

XX • FERIA INTERNACIONAL DE TURISMO ORNITOLÓGICO

● EXTREMADURA BIRDWATCHING FAIR — SPAIN

●
21 – 23
FEBRERO
2025

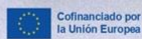
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PARQUE
NACIONAL DE
MONFRAGÜE
VILLARREAL DE
SAN CARLOS
(Serradilla, Cáceres)

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fioextremadura.es
turismoextremadura.com

#FIO2025 @ f x



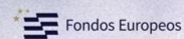
Jan Lewington
Título de la obra FIO 2025: "The Mercurial Swifts of Montfragüe" - Autor: Jan Lewington



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JUNTA DE EXTREMADURA

PROGRAMME

JUNTA DE EXTREMADURA

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FIO 2025, in summary

- Record number of exhibitors: 114
- Destinations, tourism companies, photography and optics manufacturers and distributors, conservation associations, specialist shops and nature artists are present.
- Exhibitors from 14 autonomous communities (Andalusia, Aragon, Asturias, Canary Islands, Cantabria, Castilla-La Mancha, Castilla y León, Catalonia, Valencian Community, Extremadura, Galicia, Madrid, Navarre and the Basque Country) and 6 countries (Belgium, France, Italy, the Netherlands, Peru and Portugal).
- Three exhibitor marquees full: Travel & Tourism, Optics & Camera and Art & Nature.
- Portugal invited destination.
- B2B Professional Meetings: forecast of between 550 and 600 meetings.
- 17 lectures and discussions on nature, tourism, art and communication.
- FOTOFIO: 13 nature photography lectures and discussions
- Filming of two documentaries: 'Un año de amor' ('A Year of Wild Love') and 'Aguiluchos' ('Harriers')
- 15 specialized workshops and 9 lectures in various locations in the National Park.
- 5 exhibitions of nature photography, posters, illustrations and ceramics.
- 6 book presentations.
- Guided tours in Monfragüe: 14 treks, 8 in bus and 18 cars and 4x4.
- Activities for children and families (workshops, storytelling, etc.).
- Birdwatching at 4 viewpoints in the National Park
- Photography Competition:
 - ✓ Record participation: 8,028 images received from 31 countries
 - ✓ Record prize money: 7,300 euros
- Free bus transport to Villarreal de San Carlos from Plasencia and Torrejón el Rubio
- Pre-FIO activities (15 and 16 February): ArteFIO Plasencia, ObservaFIO Trujillo and villages in the Biosphere Reserve

Spain's leading nature tourism fair turns 20

The Extremadura Birdwatching Fair (FIO) celebrates its twentieth anniversary from 21 to 23 February in Villarreal de San Carlos (Serradilla), in the heart of the Monfragüe National Park and Biosphere Reserve. Over these twenty years, it has become the top meeting point for nature-related tourism and bird watching in Spain. It is the leading fair in its sector in our country and the second most important in Europe.

For three days, this event, organised by the Regional Government of Extremadura (Junta de Extremadura), brings together the best of this growing tourist activity: destinations, accommodation, guides, manufacturers and distributors of photography and optics, conservation associations, specialist shops, nature artists... In total, 114 exhibitors, a record that exceeds the best figure previously reached (111 in 2024).



FIO has prepared a wide programme of activities to commemorate its 20th edition: lectures and discussions, workshops for adults and children, book and project presentations, exhibitions, guided tours, birding in different places in the National Park and entertainment shows.

Added to this are the B2B Professional Meetings for national and international nature tourism companies (the most important such event for the sector in Spain).

All of this in Monfragüe, one of the world's meccas for bird watching.

FIO is part of the strategy of the Junta de Extremadura to position our Autonomous Community as a destination for bird tourism, an activity that is sustainable, accessible to all and that can be practiced in the countryside and the city. Other initiatives are part of this objective, such as the 15th Cáceres Bird Festival, which will take place on 25 and 26 April 2025, the Crane Festival and the Birding in Extremadura Club, a voluntary group in which 170 members, including companies and public entities, collaborate to promote the sector and guarantee quality customer service.

The meeting point for professionals in the sector

One of the aspects that differentiates FIO from other similar fairs is its professional element. This year, more than 110 exhibitors from fourteen Autonomous Communities and six countries will meet to present their products, from bird watching tours in Spain and abroad to cameras, books and works of art.

Without a doubt, one of the strong points of the fair is its Professional Meetings. On the first day (21 February) dozens of buyers and sellers will meet to make contacts and generate business opportunities. This initiative is the only one organised in Spain in the nature tourism and bird watching sector.

Furthermore, Extremadura Tourist Board organises two familiarisation trips for national and international agents and tour operators, who will participate in the business day and also visit Extremadura to see for themselves what the region has to offer.

Extremaduran talent in a programme with great national and international experts

From 21 to 23 February, there will be talks about ornithology, conservation projects, environmental education, sustainable tourism, nature photography and cinema, art, communication...

The programme of lectures and specialised workshops features renowned experts in different fields, such as Alejandra Rendón (Colombia), Andrew Sebastian (Malaysia), Antonio Sandoval, Alfonso Godino, Carlos de Hita, Herbert Byaruhanga (Uganda), Horacio Matarasso (Argentina), Ian Lewington (United Kingdom), José Antonio Sencianes, Laura Núñez, Laurie J. Goodrich (USA), Lourdes Berzas, Luisa Abenza, Nacho Sevilla and Victor Yu (Taiwan), among others.

Extremadura is represented in the 20th FIO by specialists in various fields, from environmental protection to photography and illustration, such as Ana Fernández, Ángel Rodríguez, Ernesto Montoya, Jaime Culebras, Jesús Mateos Martín, Juan Pablo Prieto, Marcelino Cardalliaguet, María Madruga, Merce R. Romero, Pepe Antolín and Sonia Chivo.

In addition, three Extremadurans have won different categories in the FIO photography competition: Joaquín Figueredo ('Birds in action'), José-Elías Rodríguez ('Nature videos') and Héctor Cordero (Special Prize for Extremaduran Photographers).

