low over the ground.

At the end of the breeding season, the flocks gather at their watering spots to seek food in the soil. It is basically granivorous and insectivorous.

Nesting between May and July, it makes a small scrape in the ground, where it constructs a nest of grass, small roots, down and wool. It usually lays two clutches a year.

The greater short-toed lark is a very common breeding species and can be found in all of the non-forested areas of the province. Its numbers increase considerably during the migratory passages, with the first individuals being seen in March and the maximum number in April. In mid-August, the first flocks of migrants can be seen, with the postnuptial passage lasting until early October.

LESSER SHORT-TOED LARK

Calandrella rufescens

ES: Terrera marismeña FR: Alouette pispolette DE: Stummellerche

L: 13 - 14 cm Wi: 24 - 32 cm. We: 22 - 24 g.

E F M A M J J A S O N D

LR

Pg-185



The lesser short-toed lark is a small lark which is very similar to the sparrow, with profusely barred colouring. The most characteristic feature is the finely and heavily mottled breast, and the tips of the wings extending over the tertials. Not to be confused with the greater short-toed lark.

A sedentary bird typical of open stony or sandy areas, it can also be seen on the edges of marshy areas, areas of sea-blite and salt pannes, etc., with little vegetation. It prefers flat, arid zones with fairly low vegetation and wide areas of bare ground.

It is frequently found in small flocks which rise in short flights, calling and landing again, running on the ground, stopping briefly and then standing upright.

It does not form colonies in the breeding season, building its nest in a small, round scrape in the earth, made with small roots and grasses, which it then lines with hair, feathers, down and plants, protecting it with a plant cover.

Its diet consists of small seeds, stalks and insects.

The lesser short-toed lark is a very common breeding species in the marshland area of Doñana, with between 5,000 and 6,000 individuals. It is thought that the species is in decline due to the reduction of sea-blite marshes in an acceptable state of conservation.

CRESTED LARK

Galerida cristata

ES: Cogujada común FR: Cochevis huppé DE: Haubenlerche

L: 15 - 19 cm Wi: 30 - 35 cm. We: 32 - 40 g.

E F M A M J J A S O N D

NA

Pg-186



Another of the lark family, the crested lark can easily be identified by its characteristic crest. With a squat appearance, its back is an earthy-brown colour with dark patches. The belly is more whitish and it has a dark tail whose outer feathers are a lighter brown tone.

Found in open zones, such as dry marshes, cropland and pastureland, dunes, etc., it is not uncommon also to find it in areas of considerable human activity, and it can be seen in rural habitats, roadsides and paths, vineyards, etc.

Generally, it is seen alone or in pairs, or at most in small family groups, since it is a less gregarious species than others of its family. It flies low, appearing "tired", with an undulating trajectory, and it frequently perches on shrubs and bushes, fences and milestones, and sometimes also in trees.

Basically, it is granivorous and will frequently seek undigested grains of cereals in the excrement of horses and cattle, though the reduction of extensive livestock farming is reducing this source of food to a certain extent. It also eats insects and molluscs.

The nesting period is between March and July, when the female builds the nest on the ground in a bowl-shaped structure of grass, straw, dry roots and wool. It can lay a second clutch of eggs and, occasionally, a third.

A very numerous resident species, it is distributed throughout the province, except in densely-wooded areas, especially in the Guadalquivir Valley.

THEKLA LARK

Galerida theklae

ES: Cogujada montesina FR: Cochevis de Thékla DE: Theklalerche

L: 15 - 18 cm Wi: 30 - 35 cm. We: 30 - 40 g.

E F M A M J J A S O N D

NA

Pg-186



The Thekla lark is very similar to the crested lark, though it is somewhat smaller, and also with a smaller beak. The plumage is very similar, though the brown colour is a little darker and contrasts more with the straw-coloured background. The spots on the breast are also darker, the tail is dark brown with reddish-cinnamon edges. It is quite difficult to differentiate one from the other if not seen together.

It can be found in open areas, generally vacant land, hills and shrubland with abundant thyme and rock rose. The Thekla lark is not so fond of man-made environments as the crested lark, and prefers wild habitats.

Not a very gregarious species, it is usually seen alone or in pairs. Unlike the crested lark, it usually perches at height, frequently on trees and posts. It has terrestrial habits, walking quickly along the ground skilfully seeking out its food.

It feeds mainly on seeds, especially wild seeds, though it will also seek them in the excrement of horses. In the spring, it also eats insects.

Nesting from March to June, it uses a small scrape in the ground for its nest, which is made of straw, small roots and plant material, which it then lines with hair. It can lay two or even three clutches per year.

A very common breeding bird, it can be found mainly in areas of low scrub, dehesa pastureland, olive groves and other low density woodland in the province. The greatest concentrations are found in the dehesas of the Sierra Norte, dehesas and olive groves of the Sierra Sur and the forested areas of Doñana.

WOOD LARK

Lullula arborea

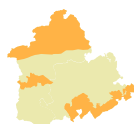
ES: Alondra totovía FR: Alouette lulu DE: Heidealerche

L: 14 - 15 cm Wi: 25 - 30 cm. We: 25 - 35 g.

E F M A M J J A S O N D

NA

Pg-187



The wood lark is a small, compact bird, very similar to the Eurasian skylark, though smaller. It has reddish-brown plumage with blackish bars which do not reach the rump. It is characterised by the white eye stripes, which run backwards and join up at the nape. The underparts are longitudinally striped, except on the belly, which is white. It has a small crest on the crown. The beak is brownish and the legs, pink. There are no marked morphological differences between the sexes.

In the breeding season, it can be found in sandy areas of shrubland with disperse tree cover, in low density woodland, especially in clearings or the borders of pine groves, in heather and similar areas. In winter, it can be seen in fields with abundant herbaceous vegetation, which may be cultivated or not.

Not an excessively gregarious bird, it often perches on the branches of trees, which is uncommon behaviour among this type of bird. In flight, it sings and makes its mating call.

It nests between March and June, building the nest on the ground, camouflaged among the vegetation. It normally lays two clutches each year, though on occasions, there may be three.

With an insect-based diet, it extracts the insects from the trees, from under the bark or from within the wood. It will also eat nuts, mainly hazelnuts, which it shells in the same way as the great spotted woodpecker, holding it firmly in the cracks of a tree trunk.

The wood lark is a common breeding bird in the province, and we can find it mainly in the Sierra Norte and Sierra Sur, the forested area of Doñana and other scrubland and low density woodland.

EURASIAN SKYLARK

Alauda arvensis

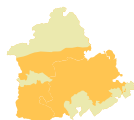
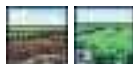
ES: Alondra común **FR:** Alouette des champs **DE:** Feldlerche

L: 17 - 19 cm **Wi:** 30 - 35 cm. **We:** 32 - 45 g.

E F M A M J J A S O N D

NA

Pg-186



The Eurasian skylark is a fair-sized bird, with barred brown plumage which is fairly uniform over the entire body. It has a characteristic crest which is not too prominent. The breast, head and back are barred and the belly plumage is more whitish. The two sexes are similar.

In flight, the white outer tail feathers and the white line along the rear edge of the wings are obvious. It loudly gives its characteristic call as it hovers at high altitude. It can be seen suspended high in the air, beating its wings and calling continuously. It has an undulating trajectory in flight.

Preferring open habitats, such as extensive cropland, marshes or grassland, it can frequently be seen there in large flocks. It is, therefore, a gregarious species in autumn and winter, though during the rest of the year it is a fairly shy bird when it walks on the ground. When disturbed, it silently escapes on the ground, and will only take flight in extreme cases, as it is an eminently terrestrial species.

It is omnivorous, and its diet is based on seeds, grain, plants and invertebrates, mainly insects, earthworms and spiders.

Though it can be found from late August until early April, most of the population arrives in mid-October and remains with us until February. It is very common in the province as a wintering species, with many tens of thousands of individuals. During the migration period, these numbers are multiplied spectacularly, and it can be seen throughout the countryside of Seville, the dry marshes of Doñana and neighbouring zones.

HOUSE MARTIN

Delichon urbicum

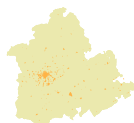
ES: Avión común **FR:** Hirondelle de fenêtre **DE:** Mehlschwalbe

L: 12 - 13 cm **Wi:** 25 - 29 cm. **We:** 15 - 20 g.

E F M A M J J A S O N D

NA

Pg-188



The house martin is a small, unmistakable member of the swallow family, with a blackish-blue head, back, wings and tail. The white rump stands out from the back plumage, and the underparts (throat, cheeks, breast, belly and undertail coverts) are a snowy white colour. The tail is square and the legs are feathered down to the tarsi. The two sexes resemble each other.

Mainly an urban species, it shows a preference for towns and cities, areas with buildings, isolated houses, as well as open country. It can also be found on rocky crags, quarries, large dams and bridges.

The house martin is very gregarious, forming breeding colonies which can on occasions be very large. It also gathers in flocks to hunt, though without very co-ordinated actions or movements. It flies at a medium height, quite elegantly, alternately beating its wings rapidly and gliding in circles.

Its diet consists almost entirely of insects (of what has become known as aerial plankton), which it usually hunts on the wing. It very often perches on overhead cables, fences, cornices and buildings, and it is more common to see it on the ground than other members of the swallow family. Breeding from May to August, it builds a spherical nest with mud which it collects from the edges of pools or lagoons, usually under a right-angled ledge, such as cornices, balconies, ceilings, etc. It leaves a small space to enter and the nest is lined with plants and small roots.

The house martin is an extremely common breeding species in the province, though as a wintering bird it is not very numerous. It can be found close to groups of swallows and other types of martin. It can be seen in towns and cities, in isolated buildings, bridges, dams, etc., where it builds its nest, but it can also be seen feeding in open areas.

SAND MARTIN

Riparia riparia

ES: Avión zapador FR: Hirondelle de rivage DE: Uferschwalbe

L: 12 - 13 cm Wi: 28 - 30 cm. We: 13 - 15 g.

E F M A M J J A S O N D

DD

Pg-188



The sand martin is the smallest of our swallows. With a uniform brown tone on its upperparts, it has white underparts, a brown breast band and a short, slightly forked tail. The two sexes resemble each other.

Even more so than other swallows and martins, its habitat is closely related to cleared and wet zones, provided that they have sandy banks (generally on rivers, lagoons, marshes, etc.).

A very gregarious bird, it breeds in colonies, sometimes together with the kingfisher. It is very lively in flight, flying to and fro low over the water or the land, hawking for airborne insects, though it will sometimes capture its prey on the ground. Eminently diurnal in its habits, at the end of the day, it gathers in large, communal, postnuptial roosts, in cane or reed beds and bulrushes, where it usually mixes with other swallows. During migration, it gathers in small but quite continuous flocks.

Nesting in colonies on flat land, it uses earth banks quite close to the water, though sometimes in stone walls, embankments, sea cliffs, gravel pits, etc. It makes the nest in a chamber at the end of a tunnel of half to one metre in length, which is then lined with feathers, straw and other material.

It is estimated that in the province there are 500 to 1,000 pairs of the species, though there has been an alarming fall in numbers recently, with the loss of very numerous colonies. It is scarce as a wintering bird, but can be seen in mixed groups of swallows, but is an extremely common migrant. It can be seen mainly on the River Guadalquivir, but also on the banks of other rivers such as the River Corbones or the River Salinoso.

CRAG MARTIN

Hirundo rupestris

ES: Avión roquero FR: Hirondelle de rochers DE: Felsenschwalbe

L: 14 - 15 cm Wi: 30- 33 cm. We: 20 - 25 g.

E F M A M J J A S O N D

NA

Pg-188



The crag martin is, by a small margin, the largest of the Spanish swallows. It is predominantly brown in colour, with light underparts and darker wingtips, a white throat, and a short, unforked tail with lines of white patches when it is open. The two sexes are similar. It can be distinguished from the sand martin, which has light underparts and a brown band, while the crag martin is darker and more uniform.

With the habits of a mainly rock-dwelling bird, it lives mainly on rocky crags, cliffs and other rock formations. It can also occupy, though in lower numbers, man-made constructions, mainly in rural areas, such as bridges, dams and buildings.

It is usually seen alone or in small groups, patrolling its territory in search of food, without straying too far from its nest or roost. Powerful and rapid in flight, it glides and flies slowly to capture food close to the cliffs.

The diet of the crag martin is based on small flying insects, mainly flies, mosquitoes and small beetles.

Usually nesting alone or in small colonies, it builds its nest by mixing mud and grass for consistency, in the shape of an open cup, lined on the inside with feathers and moss. It normally reuses the nest from year to year. It may lay one or two clutches per year of 3 to 5 white eggs with brown patches. The eggs are incubated by the female.

It is the only swallow resident in the province, though it does travel, flying to the coast or large bodies of water in the winter. It is not a common bird and can be found in its breeding zones in the Sierra Norte and some parts of the Sierra Sur.

BARN SWALLOW

Hirundo rustica

ES: Golondrina común FR: Hirondelle rustique DE: Rauchschnalbe

L: 17 - 19 cm Wi: 30 - 35 cm. We: 15 - 25 g.

E F M A M J J A S O N D

NA

Pg-187



The barn swallow is a medium-sized swallow with dark plumage on the upperparts and light on the underparts, with long outer rectrices. The forehead and throat are reddish-brown, the upperparts are a dark metallic blue with different glossy reflections. It has a wide, black breast band and the underparts are white with a light reddish or pink tinge.

The species can be found in anthropised biotopes, but not in eminently urban areas. It shows a preference for areas near to towns, such as cropland, holm oak groves, pools, meadows, farms, etc.

Sociable and gregarious in its habits, it often groups together in communal roosts before undertaking the postnuptial migration back to its winter quarters.

The barn swallow is insectivorous, mainly feeding on flies and mosquitoes, though it will also hunt flying ants, wasps, bugs and small beetles. It captures them on the wing, flying acrobatically at low altitude, not far from the nest, with its enormous mouth open as it flies past.

The nesting season is from April to August, and it builds its nest of mud and straw, with an opening at the top, usually located under or close to a ceiling, balconies, in stables, abandoned houses, etc.

The barn swallow is a very common breeding bird, with several tens of thousands of pairs. It is habitual, but not numerous, as a wintering species and it usually mixes with other species of the family during the winter months. It is extremely common as a migrating species, with several tens of thousands of individuals. Roosts with between 40,000 and 60,000 individuals have been found. It can be seen in any part of the territory, except densely wooded areas, preferring to be close to built-up areas.

RED-RUMPED SWALLOW

Cecropis daurica

ES: Golondrina dáurica FR: Hirondelle rousseline DE: Rötelschnalbe

L: 15 - 20 cm Wi: 27 - 35 cm. We: 20 - 25 g.

E F M A M J J A S O N D

DD

Pg-187



Very similar to the barn swallow, but with a light ochre rump, light throat and a less pronounced fork in the tail, the adult has a metallic blue, almost black, crown, back and wings, a chestnut-coloured neck band and whitish-ochre underparts. The sexes resemble each other.

A fairly solitary, unsociable bird, more reluctant than the barn swallow to approach urban or rural built-up areas, it is not very gregarious, though it can be found in groups with other swallows when hunting.

It can be seen in gallery woods and nearby areas, cleared Mediterranean forests and around rivers and streams, in cultivated areas and in inhabited zones. It will perch on medium-sized plants to rest, and in its roosts, it can be seen with other species of the same family.

In autumn, after reproduction, small family groups can be seen roaming the territory until migration begins, taking them to West Africa.

Both sexes build a closed nest of mud, in the shape of a hemispherical chamber, with a tube-like entrance, which they line with dry grass and feathers. The nest is made on cliffs, cornices, underneath small bridges or in buildings. Its basic diet consists of flying insects which it captures on the wing, with a large proportion of flies.

In the area of study, it is calculated that there are between 1,000 and 1,500 pairs, increasing slowly but steadily each year. It is relatively abundant as a migrant, gathering in small roosts of 100 to 200 individuals, exclusively of its own species. It is distributed throughout the province, always close to water.

TAWNY PIPIT

Anthus campestris

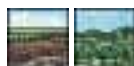
ES: Bisbita campestre FR: Pipit rousseline DE: Brachpieper

L: 15 - 18 cm Wi: 28 - 30 cm. We: 30 - 35 g.

E F M A M J J A S O N D

DD

Pg-190



The tawny pipit is a slender, brown bird with a relatively long tail and legs. Adults have practically uniform tawny-brown upperparts with brown striations on the head and back. The throat is a creamy-brown colour, as are the belly and the undertail coverts. The breast and flanks are reddish-chestnut, with diffuse dark stripes.

Found in open areas and uncultivated land, pastureland, low shrubland, etc., during migration it can also be found in wetter zones. It flies low, swerving and constantly spreading and folding its wings.

Mainly terrestrial in its habits, it can frequently be seen running quickly on the ground, and can camouflage itself well against the background.

During migration, it is gregarious, gathering in small flocks which fly by giving its characteristic call, though in this period, it flies at a high altitude, generally travelling at dawn.

Its diet consists mainly of insects, spiders and maggots, which it captures on the ground with its graceful, rapid movements. It also feeds on small grains and seeds.

The tawny pipit is very common as a migrant throughout the province, especially in the post-nuptial passage. Arriving between mid-March and early May, its autumn passage lasts from late July until late October, when it begins the journey back to its winter quarters in tropical Africa and areas to the north of the equator, where it will remain until the following spring. Data suggests that it may have reproduced in parts of the south-eastern part of the province.

TREE PIPIT

Anthus trivialis

ES: Bisbita arbóreo FR: Pipit des arbres DE: Baumpieper

L: 15 - 16 cm Wi: 24 - 27 cm. We: 20 - 27 g.

E F M A M J J A S O N D

NA

Pg-190



The tree pipit has very unassuming plumage, with brown upperparts and a heavily streaked whitish-ochre breast. It is very similar to the meadow pipit, from which it can be distinguished by its squatter body and the yellower tones of its underparts. Its presence can be detected from its voice and its song in flight. There is no sexual dimorphism.

The preferred habitat of the tree pipit is high ground with low scrub cover or pastureland with scattered trees or bushes which are not too dense. It is commonly found in areas of mixed, low tree cover, meadows and scrub, as well as in conifer woods with clearings.

It has a very sonorous, melodious song with a string of notes that finish slowly. The nuptial song in flight is very typical of the species. It flies vertically upwards and, at its highest point, it descends, beginning to sing as it returns to its perch with its wings open.

Not a very gregarious species, it is almost always found alone or in pairs. During migration, it can be seen, at most, in small groups of a few individuals. Its diet is mainly insects and their larvae, including beetles, flies and grasshoppers, as well as seeds.

The tree pipit nests from April to July, building its nest on the ground with dry grass on a base of moss and lined with grass and hair.

An abundant migrant, especially during the prenuptial passage, it can be found in any part of the province, except areas of dense woodland, preferring ecotones and areas of horticultural cropland.

WHITE WAGTAIL

Motacilla alba

ES: Lavandera blanca FR: Bergeronnette grise DE: Bachstelze

L: 16 - 18 cm Wi: 25 - 30 cm. We: 20 - 26 g.

E F M A M J J A S O N D

NA

Pg-189



The white wagtail has black, white and grey plumage, with a characteristic long tail, and it is slender in appearance. The male has a black hood and a white forehead, its back is grey and the wings are blackish with white-edged feathers. The tail is black and the two outer pairs of rectrices are white. With a black throat and bib, the rest of the belly plumage is white. The plumage of the female is duller than that of the male.

Showing a preference for very varied habitats, it likes to be close to water, though it can also be found in drier areas, such as cropland, steppes and meadows, and it also frequents rural areas, streams and rivers.

In winter, it is quite gregarious, though it is not seen in large flocks, except when returning to its roosts in trees or buildings, as a large number of individuals can gather together at dusk.

It is a terrestrial bird and as it walks on the ground, it constantly wags its tail up and down. However, it also quite frequently perches on trees, telephone poles, walls and rooftops. It is particularly fond of following tractors and agricultural equipment in the fields for the easy prey that the machinery uncovers.

Its basic diet is insects, maggots and molluscs, and on rare occasions, seeds.

An extremely abundant wintering species, it is found throughout the entire province, including towns and cities, where it establishes very numerous roosts. As a breeding species, it is scarce, being restricted to the Sierra Norte and some parts of the Sierra Sur.

YELLOW WAGTAIL

Motacilla flava

ES: Lavandera boyera FR: Bergeronnette printanière DE: Wiesenschafstelze

L: 17 - 18 cm Wi: 24 - 26 cm. We: 16 - 22 g.

E F M A M J J A S O N D

NA

Pg-189



This is a small, fairly slender wagtail with a long tail and legs. It is characterised by its greyish plumage on the upperparts, contrasting with the vivid yellow of its belly. The head is dark, with a white supercilium and the wing coverts are edged in white. The beak and legs are brown.

It can be found on the edges of wet zones, pastureland, cropland and marshy areas. In autumn, it gathers in small flocks, especially to roost at the approach of twilight, and during the migration period.

The nest is made on the ground in the grass, almost always in a small scrape on perfectly flat land. The female appears to build the nest alone, with the male not providing any material, but escorting the female in its search. It uses dry grass, thin stalks and roots and moss, lining the nest with animal hair and feathers. The clutches are variable, from 4 to 6 eggs.

It can often be seen feeding among cattle. It is very nervous and is continuously seeking food, making its characteristic head and tail movements as it walks.

Feeding on all types of insects, earthworms and molluscs, it will often jump to capture insects in the air, rapidly returning to the ground. It has an undulating flight and frequently perches on shrubs, stones, trees and walls.

An abundant breeding species, it can be seen almost everywhere in the province, except mountainous areas, as it prefers open, wet zones: marshes, waterlogged pastureland, cropland close to water, etc. It is scarce as a wintering species, with few recorded sightings. During the postnuptial passage, roosts of up to 20,000 or 30,000 individuals have been recorded.

GREY WAGTAIL

Motacilla cinerea

ES: Lavandera cascadeña FR: Bergeronnette des ruisseaux DE: Gebirgsstelze

L: 18 - 19 cm Wi: 25 - 27 cm. We: 15 - 22 g.

E F M A M J J A S O N D

NA

Pg-189



The grey wagtail has a grey back and yellow underparts. The tail is black with white outer feathers, the folded wings are also black and have no white bands. The head is grey with two striking white supercilia, and the throat is black in summer and white in winter. The female does not have a black throat and the underparts have more white.

The species is associated with streams and the upper stretches of rivers with fast waters and a rocky bottom, being more frequent in mountainous areas with abundant plant cover. In winter, it is less selective and will inhabit the middle stretches of rivers and streams, and even pools or canals.

It patrols the banks of the streams alone or in groups, seeking aquatic and land insects, pecking on the ground and making its continuous, characteristic tail movement. In winter, it can often be seen in communal roosts with several dozen individuals.

During the breeding season, it defends its territory, which can cover long stretches of streams. It nests in holes in walls, bridges, mills, crevices in rock faces and also close to drinking troughs and fountains for livestock, but always in the vicinity of water. It will also take advantage of holes widened by the sand martin. The hemispherical nest is built by both sexes, using twigs, dry grass, leaves and moss. The clutch has 4 to 6 cream coloured, flecked eggs.

It is a numerous sedentary species in the province, and can be found mainly in the Sierra Norte and in some streams, though fewer in number, in the Sierra Sur.

WHITE-THROATED DIPPER

Cinclus cinclus

ES: Mirlo acuático europeo FR: Cincle plongeur DE: Wasseramsel

L: 17 - 20 cm Wi: 25 - 30 cm. We: 25 - 40 g.

E F M A M J J A S O N D

LR

Pg-190



The white-throated dipper is a squat bird with a short tail, short wings, a thin beak and strong, short legs. With darker brown plumage on its back and lighter on the head, neck and belly, it has a striking white bib. Juveniles have a generally greyer colouring, a smaller cream-coloured bib and a white eye-ring that disappears as adults.

It is associated with aquatic environments, specifically the higher stretches of rivers and streams with water of good-quality and which have suffered little alteration, and which are far from human activity. The white-throated dipper is a very nervous bird that continually patrols the stony riverbed, flying over the surface and diving into the water. When it is still, it raises its tail and repeatedly bends its legs.

Feeding exclusively on larvae and aquatic insects, it captures its prey by diving into the river. It can remain submerged for up to 20 seconds, but usually dives for only a few seconds. Under the water, it uses its short wings to swim.

Both sexes build a very well-constructed nest quite close to the ground and near the water, in crevices, trees or bridges. It lays a clutch of 4 to 6 white eggs which are incubated by the female. It can lay two clutches a year.

Scarce as a resident in the province, it can be seen almost exclusively in the better conserved stretches of the streams of the Sierra Norte, such as the Huéznar, Viar or Huelva. The species is in decline, mainly due to the loss of water quality and habitat alteration, since it is very sensitive to these changes.

It used to reproduce in the Sierra Norte, but today there is no evidence that it still does so.

WINTER WREN

Troglodytes troglodytes

ES: Chochin común FR: Troglodyte mignon DE: Zaunkönig

L: 9 - 10 cm Wi: 13 - 17 cm. We: 10 - 12 g.

E F M A M J J A S O N D

NA

Pg-191



This is a small passerine with reddish-brown plumage and dark bars on the wings, tail and flanks. It has a small, short tail which it often holds upright, and a loud, penetrating song. The beak is thin and brown, with a light supercilium, a dark eye-ring, and brown legs. The two sexes are identical.

It can be seen in riverside, inland or coastal wooded areas, and even in gardens provided there is abundant undergrowth, such as fieldbriar, heather, ferns, broom, dwarf palms, etc.

A very active bird, it restlessly flies in and out of the bushes, and also moves well on the ground. It will defend its nest bravely, generally flying low among the undergrowth. A polyandrous species, it has extraordinary vital energy. A single male will build several padded nests which all of the females in its territory visit. In general, it is not very gregarious, though in winter it is not uncommon to see several individuals grouped together for warmth, since the conservation of heat is imperative for the species.

The nest is made of moss, grasses and feathers, and is spherical in shape. It is built in the undergrowth, in bushes, climbing plants, piles of firewood, in crevices in buildings or even cavities in small rocky banks.

Its basic diet is small invertebrates, though it will also capture other arthropods and eat some seeds and fruit.

An abundant breeding species in the province, it can be found in suitable areas of the Sierra Norte, the forests of Doñana and the Sierra Sur

DUNNOCK

Prunella modularis

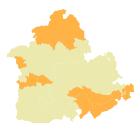
ES: Acentor común FR: Accenteur mouchet DE: Heckenbraunelle

L: 13 - 15 cm Wi: 19 - 21 cm. We: 19 - 24 g.

E F M A M J J A S O N D

NA

Pg-191



The dunnock is a small passerine with discreet grey and brown tones. The back is a dark reddish-brown colour with black bars, and the wings and tail are also dark brown. The flanks have reddish patches with some black bars. The head, except for the crown and cheeks, is greyish, like the throat, nape, breast and belly. There is no sexual dimorphism.

Its habitat is typically scrubland and areas of tangled vegetation, riverbanks with thick vegetation, undergrowth, thorny bushes, etc. It usually moves on the ground in the vegetation, or among the branches, generally with unhurried movements.

As a general rule, it goes unnoticed and its presence can only be detected from its song and its call. It is, therefore, an inconspicuous bird. It characteristically waves its wings as it walks and tends to adopt a crouching position.

Not a very sociable bird, it is normally found alone or in very small groups.

It usually feeds on the ground or low branches, capturing mainly insects and their larvae, maggots, spiders and small earthworms in the spring and summer, and in winter, it mainly eats small seeds.

In winter, it is found in thick bushes, hedges and woods with undergrowth.

It is a scarce wintering species in the province, found mainly in areas of scrub and gallery woods in the Sierra Norte and Sierra Sur, and in some parts of the forested area in Doñana.

RUFIOUS-TAILED SCRUB ROBIN *Erythropygia galactotes*

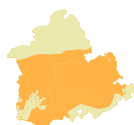
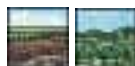
ES: Alzacola rojizo FR: Agrobate roux DE: Heckensänger

L: 12 - 13 cm Wi: 19 - 20 cm. We: 15 - 18 g.

E F M A M J J A S O N D

EN

Pg-191



The rufous-tailed scrub robin is a typical bird of the south, with uniform light chestnut plumage and a conspicuously long, reddish-brown tail. The underparts are whitish, and it has a cream-coloured supercilium. Its characteristic tail is a saffron colour which is more vivid than the rest of the plumage, with black and white patches at the tip. The two sexes are identical.

It can be found in dry cropland, pastureland, vineyards, olive groves and areas of scrub, horticultural land, etc., and fundamentally in areas of marsh ecotone.

The main distinguishing characteristic is the upright position of its tail when it is perched, and which it frequently wags up and down when spread. It can move with agility in the scrub, jumping or flying short distances without rising too high above the ground. Not being an elusive bird, it can often be seen perched in the open, and it frequently takes dust baths in dry, sandy spots.

As it is not a gregarious species, it does not gather in flocks and is not very sociable. Its diet is insects, spiders, earthworms and, sporadically, berries and wild fruit.

It breeds among low undergrowth and makes its nest in the shape of an untidy bowl of twigs, straw, grass, hair, wool, etc., which it then lines with grass, fibres and hair. It will occasionally lay two clutches.

The scrub robin is a scarce breeder in the province, and can be found mainly in vineyards, olive groves and other tree crops.

EUROPEAN ROBIN *Erithacus rubecula*

ES: Petirrojo europeo FR: Rougegorge familier DE: Rotkehlchen

L: 14 - 15 cm Wi: 20 - 22 cm. We: 15 - 22 g.

E F M A M J J A S O N D

NA

Pg-192



The robin is a small, chubby passerine, and is one of the most familiar and best-known species among the general public. It is characterised by the adult plumage, with an orangeish-red breast and forehead, and the crown, upper neck and back are olive-brown. The belly is whitish, with an ash-grey tinge. The two sexes are similar in appearance.

