

13.

Birdwatching

Birdwatching is a recreational activity in contact with the environment easy to carry out. Although it is important to bear in mind some recommendations to fully enjoy this easy activity, which may present difficulties as birds move fast and are quite shy.

A great amount and diversity of birds can be found in the Serranía de Ronda for two main reasons: the wide range of ecosystems available in a few square kilometres and migratory birds flying across the region in their migration to or from Europe and Africa. Therefore, it is considered as a Special Protection Area (SPA) by the Andalucian Regional Government and as an Important Bird Area by the Spanish Ornithological Society (SEO/Birdlife).

It is essential to have a well chosen equipment and technology but especially you will need a bit of patient and stealth.



Birdwatching. *Miguel A. Mateos*



Golden Oriole. *Juan Oñate*

You can start going to the countryside with binoculars and an easy field guide to identify local birds, planning ahead the watch point as not every bird prefers the same location. You can find different types of **habitats** depending on the area:

- ✓ **Pasture-rocky area**
- ✓ **Conifer area**
- ✓ **Lush area**
- ✓ **Fluvial area**
- ✓ **Agricultural area**

Other aspects important to consider are the **season of the year**; in springtime, a wide range of birds can be observed whereas in winter you can watch migratory birds. Generally, birds are more active at **dawn** and **dusk**. All this information and additional details can be found in the field guides and, if you prefer, there are some companies specialised in this kind of tourism in the Serranía de Ronda (see the section *Specialised Companies*). ►

Kingfisher. *Pedro A. Guerrero Chito*





13. BIRDWATCHING

If you drive through the road which links the villages Cortes de la Frontera with El Colmenar (or Estación de Gaucín), you will discover a feeding point for carrion birds where you could observe with the naked eye vultures, eagles, corvidae and Egyptian vultures.

REQUIRED EQUIPMENT

- Binoculars
- Discreet clothes
- Water and food
- Photographic equipment with zoom and tripod (if you intend to take photos of birds)
- Bird guide
- Comfortable shoes

TO FIND OUT MORE

Facebook group called *Comedero de Aves de Cortes*, where all your doubts about the feeding point for carrion birds in the Serranía de Ronda will be sorted out.

<https://www.facebook.com/comederodeaves.decortes?fref=ts>



BOOKS

- **Las Aves de la Serranía de Ronda.** Juan Oñate García (coordinador). Editorial La Serranía 2007.
- **Sierra de las Nieves. Guía del observador de aves.** Marta Oñate Gutiérrez y Juan Oñate García. Editorial La Serranía 2011.
- **Aves del Parque Natural Sierra de Grazalema.** Orni Tourl S.L. 1999.
- **Birds of the Serranía de Ronda.** Peter S.D. Jones.



Golden Eagle. *Felipe Crespo*

Hawfinch. *Manolo Canto*

VIDEOS

Fantastic video recorded from inside the hide settled in the feeding point in the village Cortes de la Frontera.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j5NNbViyDWw>



You can easily observe vultures, Egyptian vultures and eagles from the observatory of carrion birds in Cortes de la Frontera.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BUaQd3kHzyBY>



SPECIALISED COMPANIES

www.aventuraronda.com

www.spanishnature.com

Observatorio de Aves Carroñeras de Cortes

José Macías. Tel. 656493745. Email: avescortes@hotmail.com





- ✓ It is strictly forbidden to approach the nest and touch the birds' eggs. You can normally find information about the nesting period in the field guides.
- ✓ Please, obey all warning signs.
- ✓ Take all litter home and respect nature.
- ✓ In summertime, there is a high risk of fire. Do not set any fire.
- ✓ Livestock farming is a vital economic activity in the Serranía de Ronda. Therefore, you are asked to take due care to close gates and respect livestock. ■

Agricultural / Scavenger Birds / Coniferous Forest / Rivers / Leafy Forests / Migratory Birds / Rock Formations & Pasturelands







Booted Eagle. *Juan Luis Muñoz*



200 Most common birds of Serrania de Ronda

English	Latin
Alpine Accentor	<i>Prunella collaris</i>
Alpine Swift	<i>Apus melba</i>
Barn Owl	<i>Tyto alaba</i>
Bee-eater	<i>Merops apiaster</i>
Black Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>
Black Stork	<i>Ciconia nigra</i>
Black Tern	<i>Chlidonias niger</i>
Black Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe leucura</i>
Black Woodpecker	<i>Dryocopus martius</i>
Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>
Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>
Black-eared Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe hispanica</i>
Black-headed Gull	<i>Larus ridibundus</i>
Black-necked Grebe	<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>
Black-winged Kite	<i>Elanus caeruleus</i>
Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>
Blue Rock Thrush	<i>Monticola solitarius</i>
Blue Tit	<i>Parus caeruleus</i>
Bonelli's Eagle	<i>Hieraaetus fasciatus</i>
Bonelli's Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus bonelli</i>
Booted Eagle	<i>Hieraaetus pennatus</i>
Brambling	<i>Fringilla montifringilla</i>
Calandra Lark	<i>Melanocorypha calandra</i>
Carrion Crow	<i>Corvus corone</i>
Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>
Cetti's Warbler	<i>Cettia cetti</i>
Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>
Cinereous Vulture	<i>Aegypius monachus</i>
Coal Tit	<i>Parus ater</i>
Com. Grasshopper Warbler	<i>Locustella naevia</i>