Opening ceremony

The opening ceremony of FIO 2025 will be held on Friday 21 February, attended by the Regional Minister of Culture, Tourism, Youth and Sports, Victoria Bazaga.

Travel agents from Spain and ten other countries visit Extremadura

In the days leading up to FIO, before participating in the Professional Meetings on 21 February, a group of 17 national travel agents and tour operators and another 14 from overseas will visit Extremadura to learn about what is on offer related to nature and birdwatching. Among the

foreign companies, there are representatives from Belgium, the United States, France, India, Italy, Lithuania, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom, Sri Lanka and Switzerland.

B2B Professional Meetings



It will take place on February 21 in the FOTOFIO marquee from 09.00 to 14.30.

Its objective is to promote business opportunities for companies that offer specialized services in birdwatching and nature tourism.

The dynamic consists of 15-minute meetings previously arranged. Access as a seller is limited to members of the Birding in Extremadura Club, incoming travel agencies in Extremadura and FIO exhibitors.

The list of confirmed buyers includes 31 agents and tour operators who will participate in the two familiarization trips. There are 17 national participants from communities such as Madrid, Catalonia and Galicia, and 14 international participants from the countries mentioned in the previous section.

Between 550 and 600 meetings are planned for the morning of the 21st.

Programme of the 20th FIO

Lectures and colloquia

Sustainable tourism, conservation projects, environmental education, art, communication... FIO organizes presentations and discussions with specialists on varied topics related to nature and birds.

- All conferences are held in the Stage Marquee
- Streaming on the Extremadura Tourism YouTube channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/turismoextremadura>

Friday, 21 February

16.00-16.20	Opening of the lecture programme for the 20th anniversary of FIO by Jesús Viñuales Blanco, Director General of Tourism, and Germán Puebla Ovando, Director General of Sustainability, Government of Extremadura
16.30-17.00	'Canchu del Lobu viewpoint' by Fran Sánchez Vega, mayor of Serradilla, and Borja García Prieto, councillor of tourism
17.00-17.30	'Impact of waste disposal in natural environments' by Miguel Muñoz Carmona
17.30-18.00	'The work of the natural environment agents of the Government of Extremadura for bird conservation' by Juan Pablo Prieto Clemente, Sonia Chivo and María Madruga. Professional Association of Natural Environment Agents of Extremadura
18.00-18.30	'The Black Vulture: 30 years in the Monfragüe National Park and Biosphere Reserve' by Ángel Rodríguez, director of the Monfragüe National Park from 1990 to 2023
18.30-19.00	'New approaches and alliances for the conservation of agro-steppe birds: the Iberian Agrostepes project' by Marcelino Cardalliagué, SEO/Birdlife delegate in Extremadura

Saturday, 22 February

10.00-11.15	Colloquium 'Birding tourism in the world' <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Horacio Matarasso, president of the organizing committee of the South American Bird Fair • Victor Yu, executive committee of the Asian Bird Fair • Herbert Byaruhanga, executive committee of the African Bird Tourism Expo and International Conference for Women Birders • Andrew Sebastian, co-founder of the Asian Bird Fair Network and Wild Bird Club of Malaysia
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vanessa Palacios (moderator), Extremadura Tourist Board, Regional Government of Extremadura
11.30-12.15	'Illustration in the digital age' by Ian Lewington (designer of the FIO 2025 poster)
12.30-13.30	'Hawk Mountain, Pennsylvania (USA): Ninety Years of Raptor Conservation' by Laurie J. Goodrich, Director of Conservation Sciences, Hawk Mountain Sanctuary
13.45-14.15	'Sound and art. The sound of the FIO posters' by Carlos de Hita
16.00-16.40	'The return of the bearded vulture in the Sierra de Gredos: a 360º project. And the latest news in Picos de Europa' by Gerardo Báguena, project director of the Foundation for the Conservation of the Bearded Vulture
16.50-17.30	Presentation of the 'Guide to the Identification of the Feathers of Diurnal Birds of Prey of the Iberian Peninsula, the Balearic Islands and the Canary Islands' by Pablo Fernández Pero
17.40-18.10	Presentation of 'Tierra de pájaros' ('Land of Birds') <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pilar López Ávila (teacher and writer) • Leticia Ruifernández (illustrator and editor of Papel Continuo) • Fernanda Valdés (live music)

Sunday, 23 February

10.00-10.30	'Environmental education in terms of water and presentation of the Guide to Hydrological Reserves of the Tagus basin' by Patricia Rueda Cano, from the Environmental Education team of the Guadiana Hydrographic Confederation, and Estefanía Chereguini Cabezas, from the Environmental Education team of the Tagus Hydrographic Confederation
10.40-11.10	Presentation of the book 'A journey to discover the nature of Spain' by Javier Gómez Aoiz
11.20-12.10	'Scientific ringing in South Africa: searching for the origin of Palearctic species' by Juan Manuel Peralta, Germán López 'Melerus' and Álvaro Begines
12.20-13.10	'Is it possible to enjoy the natural environment without compromising its conservation? Seeking balance between humans and nature' by Natalia Pleite Guzmán
13.20-14.30	Closing ceremony of the 20th anniversary of FIO: 'Birders' lives' Intergenerational discussion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joan Mayol • Carlos de Hita • Raquel Lozano

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yanina Maggiotto • David Santamaría • Antonio Sandoval (moderator)
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Friday, 21 February

16:00-16:20. Opening of the lecture programme for the 20th anniversary of FIO by Jesús Viñuales Blanco, Director General of Tourism, and Germán Puebla Ovando, Director General of Sustainability, Government of Extremadura

16.30-17.00. ‘Canchu del Lobu viewpoint’ by Fran Sánchez Vega, mayor of Serradilla, and Borja García Prieto, councillor of tourism

Serradilla Town Council presents a new and spectacular viewpoint that adds to the town's tourist infrastructure and to the list of essential places to visit in Monfragüe. The municipality hosting FIO has become a top destination for nature tourism in Extremadura in recent years.