It can be seen in forested areas with not very dense undergrowth, on riversides, gallery forests with undergrowth, shrubland with broadleaf trees, in roadside undergrowth, hedges, etc. In places where it is relatively undisturbed, it can inhabit urban gardens, though when disturbed, it becomes elusive and suspicious. Living among the undergrowth, and flying almost at ground level for very short distances, it hops along the ground, where it frequently feeds. It has the habit of shaking its head, wings and tail spasmodically, and it defends its territory against other individuals of its species, even during the winter.

Curiously, the female only sings in winter, which is when it defends its own territory. This only occurs when the weather is not too harsh, as otherwise, it must devote all of its energy to searching for the food it needs to survive.

It is not a particularly gregarious bird, though during the migratory passages and when wintering, it usually gathers in small groups. It feeds mainly on insects and their larvae, spiders, small snails and maggots, as well as some berries and seeds it finds in the undergrowth.

The robin is found throughout the province and is an extremely abundant wintering and migratory bird, with individuals beginning to arrive in our area from the end of summer. It is seen mainly in forests and nearby areas though it can also be seen in the parks and gardens of our towns.

COMMON NIGHTINGALE

Luscinia megarhynchos

ES: Ruiseñor común FR: Rossignol philomèle DE: Nachtigall

L: 15 - 18 cm Wi: 20 - 25 cm. We: 18 - 25 g.

E F M A M J J A S O N D



Pg-192



The nightingale is a small passerine with brown plumage and no outstanding features. The tail and rump have a tenuous reddish tinge, the beak and legs are brown and the legs have a slightly pinkish tone.

Found in dense riverside undergrowth, hedges, woods, scrub and even in parks, it can, however, be difficult to see, as it is a fairly elusive bird which remains for much of the time in the thick of the undergrowth, close to the ground, where it usually seeks food.

Its characteristic voice allows us to locate it since, in the breeding season (between May and June), its song can be heard day and night in the riverside undergrowth.

On the ground, it has a very upright posture with the tail raised. During the migration season, we do not see it during its passage, as it tends to hide among the vegetation and does not sing. It migrates at night, flying quite quickly for long stages and, during the day, it rests and feeds.

Its diet is mainly insects, which it usually captures on the ground, and it also feeds on earthworms, spiders and certain berries and wild fruit. The female builds a nest with dry leaves, which it then lines with plant fibres and hair, among low vegetation close to or on the ground (for example, in a bush of fieldbriar close to water).

The nightingale is to be found throughout the province, preferring areas with trees and bushes. It is very common on riverbanks, streams and lagoons with dense herbaceous vegetation and bushes.

BLUETHROAT

Luscinia svecica

ES: Ruiseñor pechiazul FR: Gorgebleue à miroir DE: Blaukehlchen

L: 14 - 15 cm Wi: 20 - 22 cm. We: 15 - 24 g.

E F M A M J J A S O N D



Pg-192



The bluethroat is a small, squat bird with a thin beak and a long tail. Its plumage is not very striking, except for the intense blue bib of the male. While the robin has become extremely familiar, the bluethroat has remained practically unknown due to its scarcity and its reluctance to be seen on open ground.

The head and back of the male are greyish-brown, with a white supercilium from the base of the beak to the ear. The breast has a characteristic cobalt blue medallion with a reddish-chestnut centre with a black bar around it, complemented by another in a reddish-ochre colour. The belly is whitish. The female does not have the blue medallion, but has a whitish bib bordered by a brown strip.

When wintering and during migration, it can be found in riverside habitats, on wet terrain with marshland vegetation and undergrowth, as well as in wet pastureland and marshes. When migrating, it flies at night.

With mainly diurnal habits, it is a fairly elusive bird, remaining hidden among riverside vegetation, almost always close to the ground. It usually flies at low altitude and, during the breeding season, it perches on an open courtship display site, at a medium height. It is a fairly nervous species, and continuously makes light, agile movements. It wags its tail up and down and feeds on the ground, sometimes in open areas.

Its main diet is insects, although it will also eat snails, molluscs, maggots, seeds and wild berries.

A numerous wintering and migrating bird in the province, it can be found mainly on the Guadalquivir marshes and nearby areas, but not in dense woodland.

BLACK REDSTART

Phoenicurus ochrurus

ES: Colirrojo tizón FR: Rougequeue noir DE: Hausrotschwanz

L: 14 - 15 cm Wi: 23 - 26 cm. We: 14 - 20 g.

E F M A M J J J A S O N D



Pg-193



The redstart is a small passerine that looks as if it has blackened its face and breast with coal, since the back, crown and belly are all a dark grey colour, and the wings are black with a characteristic white patch. The rump and tail are reddish-brown, except the central rectrices. The female is a more uniform greyish-brown and has no patches on the wings or the characteristic blackened appearance of the male.

Forested areas are its main habitats, though it is also attracted to rocky areas, ruins and, in some cases, rural towns, especially gardens.

The black redstart is mainly a terrestrial species, and so it does not usually perch on the branches of trees. It moves by hopping among the stones and along the ground. When threatened, it becomes a "ball of fury" and it shakes its tail in nervous spasms.

The nesting season is between April and July. The nest is built in crevices and holes in walls and buildings, in the hollows of trees, ruined buildings or even on beams or in nestboxes. It lays two or sometimes three clutches of eggs each year.

It feeds on small invertebrates such as centipedes, spiders, flies, moths and beetles, which it catches in flight or finds among the stones, though at certain times of the year it will also eat wild fruit and some seeds.

While scarce as a breeding species, it is very abundant as a wintering bird in the province. It can be found in the forests of the Sierra Norte and Sierra Sur, and in the forested area of Doñana, though it prefers banks and rocky terrain. It has only been recorded as breeding in the province in the Sierra Norte.

COMMON REDSTART

Phoenicurus phoenicurus

ES: Colirrojo real FR: Rougequeue à front blanc DE: Gartenrotschwanz

L: 13 - 14 cm Wi: 20 - 24 cm. We: 12 - 20 g.

E F M A M J J J A S O N D



Pg-193



The male common redstart has striking plumage, with a blueish-grey back and grey-brown wings. The rump and tail are reddish, the throat and face are black, and the supercilium, white. Furthermore, the breast and flanks have a striking reddish colour and the beak, legs and eyes are black. The female is greyish-brown on the upperparts and a very light reddish-buff colour on the underparts. The tail and wings are the same as in the male.

The common redstart lives strictly among trees, mainly on dehesa pastureland, and in beech, conifer and mixed woods which are not too dense.

It is a very restless bird which is constantly moving about, sometimes perching very visibly on cables, rooftops or high branches, normally to sing and make its call.

It frequently wags its tail up and down, attracting even more attention to its eye-catching colouring.

This small passerine feeds mainly on insects, which it hunts on the wing or from the branches of a tree, as well as spiders and maggots which it finds on the ground, or small crustaceans, such as snails. However, in our area, during the autumn migration, its diet is made up mainly of fleshy fruit or other wild fruit.

In the province, it is abundant during both migratory passages, though it is more numerous in the postnuptial passage. The reproduction of the species in our area has only been recorded sporadically in some points of the Sierra Norte.

COMMON STONECHAT

Saxicola rubicola

ES: Tarabilla europea **FR:** Tarier pâle **DE:** Schwarzkehlchen

L: 12 - 13 cm **Wi:** 19 - 20 cm. **We:** 15 - 18 g.

E F M A M J J A S O N D

NA

Pg-193



The common stonechat is a small, squat passerine with a black head, back, wings and tail, and a white neckband, rump and wing markings. The breast and flanks are reddish-brown, becoming lighter towards the belly. The female has less eye-catching plumage, having brown upperparts with black bands, and the underparts are a more diffuse chestnut colour, and it has a white wing band.

It can frequently be seen in open, clear areas, such as marshes, high moorland, cropland with bushes, hedgerows, etc. Outside the breeding season, it is to be found in more varied habitats, including marshy areas. It is not a gregarious species, and so it can be seen in pairs or, at most, in small family groups.

Often seen on perches, in bushes, bulrushes or clumps of vegetation, it has an upright posture, frequently shaking its wings and tail. It flies from one perch to another, hardly rising above the ground.

The diet of the stonechat is almost exclusively small invertebrates, such as insects, earthworms and spiders, which it captures on the ground. It will occasionally resort to eating grain.

The nesting season is from March to mid-August. The nest is made on or close to the ground, protected among the vegetation, and is constructed with grasses, hair, moss, etc.

The species is very abundant as a breeder in the province. During the wintering season, a large contingent of birds arrives from the north. It is well distributed throughout the province, showing a preference for open ground.

NORTHERN WHEATEAR

Oenanthe oenanthe

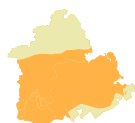
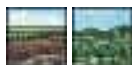
ES: Collalba gris **FR:** Traquet motteux **DE:** Steinschmätzer

L: 14 - 15 cm **Wi:** 25 - 30 cm. **We:** 15 - 30 g.

E F M A M J J A S O N D

NA

Pg-194



The northern wheatear is mainly a terrestrial bird, and its plumage is generally greyish-blue. Both sexes have a white rump and auriculars, black wings and ochre underparts. In winter, the plumage of the auriculars and the wings is browner, making the female more similar to the male during this period.

Swift in the air, it frequently flies at low altitude, perching on rocks or other vantage points. A lively, restless bird, it spasmodically moves its wings and tail when it is on these perches.

It is found in open, clear terrain such as steppes, high moorland, meadows, scrub, uncultivated land and dunes, etc. As befits its terrestrial habits, the northern wheatear moves on land like a fish in water, adopting an upright position when still, and walking and running very quickly across the ground.

In autumn, before beginning the journey back to its winter quarters, this singular bird can be seen in pairs or small family groups.

Its diet is based mainly on insects and their larvae, though it will also eat molluscs, spiders, centipedes and snails. It will resort quite frequently to seeds.

The northern wheatear is numerous as a migratory species in the province, mainly in the post-nuptial passage, in areas with low bushy vegetation or on open ground. The prenuptial passage takes place between March and late May and the postnuptial, between late July and the first week of November. It can be seen in any part of the territory, except dense woodland, preferring open ground.

BLACK-EARED WHEATEAR

Oenanthe hispanica

ES: Collalba rubia **FR:** Traquet oreillard **DE:** Mittelmeer-Steinschmätzer

L: 13 - 15 cm **Wi:** 25 - 30 cm. **We:** 15 - 25 g.

E F M A M J J A S O N D



Pg-194



The black-eared wheatear has generally pale plumage, though the wings, centre and wingtips are black. The forehead is white and the upperparts are reddish-ochre, while the rump, underparts and uppertail coverts are a creamy white.

It has two plumage phases, one in which the throat is a cream colour and the sides are black, and a second phase with the throat and sides, black. The upperparts of the female are reddish-brown, the eye bands and cheek bands are a darker brown, with a light supercilium and dark brown wings.

Its preferred habitat is dry fields with low vegetation, clearings in forests, broken land with little or no vegetation, hillsides with vineyards or almond orchards, etc. In general, it is found in areas with very varied dry scrub.

A fairly active bird, it patrols the terrain seeking food, perching on fences, stones, clumps of vegetation, etc., flying low from one perch to another. It also perches in trees.

The nesting season is from April to June, and it builds a nest of roots, dry grasses and hair, located in a gap under a stone, in a cavity in a wall or in a hole in a bank.

It feeds mainly on insects and spiders, sometimes also eating small molluscs. To complement its insectivorous diet, it also eats grain, such as seeds and the berries of wild plants.

As a breeding species, it is abundant in the centre of the province, while as a migrant, the black-eared wheatear can be found in large numbers on both passages. It can be seen in almost all of the territory, except in areas of dense woodland.

BLACK WHEATEAR

Oenanthe leucura

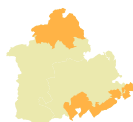
ES: Collalba negra **FR:** Traquet rieur **DE:** Trauersteinschmätzer

L: 17 - 19 cm **Wi:** 30- 35 cm. **We:** 35 - 45 g.

E F M A M J J A S O N D



Pg-194



A very dark bird, the male has glossy black plumage and the rump and the base of the tail are white. The female is generally browner in colour. In flight, the tail has a characteristic pattern in the form of black-on-white inverted "T". The beak and legs are also black.

The black wheatear is a rock-dwelling bird that is found on rocky escarpments, crags, cliffs, etc., without vegetation, where it moves around among the rocks and perches on high vantage points.

Its diet is based on insects such as ants and beetles that it finds among the rocks. It is fairly unsociable, escaping rapidly uphill when approached.

During the breeding season, the male performs a dance before the female, shaking and opening its wings and tail, showing its white markings, singing as it flies up into the air and then descending gently with its wings open, to land close to the female.

It nests in cavities in rock faces or buildings, the nest consisting of a bowl of twigs and leaves lined with feathers. It has the habit of placing small stones underneath and in front of the nest. Almost all nests have stones next to them and the number is very variable, from just 3 or 4 to several hundred. The small cavities or hollows are completely covered by the nest and the stones. It lays 2 to 6 blueish, mottled eggs, and can lay two clutches a year.

A scarce, sedentary bird, it can be found in some parts of the Sierra Norte and the Sierra Sur mountains. Some of the interesting spots to find it are the canyons of the River Viar and Cerro del Hierro in the Sierra Norte and Peñón de Zaframagón in the Sierra Sur.

RUFIOUS-TAILED ROCK THRUSH

Monticola saxatilis

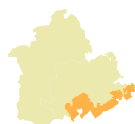
ES: Roquero rojo FR: Monticole de roche DE: Steinrötel

L: 19 - 20 cm Wi: 30 - 35 cm. We: 50 - 65 g.

E F M A M J J A S O N D

VU

Pg-195



A bird of unmistakable appearance, the rufous-tailed rock thrush has an orange breast, belly and tail, dark wings and a greyish-blue back and head. It has a white patch on the lower back separating it from the rump. The tail of the females is similar to the males, but with brown plumage, the feathers having white tips and a vermiculated appearance. The juveniles are similar to the females.

A rock-dwelling bird, it prefers a habitat such as crags, rock faces, cliffs and other rock formations, provided that they have few trees and abundant low scrub and grassland where they can find sufficient food.

It can often be seen hopping along on the ground or perching on top of a rock, though it will sometimes perch on a branch. An evasive bird, it is also curious, and flies away when approached, but usually returns for a second inspection.

The diet of the rufous-tailed rock thrush consists of all types of insect, including beetles, grasshoppers, butterflies and caterpillars, though it will also sometimes eat fruit and berries.

It nests in cavities in rock faces. The female builds the nest with grasses and roots, lined with thinner grasses. It lays one or two clutches of 4 or 5 pale blue eggs each year.

A rare summer bird, it is only seen sporadically in some parts of the Sierra Sur mountains.

BLUE ROCK THRUSH

Monticola solitarius

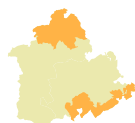
ES: Roquero solitario FR: Monticole bleu DE: Blaumerle

L: 20 - 23 cm Wi: 35 - 40 cm. We: 50 - 80 g.

E F M A M J J A S O N D

NA

Pg-195



The plumage of the male blue rock thrush is very characteristic, with a dark blue colour over all of its body except the tail and wings, which are blackish-brown. The long, strong beak, eyes and legs are black. The female has a brown back and lighter, mottled underparts. From afar, it can be confused with a blackbird, but it is smaller and more stylised, and has a longer tail.

The typical habitat is rocky or stony terrain, quarries and rock faces, generally with plenty of sun and close to woodland. It sometimes inhabits abandoned buildings.

A very unsociable species, it is difficult to observe for more than a few seconds before it flies away to hide. If it does not see us, it is possible to see it immobile waiting to ambush its prey. It is easier to discover by listening for its song, as it always chooses a high vantage point. It tends to return to the same perch, on a rock or a root emerging from a rock face.

Its basic diet is insects and sometimes small reptiles. In autumn and winter, it supplements this with fruit and berries.

The nest is made in a hollow or crevice in a wall, of twigs and leaves, lined with thin twigs. The female incubates the clutch of 4 or 5 pale blue eggs with red flecks.

In the province of Seville, it is a resident species but it is scarce and can be found in the more rugged and steeper parts of the Sierra Norte and Sierra Sur.

RING OUZEL

Turdus torquatus

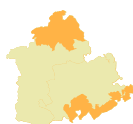
ES: Mirlo capiblanco **FR:** Merle à plastron **DE:** Ringdrossel

L: 23 - 24 cm **Wi:** 38 - 42 cm. **We:** 95 - 135 g.

E F M A M J J A S O N D



Pg-195



Very similar to its relative, the common blackbird, with which it shares its black plumage, it is differentiated by its characteristic white crescent on the breast, contrasting with the rest of the plumage. It has black legs and eyes, and a yellow, black-tipped beak. The female has a generally browner colour and the crescent on the breast is a dark cream colour.

As a breeding species, it inhabits conifer forests in high mountain areas. However, during the migratory passages, when it can be seen in our area of study, it occupies scrubland, mainly in areas with strawberry trees, junipers, hawthorns and others with fleshy fruit that allows it to regain its strength after migration.

A much more unsociable species than its relative, the common blackbird, it is difficult to approach, so it is normally seen in flight and, with luck, it may be seen perched on a rock, from which it quickly disappears when watched.

Its diet is varied, and consists almost exclusively of invertebrates in summer. In autumn and winter, it changes its eating habits, basing its diet mainly on fruit and berries.

Reproducing only in some areas in the north of the Iberian Peninsula, it does not breed in our area of study. The nest is built on the ground, in a low bush or in rocky crags, and consists of a hemispherical bowl of leaves, twigs and mud. The clutch consists of 3 to 6 blueish eggs with brown flecks.

A scarce bird, it is seen regularly on migratory passage and can be found in some parts of the Sierra Norte and the Sierra Sur mountains.

COMMON BLACKBIRD

Turdus merula

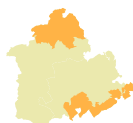
ES: Mirlo común **FR:** Merle noir **DE:** Amsel

L: 23 - 25 cm **Wi:** 35 - 40 cm. **We:** 80 - 100 g.

E F M A M J J A S O N D



Pg-195



The plumage of the common blackbird is glossy black all over, with the yellow beak and eye-ringing standing out sharply. It has a long tail. The colouring of the female is brownish, and the yellow beak is more discreet. It has a small white patch on the throat.

The common blackbird can easily be found in anthropised habitats, mainly parks and gardens. However, it is also typical of forests and very varied shrubland, being seen in riverside undergrowth, pine groves and areas of dehesa pastureland. During migration, it can be seen in the marshes and other open habitats.

Very skilful in the air, it can also often be seen on the ground, and it can flit quickly in and out of the tree canopy, for which its long tail is fundamental for manoeuvrability. It is not a very gregarious species, though during migration it can form small groups and, after the breeding period, it can be seen in small family groups.

The breeding season is from March to August, with several cycles. It builds a deep bowl-shaped nest with grass, leaves and mud in a tree, bush or on piles of wood, in buildings, etc. Each clutch consists of 2 to 6 blueish eggs with reddish-brown mottling.

During the breeding season and when feeding its chicks, the basic diet of the common blackbird is fleshy fruit, seeds and berries, while in winter, it eats a greater proportion of earthworms, different insects and snails.

The common blackbird is a very abundant sedentary species in the province, and is also a migrant and wintering species. It is distributed throughout the province, including towns and cities.

SONG THRUSH

Turdus philomelos

ES: Zorzal común **FR:** Grive musicienne **DE:** Singdrossel

L: 21 - 23 cm **Wi:** 33 - 36 cm. **We:** 65 - 85 g.

E F M A M J J A S O N D

NA

Pg-196



The song thrush has a brown back from the crown to the tail. The upperparts, chin and breast are studded with dark spots which stand out against a whitish background, which tends towards a cream colour on the breast. The legs are flesh coloured and the beak is dark. The sexes look alike.

Its preferred habitat for breeding is riverside undergrowth and gardens, holm oak groves or areas of shrubland, while in winter it can be seen in olive groves, on cultivated land and meadows with nearby tree cover.

The song thrush frequently spends time on the ground, where it dashes about quickly, stopping frequently. In winter, it is very gregarious and gathers with others of its species in a communal roost. During the migration period, it travels by night and rests and feeds by day.

The nesting period is from March to August, and it builds its nest mainly in trees and bushes, though it will sometimes do so on the ground, among the scrub. The nest is made with grass, twigs, moss and dry leaves. It can lay two or three clutches each year.

Its preferred diet is earthworms and snails, breaking their shells by hammering them against a stone. It will also eat larvae, fruit and wild seeds.

In the study zone, the song thrush is a very common migrating and wintering species, though its populations have fallen sharply over the last decade, due mainly to hunting. Distributed throughout the province, it is easiest to see in olive groves, dehesa pastureland and areas of low scrub.

REDWING

Turdus iliacus

ES: Zorzal alirrojo **FR:** Grive mauvis **DE:** Rotdrossel

L: 19 - 23 cm **Wi:** 33 - 35 cm. **We:** 55 - 70 g.

E F M A M J J A S O N D

NA

Pg-196



The smallest of the thrushes, it has brownish plumage on the back and the belly is white with dark patches. The flanks and underwing are an intense reddish colour, which distinguishes it in flight from other thrushes. It has reddish legs and a yellowish, dark-tipped beak.

The greatest densities seen in winter are to be found in the olive groves of the province, and it is also abundant in dehesa pastureland, conifer woods, scrub and meadows. It usually moves in large groups in the winter, often accompanied by other thrushes.

It arrives in our territory in winter from its breeding grounds in the north of Europe.

It varies its diet depending on the season, and so in spring and summer, it will mainly feed on insects and other invertebrates, while in winter, it eats grain and fruit, including berries, olives, wild olives, fruit and seeds.

The redwing does not breed in Spain. In its breeding grounds, it makes its cup-shaped nest in a bush or low clump of vegetation, with twigs, leaves and grass, strengthened with mud. Each clutch consists of 4 or 5 blueish-green eggs.

Much less common than the song thrush, it can be seen on its migratory passage and when wintering, mainly in olive groves and dehesa pastureland.

MISTLE THRUSH

Turdus viscivorus

ES: Zorzal charlo **FR:** Grive draine **DE:** Misteldrossel

L: 26 - 27 cm **Wi:** 42 - 48 cm. **We:** 110 - 140 g.

E F M A M J J A S O N D



Pg-196



The upperparts of the adult mistle thrush are a very greyish brown colour, and the underparts are light, with dark mottling. The rump is slightly reddish-brown, the wings have a light grey border and the tail is brown. The legs are light brown and the tip of the beak is lighter than the base.

This thrush can be found in open woodland with clearings and low vegetation -mainly in the pine groves on the edge of the marshes-, and in urban gardens and parks.

The mistle thrush is an unsociable species and is suspicious of man. In winter it is gregarious, and will sometimes group together with other thrushes to form flocks of considerable size. It has a characteristic style of flight, with a straight trajectory, closing its wings intermittently. When it lands on the ground, it stands in a very upright posture.

Nesting from March to July in pine groves which are marsh ecotones, it builds a deep, bowl-shaped nest of grass, dry leaves, twigs, moss and mud, attaching it firmly to a fork in the branches of a tree or bush.

Its diet is molluscs, earthworms and insects, though it also feeds extensively on wild fruit and berries.

It is a scarce breeding species in the province, with probably no more than 50 - 100 pairs, and neither is it common as a migrating or wintering species, as its population does not see any significant increase in winter. However, the influx of wintering individuals occurs in October and November.

CETTI'S WARBLER

Cettia cetti

ES: Ceta ruiseñor **FR:** Bouscarle de Cettir **DE:** Seidensänger

L: 13 - 14 cm **Wi:** 15- 19 cm. **We:** 10 - 20 g.

E F M A M J J A S O N D



Pg-197



Cetti's warbler, also known in Spain as the bastard nightingale, is a small brown warbler with a rounded tail that almost always remains hidden among the vegetation. Its back has uniformly dark reddish-brown tones and the wings are of the same colour, with a reddish-chestnut border. The supercilium and underparts are whitish, and the tail is rounded, with 10 rectrices. The two sexes are identical. It has a characteristic song.

Typically inhabiting riverside areas, gallery forests, undergrowth, marshes and wetlands with abundant plant cover, it can also be found in areas of scrub, cropland and, in general, any habitat close to water.

Being an unsociable, evasive bird, it is difficult to see, as it is always hidden among tangled vegetation, and so all that will betray its presence is its singular, characteristic song. It moves quickly and with great agility among the vegetation, flying and hopping from branch to branch, sometimes close to the ground. On the ground or on its perch, it constantly wags its tail up and down.

The basic diet of Cetti's warbler is insects, larvae and maggots, which it finds on the ground or among the vegetation, though it will also eat wild seeds.

As a sedentary species, its population suffers severely during excessively harsh winters, dropping significantly in number in some years.

A very abundant breeding species throughout the province, its numbers increase during the wintering season. It gathers in roosts and groups of up to a hundred individuals. It can be found in the province close to any kind of wetland with abundant marsh vegetation, and is very common in the Guadalquivir Valley.

ZITTING CISTICOLA

Cisticola juncidis

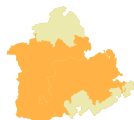
ES: Cisticola buitrón **FR:** Cisticole des joncs **DE:** Zistensänger

L: 10 - 11 cm **Wi:** 12 - 15 cm. **We:** 10 - 12 g.

E F M A M J J A S O N D

NA

Pg-197



The zitting cisticola is a very small member of the Sylviidae family, with barred brown plumage and an unmistakable song, a short, rounded tail that allows it to fly in its characteristic undulating style. The two sexes are identical.

The plumage of the upperparts and the sides has a reddish tone profusely streaked with brown and black. The belly is dirty white, with a reddish tinge, and the rump is a uniform red colour.

Inhabiting arid zones and wetlands with marsh vegetation, plains with coarse grass, grassy fertile plains and marshes, it can be seen in the province in tall, dense grassland, irrigation channels with vegetation, reedbeds and sometimes in ditches with abundant vegetation.

It generally flies high, undulating markedly, with an appearance of insecurity. A sedentary bird, it is seriously affected by harsh winters, which significantly reduce its population. When necessary, it will travel to find new feeding grounds. It nests among the vegetation, suspending the deep, sac-shaped nest from stalks using smaller stalks and leaves, and lining it with finer materials (down, etc.).

A very common breeder, it has a long breeding period which lasts from February to September. When the spring is very rainy, the number of breeding pairs increases spectacularly, as it takes advantage of the dense grasslands and the abundance of invertebrates brought by the heavy rain. In winter, it forms small roosts and groups in the watercourses of the marshes.

SAVI'S WARBLER

Locustella luscinioides

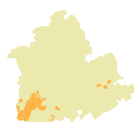
ES: Buscarla unicolor **FR:** Locustelle luscinioides **DE:** Rohrschwirl

L: 13 - 15 cm **Wi:** 18 - 21 cm. **We:** 12 - 15 g.

E F M A M J J A S O N D

NA

Pg-198



Savi's warbler is a fair-sized member of the Sylviidae family, similar to the European reed warbler, although it can be clearly differentiated by its song. The dorsal plumage is a uniform reddish-brown, sometimes with an olive tinge, and without bars. The underparts have creamy-white plumage and the flanks are chestnut-brown. The tail is wide and graduated. The two sexes are similar in appearance.

A bird with very active habits, it runs tirelessly among the vegetation, though it is not so elusive as other warblers. During the mating season, it usually sings in the open from a perch in a reedbed.

It can be found in wet zones, such as reedbeds, rainwater pools, swampy ground and other areas with marshland vegetation. During the migration period, it can be seen in drier areas, further from the water.

The main diet of Savi's warbler is insects and their larvae, beetles, butterflies and dragonflies, as well as spiders and small earthworms.

The breeding period is from April until July. Both the male and the female build the nest, which consists of a compact bowl of interwoven leaves, twigs and stalks, lined with finer leaves and fibres. It is located among the marshland vegetation, well hidden in a thick tangle of dead reeds and sedge, attached to the stalks, low above the water.

It can be found in some of the wet areas of the province: the wet parts of Doñana, Brazo del Este, Veta la Palma, Marismas de Tierras Bajas, Dehesa de Abajo and the endorheic basins.

SEDGE WARBLER

Acrocephalus schoenobaenus

ES: Carricerin comun **FR:** Phragmite des joncs **DE:** Schilfrohsänger

L: 13 - 14 cm **Wi:** 17- 21 cm. **We:** 10 - 17 g.

E F M A M J J J A S O N D



Pg-197



The sedge warbler is a small, robust, inquisitive bird, and is the commonest and most widespread member of the Sylviidae family.

The colouring on its back has heavily barred dark brown tones. The plumage on the belly is yellowish-white, and it has a light supercilium. The two sexes are identical.

Its song is a vigorous jumble of mixed hoarse, harsh notes. It is a good mimic, and will frequently insert the notes and song of other birds in its hectic mishmash, singing from within a tangle of bushes, from an open perch or during a short flight.

This species does not show any special preference for reedbeds, and can be found in any thicket, provided there is abundant herbaceous and/or bushy vegetation close to riverbanks or bodies of water.

The nest is built low among the reeds, but not necessarily close to water, and at times among other plants, such as nettles or bushes bordering pools and on the margins of other wet areas. Built by the female with the long dry leaves of reeds, grass, small roots and almost always some moss in the base, it is lined on the inside with hair and catkins of the willow tree (*Salix*) and sometimes with feathers. The clutch may be laid from the last days of May, consisting of 4 - 7 yellowish eggs with green or yellowish-brown flecks.

Mainly an insectivorous species, its diet includes mosquitoes, crane flies and other flies, as well as beetles, spiders, caterpillars, aphids and small dragonflies.

It is not abundant in the province as a migrating species, and during the migrating season, during both migratory passages, it can mainly be seen in the marshy areas of Doñana.

EUROPEAN REED WARBLER

Acrocephalus scirpaceus

ES: Carricero comun **FR:** Rousserolle effarvatte **DE:** Teichrohsänger

L: 12 - 14 cm **Wi:** 18 - 21 cm. **We:** 11 - 15 g.

E F M A M J J J A S O N D



Pg-198



This warbler has no streaks on its back, but has uniform brown tones and is whiter in the throat, breast, belly and underwing areas. It has a lighter supercilium and a thin beak which is slightly longer than that of the common chiffchaff.

