

XVII Feria Internacional de Turismo Ornitológico

Extremadura Birdwatching Fair

Parque Nacional de Monfragüe

Villarreal de San Carlos (Serradilla, Cáceres)

Del 18 al 20 de febrero 2022

February 18th to 20th 2022

www.fioextremadura.es
www.turismoextremadura.com

#FIO2022

Aguañines en Extremadura (Vanellus vanellus), del ilustrador y ornitólogo irlandés Killian Mullarney para FIO 2022



Killian Mullarney



Fondo Europeo de Desarrollo Regional
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Consejería de
Cultura, Turismo y Deportes

JUNTA DE EXTREMADURA

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FIO returns to the Monfragüe National Park

After last year's virtual International Ornithological Tourism Fair (FIO), FIO returns to its usual location: the Monfragüe National Park. The XVII FIO will be held from February 18 to 20 in Villarreal de San Carlos (Serradilla) and will once again be the great meeting point for tourism related to nature and bird watching, an activity in which our region is a leader because of its natural resources and specialized tourism.

Organized by the Junta de Extremadura, FIO brings together the best in the sector: national and international tourist destinations (including a large representation of the Extremaduran products), specialized companies, manufacturers and distributors of photographic equipment and other optics, conservation associations, nature artists... In total, there are more than 100 exhibitors. In addition to this there are activities for companies in the sector, such as the B2B recruitment exchange Professional Meetings, and an extensive programme that combines the information and entertainment.



For three days there are conferences and colloquia on nature, tourism, art, cinema and photography, guided tours and birding viewpoints in different parts of the National Park, workshops for adults and children, entertainment shows, exhibitions, book presentations and a workshop for national and international companies specialized in nature tourism to meet local businesses.

All this in Monfragüe, one of the world's meccas for bird watching that is a National Park, a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve and a Starlight astrotourism destination.

FIO is part of the strategy of the Junta de Extremadura to position our Autonomous Community as a destination for birding tourism, an activity that is sustainable, accessible to all and that can be practiced both in the countryside and in the city. Initiatives such as the Cáceres Bird Festival, the Crane Festival and the Birding Club in Extremadura, in which more than 110 members, including private companies and public entities, collaborate to promote the sector and guarantee a quality customer service.

Irish illustrator Killian Mullarney, designer of the 2022 poster

Following the tradition of recent years, the General Directorate of Tourism has invited a prestigious illustrator, national or international, to design the FIO poster.

The poster for the 17th FIO is the work of the Irish artist Killian Mullarney, with his painting of European lapwings (*Vanellus vanellus*) in the illustration entitled 'Aguanieves en Extremadura', in reference to the name by which this wintering bird is known in our region.

Among other works, Mullarney has been the main illustrator of the 'Collins Birds Guide: The Most Complete Guide to the Birds of Britain and Europe', considered one of the best field guides in the world of ornithology, published in Spanish with the title 'Guía de Aves: España, Europa y Región Mediterránea'.



By choosing a lapwing for the official image, FIO wants to emphasize the importance of migratory birds and the need to protect them and conserve their habitats.

Of the 385 species of birds that can be seen in Extremadura throughout the year, according to the latest official censuses, about 100 are wintering, which makes our region an important destination for bird watchers in autumn and winter.

Mullarney will be at FIO and will give a lecture on 19 February entitled 'How to improve a good book: the endless need to look again and again!' and a drawing demonstration workshop in the Portilla del Tiétar.

FIO B2B Business Meeting

The FIO workshop is organized for professionals of the tourism sector. Its objective is to provide business opportunities to the companies and destinations who offer products and services specialising in ornithological and nature tourism.

It will take place on February 18 at the exhibition site (FOTOFIO Marquee) between 9.00am and 2.30pm.

The workshop is organized in 15-minute meeting slots that have been previously confirmed. Access is limited to partners of the Extremadura Birding Club, receptive travel agencies from the region and the fair's exhibitors.

The workshop organizers will contact those eligible to participate in the event on Friday, February 4. The fair exhibitors will have two credentials for each stand unit that they hire (the business and art and nature units are allocated one credential per unit). The main exhibitor needs to inform the fair organizers which co-exhibitors will attend the workshop and are responsible for sending them the information about registration and meeting requests to participate in the workshop.

Buyers (travel agents specialized in ornithological and nature tourism) from Spain, France, the United Kingdom, United States, Germany, Portugal and Netherlands will be invited.



