



BIRDWATCHING  
CALENDAR OF  
THE PROVINCE  
OF  
**CADIZ**



ENGLISH







**BIRDWATCHING  
CALENDAR OF  
THE PROVINCE  
OF CADIZ**



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# CADIZ

a natural mosaic

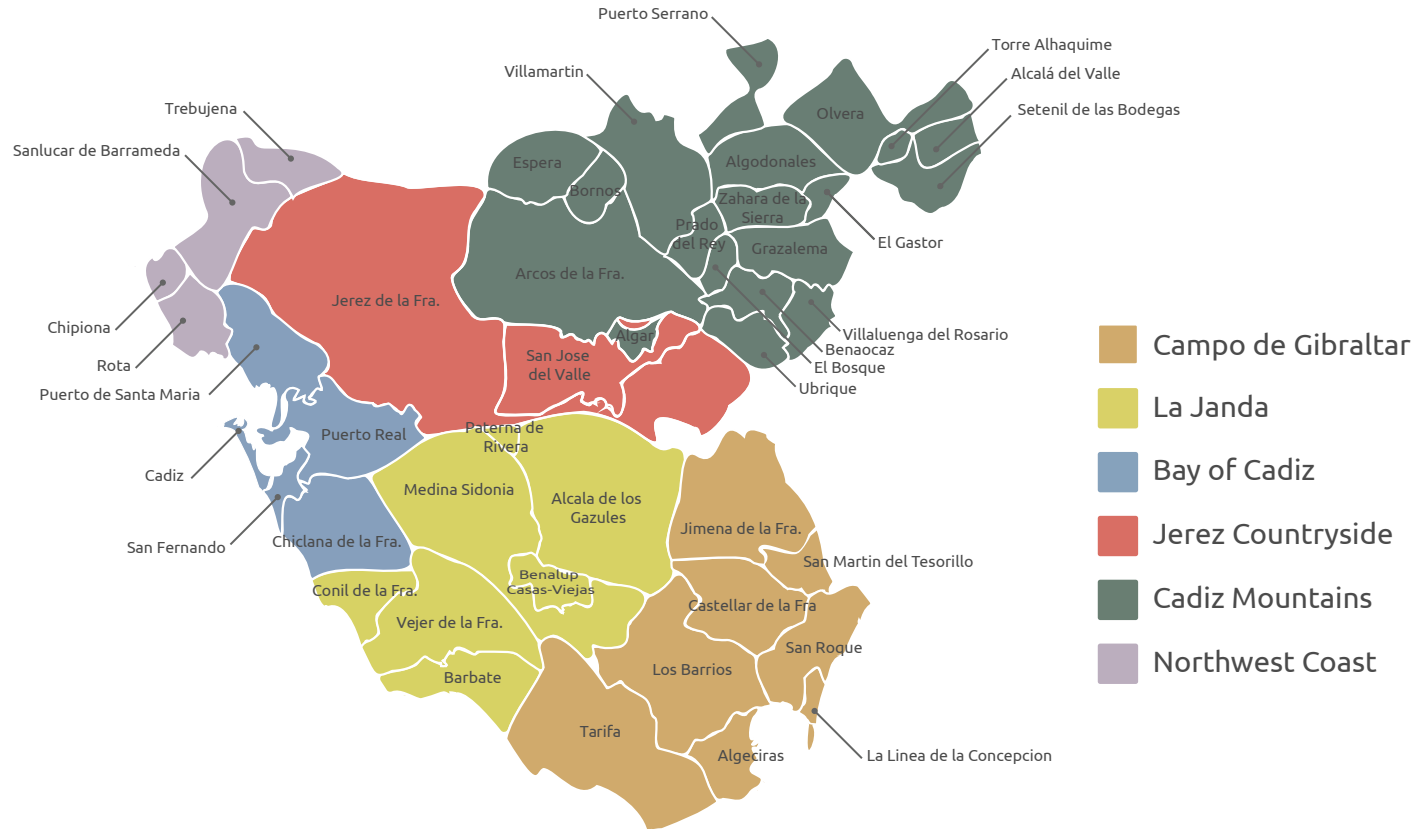
***The Strait of Gibraltar is the most important point for the observation of the Western Palearctic glider migration. Around 30 million birds use it every year at least twice a year during their migrations.***

From a bird's eye view, the province of Cadiz is a beautiful mosaic of landscapes. This is the result of the privileged geographical location of the territory. Located between two seas and overlooking the African continent, this territory is distinctive for its natural setting and diverse character of the landscape. Considering the numerous environments of great ecological value and the administrative protection of its territory, 38 % of the surface area of the province of Cadiz is included in the Network of Protected Natural Spaces of Andalusia. Human activity has transformed the landscape and created new habitats, such as salt marshes, vineyards and countryside where birds have managed to adapt.

To speak of the province of Cadiz is to speak of mountains, beaches, forests, dry crops, vineyards, rivers, marshes, salt pans, pastures, cliffs, sea..., and of course of the living beings that inhabit it.

The province of Cadiz stretches like an arm of land towards the African continent. Its very close proximity to Africa, 14 km at its narrowest point, makes Cadiz a unique place used by thousands of birds to make their annual migrations between the two continents. In this sense, the province acts as a funnel for south-bound migrants, channelling a large number of European migratory birds on their way to their wintering grounds in Africa. And it is also the arrival point for thousands of north-bound migrants on their way to Europe for breeding.





- Natural regions in the province of Cadiz -



*There are 72 proposals for birdwatching in the province of Cadiz: one for each region and month of one whole year.*

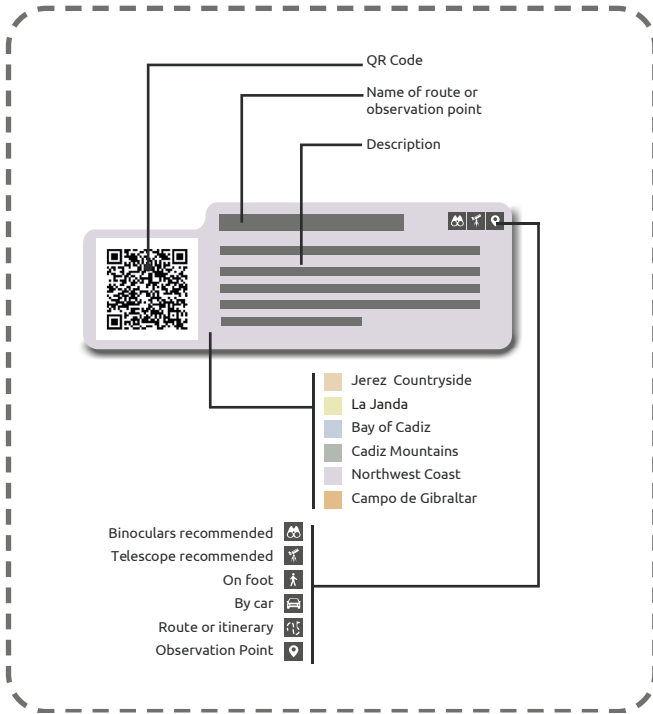
**W**ith this ornithological calendar we will embark on a journey through the province of Cadiz: in time, over twelve months, and in space, through each of the six natural regions that make up the landscape of the province. In this trip, six ornithological destinations are proposed for each of the months of the year (one for each region). What?, When? and Where? are some of the topics that this publication aims to explore.

The journey begins with a brief tour through each of the natural regions of the province of Cadiz, highlighting their natural and ornithological landmarks. Subsequently, we travel in time through an annual phenology cycle of the birds that we can see in the province. Here, different hotspots and routes are proposed for their observation in each of the regions.

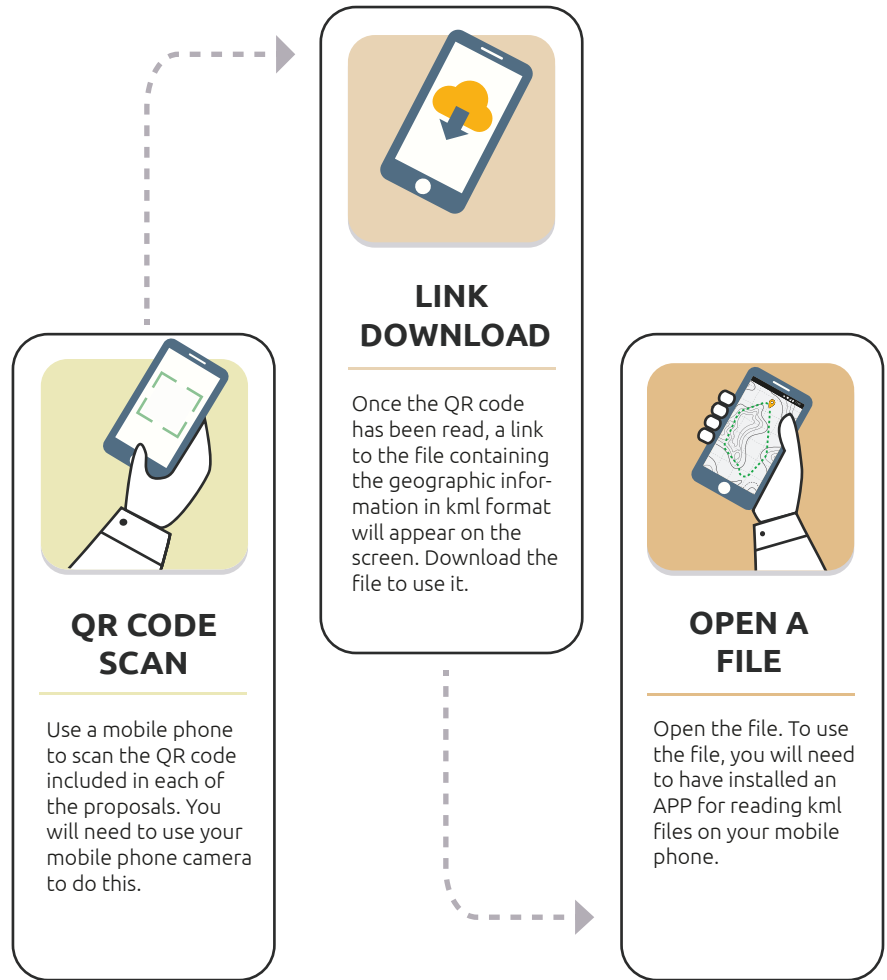
The descriptions of each of the routes proposed in this ornithological calendar are included in factsheets at the end of each month. There are QR codes with links to download the files that contain all the geographical information you need for GPS or smartphones. This way, the reader is provided with the geographical location of each of the routes or observation points compiled for each month and region. Once the QR code has been read, the file can be downloaded and the geographical information will appear in kml format. The free, ad-free Mapas de España app from the Spanish National Geographic Institute is a highly recommended option for viewing the points or itineraries on any smartphone.



# How to use the factsheets



- Example factsheet -



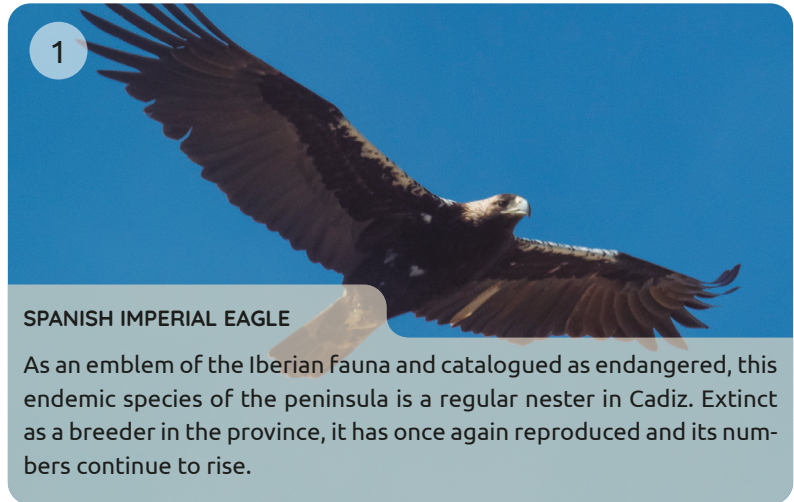
- Steps to download geographic information -



## TOP 10

This Top 10 includes the ten most iconic species of the province of Cadiz chosen for their beauty, uniqueness in the territory, scarcity, degree of threat, distribution, and taking due consideration of all the distinctive and diverse habitats present in Cadiz.

Each birdwatcher will undoubtedly have his or her own particular Top 10. However, this selection was made according to the criteria mentioned above and building on the immense richness and diversity that Cadiz has in terms of birds. We have tried to cover as many groups of birds as possible: eagles, vultures, waterfowl, passerines, ibis, pelagic seabirds, gulls, rails and swifts. We have included birds that are singular and infrequent in other areas of Andalusia, that are difficult to observe due to their degree of threat and low density, and of course, that are mentioned and distributed throughout the six regions that make up the most varied and complete province of the whole of Spain.





