

Mediterranean
LIVE

Birds



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100 SPECIES TO DISCOVER REGION OF VALENCIA





BIRDING VALENCIA REGION

The Region of Valencia has a great natural richness and very attractive landscape for birdwatching.

Different birding itineraries, as well as sighting points located in the main protected nature areas of the Region of Valencia where you can practice this amazing activity.

A wealth of cultural, historical, architectural and gastronomical elements can also be added to the natural attractions. As well as a good connectivity, infrastructures and accessible accommodation for all nature lovers. All these make the Region of Valencia an awesome destination of birdwatchers.



Furthermore, there is the possibility to contact with birding companies included in the "Birding Region of Valencia" programme, offering different high-quality birding products; such as guided tours, bespoke tours, birding photographs, specialized accommodation; experiences combining birdwatching

with other activities for all kinds of public.

For further information, please, check at:

www.birdingvalencia.com

birding.comunitatvalenciana.com

Facebook:

Valencia Region Birding



ORNITHOLOGICAL DIVERSITY IN THE REGION OF VALENCIA

The Region of Valencia is one of the Mediterranean regions with the greatest diversity of birds. So much so, that regularly more than 300 species of birds can be observed every year, attracting the interest of a growing community of bird-watchers and nature tourists, along with naturists who dedicate thousands of hours in total to the observation and study of our avifauna. However, what makes the Region of Valencia such an interesting region for birds and, thus, for their observation?

Thanks to its geographical location, the Region of Valencia is in an area in which two of the main bird migration routes in Europe overlap, where they move between their breeding and winter locations: The East Atlantic route and the Black Sea and Mediterranean route. The overlapping of both routes encourages migrating birds from distant areas

such as the Arctic, Greenland and Fennoscandia to winter or stopover on their migration route, along with birds coming from Siberia and Central Europe.

In this way, the rich and diverse terrain allows the Region of Valencia to welcome a significant range of environments and habitats, from the high mountains to the coastal wetlands, passing through rivers, Mediterranean coastal and continental forests, beaches, high seas and islands. At the same time, an important part of its value comes from the coastal Mediterranean climate which fosters the development of a high variety of plant formations on its terrain, and thus allows the accommodation of a diverse community of birds in need of a habitat and food.

The sea is an environment in which the main source are fish, therefore

the most characteristic birds are those which feed on fish, such as Shearwaters, Gannets and Petrels, which can be observed from boats or the coastline, especially in capes such as *Cullera* in Valencia or *San Antonio* and *las Huertas* in Alicante. The coastline and beaches are environments which are very rich in fish, molluscs, crabs, crustaceans and other invertebrates. Thanks to this, we can observe the Scoter, European Shags or Great Crested Grebes feeding within the first few metres of the coastline, especially in areas affected by the mouths of the rivers *Mijares*, *Palancia*, *Turia*, *Júcar* or *Segura*, as well as Sanderlings or Kentish Plovers searching for small invertebrates on the shores of the beaches.

Due to the threats that they suffer, the wetlands have supposed the conservation flag on many occasions. They are very diverse spaces, such as coastal marshlands where freshwater dominates (*Prat de Cabanes-Torreblanca*, *Marjal de Almenara*, *Marjal dels Moros*, *l'Albufera de València*, *Marjal de Pego-Oliva*, *El Hondo de Elche*), or the *Calp*, *Santa Pola* or *La Mata-Torrevieja* saltmarshes which suppose a wide group of ecosystems

in which significant populations of waterfowl seek refuge and food, such as Ducks, Flamingos, Herons and Waders, highlighting the presence of birds threatened regionally or internationally, such as the Red-knobbed Coot, the Marbled Teal, the Ferruginous Duck, the White-Headed Duck or the Eurasian Bittern.

Coastal pine forests and shrublands are environments which offer a great variety of formations depending on the dominance and density of the most common species. In environments dominated by shrubland, generally in the process of recuperation from forest fires, birds of exclusively Mediterranean distribution dominate, such as Warblers, as well as Larks and Wheatears.

In forests and continental shrublands, linked to land at the foothills of the *Bética* mountain range (mainly the *Montdúver*, *Mariola* and *Font Roja* mountain ranges) and *Sistema Ibérico* and the *Maestrazgo*, allow the presence of very localised breeding birds, such as the Pied flycatcher, Red-Backed Shrike, Tree Pipit, Garden Warbler, Common White Throat and the Common Redstart. Moreover, during wintering



they shelter species that feed on the fleshy fruit and juniper berries such as Ring Ouzels and Hawfinches.

Landscapes shaped by rivers over millions of years in inland València and Castellón suppose the main environments in which you can find breeding territories for birds of prey, as well as the small, abundant mountain ranges in the centre and south of Alicante. The Bonelli's Eagle, Golden Eagle or Peregrine Falcon, as well as scavenger birds such as the Griffon Vulture, accompany smaller birds such as Rufous-tailed rock thrush and Blue Rock-thrush, the Red-billed Chough or the Eurasian Crag Martin, who are joined by the Alpine Accentor and the Wallcreeper in winter.

Although they have altered throughout history, there are still some stretches of well conserved rivers where the scarce White-throated Dipper can be spotted, and that,

along with stretches which represent groves with poplars and willows in their margins, suppose unique places in which we can enjoy Owls, Blackbirds, Nightingales and Eurasian Golden Orioles who create a truly precious sound landscape with their songs.

Lastly, the *Ayora*, *Fontanares* and *Vilena* steppes and their surroundings are privileged areas where you can observe Great and Little Bustards, Pin-tailed and Black-bellied Sandgrouses or the endangered Lesser Kestrel. Moreover, in sandier and pre-desert environments of the southern third of Alicante you can find true gems of the Valencian avifauna such as the Trumpeter Finch, European Rollers or the Black wheatear.

For all of the aforementioned reasons, it is certainly worth exploring the land and getting to know it more, using the birds as an excuse to discover your natural heritage, its villages, its people and its culture.



NATURA 2000 NETWORK IN THE REGION OF VALENCIA

PRIVILEGED SPACES FOR BIRDPWATCHING

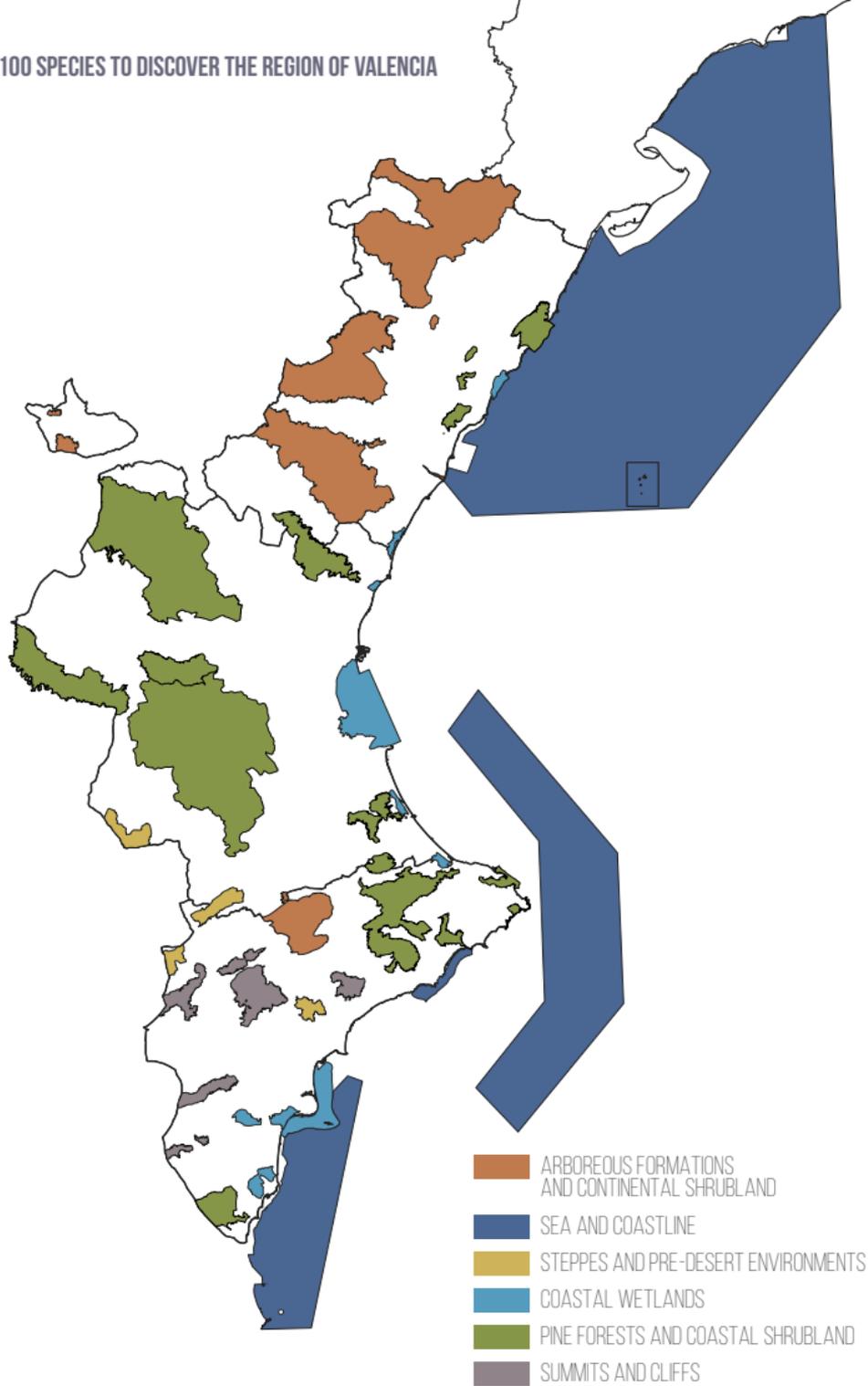
The Natura 2000 is a network of the most important spaces for the conservation of biodiversity in Europe. The network includes both spaces designated to the conservation of birds (SPAs, Special Protection Areas) as well as spaces for the conservation of habitats, flora and other fauna (SCIs, Sites of Community Importance). The Natura 2000 network model promotes that conserving nature goes hand in hand with benefits for citizens and for the economy in general, offering opportunities for the development of productive traditional activities, recreative activities and, especially, sustainable nature tourism.