17:00-17:30. ‘Impact of waste disposal in natural environments’ by Miguel Muñoz Carmona

In the English-speaking world, especially in the academia, the term ‘littering’ is well-known. The impact of litter in nature has attracted the attention of various research groups. In this talk, aimed at the general public, the results of the main published scientific studies will be presented, which show the environmental impact of litter on both wildlife, especially birds, and the environment.

17:30-18:00. ‘The work of the natural environment agents of the Government of Extremadura for bird conservation’ by Juan Pablo Prieto Clemente, Sonia Chivo and María Madruga. Professional Association of Natural Environment Agents of Extremadura

The natural environment agents are the only autonomous environmental police force that exists in Extremadura. In their daily work, one of their main tasks is to enhance our knowledge and conservation of bird populations.

Juan Pablo Prieto, Sonia Chivo and María Madruga, natural environment agents, will explain their role in the preparation of censuses, marking and monitoring of birds; collection and transfer of injured fauna to the recovery centre; monitoring of works and their compliance with pauses and other environmental conditions to minimise their impact in areas of reproduction and concentration of birds; controls of hunting; surveillance in protected areas; and maintenance of nest sites.

18:00-18:30. 'The Black Vulture: 30 years in the Monfragüe National Park and Biosphere Reserve' by Ángel Rodríguez, director of the Monfragüe National Park from 1990 to 2023

The Monfragüe National Park is known, above all, for the wealth of birds it hosts, especially birds of prey.

For 30 years, an annual monitoring of the reproduction of the most emblematic species of this area has been carried out, the bird with the largest wingspan in Eurasia: the Black Vulture. This species is the one most identified with the National Park, where the highest known concentration of breeding pairs in the world is found.

Ángel Rodríguez obtained the title of technical forestry engineer from the Polytechnic University of Madrid in 1984, after having spent a childhood in close contact with the nature that surrounded him, being a member of well-known conservation associations such as WWF (Adena), Adenex and SEO/BirdLife.

The result of this training and his passion for birds led him to become a forest ranger in 1985 in the then recently created Monfragüe Natural Park (which became a National Park 2007), becoming its director in 1990, a position which he held for more than 30 years, until his retirement in 2020.

18:30-19:00. 'New approaches and alliances for the conservation of agro-steppe birds: the Iberian Agrosteppes project' by Marcelino Cardalliaguet, SEO/Birdlife delegate in Extremadura

The large agro-steppe birds of the Iberian Peninsula have shown very sharp declines in recent decades, which are accelerating in the face of marked changes in the agricultural systems on which they depend. A multitude of projects around these species have focused on their conservation from traditional approaches, defined by their ecological requirements. The 'Agroestepas Ibéricas' project develops measures to conserve agricultural practices that are beneficial for these birds, financially supporting the ecosystem services they provide by maintaining traditional practices or limiting their productivity.

Saturday, 22 February

10.00-11.15. Colloquium 'Birding tourism in the world'

- Horacio Matarasso, president of the organizing committee of the South American Bird Fair
- Victor Yu, executive committee of the Asian Bird Fair
- Herbert Byaruhanga, executive committee of the African Bird Tourism Expo and International Conference for Women Birders
- Andrew Sebastian, co-founder of the Asian Bird Fair Network and Wild Bird Club of Malaysia
- Vanessa Palacios (moderator), Extremadura Tourist Board, Government of Extremadura

The World Birdfair Council, of which FIO is a member, will share the latest developments in birding tourism on the international scene, as well as the events and activities it encompasses.

Fairs and events of this type have made a great contribution to birding tourism, the conservation of wildlife and its habitats, and to raising environmental awareness among the general public. They also provide a place for tourism professionals, researchers and conservationists to network, share research results and discuss strategies for bird and nature conservation.

They offer great opportunities for field researchers to showcase their conservation efforts and for the public to appreciate the results of the hard work carried out by various sectors, the results of which have a direct impact on the economic and social activity of the regions where this birding tourism takes place.

11.30-12.15. 'Illustration in the digital age' by Ian Lewington (designer of the FIO 2025 poster)

British-born Ian Lewington will discuss the relevance of illustration in the age of digital photography and his techniques for producing artwork for field guides.

Considered one of the most influential bird artists, he is renowned for his ability to fuse scientific precision with a captivating artistic style, as demonstrated in multiple internationally renowned guides, such as 'Rare Birds of North America', produced with Steve N. G. Howell and Will Russell.

12.30-13.30. 'Hawk Mountain, Pennsylvania (USA): Ninety Years of Raptor Conservation' by Laurie J. Goodrich, Director of Conservation Sciences, Hawk Mountain Sanctuary

Hawk Mountain, the world's first raptor sanctuary, was founded in 1934. It helped launch a movement to conserve raptors across the United States that ultimately led to their legal protection in the 1970s.

With active science and education programmes, Hawk Mountain has hosted more than 510 students from 76 countries since the 1970s and its graduates are now responsible for counting and conserving more than 12 million migrating hawks annually.

The conference will be followed by a discussion moderated by Alfonso Godino, technical coordinator of Action for the Wild World (AMUS).

13.45-14.15. 'Sound and art. The sound of the FIO posters' by Carlos de Hita

One of the distinctive features of each FIO are the posters designed by some of Europe's top nature artists. Year after year, the images of a Peregrine Falcon, Lapwings, some sandgrouse or a flock of cranes summon us to go to Monfragüe. But these animals have a voice, and live in a landscape, surrounded by other sounds. And with these landscapes, with these voices, Carlos de Hita has composed a soundtrack that pays tribute to this valued commitment to the art of nature.

16.00-16.40. 'The return of the bearded vulture in the Sierra de Gredos: a 360º project. And the latest news in Picos de Europa' by Gerardo Báguena, project director of the Foundation for the Conservation of the Bearded Vulture

After several years of preparation, LIFE Pro Quebrantahuesos has consolidated a founding nucleus of Bearded Vultures in the Sierra de Gredos, as a further step towards recovering their former distribution in the Iberian Peninsula.

Although the first reintroductions took place in 2022, preparations began years before that. It is a project with a holistic conception, in which a strong involvement of all sectors related to its conservation stands out, which makes it unique in Europe.