Talks

Stage

Streaming broadcast on the Extremadura Tourism YouTube channel with translation in Spanish and English: <https://www.youtube.com/turismoextremadura>

18 February

16:30-17:00	'Ten years bird watching in Extremadura in the hands of the Birding in Extremadura Club' (General Directorate of Tourism).
17:00-17:30	'Presentation of the European project EnviroCitizen. Ornithological citizen science and environmental citizenship' , Diana Villanueva y Clara Contreras (Universidad de Extremadura).
17:30-19:00	'The ecosystem services of carrion-eating birds' , with Natividad Aguilera (Universidad Miguel Hernández), Rubén Moreno-Opo (Ministerio para la Transición Ecológica y el Reto Demográfico), Zebensui Morales (Instituto de Estudios Sociales Avanzados IESA-CSIC), Alfonso Godino (AMUS) y Helios Dalmau (Photo Raptors).
19:00-19:30	Tribute to Joachim Hellmich, the German of the Great bustards , with Santiago Hernández, Juan Carlos Núñez, Agustín Mogeno, Sebastián Martín and José María Corrales (Spain).

19 February

11:00-11:30	'The true language of the birds' by José María Benítez Cidoncha and Marino González Montero (Spain).
11:30-12:00	'Birds transform lives' , by Carlos Mario Wagner (Colombia).
12:00-12:45	'How to make a good book better: the endless need to look again and again!' , by Killian Mullarney (Irlanda).
13:00-13:30	Margaret Atwood (Canada) talks about birds with Antonio Sandoval
13:30-14:30	'Humanisation or extinction' by Eudald Carbonell (Atapuerca Foundation).
16:30-17:15	'Painting birds of paradise' by Szabolcs Kókay (Hungary).
17:30-19:00	Colloquium 'Around the sound. Different ways of listening to nature' , with Eloísa Matheu, Carlos de Hita, José Carlos Sires and José Luis Copete.

20 February

11:00-11:30	'Bird migration through the Strait of Gibraltar. 25 years of study and monitoring' by Alejandro Onrubia (Migres Foundation).
11:30-12:00	'New photographic horizons: Varanger' by Merce R. Romero (Spain).
12:00-13:15	Colloquium 'Small-scale landscapes, an artistic vision of the environment of birds' , with Manuel Sosa, Pablo Giménez Olavarría, Lucía Gómez Serra, José Antonio Sencianes and Esther Charles Jordán.
13:30-14:00	Closing conference: 'The roar of the volcano' , by Carlos de Hita.



Talks

18 February

16:30-17:00. 'Ten years bird watching in Extremadura in the hands of the Birding in Extremadura Club' (General Directorate of Tourism).

As a result of the ornithological richness of the region, Extremadura has largely focused on the development of tourism on bird watching, with a good number of companies and guides providing services related to birds, as well as travel agencies and accommodation that present a high degree of specialization and theming to satisfy consumers of this type of tourism.

Since its creation, ten years ago, the Birding in Extremadura Club has become a national and international benchmark for professionalism, excellence and commitment to nature protection. Currently, more than 110 accommodations, nature guides, photographic service companies, travel agencies, activity companies, tourist offices, interpretation centres and local action groups are part of the Birding Club.



17:00-17:30. 'Presentation of the European project EnviroCitizen. Ornithological citizen science and environmental citizenship' Diana Villanueva Romero and Clara Contreras Ameduri (University of Extremadura).

EnviroCitizen is part of the European initiative SwafS (science with and for society). It is led by the historian Finn Arne Jørgensen, from the University of Stavanger (Norway), and aims to study the impact that citizen science activities, in general, and ornithological activities, in particular, have on the development of a greater commitment to the environment by people.



17:30-19:00. 'The ecosystem services of carrion-eating birds', with Natividad Aguilera (Universidad Miguel Hernández), Rubén Moreno-Opo (Ministerio para la Transición Ecológica y el Reto Demográfico), Zebensui Morales (Instituto de Estudios Sociales Avanzados IESA-CSIC), Alfonso Godino (AMUS) y Helios Dalmau (Photo Raptors).

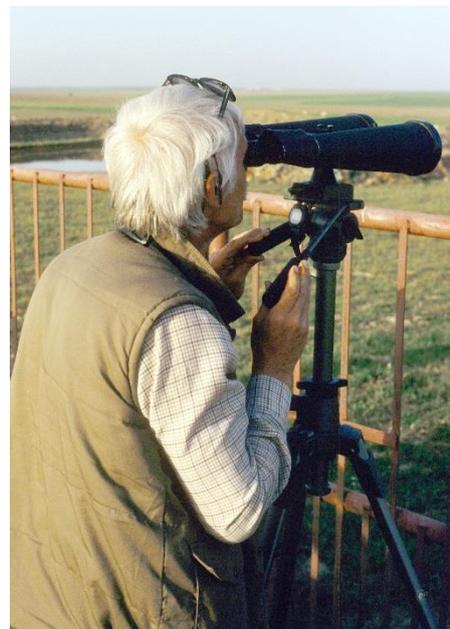
The advantages and benefits that we receive from ecosystems at a local but also global level have begun to be evaluated in the last decade. The CO2 absorption capacity of certain plant formations is well known, but the ecosystem services that fauna can provide us perhaps less so. In the case of carrion-eating birds, they have only recently begun to be identified and evaluated.

