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Why live alone, when we feel the need to fly?
 Helen Keller



Routes for birds watching Aljarafe-Doñana

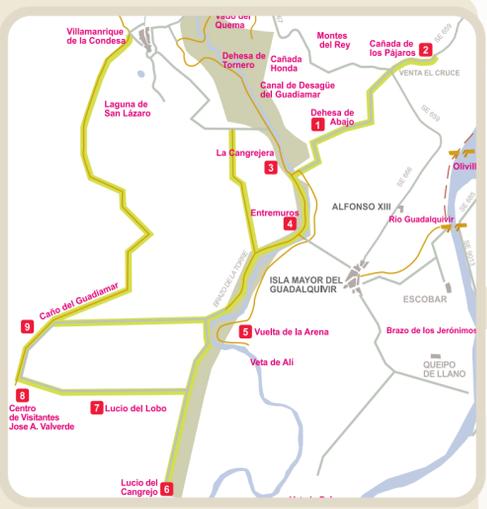
ROUTE I
 Marshes route of Doñana

The marsh is undoubtedly the space that gives the Doñana area its character. The Marshes of Guadalquivir have undergone a process of transformation by colmatation and anthropological activity. In historic times they were tidal marshes, later pluvial-fluvial marshes and today are an example of senescent continental marshes, the consequence of infilling favoured by the closure of the estuary, and by the diversion and canalisation of the main part of the drainage network that cuts across it.

Today it acts as a badly water-logged plain that receives water from various minor channels and the stream La Rocina.

In this immense plain the monotony of the landscape contrasts with the great diversity of biotopes that can be found here, with the result that hundreds of thousands of birds come here each year and make this natural paradise their own.

We begin our route at the C.V. of the Lower Meadow, visiting the Valley of the Birds, turning back towards the Crabbery in order to cross Entremuros (right wall) until arriving at Arena Walk, continuing in the direction of Lucio of the Crab to visit Lucio of the Wolf, C.V. José a. Valverde, returning via the Guadiamar channel and rejoining the Arena Walk.



INTRODUCTION

One of the aims of the Association for the Development of Aljarafe-Doñana is to contribute to the socio-economic development of the Region by promoting its resources.

One such resource is the natural and in particular ornithological wealth in the Doñana National and Natural Park areas. In addition the region has a large heterogeneous ecosystem with a wealth of species and unique spaces, offering the visitor an attractive network of routes for watching birds.

In order to promote this natural and specially ornithological resource, the main areas where birds can be observed have been identified and five routes have been designed that take in these areas. This work has resulted in this display which contains information to enable bird and nature watching in the Aljarafe-Doñana Region.

Each route presents a different scenario, a distinct content from an ornithological, interpretative and educational point of view. In addition to being places particularly suited to bird watching, nearly all of them offer an incomparable setting for rural tourism activities.

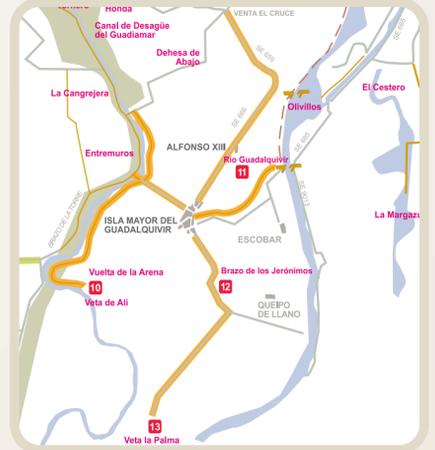
We hope you enjoy it.

ROUTE II
 Rice fields route

The rice fields are immersed in the marshes of Guadalquivir, inside the ends of the municipalities of La Puebla del Río and Isla Mayor and extending 30.000 has. The biological circle in which this crop is grown means it is a large alternative food supply for many aquatic birds when water and therefore food in the marsh is scarce.

We leave the C.V. of the Lower Meadow in the direction of Venta el Cruce and from there we walk along the road until Isla Mayor, crossing an extensive rice field. Once there we can choose from three different destinations within the same area:

- Direction Entremuros (right wall) towards Veta de Ali.
- Direction South towards Veta La Palma.
- Direction Isla Mínima of the Guadalquivir, passing by the Jerónimos Branch towards the River Guadalquivir.