3



**BONELLI'S EAGLE**

A common nester in rocky areas and cliffs. On rare occasions it also breeds in large trees. In danger of extinction at a national level and with a downward trend throughout the country, it is still common in the province of Cadiz.

4



**LITTLE SWIFT**

Originally from Africa, it crossed the Strait of Gibraltar at the end of the last millennium and colonised the province of Cadiz. With its reproduction recorded since 2000 in the Sierra de la Plata (Tarifa), it has been spreading to other places in the west of the province.

5



**MARBLED DUCK**

A very abundant species in the province of Cadiz a century ago. Today, it is the most endangered waterfowl on the entire European continent, being in critical danger of extinction at a national level.

6



**RED-KNOBBED COOT**

With a mainly African distribution, it is a very scarce breeder in the province of Cadiz. This fact posits an exceptional singularity to Cadiz avifaunal diversity. Critically endangered at a national level, the number of pairs fluctuates around 20 pairs in the province.



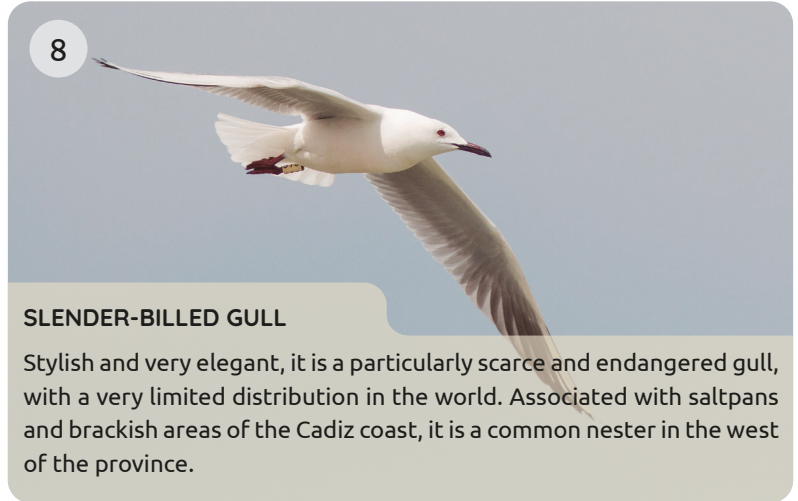
7



**RUFOUS-TAILED SCRUB ROBIN**

Classified in danger of extinction at a national level, it arrives every spring from Africa to nest in the province. Among the traditional vineyards and wild olive groves, with little influence of pesticides, the rarest of the Iberian passerines still breeds.

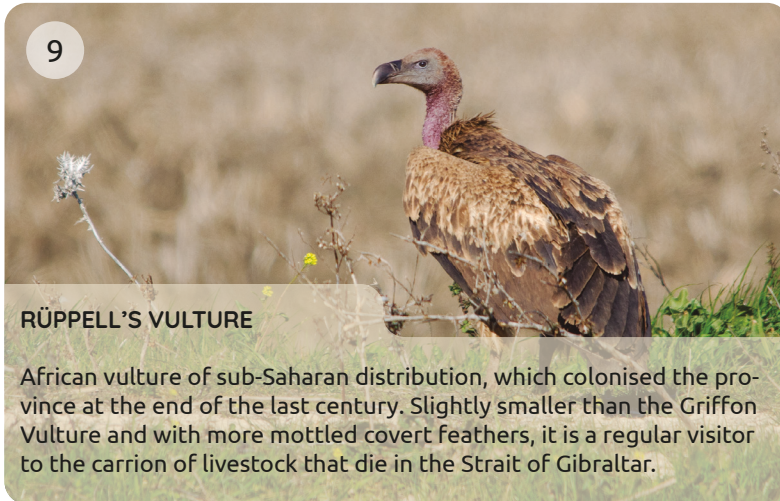
8



**SLENDER-BILLED GULL**

Stylish and very elegant, it is a particularly scarce and endangered gull, with a very limited distribution in the world. Associated with salt pans and brackish areas of the Cadiz coast, it is a common nester in the west of the province.

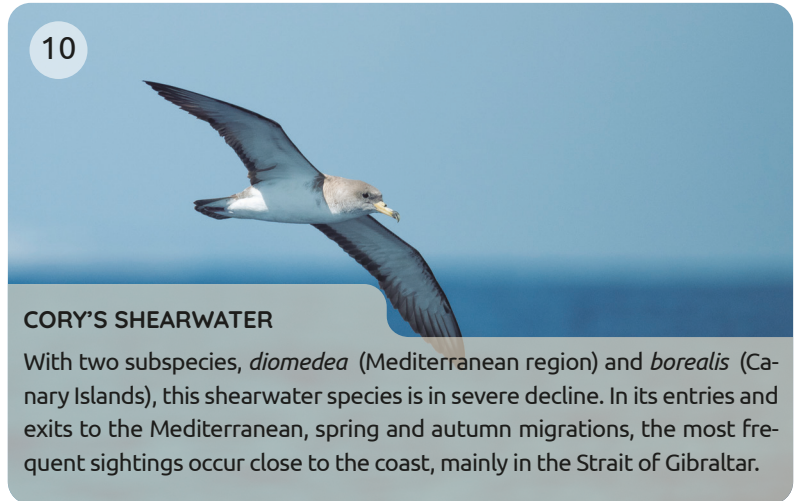
9



**RÜPPELL'S VULTURE**

African vulture of sub-Saharan distribution, which colonised the province at the end of the last century. Slightly smaller than the Griffon Vulture and with more mottled covert feathers, it is a regular visitor to the carrion of livestock that die in the Strait of Gibraltar.

10



**CORY'S SHEARWATER**

With two subspecies, *diomedea* (Mediterranean region) and *borealis* (Canary Islands), this shearwater species is in severe decline. In its entries and exits to the Mediterranean, spring and autumn migrations, the most frequent sightings occur close to the coast, mainly in the Strait of Gibraltar.





**NATURAL REGIONS  
OF THE PROVINCE OF CADIZ**

# BAY OF CADIZ



Located in the west of the province and made up of the municipalities of Cadiz, Chiclana de la Frontera, El Puerto de Santa Maria, Puerto Real and San Fernando, the region of the Bay of Cadiz hides great ornithological treasures among its marshes, water channels and saltpans. Clearly influenced by the action of the tides and human activity, which transformed its original landscapes for the use and exploitation of natural resources, the biodiversity of this region is reflected in the variety and richness of its birdlife.




The heterogeneity of the ecosystems present in the region: marshes, beaches, rivers, water channels, lakes, salt pans, intertidal flats, estuaries, pine forests, etc., as well as the urban centres themselves and their green areas, translate into uniqueness, diversity and abundance of birds. Furthermore, its location in the middle of the Europe-Africa migratory route, the great availability of accessible food in the region (the marshes are the second most productive ecosystem in the world) and the good weather mean that birdwatchers can enjoy their passion in the Bay of Cadiz all year round.



In an annual tour through the region, there are many highlights that the reader can discover through this ornithological calendar. Undoubtedly, the exceptional concentrations of waders, the huge flocks of Eurasian Wigeons and Spoonbills in the internal shores and the high number of Ospreys are some of the not-to-be-missed birding events in the Bay of Cadiz.

# LA JANDA

The background of the page is a light, muted green color. In the upper right corner, there is a silhouette of a flock of birds in flight, moving from left to right. The bottom half of the page is dominated by a dense field of tall, thin grasses, also rendered in a light green silhouette style, creating a textured, naturalistic feel.

The largest lake in the Iberian Peninsula until its drying up in the 1960s. La Janda is an extensive and beautiful region that includes the municipalities of Alcala de los Gazules, Barbate, Conil de la Frontera, Benalup-Casas Viejas, Medina Sidonia, Paterna de Rivera and Vejer de la Frontera. Marked by a great diversity, ranging from the heart of the Los Alcornocales forests to the cliffs of La Breña, the region of La Janda brings together unique places to enjoy memorable birdwatching moments.

With places of international importance for birds, the region of La Janda has all the attractions to be one of the best places for birdwatching in Europe. Some hotspots are the old lake of La Janda (today in the process of recovery promoted by the Association of Friends of the Laguna de la Janda), the breeding colonies of Northern Bald Ibis in La Barca de Vejer and the Castilnovo Tower in Conil de la Frontera, the Barbate marshes, the Los Alcornocales Natural Park, etc., and rare species of high value for birdwatchers, such as the nesting Iberian Imperial Eagle, Osprey and Bald Ibis, and wintering species such as the Common Crane.



Northern Bald Ibis



Common Crane



Collared Pratincole



Spanish Imperial Eagle

# CADIZ MOUNTAINS



In the north of the province of Cadiz, bordering Seville and Malaga, lies the mountainous region of the Sierra de Cadiz. Made up of 19 municipalities, it is the region with the most villages of the six in the province of Cadiz. Alcala del Valle, Algar, Algodonales, Arcos de la Frontera, Benaocaz, Bornos, El Bosque, El Gastor, Espera, Grazalema, Olvera, Prado del Rey, Puerto Serrano, Setenil de las Bodegas, Torre Alhaquime, Ubrique, Villaluenga del Rosario, Villamartin y Zahara de la Sierra make up this beautiful mosaic of white villages, mountains and countless birds.



The charm of its white villages and the countless natural attractions of this land make up a spectacular landscape that guarantees the admiration of the most demanding visitor. The variety and exclusivity of the ecosystems of this region: high mountain meadows, rocky areas, cork oak groves, holm oak forests, Spanish fir forests, Algerian and gall oak forests, pine forests, Mediterranean scrubland, riverbanks, lakes, etc., are home to a very diverse and unique birdlife. Species that are very difficult to find in other

parts of the province, such as the Golden Eagle, the Red-billed Chough, the Common Rock Thrush, the Rock Sparrow, the Alpine Accentor or the Ring Ouzel, among others, can be regularly watched in the Cadiz mountains. To all this wealth of birds and scenery, we must add the presence of other abundant natural treasures, such as Lepidoptera (butterflies and moths), amphibians and orchids, which are sought after and photographed every year by the many naturalists who visit the region.



Red-billed Chough



Golden Eagle

# JEREZ COUNTRYSIDE



**A**lthough it is made up of only two municipalities, Jerez de la Frontera and San Jose del Valle, the Jerez countryside covers a large area of land within the province of Cadiz. Mostly made up of farmland (vineyards, cereal crops, etc.), this region also has a large area of woodland, like the Montes de Propios in the Los Alcornocales Natural Park, and other areas of scrubland and low hills around the two municipalities, which are of great natural value.

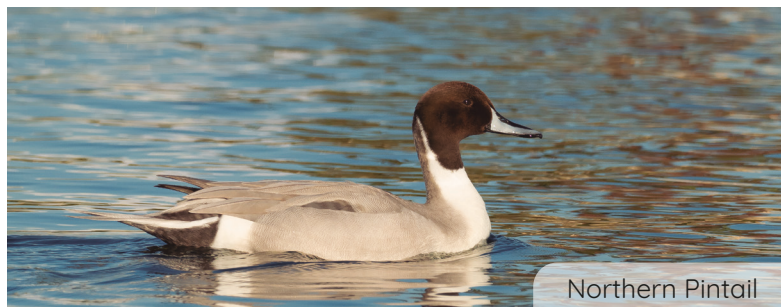




European Roller



Black-shouldered Kite



Northern Pintail

Ornithologically speaking, and with the occasional exception of the Medina Lake, a renowned wetland among birdwatchers, the Jerez region is largely unknown to today's birdwatching enthusiasts. This is indeed paradoxical, since it was precisely in the city of Jerez de la Frontera in 1952 where the first meetings for the foundation of the Spanish Ornithological Society (SEO BirdLife) were held. In the district of Jerez there is a large

number of ecosystems of high ecological value for birds, including excellent areas for steppe birds, the banks of the Guadalete river, cork oak forests, pine forests, pastures, lakes and other seasonal wetlands, large expanses of vineyards, urban and periurban parks, historic buildings, etc. Together, they all create a magnificent combination of elements that are home to a large number of birds.

# NORTHWEST COAST

This region extends along the final stretch of the Guadalquivir estuary, on its left bank. With a wine and seafaring tradition, and made up by the municipalities of Chipiona, Rota, Sanlúcar de Barrameda and Trebujena, this region overlooks the Atlantic from a privileged location. The richness of its estuary and the high biodiversity of its ecosystems make it a unique place, capable of hosting thousands of birds among its marshes, estuaries and salt pans.



