



XIX Feria Internacional de Turismo Ornitológico

Extremadura Birdwatching Fair

Parque Nacional de Monfragüe

Villarreal de San Carlos (Serradilla, Cáceres)

Del 23 al 25 de febrero 2024

February 23rd to 25th 2024

www.fioextremadura.es
www.turismoextremadura.com



#FIO2024

"Three Preening Cranes" of the artist e ilustrador Ben Woodham para FIO 2024



Cofinanciado por la Unión Europea

Consejería de
Cultura, Turismo, Jóvenes y Deportes

JUNTA DE EXTREMADURA

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FIO 2024, in summary

- Record number of exhibitors (111)
- Destinations, tourism companies, photography and optics manufacturers and distributors, conservation associations, specialist bookstores and nature artists are present.
- Exhibitors from 12 Autonomous Communities (Andalusia, Aragon, Asturias, Canary Islands, Cantabria, Castilla-La Mancha, Castilla y León, Catalonia, Madrid, Valencian Community, Extremadura and Galicia) and 4 countries (Belgium, Italy, Madagascar and Portugal).
- By origin: 59 regional exhibitors, 47 from the rest of Spain and 5 international.
- Andalusia, invited destination.
- B2B Professional Meetings: forecast of between 550 and 600 meetings.
- 16 conferences and colloquia on nature, tourism, art and communication.
- Special tribute to the naturalist Jesús Garzón, who died in December 2023.
- FOTOFIO
 - ✓ 11 nature photography conferences
 - ✓ Presentation and screening of the documentary 'AguiLucha' (Spain, 2023)
- 9 specialist workshops and 6 conferences in various places in the National Park.
- 3 nature photography exhibitions.
- 6 book presentations.
- Photography competition
 - ✓ 6.101 images received and 625 participants from 35 countries
 - ✓ 6.800 euros in prizes
- 42 guided routes through Monfragüe (hiking, minibus and 4x4).
- 90 activities for children and families (workshops, storytelling...).
- 4 birding viewpoints in the National Park.
- Free buses to Villarreal de San Carlos from Plasencia and Torrejón el Rubio
- 16 activities prior to FIO (February 17 and 18)
 - ✓ Plasencia (ArteFIO), Trujillo (ObservaFIO) and 6 towns in the Biosphere Reserve

The most important nature tourism fair in Spain

The 19th Extremadura Bird Fair (FIO) takes place from February 23 to 25 in Villarreal de San Carlos (Serradilla), in the heart of the Monfragüe National Park and Biosphere Reserve. It will be, once again, a great meeting place for nature and bird tourism, an activity in which Extremadura stands out, thanks to its natural resources and the specialisation of its tourism sector.

Organized by the Government of Extremadura, FIO is the largest bird fair in Spain and the second most important in Europe. It brings together the best of the sector: destinations, tourism companies, photography and optics manufacturers and distributors, conservation associations, specialist bookstores, nature artists... In total, 111 exhibitors, a record number.



For three days, an extensive programme of informative and recreational activities is organized: conferences and colloquia on nature, tourism, photography, art and cinema, guided routes, birding viewpoints in different places in the National Park, workshops for adults and children, animation shows, exhibitions and book presentations.

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

All of this takes place in Monfragüe, one of the world's meccas for birding, a National Park, a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve and a Starlight astrotourism destination. Monfragüe also has the Q for Tourist Quality, awarded by the Institute for Spanish Tourist Quality, which certifies the excellence of the services it provides to visitors.

FIO is part of the strategy of the Government of Extremadura to position our Autonomous Community as a destination for bird tourism, an activity that is sustainable, accessible to everyone and that can be practiced both in the countryside and the city. This objective includes initiatives such as the Cáceres Bird Festival, the Crane Festival and the Birding Club, a voluntary group in which 150 members, including companies and public entities, collaborate to promote the sector and guarantee a quality service to the customer.

Inauguration ceremony

The opening ceremony of FIO 2024 will be held on Friday, February 23 at 11.00, attended by the president of the Regional Government of Extremadura, María Guardiola.

Andalusia, invited destination

Andalusia, an Autonomous Community that stands out for its natural and ornithological resources, is the invited destination of the 19th FIO.

The great meeting point for businesses in the sector

One of the aspects that differentiates FIO from other similar fairs is its business focus. At every FIO businesses in the sector meet (B2B Professional Meetings). These have become the most important encounters in Spain for the sector.

In addition, the General Directorate of Tourism organizes two familiarization trips for national and international agents and tour operators, who participate in the business day and visit Extremadura to learn about the tourist resources of the region.

B2B Professional Meetings



Its objective is to provide business opportunities for companies that offer specialised bird tourism and nature services.

It takes place on February 23 at the fairground (FOTOFIO marquee), from 09.00 to 14.30.

To attend this event, the General Directorate of Tourism has invited, in collaboration with Turespaña, buyers and travel agents from several countries in Europe and the United States.

The dynamic consists of previously arranged 15-minute meetings. Seller access is limited to Birding Club companies, incoming travel agencies in the region and FIO exhibitors. Between 550 and 600 meetings are planned for the morning of the 23rd.