With regard to bird conservation, 31.1% of the Region of Valencia's surface area (724,112 hectares) is protected due to ornithological values, as well as a total of 55,878

hectares of protected marine surface area due to its value for the conservation of seabirds. This fact highlights the high importance of the Region of Valencia and the huge potential for the development of sustainable nature tourism activities, such as ornithological tourism.

Among the 40 SPAs declared for conservation due to their ornithological values, some spaces which are home to a greater landscape and ornithological diversity stand out, and therefore they suppose better destinations to promote and develop nature tourism as a socioeconomically compatible means for the conservation of the biodiversity: the *Columbretes* Islands; coastal wetlands such as *L'Albufera de València*, the *Santa Pola* saltmarshes, the *La Mata-Torrevieja* lagoons or *El Hondo* in

100 SPECIES TO DISCOVER THE REGION OF VALENCIA





Elche; steppe environments such as *Los Alhorines* and *Meca-Mu-grón-San Benito*; refuges for birds of prey such as the *Escalona* and *Dehesa de Campoamor* mountain ranges, and mountain ranges in the south of Alicante; high and medium height mountain areas, such as *Penyagolosa* and *L'Alt Maestrat*, *Tinença de Benifassà*, *Turmel* and *Vallivana*; mixed forest mosaics, mature Mediterranean forests and transition shrubland, such as the *Montdúver-Marjal de la Safor*, the *Mariola* and *Carrascal de la Font Roja* mountain ranges; as well as the *Malacara* and *Martés-Muela de Cortes* mountain ranges, with vast extensions of Mediterranean shrubland cut with valleys, canyons

and rivers in a favourable conservation status.

The aim of protecting these places aims to guarantee the long-term survival of the most valuable European species and their habitats. For that reason, the Member States of the European Union must approve management plans that establish the measures to make the conservation of its values possible as a source of enrichment to strengthen the sustainable development of different socio-economic sectors. What better way to carry it out than through sustainable activities that bring citizens closer and show them our most precious natural heritage?

USE OF THE GUIDE AND ETHICAL BEHAVIOR

Through the use of simple sheets, information on the 100 most representative bird species which can be observed throughout the year in the Region of Valencia (among more than 300 species of birds) is offered. Information, symbols and diagrams are included on these sheets in order to get to know these species better:

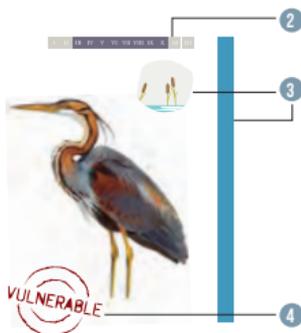
1

PURPLE HERON

AGRO RIG | GARZA IMPERIAL

Ardea purpurea

It is mainly distributed across the Mediterranean and is restricted to shallow wetlands with fresh or salt water, with an abundance of marsh vegetation, slow course rivers and streams, and even irrigation channels and paddy fields. They hide motionless among this vegetation and wait on medium sized fish, amphibians, snakes or micromammals to pass by, which they then capture with their long beak following a quick neck movement. To build their nests and establish their breeding colonies they require large, continuous stretches of reeds or cattails.



1 NAME

The name of the species is presented in English, Spanish, Valencian and its scientific name.

2 PHENOLOGICAL STATUS WHEN CAN THESE BIRDS BE OBSERVED?

Birds show distinct migration behaviour according to their evolutionary adaptation to increase their survival against seasonal changes in food availability and modulated according to areas of origin, with

the possibility of different populations of the same species to show a different migratory behaviour.

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This species can be observed during the wintering period, from October to March.

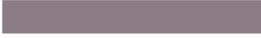
3 HABITAT WHERE AM I MOST LIKELY TO OBSERVE THESE BIRDS?

On the side of the page, a colour code is presented which identifies the habitats most frequently used

by these species. Likewise, each species is indicated on the sheet, as well as other habitats in which you can frequently observe said species.



SUMMITS AND CLIFFS



**PINE FORESTS
AND COASTAL SHRUBLAND**



**STEPPE AND PRE-DESERT
ENVIRONMENTS**



**ARBOREOUS FORMATIONS AND
CONTINENTAL SHRUBLAND**



**ARBOREAL CULTIVATIONS
AND GARDENS**



SEA AND COASTLINE



COASTAL WETLANDS



RIVERS



4 CONSERVATIONIST INTEREST

Their category of threat is highlighted in accordance with the Valencian Catalogue of Endangered Bird Species, developed by Order 6/2013, dated 25 March, on the Environment Regional Agency (or Conselleria de Infraestructuras, Territorio y Medio Ambiente, in Valencian), through which the Valencian lists of protected flora and fauna species is amended, indicating their category by using abbreviations (EN: In danger of extinction, VU: Vulnerable).

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR BIRDWATCHING

Birdwatching is an activity that gains more and more fans over the years given that, although it requires a lot of patience and serenity, it brings great enjoyment of nature and it allows us to keep our senses alert.

To ensure good birdwatching in which birds display their normal behaviour, and therefore without interfering it, it is important to avoid brisk movements, bright colours and noises. Approaching slowly is recommended, stopping to watch the bird's



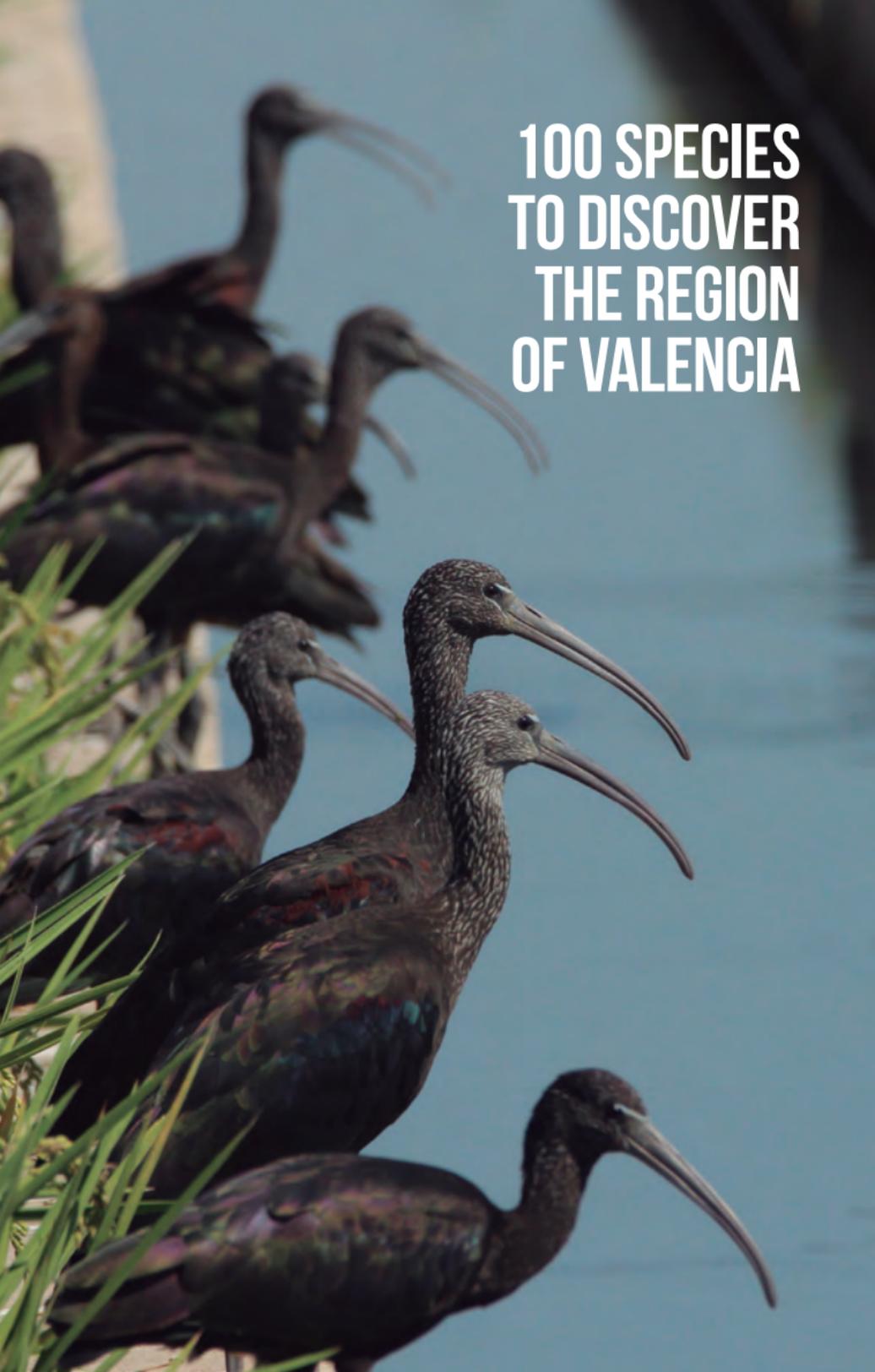
movements or hear their songs. We must try to locate the birds by eye to then observe them in more detail with the help of our binoculars. In order to make the most of any birdwatching outing, it is thus highly recommended to be equipped with binoculars, in particular a light pair with 8x30 or 10x40 magnification.