Having part of its territory included within the Doñana Natural Park is synonymous with being an excellent place for birdwatching. Likewise, its natural and transformed marshes, estuaries, salt pans, pine forests, lakes, fishing weirs projecting out into the sea, vineyards, etc., make up a mosaic of foraging places and water availability, which make this region a recommended place for birdwatching all year round. If we also take into account the lar-

ge number of species that can be observed, as well as the singularity and scarcity of many of them (Little Swift, Marbled Duck, White-headed Duck and Slender-billed Gull), more than a recommendation, a visit to the Northwest Coast becomes practically an obligation for any birdwatcher looking to enjoy a special birdwatching day out.



# CAMPO DE GIBRALTAR

The background features a stylized illustration of a coastal landscape. In the foreground, there are rolling hills and mountains rendered in shades of light blue and white, with a large flock of birds in flight scattered across the sky. The overall color palette is soft and natural, with a light blue sky and white clouds.

The municipalities of Algeciras, Castellar de la Frontera, Jímena de la Frontera, La Línea de la Concepción, Los Barrios, San Martín del Tesorillo, San Roque and Tarifa make up the Campo de Gibraltar, which is the southernmost region of the province of Cádiz and, therefore, of the entire European continent. The southern location of this region, at a crossroads between two continents, washed by the Mediterranean and the Atlantic, and swayed by east and west winds, shapes the character of a land full of exuberant nature, a magic place where bird migration takes on unparalleled dimensions.





As described in this birdwatching calendar, the Campo de Gibraltar offers us an infinite number of possibilities all year round, with excellent locations and thousands of opportunities to enjoy great birdwatching moments. It is the phenomenon of migration as a whole what undoubtedly marks the identity of this place. The spectacular sight of large flocks of White Storks, the beauty of a sky filled with birds of prey, the majesty of a Vulture almost three metres in size crossing the Strait, the striking sight of small birds struggling to reach the other shore and the constant movement of seabirds to and from the Atlantic Ocean and the Mediterranean Sea, mean that every year during the spring and autumn, the Campo de Gibraltar is a true birdwatching festival with observers arriving from all corners of the planet to enjoy the migration.







**WHAT?  
WHEN?  
WHERE?**





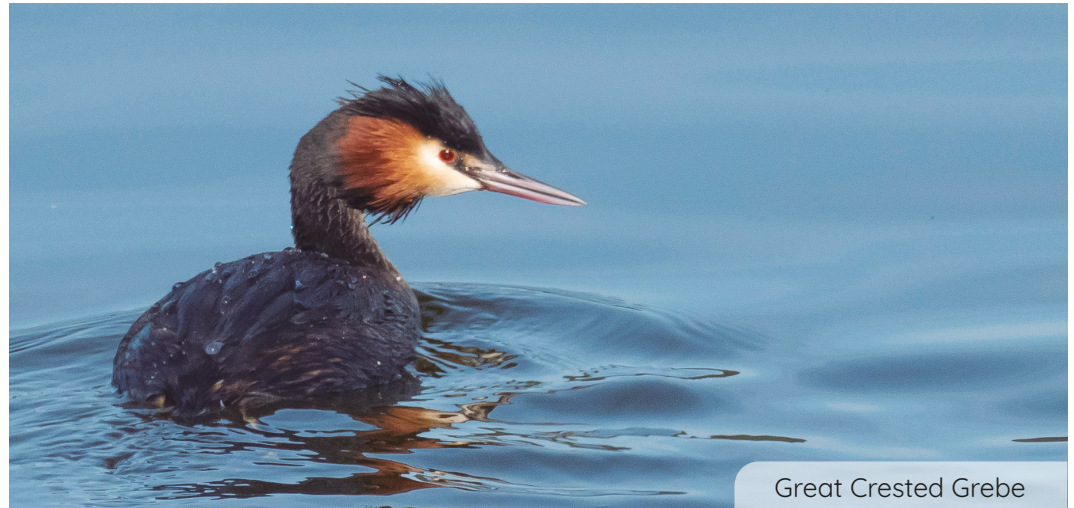


## CADIZ, A WINTER PARADISE

The winter cold across most European countries makes the southernmost province of continental Europe the wintering place for millions of birds during the winter months.

### Bay of Cadiz

Here, a unique event takes place in Spain. Arriving from most European countries, the inner shores of the bay host the highest concentration of Great Crested Grebes in the Iberian Peninsula. It is also the best time of the year to find surprises such as loons and mergansers, as well as the highest concentrations of wintering waterfowl.

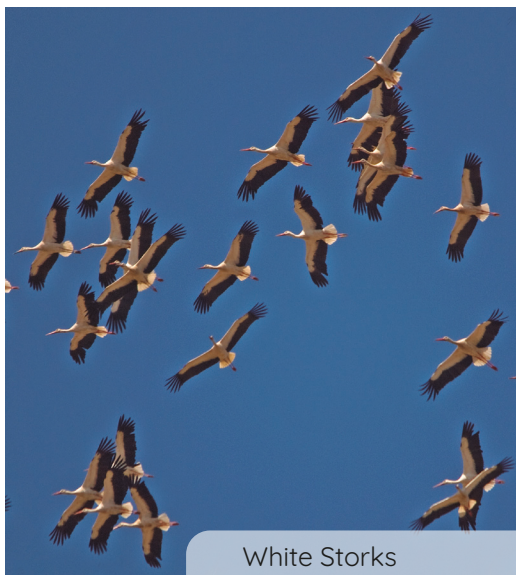


Great Crested Grebe

January

### Campo de Gibraltar

Although this migration has already started in a quiet way in the previous months, it is in January that thousands of White Storks, mainly from the Iberian population, cross the Strait of Gibraltar and arrive on the peninsula, driven by the urge to breed. On days with favourable weather, especially low wind, it is quite a spectacle to see them return to Europe.



### La Janda

La Janda is undoubtedly a unique enclave in Europe to observe the flight of the eagles in winter. It is home to nesting pairs of Iberian Imperial Eagle and Bonelli's Eagle. Also juveniles of these and other eagles, such as the Golden Eagle and the rare Lesser Spotted and Greater Spotted Eagles, come here, attracted by the abundance of prey and the mild winter climate.

### Northwest Coast

Announcing the change of the season and the approach of the coming spring, the arrival of Hirundinidae across the Guadalquivir is increasingly widespread. During this month, thousands of swallows and house martins begin their migration from Africa, with the Guadalquivir estuary and the two banks of Doñana being one of the main access routes to the European continent.



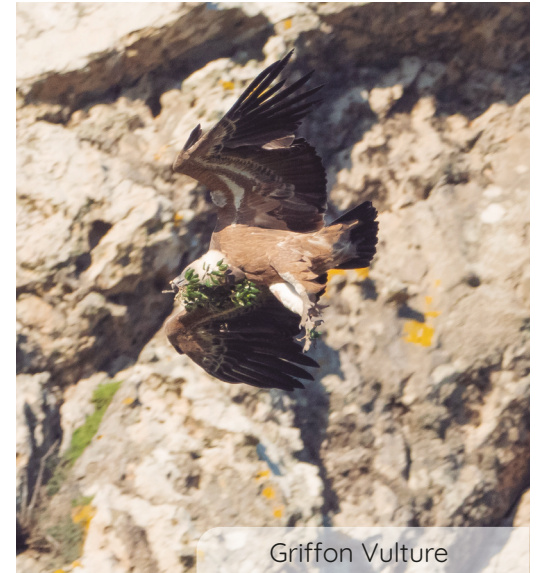


### Jerez Countryside

Thousands of Northern Shovelers, Eurasian Teals and many other wintering waterfowl are concentrated in the lakes and wetlands of the Jerez Countryside. The Medina Lake is undoubtedly the wetland that is home to the greatest number of these birds, and also the ideal place to look for the unique Red-knobbed Coot, Marbled Duck or the scarce Ferruginous Duck.



Red-knobbed Coots




Griffon Vulture


### Cadiz Mountains


Although winter is at its peak and the cold dominates the mountains, the king of the mountains, the Griffon Vulture, is already beginning its courtship rituals. Their activity is frenetic and it is the best time to see their beautiful flights in pairs, their copulations on the wing and their comings and goings, bringing material to the nests of the numerous breeding colonies in the mountains.

# Hotspots


 Binoculars recommended.

 On foot.

 Route or itinerary.

 Telescope recommended.

 By car.

 Observation Point.

## Medina Lake



Two itineraries are suggested in the Medina Lake Nature Reserve (Jerez de la Frontera): the Malvasia viewpoint, and the Medina Lake observatory. White-headed Duck, Eurasian and Red-knobbed Coots, and an endless number of waterfowl can be observed from these places.

## Las Palomas Mountain Pass



In the heart of the Natural Park, in the municipality of Grazalema, the viewpoint of Puerto de Las Palomas offers a magnificent panoramic view to enjoy the nuptial flights of the Griffon Vulture.

## La Janda



Now dried up, the Janda lake was once the largest lake on the Iberian Peninsula. Even so, it is still a must-see destination for birdwatchers and an excellent place to observe large birds of prey scattered around the area.

## Sanlucar – Chipiona Path



A pleasant walk along the shores of the beaches of Sanlucar de Barrameda and Chipiona will allow us to observe Swallows and Common House Martins on their arrival in Europe.

## M. Machado Promenade



This is a good option for observing Great Crested Grebes and other wintering waterfowl. This itinerary runs in the city of Cadiz parallel to the shore of the inner part of the bay.

## Bolonia Pass



In light wind conditions, the Bolonia pass (Tarifa), in the heart of the Strait of Gibraltar Natural Park, is the ideal place to enjoy the view of large flocks of White Storks on their return to their breeding grounds.



# February

## BIG CHANGES ARE ON THE WAY

Although still the winter season, February is a month with a very spring-like atmosphere in Cadiz. The birds understand this, and many species declare the breeding season open in our province.

### Bay of Cadiz

The Eurasian Spoonbill is one of the most representative bird species of the marshes of the Bay of Cadiz Natural Park. The more northerly populations, mainly the Dutch, are still a long way from the start of their breeding. However the local population has already begun preparations for the new breeding season, with the first clutches being laid at the end of this month.

### La Janda

Associated with the population explosion of caterpillars, the Great Spotted Cuckoo, one of the two European species of cuckoo and a natural predator of caterpillars, arrives from Africa and can be observed in the region feeding on these invertebrates.



Great Spotted Cuckoo





### Cadiz Mountains

Before their departure to their breeding grounds in northern Europe, February is a great time to observe wintering birds in the Sierra de Cadiz. Ring Ouzels, Alpine Accentors and Redwings, among others, spend their last hours in the mountains and recharge their batteries before setting off on their next journey. Cerro Coros, near Puerto de las Palomas, is an excellent place to observe them.

### Northwest Coast

The smallest of the Iberian sparrows, the Eurasian Tree Sparrow, is already preparing for the breeding season and is beginning to occupy hollows of trees and nest boxes in the pine forest of La Algaída.



Eurasian Spoonbill



Alpine Accentor



Eurasian Tree Sparrow



### Jerez Countryside

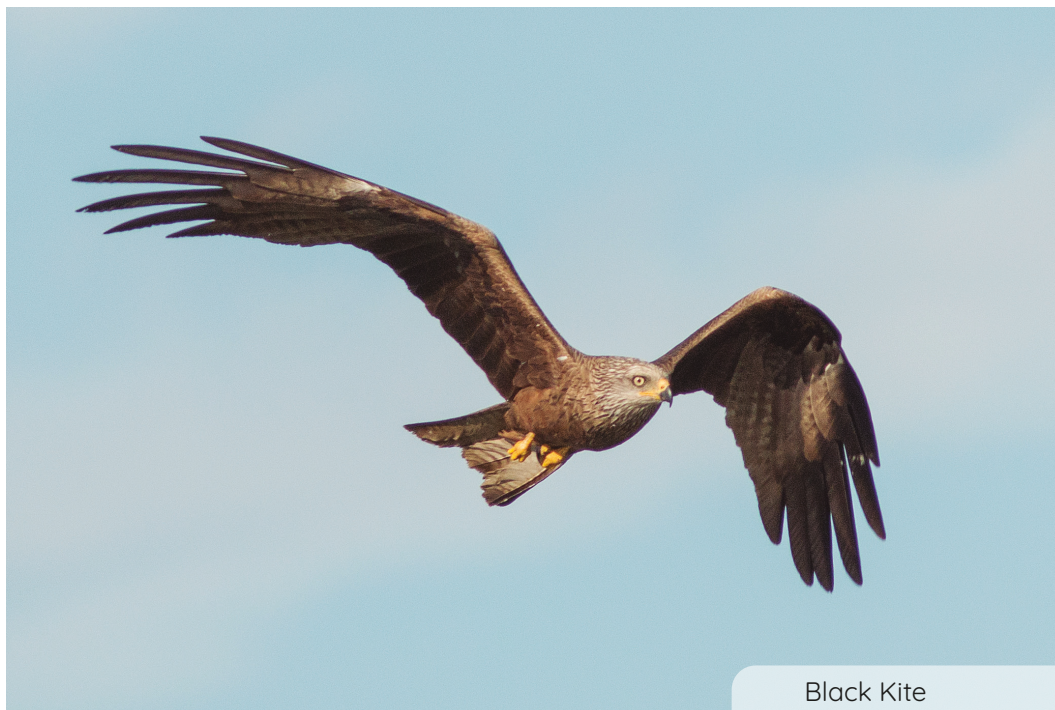
The numerous pairs of White Storks scattered throughout the Jerez region are already occupying their usual nesting areas. They are constantly coming and going, providing material and restructuring their old nests in preparation for the imminent breeding season. An example is the old sugar factory of El Portal, where the sight of a foreign stork approaching the resident's territory raises an intense bill-clattering noise to remind the intruder that the nest is occupied.