16.50-17.30. Presentation of the 'Guide to the Identification of the Feathers of Diurnal Birds of Prey of the Iberian Peninsula, the Balearic Islands and the Canary Islands' by Pablo Fernández Pero

Pablo Fernández Pero makes an exclusive official presentation of this guide, created by the Plumarium project and published by Tundra Ediciones. It has more than 3,000 photographs spread over more than 700 pages where you can study in great detail the extraordinary qualities of the plumage of more than 30 species.

17.40-18.10. Presentation of 'Tierra de pájaros' ('Land of Birds')

- Pilar López Ávila (teacher and writer)
- Leticia Ruifernández (illustrator and editor of Papel Continuo)
- Fernanda Valdés (live music)

'Tierra de pájaros' ('Land of Birds') is the latest book published by Papel Continuo, a small publishing house located in Garganta la Olla, in La Vera (Extremadura), which publishes illustrated books for adults, about nature and rural life.

To present this work, Pilar López Ávila (author of the text) and Leticia Ruifernández (illustrations) prepare a performance that combines words, live painting and music. The authors read some texts to convey the adventure of how this book is made by searching for birds in different corners of Extremadura.

At certain moments, music and live painting take centre stage and we see Leticia creating watercolours that unfold at the back of the stage, hanging from a rope, accompanied by Fernanda Valdés' accordion.

Sunday, 23 February

10.00-10.30. 'Environmental education in terms of water and presentation of the Guide to Hydrological Reserves of the Tagus basin' by Patricia Rueda Cano, from the Environmental Education team of the Guadiana Hydrographic Confederation, and Estefanía Chereguini Cabezas, from the Environmental Education team of the Tagus Hydrographic Confederation

For more than 20 years, the Guadiana Hydrographic Confederation has been developing environmental education projects. This conference will summarize this trajectory and the accumulated experience, while also presenting the environmental education work developed by the Tagus Hydrographic Confederation.

In addition, the book 'Guide to Hydrological Reserves of the Tagus basin' will be presented, which provides information on 36 river reserves, 3 lake reserves and 2 groundwater reserves in this basin.

10.40-11.10. Presentation of the book 'A journey to discover the nature of Spain' by Javier Gómez Aoiz

Through an amazing journey through the four seasons of the year, this book, published by Anaya Touring, provides 365 proposals to discover the nature of Spain. In this varied compilation, spread across the different regions of the country, including the Canary and Balearic archipelagos, numerous places and specific landscapes of great interest and a wide range of species of fauna and flora are described.

11.20-12.10. 'Scientific ringing in South Africa: searching for the origin of Palearctic species' by Juan Manuel Peralta, Germán López 'Melerus' and Álvaro Begines

What was initially a fun trip with friends found an unexpected component: the possibility of capturing Palearctic birds to be able to infer their populations of origin. Trans-Saharan migratory Palearctic birds reach their southern limit in South Africa and by analysing the isotopic fingerprint of the feathers of the juveniles we can infer the geographical location of the nest, i.e. the area where that individual came from.

12.20-13.10. 'Is it possible to enjoy the natural environment without compromising its conservation? Seeking balance between humans and nature' by Natalia Pleite Guzmán

It is no secret that human evolution and the development of civilizations have had a strong impact on the natural environment. However, beyond the big cities, road networks, power lines and other artificial infrastructures, it is worth asking: what mark do we leave as individuals when we simply go out into the mountains to walk, ride a bike, observe wildlife or pick mushrooms? Is it possible to enjoy the natural environment without compromising its conservation?

13.20-14.30. Closing ceremony of the 20th anniversary of FIO: 'Birders' lives' Intergenerational discussion with Joan Mayol, Carlos de Hita, Raquel Lozano, Yanina Maggiotto, David Santamaría and Antonio Sandoval (moderator)

The different experiences of those who will participate in this colloquium will provide an overview of how ornithology, birding and bird tourism have evolved over the last half century. Among the aspects to be addressed will be how birding and identification tools have changed, the options for travelling to see birds, the possibilities for recording and sharing information, the tools for dissemination and the number of people who enjoy these activities.

FOTOFIO Lectures

FIO organises talks and workshops with nature photographers who share their experiences, projects and travels with the public in an open and participatory format. Under the heading of FOTOFIO, these conferences attract photography professionals and amateurs. They also cover topics such as nature films and conservation projects.

- All lectures take place in the FOTOFIO marquee.
- Streaming on the Extremadura Tourism YouTube channel:
<https://www.youtube.com/turismoextremadura>

Friday, 21 February

16.30-18.00	Colloquium ‘Capturing the world: the growth of nature photography as a driver of sustainable tourism’ by Jaime Culebras, Olimpia Oriol, Ignacio Yúfera, Alejandra Rendón and Rafael Armada, moderated by Atanasio Fernández
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Saturday, 22 February

10.00-10.15	Presentation of FOTOFIO 2025 by Atanasio Fernández (Government of Extremadura)
10.20-11.00	‘Illuminated Nature’ by Paco Segarra
11.10-11.50	‘Megadiverse Ecuador, the tropics divided by the Andes’ by Jaime Culebras
12.00-12.40	‘Approaching local wildlife from a new perspective’ by Mads Hagen
12.50-13.30	How ‘Un año de amor salvaje’ (‘A Year of Wild Love’) was made by Alberto Saiz and Víctor Ortega
13.40-14.30	‘Panama: photographing the birds of the Cloud Forest’ by Ignacio Yúfera
16.30-17.15	‘Photography as a tool for conservation and science’ by Javier Aznar
18:00	FIO 2025 Photography Contest Awards Ceremony presented by Roberto Brasero (Antena 3)

Sunday, 23 February

10.15-10.30	Presentation of FOTOFIO 2025 by Atanasio Fernández
10.30-10.50	‘Collateral benefits between man and nature, tradition and sustainability’ by Jesús Mateos Martín
11.00-11.20	‘Epic tour’ by Merce R. Romero
11.30-11.50	‘Night photography of wildlife. The help provided by the Canon R system’ by Mario Cea
12.00-12.20	‘Photography, result or process, why not both?’ by Tito García
12.30-12.50	‘Birds of Europe. The quest to create the ultimate photo identification guide’ by Marc Guyt
13.00-13.20	‘Portfolio 1: Photography and stories of extraordinary birds’ by Rafael Armada and Alejandra Rendón
13.30-14.30	Screening of the documentary ‘Un año de amor salvaje’ (‘A year of wild love’) by Alberto Saiz

Friday, 21 February

16.30-18.00. Colloquium ‘Capturing the world: the growth of nature photography as a driver of sustainable tourism’ by Jaime Culebras, Olimpia Oriol, Ignacio Yúfera, Alejandra Rendón and Rafael Armada, moderated by Atanasio Fernández

This colloquium will discuss the growing role of nature photography, especially with a focus on bird conservation, as a motivational tool for tourism.