National and international tourist agents visit Extremadura

In the days leading up to FIO, before participating in the business meeting on February 23, two groups of travel agents and tour operators (one national and the other international) visit Extremadura to see for themselves what the region has to offer for bird and nature tourism.

For FIO 2024, 20 representatives from national and 10 international companies are confirmed, specifically from Belgium, Ireland, Italy, the Netherlands, Portugal, the United Kingdom and the United States.



19th FIO programme

Conferences and colloquia

Tourism, conservation projects, climate change, agriculture and sustainable development, art, communication... FIO organises presentations and discussions with specialists on varied topics related to nature and birds.

This year, a tribute is paid to Jesús Garzón, who died in December 2023, in an event in which the Extremadura Collective of Nature Photographers (CEFNA) and several conservation organizations will participate, together with the Government of Extremadura.

All conferences will be in the STAGE marquee

Streaming broadcast on the Extremadura Tourism YouTube channel:

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

Friday, February 23

16.45-17.15	'Serradilla is Monfragüe' by Francisco Javier Sánchez Vega and Borja García Prieto
17.30-18.00	'How do we do it in the absence of their parents? Reflections on the captive breeding of young Spanish Eagles for their release' by Álvaro Guerrero (AMUS)
18.00-18.30	'Lesser Kestrel: living in traditional buildings versus living in modern buildings. Keys to reversing factors that negatively affect the species' by Pepe Antolín (DEMA)
18.30-19.00	'SOS Vencejos: Work and results for 2023' by Juan José González Magro

Saturday, February 24

10.30-11.30	Colloquium 'Is technology revealing that migration is much more complex than we assumed?' with Alex Orrubia, Antonio Sandoval, Antonio-Román Muñoz and José Luis Copete (moderator)
11.30-12.00	'The intriguing story of a tropical species that could be colonizing the Western Palearctic: the case of the Rüppell's Vulture in Europe' by Antonio-Román Muñoz
12.00-12.30	'Academy for the Investigation of Crimes against Wildlife' by Jovan Andevski
12.30-13.30	'Etta Lemon: the woman who saved the birds' by Tessa Boase Followed by an interview by David Lindo, The Urban Birder
13.30-14.30	'Suso, the commitment to nature. Tribute to Jesús Garzón'

16.30-17.30	Colloquium 'The challenge of controlling populations of invasive exotic birds' with Ricardo Gómez Calmaestra, Maria Jesús Palacios González, Martina Carrete and Alfonso Godino (moderator)
17.30-18.30	'Land' by Ben Woodhams
18.30-19.00	'Plumarium Guide' by Pablo Fernández Pero and José Luis Copete (moderator)

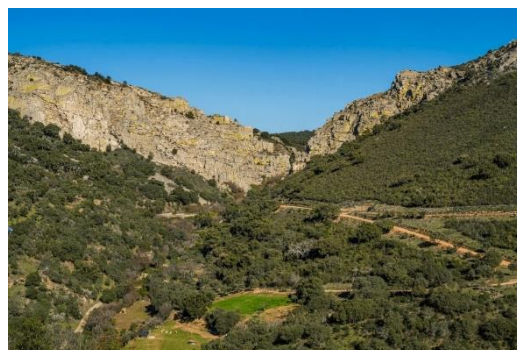
Sunday, February 25

10.30-11.30	Colloquium 'A journey, sound and visual, in defence of our steppes and mountains' with Carlos de Hita, Eduardo de Juana, Eduardo Viñuales and Javier Gómez (moderator)
11.30-12.30	Colloquium 'Steppe birds at the crossroads: An opportunity between agriculture and renewable development' with Amanda del Río Murillo, Félix Arias, Martin Kelsey and Rodrigo Fernández-Mellado (moderator)
12.30-13.30	Colloquium 'Between brushes and pixels' with Jesús Mateos Brea, Lourdes Berzas, Jaime de la Torre, Ana Fernández and Esther Charles (moderator)
13.30-14.30	Colloquium 'Communicating about birds and nature: new challenges and opportunities' with Rosa M. Tristán, German López 'The Merelus', Ernesto Montoya 'Vieja Tierra' and Antonio Sandoval (moderator)

Friday, February 23

16.45-17.15. 'Serradilla is Monfragüe' by Francisco Javier Sánchez Vega and Borja García Prieto

As well as being the principal municipality encompassing part of Monfragüe National Park including the park's nerve centre Villarreal de San Carlos, Serradilla has become in recent years an essential place for the nature tourist seeking to enjoy the most important values and resources, both natural and cultural, of Monfragüe.



Francisco Javier Sánchez Vega, mayor of Serradilla, and Borja García Prieto, councillor for Environment and Tourism, will talk about the Friar's Stream Route (Best Approved Hiking Trail in Spain 2022), the Monfragüe Cruise and the Santísimo Cristo de la Victoria (National Historical-

Cultural Monument), attractions that have put this municipality of Cáceres on the tourist map of Extremadura.