In Spain, many studies have highlighted, with extremely interesting results, the economic and social impact of the presence of a varied community of carrion-eating birds in the territory.

19:00-19:30. Tribute to Joachim Hellmich, the Great Bustards' German with Santiago Hernández Fernández, Juan Carlos Núñez Arjona, Agustín Mogena Peral, Sebastián Martín Ruano y José María Corrales Vázquez.

In love with Extremadura and the birds of the steppes, with a special passion for bustards, Joachim Hellmich died of coronavirus in September 2021 in Germany. This ornithologist, Olympic athlete in his youth and a professor of Geography, arrived in Extremadura in 1980s.

In Sierra de Fuentes, in the plains of Cáceres, he spent long periods of time, studying in detail the behaviour of great bustards with great scientific rigour. His book 'The Great Bustard in Extremadura', published by Adenex in 1991, is a reference work for the study of this emblematic species.



Author of many scientific papers, above all, related to steppe birds, he also collaborated in numerous publications that have helped to increase awareness about the nature of Extremadura. For this reason, he is considered one of the great precursors of ornithological research in our region.

19 February

11:00-11:30. 'The true language of the birds' by José María Benítez Cidoncha and Marino González Montero (Spain).

This is a project that is born from the union of two artistic tensions: photographic by José María Benítez Cidoncha, and literary by Marino González Montero: and all this under the auspices of the Extremaduran publishing house De La Luna Books. Halfway between a book with "photographs of birds", like a more or less scientific or technical field guide and a field notebook with drawings or even, indeed, the bestiaries that have been made for centuries, 'The true

language of the birds' is a highly original project. And its originality lies in the fact that it combines all the elements mentioned above and does so through poetry.

11:30-12:00. 'Birds transform lives', Carlos Mario Wagner (Colombia).

With 1,954 species, Colombia is the country with the largest number of birds on the planet. The large number of species is a source of pride for Colombians, but it also represents an enormous responsibility, as custodians of this immense natural heritage. Aware of this commitment, in recent years a growing number of private conservation initiatives have been developed in the country.



12:00-12:45. 'How to make a good book better: the endless need to look again and again!' Killian Mullarney (Ireland).

Killian Mullarney is internationally known as one of the authors of the best-selling European field guide of the last 20 years, the 'Collins Bird Guide', first published in 1999, which he illustrated with Dan Zetterström. The 'Collins Bird Guide' is written by Lars Svensson and the late Peter J. Grant and is a key reference book for birdwatchers. In Spain it has been published under the title 'Guía de Aves: La guía de campo de las aves de España y Europa más completa'.

In his presentation, the designer of the FIO 2022 poster will explain how the new third edition of the 'Collins Bird Guide' is developed, from the review process of the existing plates to updating the treatment of the species where there have been significant advances (sometimes including taxonomic changes). It is a job that involves research and a lot of time outdoors observing birds as well as compiling the large amount of information available.

Conference in English with simultaneous translation into Spanish.

13:00-13:30. Margaret Atwood talks about birds with Antonio Sandoval.

Interview recorded exclusively for FIO 2022.

Recorded for FIO, the writer and ornithologist Antonio Sandoval speaks with the acclaimed Canadian novelist and poet Margaret Atwood, winner of the 2008 Prince of Asturias Award for

Literature and honorary doctorate from several universities in Canada, the United Kingdom and Spain, including Oxford, Cambridge and the Autonomous University of Madrid, about one of the great passions of her life: birds.



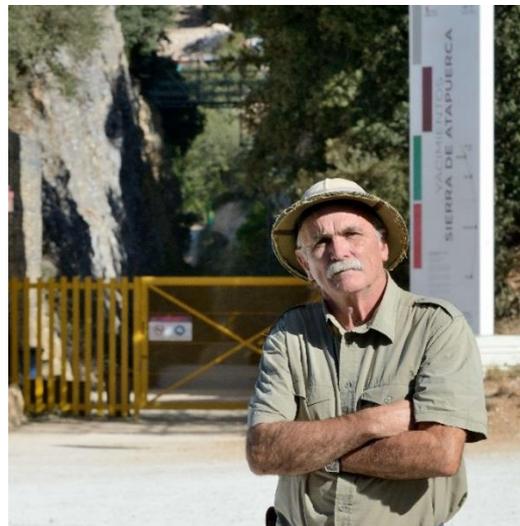
Margaret Atwood (Ottawa, 1939), considered one of the most outstanding contemporary writers, has received more than fifty awards throughout her career, with a special mention for the books 'The Blind Assassin' (2000) and 'The Testaments' (2019), both awarded with the highest recognition of literature in the English language (the Booker Prize).