It will explore how this activity can be a driver for the development of local economies and environmental protection, but it will also address the challenges and potential negative impacts, such as mass tourism and the disturbance of natural habitats.

Through a balanced approach, it explores a path towards sustainable tourism that encourages conservation without compromising ecological integrity.

Saturday, 22 February

10.00-10.15. Presentation of FOTOFIO 2025 by Atanasio Fernández (Government of Extremadura)

10.20-11.00. 'Illuminated Nature' by Paco Segarra

The new high-speed photography. Light as a determining resource to create a pictorial and contemporary work. The union of natural and artificial light bringing a new interpretation of the actions of animals beyond the reach of human sight. Equipment, technique and results.

Explanatory photographs and videos make 'Illuminated Nature' a true masterclass aimed at all photographers and nature lovers in general. Photography and imagination at the service of visual beauty and conservation.

11.10-11.50. 'Megadiverse Ecuador, the tropics divided by the Andes' by Jaime Culebras



Despite its small size, Ecuador has one of the richest biological resources in the world. This is largely due to its privileged latitudinal position and the Andes Mountain range, which runs through the entire country like a backbone. This biodiversity is not exempt from danger, as Ecuador faces numerous and serious environmental impacts that threaten its nature.

Jaime Culebras is a biologist and photographer from Cáceres, focused on conservation. He has published more than 30 scientific papers, describing 11 new species of amphibians. He is a contributor to 'National Geographic', has more than 50 international photography awards and is co-star of the documentary 'Heroes' in 'Planet Earth III'.

He is a co-founder of Photo Wildlife Tours, an Ecuadorian nature tourism company, and researcher at the Fundación Cóndor Andino, an NGO for the conservation of Ecuadorian biodiversity.

12.00-12.40. 'Approaching local wildlife from a new perspective' by Mads Hagen

As a Danish nature and bird photographer, Mads Hagen dreamt of travelling to the ends of the Earth. However, through his work with photography, he realised that capturing the familiar with fresh eyes can provide equally wonderful experiences in nature.

In this talk, he will take viewers on a journey into the local wildlife that we can all see and photograph right outside our doorstep, and in this way learn to appreciate and capture the beauty of our local environment.

12.50-13.30. How ‘Un año de amor salvaje’ (‘A Year of Wild Love’) was made by Alberto Saiz and Víctor Ortega

Director Alberto Saiz and cameraman Víctor Ortega will share anecdotes of the making of this documentary, including the challenges and difficulties they encountered when filming wildlife.

It is a unique documentary about the courtship behaviour of some of the most fascinating animals in Europe over the course of a year, made with Fujifilm equipment to capture those unique moments in nature.

This film will be screened on Sunday 23 February, from 13.30 to 14.30.

13.40-14.30. ‘Panama: photographing the birds of the Cloud Forest’ by Ignacio Yúfera

Panama's cloud forest is home to special birds such as the Resplendent Quetzal and a wide variety of mountain hummingbirds. Photographing them in their environment allows for unique images, while also presenting very interesting challenges in terms of light and weather conditions.

Ignacio Yúfera is a Spanish photographer based in Panama since 2015, founder and CEO of Tamandúa Nature Tours and owner of the Tamandúa Reserve, in the western highlands of Panama. He is author of the book 'Birds of Morocco'.

16.30-17.15. ‘Photography as a tool for conservation and science’ by Javier Aznar

Javier Aznar will share his experiences about photography and his work to link it with nature conservation.

A trained biologist, he has been a full-time photographer for ten years, focusing mainly on nature and conservation. He is a member of the International League of Conservation Photographers (ILCP) and The Photo Society, both based in the United States. He frequently publishes in international magazines, such as ‘National Geographic’, on topics related to nature and some of the smallest and most forgotten animals.

18.00. Award ceremony of the XX International Nature Photography Competition ‘Las Aves Silvestre’, presented by Roberto Brasero, head of the Meteorology department of Antena 3 News

Sunday, 23 February

10.15-10.30. Presentation of FOTOFIO 2025 by Atanasio Fernández (Government of Extremadura)

10.30-10.50. ‘Collateral benefits between man and nature, tradition and sustainability’ by Jesús Mateos Martín

Starting from the annual 'migrations' of sheep, Jesús Mateos Martín will share a photographic review of a nature that has been inextricably linked to man throughout the centuries.

11.00-11.20. 'Epic tour' by Merce R. Romero

An incredible journey in search of the most emblematic species of the Arctic Circle. A unique itinerary that goes from the enchanting forests of the Finnish taiga to the rugged coasts of the Varanger Peninsula and the Barents Sea, where the goal is none other than reaching one of the wildest places in the world: the frozen archipelago, the Svalbard Islands.

Forestry engineer, nature guide, birdwatcher and wildlife photographer, Merce R. Romero from Extremadura likes to define herself as a born conservationist. She entered the world of photography at a very early age. She has been running photographic tours through different countries around the world for more than ten years, in search of the most emblematic species on our planet.



11.30-11.50. 'Night photography of wildlife. The help provided by the Canon R system' by Mario Cea

Wildlife photography is even more challenging when done at night. Many animals are nocturnal, so it is therefore necessary to use techniques and accessories to capture them in their habitat. The Canon R system offers tools that facilitate this type of photography, allowing better results to be obtained more easily.