It is found close to water, normally in reedbeds and other typical marshland plant formations, where it moves very skilfully among the stalks. It can occasionally be found in areas without water.

An elusive and not a very sociable bird, it does not allow itself to be seen easily. In certain areas, there may be significant numbers of nests, and it is only seen on short flights, constantly spreading and closing its tail.

The diet of the European reed warbler is mainly insects, basically mosquitoes, aphids, caterpillars and moths, though it will on occasions also feed on fruit and seeds.

The nesting season is from May to August, and the nest is built among vertical plant stalks, with several points of support to attach it. It is particularly fond of nettles. The female, probably without the aid of the male, constructs a very deep, cylindrical, open-topped nest with dry grass, firmly attached to the stalks and dry inflorescence of the reeds, tying them on with hair or the strands of a spider's web.

A very abundant breeding species in the province, its numbers increase significantly during the migratory passages. It can be found in Doñana and nearby areas where it is very numerous, in endorheic basins and, in general, any body of water with abundant marshland vegetation.

GREAT REED WARBLER

Acrocephalus arundinaceus

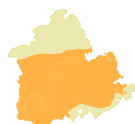
ES: Carricero tordal **FR:** Rousserolle turdoïde **DE:** Drosselrohrsänger

L: 18 - 20 cm **Wi:** 25 - 27 cm. **We:** 25 - 35 g.

E F M A M J J A S O N D

NA

Pg-198



Larger than the warblers described above, the great reed warbler is characterised by its uniform reddish-brown plumage on the back, a light supercilium and a dark brown beak. The sexes are identical.

It can be found in marshy areas, mainly marshland pools, lagoons, riverbanks, waterlogged and other wet zones. It is relatively easy to see on marshland, delimiting its territory with its characteristic song, and usually flying low over the area among the vegetation.

The great reed warbler has one of the most characteristic songs in the wetlands. Nesting almost in colonies in reedbeds, it hangs the bowl of the nest from three or four reeds in a territory which the males defend noisily. The nest is hung from the reeds using materials which have previously been wetted so that they will stick and harden on drying.

The solid structure of the nest is firmly attached to the reeds, and can withstand the continuous pounding of the wind.

Its diet is typically insectivorous, though it does not spurn tadpoles, small fish and even seeds.

An abundant breeding species in the province, its population is increased during the migration period. It can be found in Doñana and nearby areas where it is very numerous, in endorheic basins and, in general, on any body of water with abundant marshland vegetation.

DARTFORD WARBLER

Sylvia undata

ES: Curruca rabilarja **FR:** Fauvette pitchou **DE:** Provencegrasmücke

L: 12 - 13 cm **Wi:** 13 - 19 cm. **We:** 10- 15 g.

E F M A M J J A S O N D

NA

Pg-199



This is a small warbler with a characteristically long tail which it usually holds upright when perched. Its plumage is dark on the back and wine-coloured on the belly. The crown and cheeks are slate grey, and it can bristle its crown feathers. It has small white spots on the throat, especially the male. The plumage of the female is more uniform.

Restless in nature, it usually spends most of its time among the scrub. Its habitat, therefore, is thick, frequently thorny scrub, mainly heather, gorse, rock rose, common juniper, Spanish juniper and holm oak groves in shrubland and among cistus. In autumn, its habitat extends to the marshes and cropland.

Not a very sociable bird, it belligerently defends its territory during the breeding season, singing from high in a bush or in flight. It is difficult to see, as it usually remains hidden among the bushes, being seen only on its short flights from bush to bush, skimming the ground. Its basic diet is insects, molluscs, spiders, etc. In the autumn and winter, it will also eat seeds and wild berries.

Breeding from April to July, it makes its nest close to the ground in scrub, generally among gorse, rock rose, heather, etc., using small roots, grass and spider's webs. It can lay two and sometimes three clutches.

It is an abundant breeding species in the province, especially in shrubland. A small number of migrating individuals of the species arrive from other zones, and the migratory passages are generally between March and October. It is found mainly in shrubland areas of the Sierra Norte and the Sierra Sur, and the forest area of Doñana.

SUBALPINE WARBLER

Sylvia cantillans

ES: Curruca carrasqueña FR: Fauvette passerinette DE: Weissbartgrasmücke

L: 12 - 13 cm Wi: 13- 18 cm. We: 9 - 12 g.

E F M A M J J A S O N D



Pg-199



A small warbler, it is similar to the Dartford warbler, but with a short tail and more vivid colours. The underparts are slate grey, with a white moustachial and reddish underparts. It has a red eye-ring and light legs. The female is similar, but with lighter colouring, brown upperparts and pink underparts.

Its habitat is generally thick scrub and shrubland, as well as dehesa pastureland and pine groves, provided that there is abundant undergrowth.

A very active, restless bird, it is evasive, making it difficult to locate, as it passes most of the time hidden in dense scrub.

The basic diet of the subalpine warbler is adult insects and their larvae, especially grasshoppers, butterflies, ants and spiders. In summer and autumn, it will complement its diet with fruit and seeds.

During the breeding season, the males fly in a bat-like manner from one high perch or vantage point to another, in a curved trajectory, singing continuously at all times. Both sexes build the nest in bushes or small trees, almost always close to the ground. The nest is bowl-shaped and is made of twigs and leaves lined with hair and feathers on the inside. The clutch consists of 3 to 5 pink eggs mottled with green flecks.

Although it is considered to be one of the commonest warblers in the Iberian Peninsula, it is not very abundant in the province of Seville. It is a summer bird which can be found in areas of shrubland in the Sierra Norte and Sierra Sur mountains.

SARDINIAN WARBLER

Sylvia melanocephala

ES: Curruca cabecinegra FR: Fauvette mélanocéphale DE: Samtkopf-Grasmücke

L: 13 - 14 cm Wi: 15 - 18 cm. We: 10 - 14 g.

E F M A M J J A S O N D



Pg-199



The Sardinian warbler is a small passerine with very characteristic plumage. It has a peculiar black bonnet on the crown and cheeks, on which the red eye wattle stands out. The chin and throat are white and the underparts are light grey, becoming darker towards the flanks. The upperparts are dark grey, the tail is black with white outer rectrices, the beak is dark and the legs, pink. The female has brown plumage and does not have a black head.

The preferred habitat of the Sardinian warbler is areas of thorny scrubland, mastic, gorse, Kermes oak groves, etc., although it can also be seen in woods and gardens. In flight, it is generally restless, flitting nervously among the bushes, sometimes perching on the top.

When moving between bushes, it will characteristically fan out its tail. It does not fly excessively, and only this over short distances. A sedentary species, it does not move far from its breeding areas.

Its diet is basically insects and some molluscs. In the autumn, it will mainly feed on wild and cultivated fruit, especially those of the mastic and wild olive trees.

The nesting season is from March to June, and it usually builds its nest in clumps of vegetation or dense bushes, using grass, spider's web, fluff and other materials.

The Sardinian warbler is a very abundant breeding species in most of the areas of woodland and bushes in the province. During the wintering and migration seasons, there is a significant influx of individuals from other areas.

WESTERN ORPHEAN WARBLER

Sylvia hortensis

ES: Curruca mirlona **FR:** Fauvette orphée **DE:** Orpheusgrasmücke

L: 14 - 15 cm **Wi:** 20 - 25 cm. **We:** 20 - 23 g.

E F M A M J J A S O N D

NA

Pg-200



This is the largest warbler found on the Iberian Peninsula. Its upperparts are dark grey, the head is black with a white throat, the tail is black with white outer rectrices and the underparts are whitish with pink flanks. The eye has a light yellow iris, the legs are black and it has a strong, dark beak. The female has a dark grey head.

The song of the western orphean warbler can sometimes be similar to that of the common blackbird. It is a very active, evasive species which moves continuously between the scrub and the crown of the trees, making it difficult to watch.

The preferred habitat of the species is areas with not very dense tree cover and dense scrub undergrowth. It can be found on dehesa pastureland, among pine trees and Spanish juniper, in gallery forests, olive groves and other tree crops.

Its basic diet includes all types of invertebrate, such as insects, spiders, butterflies, grasshoppers, snails, etc. It complements this diet with fruit and berries.

The two sexes build a cup-shaped nest close to the ground, using leaves and twigs, lined on the inside with moss and thin grass. The clutch consists of 3 to 7 white or light blue eggs with more or less intense mottling.

It is a summer breeder which can be found in the appropriate habitats in the Sierra Norte and Sierra Sur. Around the Doñana area, it is quite numerous and can be found breeding among mastic trees.

COMMON WHITETHROAT

Sylvia communis

ES: Curruca zarcera **FR:** Fauvette grisette **DE:** Dorngrasmücke

L: 13 - 14 cm **Wi:** 19 - 23 cm. **We:** 12 - 18 g.

E F M A M J J A S O N D

NA

Pg-200



The same size as the blackcap, the common whitethroat is characterised by its white throat, grey hood and reddish-brown edges on the wings, which are seen in both sexes.

Frequently found in loose riverside undergrowth and on the borders and clearings of woodland with profuse undergrowth, it can also be seen in open countryside with scattered scrub. Very occasionally, it will be seen in parks and gardens.

Though it is not a very gregarious bird, it can be found in the province during the migratory passage, in pairs or in small family groups.

Adopting an upright posture when perched, it usually bristles up the feathers of its hood. It flies short distances close to the ground, with the spasmodic movements characteristic of warblers, keeping its tail up when in the undergrowth.

A migratory species, it generally travels during the night, stopping to rest and feed during the day.

Its main diet is insects and their larvae, as well as spiders. In autumn, it mainly eats wild fruit and grain.

The whitethroat is a common migrant species in the province during both migratory passages, but is scarce as a breeder. It can be found in adequate habitats in the Sierra Norte and Sierra Sur, the forest area of Doñana and in some gallery forests.

GARDEN WARBLER

Sylvia borin

ES: Curruca mosquitera FR: Fauvette des jardins DE: Gartengrasmücke

L: 13 - 14 cm Wi: 20 - 24 cm. We: 16 - 23 g.

E F M A M J J A S O N D



Pg-201



This small, squat warbler has uniform olive-brown plumage in the upperparts, while the underparts are a whitish-ochre tone. The short, strong beak is brown and the legs are brownish-grey. There is no sexual dimorphism.

It is found mainly in wooded areas with undergrowth, on riversides with plant cover, scattered scrubland, hedges, orchards and similar biotopes, such as gardens with abundant vegetation. Outside the breeding season, it can be seen in more diverse habitats.

The garden warbler is a fairly elusive, wary bird, and it is not usually easy to see, spending most of the day among thick vegetation, which it does not usually leave.

Feeding mainly on insects and some maggots, during the autumn, it will also resort to many different types of wild or cultivated fleshy fruit, especially the fruit of *Phillyrea angustifolia*, smilax and the mastic tree, and will often seek out figs and cherries.

There have been citations of the bird as a breeding species in the province of Seville, though there is no evidence of this today. The males begin to build several nests of which the female chooses and finishes one. The nest is in a bowl shape made with twigs and leaves lined with feathers on the inside. The clutch consists of 2 to 6 greenish eggs with dark flecks.

It is a very common migrant in the province, with the prenuptial passage being from March until late May, and the postnuptial passage in August to November. It can be found in the habitats described in the Sierra Norte and Sierra Sur mountains, and in the forest area of Doñana.

BLACKCAP

Sylvia atricapilla

ES: Curruca capirotada FR: Fauvette à tête noire DE: Mönchsgrasmücke

L: 13 - 14 cm Wi: 20 - 23 cm. We: 15 - 20 g.

E F M A M J J A S O N D



Pg-200



A very characteristic warbler, the male has the black cap which gives it its name, and which in the female is reddish-brown. It does not extend beyond the eyes. A small bird, the underparts are whitish and the flank is olive-grey.

The blackcap is very active and restless, but not as elusive as other warblers. It can be found in the branches of trees and shrubs on riverbanks, and does not usually land on the ground. It flies indirectly for short distances between bushes and on longer distances its flight is undulating.

The habitat of the blackcap is wooded areas with undergrowth and riverbanks with abundant scrub, and it can also be found in parks, fruit orchards and a great variety of different types of terrain. It is not a gregarious species and outside the breeding season, it will only gather in small family groups. In winter, it is widely distributed, with a preference for olive groves and mastic trees. The number of wintering birds in the area varies from year to year, depending on the availability of food, though it has been confirmed that during this season, a large part of its diet is based on the olives cultivated in the province.

Its basic diet is insects, spiders, maggots, small molluscs, seeds and small fruit, as well as the olives mentioned above.

The female builds a light nest of dry grass, moss, small roots, hair and fluff, usually in fieldbrier, ivy, bushes and other thick vegetation.

An abundant wintering and migrating bird in the province, in summer it is a scarce breeder. It can be found in wooded areas with scrub anywhere in the province, especially, as mentioned previously, in olive groves.

COMMON CHIFFCHAFF

Phylloscopus collybita

ES: Mosquitero común FR: Pouillot véloce DE: Zilpzalp

L: 10 - 11 cm Wi: 15 - 21 cm. We: 8 - 10 g.

E F M A M J J A S O N D

NA

Pg-201



A small passerine, it is almost identical in appearance to the willow warbler, from which it can be differentiated by its rather darker tones. The adult has greenish olive-brown upperparts, the supercilium is not very conspicuous and the wings and tail are brown, with olive-edged feathers. The underparts are whitish-ochre, with a slight lemon-yellow tinge. The two sexes are identical.

Its habitat is well-developed undergrowth and scrub, as well as riverbank trees with abundant undergrowth. Most of the time, it can be found among the branches, flying short distances to hawk for small insects and to move from bush to bush.

It is easy to distinguish the common chiffchaff from the willow warbler by its shorter, gentler song, which is less fluid and melodious than the willow warbler.

Not a sociable bird, it is usually seen alone, in pairs or, at most, in threes. The species is not accustomed to intense cold, and the population usually suffers significant depletion when the winters are too harsh.

Its diet is based almost exclusively on insects, though in autumn it can also feed on small fruits and berries from the undergrowth.

The common chiffchaff is an extremely abundant migrating and wintering species in the province, and can be found throughout our area in many habitats, and can even be seen in the parks and gardens of our towns.

WILLOW WARBLER

Phylloscopus trochilus

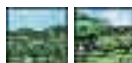
ES: Mosquitero musical FR: Pouillot fitis DE: Fitis

L: 11 - 12 cm Wi: 17 - 22 cm. We: 7 - 11 g.

E F M A M J J A S O N D

NA

Pg-201



This passerine is the same size and almost identical in appearance to the common chiffchaff, but it can be differentiated by its lighter tones and the legs, which are almost always light in colour. The adult has greenish olive-brown plumage on its upperparts and the rump is yellow. The supercilium is not very conspicuous and the wings and tail are brown and yellow on the underside, the feathers having olive-coloured borders. The underparts are whitish-ochre, with a lemon-yellow tone. The two sexes are identical.

Its habitat is well-developed undergrowth and scrub, and riverside wooded areas with abundant undergrowth. Most of the time, it can be found among the branches of the undergrowth, flying short distances to hawk for small insects and to move from bush to bush. The willow warbler can easily be identified by its song, which is different from that of the common chiffchaff, as it is more fluid, melodious, gentler and more musical.

Not a sociable bird, it is normally found alone, in pairs or, at most, in threes. The willow warbler is not accustomed to intense cold, and so the winter population falls sharply when winters are too harsh.

Its diet is based almost exclusively on insects and spiders, though in autumn it will also feed on small fruit and berries from the undergrowth. It makes a dome-shaped nest with leaves, grass and moss, placed close to the ground in the bushes. The clutch consists of 3 to 9 white eggs with brown flecks.

The willow warbler is a very numerous migrant in the province, and in both migratory passages can be found in the same locations as the common chiffchaff.

FIRECREST

Regulus ignicapilla

ES: Reyezuelo listado FR: Roitelet triple-bandeau DE: Sommergoldhähnchen

L: 9 - 10 cm Wi: 13- 16 cm. We: 5 - 6 g.

E F M A M J J A S O N D

NA

Pg-202



The firecrest is the smallest bird found in Spain. It has a thin black line from the beak to the ear and the adult male has a golden orangeish-yellow crown, which is yellow in the female, bordered by a black bar as far as the supercilium, which is white.

The back is green, the wings are brown with white bars and the breast is a very pale greenish colour. The upperparts are greenish-yellow, contrasting with the underparts, which are a light grey-brown. The beak is black and the legs are brown. Juveniles have duller colours and the bars are not very marked.

This tiny bird can be found in any kind of woodland, riverbank undergrowth and even in parks and gardens. In winter, it is more widely spread among the woods and undergrowth, and even horticultural plots, mixing with other species such as warblers, tits and other passerines of a similar size.

It is a very active species, with nervous behaviour. Although it is in constant movement, it is easy to watch from a short distance. It owes its name to the eye-catching crest which it raises and displays during the courtship ritual.

The diet of the firecrest is fundamentally spiders and any other type of insect, which it hunts on the wing among the branches and leaves of trees and bushes.

It is an abundant migrating and wintering bird in the province, but is scarce as a breeder. Its distribution in the province of Seville is restricted to the Sierra Norte and Sierra Sur, and to a lesser extent in the forested area of Doñana.

SPOTTED FLYCATCHER

Muscicapa striata

ES: Papamoscas gris FR: Gobe-mouche gris DE: Grauschnäpper

L: 13 - 14 cm Wi: 23 - 25 cm. We: 15 - 18 g.

E F M A M J J A S O N D

NA

Pg-202



This is a small passerine with greyish-brown plumage on its back and white on the underparts. The adult does not have patches, but has a dark stripes on the head and breast, while juveniles have dark flecks on the breast. The two sexes are identical.

It has an upright posture and is very accommodating, being found in parks and gardens, in clearings and on the edges of wooded land and in olive groves. It often perches on walls, the lower branches of trees, telephone lines, etc., from where it launches into flight to catch any passing prey, hawking it with great skill and proficiency, before returning to its perch.

This is not a gregarious species, and so it will normally be seen alone or in small groups during migration. When it is on its perch, it moves its wings and tail constantly, and very rarely lands on the ground.

Both sexes build an untidy cup-shaped nest with moss, grass, fluff, fibres, small roots, etc., in riverside undergrowth, in clearings and on the borders of low-density woodland, fruit orchards, dehesa pastureland and climbing plants. The nest is normally constructed close to the trunk of a tree or in its hollows, or in the old nests of other birds, close to the ground.

It feeds almost exclusively on insects on the wing, mainly flies, crane flies, Hymenoptera and butterflies, as well as earthworms and it will also eat berries, though less frequently.

Scarce as a breeding bird in the province, it is more abundant as a migrant, and can be seen during both migratory passages. It can be found in both the Sierra Norte and the Sierra Sur, in the forest area of Doñana as well as in riverside undergrowth and olive groves.

PIED FLYCATCHER

Ficedula hypoleuca

ES: Papamoscas cerrojillo FR: Gobemouche noir DE: Trauerschnäpper

L: 12 - 13 cm Wi: 21 - 24 cm. We: 13 - 15 g.

E F M A M J J A S O N D

NA

Pg-202



The upperparts of the male of this flycatcher are glossy black in colour, except for the forehead, which is white, and the rump, which is a blackish grey-brown colour. The throat is white and the wings are black with white at the base, and the tail is black, bordered with white on the sides. The beak and legs are black. The upperparts of the adult female are an olive-brown colour, and the underparts become lighter towards the belly. The wing patches are less vivid than those of the male. This marked dimorphism is accentuated during the courtship period.

The habitat of the pied flycatcher is wooded zones, preferably pine groves and areas of dehesada pastureland, and it can also be seen in riverside wooded zones and thick undergrowth, gardens, etc. During migration, it can be found in more varied locations.

When perching, it continually shakes its wings and wags its tail up and down, ready to pounce on its prey, which it captures and then makes a semicircular movement before perching again, very close to its starting point.

Although it is a solitary species, during migration it usually gathers in small groups, eating and resting during the day and travelling at night.

As its name suggests, its diet is based mainly on flies, but also mosquitoes, flying beetles, as well as some butterflies and moths, which it captures on the wing or from a perch, thanks to its great manoeuvrability in the air. It sometimes lands on the ground, resorting to hunting for earthworms and maggots.

It is a common migrant, and is abundant during the prenuptial and postnuptial migratory passages. It can be found in the wooded areas of the province, including olive groves and, sometimes, parks and gardens.

LONG-TAILED TIT

Aegithalos caudatus

ES: Mito común FR: Orite à longue queue DE: Schwanzmeise

L: 12 - 14 cm Wi: 16 - 19 cm. We: 8 - 10 g.

E F M A M J J A S O N D

NA

Pg-203



The long-tailed tit is a small tit with a distinctive long black and white tail –longer than its body– and pink, black and white plumage. The crown, throat, cheeks and underparts have a pinkish-white tone and it has a prominent black band from the eye to the back. The two sexes are identical.

An active, lively bird, it can be seen in small flocks making its characteristic call as it flies from tree to tree along the course of a river or stream. We can find it in gallery forests, areas with tree cover and woods of different types, etc., almost always in areas with thick undergrowth. Its flight is imprecise and undulating, with a rapid wingbeat over short distances. It does not usually land on the ground, preferring small trees.

A very gregarious species, it can be seen in small flocks and will gather with other members of the Paridae family. Curiously, the individuals which have not bred in the year sometimes help to feed the chicks of other long-tailed tits.

The nest is built in trees or riverside bushes, at variable height, often very high above the ground. The nest is a long, covered sac and is made with moss and bound together with spider's web and hair, lined with abundant feathers and covered in lichen on the outside. It feeds mainly on insects and spiders, as well as other invertebrates, such as aphids. Its diet also includes the buds of plants, berries, etc.

It is not a common breeding species in the province, breeding mainly in the areas of riverside vegetation and gallery forests. It can be found in wooded riverside areas in the Sierra Norte and Sierra Sur, the peripheral areas of Doñana and in some other gallery woods with thick undergrowth.

CRESTED TIT

Lophophanes cristatus

ES: Herrerillo capuchino FR: Mésange huppée DE: Haubenmeise

L: 10 - 12 cm Wi: 17- 20 cm. We: 10 - 13 g.

E F M A M J J A S O N D

NA

Pg-203



A small, unmistakable passerine with a prominent triangular black and grey crest on a white background which it continuously fans out, it has a white face and an arched band on the cheek and throat, and a black collar. The back, wings and tail are brown, while the belly and breast are a light cinnamon-grey colour.

A strictly forest-dwelling bird, it lives in mature forests, mainly pine and other conifers, but also cork, holm and other oak trees, Spanish juniper and, exceptionally, outside the breeding season, gallery forests and fruit orchards.

Though not a gregarious bird, in winter it can gather in small groups of a few individuals, sometimes mixed with other members of the Paridae family. A trusting bird, it is not disturbed by human presence.

It has a mixed diet of insects and seeds over the year, with insects and spiders being its staple. During the summer, it stores food, mainly seeds, in crevices in trees so that in the autumn and winter it can supplement its diet.

The crested tit nests in hollows or openings in trees, and both sexes prepare the nest, sometimes excavating holes and sometimes even using the abandoned nests of other members of the Picidae family. Inside, they build a cup-shaped nest of moss and spider's webs which they line with hair and feathers. The female usually lays two clutches of 3 to 9 white eggs with brown flecks.

A resident bird which is not very common, it can be found mainly in the pine groves of the Sierra Norte and, in much smaller numbers, in the Sierra Sur.

BLUE TIT

Cyanistes caeruleus

ES: Herrerillo común FR: Mésange bleue DE: Blaumeise

L: 11 - 12 cm Wi: 17 - 20 cm. We: 9 - 12 g.

E F M A M J J A S O N D

NA

Pg-203



The blue tit is a small member of the Paridae family with a blue hood, wings and tail. The plumage on the back is green, tending to a more yellowish colour on the rump. The cheeks and forehead are white, interrupted below by the black of the throat and by a collar from the throat around the nape. It also has a blackish bar from the eyes to the back of the head. The belly is sulphur yellow, the beak is dark and the legs, blueish-grey.

This tit can be found in wooded areas, parks and gardens with broadleaf and conifer trees, riverbank undergrowth, olive groves and almond and fruit orchards. In winter, its habitat extends to areas of low scrub and reedbeds.

A very active, restless bird, it is busiest in September, but during the summer it is quieter.

The nesting season is from March until June, when it breeds in hollows in trees, cavities in walls, etc. It builds the nest with different materials found in the countryside, such as grass, wool, spider's webs, feathers, moss, etc.

Its main food is small insects which it finds in the bark, hollows and on the branches of trees, such as aphids, caterpillars and flies. In the winter, it widens its diet to include seeds and wild fruit, such as blackberries, berries and figs.

As a breeding species, it is very abundant in the province, and is also common as a migrant and wintering bird. It can be found in any forested area, including tree crops and the parks and gardens of our towns.

GREAT TIT

Parus major

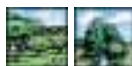
ES: Carbonero común **FR:** Mésange charbonnière **DE:** Kohlmeise

L: 13 - 14 cm **Wi:** 22 - 25 cm. **We:** 17 - 18 g.

E F M A M J J A S O N D

NA

Pg-204



The great tit is a small passerine with beautiful plumage, whose varied colours make it easy to recognise. The crown and throat are black, and the cheeks, white. It has a characteristic black line down the underside dividing it into two yellow halves. The back is greenish-brown and the feathers are blueish with light edges. It has a short, black beak and blueish-grey legs. There is no obvious sexual dimorphism.

An eminently forest-dwelling tit, it also adapts to other more anthropised habitats. It can, therefore, be found in such varied areas as Mediterranean forest, riverside undergrowth, shrubland areas with scattered trees, olive groves, fruit orchards, orange groves, gardens with broadleaf and conifer trees, etc. In winter, its habitat is even wider.

The great tit is very closely associated with wooded areas, where it performs spectacular acrobatics to capture its prey, constantly flying from one tree to another. It can often be seen on the ground, where it hops to move around.

It normally builds its nest in hollows in trees or crevices in walls, etc., often also using artificial nestboxes. It will mainly use any fine plant material to build its nest, such as moss, though it will also use feathers, hair, grass, etc. Its clutch normally consists of 6 to 8 eggs, though occasionally as many as 10 or 12.

The basic diet of the great tit is small invertebrates such as insects, caterpillars, aphids and similar prey, also feeding on buds, wild fruit and seeds.

It is an abundant breeding species in the province, with dispersal movements outside the breeding season. It can be found in any wooded part of the province, which does not necessarily need to be very extensive.

EURASIAN NUTHATCH

Sitta europaea

ES: Trepador azul **FR:** Sittelle torchepot **DE:** Kleiber

L: 12 - 15 cm **Wi:** 16 - 18 cm. **We:** 15 - 25 g.

E F M A M J J A S O N D

NA

Pg-204



An unmistakable bird, it continually moves along the trunks and branches of trees, clinging closely to them, even head down. It is a small bird, and its upperparts are greyish-blue, with a short tail of the same colour. The underparts are an orangeish-cream colour which is more intense in the male. It has a wide black eye band and a white throat. The large beak is dark grey, the eyes are black and the robust legs are light.

A typical forest-dwelling bird, it can be found in mature, mainly deciduous woods of oak, Portuguese oak, beech, as well as natural conifer woods. A restless, evasive bird, it spends its time moving over the trunks, clinging on with its strong feet, but without using its tail like the treecreepers.

Its basic diet is spiders and insects, especially caterpillars and beetles, which it finds on the trunks and branches of the trees. In winter, it complements its diet with seeds and fruit, being especially fond of hazelnuts and pine nuts. It will often store food in crevices in the bark for times of scarcity.

A very territorial species, it will not allow any other nuthatch into its territory, and when its chicks can fly, it will even expel them. It can only be seen in pairs during the breeding season. The nest is made in natural hollows in the tree trunk, though it will also use abandoned woodpecker nests and sometimes nestboxes. When the entrance is too wide, it will narrow it using mud, and it covers the interior with leaf litter and pine bark. It usually lays only one clutch, though sometimes there may be two. The clutch consists of 6 to 9 white eggs with reddish-brown flecks.

The species is resident in large numbers in our area of study, in the wooded zones of the Sierra Norte and occasionally, in much lower numbers, in the Sierra Sur.

SHORT-TOED TREECREEPER

Certhia brachydactyla

ES: Agateador europeo FR: Grimpereau des jardins DE: Gartenbaumläufer

L: 12 - 13 cm Wi: 18 - 21 cm. We: 8 - 10 g.

E F M A M J J J A S O N D

NA

Pg-204



A small bird with a long, thin, curved beak and very cryptic plumage, its back and shoulders have mottled brown tones speckled with lighter grey and cream colours. The belly is whitish and the wings are dark with a characteristic white strip. It has a brown head with dark eyes and a white supercilium. It has light-coloured legs, long claws and a robust appearance.

Associated with forests, it inhabits almost all types of woodland from mature and dense areas to low-density dehesa pastureland, as well as re-forested areas, gallery woods and even parks with abundant tree cover.

It spends the day clinging to the trunk of the tree seeking food, normally moving upwards in a spiral around the trunk from the ground. It almost always does so with the head upwards while supporting itself with the tail, which is adapted to this function, with a thickened rachis in the tail feathers and no barbs in the distal part.

The diet of the short-toed treecreeper is exclusively spiders, adult insects and their larvae, which it extracts from the bark of the tree with its long beak.

Its nesting areas are natural hollows in the trees, as well as in cavities in rocks, among the sticks of the nests of birds of prey and even in nestboxes. Inside, the nest is bowl-shaped and made with leaves and twigs, lined with hair and feathers. It is built by the female, though the male will sometimes cooperate. The clutch consists of 6 or 7 white eggs with reddish flecks.

An abundant, sedentary bird, it can be seen in the wooded areas of the province, mainly the Sierra Norte and Sierra Sur areas, and the forest area of Doñana.

PENDULINE TIT

Remiz pendulinus

ES: Pájaro moscón FR: Rémiz penduline DE: Beutelmeise

L: 10 - 11 cm Wi: 16 - 18 cm. We: 8 - 10 g.