The jury for the 2008 Prince of Asturias Award for Letters highlighted Margaret Atwood's outstanding literary work, her wit and irony in the different genres she has explored, her defence of women's dignity and her denunciation of social injustices.

A passionate birder, environmentalist and human rights activist, she chaired for many years with her husband Graeme Gibson, who died in 2019, the Rare Bird Club of BirdLife International. She has supported numerous avifaunal studies and conservation projects, such as the exemplary Pelee Island Bird Observatory on Pelee Island (Canada).

13:30-14:30. 'Humanisation or extinction' Eudald Carbonell (Atapuerca Foundation).

A Ten Commandments for *Homo sapiens* to avoid the collapse of the species and promote great change. Eudald Carbonell, founding patron and vice president of the Atapuerca Foundation and professor of Prehistory at the Rovira i Virgili University, argues that our species, immersed in a scientific and technological revolution, must consider strategies for the future. Substantially increasing our critical awareness, stopping globalisation and starting planetisation, feminising the species and seeking social and ecological balance are some of his proposals to ensure the survival of *Homo sapiens*.



Eduald Carbonell has carried out numerous excavations from 1978 at European and African sites, among which those of Atapuerca stand out. He is the author of many works, such as the article published in *Science* in 1997, together with other members of the Atapuerca team, in which he presented *Homo antecessor*, which he dated well before the establishment of hominids in Europe.

He also stands out as a disseminator and author of essays in which he sets out his vision of the human condition, influenced by his training as a paleoanthropologist and by an ethic of human progress based on Marxism. Among other awards, he has received the Prince of Asturias Award (1997), representing the Atapuerca team, and the National Culture Award (2009).

16:30-17:15. 'Painting birds of paradise' Szabolcs Kókay (Hungary).

It all started with a commission to paint various groups of birds, including birds of paradise, for a Papua New Guinea field guide. In 2014, on a month-long expedition to that Oceanian country, Hungarian nature artist Szabolcs Kókay developed the work, which was followed five years later by a bird-watching trip to West Papua. This was more than enough to completely fall in love with the birds of paradise.

Lecture given in English with simultaneous translation.

17:30-19:00. Colloquium 'Around the sound. Different ways of listening to nature', with Eloïsa Matheu, Carlos de Hita, José Carlos Sires and José Luis Copete.

Different ways of using sound recordings based on experience in communication, outreach, acoustic ecology and citizens' science.

20 February

11:00-11:30. 'Bird migration through the Strait of Gibraltar. 25 years of study and monitoring' Alejandro Onrubia (Migres Foundation).

The Strait of Gibraltar has one of the most important concentrations of migratory birds in the world, especially storks and gliding birds of prey. The censuses carried out during the last 25 years have made it possible to estimate the magnitude of the passage of different groups of birds and to evaluate the changes in the composition of species and their numbers, as well as in the timing of migration, which reflect both population changes and migratory patterns.

**11:30-12:00. 'New photographic horizons: Varanger'
Merce R. Romero (Spain).**

Forester, birder and wildlife photographer, this Extremaduran likes to define herself as a born conservationist. From Monfragüe, a place she knows like the back of her hand, Merce R. Romero will take us to the Arctic Circle, crossing imposing fjords, in search of the spectacular northern lights and a wide variety of arctic species. Large cetaceans, sea ducks and pelagic birds await us. We will enter the Finnmark region (north of Norway), in Sami territory, where we will learn more about their culture.



12:00-13:15. Colloquium 'Small-scale landscapes, an artistic vision of the environment of birds', with Manuel Sosa, Pablo Giménez Olavarría, Lucía Gómez Serra, José Antonio Sencianes and Esther Charles Jordán.

The concept of landscape is associated with the acts of appreciating, feeling and interpreting the environment. In this colloquium, five nature artists will talk about how they perceive landscape and incorporate it into their work. What makes certain environments attractive to them, how they approach their work, what materials and techniques they use. Dehesas, cultivated fields, marshes, urban parks, the lights that bathe them and their atmospheres will form part of the artistic tour.

13:30-14:00. Closing conference: 'Volcanic tremor' by Carlos de Hita.

A sound journey from the silence of the forests to the roar of the Cumbre Vieja volcano in La Palma. Carlos de Hita, sound technician and author of an extensive archive of sounds of the fauna, traditional activities and sound landscapes of Spain, transports us to the Canary Island to recall one of the most moving natural events of recent years in our country.



With a professional career spanning more than thirty years, Carlos de Hita is a reference for any nature lover. Author of the books 'The sound of nature, a sound calendar of the landscapes of Spain' (2021) and 'Sound and visual journey through the forests of Spain' (2019), he has worked on more than 180 documentary programmes and film productions, among them, 'Panteras' (2021), 'Cantabrian, the mountains of the brown bear' (2017), 'Unai's journey' (2016) and 'Guadalquivir' (2014). He regularly collaborates with the media and, among other awards, has received the BBVA Foundation Award in the category of 'Dissemination of Knowledge and Awareness of Biodiversity Conservation in Spain' (2017).