12.00-12.20. 'Photography, result or process, why not both?' by Tito García

Photography is often the result of a series of concerns. It is the desire to make time stop, probably the only way to do so, and, often, with the intention of sharing that moment. The

process can take a long time, sometimes a lifetime dreaming of a scene, and this journey full of emotions, illusions and expectations cannot be cut short by not being prepared. Photography is, without a doubt, the result of a process.

12.30-12.50. 'Birds of Europe. The quest to create the ultimate photo identification guide' by Marc Guyt

Marc Guyt will talk about the photographic challenges of the seven years (plus two years of translation) it took to complete the 'Id Handbook of European Birds' (published by Lynx as 'Aves de Europa').

He is the founder and director of Agami Photo Agency, a Netherlands-based photo agency specialising in bird and nature images.

13.00-13.20. 'Portfolio 1: Photography and stories of extraordinary birds' by Rafael Armada and Alejandra Rendón

'Portfolio 1: Photographs and stories of extraordinary birds' is a work that combines striking images by bird photographer Rafael Armada with narratives by Alejandra Rendón, creating stories that intertwine personal experiences, science and conservation. This book is a journey into nature and an invitation to admire the simple, the natural and to see the extraordinary in each of the species that inhabit our planet.

13.30-14.30. Screening of the documentary 'Un año de amor salvaje' ('A year of wild love') by Alberto Saiz

In the natural world, the drive that sustains life is courtship and reproduction. Throughout the four seasons in the northern hemisphere, we will witness fascinating behaviours in different animals, all with a common purpose: to continue their legacy for another year.

Alberto Saiz, director of 'Un año de amor salvaje' ('A year of wild love'), will give a presentation, followed by a screening of his documentary.

Specialised workshops and presentations

Painting and drawing in the field, identification of bird songs, footprints and feathers, sounds of nature, birding destinations, book presentations... Specialists from different fields come to FIO to help us appreciate the beauty of our surroundings.

These activities take place in various places in the Monfragüe National Park.



Friday, 21 February

Specialised workshops

16.30-18.30. 'Identifying European birds by their feathers' (Introductory activity) with Pablo Fernández Pero (Visitors' Centre meeting room PN Monfragüe, first floor)

17:30-19:00. '20 years of national parks. Soundscapes' with Carlos de Hita (Monfragüe Castle). Sessions at 17.30, 18.15 and 19.00

20.30. 'The universe from Monfragüe' with José Pedro Madera Barbero (Monfragüe Castle)

Saturday, 22 February

Specialised workshops

10.00-11.00. 'Ornithology beyond sight: bird recognition through their sounds' with José Carlos Sires (Church of Our Lady of Socorro)

10.30-13.00. 'Scientific illustration in the field of ornithology. Digital work' with Ana Fernández (Meeting room in Centre of Naturalized Animals)

16.00-19.00. Masterclass 'Painting birds with watercolour' with José Antonio Sencianes
(Visitors' Centre meeting room PN Monfragüe, first floor)

16.30-18.30. 'Artistic workshop on engraving and printing' with Esther Charles (Meeting room
in Centre of Naturalized Animals)

17.30-19.00. '20 years of national parks. Soundscapes' with Carlos de Hita (Monfragüe Castle).
Sessions at 17.30, 18.15 and 19.00

2030. 'The universe from Monfragüe' with José Pedro Madera Barbero (Monfragüe Castle)

Presentations and talks (Church of Our Lady of Socorro)

11.00-12.00. 'Birding Territories' by Antonio Sandoval and Alfonso Rodrigo

12.00-12.30. 'The new Oryx magazine, the magazine for nature lovers' by Laura Núñez Bañuls
and Francesc Kirchner

12.45-13.15. 'Donyanae Lumen II: A journey to the light of Doñana' by José Antonio Sencianes

13.30-14.00. 'Badajoz City of Birds' by Ignacio Gragera, Mayor of Badajoz, and Rubén Galea,
Councillor for Tourism

16.45-17.15. 'Symbolic history of birds' by Ernesto Montoya

17.30-18.00. 'Rewilding: ecotourism and conservation in action' by Basilio Rodríguez García

Sunday, 23 February

Specialised workshops

10:00-11:00. 'A walk with the best songbirds of the Iberian Peninsula' with José Carlos Sires
(Church of Our Lady of Socorro)

10.00-12.30. 'Tracks and Signs' with Luisa Abenza (Multi-use Room)

10.30-12.30. 'Techniques and tips for illustrating birds' with Nacho Sevilla (Meeting room in
Centre of Naturalized Animals)

**10.30-14.00. 'Identification of birds of prey and large birds of the Iberian Peninsula by their
plumage' (intermediate-advanced level)** with Pablo F. Pero (Visitors' Centre meeting room PN
Monfragüe, first floor)

12.00-14.00. 'Artistic workshop on engraving and printing' with Esther Charles (Multi-use Room)

12.30-14.30. 'When cute species eclipse: environmental psychology to conserve biodiversity' with Lourdes Berzas 'Loubé' (Meeting room in Centre of Naturalized Animals)

Presentations and talks (Church of Our Lady of Socorro)

11.15-12.25. 'Local Patchers (Passion for the territory) Episodes 1 and 2' with Javier Marquerie, Alfonso Rodrigo, Antonio Sandoval and Sara Díaz Viñuelas (moderator)

12.30-13.00. 'Eleonora's Falcon: the most formidable traveller of the Spanish birdlife' by Joan Mayol Serra

13.00-13.30. 'DEMA: 35 years of flying with the Lesser Kestrel' by Pepe Antolín

13.30-14.00. Screening of the documentary film 'Harriers. A life in the cereal steppes' by Alberto Pantoja



Exhibitions

20th FIO Photography Competition

FOTOFIO marquee

Organised by Extremadura Tourist Board within the scope of FIO, this competition has become one of the most prestigious in its sector in Spain. The twentieth edition has received a record number of 8,028 images from 31 countries. The 50 best images will be shown at the fair: the award winners, the honourable mentions and the finalists.