A small notebook or mobile applications which are currently available (such as eBird) help us to take note of anything that catches our eyes: place, date, time of sighting, weather conditions, type of habitat, the bird's behaviour... Sometimes it is more important to watch closely and focus on every detail, to then look in our guide for the bird that you see. If we do a small drawing of what we see, it is then easier to look it up in the guide. Over time, we will be able to commemorate

experiences on previous field days thanks to our notebook.

Additionally, it is very important to follow the following recommendations:

- You must not abandon the pedestrian paths or cross fences. Only access via permitted routes, obeying the indicative signs at all times and respecting the regulations on space and the regulation on flora and fauna.
- Special care must be taken during breeding season. In the event that you spot a nest, move away and stay hidden to avoid annoyance that may provoke the abandonment of the nest and, consequently, the loss of the brood.
- You must not litter, collect plants, animals or their remains.

A group of dark-colored birds with long, curved beaks, likely frigatebirds, standing on a grassy bank near water. The birds are the central focus, with several in the foreground and others in the background. The background is a soft-focus blue, suggesting a body of water. The text is overlaid in the upper right corner.

**100 SPECIES
TO DISCOVER
THE REGION
OF VALENCIA**

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GRIFFON VULTURE

VOLTOR COMÚ | BUITRE LEONADO

Cyps fulvus

To nest, the Griffon Vulture situates itself in rocky cliffs in mountainous zones or in river gorges in the foothills of the *Sistema Ibérico* and the North of Alicante, always relatively close to open areas with few trees and livestock, since they feed on the corpses of large ungulates. Following the reduction in its direct persecution, its population has significantly improved, although death due to wind farms, electric cables and the use of poison are significant threats nowadays.

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EGYPTIAN VULTURE

MILOCA | ALIMOCHE COMÚN

Neophron percnopterus

This is a scavenger bird that distributes in mountainous areas in the foothills of the *Maestrazgo* inland from València and Castellón during breeding season. They build their nests in abrupt, gorges near open areas, with extensive livestock, pastures and low shrubs, where they get their food (usually after black and griffon vultures have torn the corpse apart). Spanish birds spend the winter in sub-Saharan Africa.

LAMMERGEIER

TRENCALÒS | QUEBRANTAHUESOS

Gypaetus barbatus

They are highly linked to mountainous areas with crags and cliffs, as well as in the presence of domestic and wild ungulates. Historically, this huge bird was present in the majority of Europe's mountainous regions, from which they became extinct throughout the twentieth century. Since 2018, a reintroduction project is being developed in the Region of Valencia to reintroduce the species in the *Tinença de Benifassà*. They are the last link to the use of carrion, since they feed on the tendons and bones of large ungulates, which they ingest after fracturing them.



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PEREGRINE FALCON

FALCÓ PELEGRÍ | HALCÓN PEREGRINO

Falco peregrinus

To establish their territories, they need open spaces to hunt in, abundant prey and some rocky crag, a sandy slope or even a building to build the nest. They feed mainly on medium sized birds that they capture in flight by plummeting and reaching around 300km/hour. The bird has currently shown a certain recovery, following a significant decline in the second half of the twentieth century caused by the indiscriminate use of pesticides in some agricultural regions.



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ALPINE SWIFT
FALCIA DE PANXA BLANCA | VENCEJO REAL
Tachymarptis melba

They are the largest and most striking of the Iberian swifts, with their distribution being limited to the North of Europe in the Alps and Carpathians. They winter in equatorial Africa. Their colonies settle on cliffs, both coastal and inland, with a preference for South-facing, vertical precipices of a certain height, preferably on limestone, meaning that in the Region of Valencia there is a very fragmented distribution of the species in the three provinces. They feed in flight by opening their mouth to capture small flying insects.

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CRAG MARTIN
ROQUER | AVIÓN ROQUERO
Hirundo rupestris

Swallows from rocky habitats that nest in crags, as well as in rural constructions, mainly bridges, and that has recently colonised some inland urban areas. In winter, they abandon their breeding area in the mountains since there is a lack of food, and descend to the coastline and wetlands. Significant concentrations can form in these environments as they make the most of the appearance of small flying insects, as well as roosts, sometimes made up of thousands of specimens.

BLACK WHEATEAR

CÒLBA NEGRA | COLLALBA NEGRA

Oenanthe leucura

A species found in Spain and North Africa, unmistakable due to their dark tones and partially white tail. They inhabit dry environments, devoid of vegetation and with rocky escarpments or dry-stone walls, such as gullies, river or coastal cliffs, steppe areas, ravines, which mean that their greatest densities are found in the Southern half of Alicante. There are some local conservation problems, such as the changes in their habitat due to forest repopulations or the creation of new irrigations.

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BLUE ROCK THRUSH

MERLA BLAVA | ROQUERO SOLITARIO

Monticola solitarius

They show a preference for sunny, dry, warm spots with an abundance of crags, such as mid-mountain summits, river canyons and coastal cliffs. They also colonise in little frequented human constructions, such as the ruins of churches and castles. The male is more often observed, who is blue in colour and poses erect in dominant spots, since the female displays more timid behaviour. They eat all kinds of invertebrates, although in summer they incorporate small reptiles into their diet.

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ALPINE ACCENTOR

BARDISSER | ACENTOR ALPINO

Prunella collaris

They nest in the high mountains of most of Europe and during winter they descend in altitude to the coastal and inland summits of our mountain ranges, including areas which are very close to the sea, inhabiting rocky areas and open areas in the shrubland. They capture invertebrates on the ground and amongst the herbaceous plants, as well as feeding on seeds, fruit and food waste left behind by excursionists. For this reason, they are very comfortable with the presence of humans.

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RED-BILLED CHOUGH

GRALL DE BEC ROIG | CHOVA PIQUIRROJA

Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax

They inhabit crags, cliffs, and even monumental buildings in urban areas, both on the coast and inland, where there are cracks or hollows that they can nest and take refuge in. They feed mainly on beetle and caterpillars, worms, spiders and grasshoppers which they catch with their long, curved beak. They tend to form smaller breeding colonies where the population is abundant. The population currently appears to be stable, after suffering a decline due to a limitation of their diet due to the use of pesticides.

WALLCREEPER

PELA-ROQUES | TREPARRISCOS

Tichodroma muraria

A small, visually unmistakable bird, with erratic flight and rocky tendencies, that inhabits in the highest, most inaccessible calcareous peaks on the continent. Given the lack of insects at the summits during winter, the Wallcreepers descend to a lower altitude towards warmer zones, a period in which they can be observed on the walls of a certain size, even in damsns, in the mountainous, inland regions in the Region of Valencia.

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ROCK SPARROW

PARDAL ROQUER | GORRIÓN CHILLÓN

Petronia petronia

They distribute in a fragmented way in warm regions on the Mediterranean coast, where they live in steppe environments and areas that are more open. In these areas, they select rocky outcrops, rocky crags, abandoned quarries or uninhabited rural buildings, such as those existing largely in Alicante and València. They reach their maximum densities in uncultivated agricultural environments and their minimum in dense forests. They feed mostly on seeds, which they complement with fruit and berries in August and with invertebrates in Spring.

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BONELLI'S EAGLE

ÀGUILA DE PANXA BLANCA | ÀGUILA PERDICERA

Aquila fasciata

Breeding territories are located in mountain ranges near coastal plains, close to rocky cliffs to nest on. The territories are established in January/February, and the chicks fly in May/June, staying with their parents for three months before they take off. During the breeding season rabbits are an essential food source. The high non-natural adult death rate (poaching, poisoning, electrocution and collisions with electric cables) is their biggest threat.

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GOLDEN EAGLE

ÀGUILA DAURADA | ÀGUILA REAL

Aquila chrysaetos

They normally nest in rocky cliffs, although some times they also nest in trees to take advantage of mature forested areas. The breeding cycle begins in January, and the chicks fly at the end of May or June, staying linked to the adults for around three months more. Following a 30% loss in population during the second half of the twentieth century, the reduction of the persecution of raptors has allowed its population to recover, thus keeping it in a stable situation or even a slight recuperation.

SHORT-TOED EAGLE

ÀGUILA SERPERA | ÀGUILA CULEBRERA

Circus gallicus

A bird which inhabits Mediterranean forest masses, where they nest in oak, cork oak and pine trees with a bit of coverage. In their territory there is a certain environmental heterogeneity, with sparse shrubs, grasslands, rainfed crops or mosaic landscapes. In these open environments, they obtain the most part of their food which is mainly snakes. The species migrates between September and October to the wintering areas in Africa, although a small population spends winter in the South of Alicante.

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LONG-EARED OWL

MUSSOL BANYUT | BÚHO CHICO

Asio otus

This species is widely dispersed in our territory, since it has a preference for pine forests with dispersed trees, island and even coastal thickets, where they use to perch next to clearings, and boundaries if they are in vast forests. They are strictly night hunters and their basic diet is made up of micromammals. The breeding season starts before winter is over, and in February you can already hear the faint sound displays that indicate the forming of mating partners.

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THEKLA LARK

COGULLADA FOSCA | COGUJADA MONTESINA

Galerida theklae

They are only found on the Iberian Peninsula, Balearic Islands and some parts of France, where they inhabit rough terrain and detached forests, avoiding areas occupied by cultivation (to the contrary of the Common Lark). They mainly feed on seeds and small invertebrates (beetles, ants, spiders, bugs, grasshoppers, caterpillars, snails, etc). They are a territorial species, and they are easily detectable during the breeding season due to their air courting and their tendency to perch on isolated shrubs.

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GREATER SHORT-TOED LARK

TERREROLA | TERRERA COMÚN

Calandrella brachydactyla

A small lark distributed across warm, dry areas in the Mediterranean, especially inland and on the South-western coastal stretch of the Iberian Peninsula. In the Valencian region they inhabit steppes and dry cereal cultivations, choosing fallows, fields and pastures, although they also use small shrublands with open areas. The species is linked to warm, dry areas. They have a mixed diet in spring and summer, when they consume invertebrates and seeds.