White Stork

### Campo de Gibraltar


The locally called "wind eagles" are beginning to arrive in greater numbers over the skies of the Campo de Gibraltar. Depending on the direction and the intensity of the wind, Black Kites start crossing the Strait from the African continent either by the Mediterranean or the Atlantic side of the coast. On days with light or moderate easterly winds, the area of Punta Camorro in the vicinity of Tarifa is an exceptional place to observe their arrival in Europe from Africa, where they have spent the winter.




Black Kite




# Hotspots


 Binoculars recommended.

 On foot.

 Route or itinerary.

 Telescope recommended.

 By car.

 Observation Point.

## El Portal Sugar Factory



Currently in ruins, the building of the old sugar factory of El Portal (Jerez de la Frontera) is home to one of the most spectacular colonies of White Storks in the province of Cadiz.

## Cerro Coros



Cerro Coros (Grazalema) is a good option for observing wintering birds before they set off on their migratory journeys.

## Mesa de La Mediana



Between the farmhouses of La Mediana and Los Charcones (Benalup-Casas Viejas) there is a holly oak grove, an ideal place to observe the Great Spotted Cuckoo during the month of February.

## La Algaida Pine Forest



The Algaida pine forest in Sanlucar de Barrameda is home to a great diversity of small forest birds.

## La Caseria Beach



La Caseria beach in San Fernando offers an unbeatable opportunity to observe large concentrations of Eurasian Spoonbills, among others.

## Punta Camorro



With a light easterly wind and good visibility in the Strait of Gibraltar, the observatory at Punta Camorro (Tarifa) is a good location to enjoy the spring bird migration spectacle.



## THE GREAT DANCE BEGINS: 'THE MIGRATION'

Although some summer species, such as the ssthe Barn Swallow and the House Martin, have already made their presence felt, March is the month when migration becomes truly visible with the arrival of thousands of birds from Africa.



Black-tailed Godwits and Pied Avocets

### Bay of Cadiz

The increase in daylight hours and the improvement of the climate in northern Europe is a message that does not go unnoticed by most birds. Breeding has made its call and thousands of waders are feeding in the tidal flats, marshes and salt marshes of the Bay of Cadiz, making a stop on their migratory journey to the breeding grounds.

March





Northern Bald Ibis

### La Janda

Considered one of the ten most endangered birds on the planet, the Bald Ibis is a regular nester in the Janda region. After its reintroduction by the Regional Ministry of the Environment and the Zoo and Botanical Garden of Jerez, a breeding colony was established in La Barca de Vejer, in 2011, where at this time of year it is common to see them in full courtship.

### Cadiz Mountains

The silhouette of the smallest and most endangered of the vultures that nest in the province of Cadiz, the Egyptian Vulture, can already be seen in the sky over the mountains. In addition to the breeding pairs, which are already patrolling their usual territories, in the mountains it is also possible to see Egyptian Vultures on their migratory journey to more northerly territories.



Egyptian Vulture



Squacco Heron

### Northwest Coast

Breeding has begun for many species, and the sight and sound of a 'pajarera', the congregation of tree-nesting birds, is quite a spectacle. Glossy Ibis, Eurasian Spoonbills, Little Egrets, Cattle Egrets, Squacco Herons and Black-Crowned Night Herons nest together" on the tamarisks of the central island of the Tarelo Lake.

**Campo de Gibraltar**

During the great migrations of soaring birds between the European and African continents, spring and autumn, March is the month par excellence to see the thousands of birds arriving from Africa. Driven by their breeding instinct, thousands of Booted Eagles, Short-toed Snake Eagles, Egyptian Vultures and Montagu's Harriers, among others, arrive in Europe during this month.



Montagu's Harrier



Short-toed Snake Eagle



Booted Eagle (pale morph)



Booted Eagle (dark morph)

**Jerez Countryside**

The grasslands and cereal fields of the Jerez countryside have already reached a considerable size. After its arrival from Africa, the beautiful Montagu's Harrier does not waste a second and is already searching among the green fields for the best location for its nest.

# Hotspots



Binoculars recommended.



On foot.



Route or itinerary.



Telescope recommended.



By car.



Observation Point.

## El Calvario Road



The route runs along the CA-6014 to the A-471 along the Carretera del Calvario (Jerez de la Frontera). Along this route it is possible to observe the elegant flight of the Montagu's Harrier over the Jerez countryside.

## El Salto del Cabrero



This trail runs from the Boyar Pass to Benaocaz in the interior of the Sierra de Grazalema Natural Park. The beauty of the karstic landscape and the flight of Griffon Vultures and Egyptian Vultures are some of its attractions.

## La Barca de Vejer



The observatory of the breeding colony of the Bald Ibis at La Barca de Vejer is the only one in the world that allows you to observe this unique species at close range.

## Tarelo Lake



In the heart of the La Algaida pine forest, in Sanlucar de Barrameda, Tarelo Lake is located. With a broad belt of riparian vegetation, this lake hold a good variety of waterfowl, herons and egrets

## Tres Amigos Salt Pans



Currently abandoned, the Tres Amigos Salt Mine (San Fernando) supports a large number and variety of waterfowl and waders. This trail in the Bay of Cadiz Natural Park has three bird observatories.

## Punta Carnero



The Punta Carnero viewpoint is one of the most visited places by birdwatchers who enjoy watching soaring birds during the spring migration.





## APRIL SHOWERS, BRING MAY BIRDS

The colour of flowers and the sound of courting birds announce that spring is here to stay. The brightness of the breeding plumage, their songs and the smell of wild plants make April a spectacle for our senses.

April

### Campo de Gibraltar

In addition to the gliders, other smaller birds such as European Bee-eaters, European Rollers, European Turtle Doves, Collared Pratincoles, Golden Orioles and Common Cuckoos are arriving from Africa and continue to bring variety and colour to the Campo de Gibraltar spring. Although there are areas of greater prevalence, the unpredictability of their arrival –they do not rely on air currents to cross the Strait– make any pole, cable or fence near the coast a good place to try to observe them.



Common Cuckoo

### Northwest Coast

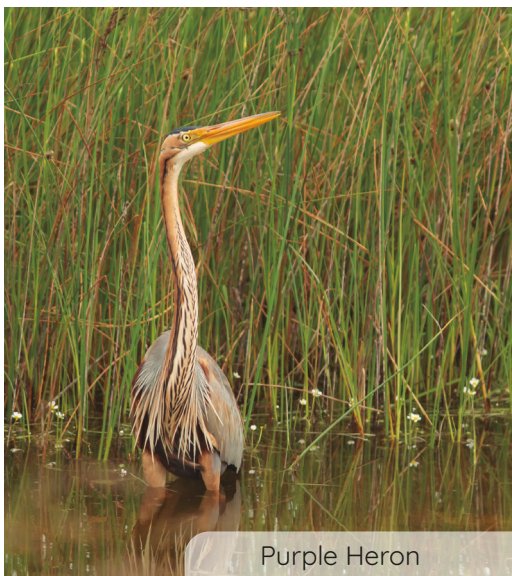
The frenzied activity of adults in their breeding colonies makes this a great time to observe one of the scarcest species in the whole of Europe: the Little Swift.



Little Swift

### Cadiz Mountains

When the winter rains have been plentiful, the Paraje Natural Cola del Embalse de Bornos is a very interesting spot for birdwatchers. A wide variety of protected species are concealed among its marshes, including ornithological gems such as the Western Olivaceous Warbler, the Purple Heron, the Black-Crowned Night Heron and the Squacco Heron, among others.



Purple Heron

### Bay of Cadiz

The mixture of migrants and breeding birds creates a magnificent cocktail of biodiversity that translates into an endless number of species worth observing. This is a perfect time to look for small migrating birds and species such as the Subalpine Warbler, the Common Redstart and the Willow Warbler, which can be observed on their journey north.



Subalpine Warbler





### Jerez Countryside

Here we can observe one of the birds of prey that has been with us for the shortest time, as it searches through the fields and small meadows of the Jerez countryside in its typical hunting flight, or perches on the top of a tree. Originally from Africa, the Black-winged Kite arrived in Europe only a few decades ago and has been colonising the Iberian Peninsula ever since.



Black-shouldered Kite




Montagu's Harrier


### La Janda


Increasingly difficult to observe due to the farming intensification of our fields, the Montagu's Harrier resists extinction in La Janda. This region is one of the best places to observe it in the province.

# Hotspots


 Binoculars recommended.

 On foot.

 Route or itinerary.

 Telescope recommended.

 By car.

 Observation Point.

## Cortes Road



Along the so-called Cortes road (A-2003), between the districts of Estella del Marques and La Barca de la Florida and the municipality of San Jose del Valle, it is common to see the Black-winged Kite.

## Bornos Reservoir Natural Site



A walk through the Natural Site named Cola del Embalse de Bornos is a perfect excuse to enjoy the observation of different species of birds, many of which are endangered.

## Las Dehesillas Road



Between the cemetery of the local autonomous municipality of Tahivilla and the fish flour factory, the Las Dehesillas road runs along a path flanked by agricultural plots. It is an excellent place to observe the Montagu's Harrier.

## Chipiona Marina



At this time of the year, the porch of the marina of the town of Chipiona offers the possibility of observing the Little Swift. This African species has recently made the leap to Europe.

## Carboneros Saltpan



During the walk through the old saltpan of Carboneros (Chiclana de la Frontera), you can observe breeding birds such as the Pied Avocet or the Black-winged Stilt, as well as small migrating birds.

## El Pajarraco Gorge



A walk along the Pajarraco Gorge path in the pine forest of El Rey in San Roque will allow us to see or hear some species such as the Common Cuckoo or the Golden Oriole.





## NEW GENERATIONS, AN INJECTION OF LIFE

The countryside is full of life and the chicks of many species have already hatched. The newborns are following on the footsteps of their parents and quickly learning everything that will help them increase their resilience to successfully face the first adventures of their lives.

### Cadiz Mountains

A stroll along the banks of the Guadalete river will allow us to enjoy a myriad of bird songs that are concealed among the reeds: Melodious Warblers, Western Olivaceous Warblers and Cetti's Warblers, among others. In the middle of this magnificent range of high-pitched calls, we might even be able to pinpoint one of nature's best architects of nest construction: the Eurasian Penduline Tit.



Penduline Tit



Penduline Tit nest

May



### Northwest Coast

The new generations of birds are already following their mothers in the lakes of the region. This is the case of one of the most threatened ducks in Europe, the White-headed Duck, which finds here one of the best nesting places in the whole peninsula.



White-headed Ducks

### La Janda

The most colonial and urbanite of all the falcons that nest in the province of Cadiz, the Lesser Kestrel, finds the churches and castles of the villages of La Janda are perfect places for breeding. Prime examples are the municipalities of Alcala de los Gazules, Medina Sidonia and Vejer de la Frontera.



Lesser Kestrel

### Jerez Countryside

Belonging to the tern family, the Gull-billed Tern is a summer visitor that comes to our province to complete its breeding period. Although linked to wetlands for the construction of its nests, the Gull-billed Tern is a frequent hunter of inland areas and it is common to see it among farmlands searching for small reptiles, micromammals, etc., unlike the majority of its congeners.



Gull-billed Tern

### Campo de Gibraltar

Although most of the soaring birds have already arrived in Europe and are fully devoted to reproduction, the last to arrive, the European Honey Buzzard, has its migration peak in the first days of this month. With good visibility and a moderate to strong easterly wind, the Sierra de la Plata is an exceptional place to observe the arrival of the numerous flocks of this unique species.