13. BIRDWATCHING

Common Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>
Common Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>
Common Crossbill	<i>Loxia curvirostra</i>
Common Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>
Common Pheasant	<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>
Common Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>
Common Reed Bunting	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>
Common Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>
Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>
Common Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>
Common Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>
Common Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia communis</i>
Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>
Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>
Corn Bunting	<i>Miliaria calandra</i>
Crag Martin	<i>Ptyonoprogne rupestris</i>
Crested Lark	<i>Galerida cristata</i>
Crested Tit	<i>Parus cristatus</i>
Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>
Dartford Warbler	<i>Sylvia undata</i>
Dipper	<i>Cinclus cinclus</i>
Dunnock	<i>Prunella modularis</i>
Eagle Owl	<i>Bubo bubo</i>
Egyptian Vulture	<i>Neophron percnopterus</i>
Eurasian Bullfinch	<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>
Eurasian Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>
Eurasian Dotterel	<i>Charadrius morinellus</i>
Eurasian Hobby	<i>Falco subbuteo</i>
Eurasian Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>
Eurasian Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>
Eurasian Stone-curlew	<i>Burhinus oedicephalus</i>
Eurasian Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>
Eurasian Tree Sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>
Eurasian Woodcock	<i>Scolopax rusticola</i>
European Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus europaeus</i>



European Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>
Fan-tailed Warbler	<i>Cisticola juncidis</i>
Fieldfare	<i>Turdus pilaris</i>
Firecrest	<i>Regulus ignicapillus</i>
Garden Warbler	<i>Sylvia borin</i>
Goldcrest	<i>Regulus regulus</i>
Golden Eagle	<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>
Golden Oriole	<i>Oriolus oriolus</i>
Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>
Goshawk	<i>Accipiter gentilis</i>
Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>
Great Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus arundinaceus</i>
Great Spotted Cuckoo	<i>Clamator glandarius</i>
Great Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>
Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>
Greater Flamingo	<i>Phoenicopterus roseus</i>
Greater Short-toed Lark	<i>Calandrella brachydactyla</i>
Green Sandpiper	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>
Green Woodpecker	<i>Picus viridis</i>
Greenfinch	<i>Carduelis chloris</i>
Grey heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>
Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>
Griffon Vulture	<i>Gyps fulvus</i>
Gull-billed Tern	<i>Gelochelidon nilotica</i>
Hawfinch	<i>Coccothraustes coccothraustes</i>
Hen Harrier	<i>Circus cyaneus</i>
Honey Buzzard	<i>Pernis apivorus</i>
Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>
House Martin	<i>Delichon urbica</i>
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>
Iberian Earbler	<i>Phylloscopus brehmii</i>
Jackdaw	<i>Corvus monedula</i>
Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>
Kentish Plover	<i>Charadrius alexandrinus</i>



13. BIRDWATCHING

Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>
Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>
Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>
Lesser Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus fuscus</i>
Lesser Kestrel	<i>Falco naumanni</i>
Lesser Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos minor</i>
Lesser Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia curruca</i>
Linnet	<i>Carduelis cannabina</i>
Little Bittern	<i>Ixobrychus minutus</i>
Little Bustard	<i>Tetrax tetrax</i>
Little Egret	<i>Egretta garcetta</i>
Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>
Little Owl	<i>Athene noctua</i>
Little Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>
Long-eared Owl	<i>Asio otus</i>
Long-legged Buzzard	<i>Buteo rufinus</i>
Long-tailed Tit	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>
Meadow Pipit	<i>Anthus pratensis</i>
Mediterranean Gull	<i>Larus melanocephalus</i>
Merlin	<i>Falco columbarius</i>
Mistle Thrush	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>
Montagu's Harrier	<i>Circus pygargus</i>
Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>
Night heron	<i>Nyctycorax nyctycorax</i>
Nightingale	<i>Luscinia megarhynchos</i>
Northern Pintail	<i>Anas acuta</i>
Northern Shoveler	<i>Anas clypeata</i>
Northern Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>
Nuthatch	<i>Sitta europaea</i>
Olivaceous Warbler	<i>Hippolais pallida</i>
Orphean Warbler	<i>Sylvia hortensis</i>
Ortolan Bunting	<i>Emberiza hortulana</i>
Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>
Pallid Swift	<i>Apus pallidus</i>