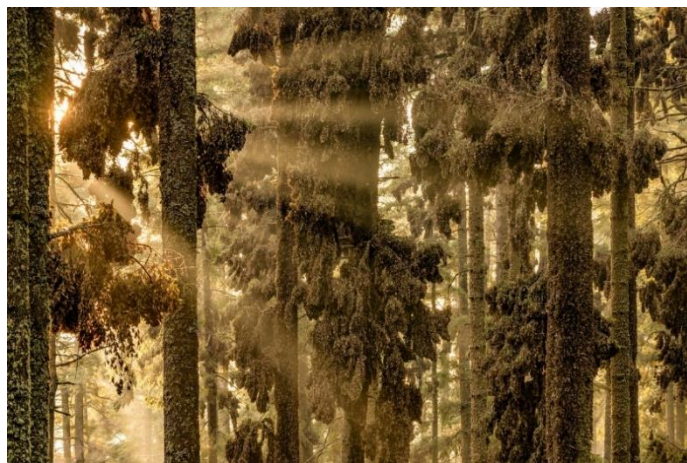
Exhibition sponsored by FujiFilm Spain.



'European Wildlife Photographer of the Year' by GDT (Germany)

Nature and Art Marquee

The German Society of Nature Photographers (GDT) organises one of Europe's most important competitions. The exhibition brings together a selection of the best flora and fauna images from the 2024 edition, including the overall winner: 'In the forest of the Monarchs' by Spanish photographer Jaime Rojo.



FIO Posters

Lecture marquee

To mark FIO's 20th anniversary, an exhibition of posters designed by artists of recognised national and international prestige will be on display.



Urban artists of Extremadura

Lecture marquee

A group of urban artists from Extremadura will visit FIO on February 22. It will be a day that will bring together professional and amateur artists of all ages and artistic levels, in which participants will freely capture the landscape, flora and fauna of the environment using different techniques and styles. The drawings will be made on site, and anyone can approach the artists and even join them!

At the end, a temporary exhibition will highlight the diversity of styles and visions that a single event can offer.

Ceramics from bird photographs

Lecture marquee

Exhibition of work by students of the Higher Education Cycle of Artistic Ceramics at the Higher School of Art and Design of Mérida. The pieces have been made using the decorative technique of dust jacket based on images by the renowned Extremadura nature photographer José María Benítez Cidoncha, pictures that show different species of birds that can be seen in the region.

Book presentations

During the three days of FIO, the following books related to birds and nature will be presented. In addition, the new magazine 'Oryx' will be launched.

'Birding Territories' by Antonio Sandoval Rey and Alfonso Rodrigo

22 February | 11.00-12.00 | Church of Our Lady of Socorro

'Land of Birds' by Pilar López Ávila and Leticia Ruifernández

22 February | 17.40-18.10 | Lecture marquee

'Donyanae Lumen II: A journey to the light of Doñana' by José Antonio Sencianes

22 February | 12.45-13.15 | Church of Our Lady of Socorro

'Guide to Hydrological Reserves of the Tagus basin' coordinated by Estefanía Chereguini

23 February | 10.00-10.30 | Lecture marquee

'A journey to discover the nature of Spain' by Javier Gómez Aoiz

23 February | 10.40-11.10 | Lecture marquee

'Eleonora's Falcon' by Joan Mayol Serra

23 February | 12.30-13.00 | Church of Our Lady of Socorro

'The new Oryx magazine, the magazine for nature lovers'

22 February | 12.00-12.30 | Church of Our Lady of Socorro

Activities for children and families

- 40 guided routes
 - ✓ 14 trekking
 - ✓ 8 by bus to the viewpoints in Monfragüe
 - ✓ 18 in car and 4x4
- Activities about nature for children with various NGOs from Extremadura: bird-tracking workshops, badges, costumes, clay figures, walks along the Malvecino stream...
- 4 birding viewpoints at Salto del Gitano, the Portilla del Tiétar, the Tajadilla and Monfragüe Castle, organised by SEO/Birdlife.
- Other children's activities: cartoons, bird drawings, ceramics, storytelling, kite workshop...
- Entertainment shows



Award-winning images from the photography competition

The 2025 Wild Birds photography competition received 8,028 images from Europe, America, Asia and Africa. In total, there were 847 participants from 31 countries, including Spain (the country with the most entrants), Argentina, Mexico, Italy, Germany, the USA and India.

These are the winners by category:

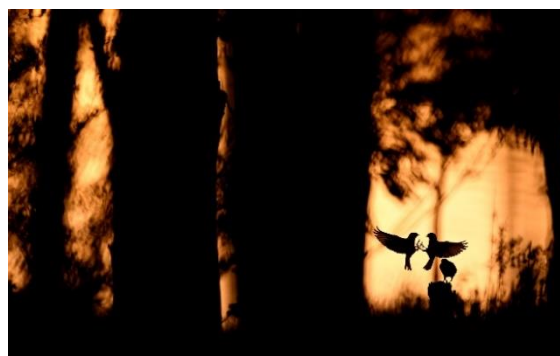
C1 Portraits of birds: 'Pinocho' by Egoitz Ikaza (Spain)



C2 Birds en their surroundings: 'Sun kissed' by Moreno Pellegrin (Italy)



C3 Birds in action: 'Territorial fight' by Joaquín Figueredo (Spain)



C4 An artistic vision of birds: 'Partial solar eclipse' by Csaba Daroczi (Hungary)



C5 Young photographers: 'Autumn air' by Marina Gavrikova (Russia)



Héctor Cordero has won the Special Prize for Extremaduran Photographers with 'Naked morning', selected from among all participants born or registered in Extremadura.



In the nature video category, José-Elías Rodríguez (Spain) won with 'The Bird of the Vineyards'.



<https://youtu.be/xyeZmMtj0Vo?si=5luidSLvs5couFRf>

The overall winner of the FIO 2025 competition, chosen from among the winners of the C1, C2, C3 and C4 categories, will be announced on February 22 at an event starting at 6:00 p.m, presented by Roberto Brasero, head of the Meteorology department of Antena 3.

The total value of prize money has increased from 6,800 to 7,300 euros.