ROUTE III

Guadalquivir route: The old river

Taking in the current channel of the Guadalquivir, the course of which flanks the marsh in the east, as well as its older branches, the Eastern Branch, the Jerónimos Branch and the Tower Branch, traces of the old river. They are bogs that cross the marshes, surrounded by rice fields and offering nesting sites, food and shelter to an important part of the bird community of Doñana.

From the C.V. of the Lower Meadow we head in the direction of Coria del Río in order to cross the Guadalquivir by barge and we go as far as Los Olivillos. From there we walk parallel to the Guadaira channel until crossing and entering the zone of the Eastern Branch, where we walk in a circle passing through the area of El Cestero, channelling the Eastern Branch and returning via the path parallel to the Guadalquivir and afterwards to Guadaira.

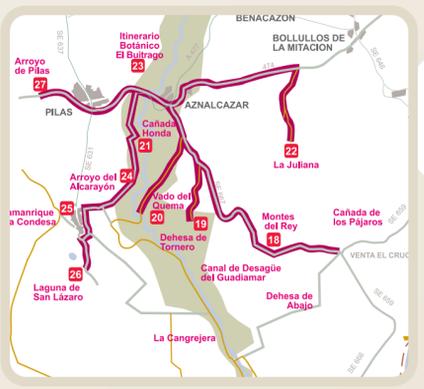


ROUTE IV

Forest Crown route of Doñana

Inside the area known as the Crown Forest is the zone where the largest vegetation predominates with shrubs represented to a greater or lesser extent. This area includes pines, meadows of kermes oaks, wild olive trees, eucalyptus and fruit trees, mainly from Aznalcázar, Puebla del Río, Pilas y Villamanrique de la Condesa. Each one accommodates characteristic fauna, almost always with a great variety of species from large birds of prey to small passeriform ones. In this way, the wooded galleries of the streams of Pilas and Alcarayón have been included in this route, as they also belong to this crown forest, although they do not have similar ecosystems.

Our route begins in the Lower Meadow, where there is the option of crossing the Crown Forest through the northern zone in the direction of Bollullos de la Mitación passing through Deep Valley towards La Juliana; or through the western zone in the direction of Pilas passing through the King's Peaks, Aljobar Pond, the Ford of Quema, the Lake of St. Lázaro, Villamanrique, and the streams Pilas and Alcarayón.



ROUTE V

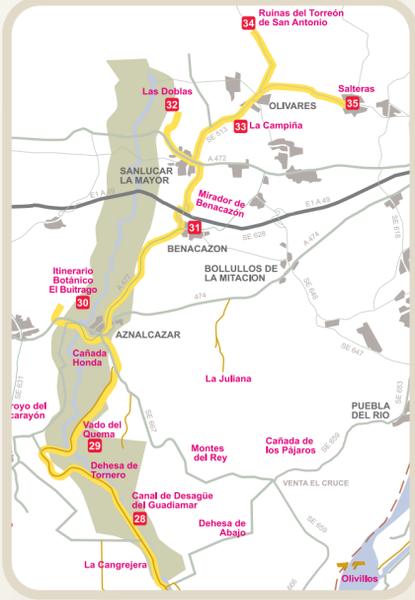
Green Corridor route- the open country of the Aljarafe

Today this is an area that has been restored and has been recuperated after a mining disaster in 1998. It is in the form of a longitudinal ecological corridor whose central axis is the River Guadiamar in its middle and lower courses, crossing the area of open country until reaching Doñana, where it joins the Guadalquivir a few kilometres from its mouth.

In its middle zone there is a magnificent wooden gallery that provides shelter and acts as a "green motorway" for many different species of animals moving from one place to another.

In the lower zone the Guadiamar is channelled towards the Tower Branch, where its channel is much wider and slower, and where its beaches accommodate thousands of aquatic birds that come in search of food and places to rest.

From the departure point of the Lower Meadow we walk as far as the Crabbery in order to continue parallel to the Guadiamar Drainage Channel until the Ford of Quema, and Aljobar Pond and continuing to Cordel de los Playeros until the locality of Aznalcázar. From there we can head for the Viewpoint of Benacazón and arrive at the Green Corridor, or even continue along the Green Corridor until Las Doblas and from there continue northwards to the open country and visiting the large fortified tower of S. Antonio and Salteras.