FOTOFIO

18 February | Chapel of Our Lady of Socorro (Villarreal de San Carlos).

17:00-19:00	' Sound in the nature documentary ', by Carlos de Hita
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19 February | FOTOFIO Marquee

Streaming broadcast on the Extremadura Tourism YouTube channel with translation in Spanish and English: <https://www.youtube.com/turismoextremadura>

10:45-11:00	Presentation of the FOTOFIO Conferences , by Atanasio Fernández (Regional Government of Extremadura)
11:00-11:30	' Discovering nearby paradises ' by David Jerez (Spain).
11:45-12:15	' Photographing for The Sound Approach in Oman ' by René Pop (The Netherlands).
12:30-13:00	' Bird photography. Getting to know our models ' by Sebastián Molano (Spain).
13:15-13:45	' Looking for your photograph, loving nature ' by Nuria Blanco (Spain).
16:15-16:45	' Winged images ', by Ricardo Lourenço (Portugal).
17:00-17:30	' Dream ', by Cristina Abilleira (Spain).
17:45-18:30	' Capturing the elusive: behind the scenes of my nature photography ' by Mateusz Piesiak (Poland)
18:30	FIO 2022. Wildlife Photography Awards International Competition , presented by the journalist and broadcaster Roberto Brasero, head of the meteorology department of Antena 3 Noticias (Spain).

20 February | FOTOFIO Marquee

11:00-11:30	Presentation of the book 'Creative photography of wild fauna', by Mario Cea (Spain).
11:30-12:00	Book presentation 'Aves de España. Guía fotográfica de identificación' (Birds of Spain. Photographic identification guide), by Carlos Pérez Naval (Spain).
12:00-13:30	Screening of 'Panteras' (Spain, 2021).
13:30-14:00	Conversation with Andoni Canela, director of 'Panteras'.

FOTOFIO

FIO brings together prestigious national and international nature photographers every year. In these conferences, under the heading of FOTOFIO, professionals talk about their techniques, experiences and journeys. Nature cinema also has a place.

Streaming broadcast on the [Extremadura Tourism YouTube channel](#).

18 February

17:00-19:00. 'Sound in the nature documentary', by Carlos de Hita

19 February

10:45-11:00. Presentation of the FOTOFIO Conferences, by Atanasio Fernández (Regional Government of Extremadura).

11:00-11:30. 'Discovering nearby paradises' by David Jerez (Spain).

Sometimes we cannot see the potential of what is closest to us. David Jerez proposes to develop a personal photography project for the sake of nature protection. This can happen by sharpening our senses to uncover the beauty that remains hidden in everyday places, build facilities for photographing local wildlife and learn new and not-so-new techniques to achieve stunning images without the need for digital retouching.



11:45-12:15. 'Photographing for The Sound Approach in Oman' René Pop (The Netherlands).

More than 20 years have passed since The Sound Approach was founded, a collection that brings together 75,000 recordings of more than 1,000 species of birds. It not only has bird sounds, mainly Western Palearctic birds, but also collects a large number of photographs taken from all over the world.

Conference in English with simultaneous translation into Spanish.

12:30-13:00. 'Bird photography. Getting to know our models' Sebastián Molano (Spain).

We live a wonderful moment in bird photography. We have easy access to quality photographic equipment and information on how to handle it. There is a lot of documentation about how to approach birds and there are drinking places, feeders, hides, techniques for concealment and approach, and places to photograph birds. But sometimes we wonder what to photograph!

Sebastián Molano, photographer and naturalist from Extremadura, will review the unique behaviours in birds and how to detect them and, of course, immortalize them.

13:15-13:45. 'Looking for your photograph, loving nature' Nuria Blanco (Spain).

Nature photography is a discipline and tool that offers emotion, satisfaction and personal growth. Images taken by Nuria Blanco in different natural paradises around the world show how what is important is not only the place, but also the passion and how it is perceived, in addition to the repercussions that can follow in the protection and conservation of different ecosystems.



16:15-16:45. 'Winged images', by Ricardo Lourenço (Portugal).

More than capturing a beautiful image, Ricardo Lourenço is interested in the story behind it. He is interested in the immediate beauty of the image, but also its message, what we get out of it and the emotions we feel when we see it. The difference between an image that exhausts itself and an image that carries a story lies in the power that the latter must transform people and help in the conservation of species. He is interested in images that gain wings.

17:00-17:30. 'Dream', by Cristina Abilleira (Spain).