Presentation of conservation and tourism projects

17.30-18.00. 'How do we do it in the absence of their parents? Reflections on the captive breeding of young Spanish Eagles for their release' by Álvaro Guerrero

The captive rearing of orphaned large eagles, with the aim of reinserting them into nature, is a process that entails risk and many difficulties, subject to variable methodologies that are largely determined by the age of the specimens when they enter care.

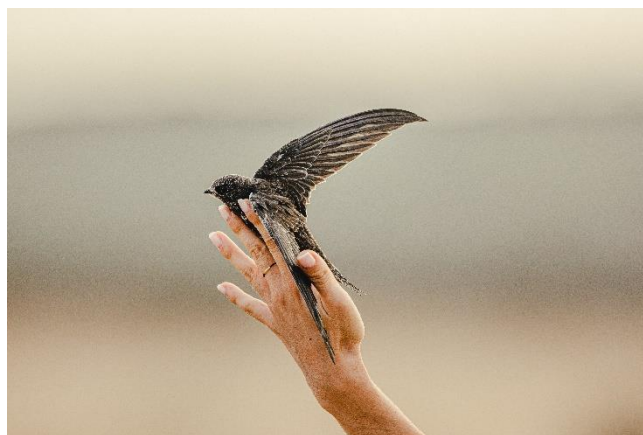
Álvaro Guerrero, founding member of Action for the Wild World (AMUS), will analyse rearing and management methodologies in the absence of real parents. The objective is to reinsert healthy individuals (physically and psychologically) with guarantees of adaptation in an environment full of dangers.

18.00-18.30 'Lesser Kestrel: living in traditional buildings versus living in modern buildings. Keys to reversing factors that negatively affect the species' by Pepe Antolín

Since 1990, Pepe Antolín, founder of the NGO Defence and Study of the Environment (DEMA) and the Lesser Kestrel Breeding Centre, has dedicated all his energy to the development of projects aimed at the recovery and conservation of this small falcon in Spain and other countries in Europe.

At FIO, a DEMA study will be presented that analyses issues that affect this threatened species, such as new buildings, the action of predators and effective alternatives, chicks falling from nests and the search for solutions, existence of obsolete nest boxes and human disturbances in Lesser Kestrel colonies and how to minimize their effects, among other topics.

18.30-19.00. 'SOS Vencejos: Work and results for 2023' by Juan José González Magro



Juan José González Magro, co-founder of SOS Vencejos, will present the lines of action on which this NGO focuses: protection of colonies, breeding and rehabilitation of swifts and environmental education. He will also present the achievements and results obtained in 2023 of this association made up 100% of volunteers working throughout Spain.

Saturday, February 24

10.30-11.30. Colloquium 'Is technology revealing that migration is much more complex than we assumed?' with Alex Onrubia, Antonio Sandoval, Antonio-Román Muñoz and José Luis Copete (moderator)

Thanks to technological developments in tracking devices, we can discover the routes taken by specific individuals of even small species, such as pipits. This has revealed that movements may be different from what was assumed through observation, that nomadism is a possibility, and that there are even individuals that can rest for a few days in one place, then fly hundreds of kilometres to return the same day to the place where it had been, to then continue its migration in the direction we have always assumed.

11.30-12.00. 'The intriguing story of a tropical species that could be colonizing the Western Palearctic: the case of the Rüppell's Vulture in Europe' by Antonio-Román Muñoz

Climate change is causing latitudinal movements of many species to adjust their distributions to new conditions. These changes are of particular relevance in southern Europe, where a short-distance expansion of African species towards the north represents a large step in biogeographic terms, as a new continent is reached.

The reproduction of the Rüppell's Vulture has recently been confirmed in Spain, a case that is of interest because, paradoxically, it is expanding its distribution at the same time that the species suffers a sharp decline in Africa.

12.00-12.30. 'Academy for the Investigation of Crimes against Wildlife' by Jovan Andevski

Combating wildlife crime requires government engagement, capabilities and a multi-sector approach, strengthened through partnerships and collaboration with intergovernmental organizations, civil society organizations (CSOs) and experts.

The Academy for the Investigation of Crimes against Wildlife, created in 2021, provides the necessary conditions to improve the efficiency of law enforcement in the fight against crime in a sustainable framework, based on the exchange of knowledge and experiences of best practices of environmental services and law enforcement in Spain.

12.30-13.30 'Etta Lemon: the woman who saved the birds' by Tessa Boase
Followed by an interview by David Lindo, The Urban Birder

When social historian Tessa Boase told the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds that she wanted to write about their history, they refused to allow her to visit their archives. For a former investigative journalist, this was a challenge she couldn't resist. . .

This talk sheds light on women's love affair with feathers and the brave ecofeminists who fought on behalf of birds. Its leader was Etta Lemon, the pioneering conservationist who built the RSPB between 1889 and 1939. What were her campaign tactics and what is her legacy? After her talk, Tessa Boase will be interviewed by David Lindo, The Urban Birder, British naturalist, writer and photographer.