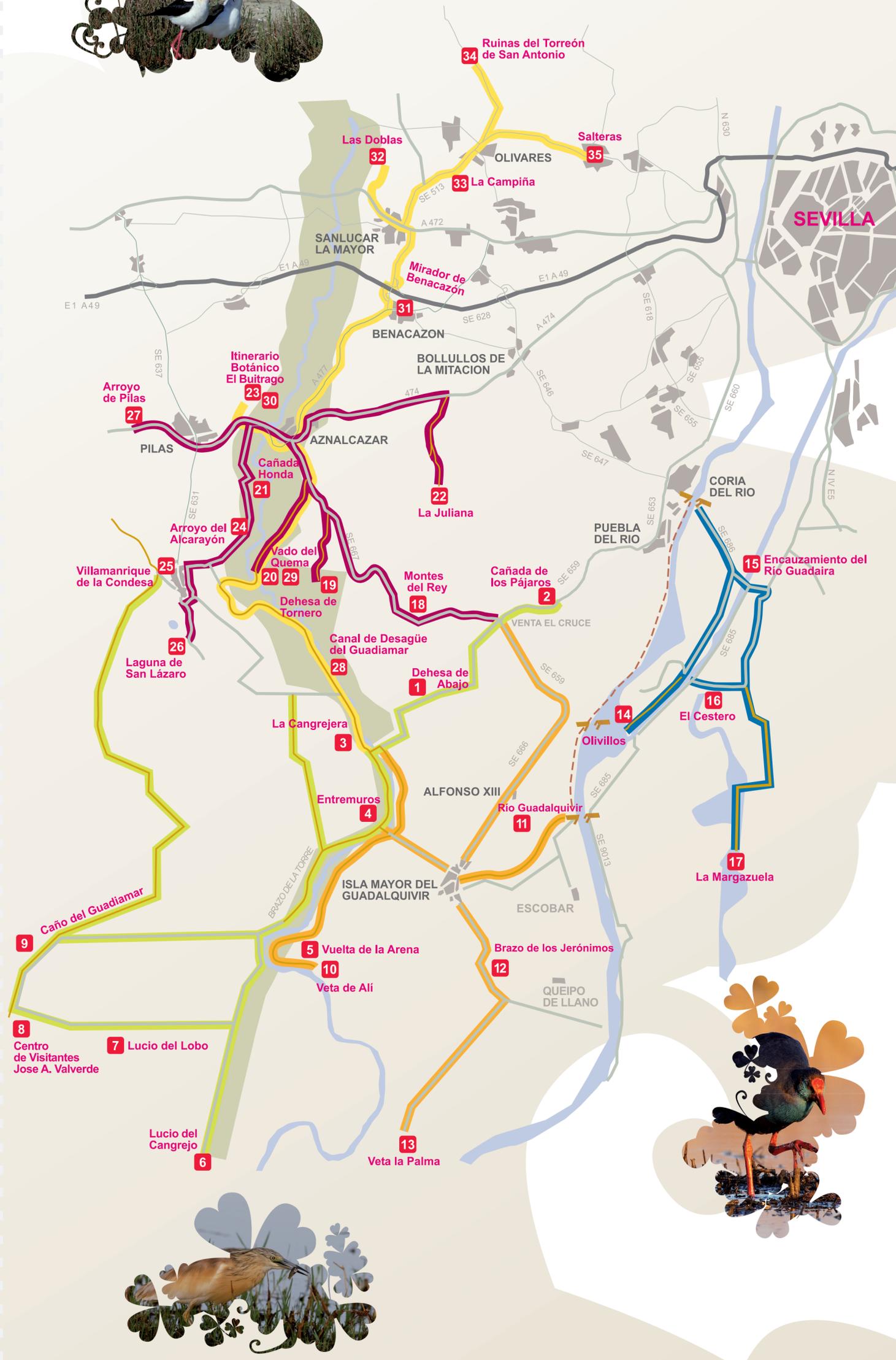


ALJARAFE-DOÑANA SHIRE × Sevilla



PLOTTING MAP

SPECIES	PRESENCE POINTS	BEST SEASON
European Bee-eater	1,2,3,4, 13 a 35	s,S
Honey Buzzard	2, 19 a 22	s
Common Snipe	2 a 17	W
Short-toed Tree Creeper	5 a 10	T
Osprey	2 a 7, 9,11,12,13,14,16,17	A,W
Booted Eagle	1 a 4, 11 a 17,34	s,S,A
Montagu's Harrier	4,33,34	s,S
Marsh Harrier	1-16, 28 a 31	T
Hen Harrier	4,9,10,32 a 35	W,s
Black-tailed Godwit	2,4,6,9, 14 a 17	A,W
Bar-tailed Godwit	7,9,17	W
Stone Curlew	4,10,32,33,35	T
Woodchat Shrike	1,2,8,14,17,18,22,24,29 a 33	s,S
Masked Shrike	1,2,8,13,18,22,24,29 a 33	T
Hobby	19 a 22, 24	S
Skylark	4,13,14,32,33	T
Mallard	1 a 17, 23,26 a 31	T
Gadwall	1,6 a 9, 13,16,29	T
Pintail	1,2,6,7,8,9,13,29	T
Pintail	3,6,7,9,13,16,17	W
Common Sandpiper	1,2,3,6,7,9,13,16,17	T
Green Sandpiper	1,2,3,6,7,9,13,16,17	W
Greylag Goose	1,2,4 a 10, 13	W
Common Guillemot	1,2,6,7,8,13,16,17	W
Common Redshank	1 a 9, 13,16,17	T
Common Redshank	5,6,7,9,13,16,17	W
Scops Owl	12,14,23,26,27	S
Northern Lapwing	1 a 17, 24,32,33	A,W
Little Bittern	1,3,4,5,8,9,11 a 17, 28,29	T
Little Bittern	3,4,5,8,9,13	T
Avocet	1 a 9, 11,12,13 a 17	T
Tawny Pipit	2,4,5,6,7,13 a 16	A,W
Short-eared Owl	4,6,7,9,13	W
Long-eared Owl	2,18 a 22	T
Eagle Owl	2,2	T
Zitting Cisticola	1 a 17	s,S
Zitting Cisticola	1 a 24,29 a 31	T