E F M A M J J J A S O N D

NA

Pg-205



The penduline tit is a small passerine with vivid reddish upperparts, a greyish-white head and a spectacular black mask. The uppertail coverts are greyish-brown with yellowish borders, the underparts are chestnut and cream, and the beak is short and very sharp. The back and breast are lighter in the female.

A fairly discreet, inconspicuous bird, it mainly lives in the higher branches of trees and riverside vegetation. It usually goes unnoticed, though its call is very characteristic. Although it is not very gregarious, in winter it forms small groups which feed on the banks of rivers and streams, and can be seen in the undergrowth and other riverside vegetation, such as poplar, tamarisk and willow trees.

Nesting between April and June, it is very skilful building its nest, making it with unequalled ability, often in a fork in the branches of white poplar, willows or tamarisk trees. The nest consists basically of a deep, oval-shaped hanging sac with a fairly long tube-like entrance, in light colours. It uses animal and plant fibres, fluff, wool and spider's webs, etc., to construct the nest.

It feeds basically on small insects and spiders, though in winter it can also eat the seeds of wild plants.

Though it is not abundant in the province as a breeding species, it is very common as a wintering bird, and Seville hosts individuals from northern and central Europe. It can be found on most of the rivers and streams in the province which have sufficient tree cover on the banks, mainly in the Guadalquivir basin.

GOLDEN ORIOLE

Oriolus oriolus

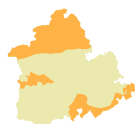
ES: Oropéndola europea **FR:** Loriot d'Europe **DE:** Pirol

L: 22 - 25 cm **Wi:** 32 - 35 cm. **We:** 60 - 75 g.

E F M A M J J A S O N D

NA

Pg-206



The male oriole is one of the most eye-catching birds to be found anywhere in Europe, with plumage which is practically all yellow, contrasting with the wings and the base and centre of the tail, which are yellow-green. It has some golden patches on the wings, and some primaries and secondaries are edged in white. The beak and eyes are crimson and the legs, dark grey. The plumage of the female is olive green with a whitish breast. The belly is greyish, with diffuse black striation, the rump is yellowish and the wings and tail, brown.

As it is a very evasive, discreet bird, it is easier to find by its song. It spends almost all of its time under cover of the trees, from where it sings. It will sometimes perch in the crown of a tree, in view, though this is rare.

It has a very characteristic undulating, rapid flight pattern, rising finally before perching. As it is not a very gregarious species, at most it can be seen in pairs or in small family groups at the end of the breeding season.

The nest is in the shape of a cup suspended from the fork of two horizontal branches, to which the edges of the nest are fixed. The nest is made of grass, bark and wool, which is then lined with finer grasses, plant strands and wool.

It feeds on beetles, caterpillars, spiders, butterflies and molluscs. In late summer, its basic diet is seeds and wild fruit, mainly cherries, figs and raspberries.

It is scarce as a breeding species in our area, and is found mainly next to rivers, streams and eucalyptus groves. It is more common during migratory passages.

WOODCHAT SHRIKE

Lanius senator

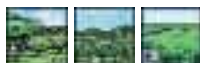
ES: Alcaudon común **FR:** Pie-grièche à tête rousse **DE:** Rotkopfwürger

L: 17 - 19 cm **Wi:** 25 - 30 cm. **We:** 25 - 40 g.

E F M A M J J A S O N D

NA

Pg-205



The shrike is a very typical Mediterranean passerine with a black forehead and conspicuous mask, and a reddish-brown crown and nape. The shoulders and rump, though, are white. The wings are black with a white band, and the tail is black with white borders. The short, slightly downward-curved beak is black, like the legs. The colouring of the female is duller. There is no marked sexual dimorphism.

The shrike can be found in olive groves, fruit orchards, holm oaks in dehesa pastureland and on scrubland. Not a sociable bird, it will perch on branches, fences and similar vantage points, provided that they are high above the ground, where they can await their prey, which they attract by imitating its song.

The nesting period is between April and June. The untidy nest is made in a tree or bush with grass, wool, hair, etc. Usually it lays one clutch per year, though occasionally there may be two.

Its diet consists basically of small birds, reptiles, micro-mammals (mainly rodents), chicks and some invertebrates. Like the southern grey shrike, it impales its prey on the thorns of bushes or barbed wire fences.

The woodchat shrike is a very common breeding bird in the province, and as a migrant, it can be seen from mid-February until late September. The adults leave their breeding grounds in mid-July to return to their winter quarters, and from that date, all of the individuals seen will be migrating juveniles. It can be seen mainly in the olive groves and dehesa pastureland of the province, but also in marshes, on cropland and in gallery woods.

SOUTHERN GREY SHRIKE

Lanius meridionalis

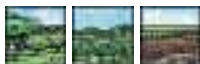
ES: Alcaudón real FR: Pie-grièche méridionale DE: Mittelmeer-Raubwürger

L: 22 - 26 cm Wi: 28 - 30 cm. We: 40 - 50 g.

E F M A M J J J A S O N D

NA

Pg-205



The southern grey shrike is the largest of the Iberian shrikes, and its plumage has three dominant colours: the grey of the rump, back, crown and some edges of the wing, the white of the underparts -where it has a pink tinge-, scapulars, wing patches and the outer edge of the tail, and the black of its conspicuous mask and most of the wings. The beak and legs are blackish, and there is no apparent sexual dimorphism.

The southern grey shrike can usually be located in dehesa pastureland and low density woods, in cultivated areas, riverbank undergrowth and even in horticultural and fruit-farming areas. In winter, it can be found in areas of scrub and on plains with scattered clumps of vegetation.

A fairly unsociable species, it can be seen for a large part of its time perched on telephone lines, high branches and posts, waiting to ambush its prey, in an upright posture and dipping its long tail up and down. Like other shrikes, it impales or skewers its excess prey on the thorns of bushes, building up a "larder".

The nesting period is from March to April, and it makes its untidy nest in trees or bushes using grass, feathers, fine roots and hair. It lays only one clutch each year.

Its diet is mainly micro-mammals, small birds and their chicks, small lizards and invertebrates.

The southern grey shrike is an abundant breeding species in the province, and also a common migrant. Sedentary individuals disperse outside the breeding season. Wintering birds begin to arrive from late August, and remain with us until early April. It can be found in any part of the province, mainly in olive groves and dehesa pastureland.

EURASIAN JAY

Garrulus glandarius

ES: Arrendajo euroasiático FR: Geai des chênes DE: Eichelhäher

L: 34 - 35 cm Wi: 52 - 58 cm. We: 150 - 190 g.

E F M A M J J J A S O N D

NA

Pg-206



A member of the crow family with an unmistakable appearance, its upperparts are greyish-brown, the head and nape are browner, it has a black moustachial and a white crown with black erectile stripes. The brown belly is lighter with a white anal area, black tail and white rump, and black wings with a striking blue or sky blue band with black bars. The sexes are identical and juveniles have less vivid colours.

A very noisy, evasive bird, it can be seen flying between trees with its characteristic unhurried style of flight. One of the curiosities of this bird is its fondness for "ant baths", for which it will perch on ants' nests and allow the ants to attack it and fill its feathers with formic acid, which is a powerful insecticide.

It lives in wooded areas, preferring conifer and deciduous forests, though it will also inhabit cork and holm oak groves.

An omnivorous bird, it has a very varied diet, depending on availability. In spring and summer, it feeds mainly on insects, small reptiles and birds, complementing this with fruit and seeds. In autumn and winter, it eats fruit and seeds, mainly acorns and chestnuts. It has a habit of burying acorns for times of scarcity.

Both sexes build the nest in a fork in the branches of a tree. The nest is large, bowl-shaped and made of twigs. The female lays a clutch of 4 to 8 greenish eggs.

It is resident in the province and, as it is a forest bird, it can mainly be seen in the wooded areas of the Sierra Norte and Sierra Sur mountains.

AZURE-WINGED MAGPIE

Cyanopica cyanus

ES: Rabilargo ibérico FR: Pie-bleue à calotte noire DE: Azurelster

L: 34 - 35 cm Wi: 38 - 40 cm. We: 70 - 75 g.

E F M A M J J A S O N D

NA

Pg-206



The silhouette of the azure-winged magpie is similar to that of the common magpie, though it can be easily distinguished by its characteristic plumage with intense black, blue and grey tones. The head, nape and cheeks are black, and the back and underparts are greyish, the latter being slightly lighter. The wings are blue, with black borders, and it has a long, stepped, wedge-shaped, pale blueish-grey tail. The throat is white and the beak and legs are black. There is no noticeable sexual dimorphism.

Its habitat is in olive and holm oak groves, pine and Spanish juniper woods, as well as riverside undergrowth, wooded areas and, occasionally, fruit orchards. It can also be found in parks and gardens.

The azure-winged magpie is a very noisy, gregarious bird, and can frequently be seen in small flocks flying through the woods. Several hundred can gather in its roosts. It can equally be seen on the ground, in trees or on embankments. Occasionally, it can be seen perching on livestock, especially sheep or cattle.

A colonial breeder, it nests from April to July. The nest is made in trees and sometimes bushes, with twigs, lichen, moss, animal hair, wool, etc.

Like the common magpie, it is omnivorous and its diet consists of large quantities of insects, mainly beetles, fruit, grass, stalks and seeds, also feeding on carrion and human food waste.

It is a very numerous breeding species in our area, usually establishing its breeding colonies in pine groves, and it is very numerous in some parts of the Sierra Norte, the pine groves of Aznalcázar-La Puebla del Río and Villamanrique de la Condesa, as well as in holm oak groves and other wooded areas.

COMMON MAGPIE

Pica pica

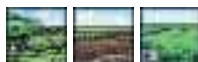
ES: Urraca común FR: Pie bavarde DE: Elster

L: 45 - 47 cm Wi: 55 - 60 cm. We: 180 - 250 g.

E F M A M J J A S O N D

NA

Pg-207



The common magpie is one of the most easily identifiable birds, characterised by its intense black and white plumage with metallic iridescence -black being the dominant colour- and by its large wedge-shaped tail. The underparts, from the breast backwards, are white, the rump has a whitish-grey band and the rest of its plumage is black. The beak and legs are black and there is no sexual dimorphism.

It is easily found in open areas with scattered trees or tall scrub, uncultivated land, in the parks and gardens of towns, etc. The common magpie is a very active, restless, sociable bird. Highly adaptable, it has taken advantage of the anthropisation of the landscape. It will store away surplus food, as well as shiny objects or anything which attracts its attention.

Although it perches on trees, it spends more time on the ground, where it moves around by hopping. It is not gregarious, except at the end of winter and beginning of spring, when we can see flocks of up to a hundred individuals.

It nests between March and June in very varied locations, such as hedges, in clumps of broom or even on electricity pylons, using fibres, small roots, hair and similar materials to make its nest.

The common magpie is omnivorous, eating from maggots, molluscs and other small invertebrates to carrion, fruit, tubers, eggs and small animals.

An abundant resident bird, it can be seen in the western half of the province of Seville, but is absent or very scarce in the eastern half.

RED-BILLED CHOUGH

Pyrrhonorax pyrrhonorax

ES: Chova piquirroja FR: Crave à bec rouge DE: Alpenkrähe

L: 37 - 41 cm Wi: 68 - 80 cm. We: 280 - 360 g.

E F M A M J J A S O N D

DD

Pg-207



A medium-sized member of the crow family, the red-billed chough is characterised by its long, curved, red beak. Its legs are also red. Its plumage is similar to that of other members of its family, being black with metallic blue and green iridescence. The two sexes are identical, and juveniles have similar plumage but with a yellowish-brown beak.

Associated with rocky habitats in mountainous areas, it inhabits rocky crags, cliffs, riverbanks and sometimes abandoned buildings. A gregarious bird, it gathers in noisy flocks, flying powerfully and acrobatically over the crags.

Its diet is insects and other invertebrates which it captures both on the wing and on the ground, feeding mainly on beetles, grasshoppers, spiders, earthworms, butterflies and other insects. In winter, with the lack of insects, it complements its diet with seeds and fruit.

In the breeding season, it has a courtship ritual which consists of acrobatic flight and exhibitions. After the courtship, the pair seeks an appropriate place for the nest, which could be a crevice, a small opening in a rock wall or even in buildings. It nests alone, though in some areas, due to the lack of space, it sometimes forms breeding colonies. The nest is a jumble of sticks and leaves, in which the female lays 3 to 5 cream-coloured eggs.

A sedentary bird, it is scarce in the province and can be found in certain spots of the Sierra Norte and Sierra Sur mountains.

The main threat to the species is habitat destruction due to the expansion of crop farming and the disappearance of extensive livestock farming.

WESTERN JACKDAW

Corvus monedula

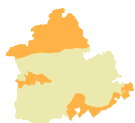
ES: Grájilla occidental FR: Choucas des tours DE: Dohle

L: 32 - 35 cm Wi: 65 - 75 cm. We: 220 - 280 g.

E F M A M J J A S O N D

NA

Pg-207



The jackdaw is a small member of the crow family, with matte black plumage and a grey nape. The belly is dark grey and the cheeks, ash coloured. The jet-black beak is quite short in comparison with other members of its family, and the eyes are grey. There is no sexual dimorphism.

The jackdaw can be found in rural areas, and is seen in towns and small cities, ruins, buildings, on cliffs and even in parks.

A markedly gregarious bird, the jackdaw can be found in noisy groups of thousands of individuals, though it can also be seen in small groups or even alone. It usually mixes with other species, such as the starling, crow or lapwing, with which it feeds on meadows and cropland.

With a very varied diet, it feeds both on fruit and seeds and on invertebrates, and will even eat the eggs and chicks of other species, as well as carrion.

It breeds from April to June, nesting in any type of hollow (in trees, rocky outcrops, cliffs, embankments, bridges, ruined buildings or churches), sometimes using large nests made by other species. The nest is made of twigs, sticks and animal hair.

In the province, the jackdaw is abundant as a breeder, with approximately 3,000 pairs. It can be found in areas of Doñana, the Guadalquivir Valley, the Sierra Sur, some parts of the Sierra Norte and is increasingly common in our towns and cities.

COMMON RAVEN

Corvus corax

ES: Cuervo grande **FR:** Grand Corbeau **DE:** Kollkrabe

L: 54 - 87 cm **Wi:** 115 - 140 cm. **We:** 800 - 1500 g.

E F M A M J J A S O N D

DD

Pg-208



The raven, with its completely black plumage, is the largest member of the crow family in the Iberian Peninsula. Its glossy black plumage with blueish, green and purple iridescence and the hackles on the throat make it easy to identify. The beak is thick, strong and curved, the legs are also black, and the tail is wedge-shaped. There is no sexual dimorphism.

The species can be found in very variable habitats, including wooded areas, low scrub and low density woodland, as well as marshes, pastureland, quarries, etc.

Although it is a sedentary bird, it can travel considerable distances to feed. It spends almost all of its time on the ground, walking with a slight bobbing forward and backward movement. It flies powerfully, in straight lines, with a slow wingbeat.

It is omnivorous, feeding mainly on insects, molluscs, small invertebrates, micro-mammals, the chicks and eggs of other birds and fruit, as well as carrion and some plants. It can frequently be seen at landfills.

The nesting period is from February to April, and its large nest is made in trees, mainly in stone pine woods, rocky crags, quarries, on the cornices of buildings or in crevices, using earth, moss, hair and wool.

In the area of study, the raven is scarce as a breeding species, but there seems to be an upward trend in its population. It can be found in any part of the territory, perhaps more in the cultivated countryside of Seville.

SPOTLESS STARLING

Sturnus unicolor

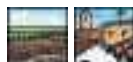
ES: Estornino negro **FR:** Étourneau unicolore **DE:** Einfarbstär

L: 20 - 22 cm **Wi:** 35 - 42 cm. **We:** 70 - 90 g.

E F M A M J J A S O N D

NA

Pg-208



The spotless starling is a small, uniformly black bird with green or purple iridescence. The pointed beak is yellow in colour, the tail is short and the wings, pointed. In winter, the plumage is slightly mottled, though much less so than the common starling. The black plumage of the female is less glossy.

This species is fairly closely associated with human settlements, as well as isolated buildings and constructions. It can also frequently be found in low-density woodland, cropland, gardens, pastureland, etc. Outside the breeding season, it gathers in larger flocks which sweep the fields in search of food.

Its flight is very straight and fast, alternately gliding and flying with a rapid wingbeat. It often perches on top of buildings and, less frequently, on trees, from where it sings and whistles in the spring.

The spotless starling feeds mainly on the ground, with a basic diet of insects, molluscs, maggots and any seeds and fruit it finds. Active in the daytime, it gathers at night in communal roosts in reedbeds, holm oak groves, buildings and in towns, in tall buildings, where the individuals from the entire area will gather.

It breeds from April to July, nesting in low-density colonies in buildings, holes, rooftops, cliffs and, occasionally, hollows in trees.

The spotless starling is an extremely common species in the province of Seville, forming mixed roosts with the common starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*), with tens of thousands of individuals. It can be found in any part of our area, mainly on cropland and in towns and cities.

COMMON STARLING

Sturnus vulgaris

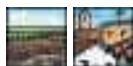
ES: Estornino pinto FR: Étourneau sansonnet DE: Star

L: 21 - 22 cm Wi: 37 - 42 cm. We: 75 - 90 g.

E F M A M J J A S O N D

NA

Pg-208



The common starling has very shiny, completely black plumage with white-tipped lanceolate feathers. The remiges and tail do not have the white patches, and all of the plumage has metallic purple and greenish iridescence. The beak is yellow (greyish-brown in autumn). The plumage of the female is duller and the white patches are larger.

The common starling can be found in the urban areas of towns and cities and in the countryside. It also shows a preference for cultivated areas, though it will also appear on uncultivated land and even areas without tree cover. In winter, it frequents cropland, stubble and olive groves.

Its flight is very fast, straight and determined, and it is very lively in its movements. On the ground, it moves very actively, walking easily in search of food. In the winter, it is extraordinarily gregarious, with many thousands of individuals gathering in a single roost, mixing with the spotless starling.

Its diet is very varied, feeding on insects and maggots during the breeding season, and all types of berries, fruit and seeds in autumn and winter.

Migrating individuals who arrive in the province in winter come from central and northern Europe, and they form immense flocks, mixing with spotless starlings. However, the population is falling with respect to the 1970s.

The common starling is an extremely numerous wintering bird in the province, with around 100,000 individuals. It can be found in large flocks in our towns, olive groves and on cropland.

HOUSE SPARROW

Passer domesticus

ES: Gorrión común FR: Moineau domestique DE: Haussperling

L: 14 - 15 cm Wi: 21 - 25 cm. We: 19 - 25 g.

E F M A M J J A S O N D

NA

Pg-209



The house sparrow is a small passerine with brown plumage. There is marked sexual dimorphism, as the crown, forehead and part of the nape are grey in the male, it has a conspicuous black bib and the upper head is reddish-chestnut in colour. The back is greyer than in the female and has a dark bars, white cheeks and whitish underparts. The female has a more uniform brown back, with a light beak and throat.

The house sparrow prefers an anthropised habitat, and so it is always associated with human settlements, isolated buildings, parks and gardens with nearby cropland and pastureland. The species is fairly gregarious, grouping together outside the breeding season in large flocks which fly over the fields, towns and cropland seeking food, also gathering to rest in communal roosts, which may be in reedbeds, holm oak groves, tall buildings, etc.

It is direct in flight, with a rapid wingbeat and an undulating trajectory. It often perches in trees, bushes, on cornices, etc., and adapts easily to changes of habitat and food in towns and cities.

Breeding from April to June, it builds a nest with straw, grass, fibres and other materials. Its preferred nesting site is on rooftops, in crevices in walls, old lampposts and trees, sometimes taking advantage of abandoned house martin nests. Its basic diet is insects, molluscs and maggots, though it will also feed on seeds, fruit and berries.

A very common bird in the province, it is possible that the house sparrow travels outside the breeding season. It can be found in any part of the area of study, being denser in towns, cities and nearby cropland.

SPANISH SPARROW

Passer hispaniolensis

ES: Gorrión moruno **FR:** Moineau espagnol **DE:** Weidensperling

L: 13 - 14 cm **Wi:** 20 - 22 cm. **We:** 19 - 25 g.

E F M A M J J A S O N D

NA

Pg-209



This passerine has a chestnut crown and a black throat and breast covering a proportionally larger area than in the house sparrow. The back is brown, with dark brown, almost black, stripes. The wings are brown with small wing bands and reddish-chestnut edges, while the tail is brown with greyish edges. It has white cheeks which extend down the neck like a very narrow collar, and a blackish eyestripe. The abdomen is whitish. The female has brown tones with dark spots and, together with the juveniles, it is very similar to the house sparrow, from which it is difficult to distinguish.

Unlike the house sparrow, the Spanish sparrow is less associated with human settlements, and can be found in wooded zones, undergrowth, gallery forests and dehesa pastureland, especially in autumn and winter, though it is also often seen in urban parks.

The flight and posture of the Spanish sparrow are similar to those of the house sparrow. It is a gregarious bird, and can form very large flocks which gather in a fixed roost.

It forms breeding colonies between April and June around the large nests of storks and even of birds of prey. It makes its nest in cavities in walls, on posts and in trees. The ball-shaped nest is large in comparison with its size, and is made of grass, straw and feathers which are used to line it. It may lay two or three clutches of eggs each year.

A granivorous species, in many places, where the number of individuals is over 1,000, it can become a pest in the eyes of farmers, who destroy its nests and scare away the flocks. During the breeding season, it also feeds on insects.

A very abundant bird in the forested areas of the province, its population has increased spectacularly in recent years, with between 3,000 and 4,000 pairs recorded.

EURASIAN TREE SPARROW

Passer montanus

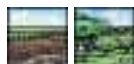
ES: Gorrión molinero **FR:** Moineau friquet **DE:** Feldsperling

L: 13 - 14 cm **Wi:** 20 - 22 cm. **We:** 20 - 25 g.

E F M A M J J A S O N D

NA

Pg-209



The Eurasian tree sparrow is very similar to the house sparrow, but with a conspicuous chocolate-chestnut coloured hood, white cheeks with a black patch and a black bib which is much smaller than that of the house sparrow. It has a yellowish-brown back, with black striations on part of the back and the scapulars, while the upper part and the rump have no striations. The two sexes are identical.

A more rustic bird than the house sparrow, it is more at home in the countryside, less trusting and more mobile. In the province, it can be found in shrubland habitats with scattered trees, riverbank undergrowth, dehesa pastureland and other forested areas with clearings, and is particularly numerous in pine and cork oak groves.

Gregarious in its habits, it gathers in communal roosts and breeding colonies where the pairs are fairly close to each other, generally in wooded areas, thick undergrowth, reedbeds and even in buildings. In winter, it is more widely distributed, and is also found in open areas, at times forming mixed flocks with the Spanish sparrow and the house sparrow.

It will also form flocks which fly over the land in search of food, which is basically wild seeds, though it will not spurn cereal grain and even insects.

The nesting period is from April to August, and it makes its nest with twigs, straw, etc., in hollows in trees, on rocky crags, in the walls of buildings, etc. Sometimes it will also take advantage of the empty nests of the woodpecker or sand martin, as well as artificial nestboxes.

A very common bird in the forest area of Doñana and the north of the province, it is less abundant in the Sierra Sur.

COMMON CHAFFINCH

Fringilla coelebs

ES: Pinzón vulgar FR: Pinson des arbres DE: Buchfink

L: 14 - 16 cm Wi: 25 - 28 cm. We: 20 - 25 g.

E F M A M J J A S O N D



Pg-210



This beautiful bird has characteristic white patches on its shoulders, wings and tail. The head and neck are a blueish-grey colour, except the forehead, which is black. The breast, throat and cheeks are pink, and the back is chestnut. The beak is brown during practically all of the year, except spring and summer, when it turns blueish. The legs are a light brown colour. The female has yellowish-brown upperparts, contrasting with the underparts, which are lighter. Like the male, the female has white strips on the wings and the sides of the tail. There is, therefore, considerable sexual dimorphism.

This chaffinch can be found in broadleaf woods, pine, cork oak and holm oak groves, as well as in riverbank undergrowth. It can also be seen in gardens, horticultural plots, among stubble and on uncultivated land, etc.

It is a fairly gregarious bird, except during the breeding season, forming small flocks in the autumn and winter.

The nesting season is between April and July, building its nest in the fork of tree branches, in the undergrowth or a tall bush, using moss, wool and small roots held together with spider's webs, etc. It can lay two clutches of eggs a year.

Its diet is based mainly on seeds and grain, though it will also eat insects and maggots.

An abundant breeding species in the province, it is to be found mainly in pine groves. Also very common as a wintering bird, it arrives here from northern lands, such as Scandinavia, the Netherlands and Poland, and is also common as a migrant. It can be found in the wooded areas of the province, the Sierra Norte, Sierra Sur and the forest area of Doñana.

EUROPEAN SERIN

Serinus serinus

ES: Serin verdeillo FR: Serin cini DE: Grlitz

L: 10 - 12 cm Wi: 18 - 20 cm. We: 10 - 15 g.

E F M A M J J A S O N D



Pg-210



The European serin is a small, yellowish member of the finch family with greenish plumage and blackish-brown mottling. The breast, throat and part of the face are yellow, the belly is whitish and the flanks are streaked. The tail has a slight fork, and it has a short, fat, thick beak. The female has greyish-green tones, and has more streaks on the back and breast, and only has yellow colouring on the face, though it is less profuse than in the male.

The serin can be found in fruit orchards, cultivated areas with scattered trees, the edges of forested areas, riverbank undergrowth, parks and gardens etc. It flies rapidly, with a rapid wingbeat and an undulating trajectory. During the nuptial period, though, its flight is slower and more unhurried. The serin is a fairly gregarious species which breeds almost in colonies, and in autumn and winter, it gathers in large flocks, together with other finches, to seek food on cropland or uncultivated land.

Basically, it is granivorous, feeding on all types of seeds and the fruit of annual plants, trees and bushes, etc. However, it will also occasionally capture vertebrates, especially when feeding its chicks.

Breeding from March to June, it constructs a nest with grass, spider's webs and lichen in a narrow fork in the branches of a tree or bush. In late December, we can begin to hear its song, though the breeding season does not generally begin until January or February. The breeding season lasts until mid-June. It can lay up to 3 clutches of eggs a year.

The serin can be found in low-density wooded areas throughout the province. It is an abundant breeding, migrating and wintering species, and so it can be found here throughout the year. The prenuptial passage takes place in March and April, and the postnuptial in October and November.

EUROPEAN GREENFINCH

Chloris chloris

ES: Verderón común **FR:** Verdier d'Europe **DE:** Grünfink

L: 14 - 15 cm **Wi:** 25 - 27 cm. **We:** 25 - 30 g.

E F M A M J J A S O N D

NA

Pg-210



The European greenfinch is a squat bird with a short, strong, light flesh-coloured beak. The adult male is characterised by the olive-green colour of its upperparts and the light greenish-yellow of its underparts, turning yellow around the belly. The rump, wing patches and sides of the tail are also yellow. The legs are pink and the eyes, black. There is sexual dimorphism, as the adult female is duller, with less yellow, and with browner upperparts, while its underparts are greyish.

It can frequently be seen in wooded areas of all types, bushes, riverbank woods and among the undergrowth. It can also be found in cropland close to towns, and in public gardens and parks.

The European greenfinch is a gregarious bird, and will breed quite close to other pairs. Its flight is undulating, typical of the finch family. A partial migrant, it gathers during the migration period in small flocks.

The nesting season is between March and August, and it usually builds its nest in a bush or small tree, close to the trunk or in the fork of two branches, using dry grass, moss, hair, feathers and similar materials. It lays two clutches a year and, very occasionally, a third.

Its basic diet consists of seeds and fruit, though in spring it will complement the diet of its chicks with insects.

The European greenfinch is very abundant throughout the province, and its numbers rise spectacularly during the migration and wintering period. Migrating and wintering birds arrive between September and November, and they leave in March and April. It can be seen mainly in low-density wooded areas.

EUROPEAN GOLDFINCH

Carduelis carduelis

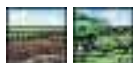
ES: Jilguero europeo **FR:** Chardonneret élégant **DE:** Stieglitz

L: 12 - 14 cm **Wi:** 20 - 25 cm. **We:** 15 - 17 g.

E F M A M J J A S O N D

NA

Pg-211



The European goldfinch has very varied plumage, with brown, cream, red, black and yellow tones. The back and upper nape are brown, the head is red, black and white, the wings are black with a wide yellow band, the rump and belly are white and the tail is black. The two sexes are identical.

In the breeding season, it can be found in wooded habitats, such as undergrowth, gardens, wooded fields and fruit orchards. In autumn and winter, however, it prefers open zones, such as cropland, uncultivated land, roadsides and pathways.

Undulating in flight, it alternates wing beats with closed wings, and does not rise very high. The European goldfinch is a gregarious bird, and can be found throughout the year in small and mixed flocks.

It is granivorous, and specialises in extracting the seeds of thistles and many other plants. It also feeds on the buds of flowers and wall-rocket seeds. To reach the seeds, it perches directly on the plant and selects those which have still not ripened. During the breeding season, it also captures insects to feed its chicks.

It usually makes its nest in trees, and sometimes in tall bushes, almost always at the end of branches without many leaves. The neat, cup-shaped nest is made of moss, grass, small roots and lichen, which it then lines with wool and fluff. It can raise two or three broods per year.

The European goldfinch is an abundant sedentary species in this territory, as well as a migrating and wintering bird. Its breeding population is very high, and so it can be seen throughout the province. The postnuptial migration takes place from October to December, and the pre-nuptial in March and April.

EURASIAN SISKIN

Carduelis spinus

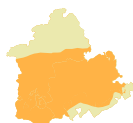
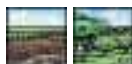
ES: Jilguero lúgano **FR:** Tarin des aulnes **DE:** Erlenzeisig

L: 10 - 11 cm **Wi:** 18 - 20 cm. **We:** 8 - 10 g.

E F M A M J J A S O N D

NA

Pg-211



The Eurasian siskin is a finch with yellowish-green, dark-streaked plumage on its back and flanks, a yellow rump and a black hood, bib and front of the crown. The female has no black colouring on the head and has browner and greener plumage. In general, it has duller colouring.