Instinct moves the animal and it is reflected in every movement, in every look and when your eyes meet theirs it is something exceptional. For this reason, Cristina Abilleira tries to get photos in the most natural way possible, without interfering with the animals' routines, remaining on the sidelines. She looks for images that reflect the essence of each of the animals that she photographs.



17:45-18:30. 'Capturing the elusive: behind the scenes of my nature photography' Mateusz Piesiak (Poland)

Mateusz Piesiak will take us to the world of nature, where patience, determination and knowledge about animals are essential. He will tell us how he has taken his favourite images and will share the stories about his successful career as a nature photographer. His images have been awarded in national and international competitions, published in magazines and presented in exhibitions.

Mateusz Piesiak draws and paints animals mainly, using watercolour as his favourite medium. He also plays the piano and has staged compositions that combine music and photography.

In English with simultaneous translation into Spanish.



20 February

11:00-11:30. Presentation of the book 'Creative photography of wild fauna', by Mario Cea (Spain).

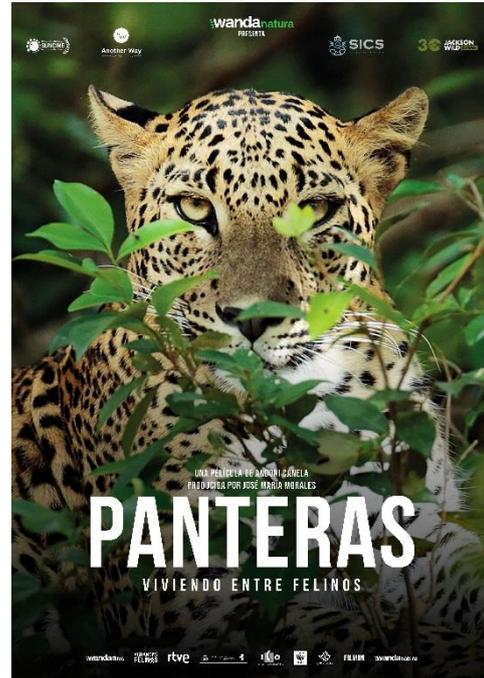
This work shares a series of photographic techniques applied to obtaining creative images of wild fauna. All techniques and concepts are used to achieve these. High speed photography, the double focus technique, changing the lens during a long exposure, the combination of different lights, multiple exposure or reflection photography, along with many of the author's images deconstructed from the moment they were conceived until their realization, going through the different ways of lighting the scene, the light schemes of real images, the use and handling of hand flash, along with the accessories and materials for all of this.

11:30-12:00. Presentation of the book 'Birds of Spain. Photographic identification guide', by Carlos Pérez Naval (Spain).

This is the first publication by the young photographer from Teruel, in which more than ten years behind the camera finding the birds present in Spain are captured. Most of the 416 pages of this book are beautifully illustrated plates in which males, females, young, birds in flight, plumage phases or different ages appear.

12:00-13:30. Screening of 'Panteras' (Spain, 2021), a film by Wanda Natura directed by Andoni Canela and produced by José María Morales.

Andoni Canela, a renowned nature photographer, embarks with his son Unai on a fascinating adventure. They travel across four continents in search of the last big cats on the planet: jaguars in the Pantanal of Brazil, Bengal tigers in Rajasthan and Karnataka (India), pumas in Torres del Paine (Chile), lions in the savannahs of Masai Mara, Iberian lynxes in Sierra Morena... The journey lasts several years and culminates surrounded by the high mountains of Tibet and the Himalayas, where father and son try to find the legendary snow leopard. The difficulty of the challenge, the wonderful expression of wild nature and the sensitivity of Andoni and Unai make 'Panteras' a statement on conservation and a true journey of inner discovery.



13:30-14:00. Conversation with Andoni Canela, director of 'Panteras'

With a degree in Information Sciences (UAB) and a diploma in Photography from the London College of Printing, Andoni Canela is a photographer and documentary filmmaker specializing in nature and the environment, as well as the author of reports on biodiversity, climate change, wildlife conservation and natural spaces around the world.

His photographs appear regularly in media such as La Vanguardia, El País, National Geographic, Geo, Newsweek and the Sunday Times. He has published more than a dozen books, including 'Panthers', 'The Call of the Puma', 'Sleeping with Wolves', 'Iceland Below Zero', 'The Wild Gaze', 'The Iberian Imperial Eagle', 'The Cantabrian bear', 'Looking for coots' and 'Aether'. He has had solo exhibitions in Spain, Portugal, Italy, the United Kingdom, South Korea and the United States.

FIO 2022 Photography Competition received more than 5,800 images from 33 countries

The 17th 'Wild Birds' Nature Photography Competition, organized by FIO, has received 5,821 images from 33 countries across Europe, the Americas, Africa and Asia. This total exceeds that of 2021 (5,406 entries).