BLACK-EARED WHEATEAR**CÒLBA TERRERA | COLLALBA RUBIA***Oenanthe hispanica*

During the breeding season, their distribution is restricted to the Mediterranean surroundings, while their wintering areas are located in sub-Saharan Africa. In the Valencian region they are regular, although not abundant. They occupy open, dry terrain, with disperse trees or shrubs. They are a territorial species that can often be observed perched on top of shrubs. They feed on insects, although they also consume small fruit, especially at the end of summer, before and during migration.

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**MISTLE THRUSH****GRIVA | ZORZAL CHARLO***Turdus viscivorus*

The largest thrush in Western Europe and the one with largest distribution in the Region of Valencia. They occupy a large variety of forest environments, both closed and open with diverse and abundant undergrowth, and even in garden areas. They feed on a large variety of insects, fruit and seeds. In coniferous forests, they particularly enjoy the sticky fruit of the mistletoe tree, a habit from which their scientific name originates (*viscivorus*, or mistletoe eater).

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WESTERN ORPHEAN WARBLER

BUSQUERETA EMMASCARADA | CURRUCA MIRONA

Sylvia hortensis

They are the largest of all of our Warblers, characterised by their melodic song, which is similar to that of the Blackbird. They show a clear preference for arboreal developed vegetation, open and sparse, so they often appear in holm oak and pine forests and transition areas into arboreal cultivations (olive groves, orange groves, etc.). Their diet is based on the consumption of a large variety of invertebrates, which they complement with different berries and fruit before setting off on their migration to Africa.

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SARDINIAN WARBLER

BUSQUERETA DE CAP NEGRE | CURRUCA CABECINEGRA

Sylvia melanocephala

Warbler that distributes along warm climates in southern regions of Europe and northeastern Africa. It is a common species that reaches its highest densities in Mediterranean shrub formations of medium size (mainly kermes oak), open pine forests and arboreal crops. In winter, it also appears in small shrubs, margins of crops and even reed beds, as well as in gardens and urban parks. It feeds mainly on insects, although in autumn and winter it incorporates fleshy fruits into the diet.

DARTFORD WARBLER**BUSQUERETA CUALLARGA | CURRUCA RABILARGA***Sylvia undata*

This species is distributed in the Mediterranean although over last two decades it has colonised in warm continental areas and in the South of England. In the Valencian region they inhabit areas of dense Mediterranean shrubland, as well as shrublands with disperse trees. Much like their congeners, they feed almost entirely on invertebrates, and occasionally on small fruits and seeds. Their breeding season is from the end of April until the month of July, since they often lay eggs twice a year and, on some occasions, even three.

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**SUBALPINE WARBLER****BUSQUERETA DE COSCOLLA | CURRUCA CARRASQUEÑA***Sylvia cantillans*

In Valencian territory they show a clear preference for forest formations with an abundant understory of shrubs, including areas in which they are dominant. They feed on a large variety of larva and adult insects, while in summer and autumn they sometimes eat fruits and seeds before beginning migration to sub-Saharan Africa. The breeding season is from April until July, since the male birds can look after the chicks who are ready to fly, while the female incubates a second laying.

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SPECTACLED WARBLER

BUSQUERETA TRENCA | **CURRUCÀ TOMILLERA**

Sylvia conspicillata

A Trans-Saharan migratory bird which nests in regions on the coast of the Mediterranean Sea. They are found in the driest areas with no trees which are open, dry, and have a disperse shrubs, which there are few of these in the pre-coastal mountains in València and Alicante, and vegetation in saltmarshes on the border of marshes and salt lagoons on the coast of Alicante. The largest densities are found in semi-arid scrub grass mosaics and in low scrub formations. Their feeding is similar to that of other small warblers.

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FIRECREST

REIET SAFRANER | **REVEZUELO LISTADO**

Regulus ignicapilla

This is one of our avifauna's smallest birds. They are common in many Valencian mid-mountain coniferous forests, although over recent decades they have been observed gradually colonising in coastal forests, probably as a result of forced displacements caused by forest fires. Their diet is based on the consumption of small invertebrates that they capture in the trees' mid and high branches.

ERN GREY SHRIKE

CAPSOT BOTXÍ | ALCAUDÓN REAL

Lanius meridionalis

They inhabit open areas with scattered trees and shrubs and, on fewer occasions, arboreous dryland cultivations. They are usually easy to spot since they frequent dominant perches, from which they scan in search of beetles, grasshoppers, crickets, rats, small birds and reptiles, which they sometimes impale on spikey shrubs. There is a worrying decline across most of Spain relating to the intensification of agricultural operations causing a drastic decline in insects and places to build nests.

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COASTAL WETLANDS

EURASIAN BITTERN

VÍTOL | AVETORO COMÚN

Botaurus stellaris

A species linked to extensive reedbeds in freshwater wetlands with stable water levels. During winter, they expand the use of habitat to open aquatic environments such as rice fields and even humid areas with no vegetation or suburban areas, where they feed on insects, amphibians and micromammals. As of February, the males exhibit some territorial behaviour, emitting serious songs similar to the bellowing of a bull. In recent years there has been observations during the breeding period but with no confirmation of nesting.

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LITTLE BITTERN

GOMET | AVETORILLO COMÚN

Ixobrychus minutus

A small heron that inhabits wetlands and banks with an abundance of marshy vegetation, where they create their nest. They generally move close to the water, capturing small fish, amphibians and reptiles which lurk motionless and hidden among the vegetation. They reproduce in an isolated manner, although they sometimes form small, very lax colonies. Despite being considered a summer bird, in the wetlands of the region they also appear as sedentary, a period in which they go by rather unnoticed.

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SQUACCO HERON

OROVAL | GARCILLA CANGREJERA

Ardeola ralloides

A small heron that visits a series of wetlands in Mediterranean Europe to nest, mainly *l'Albufera de València* or the wetlands in the South of Alicante. They need fresh or salt water wetlands, with shallow waters such as paddy fields or waterlogged pastures, as long as there is dense marsh vegetation where they establish their colonies. It is in these shallow waters that the bird feeds on small amphibians, small fish and aquatic invertebrates, generally in twilight hours.



PURPLE HERON

AGRÓ ROIG | GARZA IMPERIAL

Ardea purpurea

It is mainly distributed across the Mediterranean and is restricted to shallow wetlands with fresh or salt water, with an abundance of marsh vegetation, slow course rivers and streams, and even irrigation channels and paddy fields. They hide motionless among this vegetation and wait on medium sized fish, amphibians, snakes or micromammals to pass by, which they then capture with their long beak following a quick neck movement. To build their nests and establish their breeding colonies they require large, continuous stretches of reeds or cattails.

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EURASIAN SPOONBILL

BECPÀ | ESPÁTULA COMÚN

Platalea leucorodia

The birds observed in the Region of Valencia come from nesting populations in the Netherlands, France and Spain, and to a lesser extent from Eastern Europe. They show a preference for shallow coastal wetlands with fine sand or mud ground, avoiding very stagnant, turbulent waters or waters with an abundance of submerged vegetation. They feed in groups, walking over the substrate while it moves its head from one side to the other, detecting the aquatic invertebrates, amphibians and small fish that they feed on with their sensitive beak.

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GLOSSY IBIS

PICAPORT | MORITO COMÚN

Plegadis falcinellus

A cosmopolitan species with a wide, but very fragmented distribution range. They were extinct in the Region of Valencia at the start of the twentieth century. Over recent years they have colonised in practically all of the wetlands of a certain size on the coast of the Region of Valencia. They nest in mixed colonies with herons, close to lagoons and pastures with shallow waters. They have a general diet which depends on the local abundance of prey, although they show a preference for crustaceans, molluscs and annelids.

GREATER FLAMINGO

FLAMENC COMÚ | FLAMENCO COMÚN

Phoenicopterus roseus

Their presence is restricted to salt or brackish wetlands with sufficient surfaces of shallow water, generally with a distinct salty character, or at least brackish. The largest concentrations of this species can be found in *l'Albufera de València* and the complex of wetlands in the South of Alicante. They feed on small aquatic organisms which they filter with the films on the edge of their beak while they keep their head submerged and move the substrate with its feet. It is easy to distinguish the younger birds since they have white/grey plumage.

COMMON SHELDUCK

TADORNA | TARRO BLANCO

Tadorna tadorna

Waterbird associated with halophilic lagoons and coastal saltmarshes, where terrestrial areas to nest in and shallow, productive aquatic areas to feed in are combined. Although the *Santa Pola* saltmarshes and the lagoons of *La Mata-Torrevieja* have been the traditional areas to observe this species, over recent years the majority has rapidly colonised coastal wetlands in València and Castellón. Moreover, their adaptability has allowed them to nest in coastal and inland irrigation pools. They feed on molluscs, crustaceans and insects.

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MARBLED TEAL

ROSSETA | CERCETA PARDILLA

Marmaronetta angustirostris

They inhabit brackish, temporary or semi-permanent, with shallow waters and an abundance of emerged and submerged vegetation. *El Hondo* in Elche is one of the main breeding sites on the Iberian Peninsula. The species, classified as in danger of extinction in Spain, is threatened by the degradation and drying out of wetlands, by the lack of water in the years of drought, episodes of botulism, illegal hunting and accidental capture in crab traps.

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FERRUGINOUS DUCK

ROGET | PORRÓN PARDO

Aythya nyroca

In Europe they have quite a fragmented distribution area. They can be observed sporadically throughout winter and in small numbers mainly in *l'Albufera de València* and *El Hondo* in Elche. The species unfavourable conservation status is caused by their need for wetlands in a good state of conservation. They have a low tolerance to salinity and eutrophication and require lagoons with an abundance of emerged vegetation and submerged macrophytes.