13.30.-14.30 'Suso, the commitment to nature. Tribute to Jesús Garzón'



Jesús Garzón Heydt (1946-2023) has been one of the giants of Spanish conservation. His life was committed to the defence of nature and, from a very young age, he was a close collaborator of Félix Rodríguez de la Fuente.

Considered the “father of Monfragüe”, his participation in the protection and subsequent declaration of the Oyambre Natural Park in Cantabria was also very important. During the last 30 years of his life he dedicated his efforts to the protection and recovery of livestock trails, transhumance and extensive livestock farming.

He always generously accepted the request of educational centres, city councils and NGOs to give talks and lectures on natural values and their conservation. With this work he left his mark on numerous people, many of whom later became involved in the fight for the defence of nature.

Throughout his entire career he received numerous awards and recognitions.

Jesús Garzón “Suso” was a person ahead of his time.

During this tribute, his wife will be given a book of experiences and images from the Extremaduran Collective of Nature Photographers (CEFNA), published exclusively for the occasion, and a portrait by the artist J. M. Brea.

Subsequently, a round table will be held with Pepe Antolín, Marity González García, Ángel Rodríguez Martín, José Antonio Palomo Molano and Juan Serna Martín.

16.30-17.30. Colloquium 'The challenge of controlling populations of invasive exotic birds' with Ricardo Gómez Calmaestra, María Jesús Palacios González, Martina Carrete and Alfonso Godino (moderator)

Through globalization, intentional and accidental releases of wild species across the planet have facilitated the presence of species in unnatural habitats. In the case of birds, the presence of invasive exotic species has a high impact on the environment and especially on other native birds.

17.30-18.30. 'Land' by Ben Woodhams

The English artist and illustrator Ben Woodhams, designer of the FIO 2024 poster, presents his project 'Land'. Since moving to the Danish island of Bornholm in the Baltic Sea, he has been fascinated by the idea of recording changes in the landscape, whether through space or time.

'Land' consisted of 52 walking tours of Bornholm, one for each week of 2023. Each walk took place on Friday, starting at dawn and ending at dusk. It started at the point where the previous week's walk ended. On these itineraries he recorded his experiences and thoughts, painting and drawing as he walked. Each walk was the story of a day, of the changes in light and weather and the rising and setting of the sun.

18.30-19.00. 'Plumarium Guide' by Pablo Fernández Pero and José Luis Copete (moderator)

The Plumarium Guide is an unprecedented project in Spain, which deepens the knowledge of avifauna through detailed, serious and committed work on feathers. Each monograph will deal with a specific species, presenting all plumages (male and female, from juvenile to adult with all transition stages) for identification. It will include talks, interviews, experiences and all available material will be shown (skull, claws, footprints, eggs, nests, pellets) to offer detailed information.

Sunday, February 25

10.30-11.30. Colloquium 'A journey, sound and visual, in defence of our steppes and mountains' with Carlos de Hita, Eduardo de Juana, Eduardo Viñuales and Javier Gómez (moderator)

Our steppes and plains, as well as some of the places that still remain unchanged in our highest mountains, face what may be their last opportunity. Through a sound and visual tour, we will discover different landscapes of exceptional value, where it is still possible to enjoy surprising biodiversity.

11.30-12.30. Colloquium 'Steppe birds at the crossroads: An opportunity between agriculture and renewable development' with Amanda del Río Murillo, Félix Arias, Martin Kelsey and Rodrigo Fernández-Mellado (moderator)

Steppe birds have been affected by the simplification of their habitat produced by the current method of agricultural exploitation. Likewise, the development of renewable energies implies a decrease in the habitat available for these species.

The administrations responsible for biodiversity seek to protect these birds, which generates restrictions for farmers and energy developers. The question arises as to whether it is possible to make the presence of this avifauna compatible with economic development, coexisting and generating opportunities for local development.

12.30-13.30 Colloquium 'Between brushes and pixels' with Jesús Mateos Brea, Lourdes Berzas, Jaime de la Torre, Ana Fernández and Esther Charles (moderator)

We live between a tangible world and a virtual one, also when it comes to art. Digital and analogue are non-exclusive universes that are used interchangeably to establish a dialogue between the artist and the public.

At a time when technology has exponentially accelerated graphic possibilities, and scientific illustration is experiencing a golden age - especially on social networks -, the walls of cities and towns continue to be available for beauty in large formats, and also for environmental awareness and education.

13.30-14.30 Colloquium 'Communicating about birds and nature: new challenges and opportunities' with Rosa M. Tristán, German López 'The Merelus', Ernesto Montoya 'Vieja Tierra' and Antonio Sandoval (moderator)

With experience in different fields, such as journalism, literature, history or art, these specialists will debate new ways of undertaking scientific and environmental dissemination. Traditional media, such as newspapers, radio and television, have been joined by other media and channels, with a prominent role for social networks.

FOTOFIO Conferences

FIO organizes talks and workshops with nature photographers who share their experiences, their projects and their trips with the public, in an open and participatory format. Under the heading of FOTOFIO, these conferences attract both professional and amateur photographers. Subjects such as nature cinema or conservation projects are also included.

All conferences will be in the FOTOFIO marquee.