Pied Avocet	<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>
Pied Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula hypoleuca</i>
Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>
Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>
Red Kite	<i>Milvus milvus</i>
Red-billed Chough	<i>Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax</i>
Red-footed Falcon	<i>Falco vespertinus</i>
Red-necked Nightja	<i>Caprimulgus rufucollis</i>
Red-rumped Swallow	<i>Hirundo daurica</i>
Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>
Redwing	<i>Turdus iliacus</i>
Richard's Pipit	<i>Anthus richardi</i>
Ring Ouzel	<i>Turdus torquatus</i>
Robbin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>
Rock Bunting	<i>Emberiza cia</i>
Rock Dove	<i>Columba livia</i>
Rock Sparrow	<i>Petronia petronia</i>
Rock Thrush	<i>Monticola saxatis</i>
Rose-ringed Parakeet	<i>Psittacula krameri</i>
Rufous-tailed Scrub Robin	<i>Cercotrichas galactotes</i>
Rüppell's Vulture	<i>Gyps rueppellii</i>
Sand Martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>
Sardinian Warbler	<i>Sylvia melanocephala</i>
Scops Owl	<i>Otus scops</i>
Sedge Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i>
Serin	<i>Serinus serinus</i>
Short-eared Owl	<i>Asio flammeus</i>
Short-toed Eagle	<i>Circaetus gallicus</i>
Short-toed Treecreeper	<i>Certhia brachydactyla</i>
Siskin	<i>Carduelis spinus</i>
Southern Grey Shrike	<i>Lanius meridionalis</i>
Spanish Imperial Eagle	<i>Aquila adalberti</i>
Spanish Sparrow	<i>Passer hispaniolensis</i>
Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>
Spectacled Warbler	<i>Sylvia conspicillata</i>



13. BIRDWATCHING

Spotless Starling	<i>Sturnus unicolor</i>
Spotted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>
Squacco Heron	<i>Ardeola ralloides</i>
Stock Dove	<i>Columba oenas</i>
Stonechat	<i>Saxicola torquata</i>
Subalpine Warbler	<i>Sylvia cantillans</i>
Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>
Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>
Tawny Owl	<i>Strix aluco</i>
Tawny Pipit	<i>Anthus campestris</i>
Thekla Lark	<i>Galerida theklæ</i>
Tree Pipit	<i>Anthus trivialis</i>
Water Pipit	<i>Anthus spinoletta</i>
Water Rail	<i>Rallus aquaticus</i>
Western Marsh-harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>
Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>
Whinchat	<i>Saxicola rubetra</i>
White Stork	<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>
White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>
White-rumped Swift	<i>Apus caffer</i>
Wilow Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>
Winter Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>
Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>
Woodchat Shrike	<i>Lanius senator</i>
Woodlark	<i>Lullula arborea</i>
Woodpigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>
Wryneck	<i>Jynx torquilla</i>
Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava</i>
Yellowhammer	<i>Emberiza citrinella</i>
Yelow-legged Gull	<i>Larus cachinnans</i>



Short-Toed Eagle. *Juan Luis Muñoz*



How to use the guide

David Barrera



The Serranía de Ronda is a great place for active tourism with a wealth of possibilities within your reach. This guide delves into fourteen of the main activities and each of them has a different icon and colour to make searching easier.

Each pursuit is divided into different sections to organise the wide range of information offered. These sections are:

- **DEFINITION.** It consists of a general description of the activity as well as the most interesting tourist attractions and resources available in the Serranía de Ronda to practise it. It is been considered convenient to include an information sheet ►

for some activities such as Iron Way, climbing, canyoning and the network of viewpoints with extra details. All the other pursuits have been considered as a whole.

- **REQUIRED EQUIPMENT.** It has been specified compulsory equipment for a personal protection and technical requirements to practise the activity. If you decided to rely on a specialised company, it will provide the necessary equipment.
- **TO FIND OUT MORE.** It is a section with a wide variety of essential bibliography about the activity in the Serranía de Ronda as well as with links to specialised web pages to find out more information.
- **VIDEOS.** It is a collection of links to check out institutional and private videos which will show you the different experiences you can live in the Serranía de Ronda before plunging into it.
- **SPECIALISED COMPANIES.** It is a full list of specialised companies focused in active tourism.
- **ATTENTION.** It is a summary of rules and advices which need to be taken. They could be general rules, like litter collection, or more specific advices, as checking on the weather forecast before practising canyoning. ■

Cherry Blossom. *Felipe Crespo*