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WHITE-HEADED DUCK

ÀNEC CAPBLANC | MALVASÍA CABECIBLANCA

Oxyura leucocephala

An unmistakable bird which has a very sparse population that can be located in clean water wetlands which are slightly salty and deep, since they are a diving duck and they need to plunge into the water to catch their food, mainly aquatic plants. During the breeding season, they inhabit lagoons which have a good coverage of fridge vegetation. In the Region of Valencia, *El Hondo* in Elche is their main location, thanks to the development of conservation plans, which have been carried out.

OSPREY

ÀGUILA PESCADORA | ÁGUILA PESCADORA

Pandion haliaetus

A species with a wide distribution across the Northern hemisphere, mainly occupying the North of Europe and Russia. There is currently no nesting population in the Region of Valencia. Central and North European migrating and wintering birds can be observed in coastal wetlands such as *l'Albufera de València*, the *Marjal de Pego-Oliva* and the complex of wetlands in the South of Alicante where they use electric fences and large trees as vantage points.



MONTAGU'S HARRIER

ESPARVER CENDRÓS | AGUILUCHO CENIZO

Circus pygargus

In the Region of Valencia they nest in coastal shrublands and reedbeds, creating loose colonies whose density varies depending on food availability and competition with other birds of prey. Their diet adapts to local and seasonal availability, although it is mainly made up of small vertebrates. Pairs form at the beginning of April and the first chicks fly towards the end of June. The Iberian birds winters in Western Africa. The species is currently suffering an alarming decline in Spain.



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MARSH HARRIER

ARPELLOT DE MARJAL | AGUILUCHO LAGUNERO OCCIDENTAL

Circus aeruginosus



They show a clear preference towards wetlands with large marshland habitats. Small and medium sized vertebrates (mammals, birds and reptiles) make up a significant part of their diet. During winter, the Iberian Peninsula receives a significant amount of birds arriving from central and Northern Europe, which can form roosts of several hundred birds in some wetlands. Courting takes place in order to mate during February and March.

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PURPLE GALLINULE

GALL DE CANYAR | CALAMÓN COMÚN

Porphyrrio porphyrio



In the middle of the twentieth century, the destruction of many wetlands and hunting pressure caused the extinction of this species in our region. Nowadays, thanks to the protection of our wetlands, the reduction of illegal hunting and their colonisation capabilities, this Gallinule can be found in almost all of the wetlands in the Region of Valencia. They situate themselves in vast areas of reeds and typhas surrounding the open water sheets. They take advantage of their long, useful claws to handle the stems, shoots and bulbs that it feeds on.

EURASIAN COOT

FOTJA | FOCHA COMÚN

Fulica atra

They are present in a large variety of wetlands, from salt lagoons to fresh water lagoons, as well as reservoirs and rivers, as long as there is free, calm water of an appropriate depth with marsh vegetation in which they shelter and nest. Their diet is dominated by stems, stalks and seeds from aquatic plants, with the presence of submerged vegetation being a limiting factor during breeding. In winter, they form big flocks, while during breeding they are very territorial.

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RED-KNOBBED COOT

FOTJA BANYUDA | FOCHA MORUNA

Fulica cristata

A bird mainly native to Africa, which reaches the South of Iberian territory and constitutes one of the biggest originalities of our avifauna. It has the same environmental requirements as the Eurasian coot, although it has a greater preference for warm climates and masses of water with very thick, marshy vegetation and an abundance of submerged vegetation. For this reason, and given the high relation between the coverage of submerged vegetation and water quality, their presence in the Region of Valencia is very unusual and the species is in a critical situation.

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COLLARED PRATINCOLE

CARREGADA | CANASTERA COMÚN

Clareola pratincola



VULNERABLE

This bird is linked to dry climate wetlands. They settle in colonies in degraded environments which are devoid of vegetation, so they also frequent rice fields, fallows and humid grasslands in the main coastal wetlands of the region. They feed in flight by chasing and capturing flying invertebrates with a similar technique to that used by Swifts, Martins and Swallows. They have twilight habits, so they usually hunt at dusk and during the first light of the day.

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WHISKERED TERN

FUMARELL DE GALTA BLANCA | FUMAREL CARIBLANCO

Chlidonias hybrida



VULNERABLE

A migratory bird that breeds in small colonies in wetlands that have shallow sheets of water with a good coverage of emergent vegetation. Therefore, their presence as a breeding bird is also associated to the maintenance of a constant depth. They feed on insects and aquatic and terrestrial invertebrates, tadpoles, crabs and small fish which they capture mainly on the surface of the water, while they fly at a low altitude making short, sifting glides.

GULL-BILLED TERN

CURROC | PAGAZA PICONEGRA

Gelochelidon nilotica

This species is present on almost all continents, but it is mainly distributed in areas with warm climates. Although they can settle in inland wetlands, in the Region of Valencia they only establish in two colonies, in *l'Albufera de València* and in the *Santa Pola* saltmarshes, where they settle on islets and saltmarshes. They feed on drier ground than other terns, making use of paddy fields, salty environments and the coast, where they catch large aquatic invertebrates, small rodents and small birds.

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SLENDER-BILLED GULL

GAVINA CAPBLANCA | GAVIOTA PICOFINA

Larus genei

They nest very locally and dispersedly in some localities of the Mediterranean basin, such as the *Santa Pola* saltmarshes, the *La Mata-Torreveja* lagoons and *l'Albufera de València*, since they show a preference for salt water wetlands, especially saltmarshes, although they can also be found in coastal lagoons and, to a lesser extent, in paddy fields. They form mixed colonies with other gulls, terns and waders, preferably on sandy islets with halophilic vegetation. Outside of the breeding season they also frequent the coastline.

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VULNERABLE



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BLACK-TAILED GODWIT

TÈTOL CUANEGRE | AGUJA COLINEGRA

Limosa limosa

They are easily identifiable in flight due to their huge white striped wings, and for their black, long beak that they use to feed on invertebrates on muddy terrain and, to a lesser extent, on plant material. Breeding birds in central and Northern Europe are observed in the region during migration and wintering stopovers in marshlands, inland marshes, paddy fields, saltmarshes and estuaries. The species is suffering from a drastic decline due to the lowering in quality of the habitat in the breeding and resting areas where they stop during migration.

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BAR-TAILED GODWIT

TÈTOL CUABARRAT | AGUJA COLIPINTA

Limosa lapponica

All in all, their life cycle depends on coastal zones or nearby land. During migration they can be spotted on beaches, saltmarshes and other aquatic environments with a fine sheet of water, where they feed on insects, molluscs, crustaceans and annelids, which they catch in the mud at a certain depth. This bird is particularly sensitive to the transformation and destruction of their habitat in breeding, migration and wintering areas, as well as ground contamination given that it affects the organisms on which it feeds.

CURLEW SANDPIPER

TERRIT PICARUT | CORRELIMOS ZARAPITÍN

Calidris ferruginea

A nesting seabird in the Siberian coastal stretch, in territories covered by cold tundra. They winter in warm areas of Africa, some Atlantic islands and the coasts of the Indian ocean and Oceania. During migration and wintering in the Valencian region, they use saltmarshes or shallow coastal lagoons, where they feed on invertebrates which they capture by searching in the mud with their beak. The species is endangered as a result of the desiccation of wetlands and industrial and urban development in coastal regions.

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RICHARD'S PIPIT

TITETA DE RICHARD | BISBITA DE RICHARD

Anthus richardii

They are characterised by being a large pipit, with striking streaks on their back and a strong beak, their tendency to stand very upright, with the neck stretched out, as well their flying, and their explosive, rough call. It is a rare species in Europe, since the closest breeding areas are in the Southeast of Siberia and the North-east of Kazakhstan. There are very small, localised wintering populations in the Region of Valencia in the coastal stretches next to coastal wetlands.

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MOUSTACHED WARBLER

XITXARRA MOSTAXUDA | CARRICERÍN REAL

Acrocephalus melanopoëon

This species is linked to coastal wetlands with an abundance of marsh vegetation, that has important populations in *el Prat de Cabanes* in Torreblanca, *Albufera de València*, *Marjal de Xeresa* and *El Hondo* in Elche. They feed on small invertebrates that they capture mainly on the surface of the water. They are indicative of the absence of hypertrophic aquatic environments, and currently show an unfavourable conservation status, due to water over-exploitation, loss of water quality or inadequate management of vegetation.

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ZITTING CISTICOLA

TRIST | CISTÍCOLA BUITRÓN

Cisticola juncidis

A small, easily detectable bird due to their unmistakable song, which they emit while flying with their characteristic undulating path. They reach their higher densities in inhabit sparse shrubland, although they also inhabit steppes, pastures and cereal cultivations. Their diet is mainly made up of insects. It is a territorial species, in which generally one male mates with two or more females. Moreover, the birds are sexually mature at just a few months old. Due to their small size, they are particularly sensitive to cold temperatures in winter.

BEARDED REEDLING

XAUET MOSTATXUT | BIGOTUDO

Panurus biarmicus

They are linked to dense, vast masses of reedbeds, They fly at a low altitude, or between plant stems, in search of small invertebrates and seeds, behaviour which means that it is difficult to observe this bird. The changes in water levels of the wetlands expose their nests to predators such as rats, Purple Gallinule and other rails, with this being one of the main threats to the species. Their presence in the Region of Valencia, after a noticeable decline, is restricted to *El Hondo* in Elche and the *Albufera de València*, and irregularly in wetlands close to them.

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EASTERN IBERIAN REED BUNTING

TEULADÍ DE CANYAR | ESCRIBANO PALUSTRE IBEROCCIDENTAL

Emberiza schoeniclus witherbyi

Although the Reed Bunting is a species which is well distributed across Europe, this subspecies is endemic to the central and Eastern wetlands of the Iberian Peninsula, Gulf of Lyon, Balearic Islands and the North of Morocco. In the Region of Valencia they used to be found in almost all coastal wetlands, although nowadays very few partners nest in the *Marjal de Pego-Oliva* marshes, which are settled in mixed formations of low-density reeds, sedges, rushes and cattails.