- Streaming broadcast on the Extremadura Tourism YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/turismoextremadura>

Saturday, February 24

10.45-11.00	Presentation of FOTOFIO 2024 by Atanasio Fernández (General Directorate of Sustainability, Government of Extremadura)
11.00-11.30	'Telling stories from images' by Alejandra Rendón
11.45-12.15	'Impact of light and reflective glass on bird migration in New York' by Héctor Cordero
12.30-13.00	'Wildlife photography as a conservation tool' by Laura Núñez
13.15-13.45	'Magical Moments: Wildlife Photographic Stories' by Nicolas Reusens
16.15-16.45	'British seabirds and the threats they face' by Julian Terreros-Martin
17.00-17.45	'Nature photography through the eyes of a child' by Alberto Román
18.15	Awards ceremony for the 19th International Nature Photography Competition 'Wild Birds' presented by Roberto Brasero (Antena 3)

Sunday, February 25

10.30-10.50	'Wildest Spain. A trip to the heart of the Iberian Peninsula' by Merce R. Romero
11.00-11.20	'Creative wildlife photography with the EOS R system' by Mario Cea
11.30-11.50	'Discovering ourselves through nature photography: Ka-Cho-Fu-Getsu' by Martín Tito Garcia

12.00-12.20	'Explore the innovation of the new AX Visio binoculars from Swarovski Optik' by Xavier Esteller
12.30-12.50	'Yhabril' by Yhabril Moro
13.00-14.15	Presentation and screening of the documentary 'AguilLucha' by Alfredo Penella Delgado

Saturday, February 24

10.45-11.00. Presentation of FOTOFIO 2024 by Atanasio Fernández, from the General Directorate of Sustainability (Department of Agriculture, Livestock and Sustainable Development, Government of Extremadura)

11.00-11.30. 'Telling stories from images' by Alejandra Rendón

Images have the intrinsic capacity to narrate. They are condensed memories, windows to past moments seen through the photographer's gaze and captured according to her emotion.

Colombian Alejandra Rendón will share her experience transforming images into stories, exploring various narrative approaches and purposes.



11.45-12.15. 'Impact of light and reflective glass on bird migration in New York' by Héctor Cordero

New York is an excellent place for bird watching and photography as it lies in the Atlantic migratory pathway. Every year, during spring and autumn, the city is home to more than 200 species. Each season allows you to observe a unique and special diversity. However, due to skyscrapers with reflective glass and illuminated at night, many of these birds see their migration cut short.

In collaboration with several conservation associations and a rehabilitation centre in Manhattan, Héctor Cordero, a biologist, bird guide and photographer of Extremaduran origin, tries to give visibility to the problem and provide friendly solutions for fauna and the environment.

12.30-13.00. 'Wildlife photography as a conservation tool' by Laura Núñez

Each image of each animal species has a story behind it and when the sensitivity conveyed by its portrait manages to explain it on its own, wildlife photography becomes a tool for the conservation of our environment.

Laura Núñez's presentation will have the objective of demonstrating that an attractive image accompanied by an interesting explanation can become an echo that captures attention and reaches a wide audience with the aim of globally disseminating the need for respect for nature.

13.15-13.45. 'Magical Moments: Wildlife Photographic Stories' by Nicolas Reusens

This photographer's work has always sought to shock and amaze, but now, thanks to the power of video, he can share in an even more vivid and captivating way his most amazing encounters with some of the most fascinating species on the planet.

With infinite patience and luck, he sometimes gains the trust of the most elusive creatures, allowing him to get closer in unimaginable ways.

16.15-16.45. 'British seabirds and the threats they face' by Julian Terreros-Martin

The British Isles are home to an incredible number of seabirds which visit during the spring at the start of the breeding season to take advantage of the abundant food available on the coasts. Bird diversity and abundance are key indicators of the health of our oceans, but seabirds face more challenges than ever: bird flu, light pollution...

17.00-17.45. 'Nature photography through the eyes of a child' by Alberto Román

Just eight years old, Alberto Román will talk about how he became interested in wildlife in general and birds in particular, and about his learning and progress in nature photography.

Born in 2015 in Ubrique (Cádiz), when he was four years old, he accompanied his father on outings to the countryside. A small birdbook sparked his interest in identifying birds.

In 2022, he acquired a mirrorless camera that replaced a compact one. The following year, he participated in photography competitions, winning in his category, among others, the one organized by the German Society of Nature Photographers (GDT).



18.15. Awards ceremony for the 19th International Nature Photography Competition 'Wild Birds' presented by Roberto Brasero, head of the meteorology department at Antena 3 News

Sunday, February 25

10.30-10.50. 'Wildest Spain. A trip to the heart of the Iberian Peninsula' by Merce R. Romero

From Sierra Morena and its lynxes, this Extremaduran native (forestry engineer, nature guide, birder and wildlife photographer) then travels to the Sistine Chapel of birding: Monfragüe. The most emblematic birds of prey in Europe find refuge in the steep mountain ranges of the National Park, where the company Skua Nature has one of its most powerful photographic projects. Without leaving Spanish territory, she spreads her wings towards the Catalan Pre-Pyrenees, at Buseu, where one of the greatest spectacles that can be experienced in the kingdom of birds takes place every day: the unmistakable flight of the Bearded Vulture.