Its flight is typical of finches, that is, undulating and quite agile. A very active bird, its movements are lively as it flits from branch to branch in the vegetation, hardly keeping still.

The siskin visits us during the winter, from October to April, from the more northerly climes where it breeds. It can be found in the province on cropland, fallow land, high moorland and wooded areas, mainly alder and eucalyptus groves. It can also be seen in riverside undergrowth.

It is a noisy, easily noticeable species. In winter, it is very gregarious and forms flocks that fly over the countryside and woods in the company of other species, such as other finches, linnets, etc. It flies and travels at low altitude, continually calling.

Its main diet is made up of the seeds of trees and other plant material, as well as grain. During the breeding season, it will also capture insects.

It is a very common bird in the province, especially in harsh winters with extreme weather or when there is little food in its northern quarters. Depending on the weather conditions, there may be fluctuations in the number of wintering individuals, as it is partial to cold temperatures.

COMMON LINNET

Carduelis cannabina

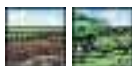
ES: Pardillo común **FR:** Linotte mélodieuse **DE:** Bluthänfling

L: 13- 14 cm **Wi:** 21 - 25 cm. **We:** 15 - 25 g.

E F M A M J J A S O N D

NA

Pg-211



The linnet is a small finch with brown plumage on its back, with very faint blackish striation, the forked tail and wings are blackish-brown with white edges. The male has a greyish head with red patches on the forehead and breast. The female has very obvious dark striations on the back, head, breast and flanks, but has no reddish tones.

The linnet can be found in forests and shrubland, scrub, riverbank undergrowth, open areas with tall annual vegetation, hedges and parks. A very active bird, it can often be seen perched on clumps of vegetation and bushes of medium height.

It has a characteristic undulating flight and, in autumn, will frequently gather in flocks, making a great commotion coming and going to its roost in the trees. It is, then, a fairly gregarious bird which will gather together to breed, though not very densely. The breeding season is very early, and we can hear the males singing from the month of December.

Nesting from April to June, it builds the nest in any kind of bush or undergrowth, even among annual plants. The cup-shaped nest is made of dry grass, straw and moss, and then lined with hair.

The diet of the linnet is mainly seeds, though it will not spurn small invertebrates in the breeding season.

In the province, the common linnet is not very abundant as a breeding species, though its population has risen in recent decades, and there has been an increase in the number of pairs. It can be found in all parts of the province with scattered woodland, such as dehesa pastureland, olive groves, fruit orchards, etc.

COMMON CROSSBILL

Loxia curvirostra

ES: Piquituerto común **FR:** Bec-croisé des sapins **DE:** Fichtenkreuzschnabel

L: 15 - 17 cm **Wi:** 27 - 30 cm. **We:** 35 - 40 g.

E F M A M J J A S O N D

NA

Pg-212



An unmistakable bird due to its highly specialised beak, whose curved tips cross over to make a perfect tool for extracting the pine nuts on which feeds. The male has reddish colouring with dark brown wings and tail. The female has greenish wings and a lighter brown tail.

The crossbill is associated with natural or managed conifer woods. It spends its time on the highest and the outer branches of pine and fir trees seeking pine nuts, which are its staple diet and which it opens with the aid of its strong beak. It can adopt acrobatic postures, even hanging by the beak, in order to reach the cones.

As mentioned above, its diet is based on pine nuts, mainly those of the different pine species, which it complements with other nuts and fruit, and even insects and spiders.

The breeding season of this species is a very long, and it can reproduce throughout the year, depending on the availability of food, though it normally begins in February.

The nest is usually very high up in the fork of a tree, and is small and cup-shaped, made of pine needles, bark, moss and grass, and then lined on the inside with fur and feathers. The clutch consists of 3 or 4 blueish eggs with black flecks.

It is a resident bird whose distribution in Andalusia is limited to the eastern half, including all of the Baetic mountains and ranges, and then lined on the inside with fur and feathers. The clutch consists of 3 or 4 blueish eggs with black flecks.

EURASIAN BULLFINCH

Pyrrhula pyrrhula

ES: Camachuelo común **FR:** Bouvreuil pivoine **DE:** Gimpel

L: 14 - 18 cm **Wi:** 22 - 26 cm. **We:** 20 - 27 g.

E F M A M J J A S O N D

NA

Pg-212



The Eurasian bullfinch is unmistakable, especially the male, with its eye-catching red colouring on the breast and cheek, which in the female is a duller light brown colour. Both sexes have a black hood which reaches the beak, which is also black. It has a grey back, the tail and wings are black and the rump, white.

A forest bird, it inhabits deciduous and conifer forests, preferably close to a water course. It can also be found in scattered woodland and especially, in spring, in fruit orchards, especially peach, cherry, apple and plum orchards.

It is rare to find this species alone, and it will normally be seen in small family groups of 4 to 20 individuals. It flies short distances between trees, continually calling to maintain contact with the group. When it travels greater distances, it flies in a straight line, but with continuous undulations.

Its diet is based on the seeds of fleshy fruit and nuts, complementing this in summer with insects and in winter with the buds of fruit trees.

It normally lays two clutches, but in years with ideal conditions, it may lay three. Although it is a forest bird, it normally makes its nest in bushes. The bowl-shaped nest is made by the female using thin twigs, moss and lichen, lining the inside with fur and roots. The clutch consists of 4 to 6 white or pale blue eggs with dark spots at one end.

It is a scarce winter bird that can be found in some parts of the Sierra Norte and sporadically in the Sierra Sur mountains.

CIRL BUNTING

ES: Escribano soteño FR: Bruant zizi DE: Zaunammer

L: 15 - 19 cm Wi: 30 - 35 cm. We: 30 - 40 g.

E F M A M J J A S O N D



Pg-213

Emberiza cirrus



A medium-sized bunting, it has greenish tones on the head, a black eye band, throat and bib, and a yellow supercilium and cheeks. The back is reddish-brown with a little dark mottling which fades towards the rump, which is olive-green. The belly has a yellowish tinge, with some lateral bars. The female, which has generally less vivid colouring, is more profusely barred and has no black on the throat.

A gregarious species, in autumn and winter it will often group together in flocks which are not very large, and often mixed with other species, feeding on the stubble and fallow land.

An enthusiastic songbird, it sings continuously for many months of the year, though it is somewhat shy and does not allow itself to be seen excessively. Its flight is undulating, and it uses the vegetation to hide at the end of the flight.

It can be found in undergrowth with tall bushes on riversides, wooded areas, horticultural plots and fertile plains, as well as in the clearings of low-density woods with scattered scrub. In winter, it diversifies its feeding grounds, and will feed more on cultivated land.

The female builds a large, untidy nest with dry grass and thin roots, which it lines with a base of moss, at a medium height in bushes or hedges, and sometimes in trees.

The cirl bunting is a scarce breeding and migrating species, and it can be found mainly in the Sierra Norte and Sierra Sur areas, though it is not uncommon to see it in other parts of the province.

ROCK BUNTING

ES: Escribano montesino FR: Bruant fou DE: Zippammer

L: 15- 17 cm Wi: 22 - 27 cm. We: 20 - 25 g.

E F M A M J J A S O N D



Pg-213

Emberiza cia



The rock bunting is a small passerine with brown, black-barred plumage on its back. The underparts are an ochre colour, and the head is grey, also with black bars on the hood and cheeks. It can be differentiated from other European buntings by its ash-grey throat. The plumage of the female is duller, with some bars on the breast and flanks.

It can be found in areas of clear woodland with scrub. In winter, its habitat is more spread out, and it can also be found on cropland, pastureland, etc. It is not a gregarious species, though during the autumn and winter it gathers in small flocks, mixed with other buntings, to seek food.

A fairly tranquil bird, it will remain for a considerable time on open perches, such as bushes, posts, walls and even the rooftops of agricultural buildings. It sometimes briskly opens out its tail to show the white lateral feathers.

Feeding mainly on seeds, buds and the new leaves of wild plants, it usually seeks its food on the ground. In spring, it widens its diet to include insects and other invertebrates.

Nesting from May to July, it constructs a nest that is large in comparison with its own size, using thin roots, dry grass, pieces of bark and fur, away from any irregularity in the terrain or plant cover.

A sedentary bird, it is not common in our area of study, but in the migratory passages it increases in number and is easier to see. It can be found mainly in both of the mountain ranges of the province, almost always in areas of low-density woodland with scrub.

CORN BUNTING

Emberiza calandra

ES: Escribano triguero **FR:** Bruant proyer **DE:** Grauammer

L: 17 - 18 cm **Wi:** 25 - 30 cm. **We:** 35 - 55 g.

E F M A M J J A S O N D

NA

Pg-213



This is a fair-sized bunting with earthy-brown plumage, profusely barred on the back, head, breast and flanks. The underparts and belly are whitish. Its brown feathers have light edges. It has a thin dark moustachial which starts at the base of its robust beak. There is no sexual dimorphism.

It can be found in steppe-like habitats, such as open cropland, meadows with clumps of vegetation and dry marshes. It will usually perch on broom, thorny bushes, telephone lines or other vantage points to survey and delimit its territory, singing regularly.

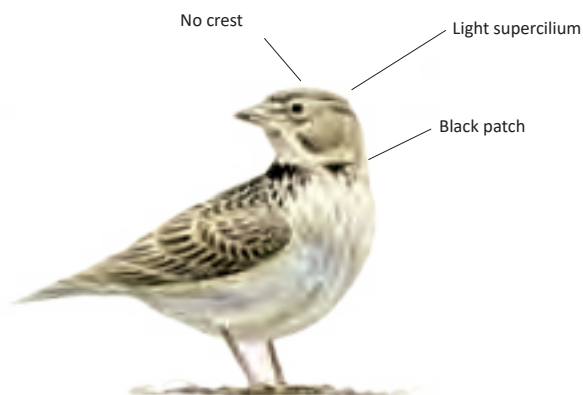
The corn bunting is gregarious, gathering in winter roosts of several hundred birds in reedbeds and other suitable spots with other species. Its flight is rather heavy and not very buoyant, and it even sometimes hangs its legs down. The male is very often polygamous, gathering several females together, with each having its own nest a short distance away.

It feeds on different cereal seeds, leaves and grasses, and will also capture insects, maggots and small snails, mainly during the breeding season.

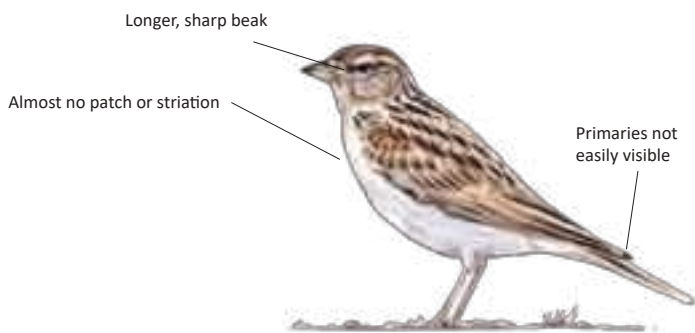
Generally nesting on the ground, among the vegetation, it will sometimes build its nest close to the ground in a bush. The nest is an untidy structure made of plant material and fur. It may lay two clutches of eggs a year.

In the area of study, the corn bunting is an abundant sedentary, migrant and wintering species, and its population increases in winter with the arrival of individuals from the Pyrenees. The prenuptial passage takes place between January and April, and is at its height in March and April. The postnuptial passage is from September to December.

Calandra lark



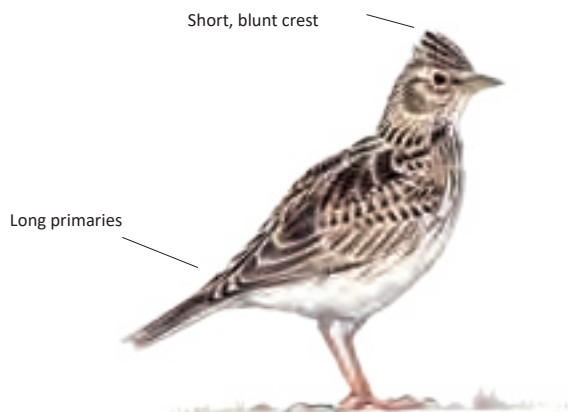
Greater short-toed lark



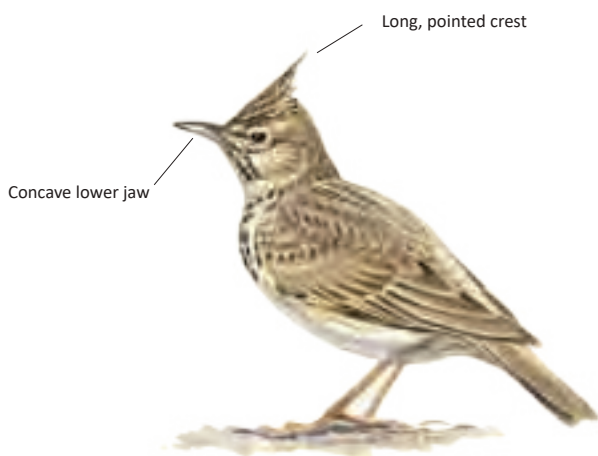
Lesser short-toed lark



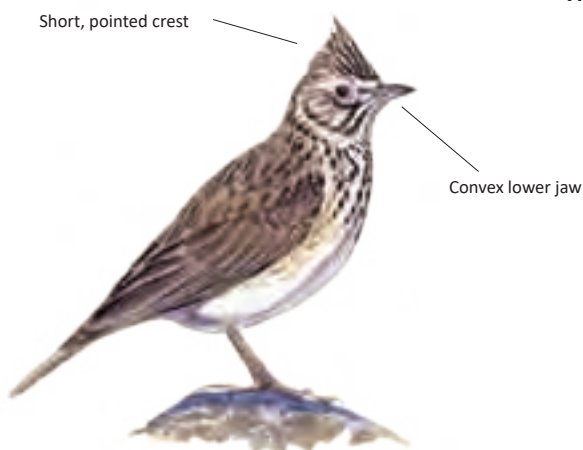
Eurasian Skylark



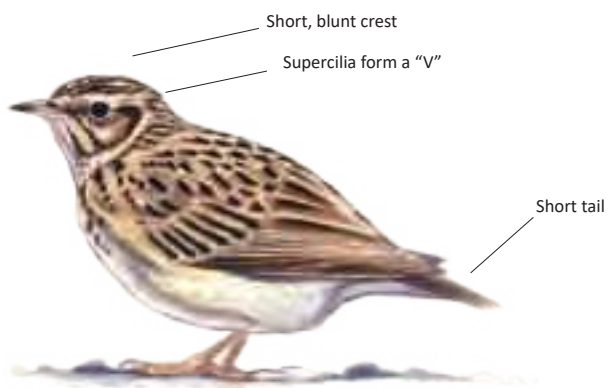
Crested lark



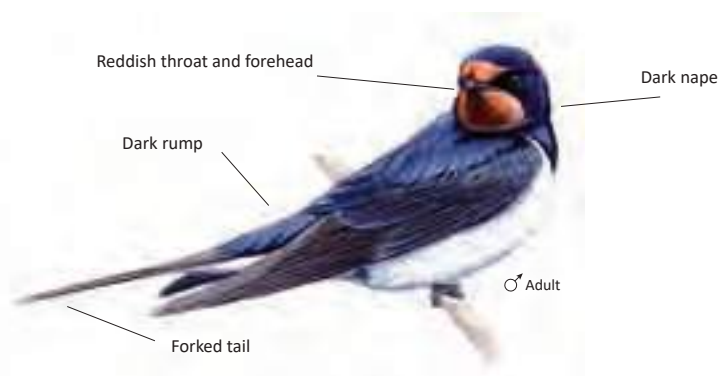
Thekla lark



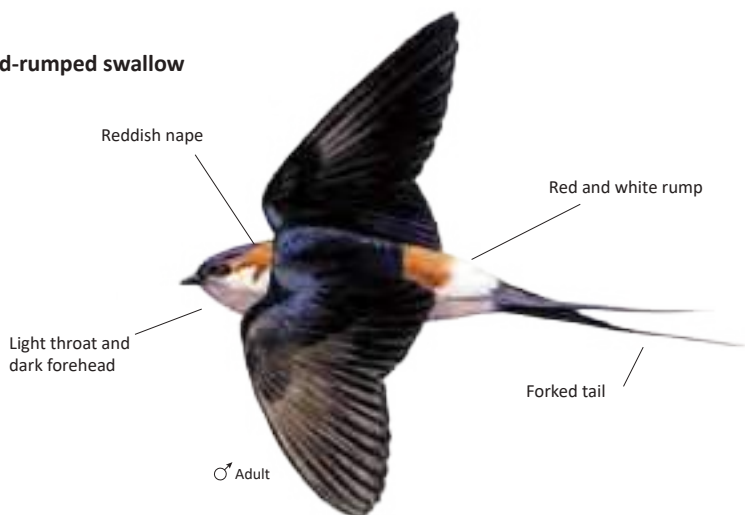
Wood lark



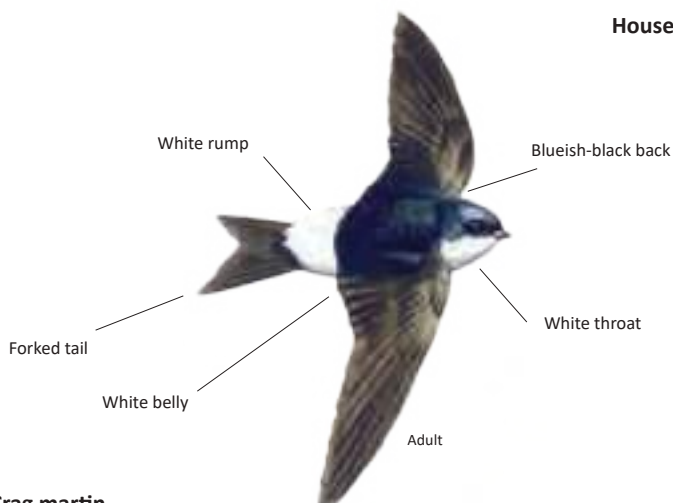
Barn swallow



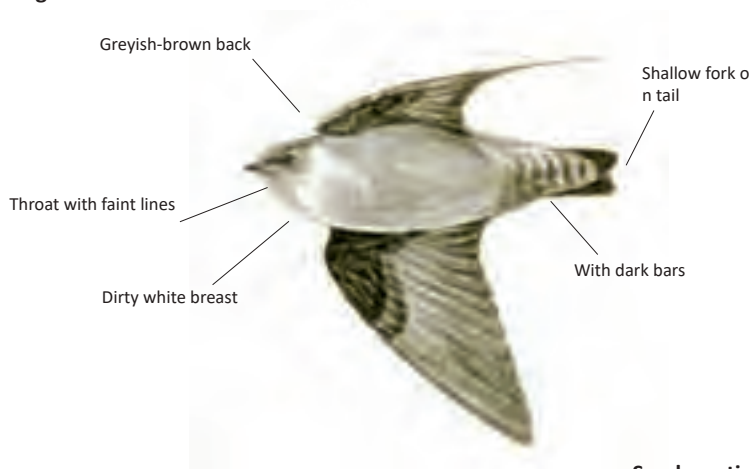
Red-rumped swallow



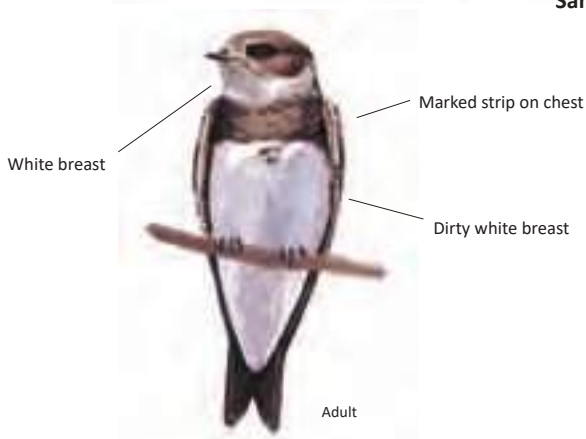
House martin



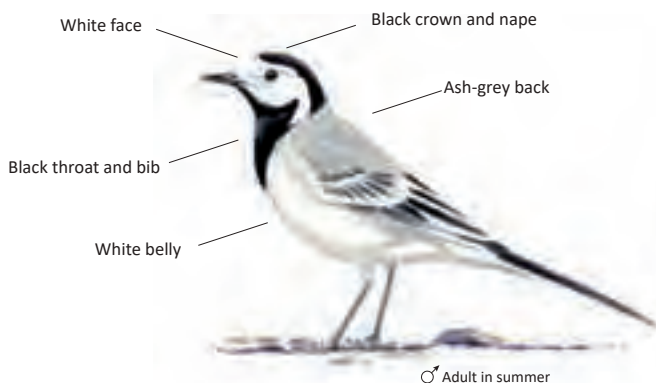
Crag martin



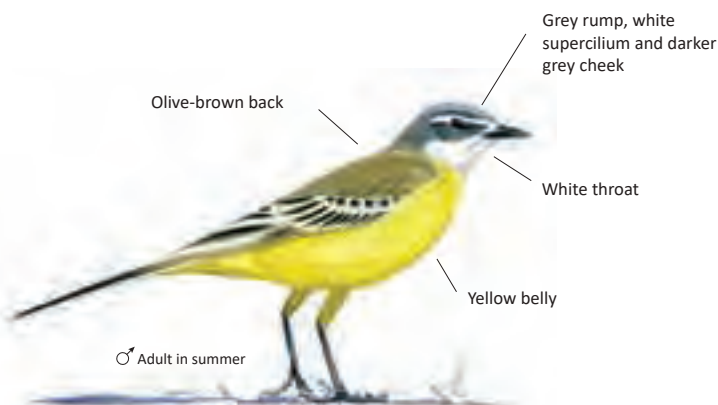
Sand martin



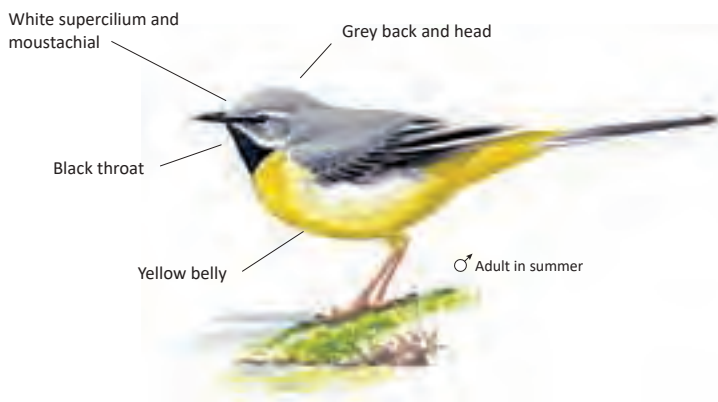
White wagtail



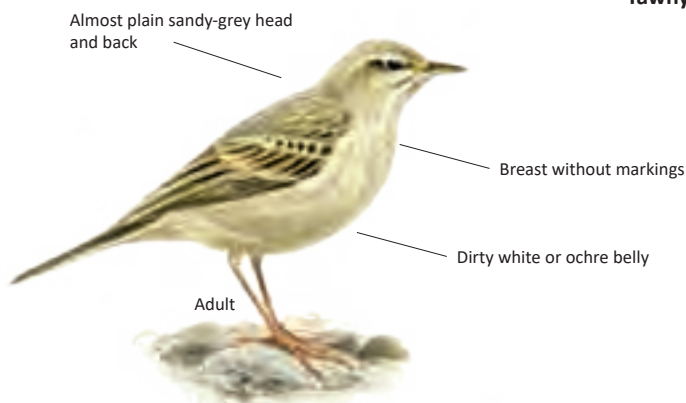
Yellow wagtail



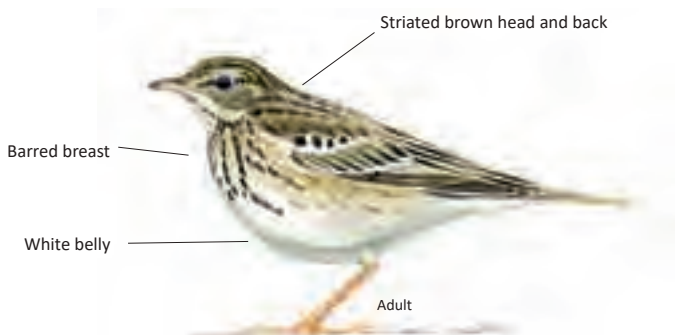
Grey wagtail



Tawny pipit



Tree pipit



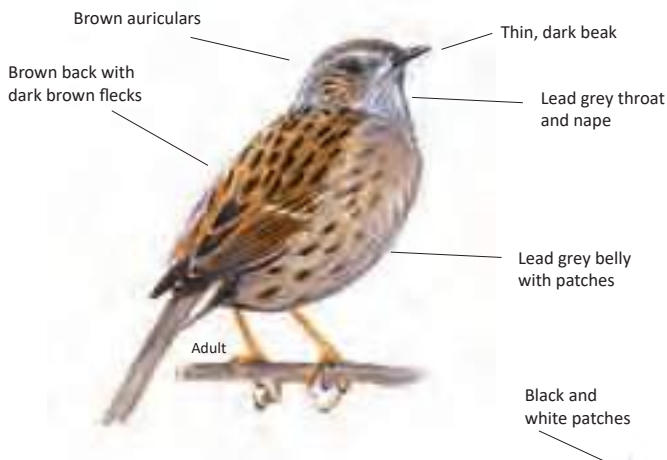
White-throated dipper



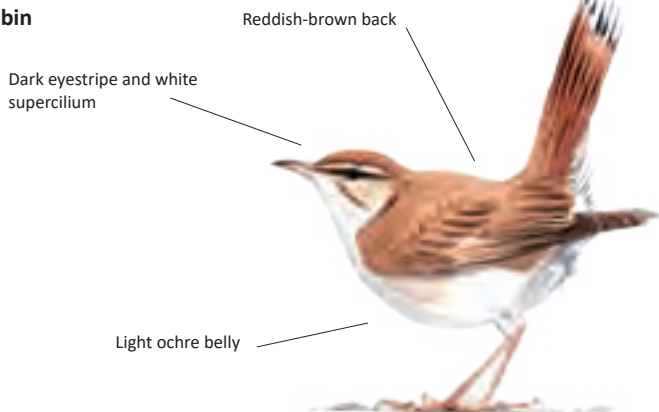
Winter wren



Dunnock



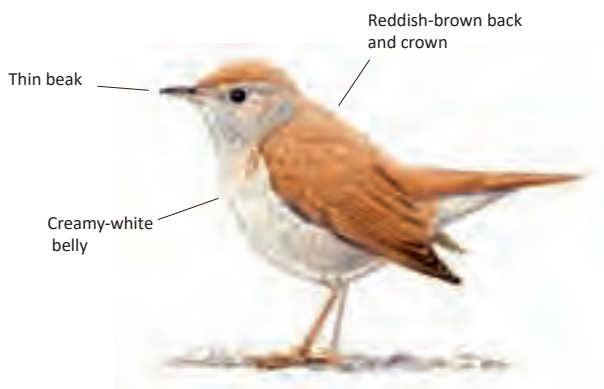
Rufous-tailed scrub robin



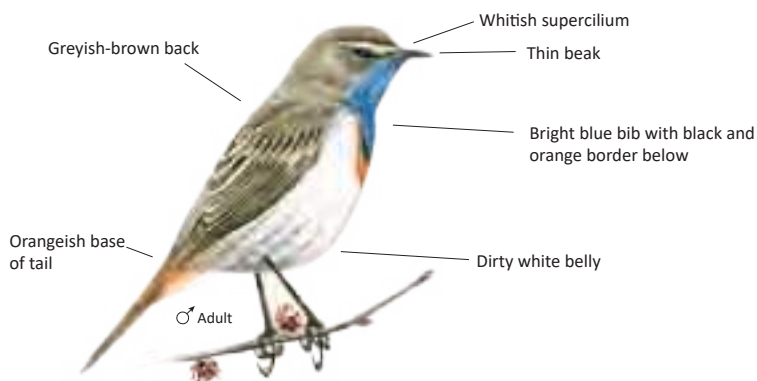
European robin



Common nightingale



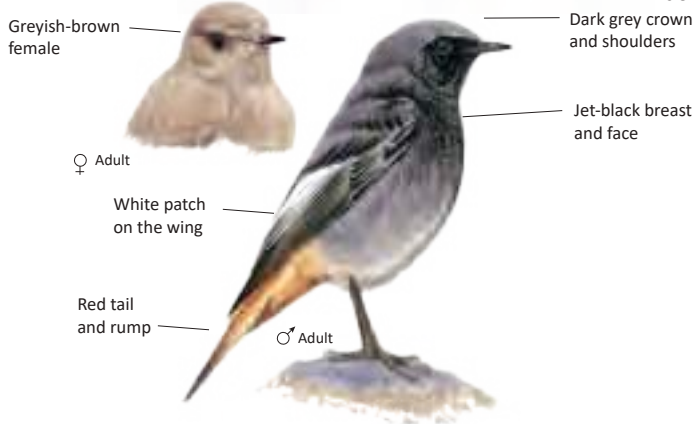
Bluethroat



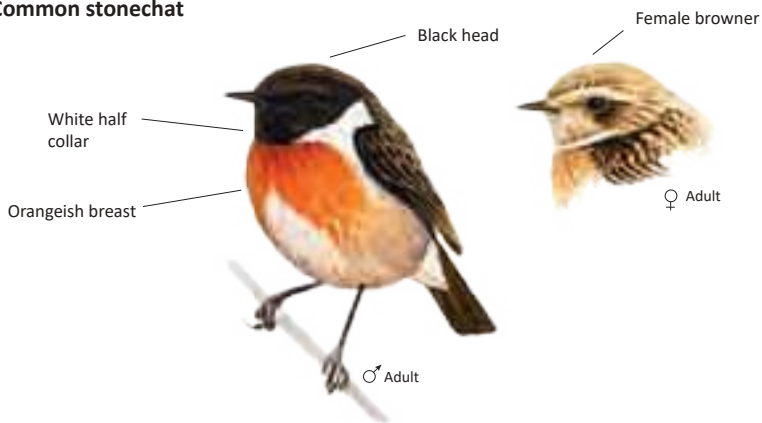
Common redstart



Black redstart



Common stonechat



Northern wheatear

White face
with black mask

Grey crown and shoulders

Black wings
and tail

Ochre belly

♂ Adult



Black-eared wheatear

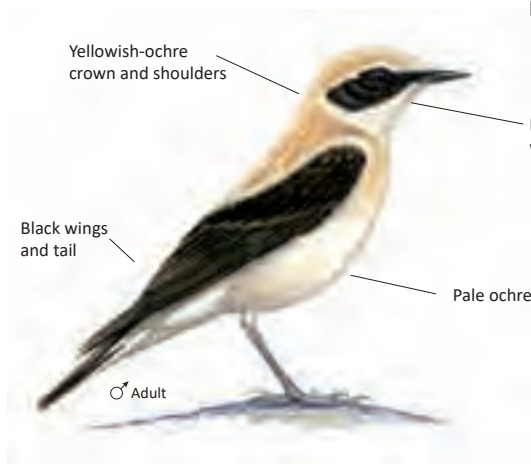
Yellowish-ochre
crown and shoulders

Black mask and
white throat

Black wings
and tail

Pale ochre belly

♂ Adult

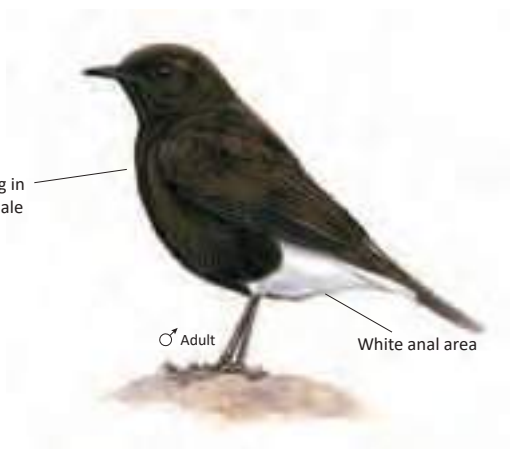


Black wheatear

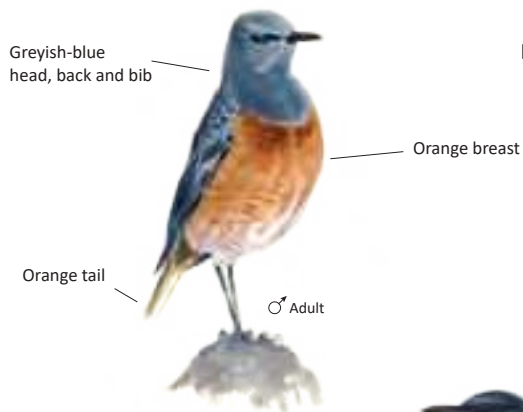
Generally black colouring in
male, dark brown in female