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VULNERABLE



LESSER KESTREL

XORIGUER MENUT | CERNÍCALO PRIMILLA

Falco naumannii

A small bird of prey that inhabits pastures, steppe areas and agricultural mosaics with diverse environments, such as the valleys in the Northeast of Alicante and Southeast of València, where they require constructions to situate their breeding colonies. Their diet is insectivorous; thus, this species has been considered as an ally to help farmers to control pests. Therefore, their main threats are agricultural intensification, cultivation changes, abandonment of land and massive use of chemical products in fields.

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VULNERABLE



LITTLE BUSTARD

SISÓ | SISÓN COMÚN

Tetrax tetrax

They are distributed discontinuously from the Iberian Peninsula and the North of Africa until China, with the main breeding colony of this species being that of the Iberian Peninsula. They inhabit open agricultural environments, mainly dry cereal cultivations with a certain heterogeneity in terms of landscape. In the Region of Valencia their presence is limited to steppe environments in the South-east of València and North-east of Alicante. Over the last decade they have suffered a decline due to the drastic transformations suffered by agricultural landscapes.

GREAT BUSTARD

AVITARDA | AVUTARDA COMÚN

Otis tarda

This is the largest species of Iberian avifauna and one of the heaviest flying birds. They are linked to vast herbaceous plains, although in Spanish territory they mainly occupy plains with no trees which are used for cereal cultivation on dry land, mainly in the North-east of Alicante and South-east of València. Courting takes place through the aggregation of various male breeders in a specific area within the territory where they carry out their mating displays, known as “the wheel”.

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VULNERABLE



STONE CURLEW

TORLIT | ALCARAVÁN COMÚN

Burhinus oedienemus

This bird is rather widespread across central and Southern Europe. They inhabit steppe areas, taking advantage of cereal cultivations and other cultivations in open, dry areas. It is not easy to observe this bird since it has very discrete colours and their elusive, nocturnal habits. Luckily, during the breeding season they can be easily detected due to their characteristic call, that they emit at sunset and within the first few hours of the night. The local population, mostly sedentary, is joined during the winter by birds from France, Great Britain and the Netherlands.

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VULNERABLE



PIN-TAILED SANDGROUSE

GANGA | GANGA IBÉRICA

Pterocles alchata

This bird originates in African and Asian deserts and steppes. In the Region of Valencia they are linked to semi-dry areas, steppes and plains with dry mosaics, fallows, dry pastures and wasteland, such as those in *Requena-Utiel*, the *Valle de Ayora* and inland Alicante. Their diet is made up mainly of small seeds from herbaceous plants, and therefore they go to the fallows 2-3 hours before sunrise, and at least one other occasion before sunset. Agricultural transformation is currently causing a serious decline in population.

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VULNERABLE



BLACK-BELLIED SANDGROUSE

XURRA | GANGA ORTEGA

Pterocles orientalis

With habitat requirements similar to those of the Pin-tailed Sandgrouse, they inhabit semi-dry areas, moors and large dry cultivations all year, no matter what the climate. However, they tolerate slightly steep terrain with dispersed trees and bushes better. Their granivorous diet requires regular consumption of water and therefore, similarly to the Pin-tailed Sandgrouse, the breeding birds bring water to their chicks for the first few days of life, thanks to the fact that their chest feathers can absorb water.

PALLID SWIFT

FALCIA PÀL·LIDA | VENCEJO PÁLIDO

Apus pallidus

They are distributed across the Mediterranean basin, where they settle in warm areas, with a high level of insolation and a low level of forest coverage. They set their colonies on cliffs, mainly coastal, and in urban areas, so they generally inhabit areas close to the sea and seldom in inland populations, which is the case in the Region of Valencia. They feed on small flying insects which they capture in flight, with the mouth wide open in butterfly hunting mode.

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DUPONT'S LARK

ALOSA BECUDA | ALONDRA RICOTÍ

Chersophilus duponti

They are one of the most difficult birds to observe, being more detectable when they defend their territory by singing before sunrise. Their distribution is very fragmented and localised. In València, they are restricted to the moors in the foothills of the *Sistema Ibérico* (mountain range), in the *Rincón de Ademuz*. They inhabit plains with varied low shrubs (thyme, espartos, halophilous shrubs...) with good coverage. In these environments, they feed mainly on insects and small seeds.

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CALANDRIA LARK

CALÀNDRIA | CALANDRIA COMÚN

Melanocorypha calandria

This species is linked to steppe environments belonging to inland areas within the three provinces, with a recognised preference for large plains of vast cereal cultivations and, to a lesser extent, natural pastures, as long as they have a heightened herbaceous covering. Their diet is based on the consumption of invertebrates during breeding season, and seeds and soft stalks during autumn and winter. Their biggest threats relate to the intensification of agricultural activities and the expansion of arboreous cultivations.

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LESSER SHORT-TOED LARK

TERREROLA ROGENCA | TERRERA MARISMEÑA

Calandrella rufescens

They inhabit sandy, very warm areas in plains with low, open shrubs, on very dry substrates in sandy marsh and steppe environments which, in the Region of Valencia, can be found very disintegrated in the territory but especially in the plains of Alicante. In these environments they take refuge to nest and feed, especially on seeds. Despite being a bird with inconspicuous habits, they display very territorial behaviour and their courting and singing allows them to be detected rather easily.

TRUMPETER FINCH

PINSÀ TROMPETER | CAMACHUELO TROMPETERO

Bucanetes githagineus

This bird is widely spread across the North of Africa and in the European continent, where it reaches ravines, slopes and rocky environments, with sparse vegetation and the warm, very dry climate in the South of Alicante. They feed on seeds, although they sometimes complement their diet with insects. They breed in small colonies whose birds settle in nests in hollows in slopes and ravines with abrupt slopes. Their biggest threat involves urban development which causes fragmentation and the irreversible loss of the species' habitats.

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SEA AND COASTLINE

BALEARIC SHEARWATER

BALDRIGA BALEAR | PARDELA BALEAR

Puffinus mauretanicus

The Balearic shearwater is the only endemic seabird in Spain. As its name suggests, it breeds on the cliffs of several islets in the Balearic Islands. Outside of the breeding season, they can be observed from the coast, moving actively or resting in groups several hundred meters away. They feed on both fish and squid caught under the surface of the water or diving, sometimes associated with groups of dolphins. During the breeding and moulting periods, feeding based on fishing waste becomes important.

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CORY'S SHEARWATER

BALDRIGA CENDROSA | PARDELA GENICIENTA

Calonectris diomodea

They live in the open sea, mainly on the continental platform. During breeding season, which takes place between March and August, they nest in abrupt, rocky coasts, mainly on islands. In the Region of Valencia this takes place in the Columbretes islands. During this period a large number usually concentrate at sunset perched in the water in front of the breeding colonies. They feed on small fish, crustaceans and cephalopods. They normally make use of fishing discards, so it is normal to see them close to ports following fishing boats.

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VULNERABLE



EUROPEAN STORM-PETREL

ESCATERET | PAÍÑO EUROPEO

Hydrobates pelagicus

A small seabird that is found in coastal areas in the North and West of Europe, as well as in the Mediterranean basin. They have pelagic behaviour, where they roam over the sea looking for small crustaceans on the surface, cephalopods and jellyfish and floating organic matter, such as fish remains. They nest in small colonies located on very inaccessible islets or cliffs, in the hollows and caves of the rocky walls, which are restricted in the Region of Valencia to Castellón and Alicante.

NORTHERN GANNET

MASCARELL | ALCATRAZ ATLÁNTICO

Morus bassanus

A large seabird, characterised by their elongated body. It feeds mainly on medium-sized fish which they capture following an extremely quick dive from around 40 metres in height, during which they reach 100 km/h. Migrating and wintering birds on the coast of the region come from large colonies located on rocky islets and cliffs on British islands and Scandinavia, although birds from this population, and others, also winter in warm regions in the Atlantic.

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EUROPEAN SHAG

CORB MARÍ EMPLOMALLAT | CORMORÁN MOÑUDO

Phalacrocorax aristotelis

This seabird sits on the most cliff-like, inaccessible rocky stretches of our coasts. They breed in colonies in some cliff areas on the coasts of Alicante and Castellon. They do not usually move far away from the coastline to feed since, as well as fish, their diet also include crustaceans which they capture in the sand. In Spain they have demonstrated a strong regression over recent years mainly due to over-fishing and the impact of annoyances caused by leisure boats and accidents caused by nets on fishing equipment.

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COMMON SCOTER

MORELL DE MAR NEGRE | NEGRÓN COMÚN

Melanitta nigra

Duck with marine tendencies that, during the winter and the time of migration, can be observed in certain coastal sections in shallow coasts, bays, estuaries and beaches, forming groups of between a few and more than one hundred specimens. Generally, their presence is associated productive areas such as with river or large irrigation canals mouths, since they feed on molluscs, aquatic insects and small fish. These are captured on the coast after submerging completely, taking impulse with a small jump and folding the wings in towards the body.

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VULNERABLE

ELEONORA'S FALCON

FALCÓ DE LA REINA | HALCÓN DE ELEONORA

Falco eleonorae



During the breeding season they inhabit sea cliffs on rugged islands and islets in the Mediterranean, such as the Columbretes islands, their only breeding colony in the Region of Valencia. Before breeding they usually feed on flying insects, in solitude or in groups, in coastal areas in Castellón and València. Their breeding cycle begins in summer, in a way that the feeding period for their chicks coincides with the presence of many migratory birds on the island who easily hunt them.