European Honey Buzzard




Little Tern


### Bay of Cadiz


After its arrival from Africa, the Little Tern returns, as it does every year, to its usual nesting area in the Marisma de Los Toruños and Pinar de la Algaida Metropolitan Park. On the Levante beach and protected by a fence to avoid any disturbance, you can enjoy the comings and goings of the smallest of the European terns, in what is curiously the largest colony in the country.

# Hotspots


 Binoculars recommended.

 On foot.

 Route or itinerary.

 Telescope recommended.

 By car.

 Observation Point.

## El Calvario Road



On the Calvario CA-6014 road, from Jerez to its junction with the A-471, we can see and hear the spectacular Gull-billed Tern on its hunting forays.

## River walk in Arcos de la Fra.



A walk along the banks of the Guadalete river (Site of Community Interest) will allow us to enjoy the birdlife associated with the riverside woodland and the spectacular escarpment of the Tajo de Arcos.

## Alcala de los Gazules



The hollows in the walls of the castle of Alcala de los Gazules and the Homenaje Tower are excellent refuges for several pairs of Lesser Kestrels.

## Bonanza Lakes



A few metres from the pine forest of El Faro (Sanlucar de Barrameda), we find the Bonanza Lakes. These lakes were formed by the disproportionate extraction of aggregates in the 1980s and are always a good place to visit.

## Los Toruños



Unbeatable option for the observation of the Little Tern. Important! To guarantee the wellbeing of this protected species, sightings should always be made from a distance, using binoculars and telescope.

## Viewpoint of the Cueva del Moro



As well as offering excellent views of Bolonia, Baelo Claudia and Morocco on the other side of the Strait, the Cueva del Moro viewpoint is a magnificent ornithological observatory.





## REARING, A GREAT CHALLENGE FOR PARENTS

The hustle and bustle of the adults and their constant foraging trips are a good example of the enormous energy expenditure involved in breeding birds. From the observer's point of view, this hustle of comings and goings gives us a better chance of spotting them.

### Jerez Countryside

The chicks of Mallard , Common Pochard, Red-crested Pochard and many other ducks follow their mothers on their excursions around the lake.

### La Janda

Known to local ornithologists as 'pajareras', these are breeding colonies (mainly herons and egrets) where birds of different species nest. These tree breeding colonies can be found practically all over the region, but due to their proximity for observation and their variety of species, Glossy Ibis, Cattle Egret, Little Egret, Black-Crowned Night Heron and Squacco Heron, the one located in the poplars and ash trees of the interconnecting channel of La Janda is one of the most spectacular.



Red-crested Pochards



June

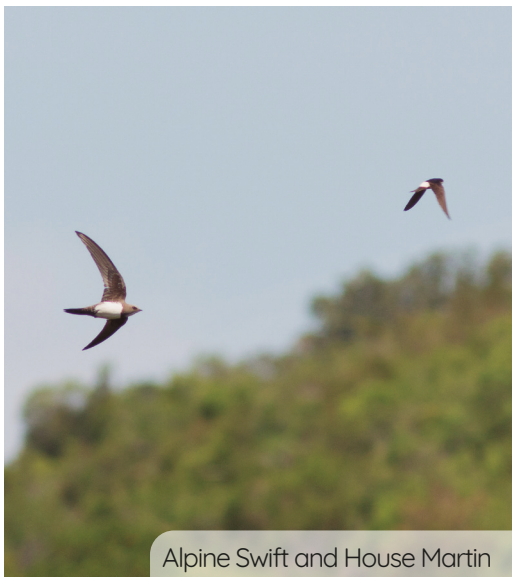




Cattle Egret

### Cadiz Mountains

Common House Martins, Eurasian Crag Martins, swallows, and swifts of various species, Pallid, Common and Alpine, gather at dusk in the skies above the white villages of the Sierra de Cadiz, creating a magnificent spectacle of flights and sounds. As well as being a gift for our senses, we must not forget that these birds are the most effective form of natural insect control and are of enormous benefit to us.



Alpine Swift and House Martin



Rufous-tailed Scrub-robin

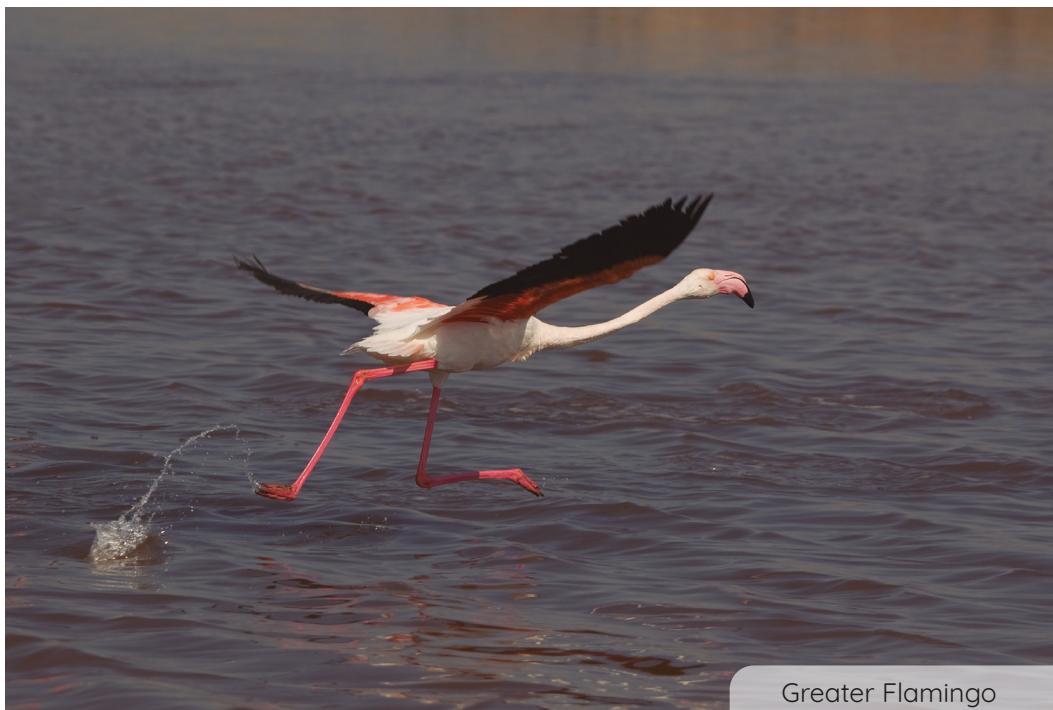
### Northwest Coast

Known locally as the 'Caberrubia', the Rufous-tailed Scrub Robin is one of the most beautiful and, at the same time, most endangered birds in Europe. This unique bird, which comes from Africa to nest in our province, finds shelter in the vineyards of Trebujena, where it can be regularly observed.



## Bay of Cadiz

Due to the lack of water and therefore of food, the thousands of Greater Flamingos that nest in the Fuente de Piedra lake in Malaga (the largest colony on the peninsula and sometimes in Europe), fly daily to the rich marshes and salt pans of the Bay of Cadiz. With their bellies full of artemia (small crustaceans) and invertebrate larvae, the Flamingos travel hundreds of kilometres every day to feed their offspring.



Greater Flamingo




Lesser Kestrel


## Campo de Gibraltar


One of the largest Lesser Kestrel colonies in the Campo de Gibraltar, in the Parish Church of San Isidro Labrador in Los Barrios, is at its peak of activity. The feeding of the chicks means nonstop action and the excursions of the adults in search of invertebrates, micromammals and reptiles, are a continuous stream of entries and exits to and from the colony.

# Hotspots


 Binoculars recommended.

 On foot.

 Route or itinerary.

 Telescope recommended.

 By car.

 Observation Point.

## Medina Lake



The Medina Lake Nature Reserve (Jerez de la Frontera) is a perfect destination to observe some species of aquatic birds swimming with their offspring.

## Setenil de las Bodegas



From any of the four viewpoints in the beautiful village of Setenil de las Bodegas, you can enjoy the flight of martins, swallows and swifts.

## La Janda Tree Bird Colony



Due to the extreme proximity to the main road and the consequent danger to the chicks, bird watching and photography on foot is not permitted under any circumstances. For a correct observation, vehicles should be driven at low speed.

## Path of the Haciendas



Along the path of the Haciendas (Trebujena) and with the help of its distinctive call, we can locate the Rufous-tailed Scrub Robin singing on top of a vine.

## La Esperanza Saltpan



In the municipality of Puerto Real, the La Esperanza saltpan is home to a large number of birds, including the iconic Greater Flamingo.

## San Isidro Labrador Parish Church



An important colony of Lesser Kestrels delights us with their flights in the sky above the parish church of San Isidro Labrador in the town centre of the municipality of Los Barrios.





## THE GREAT CHALLENGE IS APPROACHING

For a migratory bird, the first jump or crossing of the Strait of Gibraltar is always a critical moment of its life. The wait for optimal weather conditions to successfully overcome this first great challenge, causes spectacular concentrations of birds, which results in a delightful experience for the observer.

### Bay of Cadiz

The Kentish Plover is the most critically endangered wader breeding in the Bay of Cadiz. Due to its nesting habits among dunes and high beach areas, and more importantly, because of the use that humans make of these places, its observation is becoming increasingly difficult.



Kentish Plover

### Cadiz Mountains

The distinctive song of the Golden Oriole, the striking silhouette of the Griffon Vulture overlooking the Zaframagon Rock (the largest colony in Andalusia) and the flight of the scarce White-rumped Swift that nests in this area, are just some of the many attractions of the Peñon de Zaframagon Nature Reserve.



White-rumped Swift







Short-toed Eagle

### Jerez Countryside

Young Booted Eagles, Short-toed Snake Eagles and other migrants born in the mountains of Jerez spend the last hours of their short and intense learning period. Knowing how to search for food, choose a roost, master the winds and, in short, learning to survive, will be the key to successfully completing their first migration to Africa.

### Northwest Coast

One of the ornithological gems of the province of Cadiz lives concealed among coastal halophyte shrubs in the Trebujena marshes. The Marbled Duck, currently the most critically endangered duck on the continent, finds here optimum conditions for reproduction. This is one of the few nesting sites in Europe.



Marbled Teal



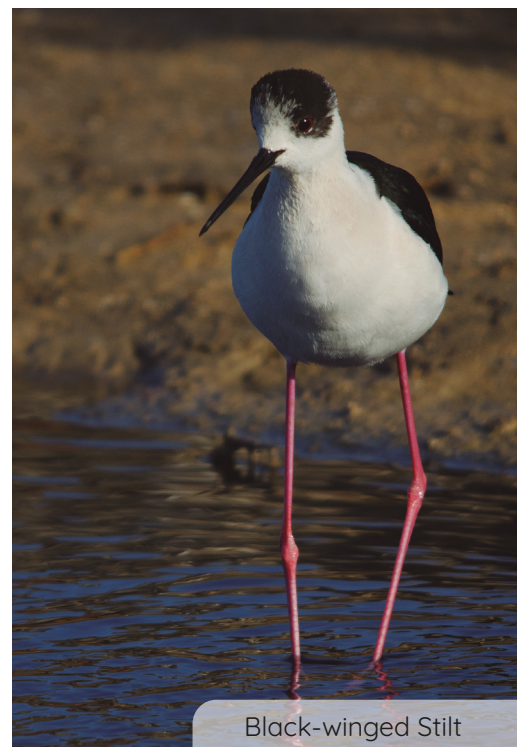
White Storks

### Campo de Gibraltar

While September is the month many ornithologists choose to observe the glider migration, the sheer size of the huge flocks of White Storks and Black Kites that fill the skies over the Campo de Gibraltar in July is an absolutely unique spectacle. After several days of strong winds, and just as the easterly winds die down, the conditions are ideal for observing the beauty of these migrating flocks.

### La Janda


With the new rice planting season and the good supply of water for growing the crop, birds such as Black-winged Stilts, Green Sandpipers and other waders are visiting the cultivation fields in search of food.




Black-winged Stilt




# Hotspots


 Binoculars recommended.

 On foot.

 Route or itinerary.

 Telescope recommended.

 By car.

 Observation Point.

## Casa de Torres Trail



This Casa de Torres trail runs in the Montes de Propios de Jerez de la Frontera crossing the very heart of the Los Alcornocales Natural Park. Along this trail we can observe the first flights of many of the birds of prey in the area.

## Zaframagon Rock



Starting from the municipality of Olvera and walking through olive groves and pastures, we can walk along the limits of the eastern slope of the majestic Zaframagon Rock.

## Canal del este



A journey by car along the track that runs alongside the eastern water channel of the old La Janda lake will allow us to observe Black-winged Stilts and many other birds among the rice fields.