♂ Adult

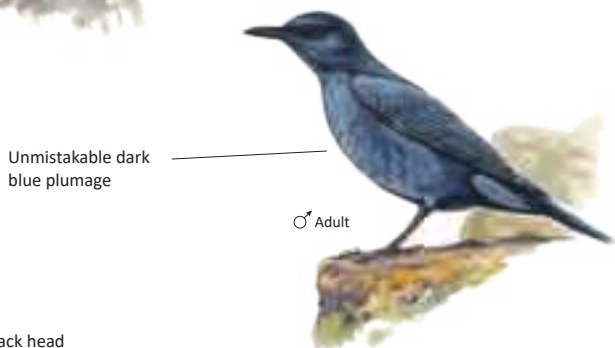
White anal area



Rufous-tailed rock thrush



Blue rock thrush



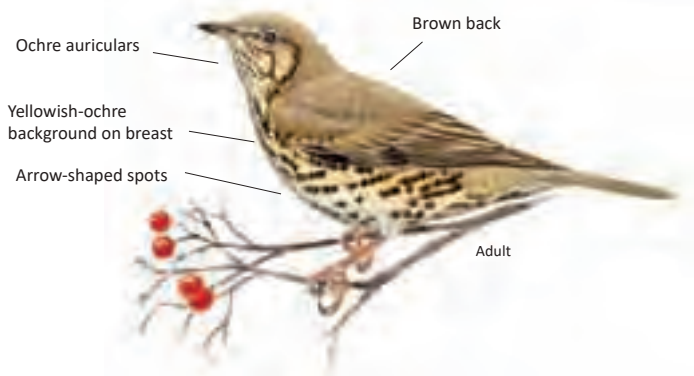
Ring ouzel



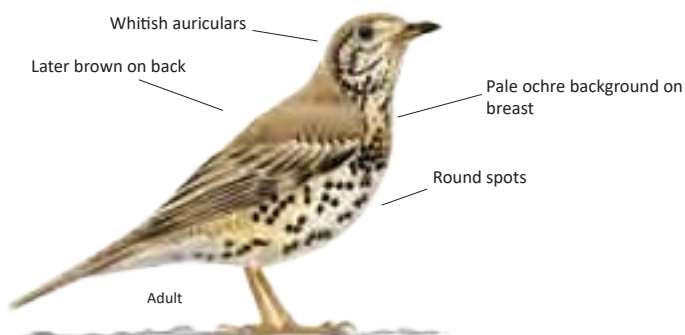
Common blackbird



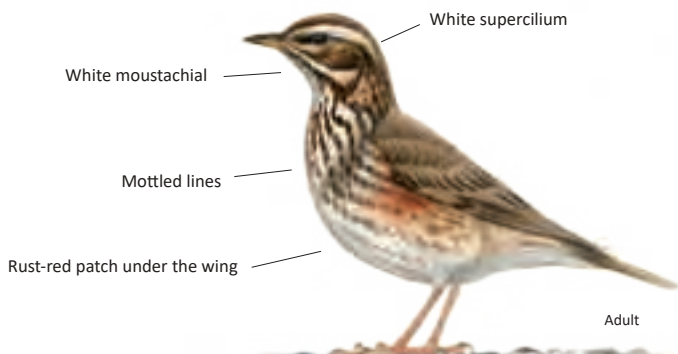
Song thrush



Mistle thrush



Redwing



Cetti's warbler

Wide tail,
often raised

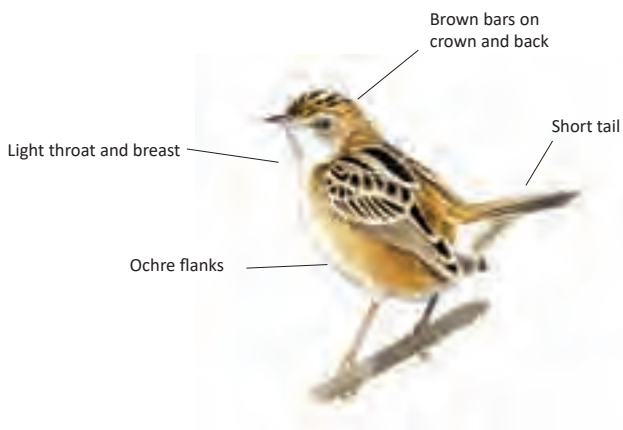


Reddish-brown back

Prominent supercilium

Grey cheek and breast

Zitting cisticola



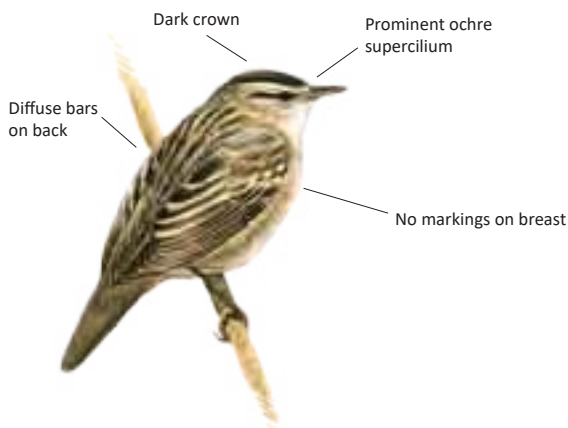
Brown bars on
crown and back

Light throat and breast

Short tail

Ochre flanks

Sedge warbler



Dark crown

Prominent ochre
supercilium

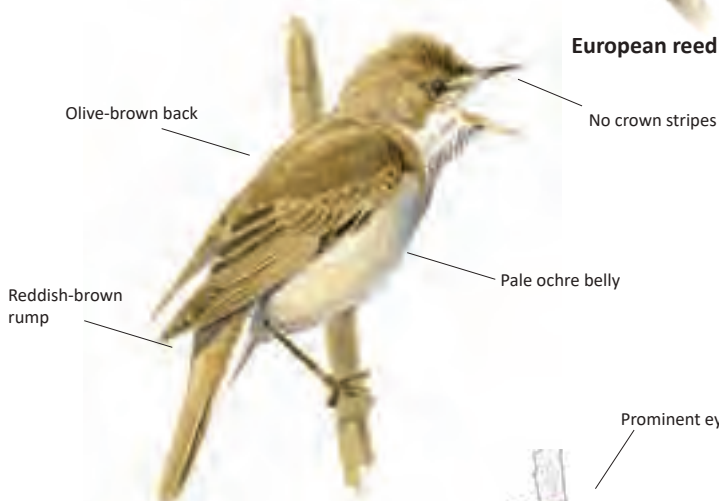
Diffuse bars
on back

No markings on breast

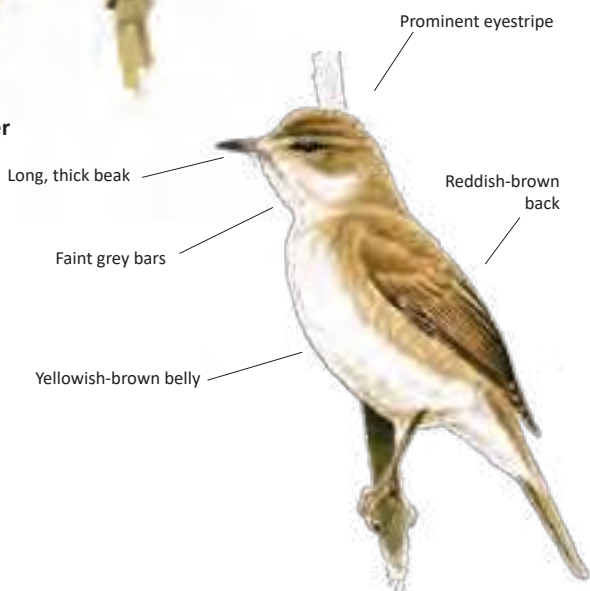
Savi's warbler



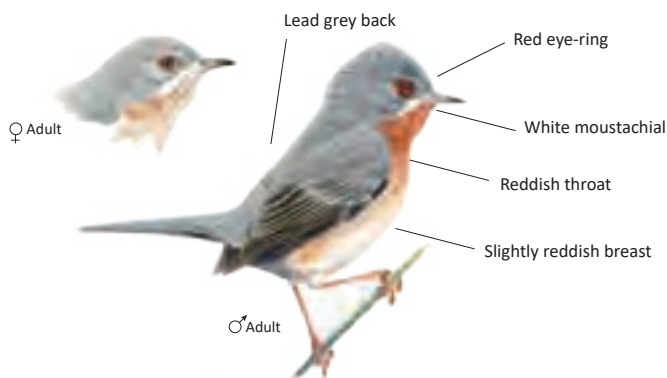
European reed warbler



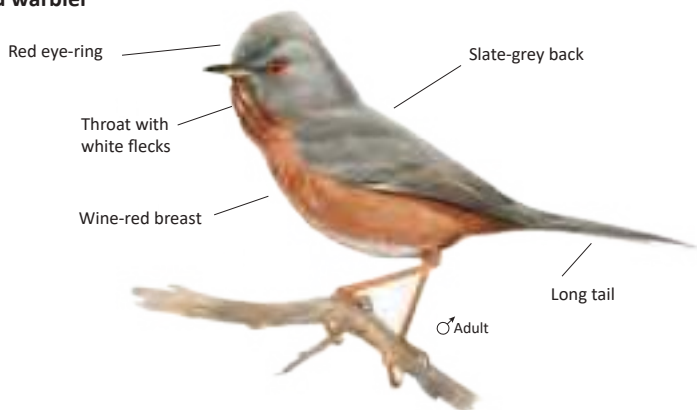
Great reed warbler



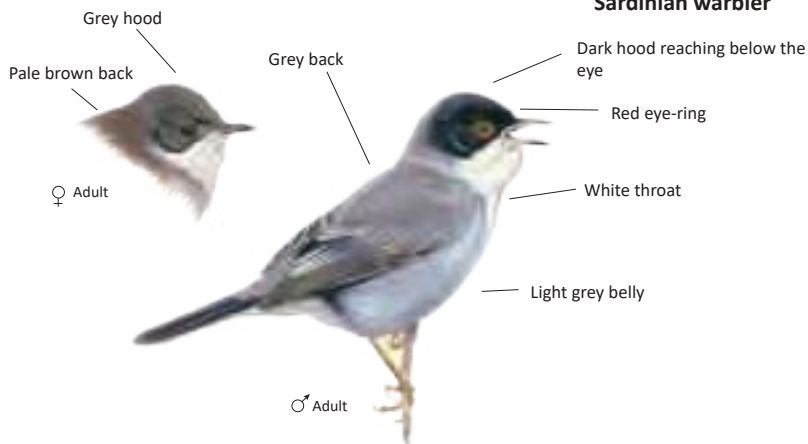
Subalpine warbler



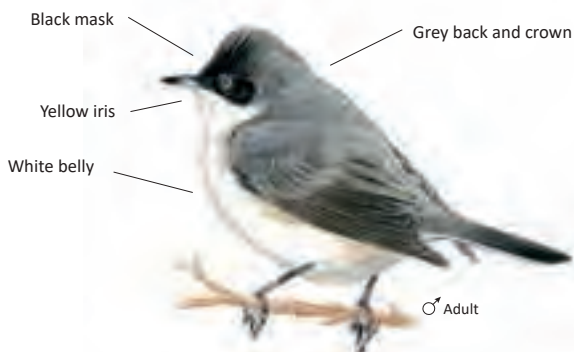
Dartford warbler



Sardinian warbler



Western orphean warbler



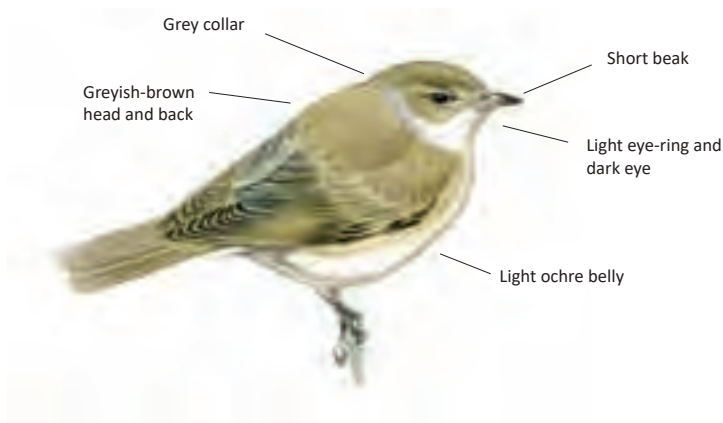
Blackcap



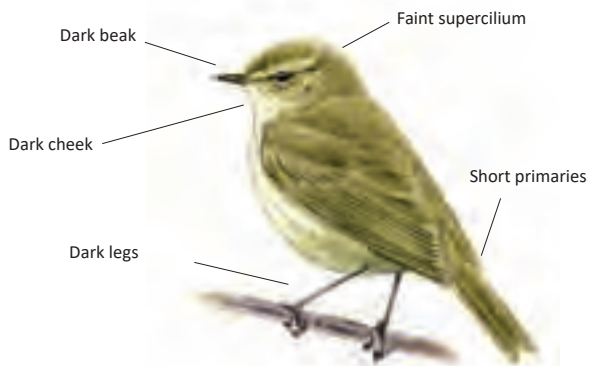
Common whitethroat



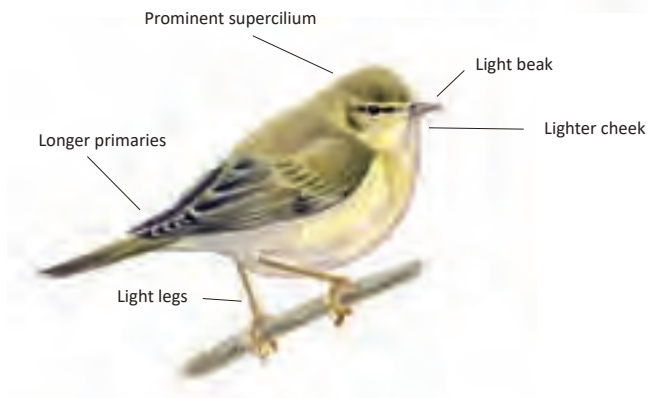
Garden warbler



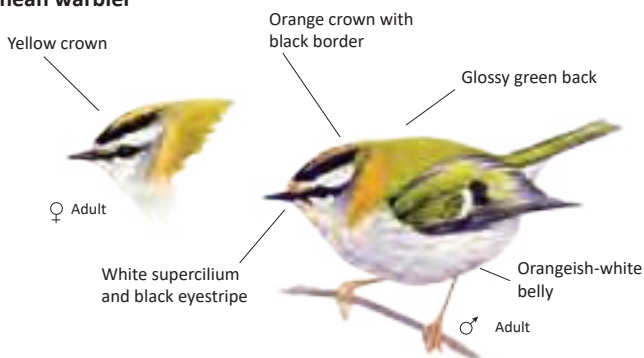
Common chiffchaff



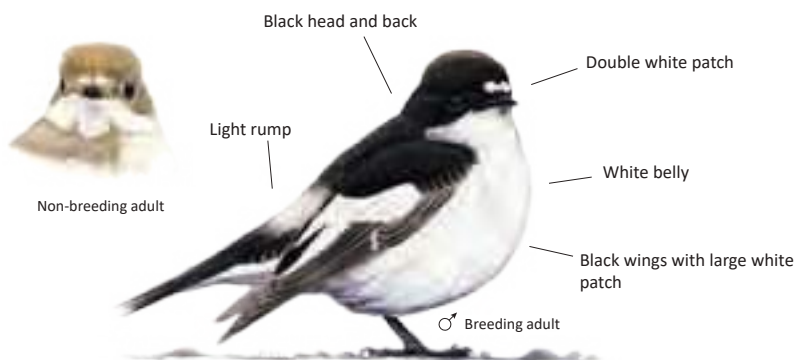
Willow warbler



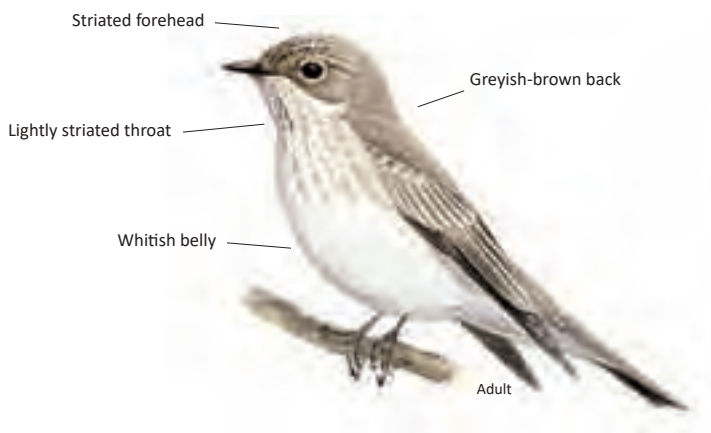
Western orphean warbler



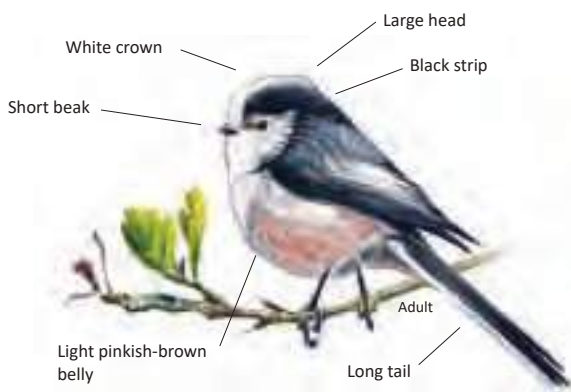
Yellow crown



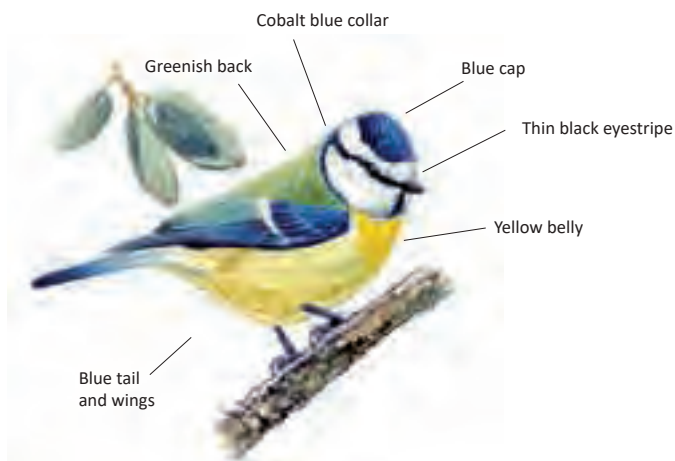
Spotted flycatcher



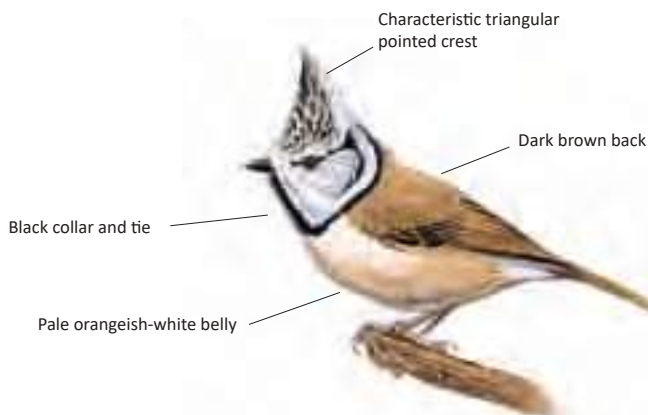
Long-tailed tit



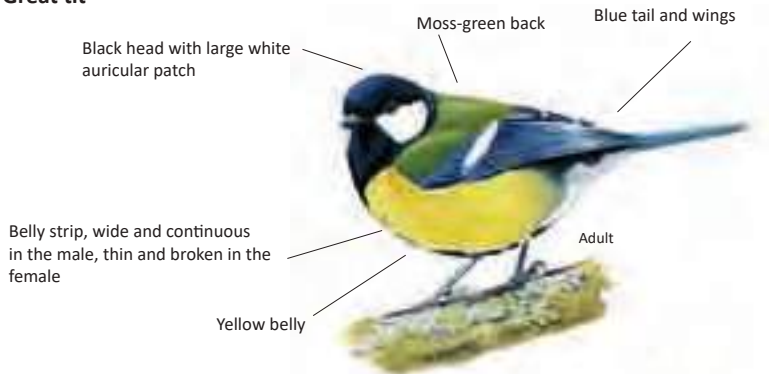
Blue tit



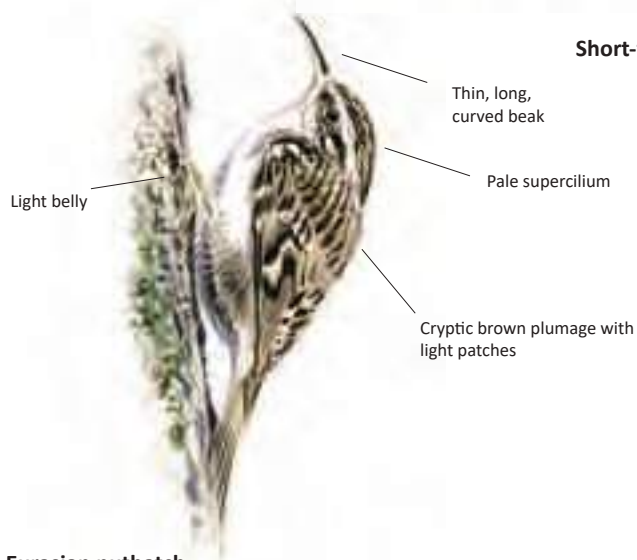
Crested tit



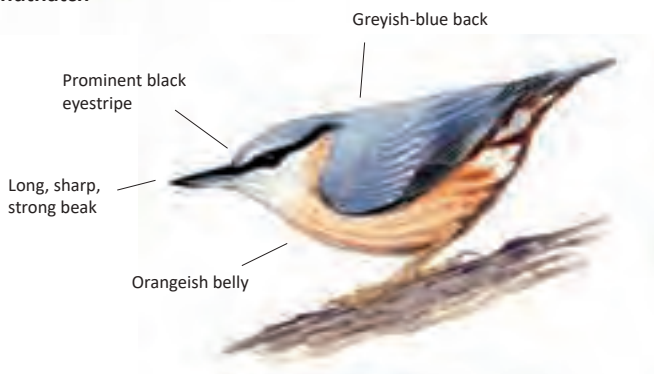
Great tit



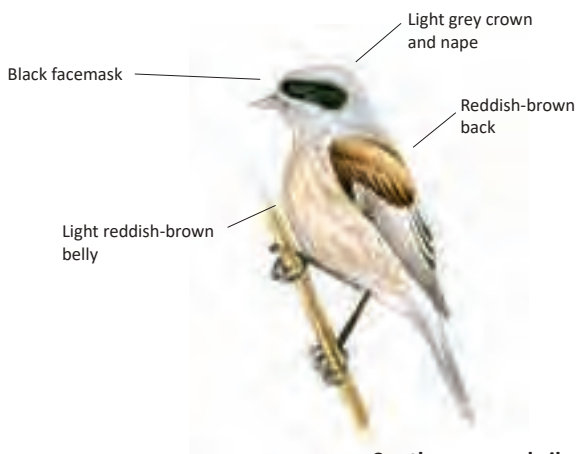
Short-toed treecreeper



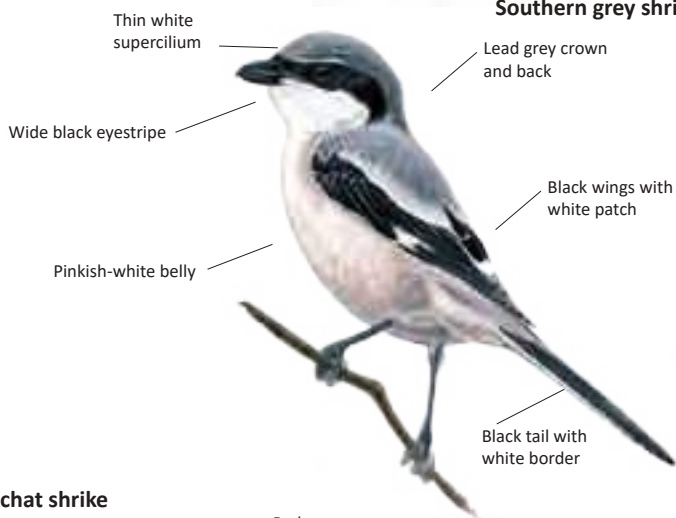
Eurasian nuthatch



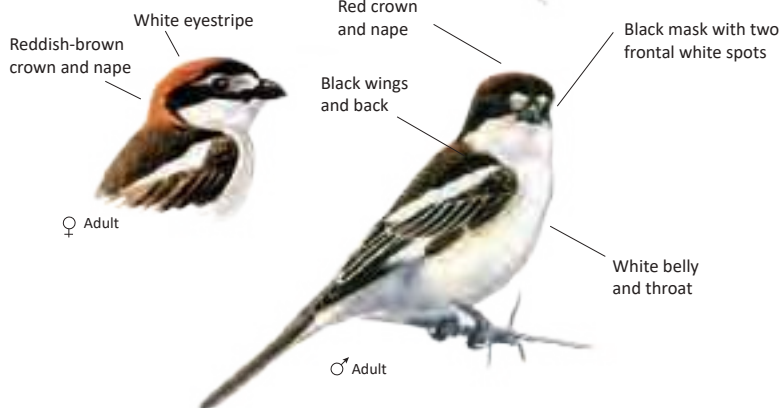
Penduline tit



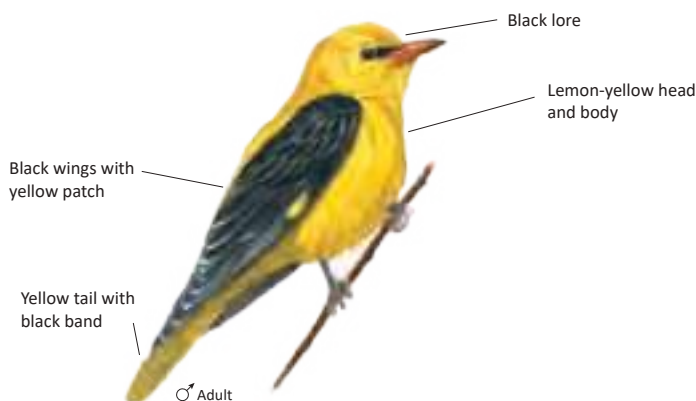
Southern grey shrike



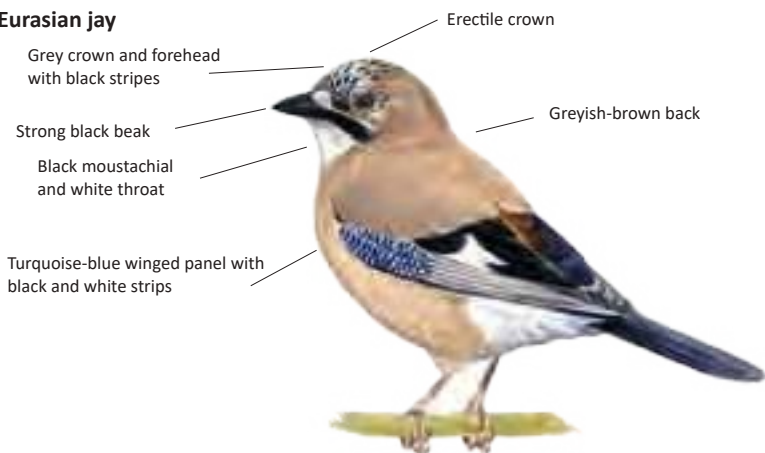
Woodchat shrike



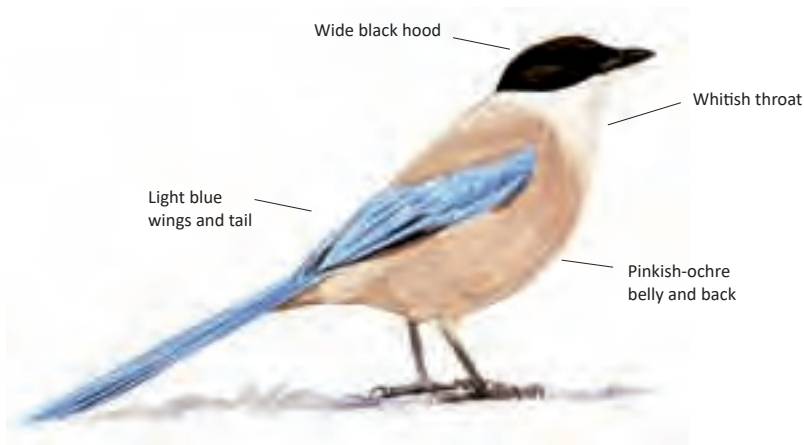
Golden oriole



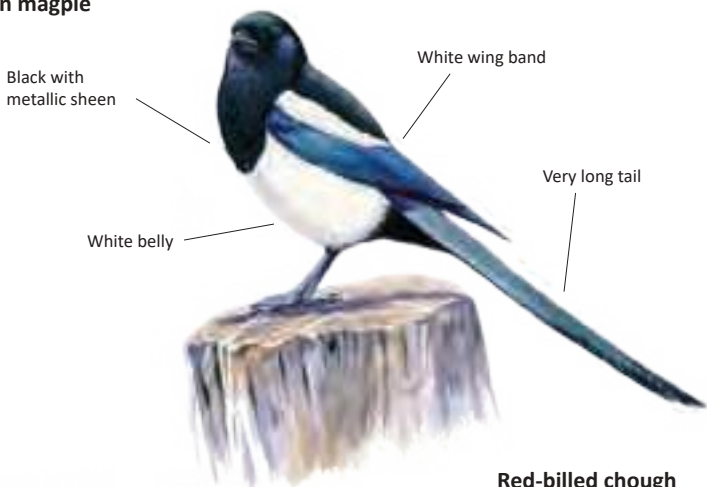
Eurasian jay



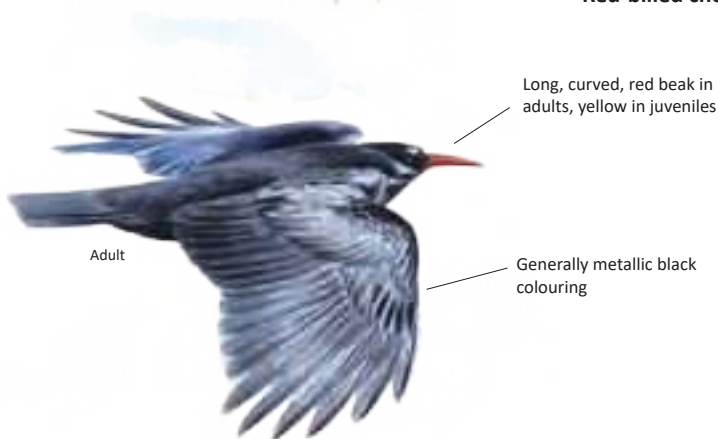
Azure-winged magpie



Common magpie



Red-billed chough



Western jackdaw



Common raven

Pico grande y grueso

Generally metallic black colouring

Spotless starling

Yellow beak in summer, dark in winter

Black colouring with metallic sheen, with no or very faint spots

Pink legs

Adult, summer plumage

Common Starling

Long, yellow beak

Black background colouring with violet and purplish iridescence

Yellowish-white spots, more obvious in winter

Adult, winter plumage

House sparrow

Grey crown with chestnut-coloured sides

Black bib, lore and beak

Grey cheeks

White wing band

Brown back with black bars

Light brown crown

Light eyestripe

Grey and yellow beak

♀ Adult female

♂ Breeding adult

Eurasian tree sparrow

White collar

Wide reddish-brown hood

Small black bib

Black patch on the cheek

Adult

Spanish sparrow

Black mask with white supercilium

Reddish-brown hood

Wide black bib

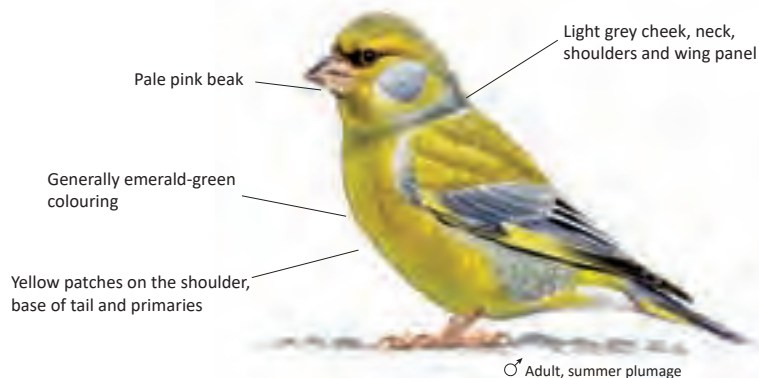
Barred with black patches on breast and back

♂ Breeding adult

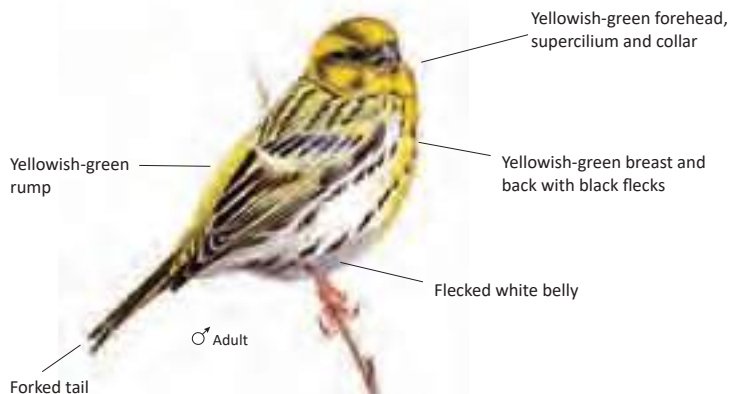
Common chaffinch



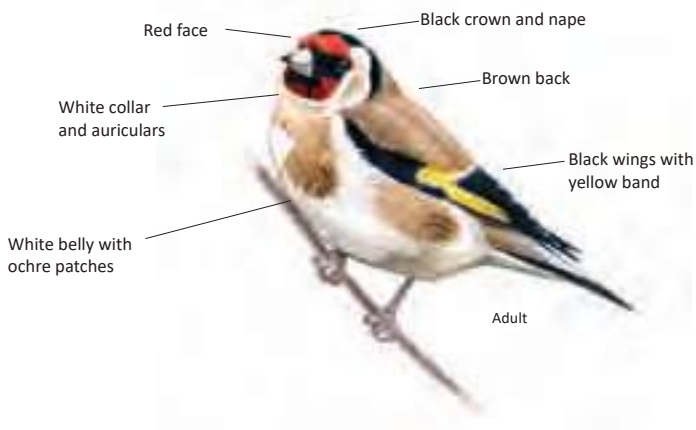
European greenfinch



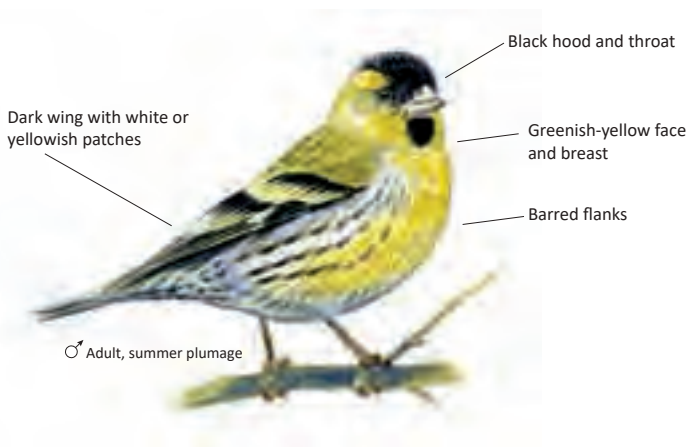
European serin



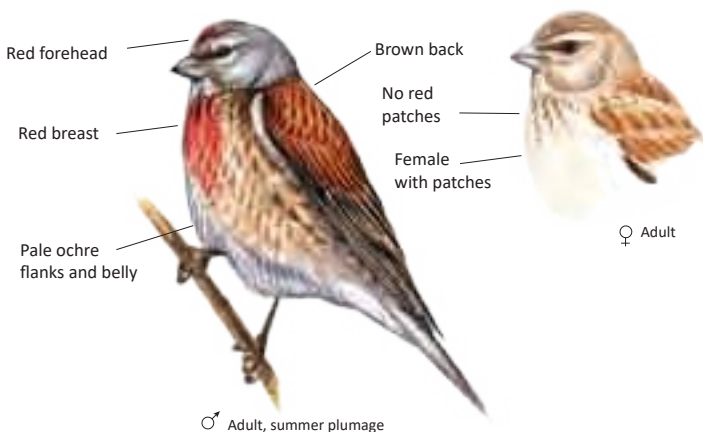
European goldfinch



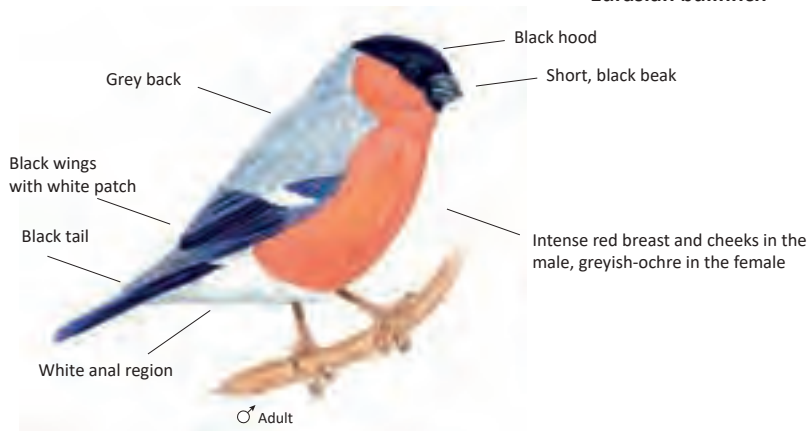
Eurasian siskin



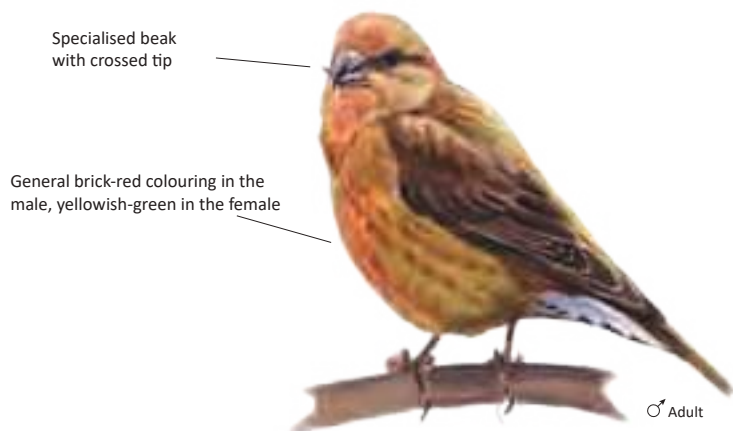
Common linnet



Eurasian bullfinch



Common crossbill



Rock bunting

Greyish head
with three black lines

Greyish chest

Orangeish belly

Darker greys

Brownish belly

♀ Adult and ♂ winter plumage

♂ Adult, summer plumage

Girl bunting

Head barred but without
yellow colouring

Browner
colouring

Black throat
and eyestripe

Yellow cheeks
and collar

Olive-grey breast

Lightly barred
yellowish belly

♂ Adult, summer plumage

♀ Adult

Corn bunting

White moustachial and throat
with black border

Heavily barred plumage in
earthy tones

Thick beak





— ORNITHOLOGICAL ROUTES —

Seville is divided into six main zones: the Sierra Norte mountains, the Vía de la Plata route, the Sierra Sur mountains, the Campiña zone, the Guadalquivir-Doñana area and the Aljarafe.

All of them are full of interesting, easily accessible places to visit. The Sierra Norte Natural Park and the Doñana National and Natural Parks are perhaps the best-known. But there are other sites, landscapes and protected areas, which may be protected nature sites or protected natural monuments.

In each of these zones, some basic routes have been drawn up. They take in the most interesting landmarks, either for their content or the ease of accessibility, understanding and observation. The routes are combined in order to link the main zones and help you take maximum advantage of the journey or visit, and see as much as possible in the time available.

In each of these main zones, there is a whole range of companies, services and guides that can help you to enjoy these spaces and routes. It is important to underline the need to use local services in order to make best use of your leisure time and enjoy learning in contact with nature. The local population is responsible for the conservation and care of the natural environment and the great treasures that make up its heritage.

Leyenda



Provincia Sevilla

Núcleos de población

Rita Sevilla

Cameras

RENPA

✦ **Enzymes: Biotin**

SEI44FF

Cornarcas

 Aljazeera

 Casadiqueima-Dehuma

La Coruña

Sierra Morena Sevillana

☐ Santa Su

Via de la Plata









ORNITHOLOGICAL ROUTE 1

— SIERRA NORTE

The Sierra Norte is the part of the Sierra Morena mountain range that is located in the province of Seville. It enjoys high rainfall, which allows large holm oak and cork oak forests to flourish, providing a home to very varied fauna. The area is catalogued as a Natural Park, Special Protection Area (SPA), Site of Community Interest (SCI) and as the “Dehesas de Sierra Morena” Biosphere Reserve.

The relief is gentle, of medium altitude, with an extensive river system made up of numerous streams which cross the territory, some of which have spectacular gallery forests. The natural heritage in the territory boasts a great variety of habitats, including particularly relevant areas of dehesa (low-density wooded pastureland), holm and cork oak groves and other oak trees, which are in an excellent state of conservation and are very representative of the area.

The great variety of ecosystems in the Sierra Norte gives rise to an enormous abundance of birdlife of many different species, from the birds typical of the dehesa and shrubland to rupicolous, arboreal and riverine species. The Sierra Norte is an excellent area for watching a wide variety of birds of prey, such as the golden eagle, the Spanish imperial eagle and colonies of griffon vultures.

TOWNS

Alanís, Almadén de la Plata, Cazalla de la Sierra, Constantina, El Pedroso, El Real de la Jara, Guadalcanal, La Puebla de los Infantes, Las Navas de la Concepción and San Nicolás del Puerto.

PLACES OF INTEREST FOR ORNITHOLOGICAL AND NATURE TOURISM

HUÉZNAR WATERFALLS NATURAL MONUMENT

This is a limestone formation located on the middle stretch of the Rivera del Huéznar in the municipality of San Nicolás del Puerto. The limestone deposit makes up a strip of some 15 metres between both banks, where there is a waterfall system with a series of small cascades called Las Chorreras, framed against the gallery forest. These natural surroundings are host to a wealth of birds, such as the grey heron, white-throated dipper, common kingfisher and the goshawk.

CERRO DEL HIERRO NATURAL MONUMENT

Located in the municipality of San Nicolás del Puerto. The presence of iron in this rocky outcrop was the origin of mining in the area since Roman times. Mining operations revealed spectacular karst formations. Within the Natural Monument, there is a very well-conserved cork oak grove. The outstanding birdlife includes the eagle owl and the black stork, as well as the blue rock thrush, which can be seen all year round, and the black-eared wheatear, red-rumped swallow and the bee-eater in the spring.