11.00-11.20. 'Creative wildlife photography with the EOS R system' by Mario Cea

In this presentation, Mario Cea will talk about the great advantages that mirrorless equipment and, specifically, the Canon EOS R system, provides when taking creative photographs of wildlife. The technological advances of new cameras mean that we can enjoy new experiences to achieve images with a high visual impact.

11.30-11.50. 'Discovering ourselves through nature photography: Ka-Cho-Fu-Getsu' by Martín Tito Garcia

For better or worse, everything in nature is perfect. A legendary belief says that our life experiences are deeply shaped by the lens through which we see the world, permeating our inner being.

Ka-Cho-Fu-Getsu is a 600-year-old Japanese philosophy that separately means: flower, bird, wind, moon, and whose essence is the combination of these elements in unison to define the beauty of nature.

12.00-12.20. 'Explore the innovation of the new AX Visio binoculars from Swarovski Optik' by Xavier Esteller

Swarovski Optik launches the world's first smart binoculars. The AX Visio are the first binoculars assisted by artificial intelligence: the perfect symbiosis between high-performance analogue optics for long distances and digital intelligence. At the touch of a button, they help to identify birds and other animals, share discoveries and offer a wide range of practical additional functions.

12.30-12.50. 'Yhabril' by Yhabril Moro

Passionate nature and mountain photographer, Yhabril Moro captures the sublime beauty of remote and challenging environments. His artistic approach highlights the harmony between light, natural shapes and colours, transmitting serenity and wonder.

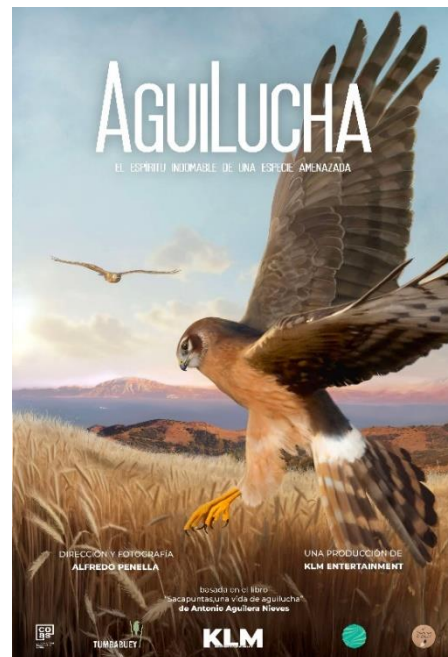
Committed to environmental conservation, his images not only testify to the greatness of the mountains, but also promote the preservation of nature.

13.00-14.15. Presentation and screening of the documentary 'Aguilucha' by Alfredo Penella Delgado

'Aguilucha' (Spain 2023) is a documentary directed and produced by Alfredo Penella Delgado that narrates the adventures of a female Montagu's Harrier.

This story, told in the first person by the protagonist, takes place in Andalusia, the land where she hatched, where she learnt to fly, and to hunt... But she is a migratory species and every year, when winter arrives, she embarks on a dangerous journey of three thousand kilometres to Senegal.

We will discover how the world is changing at an unprecedented speed and scale, due to humanity's economic and demographic growth, the development of new technologies related to agriculture and the production of goods is affecting ecological and social systems.



From the perspective of the protagonist, we will see what is being done and what we can do as volunteers, professionals and bodies that work to improve our present, our land and our future.

Specialist workshops, book presentations and conferences

Painting and drawing from life, identification of songs, footprints and feathers of birds, sounds of nature, book presentations... Renowned specialists come to FIO to help us appreciate the beauty of our environment.

These activities are carried out in various places in the National Park, such as the chapel of Nuestra Señora del Socorro, in Villarreal de San Carlos, the Portilla del Tiétar or the castle of Monfragüe.

SPECIALIST WORKSHOPS

Friday, February 23

- 15.30-18.30. **Introduction to drawing birds from nature** with José Antonio Sencianes (Portilla del Tiétar)
- 16.00-18.00. **Identification of raptors and large birds of the Iberian Peninsula through their plumage** with Pablo Fernández Pero (Monfragüe PN Visitor Centre)
- 20.30-22.00. **Star-gazing** with José Pedro Madera Barbero (Monfragüe Castle)

Saturday, February 24

- 16.00-18.30. **Signs and tracks of birds** with Luisa Abenza (Multipurpose Room)
- 16.30-18.00. **Identification of European birds by their feathers** with Pablo Fernández Pero (Monfragüe PN Visitor Centre)
- 20.30-22.00. **Star-gazing** with José Pedro Madera Barbero (Monfragüe Castle)

Sunday, February 25

- 10.00-11.30. **Identification of bird sounds** with José Carlos Sires (Chapel)
- 10.00-12.30. **Signs and tracks of birds** with Luisa Abenza (Multipurpose Room)
- 10.30-14.00. **Painting birds with watercolour** with José Antonio Sencianes (outdoors, in Villarreal)