COMMON TERN

XATRAC D'ALBUFERA | CHARRÁN COMÚN

Sterna hirundo

This is one of the species of migratory bird which travels the longest distance between their breeding land and wintering area, situated from the equatorial region towards the South Pole. They situate their colonies on islands of shallow water environments on the coast, such as *Marjal del Moro*, *Albufera de València* or *Salinas de Santa Pola*, from where they move 5-10 km offshore to feed on small fish. Among the main threats to this species is overexploitation and alteration of the coastal stretches where the colonies are established.

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VULNERABLE



LITTLE TERN

XATRAC MENUT | CHARRANCITO COMÚN

Sternula albifrons

This bird is characterised by their small size and yellow beak with a black end. Similarly, to the Common Tern, they form colonies in coastal areas, mainly in coastal wetlands, saltmarshes, sandy or stony beaches, from where they move to the sea or fresh or saltwater lagoons to feed on small fish, hovering at a low altitude to then dive and plunge in search of their prey. Their breeding colonies appear to be highly affected by human interference and depredation.

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VULNERABLE



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MEDITERRANEAN GULL

GAVINA CAPNEGRA | GAVIOTA CABECINEGRA

Larus melanocephalus

Although they are present throughout the year in coastal environments, the wintering population is native to central Europe, while the nesting population is native to the Atlantic. The lagoons of *La Mata-Torrevieja* have the main breeding unit, establishing mixed colonies with other species of gulls and terns in areas with low vegetation, close to shallow, generally salty, masses of water. They feed mainly on terrestrial and aquatic insects, marine fish, molluscs and even vegetation.

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AUDOUIN'S GULL

GAVINA CORSA | GAVIOTA DE AUDOUIN

Larus audouinii

This species is restricted to the Mediterranean basin. In the Region of Valencia they can be usually observed in areas surrounding large coastal wetlands such as *l'Albufera de València* and the *Santa Pola* saltmarshes, where they feed on red crabs or they can move towards the sea to feed on sardines and anchovies, or follow boats to take the fishing discards. They establish their colonies, being the bigger in the region that of Castellón Port, in rocky or clear environments, situated in calm areas, such as saltmarshes and ports.

KENTISH PLOVER

CORRIOL CAMANEGRE | CHORLITEJO PATINEGRO

Charadrius alexandrinus

They are characteristic to the beaches, coastal sandbanks and salt marshes in the Region of Valencia, where they reside all year. Within the areas that they inhabit, they nest in sites with little vegetation cover, and they feed on insects, crustaceans, worms and molluscs. This bird is one of the most affected by the process of coastal degradation, caused by intensive recreative use of the coast, cleaning of beaches with machinery and the presence of predators, which has led to a loss of 60% in their population over the last 30 years.

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VULNERABLE



SANDERLING

TERRIT DE TRES DITS | CORRELIMOS TRIDÁCTILO

Calidris alba

They nest at high altitudes in cold climates, where they are plentiful in terrain covered in grass, lichens and moss. Following this period, they begin thousands of kilometres of migration until they reach the world's warm, tropical areas. During the winter, in the region of València they are regularly present on beaches with the least human presence and, to a lesser extent, in similar areas close to the coast. They feed mainly on small crustaceans and molluscs which they capture by running quickly when they appear from the coastal waves.

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WHIMBREL

SIGLOT CANTAOR | ZARAPITO TRINADOR

Numenius phaeopus

A bird that breeds in Northern areas of the Northern hemisphere and that, during winter, relocates to Southern areas of America, Africa, Asia and Oceania. During migration they stopover sparsely along the Mediterranean coast, as well as staying immature birds during the breeding season. During these periods, they use coastal habitats, mainly beaches and saltmarshes and, to a lesser extent, wetlands. Thanks to their beak, they feed on invertebrates that they search for in the mud, as well as seeds that they collect from the substrate.

ARBOREAL CULTIVATIONS AND GARDENS

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RED-NECKED NIGHTJAR

SABOC COLL-ROIG | CHOTACABRAS CUELLIRROJO

Caprimulgus ruficollis

Of Iberian and Maghrebian distribution, they have cryptic plumage which makes them difficult to observe. However, they have a powerful, characteristic song which they emit within the first few hours of the night, preferably in open zones or trees with few trees in which cultivations are alternated with pastures, forests and shrubland, in warm, dry climates where they nest on the ground. They feed during twilight hours, and at night, on flying invertebrates, mainly moths, which they catch in flight by opening their enormous mouth.

EUROPEAN TURTLE DOVE

TÓRTORA | TÓRTOLA EUROPEA

Streptopelia turtur

They show a preference for mosaic habitats in open, warm areas where pastures and cultivations with sparse wooded areas alternate, always close to rivers or areas with water. In the Valencian region they reach their maximum densities in coastal plains. They feed mainly on cereal seeds, herbaceous plants and fruit. Agricultural transformation and illegal hunting have caused an alarming decline in most of Europe over the last few decades, with the species becoming extinct in various regions.

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EUROPEAN ROLLER

CAVALLET | CARRACA EUROPEA

Coracias garrulus

A typical migratory bird from mosaic agricultural landscapes, with cultivations, pastures and disperse trees. It can be observed mainly in the South of Alicante, where their abundance seems to be related to the existence of appropriate hollows to nest in. Their diet is based on flying invertebrates and large terrestrial vertebrates. They are one of the species which shows the greatest dependency from traditional agriculture, extensive livestock, the reduction in the use of pesticides and the maintenance of trees on the borders of cultivations.

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IBERIAN WOODPECKER

PICOT IBÈRIC | PITO REAL

Picus sharpei

This species used to be known as a subspecies of the European Green Woodpecker, but recently it has been considered as an independent species and whose distribution centre is the Iberian Peninsula. They occupy a large variety of wooded habitats, even when they are open and form part of the border of dense forests or riverside forests, where there are trees with rotten or soft wood where the bird can make their nest. They feed mainly on larva and adult ants which they capture thanks to the mobility of their large, sticky tongue.

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VULNERABLE



RUFOUS-TAILED SCRUB ROBIN

ROSSARDA | ALZACOLA ROJIZO

Erythropygia galactotes

They occupy areas with a dry, warm climate in the South of Alicante, being this the Northern distribution limit of the species on the Mediterranean coast. They inhabit woody cultivations and transition shrublands close to the coast. They are easily identifiable given that they have a long, red tail, which shakes and unfolds while they roam around on the ground and in low shrubby areas in search of insects. The population in Alicante is no stranger to the decline that the species is suffering across Spain, having lost numerous territories in recent years.

WOODCHAT SHRIKE

CAPSOT | ALCAUDÓN COMÚN

Lanius senator

A bird characterised by their white appearance, on which the red-orange plumage on their head stand out. They are one of the most representative birds of open Mediterranean landscapes, although they also make use of sparse tree formations, pasturage and cereal plains where there are scattered trees and shrubs. They feed on large insects, although their diet can also include small mammals and reptiles. Abusive use of pesticides has caused a significant reduction in their population in agricultural environments.



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CIRL BUNTING

SIT GROC | ESCRIBANO SOTEÑO

Emberiza cirlus

They are distributed in regions in the Mediterranean Sea, where they occupy a large variety of habitats, although they show a preference towards rather humid environments, such as riverbanks, pastures with disperse trees or shrubs or arboreous irrigation cultivations. They feed mainly on grass seeds, although during nesting they incorporate invertebrates into their diet to feed their chicks. In the Valencian region agricultural modernisation has significantly reduced their populations found in agricultural habitats.



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COMMON KINGFISHER

BLAUET | MARTÍN PESCADOR EUROPEO

Alcedo atthis

A bird linked to rivers and wetlands. During the breeding season they need a specific quality of water, marsh vegetation, abundant fish and sandy slopes to build their nest on. Therefore, they are not common on the coast of the Valencian region or the Southern half of Alicante. However, they are common in winter due to the arrival of central European birds and other Iberian watersheds. They feed on aquatic insects, small amphibians, crustaceans and molluscs, which they capture by diving.

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SAND MARTIN

PARPALLÓ | AVIÓN ZAPADOR

Riparia riparia

A small migrating swallow that forms colonies and dig their nest (a 50-100-centimetre tunnel, ending with a breeding chamber) in sand or clay embankments which they find on the riverbanks of wide river stretches and gravel pits, although sometimes they also nest in holes in brick walls and piles of sand in quarries. They feed on small flying insects that they capture after chasing them at a low altitude, close to the water. The birds in the Valencian region mainly winter in the Sahel.

VULNERABLE

RED-RUMPED SWALLOW

ORONETA CUA-ROGENCA | GOLONDRINA DÁURICA

Cecropis daurica

A migratory species native to Africa and Asia that have successfully expanded across the Iberian Peninsula throughout the twentieth century. During the breeding season they inhabit warm areas of Mediterranean vegetation with clearings, where they feed on flying insects, and always close to rocky environments or constructions in the countryside (mainly bridges) where they build their nests. These nests are characteristic as they present the shape of an inverted igloo with a tunnel entrance, built with different colours of sand.



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GREY WAGTAIL

CUETA TORRENTERA | LAVANDERA CASCADEÑA

Motacilla cinerea

A species that occupies freshwater streams, with a rocky bottom and fast current. During breeding season, they demonstrate preference for mountainous areas, with shady streams and good tree coverage. During winter, given the change in temperature that occurs in their nesting areas that reduces insect availability, they move to areas at a lower altitude that have milder winters, also inhabiting pastures and even urban areas. They feed on terrestrial and aquatic insects, that they peck from the ground and shallow water.



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WHITE-THROATED DIPPER

MERLA D'AIGUA | MIRLO ACUÁTICO

Cinclus cinclus

A bird which is typical in stretches of river in the mid and high mountains that have good quality water and a slightly altered riverbank structure, gentle slopes and a shallow depth, which provides the outcrops of stones that it needs to search for a wide variety of insects in the water. For this reason, they can be considered an indicator of rivers in a good conservation status. In the Region of Valencia they are mainly found in *Rincón de Ademuz* and various high stretches of the *Palancia* river basin in Castellon.