The competition has five categories for “WILD BIRDS”:

C1 “BIRD PORTRAITS”: Images depicting the nature of the bird, its features and most distinctive details.

C2 “BIRDS IN THEIR ENVIRONMENT”: Images showing a close relationship between the bird and its environment. The surroundings must play an important part in the composition.

C3 “BIRDS IN ACTION”: Images of birds in action (in flight, flocking, fighting, courting, hunting, feeding, etc.) where distinct aspects of behavior are captured.

C4 “ARTISTIC VISION OF BIRDS”: Images where the photographer’s creative interpretation reveals a new perspective on the bird.

C5 “YOUNG PHOTOGRAPHERS”: for those under 18 years of age.

As well as the special award 'Extremaduran Photographer'.

The winning photographs of the different categories, as well as the first prize of 2022, chosen among the winners of C1, C2, C3 and C4, will be announced at the FIO on February 19th, at 6.30 pm, in a gala presented by the journalist and broadcaster Roberto Brasero, head of the meteorology department of Antena 3 Noticias.

The prize money totals 5,000 euros.

An exhibition with the 50 best photographs (including the winning images and the finalists) can be seen at the fair from February 18th to 20th.

Sponsors



Specialised workshops and presentations

Drawing

Workshop: painting birds from nature, with José Antonio Sencianes (Spain).

19 February | 10:00-13:00 | Portilla del Tiétar

Prior booking required for this activity

The naturalist José Antonio Sencianes will give a workshop on drawing and painting birds from nature at the Salto del Gitano, one of the most emblematic viewpoints in the Monfragüe National Park. The participants will approach the methodology of field work in bird painting, with the help of the telescope. To do this, they will use graphite pencil and watercolour as the main techniques, paying attention to the anatomy of birds, their proportions, lights and shadows in nature, colour and composition.

Bird drawing and painting demonstration workshop with Killian Mullarney (Ireland)

19 February | 16:30-18:00 | Portilla del Tiétar

Prior booking required for this activity

The Irish artist and ornithologist Killian Mullarney, designer of the image that illustrates the FIO 2022 poster, will give a drawing and painting demonstration in the Portilla del Tiétar, one of the most emblematic places in the Monfragüe National Park.

Mullarney will draw birds and explain his technique to the public.

'How to draw restless birds' with Szabolcs Kókay (Hungary).

20 February | 10:00-13:00 | Portilla del Tiétar

Prior booking required for this activity

Szabolcs Kókay is self-taught, with no formal artistic training. From the beginning the artists who have most influenced him are those who work outdoors, directly with nature. Field work motivates him a lot and it has left a mark on his art. He still remembers the difficulties and challenges that he experienced in the beginning.



Sounds of Nature

Identification of bird sounds with José Carlos Sires (Spain).

19 February | 10:00-11:30

Chapel of Our Lady of Socorro (Villarreal de San Carlos). Prior booking required for this activity.

Learning to tell birds apart by their voices is often, for birdwatchers, a more arduous task than learning the visual cues for their identification. In this workshop, José Carlos Sires will give some guidelines with which to optimize this learning and will play the sounds of some species of birds that will then be heard live on a walk through the countryside.



‘The Sound of Nature. A book that sounds’ Carlos de Hita (Spain).

19 February | 11.30-12.30 | Chapel of Our Lady of Socorro (Villarreal de San Carlos)

Carlos de Hita presents at FIO a sound installation based on his latest book (‘The sound of nature’ 2021), transforming a book into an auditory experience. It will be an enveloping sound tour through the landscapes of Spain through the four seasons, through all hours of the day. From the high mountain forests of the north to the Canarian laurel forests, following the trail of the lynxes in heat, the migratory routes of the cranes, the parched heat of summer or the bellows of the rutting deer.

For years, Carlos de Hita has listened, microphone in hand, and he now offers us a double story: the literary one, often written on the spot, and the sound one, in which it is no longer him, but the nature that speaks to us with its own voices: the songs of the birds, the intemperate croaking of the amphibians, the howl of the wolf... The sum of it all is a double calendar, a journey that is both literary and sonorous by a selection of those moments in which the great concert of nature is so clearly expressed.

More information:

<https://carlosdehita.es/>

‘The roar of the volcano’ Carlos de Hita

19 February | 12.30-13.30 | Chapel of Our Lady of Socorro (Villarreal de San Carlos)

Volcanic tremors, spurts of magma, explosions, pyroclastic exhalations, dragging lava... An immersion in the different sounds of the La Palma volcano.

More information:

<https://carlosdehita.es/>

Signs and tracks

Bird signs and tracks workshop with Luisa Abenza (Spain).

19 and 20 February | 09:30-10:30 | Multi-use room in Villarreal de San Carlos | Prior booking required for this activity.