BOOK PRESENTATIONS

Saturday, February 24

- 11.00-12.00. **‘Cuaderno de montaña de las maravillas naturales de los Pirineos’** and **‘Rutas para observar aves en Aragón’** by Eduardo Viñuales, moderated by Javier Gómez Aoiz (Chapel)

- 12.00-13.00. **'Delta, un final con futuro'** by Gabi Martínez, presented by José Luis Copete (Chapel)
- 13.00-14.00. **'30 imágenes y más de 1000 palabras'** by Luis Alfonso Apausa and Nacho Sevilla, presented by Raúl Virosta (Chapel)
- 17.00-18.00. **'Central Park, birds in its four seasons'** by Héctor Cordero (Chapel)

Sunday, February 25

- 11.00-12.00. **'Aves de Extremadura'** by Fernando Domínguez Domínguez and Felipe Rodríguez Pérez (Chapel)

CONFERENCES

Friday, February 23

- 19.00. **'Crickets, Cranes, Hoopoes, Rooks and Jays. The Voices of the countryside'** by Carlos de Hita (Monfragüe Castle)



Saturday, February 24

- 10.00-11.00. **Walking through the concerts of Iberian nature** with José Carlos Sires (Chapel)
- 18.30. **'A naturalist listening, in memory of Jesús Garzón'** by Carlos de Hita. (Monfragüe Castle)
- 19.30. **'Crickets, Cranes, Hoopoes, Rooks and Jays. The Voices of the countryside'** by Carlos de Hita (Monfragüe Castle)

Sunday, February 25

- 12.00-13.00. **'Listen and tell'** with Carlos de Hita, presented by Antonio Sandoval (Chapel)

- 13.00-14.00. **'The sound of nature, a reflection of biodiversity'** with Eloïsa Matheu, presented by Carlos de Hita (Chapel)

Exhibitions

XIX Nature Photography Competition 'Wild Birds'

Convened by the General Directorate of Tourism within the framework of FIO, this competition has attracted 625 photographers from 35 countries in 2024 and has become one of the most prestigious in its sector in Spain. At FIO, the fifty best images will be shown, a selection made up of the winners, the honourable mentions and the finalists.

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

The German Society of Nature Photographers (GDT) organises one of the most important competitions in Europe. The best images of the 2023 edition will be shown at FIO, including those of Javier Aznar González de Rueda, who received the highest award for 'Maternal Care', and Alberto Román Gómez (8 years old), award for best young photographer in the category of 14 years or less. The latter will give a talk at FOTOFIO.

'Natural vision. In the footsteps of the Iberian fauna' by Jero Milan

It is the story of a journey that began during the childhood of this photographer from Extremadura and that, even today, has not ended. These 18 photographs are not a catalogue of Spanish fauna species, but mere glimpses of some unique moments that Jero Milan has enjoyed throughout his life behind a camera. Moments based on the behaviour of animals and that, in his view, are the true essence of this wonderful profession.



Activities for children and families

- 42 guided routes
 - ✓ 16 hiking
 - ✓ 8 by bus to the Monfragüe viewpoints
 - ✓ 18 by vehicle and 4x4

- 45 nature activities for children with several NGOs from Extremadura, the Tajo and Guadiana Hydrographic Confederations and other entities: bird footprint workshops, nest boxes, badges, costumes, plasticine figures, watercolour of plants and orchids, walk along the stream Malvecino...

- 4 birding viewpoints in Salto del Gitano, Portilla del Tiétar, La Tajadilla and Monfragüe castle, run by SEO/Birdlife.

- Other children's activities (45 in total): cartoons, drawing of birds, ceramics, storytelling, making natural soaps, prehistory workshop...

- 5 animation shows.



Award-winning images from the photography competition

The 'Wild Birds' 2024 photography competition, organized by the General Directorate of Tourism, has received 6,101 images from Europe, America, Asia and Africa. In total, there have been 625 participants from 35 countries, including Spain (the country with the most representatives), Germany, Argentina, Chile, Colombia, Egypt, India, Italy and the United Kingdom.

These are the winners by category:

C1 Portraits of birds: 'Miradas' by Óscar Díez (Spain)



C2 Birds in their environment: 'Iceberg' by Stanislao Basileo (Italy)



C3 Birds in action: 'Guifette' by David Greyo (Switzerland)



C4 Artistic vision of birds: 'Navel-gazing' by Ignacio Medem (Spain)



C5 Young photographers: 'De merienda, mosquito' by Darío Fernández (Spain)



Joaquín Figueredo has achieved the Extremadura Special Photographer Award with 'Avispa arevida', selected from all participants born or registered in Extremadura.



In addition, this year a category for nature videos has been created, which Juan Luis Santos (Spain) has won with 'Anthropocene'.

The absolute winner of the FIO 2024 competition, chosen from among the winners of categories C1, C2, C3 and C4, will be announced on February 24 at 18:15, in an event presented by Roberto Brasero, head of the department of Antena 3 Meteorology.