## Alventus Marshes



The old saltpan WWF that has restored in the Alventus marsh in Trebujena, in front of the Doñana National Park, is an excellent place to observe the Marbled Duck.

## The Levante Beach



From the Los Toruños path (El Puerto de Santa Maria), we can access the Levante beach. Important! To guarantee the protection of Kentish Plover, to access the beach you must always follow signposted guidance.

## Punta Camorro



The observatory of Punta Camorro (Tarifa) offers a perfect setting for the observation of gliding birds during their migration across the Strait of Gibraltar.



# August



## ONE STEP FURTHER

Most European bird species have already finished their breeding season and bird migration carries on. The increase in the number of species heading for the African continent, make this natural phenomenon more visible.



Egyptian Vulture

### Campo de Gibraltar

The glider migration continues at a steady pace. Alongside the usual Black Kites and White Storks, the first Montagus' Harriers , Egyptian Vultures, Booted Eagles and Short-toed Snake Eagles start their crossing to Africa.





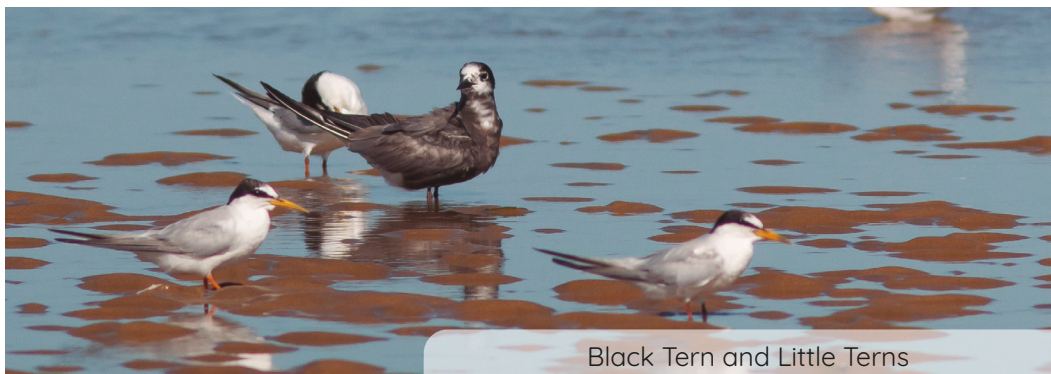
Pin-tailed Sandgrouses

### **Northwest Coast**

Avoiding the hottest hours of the day, dawn and dusk are the best times to see one of the most beautiful Iberian birds. Given away by its distinctive song, the Pin-tailed Sandgrouse can be usually observed visiting the Alventus marshes in search of water.

### **Bay of Cadiz**

On their way to their winter grounds in Africa, terns of various species stopover in the Bay of Cadiz to rest and restore fat reserves. The availability of food in the marshes and salt pans attracts, among others, Common Terns, Little Terns, marsh terns and the rarer Lesser Crested Terns and Roseate Terns.



Black Tern and Little Terns

### Jerez Countryside

At the end of summer, water becomes scarce in the seasonal wetlands of the Jerez countryside. The deeper lakes, usually with water at this time of year, are excellent places to watch small migrating birds.



Great reed warbler



Collared Pratincole

### La Janda

Collared Pratincoles are already preparing for their imminent journey to the south and are spending their last days coming and going around the breeding colony in the Barbate marshes. This is a good time to differentiate between the dull plumage of juveniles and the more colourful plumage of adults.


### Cadiz Mountains

Due to the special conditions of humidity and temperature in the rivers and streams of the Cadiz mountains, during the summer we can see species that usually nest in more northerly latitudes. These include the European Robin and the Eurasian Blackcap. The juveniles of these two species can be found in the more shady areas of the mountains where the vegetation is richer.





European Robin (juvenil)

# Hotspots


 Binoculars recommended.

 On foot.

 Route or itinerary.

 Telescope recommended.

 By car.

 Observation Point.

## Torrox Lake



Among the reedbeds of the Torrox Lake (Jerez de la Frontera) it is possible to see Eurasian Reed Warblers, Melodious Warblers and other small migrating birds.

## Majaceite River



Between the municipalities of El Bosque and Benamahoma, the Majaceite River trail runs through ash and poplar trees. A refreshing option for bird watching.

## San Francisco Isle



This path runs between the water channels, marshes and an old restored rubbish dump in the La Breña y Marismas del Barbate Nature Reserve. An unbeatable option for easy observation of the common Collared Pratincole, among other species.

## Trebujena Marsh



Any of the public access roads to the Trebujena marshes lead to good areas for observing the Pin-tailed Sandgrouse. Due to its wary behaviour, it is important to keep a great distance from the water.

## La Tapa Saltpan



The tern roost at the La Tapa saltpan in El Puerto de Santa Maria is the perfect place to see a large number of species of seabirds and waders.

## Cazalla Bird Observatory



The observatory of Cazalla (Tarifa) is a must for observing the autumn migration of gliding birds on their migratory journey to Africa.





# September



## MIGRATION, A UNIQUE EVENT

Most European species have finished their breeding season and migration continues to make headway. The increase in the number of species heading towards the African continent makes this natural phenomenon more visible.

### Cadiz Mountains

In addition to the small resident birds, such as the Common Stonechat and the Sardinian Warbler, September is an excellent time to observe the small migrants that seek shelter and food among the vegetation of the Cadiz mountains.

### La Janda

On their way to Africa, young European Bee-eaters from all over the Iberian Peninsula rest while waiting for the Levante wind to ease so that they can cross the Strait of Gibraltar. Perched on fences, trees and posts in the La Janda region, the juveniles of this species watch attentively as the adults capture insects on the fly.



Spotted Flycatcher



European Bee-eaters



Common Redstart

### **Jerez Countryside**

The 41-hectare Santa Teresa Park in Jerez de la Frontera dates back to 1826 and was created as a recreational estate for a Jerez family linked to the winemaking sector. Due to its leafiness and proximity to the Guadalete river, this space is a perfect place to observe passerine migration. Species such as the Spotted Flycatcher, the European Pied Flycatcher, the Common Redstart and the Willow Warbler are common among its bushes.





Common, Little and Black Terns

### Northwest Coast

The corrales (traditional fishing weirs) of the municipalities of Rota and Chipiona are full of life during the migration months. Numerous waders and terns rest here after a long day searching for food and make a stop on their migratory journey to Africa.



Short-toed Snake Eagles

**Campo de Gibraltar**

Without a doubt, the mass migration of gliding birds is a phenomenon that in the Campo de Gibraltar takes on dimensions unique in the whole of Europe. Due to its proximity to Africa (14 km), its location between two seas, the Atlantic and the Mediterranean, and its natural spaces, which provide shelter to thousands of birds during their migration, this region is unequalled for the observation of one of the most beautiful natural spectacles on the entire continent.




Eurasian Spoonbills

**Bay of Cadiz**


From July to November, peaking at the beginning of September, large flocks of Eurasian Spoonbills are observed travelling along the La Barrosa beach on their migratory adventure towards the African continent. As they pass along the coast, mixed groups of adults and juveniles are counted every year by the volunteers of the Limes Platalea Project, who will kindly inform you about the species and their project.




# Hotspots


 Binoculars recommended.

 On foot.

 Route or itinerary.

 Telescope recommended.

 By car.

 Observation Point.

## Santa Teresa Park



A pleasant walk through Santa Teresa Park (Jerez de la Frontera) will allow us to see and hear a good number of species. It is recommended to consult opening days and hours at the town hall.

## High Path to El Bosque



The Mediterranean vegetation through which the Camino Alto a El Bosque path runs conceals hundreds of small birds in full migration.

## Churriana Channel



This path, with public access through the gate next to the Churriana water channel, allows us to observe Bee-eaters and many other species in migration. An information sign at the start of this trail will tell you all you need to know about it.

## Montijo Beach



This is a place visited by many birdwatchers, as among the usual flocks of Sandwich, Common and Little Terns, there are hidden gems such as the Elegant and the Lesser Crested Terns.

## Torre del Puerco



Providing spectacular views of the La Barrosa beach, the Torre del Puerco in Chiclana de la Frontera is also the best bird observatory in Europe to watch the Eurasian Spoonbill migration.

## Algarrobo Bird Observatory



With a moderate westerly wind, the Algarrobo observatory in Algeciras is the ideal place to observe hundreds of Booted Eagles, Short-toed Eagles, Egyptian Vultures, Eurasian Sparrowhawk, harriers, falcons and many other migrating species.



# October

## MIGRANTS, SUMMER AND WINTER VISITORS: A PERFECT COCKTAIL FOR BIRDWATCHERS

While the last of the summer birds are making the most of their time in the province, the first wintering birds are arriving from their nesting areas in more northerly latitudes. In addition, the rich variety of species that are on their way to Africa, make this month a perfect cocktail for the observer's enjoyment.



Ferruginous Duck

### Cadiz Mountains

If the rainfall conditions have been optimal and the land-locked basins of Espera maintain a good level of rain water, the lakes Dulce de Zorrilla, Salada de Zorrilla and Hon-dilla are undoubtedly some of the best places in the whole province for spotting the scarce Ferruginous Duck, White-headed Duck and Red-knobbed Coot.





Eyebrowed Thrush

### Jerez Countryside

With a varied vegetation, consisting mainly of umbrella pine trees, eucalyptus and small patches of Mediterranean scrub, the periurban park of La Suara is home to a varied community of birds.



Iberian Green Woodpecker

### Bay of Cadiz

The good number of parks and gardens in the capital city of Cadiz, their good condition and leafiness, attract numerous birds to these urban green spaces during their migration and wintering periods. Among them, the parks Jose Celestino Mutis, Genoves and Kotinoussa (famous for the appearance of an Eyebrowed Thrush at the beginning of 2018) stand out, where it is common to see enthusiasts in search of the different species of flycatchers, warblers and chiffchaffs on migration.





### La Janda

Among the trees or perched on one of the electric cables that exist in the former lake of La Janda, it is still possible to observe the rarest of the continental pigeons, the European Turtle Dove. Although their migration period is coming to an end, it is still a good time to try to spot those that come from more northerly populations.



European Turtle Dove

### Campo de Gibraltar

Flocks of hundreds or even thousands of Griffon Vultures, and Black Vultures to a lesser extent, circle the thermal currents of the Strait of Gibraltar and gain altitude in order to cross to the African continent. This behaviour, which takes place between October and December, relates to the juvenile dispersal of a large part of the vultures born in Spain, Portugal and France, whose main objective is to cross the Strait to feed on the large carrion of the African Sahel. This is also the best time of the year to see the rare Rüppell's Griffon Vulture.



Griffon Vulture and Black vulture




Whinchat


### Northwest Coast


Small birds such as the Tawny Pipit, the Northern Wheatear and the Whinchat can still be seen on their migration south. Perched on a bush or wire and using altitude to their advantage, these birds try to locate insects in the vegetation.

# Hotspots


 Binoculars recommended.

 On foot.

 Route or itinerary.

 Telescope recommended.

 By car.

 Observation Point.

## La Suara Periurban Park



A pleasant walk through the La Suara Periurban Park in Jerez de la Frontera will allow us to see a good number of species.

## Espera Lakes



The path that connects the town centre of Espera with the water basins of the Complejo Endorreico Lagunas de Espera Nature Reserve will provide the observer with a good number of species of high ornithological value.

## La Janda



This route runs along a large part of the La Janda lake, from the Venta Retin junction on the N-IV to the municipality of Benalup Casas-Viejas. The La Janda lake is one of the most popular destinations for birdwatching in the Iberian Peninsula.

## Carril del Practico



A route by car along the road that links La Algaida (Sanlucar de Barrameda) with Trebujena, will allow us to observe these species during their autumn migration.

## J. Celestino Mutis Park



With its 22,000 sqm of gardens, the Jose Celestino Mutis Park, also known as the shipyard park, is a magnificent place to spot small migrating birds.

## Viewpoint of the Strait



Due to their large wingspan, vultures need very particular conditions to be able to migrate between continents. On days with a light north wind, the Strait viewpoint is a great observatory.



# November

## THE COLD WEATHER HAS ARRIVED, AND WITH IT, NEW VISITORS

Autumn is coming to an end and the drop in temperatures is causing thousands of birds from all over Europe to start their journey south. The good weather and availability of food will make them stay in our province for the next few months.

### Northwest Coast

With the arrival of the wintering birds, the number of Red Kites is increasing and it is common to see the silhouette of this beautiful bird of prey along the marshes.

### Campo de Gibraltar

The only connection between the Mediterranean and the Atlantic, the Strait of Gibraltar, is a magnificent place to watch seabirds. In their comings and goings, different species of shearwaters, auks, puffins, gannets, skuas and storm-petrels can be observed every year on their migrations. The activity of Cory's Shearwaters, Balearic Shearwaters and other species such as the Northern Gannet is high during this month.