BAJOS DE JÁDRAGA

One of the most spectacular landscapes in the Sierra Norte, located at the municipality of Cazalla de la Sierra, it is made up of a series of cliffs around the valley where we can find a varied population of cliff-nesting birds, in-





cluding a large colony of griffon vultures. It is not difficult also to find rarer birds such as the Egyptian vulture, Bonelli's eagle or the elusive black stork.

LOMA DEL AIRE

From a strategic observation point in Alanís, we can see a fine representation of the different landscapes, with cork oak and holm oak groves and rock rose, which make up the Sierra Norte de Sevilla Natural Park. The abundance of rabbits in the area encourages one of the largest concentrations of young imperial eagles in Europe, and we also find golden eagles, Bonelli's eagles and booted eagles, as well as the red kite and griffon vultures, among other birds of prey.

"CORTIJO EL BERROCAL" VISITOR CENTRE

In Almadén de la Plata, the visitor centre is located in the Las Navas-Berrocal public forest. It is a high-quality landscape where we can enjoy the typical vegetation of the Seville mountains. Its notable deer population makes it one of the best places to enjoy the bellowing of the males in the mating season at the beginning of autumn. Furthermore, visitors can also see the fossilised tree trunk in Viar, discovered in 2005, at Los Destajales.

"EL ROBLEDO" VISITOR CENTRE AND BOTANIC GARDEN

In the heart of the Sierra Norte Natural Park, near Constantina, is the El Robledo visitor centre. Here, the visitor can experience the suggestive sounds of gallery woods and the scents of the aromatic plants of the Mediterranean forest. The El Robledo botanical garden is next to the visitor centre.

OTHER PLACES OF INTEREST FOR BIRDWATCHING

The recreational area in San Pedro and Rivera de Benalíjar in Alanís, Cañón del Río Viar and Ribera del Huéznar in Cazalla de la Sierra.

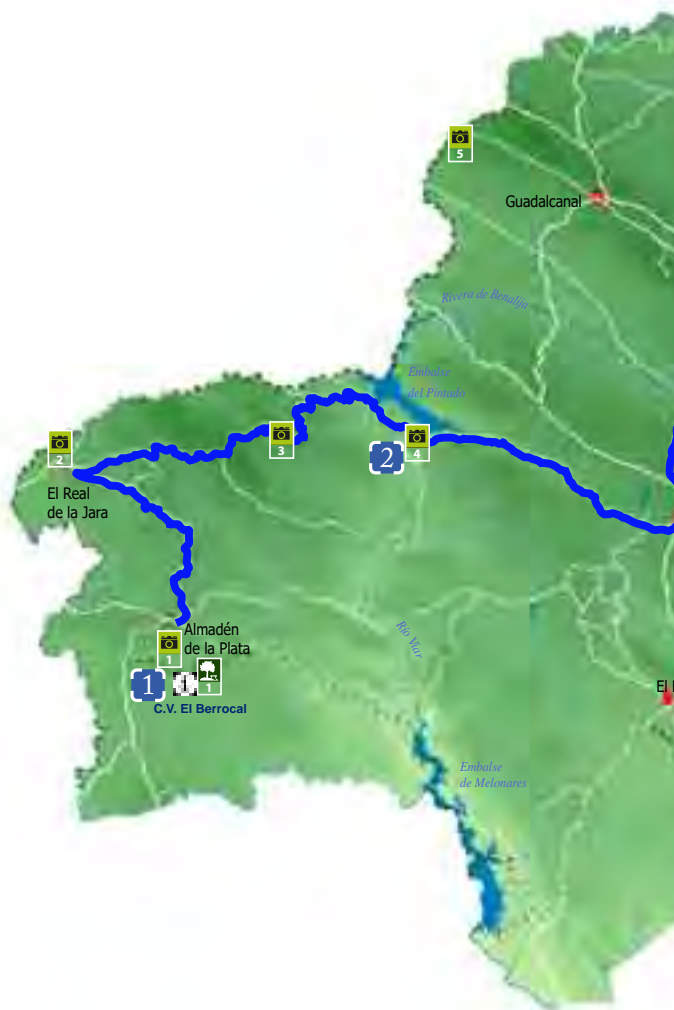


POINTS OF INTEREST

- 1 Cortijo El Berrocal
 - 2 Bajos de Jádraga
 - 3 Loma del Aire
 - 4 Huéznar waterfalls
 - 5 Cerro del Hierro
 - 6 El Robledo visitor centre
- Sierra Norte greenway

SERVICES & FACILITIES

- 1** VISITOR CENTER
- 1- El Berrocal.
 - 2- El Robledo.
- i** INFORMATION POINT
- 1- Cerro del Hierro.





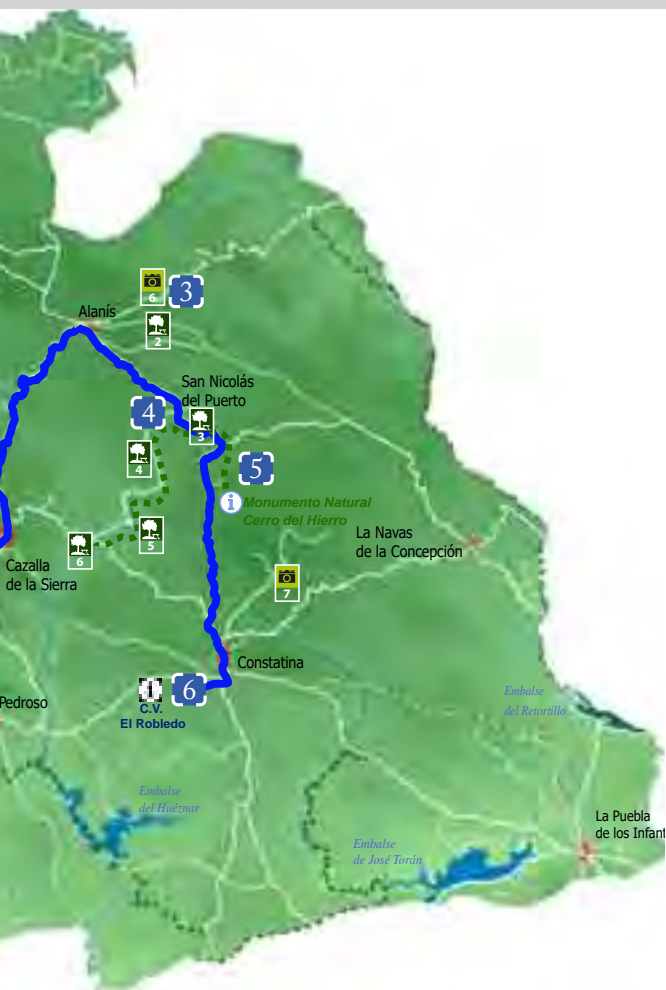
PANORAMIC VIEW

- 1- Cerro del Calvario.
- 2- Cerro del Castillo.
- 3- La Padrona & Puerto del Quejigo.
- 4- Bajo de Jadraga.
- 5- La Capitana.
- 6- Loma del Aire.
- 7- Puerto del Robledo.



PICNIC AREAS

- 1- El Berrocal.
- 2- Arroyo San Pedro.
- 3- Source of Huéznar river.
- 4- El Martinete.
- 5- Isla Margarita.
- 6- Molino del Corcho.







ORNITHOLOGICAL ROUTE 2

— VÍA DE LA PLATA —

Easily accessible, this is a landscape that stretches from the extreme north of the Aljarafe escarpment to the slopes of the western Sierra Norte.

It has a gentle relief with few abrupt features, but has deep gullies carved out through erosion by streams. The Vía de la Plata runs through open dehesa pastureland, pine groves, Mediterranean shrub, gallery woods and farmland to the north, and wide, open dry-farming cropland to the south.

This area is vital for many species of fauna, providing a green corridor connecting the Sierra Morena mountains with Doñana. Its riverside areas stand out in particular. Those which are accessible allow visitors to walk through areas with untouched streams and to watch birds such as the common chiffchaff, white wagtail and the kingfisher. Other birds found in the district are the black stork, golden eagle, short-toed eagle, booted eagle, sparrowhawk, black kite and the red kite.

TOWNS

Aznalcóllar, Castilblanco de los Arroyos, El Castillo de las Guardas, El Garrobo, Gerena, El Madroño, El Ronquillo and Guillena.







LOMA DEL HORNILLO

This natural area in Castilblanco de los Arroyos has an undulating relief with gentle slopes. It is notable for its abundant vegetation, with shrub, pasture-land and small holm and cork oak woods. Among its fauna are many species of birds of prey.

RÍO VIAR

As it passes through the municipality of Castilblanco, some stretches of the River Viar still boast their original gallery forests in an excellent state of conservation. As well as many riparian birds, the ecosystem is also home to numerous protected species, both carnivorous and insectivorous.

PROTECTED LANDSCAPE OF RÍO TINTO

This landscape covers the upper and middle stretches of the river as it passes through the municipality of El Madroño. It is a landscape that is unique in all the world, both for the beauty of its colours and for its exceptional environment and history. Around the upper stretches of the river is to be found the largest opencast mine in Europe, which was worked by the Tartessians and the Romans.

LOS PERROS HOLM OAK NATURAL MONUMENT

This holm oak in the municipality of El Madroño, which has been declared a Natural Monument, has a perimeter of eight metres at the base of its trunk, a diameter of 1.40 metres and a height of 16 metres. It gives shade to an area of 600 square metres.

RIVERAS DE CALA Y HUELVA

Located between the municipalities of Guillena, Castilblanco de los Arroyos, El Ronquillo and El Garrobo, this is an axis running through the valleys of the Rivera de Cala and the Rivera de Huelva. The remains of gallery forests along the two watercourses are home to a wide variety of birdlife.

PATA DE CABALLO Y MADROÑALEJO NATIONAL SITE

Located between the municipalities of Aznalcóllar and El Madroño, this is an area of outstanding landscapes thanks to the conservation of large areas of autochthonous vegetation.

EL GERGAL PERIURBAN PARK

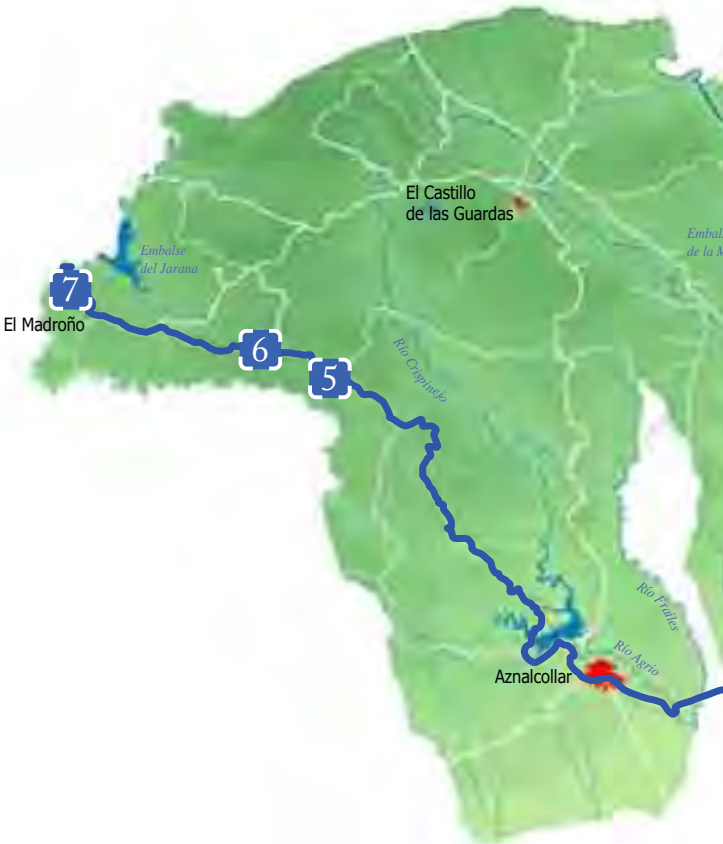
Its situation on the lower foothills of the Sierra Morena and the right bank of the River Guadalquivir has favoured the presence in this area of important, diverse, natural and cultural attractions, together with a wide variety of recreational and leisure activities. Through the park flow the waters of the Rivers Huelva and Cala, on which the Gergal, Guillena, Cala and La Minilla reservoirs are to be found. The wealth of fauna on these watercourses includes different species of birds typical of this ecosystem.

OTHER SITES OF INTEREST FOR BIRDWATCHING

Dehesa del Perro in Aznalcóllar.

POINTS OF INTEREST

- 1 Viar river
- 2 Loma del Hornillo
- 3 Rivera del Cala
- 4 Rivera del Huelva
- 5 Pata del Caballo y Madroñalejo
- 6 Los Perros holm oak
- 7 Protected landscape of Río Tinto









ORNITHOLOGICAL ROUTE 3

— ALJARAFE —

The open spaces of the Aljarafe area offer a changing landscape which mixes protected natural zones and agricultural land. Geographically, the Aljarafe is a platform between the fertile plains of the Rivers Guadalquivir and Guadimar. Here, the natural vegetation occupies large areas, with pine forests and open dehesa pastureland among areas of crops. The birds found in the forested areas include birds of prey such as the common buzzard, the black kite and numerous passerines.

TOWNS

Albaida del Aljarafe, Almensilla, Benacazón, Bollullos de la Mitación, Bormujos, Camas, Carrión de los Céspedes, Castilleja de Guzmán, Castilleja de la Cuesta, Castilleja del Campo, Espartinas, Gines, Huévar del Aljarafe, Mairena del Aljarafe, Olivares, Palomares del Río, Salteras, San Juan de Aznalfarache, Sanlúcar la Mayor, Santiponce, Tomares, Umbrete, Valencina de la Concepción y Villanueva del Ariscal.

PLACES OF INTEREST FOR ORNITHOLOGICAL AND NATURE TOURISM

ITÁLICA GREENWAY

This is a cycle-tourism path of over thirty kilometres along the route of an old railway line. The Greenway begins in the town of Camas and crosses farmland landscapes with cereal crops which are home to Montagu's harrier, the lesser kestrel and the elusive bustard. We should not forget the Arabic tower of San Antonio in Olivares, which is home to a large colony of lesser kestrel.