The total amount of prizes has increased from 6,300 to 6,800 euros when the new video category was incorporated.

The jury for the 19th competition was formed by nature photographers Adriana Sanz (Argentina), Anaïs Pascual, José María Benítez Cidoncha, Mario Suárez Porras, Pablo Bou Mira and Steve Sánchez Calle (Peru).

The best 50 photographs (winners, honourable mentions and finalists) can be seen at FIO in an exhibition in high quality format, sponsored by Fujifilm Spain, and make up a catalogue edited by the General Directorate of Tourism.

The sponsors of the contest are Skua Nature, Fujifilm, OM System, Swarovski Optik, FotoTécnica Import, Canon, NYA-EVO, Academia de Fotógrafos.com, CEFNA, Namen Color and El Millarón Photography of Nature.



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EL MILLARÓN
FOTOGRAFÍA DE NATURALEZA

English artist Ben Woodhams, designer of the 2024 FIO poster



Cranes are part of the landscape of Extremadura in autumn and winter. Thousands from northern Europe spend the coldest months here. Our region is the main wintering area for this migratory bird in the Iberian Peninsula. Their flight and trumpeting call accompany us in the Guediana basin, La Serena, La Siberia, Sierra de Gata and the reservoirs of Valdecañas, Gabriel y Galán, Borbollón and Los Canchales, among other sites.

FIO dedicates this year's poster to this emblematic species of Extremadura. As has been the case for years, the General Directorate of Tourism has invited a renowned artist to develop the image of the biggest bird fair in Spain. And this year is the work of Ben Woodhams, an English artist and illustrator who lives and works on the Danish island of Bornholm, in the Baltic Sea, an area where many of the cranes that travel to southern Europe come from.

With his work 'Three Preening Cranes', Ben Woodhams joins the list of great national and international illustrators who have collaborated with FIO.

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

- 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 (United Kingdom)

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

Environmental education through scientific bird ringing

Two open days at one of the National Park's bird ringing stations, located in the North Visitor Centre. The work that is usually carried out in a constant effort station (CSE) will be shown, as well as the different studies that scientific bird ringing contributes to, constituting a useful tool for the conservation of species.

- ✓ From 09.00 to 13.00 (without prior registration)

Ecobus

The DG Sustainability Ecobus will be located in the vicinity of the North Visitor Centre, which can be visited during the FIO days. It will project videos on the Network of Protected Areas of Extremadura and it will be possible to carry out games and activities related to the natural spaces of the region, invasive species, forest fires, renewable energies, water use or recycling, among other topics.

- ✓ From 10.00 to 14.00 (without prior registration)

Workshops

The Ecobus will offer two workshops with the following schedules (15 people per workshop):

- 'Getting to know the birds of Monfragüe': from 11.00 to 12.00 and from 13.00 to 14.00.
- 'Bird feeders': from 12.00 to 13.00.

Transport: free bus service from Plasencia and Torrejón el Rubio

The FIO organization makes a free bus service available to visitors. It will be in operation on Friday February 23, Saturday 25 and Sunday 26:

- Plasencia (Parque de los Pinos) - Monfragüe Railway Station - Camping - Saltos de Torrejón -Villarreal de San Carlos
- Torrejón el Rubio - Hospedería de Monfragüe - Monfragüe Castle - Salto del Gitano - Villarreal de San Carlos
- Plasencia (Parque de los Pinos) - Monfragüe Railway Station - Camping - Saltos de Torrejón -Villarreal de San Carlos - Salto del Gitano - Castle - Hospedería de Monfragüe - Torrejón el Rubio
- Monfragüe Castle (ascent and descent)
- Monfragüe Railway Station - Villarreal de San Carlos

Activities prior to FIO (February 17 and 18)

The weekend before FIO, Plasencia (ArteFIO), Trujillo (ObservaFIO) and six municipalities of the Monfragüe Biosphere Reserve celebrated activities related to birds, nature, art and historical heritage.

ArteFIO Plasencia | February 17

- Hiking and bird watching route through the Protected Landscape of Valdecorchero
- Street music
- Bird gymkhana and city heritage
- Observation point with telescopes and bird interpretation in the historic center

ObservaFIO Trujillo | February 17

- Accessible sensory workshop on identifying footprints, signs of the forest and nocturnal birds of prey
- FIO Great Game Workshop
- The night of sounds and stars

Malpartida de Plasencia | February 17

- Peri-urban bird watching hiking route

Torrejón el Rubio | February 17

- Route to the cave paintings in the shelter of the Monfragüe castle
- Visit to the astronomical observatory

Mirabel | February 18

- The great carrion of the Red Kites and the Wishing Oak
- The stars of Extremadura and nocturnal raptors

Romangordo | February 18

- Guided visit to the Casa de los Aromas – Ruta de los Franceses – Trampantojos

Serradilla | February 18

- River cruise on the Tagus River
- Garganta del Fraile Route (Best Approved Trail in Spain 2022)

Serrejón | February 18

- Pink route through the Monfragüe Biosphere Reserve (Serrejón-Toril-Serrejón)