Bird tracks are much more common than is often thought. They can be found in all kinds of habitats, including urban. We can find tracks in the dust on roads, in the woods, in the snow and in cities, in a park and even on our windowsill. For this reason, tracking birds is a great complement for any amateur or professional in the field. Luisa Abenza is a tracker, disseminator, forestry technician, co-president of the Iberian Tracking Society (SIRA) and official trainer of Cybertracker Conservation, as well as the author of the book 'Aves que dejan huella' (2018).

Presentations

'Castilla-La Mancha, a birding destination', with Javier Gómez Aoiz and Xurxo Piñeiro

19 February | 17:00-17:30 | Chapel of Our Lady of Socorro (Villarreal de San Carlos)

The book presents, month by month, the best advice on how to enjoy birds in one of the regions of greatest ornithological interest in Spain. 450 specific places are described, distributed throughout the five provinces. A complete and updated list of the birds of Castilla-La Mancha is included.

Javier Gómez Aoiz is a biologist and, for more than 15 years, has been dedicated to conservation, and the dissemination and promotion of tourist destinations. His publications include the Castilla-La Mancha Ecotourism Guide, the Castilla-La Mancha Ornithological Tourism Map and the books 'When and where to see birds in Castilla-La Mancha', '100 Natural Treasures of the Community of Madrid' and 'When and where to see birds in Madrid'. He has collaborated for three years with RNE with a section dedicated to the natural environment, in the programme 'Sin Atajos'.

'Listening to the biodiversity of the planet's ecosystems' with Eloïsa Matheu (Spain).

20 February | 11:30-12:30 | Chapel of Our Lady of Socorro (Villarreal de San Carlos)

Soundscape recordings are unique, unrepeatable documents. Sound is a descriptor of ecosystems, an objective observer that reflects the environment and the transformations that are taking place. Listening to nature consciously awakens emotions, memories and creates connections...

In this workshop, Eloïsa Matheu will give a commentary to soundscapes recorded in different places, a small sample of the planet's biodiversity.



More information:

<https://www.eloisamatheu.com/>

'Accessible Monfragüe. A project for people with visual disabilities', by Francisco Javier Sánchez Vega (president of ADEME) and Rafael Olmedo (CEO Geko Navsat).

20 February | 12:30-13:30 | Villarreal de San Carlos Church

Exhibitions

XVII Nature Photography Competition 'Wild Birds'XVII | FOTOFIO Marquee

This competition, organized by Extremadura Tourist Board as part of the FIO, has attracted photographers from 33 countries in 2022 and has become one of the most prestigious in its sector in Spain. The fifty best images will be shown at the fair, a selection made up of winners, honourable mentions and finalists. The organization has received this year more than 5,800 photographs.

More information: <https://fioextremadura.es/concurso-fotografico-fio-2>

'Colours of a confinement', by José Antonio Sencianes (Spain) | Stage Marquee

José Antonio Sencianes dedicated part of his time during the 2020 pandemic lockdown to completing a series of panels made up of small oil paintings. Birds, as usual in the work of this artist, are the protagonists of an exhibition that can be seen at FIO. There are five panels, measuring 1.62 x 1.25 metres each, with dozens of drawings of seagulls and terns, ducks, waders, birds from the Arctic and Peru.

More information: <http://diariodeunacuarelista.blogspot.com/>



‘European Wildlife Photographer of the Year’, by GDT (Germany) | Art and Nature Marquee

The German Society of Nature Photographers (GDT) organizes one of the most important competitions in Europe. The public of FIO will enjoy a selection of images from the 2021 edition, with spectacular photographs of fauna and flora from all over the planet.

More information: <https://www.gdtfoto.de/seiten/gdt-european-wildlife-photographer-of-the-year-results-2021.html>

Books presentations

‘The true language of the birds’ by José María Benítez Cidoncha and Marino González Montero (Spain).

19 February | 11:00-11:30

Stage Marquee

‘The Sound of Nature. A book that sounds’ Carlos de Hita (Spain).

19 February | 11:30-12:30

Chapel of Our Lady of Socorro (Villarreal de San Carlos)

‘When and where to see birds in Castilla-La Mancha’, with Javier Gómez Aoiz and Xurxo Piñeiro.

19 February | 17:00-17:30

Chapel of Our Lady of Socorro (Villarreal de San Carlos)

'Creative photography of wild fauna', by Mario Cea (Spain).

20 February | 11:00-11:30

FOTOFIO Marquee



'Birds of Spain. Photographic identification guide', by Carlos Pérez Naval (Spain).

20 February | 11:30-12:00

FOTOFIO Marquee

Children and family activities

Workshops, storytelling and shows for children and families.

Registrations are made at the FIO, at the information point.

More information: [Activities - Feria Internacional de Turismo Ornitológico \(fiextremadura.es\)](http://fiextremadura.es)