GUADIAMAR GREEN CORRIDOR

The Guadamar Green Corridor crosses the Aljarafe, passing through the municipalities of Benacazón, Huévar del Aljarafe, Olivares and Sanlúcar la Mayor. The River Guadamar runs through a mosaic of Mediterranean landscapes: dehesas and forests at the foot of the mountains, with agricultural landscapes further south. The Corridor has many public facilities, including observatories, viewing points and birdwatching sites.

ALCARAYÓN STREAM

The Alcarayón Stream, as it passes through Huevar del Aljarafe, has a well-conserved riparian wood with a large number of passerines.

HACIENDA PORZUNA PERIURBAN PARK

The Hacienda Porzuna Periurban Park, in the municipality of Mairena del Aljarafe, conserves the natural resources typical of the Aljarafe escarpment and offers a leisure facility for nearby towns and for the city of Seville. The public can enjoy a Mediterranean forest, recalling a landscape that, together with the farmed countryside, characterised this area decades ago.


OTHER SITES OF INTEREST FOR BIRDWATCHING

The Río Pudio Corridor, the Aljarafe Escarpment and the Ribera del Río Porzuna in Mairena del Aljarafe and the leisure area at Las Doblas in Sanlúcar la Mayor.

POINTS OF INTEREST

- 1 Alcarayón Stream
 - 2 Green Corridor Guadamar- Las Doblas
 - 3 Green Corridor Guadamar- El Palmar
 - 4 San Antonio Tower
- Itálica greenway

SERVICES & FACILITIES

 El Palmar







A large flock of flamingos is captured in flight against a clear, bright blue sky. The birds are seen from various angles, showing their long necks, dark wings, and distinctive reddish-pink plumage. They are scattered across the frame, creating a sense of dynamic movement and a vast natural habitat.

ORNITHOLOGICAL ROUTE 4

— GUADALQUIVIR - DOÑANA —

This large area runs along the banks of the River Guadalquivir, the natural backbone of the district, whose final stretch runs through the Doñana National Park and the Lower Guadalquivir basin.

As it passes through the province, the Guadalquivir forms an important ecological corridor with marsh, riverbank, steppe and farmland ecosystems. Its open spaces provide food and shelter for migratory birds, which can also be found in the Doñana National and Natural Parks. One of the greatest attractions is the number and variety of birds that can easily be seen here, just by walking through the area, where it is easy to come across the purple gallinule, black stork or glossy ibis, among many other species.

It is an emblematic territory due to its key role in the conservation of Doñana National Park, which hosts unique species such as the Spanish imperial eagle and the Iberian lynx. The transformed marshes in this area of Doñana and the Lower Guadalquivir offer refuge to fauna when resources are scarce in other parts of the territory.

There is a great wealth of birdlife in this area, both in variety and abundance. It is a temporary habitat for many migratory species, both for nesting and for wintering. In other cases, it is a place of rest for birds on long migrations. It is estimated that over 150 species use the marshes as a place of passage or wintering, and around 125 as a breeding habitat. Some of the outstanding species found in this territory are fish-eating birds, such as grebes, terns, cormorants and gulls, and shallow water birds like the flamingo, heron, stilt, avocet, spoonbill, glossy ibis, red-crested pochard, greylag goose, black stork and the white stork.

TOWNS

Alcalá del Río, Alcolea del Río, Aznalcázar, Brenes, Burguillos, Cantillana, Coria del Río, Dos Hermanas, El Cuervo, Gelves, Isla Mayor, La Algaba, La Rinconada, Las Cabezas de San Juan, Lebrija, Lora del Río, Los Palacios y Villafranca, Peñaflor, Pilas, La Puebla del Río, Tocina, Villamanrique de la Condesa, Villanueva del Río y Minas y Villaverde del Río.

PLACES OF INTEREST FOR ORNITHOLOGICAL AND NATURE TOURISM

DOÑANA NATIONAL PARK

Doñana National Park, partly in the municipality of La Puebla del Río and with a larger area in Aznalcázar, has one of the most interesting mixtures of flora, fauna and landscape to be found anywhere in Europe, and is a fundamental location for the passage, shelter and breeding of birds. The José Antonio Valverde Visitor Centre in the National Park in Aznalcázar is an excellent place to enjoy the largest breeding colony of glossy ibis and the nearby Caño Travieso offers unique birdwatching opportunities.

DOÑANA NATURAL PARK

Doñana Natural Park straddles the municipalities of Aznalcázar, Pilas, La Puebla del Río, Villamanrique de la Condesa and Isla Mayor, providing a protective cordon around the National Park. The Park has two well-differentiated zones: the wet zones around the Guadalquivir and its branches, and



the forest systems in the northern part of the Park. It has some excellent birdwatching spots, such as Entremuros and Caño del Guadamar, Dehesa Boyal in Villamanrique and Dehesa de Pilas.

CAÑADA DE LOS PÁJAROS

Cañada de los Pájaros is a Private Nature Reserve in the municipality of La Puebla del Río, and is included in the Inventory of Wet Zones of Andalusia and in the Andalusian Wetland Plan. It is a facility for the captive breeding of endangered species, such as the marbled teal, slender-billed gull, white-headed duck, squacco heron and the red-knobbed coot.

DEHESA DE ABAJO

Dehesa de Abajo is a Private Nature Reserve in the municipality of La Puebla del Río, occupying the border between the marsh and forest ecosystems. Within the Reserve are to be found the lagoon, the dehesa areas of olive trees and a forest of stone pines. As well as a visitor centre, the Reserve has public facilities which make the dehesa an exceptional spot for birdwatching at any time of the year. Furthermore, it is also home to the largest breeding population of black kite in the province of Seville and the largest colony of white storks nesting in olive trees to be found anywhere in Europe.

PROTECTED LANDSCAPE OF THE GUADIAMAR GREEN CORRIDOR

The source of the River Guadamar is to be found near the municipality of Castillo de las Guardas, in the Sierra Morena mountains and, after crossing several municipalities of the Aljarafe district, it flows close to Aznalcázar, Pilas and Villamanrique de la Condesa, until it reaches the marsh in the En-



tremuros area, close to Isla Mayor and La Puebla del Río, where it connects with the Doñana Nature Area. From the first stretch of its descent, numerous populations of bee-eater, kingfisher and penduline tit are to be found.

BRAZO DEL ESTE NATURE SITE

The Brazo del Este Nature Site, which straddles the municipalities of La Puebla del Río, Coria del Río, Utrera, Dos Hermanas, Las Cabezas de San Juan and Lebrija, is on the left bank of the current path of the River Guadalquivir. It is one of the old branches into which the River Guadalquivir was divided as it passed through the marshes. Here, areas of cropland alternate with marshes and watercourses. Glossy ibis, purple gallinules, night herons, little bitterns, herons, marsh harriers and numerous ducks and waders can be seen in the Site. In winter, there are black storks and cranes.

LA ISLETA AND LOS OLIVILLOS

These areas are about 3 km apart, in the municipality of La Puebla del Río. They are made up of two islands formed by the river channels that have been created to improve navigation by eliminating meanders. The result is two isolated areas with wet zones and still waters where large colonies of herons and ducks have established themselves.

LEBRIJA-LAS CABEZAS ENDORHEIC BASINS

In the South of the province of Seville is this nature reserve made up of six lagoons: La Galiana, La Cigarrera, El Pílon, La Peña, El Taraje and Charroao. The endorheic basins are located in an area with gentle slopes on impermeable ground which leads to the formation of ponds. The red-knobbed



coot, the white-headed duck, the northern shoveller, the red-crested pochard, the mallard, the gadwall, the purple gallinule, herons and birds of prey can all be found here.

LOS TOLLOS LAGOON

Located in the municipality of El Cuervo, this lagoon has recently been restored and opened to visitors. Species commonly seen in its waters include Eurasian coots, stilts, Northern shovellers, whistling ducks and mallards. In summer, with sufficient rainfall, hundreds of flamingos can gather here.

LA CORCHUELA PERIURBAN PARK

This Periurban Park in the municipality of Dos Hermanas offers many attractions. Among its natural features, La Corchuela gives visitors the opportunity to enjoy different ecosystems, all with their own Mediterranean forest species. The southern part of the park has a valuable area of open holm oak dehesa. The north has a small wood of wild olive trees, together with tall, dense, diverse Mediterranean shrubland throughout the area. Several watercourses, such as the Hornillo Stream, refresh the zone, with riparian vegetation and the notable presence of poplars, willows, tamarisk and bulrushes. To help identify the fauna to be found here, the visitor will find interpretation aids to recognise different species, mainly birds, such as the little owl, black kite, cuckoo, thrush and partridge.

OTHER SITES OF INTEREST FOR BIRDWATCHING

The Alcarayón Stream, Caño del Guadiamar, Caracoles, Caño Travieso, western escarpment of the Aljarafe, Dehesa de Bancos, Dehesa de Tornero, the Arroyo Sajón Lagoon, Marisma Gallega, Marisma de Entremuros, and the network of paths and birdwatching observatories of the Aljarafe-Doñana area, in the municipality of Aznalcázar, the Río Guadalquivir Park in Peñaflor, La Dehesa de Torrecuadros, Arroyo de Pilas, the marshes of Pilas Sector III, the Alcarayon Stream and Dehesa de Espechilla in the municipality of Pilas, the Playita Site of Forestry Interest in Tocina, the Lower Guadalquivir as it passes through Gelves and Coria del Río, Laguna del San Lázaro and Dehesa Boyal in Villamanrique, Dehesa la Atalaya, the new course of the River Guadaíra, the Río Pudio Green Corridor in Coria del Río, the Melendo reservoir and La Señuela in Lebrija.







POINTS OF INTEREST

- 1** Private Nature Reserve Cañada de los Pájaros
- 2** Private Nature Reserve Dehesa de Abajo
- 3** Doñana Natural Park - Entremuros.
- 4** Doñana National Park - Caño Travieso
- 5** Doñana National Park -J. A. Valverde Visitor centre
- 6** Doñana Natural Park - Caño de Guadamar.
- 7** Dehesa de Pilas.
- 8** Dehesa Boyal.
- 9** Guadamar - Buitrago.
- 10** La Isleta
- 11** Los Olivillos
- 12** Brazo del Este
- 13** Lebrija-Las Cabezas endorheic basins
- 14** Laguna de Los Tollos

SERVICES & FACILITIES

- 1** VISITORS CENTER
- 1- J. A. Valverde.
 - 2- Dehesa Boyal.
 - 3- Del Guadamar
- i** INFORMATION POINT
- 1- Dehesa de Abajo.
- 👤** BIRDS OBSERVATORIES
- 1- Dehesa de Abajo.
 - 2- J. A. Valverde.
- 📷** PANORAMIC VIEW
- 1- Matallana.
- 🌳** PICNIC AREAS
- 1- Dehesa de Abajo.
 - 2- Pinares de Aznalcázar (Several).
 - 3- Dehesa Boyal.
 - 4- Guadamar - Buitrago.
 - 5- Las Tinajas - El Algarín



A quail with a white head and back and dark, patterned wings is perched on a dark, textured rock. The background is a soft, warm orange and yellow sky, suggesting sunset or sunrise. The lighting is dramatic, highlighting the bird's features against the bright sky.

ORNITHOLOGICAL ROUTE 5

— THE CAMPIÑA —

The Campiña, an area of farmed countryside, is one of the natural areas into which the province of Seville has traditionally been divided. These plains cover almost 5,000 square kilometres and are known as the “granary of Seville”. They are dominated by cereal farming, interspersed with fruit orchards and olive groves, and they are surprising for their size and wide, open landscapes. Furthermore, the territory is famous for the abundance of archaeological remains from all the different periods of history. The area is notable for its wealth of landscapes and natural habitats, with wet zones providing for varied fauna, from water birds to large mammals and bovines.

The area is home to interesting bird fauna, especially the bustard, partridge and quail. Species typically found in the wheat fields are the crested lark, calandra lark, greater short-toed lark, Eurasian skylark and the pipit. Other birds seen in the summer are species which can bear the summer heat, including swallows, house martins and swifts, lapwings, stone-curlews and sandgrouse. Among the birds of prey, the lesser kestrel, the Montagu’s harrier, the barn owl and the little owl stand out, and in the olive groves, the common starling. Waders, ducks and herons can be found in the marshy environments of this area.

TOWNS

Alcalá de Guadaíra, Arahal, Cañada Rosal, Carmona, Écija, El Rubio, El Viso del Alcor, Estepa, Fuentes de Andalucía, La Campana, La Lantejuela, La Luisiana, La Puebla de Cazalla, Los Molares, Mairena del Alcor, Marchena, Osuna, Paradas y Utrera.

PLACES OF INTEREST FOR ORNITHOLOGICAL AND NATURE TOURISM

NATURE RESERVE OF THE LA LANTEJUELA ENDORHEIC BASINS

This wetland is located in the municipalities of La Lantejuela and Osuna and comprises the Consuegra, Ruíz Sánchez, Turquilla, Huerta, Verde Sal, Calderón Grande and Gobierno lagoons, and especially the Ballestera and Calderón Chica lagoons, both protected as a Nature Reserve where, in the rainy season, emblematic species such as the white-headed duck, black-necked grebe and flamingo can be seen. The most common group are the Anatidae, especially the mallard, but also with a large number of gadwall, whistling ducks, northern shovellers, red-crested pochards and geese. Among the notable waders is the stilt.

THE BANKS OF THE RIVER GUADAÍRA

Declared a mixed natural and eco-cultural Natural Monument due to its defining role and the quality of its river landscape and architectural remains, this is a ten-kilometre stretch of the River Guadaíra in the municipality of Alcalá de Guadaíra which has 12 water-powered flour mills. It is a prime location for birdwatching, especially for passerines.

LA CAMPIÑA GREENWAY

Its itinerary runs through the farmland of the province from Marchena to Écija before entering the province of Córdoba, where it continues as far as the provincial capital. It runs through sunflower and cereal fields, between olive groves which are especially beautiful in spring. Part of its route runs



through the province of Seville, in the municipality of Écija (30 Km of which has been refurbished) and the rest, between La Luisiana and Marchena, still in its original state.

UTRERA ENDORHEIC BASINS

This reserve includes the Zarracatín, Arjona and Alcaparroza lagoons. There is a great diversity of birds to be seen in this area, especially waterfowl such as the northern pintail, avocet, stilt, common pochard, mallard and the dunlin. In spring, flocks of flamingos can be seen. Different birds of prey can also be found here, especially the marsh harrier, Montagu's harrier and the common buzzard.

BRAZO DEL ESTE NATURE SITE

The Brazo del Este Nature Site, as it passes through the municipality of Utrera, is on the left bank of the current path of the River Guadalquivir. Here, glossy ibis, purple gallinules, night herons, little bitterns, herons, marsh harriers and numerous ducks y waders can be seen. In winter, there are black storks and cranes.

SIERRA DE BECERRERO COMPLEX

This is forested mountain terrain of enormous value located to the north of the municipality of Estepa. Several different ecosystems can be identified, with their own peculiarities as regards flora and fauna, and privileged to boast some unique but endangered species. Birds typically found here include the common crossbill (the only population in the province de Seville), Bonelli's eagle, the short-toed treecreeper, the Eurasian eagle owl, the lesser kestrel (the largest colony in the western part of the province), the stone-curlew and the red-legged partridge, etc.

OTHER SITES OF INTEREST FOR BIRDWATCHING

The Escalera Lagoon and Río Blanco, in the municipality of El Rubio, Ruiz Sánchez Lagoon in Écija, La Muela Park and La Vega in El Viso del Alcor, Las Salinas de Valcargado and the Torre del Águila Reservoir in Utrera, the River Corbones and the Jarda Viewpoint in Marchena, Mairena Castle in Mairena del Alcor, Los Canterones and Los Tajillos in Estepa.





POINTS OF INTEREST

- | | | | |
|---|--------------------------------|---|----------------------------|
| 1 | Los Alcores greenway | 5 | Utrera endorheic basins |
| 2 | La Campiña greenway | 6 | Brazo del Este Nature Site |
| 3 | La Lantejuela endorheic basins | 7 | Ribera del Guadaira |
| 4 | Osuna trails | | |







A detailed photograph of a rocky cliff face. The rock is dark and textured, with various shades of grey, black, and brown. There are several bird nests visible, some containing eggs. A prominent yellowish-green mineral deposit or lichen is visible on the left side. The overall scene is rugged and natural.

ORNITHOLOGICAL ROUTE 6

— SIERRA SUR —

Located in the Seville part of the Sierra Subbética mountains, the most abrupt part of the landscape is characterised by the rocky relief, with outcrops, hills, gullies and gorges contrasting with the plains of the Campiña farmland area. The lower mountainous area, though, is more undulating, blanketed in olive groves and other crops. The territory offers a wide variety of habitats, including rocky terrain, open dehesa pastureland, olive groves and cereal fields, karst ecosystems on rivers and lakes, etc. Their ecological value allows the survival of protected bird species which find a habitat there which is both an alternative and complementary to the Doñana marshes.

The territory stands out for its birdlife, with species such as the white-headed duck, purple gallinule, grey heron, flamingo, red-knobbed coot and numerous Anatidae, as well as a colony of black vulture and other birds of prey such as the Egyptian vulture, Eurasian eagle owl and Bonelli's eagle, passerines such as the crag martin and the black-eared wheatear among others, and Corvidae such as the jackdaw and the raven.



TOWNS

Algámitas, Aguadulce, Badolatosa, Casariche, Coripe, El Coronil, El Saucejo, Gilena, Herrera, La Roda de Andalucía, Lora de Estepa, Los Corrales, Marinaleda, Martín de la Jara, Montellano, Morón de la Frontera, Pedrera, Pruna y Villanueva de San Juan.

PLACES OF INTEREST FOR ORNITHOLOGICAL AND NATURE TOURISM

LA SIERRA GREENWAY AND PEÑÓN DE ZAFRAMAGÓN NATURE RESERVE

The natural landscape that follows the Greenway, passing through the municipalities of Coripe, Montellano and Pruna in the province of Seville, is an environmental and tourist attraction of the highest value, allowing visitors to experience the landscape of dehesa pastureland, riversides, escarpments of Mediterranean forest and rocky outcrops. Its greatest attraction are the griffon vulture colonies to be found at Peñón de Zaframagón and the



populations of protected species such as Bonelli's eagle, the Eurasian eagle owl, the Egyptian vulture and the peregrine falcon. The nature reserve is catalogued as a Special Protection Area.

LA LAGUNA DEL GOSQUE NATURE RESERVE

Located in Martín de la Jara, this is a temporary salty lagoon that is usually dry in summer and part of autumn, until the first rains. It is a habitat for the flamingo, Kentish plover, red-knobbed coot and the northern pintail. It also provides a home for the genet and the weasel. The Lagoon is catalogued as a Special Protection Area.

NATURAL SITE OF THE CORDOBILLA AND MALPASILLO RESERVOIRS

Located in the municipality of Badolatosa, these reservoirs, which are open to the public, are near to other natural enclaves of great importance, such as the Nature Reserves of the Lagoons of South Cordoba, which help to sustain many protected bird species that also use these areas for nesting and wintering. This environment attracts a great variety of birds, such as the white-headed duck, purple gallinule, grey heron, flamingo and the crane, which winters here. It all so attracts waders, including stilts, the common sandpiper, avocet, Kentish plover and the little ringed plover. Birds of prey, such as the marsh harrier, also fly over these lakes and breed here. In the surrounding area, we can find the golden eagle, Bonelli's eagle, the common buzzard, Montagu's harrier, the sparrowhawk and the peregrine falcon.

TAJOS DE MOGAREJO NATURAL MONUMENT

In the municipality of Montellano, on the course of the Salado stream, there is a cool riparian forest on the river banks, with abundant tamarisk and brackish water species. It has a landscape of great value, with extraordinary escarpments, over 30 metres in height, which are home to a great diversity of birdlife.

CHAPARRO DE LA VEGA NATURAL MONUMENT

A huge, ancient holm oak growing in the Sierra Sur of Seville, in the municipality of Coripe. Very close to the route of the La Sierra Greenway, just a short distance from Coripe Station, the Chaparro de la Vega is a holm oak that is over two centuries old, and the diameter of its crown is 30 metres.

OTHER SITES OF INTEREST FOR BIRDWATCHING

The Zaframagón birdwatching and interpretation centre in Coripe. The Mountain Sites of Environmental Interest: Sierra de Esparteros and Arenales-El Hornillo in Morón de la Frontera. The Sierra del Tablón, Castillo de Hierro, El Hundedero-Molinillo and Sierra de las Harinas, in Pruna.



POINTS OF INTEREST

- | | |
|-----------------------|------------------------|
| 1 Tajos de Moralejo | 4 Laguna del Gosque |
| 2 Chaparro de la Vega | 5 Malpasillo reservoir |
| 3 Peñón de Zaframagón | 6 Cordobilla reservoir |

----- La Sierra greenway

SERVICES & FACILITIES



PICNIC AREAS

- 1- Chaparro de la Vega.
- 2- Cañada Honda



PANORAMIC VIEW

- 1- La Acebuchosa









— BIRDWATCHING TOURISM COMPANIES —

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— LOCATION OF SPECIES IN AREAS —

	S.NORTE	C.PLATA	GUAD-DOÑ	ALJARAFE	CAMPIÑA	S.SUR
<i>Alpine swift</i>	✓	✓			✓	✓
<i>Azure-winged magpie</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
<i>Barn owl</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<i>Barn swallow</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<i>Black kite</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<i>Black redstart</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<i>Black stork</i>	✓	✓				✓
<i>Black vulture</i>	✓	✓				✓
<i>Black wheatear</i>	✓	✓				✓
<i>Black-bellied sandgrouse</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<i>Black-eared wheatear</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<i>Black-headed gull</i>			✓		✓	✓
<i>Black-necked grebe</i>			✓		✓	✓
<i>Black-shouldered kite</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<i>Black-tailed godwit</i>			✓			
<i>Black-winged stilt</i>	✓		✓		✓	✓
<i>Blackcap</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<i>Blue rock thrush</i>	✓	✓				✓
<i>Blue tit</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<i>Bluethroat</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓
<i>Bonelli's eagle</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
<i>Booted eagle</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<i>Calandra lark</i>	✓	✓	✓		✓	
<i>Cattle egret</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<i>Cetti's warbler</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<i>Cirl bunting</i>	✓	✓				✓
<i>Collared dove</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<i>Collared pratincole</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓
<i>Common blackbird</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<i>Common buzzard</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓
<i>Common chaffinch</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

<i>Common chiffchaff</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<i>Common crane</i>	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
<i>Common crossbill</i>						✓
<i>Common cuckoo</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<i>Common greenshank</i>			✓		✓	✓
<i>Common kestrel</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<i>Common kingfisher</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<i>Common linnet</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<i>Common magpie</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓		
<i>Common moorhen</i>			✓		✓	✓
<i>Common nightingale</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<i>Common pochard</i>			✓		✓	✓
<i>Common quail</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<i>Common raven</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<i>Common redshank</i>			✓		✓	✓
<i>Common redstart</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
<i>Common ringed plover</i>			✓		✓	✓
<i>Common sandpiper</i>			✓		✓	✓
<i>Common shelduck</i>			✓			
<i>Common snipe</i>			✓		✓	
<i>Common starling</i>			✓	✓	✓	
<i>Common stonechat</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<i>Common swift</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<i>Common teal</i>			✓		✓	✓
<i>Common whitethroat</i>	✓	✓		✓		✓
<i>Common woodpigeon</i>	✓	✓				✓
<i>Corn bunting</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<i>Crag martin</i>	✓	✓				✓
<i>Crested lark</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<i>Crested tit</i>	✓	✓				✓
<i>Dartford warbler</i>	✓	✓		✓		✓

	S.NORTE	C.PLATA	GUAD-DOÑ	ALJARAFE	CAMPIÑA	S.SUR
<i>Dunlin</i>			✓		✓	✓
<i>Dunnock</i>	✓	✓	✓			✓
<i>Egyptian vulture</i>	✓	✓	✓			✓
<i>Eurasian bittern</i>			✓			
<i>Eurasian bullfinch</i>	✓	✓				
<i>Eurasian coot</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<i>Eurasian curlew</i>			✓			
<i>Eurasian eagle owl</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<i>Eurasian hobby</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
<i>Eurasian jay</i>	✓	✓				
<i>Eurasian nuthatch</i>	✓	✓				
<i>Eurasian scoops owl</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
<i>Eurasian siskin</i>			✓	✓	✓	
<i>Eurasian skylark</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<i>Eurasian sparrowhawk</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
<i>Eurasian spoonbill</i>			✓	✓		
<i>Eurasian tree sparrow</i>	✓	✓	✓			✓
<i>Eurasian wigeon</i>			✓		✓	✓
<i>Eurasian woodcock</i>	✓	✓		✓		✓
<i>Eurasian wryneck</i>	✓	✓	✓			✓
<i>European bee-eater</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<i>European goldfinch</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<i>European green woodpecker</i>	✓	✓	✓			✓
<i>European greenfinch</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓
<i>European honey buzzard</i>	✓	✓	✓			✓
<i>European nightjar</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓		
<i>European reed warbler</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<i>European robin</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<i>European roller</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<i>European serin</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<i>European turtle dove</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

<i>Ferruginous duck</i>			✓			
<i>Firecrest</i>	✓	✓				✓
<i>Gadwall</i>			✓			✓
<i>Garden warbler</i>	✓	✓		✓		
<i>Garganey</i>			✓			
<i>Glossy ibis</i>			✓		✓	✓
<i>Golden eagle</i>	✓	✓				✓
<i>Golden oriole</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
<i>Great bustard</i>				✓	✓	✓
<i>Great cormorant</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<i>Great crested grebe</i>			✓		✓	✓
<i>Great egret</i>			✓			
<i>Great reed warbler</i>			✓		✓	
<i>Great spotted cuckoo</i>	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
<i>Great spotted woodpecker</i>	✓	✓	✓			✓
<i>Great tit</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<i>Greater flamingo</i>			✓		✓	✓
<i>Greater short-toed lark</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<i>Green sandpiper</i>			✓		✓	✓
<i>Grey heron</i>			✓		✓	✓
<i>Grey plover</i>			✓			
<i>Grey wagtail</i>	✓	✓				✓
<i>Greylag goose</i>			✓		✓	✓
<i>Griffon vulture</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<i>Gull-billed Tern</i>			✓		✓	✓
<i>Hen harrier</i>			✓	✓	✓	
<i>Hoopoe</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<i>House martin</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<i>House sparrow</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<i>Kentish plover</i>			✓		✓	✓
<i>Lesser black-backed gull</i>			✓		✓	✓

	S.NORTE	C.PLATA	GUAD-DOÑ	ALJARAFE	CAMPIÑA	S.SUR
<i>Lesser kestrel</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<i>Lesser short-toed lark</i>			✓			
<i>Little bittern</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<i>Little bustard</i>			✓	✓	✓	
<i>Little egret</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<i>Little grebe</i>			✓		✓	✓
<i>Little owl</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<i>Little ringed plover</i>			✓		✓	✓
<i>Little tern</i>			✓			
<i>Long-eared owl</i>	✓	✓	✓			✓
<i>Long-tailed tit</i>	✓	✓	✓			✓
<i>Mallard</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<i>Marbled teal</i>			✓			
<i>Mistle thrush</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<i>Montagu's harrier</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓
<i>Night heron</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓
<i>Northern goshawk</i>	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
<i>Northern lapwing</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓
<i>Northern pintail</i>			✓		✓	✓
<i>Northern shoveller</i>	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
<i>Northern wheatear</i>			✓	✓	✓	
<i>Osprey</i>			✓			
<i>Pallid swift</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<i>Penduline tit</i>			✓		✓	✓
<i>Peregrine falcon</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<i>Pied Avocet</i>			✓		✓	
<i>Pied flycatcher</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<i>Pin-tailed sandgrouse</i>			✓	✓	✓	
<i>Purple gallinule</i>			✓		✓	✓
<i>Purple heron</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<i>Red crested pochard</i>			✓		✓	✓

<i>Red kite</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
<i>Red-billed chough</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<i>Red-knobbed coot</i>			✓		✓	
<i>Red-legged partridge</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<i>Red-necked nightjar</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<i>Red-rumped swallow</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<i>Redwing</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<i>Ring ouzel</i>	✓					✓
<i>Rock bunting</i>	✓	✓				✓
<i>Rock dove</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<i>Ruff</i>			✓		✓	✓
<i>Rufous-tailed rock thrush</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<i>Rufous-tailed scrub robin</i>			✓	✓	✓	
<i>Sand martin</i>			✓		✓	✓
<i>Sardinian warbler</i>	✓	✓		✓		✓
<i>Savi's warbler</i>			✓		✓	✓
<i>Sedge warbler</i>	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
<i>Short-eared owl</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<i>Short-toed eagle</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<i>Short-toed treecreeper</i>	✓	✓	✓			✓
<i>Song thrush</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<i>Southern grey shrike</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<i>Spanish imperial eagle</i>	✓	✓	✓			
<i>Spanish sparrow</i>			✓	✓	✓	
<i>Spotless starling</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<i>Spotted flycatcher</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<i>Spotted redshank</i>			✓			
<i>Squacco heron</i>			✓		✓	✓
<i>Stone curlew</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓
<i>Subalpine warbler</i>	✓	✓				✓
<i>Tawny owl</i>	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓

	S.NORTE	C.PLATA	GUAD-DOÑ	ALJARAFE	CAMPIÑA	S.SUR
<i>Tawny pipit</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<i>Thekla lark</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
<i>Tree pipit</i>	✓	✓	✓			✓
<i>Tufted duck</i>			✓		✓	✓
<i>Water rail</i>			✓		✓	✓
<i>Western jackdaw</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<i>Western marsh harrier</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓
<i>Western orphean warbler</i>	✓	✓				✓
<i>Whiskered Tern</i>			✓		✓	✓
<i>White stork</i>	✓		✓		✓	✓
<i>White wagtail</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<i>White-headed duck</i>			✓		✓	✓
<i>White-throated dipper</i>	✓	✓				✓
<i>Willow warbler</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<i>Winter wren</i>	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
<i>Wood lark</i>	✓	✓		✓		✓
<i>Woodchat shrike</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<i>Yellow wagtail</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<i>Yellow-legged gull</i>			✓	✓		✓
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