Red Kite





Cory's Shearwater



Osprey

### **Bay of Cadiz**

Every year, Ospreys from all over Europe choose the Bay of Cadiz as their wintering place. During their fishing trips, resting on a pole or feeding on a freshly caught fish, this beautiful bird of prey can be spotted all over the region.

### La Janda

A common nester in more northerly lands, the Short-eared Owl is a regular visitor to the La Janda region during the autumn and winter months. Along with other nocturnal birds such as the Barn Owl, the Long-eared Owl and the Tawny Owl, these birds of prey are the best natural controllers of voles and other rodents.



Short-eared Owl



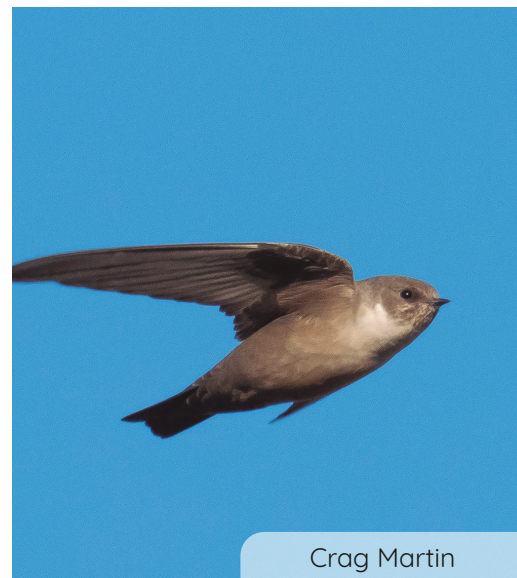
Eurasian eagle owl

### Cadiz Mountains

The end of autumn marks the official start of the mating season of species such as the Eagle Owl and the Tawny Owl. Due to the difficulty of observing them during the day, it is advisable to wait for sunset and listen to their calls in the silence of the night.

### Jerez Countryside


The cold is making itself felt and tens of thousands of birds are finding excellent refuge in the cities, where the temperature is slightly warmer than in the countryside. Also, the safety provided by the proximity of humans (less presence of predators) makes the parks and buildings of Jerez de la Frontera magnificent roosts for species such as the White Wagtail and the Eurasian Crag Martin.




Crag Martin




# Hotspots


 Binoculars recommended.

 On foot.

 Route or itinerary.

 Telescope recommended.

 By car.

 Observation Point.

## Luz Shopping Centre



As evening falls, the curtain opens and the stage is set with the arrival of hundreds of Eurasian Crag Martins entering their roost in the Luz Shopping Centre. Elsewhere in the city, the show continues as thousands of White Wagtails gather in the trees along the Europa Avenue.

## La Muela Recreational



The countless forests and cliffs that exist in the Cadiz mountain range are excellent locations to enjoy the courtship displays of nocturnal birds of prey. The recreational area La Muela in Algodonales is a good example of this.

## Rio Salado - Castilnovo Tower



At sunset, the route between the mouth of the Salado river and the Castilnovo meadow in Conil de la Frontera is an excellent place to observe the Short-eared Owl. The old lake of La Janda is also an excellent option to see this species.

## Carril del Practico



If you follow the track that runs between La Algaida (Sanlucar de Barrameda) and the municipality of Trebujena along the Carril del Practico, it is common to see the flight of the Red Kite.

## Bahia Sur Sea Promenade



A walk along the promenade located next to the Bahia Sur shopping centre in San Fernando will provide us with sightings of Ospreys, waders and waterfowl. For better visibility due to the sunlight, it is advisable to go in the morning.

## The island of Tarifa



Due to its geographical location, the island of Tarifa is undoubtedly the best seabird observatory in the region. Authorisation is required to access it, so it is advisable to call the Natural Park or contact the local companies that offer guided tours.



## IN BAD WEATHER, GOOD BIRDS

Those birds that were still finding food and were coping well with the continental cold, are beginning to feel the need to head south in view of the approaching bad weather.

### Northwest Coast

Due to its proximity to the coast, the Parque de Los Lagos in the Costa Ballena Golf district in Rota is a regular resting place for seagulls and other seabirds that come from the Atlantic escaping the storms. After a big squall, it is undoubtedly the best time to try to spot the few Mew Gulls and Ring-billed Gulls, as well as the small Red-necked Phalarope, which looks for food on the water's surface.



Red-necked Phalarope

### Cadiz Mountains

Due to their early nesting habits, starting earlier than eagles, Griffon Vultures try to occupy the nests of Bonelli's and Golden Eagles. Securing a good platform and saving themselves the trouble of building a new one is something that many pairs of vultures try to do every year. The eagles, always with an eye on their territory, will try at all costs to prevent the vultures from succeeding.

December

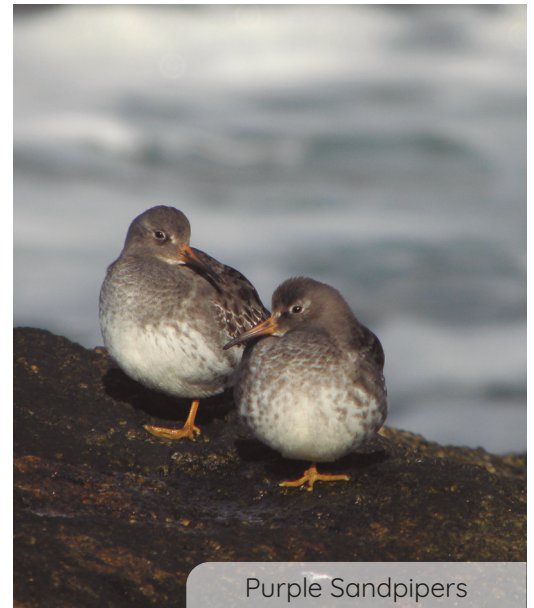




Bonelli's Eagle and Griffon Vulture

### Bay of Cadiz

The arrival of the winter storms is synonymous with ornithological surprises. If you look closely among the usual Ruddy Turnstones looking for food on the rocks of La Caleta and the San Sebastian Castle in the city of Cadiz, you can find one of the rarest waders that visit our country: the Purple Sandpiper.



Purple Sandpipers





### Jerez Contryside

With 90 % of its area in the municipality of Jerez de la Frontera, Los Tollos is the second largest lake in the province of Cadiz. This seasonal wetland, which hosts an important community of aquatic birds, stands out for receiving a large number of ducks, coots and waders during the winter period.



Olive-backed Pipit



Common Cranes



Red-crested Pochards

### Campo de Gibraltar


Due to its strategic geographical location, at the foot of the Rock of Gibraltar, in the south of Europe and between the Mediterranean and the Atlantic, the Princesa Sofia Park in La Linea de la Concepción is one of the best places in Spain for the observation of rare species. The Yellow-browed Warbler, the Olive-backed Pipit, the Rosy Starling and the Little Bunting are just some of the gems that have recently appeared in this park.

### La Janda


Although the first arrivals are in mid-October, it is in December when the highest concentrations of Common Cranes (between 2,000 and 3,000 individuals) are recorded in what was once the largest lake on the Iberian Peninsula. The La Janda lake, where the species nested regularly until its drying up in the 1960s, receives every year Cranes from countries such as Estonia, Finland, Sweden and Poland, among others.




# Hotspots


 Binoculars recommended.

 On foot.

 Route or itinerary.

 Telescope recommended.

 By car.

 Observation Point.

## Los Tollos Lake



A nice visit to Los Tollos lake (Jerez de la Frontera) can offer us good numbers of waterfowl, coots and waders

## Las Palomas Mountain Pass



From Las Palomas Mountain Pass, a regular haunt of Griffon Vultures and large eagles, you can see how the Bonelli's Eagle tries to chase away anyone who dares to approach its territory.

## Canal del Este



A walk along the eastern channel in the old lake of La Janda will give us the chance to enjoy the sight of the beautiful Common Cranes and to hear their trumpeting calls.

## Costa Ballena Lakes



A pleasant walk along the path of the Costa Ballena Golf Resort lakes will allow us to get close to groups of gulls. It is recommended to keep a certain distance so as not to disturb the birds while they are resting.

## San Sebastian Castle



At low tide, on the rocks that emerge at La Caleta beach and the San Sebastian Castle in the city of Cadiz, it is possible to observe the Purple Sandpiper among the flocks of Ruddy Turnstones.

## Princesa Sofia Park



A walk through the Princesa Sofia Park in the town of La Linea de la Concepcion will provide us with sightings of species such as the Common Chiffchaff or the Meadow Pipit. If we are very attentive, we may even find some rare species.

# 100 HIGHLIGHTS

Usual	✓
Occasional	●
No present	

In order to watch these species, it is highly recommendable to take into consideration their phenology in the province.

TOP 100 SPECIES LIST		BAY OF CADIZ	LA JANDA	CADIZ MOUNTAINS	JEREZ COUNTRYSIDE	NORTHWEST COAST	CAMPO DE GIBRALTAR
Garganey	<i>Anas querquedula</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Marbled Duck	<i>Marmaronetta angustirostris</i>	●	●	●	✓	✓	
Ferruginous Duck	<i>Aythya nyroca</i>	✓	✓	●	✓	●	✓
Common Quail	<i>Coturnix coturnix</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	●	●
Black-necked Grebe	<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>	✓	●	●	✓	✓	
Cory's Shearwater	<i>Calonectris diomedea</i>	✓	✓			✓	✓
Balearic Shearwater	<i>Puffinus mauretanicus</i>	✓	✓			✓	✓
Great Bittern	<i>Botaurus stellaris</i>		●				
Little Bittern	<i>Ixobrychus minutus</i>	●	●	●	✓	✓	
Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	●
Squacco Heron	<i>Ardeola ralloides</i>	●	✓	●	●	✓	
Great White Egret	<i>Egretta alba</i>	✓	✓		●	✓	
Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>	●	●	✓	●	●	●
Black Stork	<i>Ciconia nigra</i>	✓	✓		●	✓	✓
Northern Bald Ibis	<i>Geronticus eremita</i>	✓	✓				●
Eurasian Spoonbill	<i>Platalea leucorodia</i>	✓	✓	●	●	✓	●
Greater Flamingo	<i>Phoenicopterus roseus</i>	✓	✓	●	✓	✓	●
European Honey Buzzard	<i>Pernis apivorus</i>	●	✓	✓	●	●	✓
Black-shouldered Kite	<i>Elanus caeruleus</i>	✓	✓	●	✓	●	●
Black Kite	<i>Milvus migrans</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓



TOP 100 SPECIES LIST		BAY OF CADIZ	LA JANDA	CADIZ MOUNTAINS	JEREZ COUNTRYSIDE	NORTHWEST COAST	CAMPO DE GIBRALTAR
Red Kite	<i>Milvus milvus</i>	●	✓	✓	✓	✓	●
Egyptian Vulture	<i>Neophron percnopterus</i>		✓	✓			✓
Griffon Vulture	<i>Gyps fulvus</i>	●	✓	✓	●	●	✓
Rüppell's Vulture	<i>Gyps rueppellii</i>						●
Black Vulture	<i>Aegypius monachus</i>		●	✓			●
Short-toed Snake Eagle	<i>Circaetus gallicus</i>	●	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Western Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>	✓	✓	●	✓	✓	✓
Hen Harrier	<i>Circus cyaneus</i>		✓	●	●	●	●
Pallid Harrier	<i>Circus macrourus</i>		●		●	●	●
Montagu's Harrier	<i>Circus pygargus</i>	✓	✓	●	✓	●	✓
Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>	●	✓	✓	●	●	✓
Long-legged Buzzard	<i>Buteo rufinus cirtensis</i>						●
Spanish Imperial Eagle	<i>Aquila adalberti</i>		✓	●	●	●	●
Golden Eagle	<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>		●	✓			
Booted Eagle	<i>Aquila pennata</i>	●	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Bonelli's Eagle	<i>Aquila fasciata</i>		✓	✓	●		✓
Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	✓	✓	✓	●	✓	✓
Lesser Kestrel	<i>Falco naumanni</i>	●	✓	✓	✓	●	✓
Eurasian Hobby	<i>Falco subbuteo</i>		●	●		●	✓
Eleonora's Falcon	<i>Falco eleonora</i>						●
Purple Swamphen	<i>Porphyrio porphyrio</i>	✓	✓	●	✓	✓	●
Red-knobbed Coot	<i>Fulica cristata</i>	●	●	●	●	●	
Common Crane	<i>Grus grus</i>		✓		●	●	
Little Bustard	<i>Tetrax tetrax</i>		✓		●		
Pied Avocet	<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>	✓	✓		●	✓	
Stone-curlew	<i>Burhinus oedicnemus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	●
Collared Pratincole	<i>Glareola pratincola</i>	●	✓	●	✓	●	
Kentish Plover	<i>Charadrius alexandrinus</i>	✓	✓		●	✓	✓