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CETTI'S WARBLER

ROSSINYOL BORD | CETIA RUISEÑOR

Cettia cetti

A species distributed in the Mediterranean region, inhabiting riverside thickets and wetlands with a high coverage of vegetation. They normally take refuge in areas where the vegetation is more entangled, meaning that it is difficult to observe. However, they frequently emit their very vibrant, characteristic call. They feed on a large variety of invertebrates, preferably insects, with many of them being aquatic. The species can pair up monogamously or polygamously (one male with two or more females).

WESTERN OLIVACEOUS WARBLER

BOSQUETA PÀL·LIDA | ZARCERO BEREBER

Hippolais opaca

Their global distribution is restricted to the Southeast of the Iberian Peninsula and the Northeast of Africa. Therefore, the species is very typical of warm areas, where they take refuge in shrubs and wooded areas close to the water, although they can sometimes appear in open forests and semi-sandy environments, where they prefer warm shrub formations close to the water. They feed mainly on insects, although sometimes they also consume small fruit in autumn before migrating to Africa.



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ARBOREOUS FORMATIONS AND CONTINENTAL SHRUBLAND

TREE PIPIT

TITETA DELS ARBRES | BISBITA ARBÓREO

Anthus trivialis

They use clear and fluvial forest formations of shrubs and trees, from the tops of which they display their powerful and melodic song, which significantly helps to identify them. Clear areas next to the nesting areas provide their feeding area, with their diet being based on invertebrates that they capture by searching and pecking between the grass and leaves. Their presence as a breeder in the Region of Valencia is restricted to the foothills of the *Sistema Ibérico*, although they pass through the whole territory during migration.



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VULNERABLE



COMMON REDSTART

CUA-ROJA REIAL | COLIRROJO REAL

Phoenicurus phoenicurus

A bird which is distributed in the South of Europe, where they occupy areas in the middle of the mountains with mature, dense coniferous forests, with old trees and disperse clearings. In the Region of Valencia their breeding is very localised and is restricted to areas of the *Mae-strazgo* bordering with Teruel. Regionally, they are threatened by the changes in the forests caused by climate change. During migration, they appear in wetlands and cultivation areas and has a particular preference for the coast.

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RING OUZEL

MERLA DE PIT BLANC | MIRLO CAPIBLANCO

Turdus torquatus

During winter, this bird frequents moorland and mid mountain areas dominated by juniper and pine trees and a variety of shrubs, such as the areas in the Region of Valencia in the foothills of the *Mae-strazgo* and in the mountain ranges in the Northern half of Alicante. This bird is sensitive to the cold and the availability of small fruits that it feeds on, so during cold winters the number of wintering birds increases in these areas or they make use of other areas at lower altitudes.

RUFOUS-TAILED ROCK THRUSH

MERLA ROQUERA | ROQUERO ROJO

Monticola saxatilis

A typical mountain bird, where they appear in spring and summer. They need environments characterised by the alteration between bare, rocky floors with meadows and shrubland with bushes, scotch brooms, heather or creeping juniper, which is found discontinuously in the Region of Valencia in coastal mountain ranges in Castellon, in the foothills of the *Maestrazgo* in Castellon and València, and occasionally in the Aitana mountain range in Alicante. They feed on large insects, as well as caterpillars, incorporating fruits into their diet in autumn.

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EURASIAN NUTHATCH

PICA-SOQUES BLAU | TREPADOR AZUL

Sitta europaea

They preferably inhabit forests with mature trees (pine, oak and gall oak) in areas with a high level of precipitation, therefore in the Region of Valencia they can sometimes be found inland in Castellon and, on very few occasions, in some ravines in the South of València and North of Alicante that have not been affected by forest fires. They can often be observed actively searching for spiders and beetle and butterfly larva on mature tree trunks. They also feed on seeds and fruits.

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100 SPECIES TO DISCOVER THE REGION OF VALENCIA



NATURAL PARKS WITH VISITOR CENTERS

INTERPRETATION AND VISITORS CENTERS IN NATURAL PARKS IN THE REGION OF VALENCIA

Tinença de Benifassa

-  c\Trascasa, 2 - El Ballestar - 12599 Castelló
-  964 71 57 20 - 650 41 24 97
-  parque_tinenbenifassa@gva.es

Serra d'Irta

-  Avenida Estación s/n; 12598 Peñíscola (Castellón)
-  964 46 75 96/ 679 19 63 98
-  serra_irta@gva.es

Penyagolosa

-  "La Casa Forestal", 12135 Vistabella del Maestrat (Castellón)
-  964 76 08 38
-  parque_penyagolosa@gva.es

Prat de Cabanes-Torreblanca

-  Junto al Instituto de Acuicultura de Torre de la Sal. 12595, Ribera de Cabanes (Castellón)
-  964 319 777 - 679 196 327
-  parque_cabanes@gva.es

Desert de les Palmes

-  La Bartola, Carretera de la Magdalena al Desert , km 8, CV- 147; 12560 / Benicàssim
-  964 333 687
-  paratge_desert@gva.es

Illes Columbrets

-  Planetario de Castellón, en el Paseo Marítimo, 1 (12100 - Grau de Castelló)
-  96 428 89 12 / 679 19 63 10
-  parque_columbretes@gva.es

Serra d'Espadà

-  Av. Francisco Mondragón, 2; 12528 Eslda (Castelló)
-  964 715 750 - 679 196 294
-  parque_espadan@gva.es

Puebla de San Miguel

-  Casa Forestal, Carretera Valencia CV-363 s/n 46140 Puebla de San Miguel.
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Chera-Sot de Chera

-  **Sot de Chera:** c/Valencia, 13. 1er piso
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Hoces del Cabriel

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L'Albufera

- 📍 Racó de l'Olla
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Marjal de Pego-Oliva

- 📍 Muntanyeta Verda
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- ✉ parque_pegooliva@gva.es

El Montgó

- 📍 Finca del Bosc de Diana, Camí de Sant Joan, núm. 1, 03700 - Dénia
- ☎ 96 6467155/ 679196461
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Serra de Mariola

- 📍 Mas d'Ull de Canals, pk 17,5 de la carretera CV-795 (Alcoi - Banyeres de Mariola).
- ☎ 96 593 79 61 / 679 19 52 15
- ✉ serra_mariola@gva.es

Penayl d'Ifac

- 📍 C/ Illa de Formentera, s/n. 03710 - CALP
- ☎ 96 583 75 96 - 679 19 59 12
- ✉ ifac_cma@gva.es

Font Roja

- 📍 Font Roja Natura; c/ Juan Gil-Albert, 54 baix. 03804 Alcoi (Alacant)
- ☎ 965 33 76 20
- ✉ parque_fontroja@gva.es

Serra Gelada

- 📍 C/ Camí Vell del Far núm. 18 (l'Albir), 03581 l'Alfàs del Pi (Alacant)
- ☎ 629 321 248
- ✉ serragelada@gva.es

Salines de Santa Pola

- 📍 Museu de la Sal: Avd. Saragossa, 45, CP 03130 Santa Pola (Alacant)
- ☎ 96 669 35 46
- ✉ parque_santapola@gva.es

El Fondo

- 📍 Finca el Racó, Assarb de Fora s/n, 03158 Sant Felip Neri - Crevillent
- ☎ 966 678 515
- ✉ parque_elhondo@gva.es

Lagunas de la Mata-Torreveja

- 📍 Antigua casa forestal de la pedania de la Mata (Torreveja), pk 64,5 de la N-332 Alacant - Cartagena
- ☎ 96 572 16 50
- ✉ parque_lamata@gva.es

SEO/BIRDLIFE, BIRDWATCHING AND BIRD CONSERVATION

SEO/BirdLife (Spanish Ornithological Society) is the pioneering biodiversity and nature conservation organisation in Spain, founded in 1954 with the goal of conserving wild birds and their habitat. In our more than 60 years of experience, we work to:

- Conserve wild birds and their habitats.
- Carry out scientific studies as an indispensable tool for their conservation.
- Practice environmental education.
- Work in international cooperation for development as an engine for worldwide biodiversity conservation.
- Propel environmental voluntary service and popular science to improve the knowledge and state of conservation of species and natural areas.

SEO/BirdLife is registered as a non-profit organisation and declared to be of Public Utility. We are the organization that represents BirdLife International in Spain and we have a

wide territorial implementation with our network of local and technical offices, and the support and enthusiasm of more than 40 local groups and more than 14,000 members, which, together with the 8,000 volunteers and 150,000 sympathisers participate annually in our activities.

SEO/BirdLife understands that ornithological tourism is a form of ecotourism that has as its primary, but not sole, motivation the observation and enjoyment of birds and the knowledge of their habitats. Over the past two decades, our organisation sees to it that the touristic offerings are respectful of the species and the ecosystems, while also contributing to local development. Additionally, we carry out advisory tasks and professional training. Furthermore, through the Ibereaves initiative, we support those projects that opt for a sustainable and conservation-friendly tourism model.



REGION OF VALENCIA IN NUMBERS

The Region of Valencia is blessed with a mild Mediterranean climate, with an average of 2,730 hours of sunshine a year and an average daytime temperature between 12° and 20° degrees in winter and between 24° and 32° in summer. About 40% of the region lies above 600 meters high.

The Region of Valencia, on the western Mediterranean shores, is well connected by highways, high-speed rail and airlines that link it to the rest of the country as well as major European countries: good air connectivity throughout the region, with three international airports.

Tourist Info Network: Around 200 interconnected tourism offices to meet the demands for information from our visitors.

Tourist information about accomodation, gastronomy, activities companies in:

www.comunitatvalenciana.com

www.experienciascv.es/birding

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