The jury was made up of nature photographers Adriana Sanz (Argentina), José María Benítez Cidoncha, Laura Núñez, Mario Suárez Porras, Pablo Bou Mira and Ricardo Lourenço (Portugal).

The best 50 photographs (winners, honourable mentions and finalists) can be seen at FIO in a high-quality exhibition, sponsored by Fujifilm Spain, and are part of a catalogue published by the General Directorate of Tourism.

The sponsors of the competition are Skua Nature, Fujifilm, OM System, FotoTécnica Import, Canon, Academia de Fotógrafos.com, CEFNA, Namen Color and El Millarón.



FUJIFILM



FotoTécnica
Import

Canon

Academia de Fotógrafos.com

cefna
COLECTIVO EXTREMEÑO DE
FOTÓGRAFOS DE LA NATURALEZA



The British illustrator, Ian Lewington, designer of the 2025 poster



The poster for the 20th FIO features the White-rumped Swift (*Apus caffer*), a migratory species that symbolises the connection between continents. This bird, which can be seen in Extremadura from May to October, migrates to the tropical areas of sub-Saharan Africa after the breeding season.

The image for FIO 2025 is the work of British artist Ian Lewington, one of the most influential artists in the field of ornithology. He is renowned for his ability to fuse scientific precision with a captivating artistic style, as he has demonstrated in multiple prestigious guides, such as 'Rare Birds of North America', produced with Steve N. G. Howell and Will Russell.

For ten years, he has been working on a guide to North American birds that will be published by Princeton University Press in 2026.

The Regional Government of Extremadura, as in previous FIOs, has invited a highly prestigious artist to make an original and exclusive illustration.

To mark the 20th anniversary, a new commemorative logo has also been designed and the aesthetics of the fair's graphic elements have been updated, while a visual identity manual has been drawn up to ensure consistency throughout all communication.

Artists invited by FIO to design the official poster (most recent years)

- 2024: Ben Woodhams (UK)
- 2023: Manuel Sosa (Extremadura, Spain)
- 2022: Killian Mullarney (Ireland)
- 2021: Andrea Romero Ardila (Colombia)
- 2020: Lars Jonsson (Sweden)
- 2019: José Antonio Sencianes (Spain)
- 2018: Darren Woodhead (UK)

Activities by the General Directorate of Sustainability (Government of Extremadura)

‘Getting to know the birds of Monfragüe’

Talk about the birds of the Monfragüe National Park, accompanied by different activities, such as work with notebooks and educational cards, feather collection, identification guides, cut-outs, modelling their footprints in clay...

Saturday 22 and Sunday 23 February

Time: 11.00 to 12.00 and 13.00 to 14.00

Villarreal de San Carlos

Activity for all audiences, preferably children from 4 to 8 years old

Bird feeders and nest box workshop

Talk about the importance of birds for our ecosystems, setting up feeders and building nests for swallows.

Saturday 22 and Sunday 23 February

Time: 11.00 to 12.00 and 13.00 to 14.00

Villarreal de San Carlos

Activity for all age-groups

‘Memory Dehesa’ and ‘Oca de la Dehesa’ workshops

‘Memory Dehesa’ is a memory game with pieces based on biodiversity and threats to the natural environment in the dehesa and the Mediterranean scrubland.

‘Oca de la Dehesa’ is a version of the traditional game of La Oca, but in a large format and with images of biodiversity, traditional uses and other elements characteristic of or linked to the dehesa.

Saturday 22 February

Time: 11.00 | 12.00 | 13.00

Villarreal de San Carlos

Activity for all audiences, preferably children from 10 to 16 years old

‘Wildlife’ treasure hunt (game of clues)

Sunday 23 February

Time: 11.30 to 12.30 and 12.30 to 13.30

Interpretive trail of the ‘Jesús Garzón’ North Visitors’ Centre

Transport: free buses from Plasencia and Torrejón el Rubio

FIO provides visitors with a free bus service. It will be in operation on Friday 21 February, Saturday 22 and Sunday 23:

- Plasencia - Villarreal de San Carlos
- Torrejón el Rubio - Villarreal de San Carlos
- Plasencia - Villarreal de San Carlos - Torrejón el Rubio

Activities before FIO (15 and 16 February)

The weekend before FIO, Plasencia (ArteFIO), Trujillo (ObservaFIO) and several municipalities in the Monfragüe Biosphere Reserve held activities organized by the General Directorate of Tourism on birds, nature, art and historical heritage.

ARTEFIO PLASENCIA

Saturday, 15 February

Bird and city heritage treasure hunt | 10.00
Bird identification workshop | 12.00
Street Music by the Las Vegas Trio | 14.00
Creation of 3D bird paintings | 17.00
Theatrical birding route with Patxidifuso | 18.30

Sunday, 16 February

Birdwatching hiking route through the Valcorchero landscape | 10.00
Orientation scavenger hunt in the Aula de la Naturaleza del Parque de los Pinos | 11.00
Birdwatching point in the Plaza de la Catedral | 13.00-14.30

OBSERVAFIO TRUJILLO | Saturday, 15 February

Stargazing and birdwatching in history (CETA CIEMAT Planetarium) | 10.00 – 12.00 – 17.00
Real silhouettes workshop | 10.00
The great carrion feast of the Red Kites and the Oak of Wishes | 12.00
The night sounds and nocturnal birds of prey | 20.00

MALPARTIDA DE PLASENCIA | Saturday, 15 February

Peri-urban birdwatching hiking route | 10.00

TORREJÓN EL RUBIO | Saturday, 15 February

Route through the surroundings, rock art and the Monfragüe Astronomical Observatory | 16.30

MIRABEL | Sunday, 16 February

The stars of Extremadura and birds of prey | 20.00

ROMANGORDO | Sunday, 16 February

Casa de los Aromas-Route of the English-Trampantojos | 10.00

SERRADILLA | Sunday, 16 February

Cruise of the River Tagus | 09.30
Garganta del Fraile route | 10.00

SERREJÓN | Sunday, 16 February

Watching wintering birds route in the Dehesa (Serrejón-Toril-Serrejón) | 09.00