TOP 100 SPECIES LIST		BAY OF CADIZ	LA JANDA	CADIZ MOUNTAINS	JEREZ COUNTRYSIDE	NORTHWEST COAST	CAMPO DE GIBRALTAR
Slender-billed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus genei</i>	✓	●		✓	✓	●
Audouin's Gull	<i>Larus audouinii</i>	✓	✓			✓	✓
Gull-billed Tern	<i>Gelochelidon nilotica</i>	●	●	✓	✓	✓	
Caspian Tern	<i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>	✓	✓		●	✓	●
Little Tern	<i>Sternula albifrons</i>	✓	✓			●	●
Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>	●	✓	✓	✓	●	●
Great Spotted Cuckoo	<i>Clamator glandarius</i>	●	✓	●	●	●	●
Common Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Barn Owl	<i>Tyto alba</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Eurasian Scops Owl	<i>Otus scops</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Eagle Owl	<i>Bubo bubo</i>	●	✓	✓	✓	●	✓
Little Owl	<i>Athene noctua</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Tawny Owl	<i>Strix aluco</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Shortl-eared Owl	<i>Asio flammeus</i>	●	✓		✓	✓	●
Long-eared Owl	<i>Asio otus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Red-necked Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus ruficollis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
White-rumped Swift	<i>Apus caffer</i>		●			✓	●
Little Swift	<i>Apus affinis</i>		✓	✓			✓
European Bee-eater	<i>Merops apiaster</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
European Roller	<i>Coracias garrulus</i>	●	●	●	●	●	●
Eurasian Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Eurasian Wryneck	<i>Jynx torquilla</i>	●	●	✓	●	●	●
Ib. Green Woodpecker	<i>Picus sharpei</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Calandra Lark	<i>Melanocorypha calandra</i>	●	✓	●	✓	✓	✓
Lesser Short-toed Lark	<i>Calandrella rufescens</i>	●				✓	
Red-rumped Swallow	<i>Cecropis daurica</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Tawny Pipit	<i>Anthus campestris</i>		✓		●	●	✓
Common Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus barbatus</i>						✓
Alpine Accentor	<i>Prunella collaris</i>			✓			



TOP 100 SPECIES LIST		BAY OF CADIZ	LA JANDA	CADIZ MOUNTAINS	JEREZ COUNTRYSIDE	NORTHWEST COAST	CAMPO DE GIBRALTAR
Rufous-tailed Scrub Robin	<i>Cercotrichas galactotes</i>		●		✓	✓	✓
Bluethroat	<i>Luscinia svecica</i>	✓	✓	●	✓	✓	●
Black-eared Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe hispanica</i>	●	●	✓	●	●	✓
Black Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe leucura</i>			✓			
Rufous-tailed Rock Thrush	<i>Monticola saxatilis</i>			✓			
Blue Rock Thrush	<i>Monticola solitarius</i>		●	✓			✓
Ring Ouzel	<i>Turdus torquatus</i>			✓			●
Spectacled Warbler	<i>Sylvia conspicillata</i>	●	●	●	●	✓	●
Western Orphean Warbler	<i>Sylvia hortensis</i>	●	●	✓	●	●	✓
Western Bonelli's Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus bonelli</i>		●	✓			✓
Iberian Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus ibericus</i>		●	✓			✓
Spotted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Crested Tit	<i>Lophophanes cristatus</i>	✓	●	✓	●	✓	✓
Long-tailed Tit	<i>Remiz pendulinus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	●	✓
Golden Oriole	<i>Oriolus oriolus</i>	●	●	✓	●	●	✓
Iberian Grey Shrike	<i>Lanius meridionalis</i>	●	●	✓	●	●	●
Woodchat Shrike	<i>Lanius senator</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Red-billed Chough	<i>Pyrhacorax pyrrhacorax</i>			✓			
Spanish Sparrow	<i>Passer hispaniolensis</i>	●	✓	✓	✓	✓	●
Common Crossbill	<i>Loxia curvirostra</i>			✓			●
Eurasian Bullfinch	<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>		●	✓	●		✓
Rock Bunting	<i>Emberiza cia</i>			✓	●		✓



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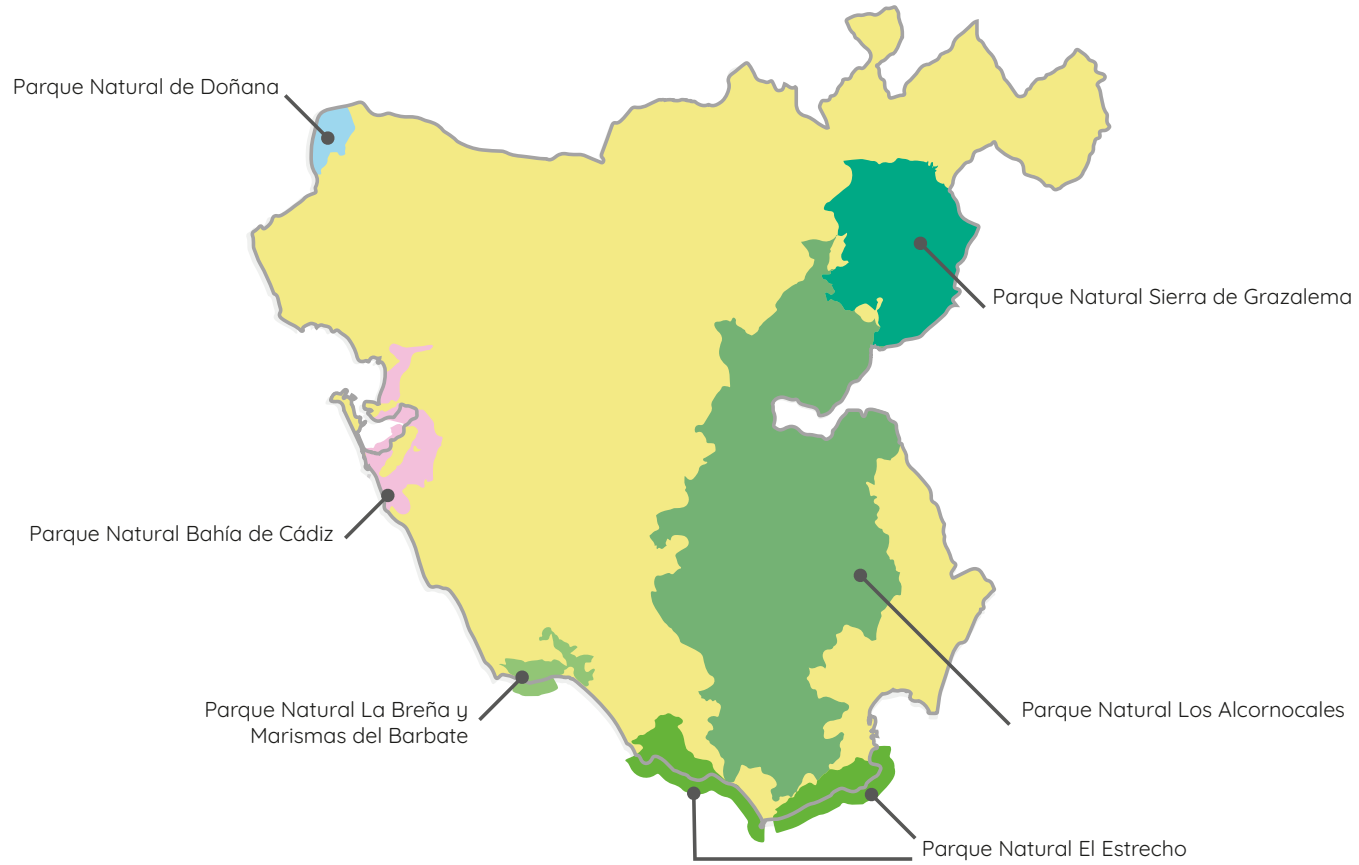


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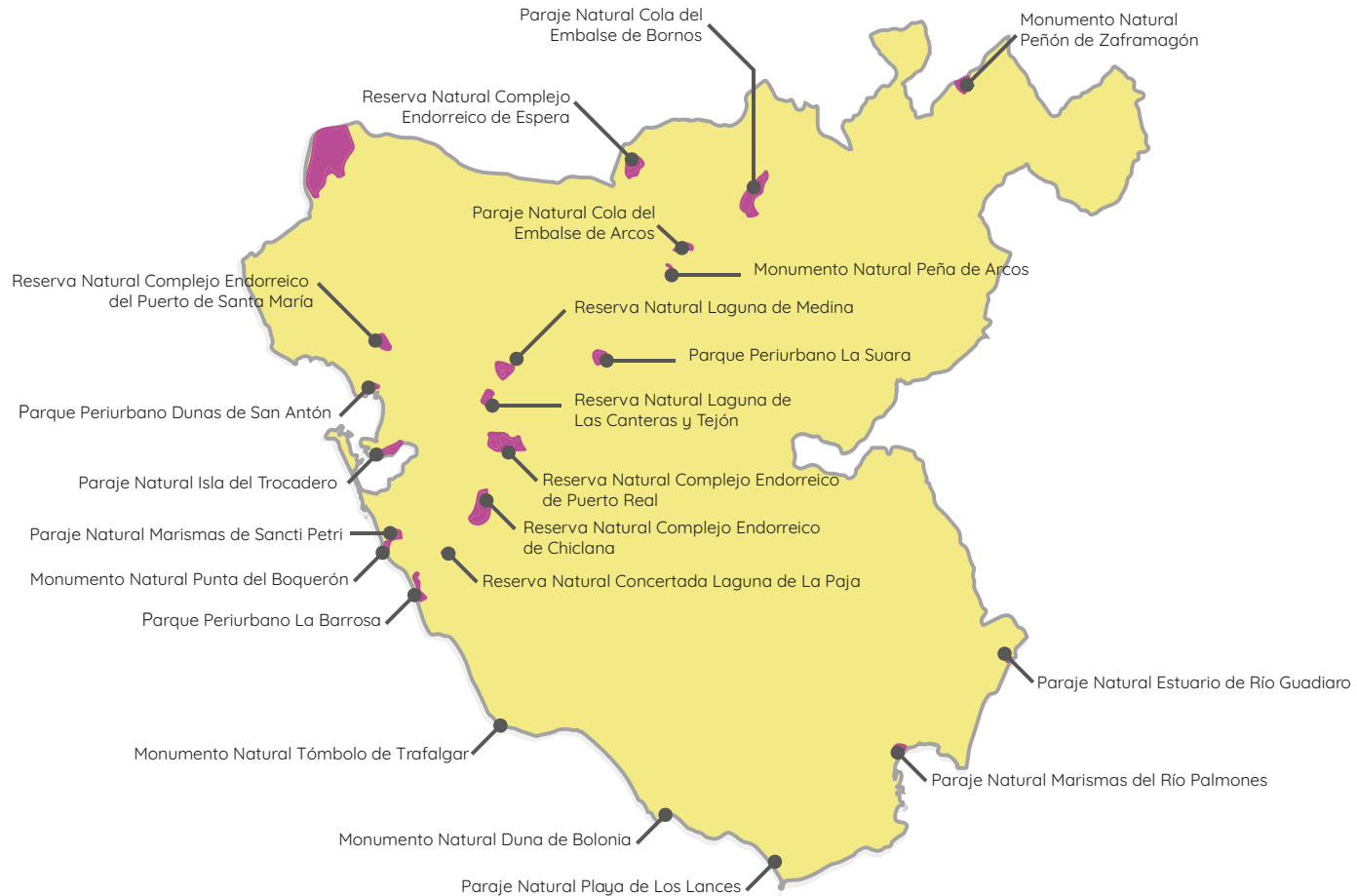


# NATURAL PARKS





# OTHER NATURE RESERVES





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Ricky Owen: Rufus-tailed Scrub Robin (page 10 y 47).

Gonzalo Gil Marques: Purple Sanpiper (page 71).

Victor Manuel Gonzalez Porras: Eyebrowed Thrush (page 63).

Alex Colorado Delgado: Olive-backed Pipit (page 72).

Jose Antonio Orellana Mesa: Eagle Owl (page 68).

Fernando Gomez Tineo: Bonelli's Eagle (page 9), Little Owl (page 30), Eurasian Spoonbill (page 31), Lesser Kestrel (page 34), Common Cuckoo (page 38), Black-winged Stilt (page 50) and Eurasian Wryneck (page 54).

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