Grasshopper Warbler	3,4,9,13,16,17	s,S
Savi's Warbler	3,4,5,8,9,13,16,17	s,S
Savi's Warbler	1 a 9, 10,11,12,13	T
Allen's Gallinule	2,4,6,13,16,17	T
Collared Pratincole	2 a 7, 9, 13 a 17	S
Collared Pratincole	2, 18 a 22, 24	T
Great Tit	1,2,12, 18 a 24, 26,27,30,31	T
Sedge Warbler	1,3,4,13,14,16,17	s,S
Sedge Warbler	3,13,16	s,S
Reed Warbler	1 a 9, 12 a 17	s,S
Great Reed Warbler	1 a 9, 12 a 17	s,S
Garganey	1,2,7,13,16	s,S
Common Teal	1,2,7,8,13,15,16,29	s,S
Common Teal	1,4,6,7,8,9,13,14,15,16	s,S
Lesser Kestrel	18, 33 a 36	s,S
Lesser Kestrel	1 a 35	T
Little Tern	1,5,6,9,13	T
Wren	1,2,12,13,14, 19 a 22	T
Wren	1,2,6,7,8,9,13,14,15,16,17	T
Ringed Plover	1,2,6,7,8,9,13,14,15,16,17	T
Grey Plover	2,4,10,13	A,W
Grey Plover	2,10, 18 a 22, 23,31	s,S
White Stork	1 a 35	T
Black Stork	1,3,4,5,6,7,9,10,11,13,14,16,17	A,W
Black-winged Stilt	1 a 18, 28,29	T
Common Quail	4, 10,22, 30 a 33	S
Crested Lark	1 a 35	T
Black-eared Wheatear	2 a 7, 10,13,14,16,17,33,34,35	s,S
Great Cormorant	5,9,12,13,14,15,29	W
Dunlin	1 a 18	T
Great Spotted Cuckoo	2,4,8,22	s,S
Great Spotted Cuckoo	1,2,5,6,7,8,9,13,14,29	A,W
Grey Cuckoo	2, 18 a 22, 23,24	s,S
Short-toed Eagle	7,8,9,13,19,22	s,S
Sardinian Warbler	1,2, 18 a 22, 24	s,S
Common Whitethroat	2,14, 18 a 22	A,s
Black-shouldered Kite	3,18,22,23,28,29	T
Reed Bunting	3,4,5,6,8,9,13,14,16	A,W
Merlin	4,7,10,13	W
Merlin	1 a 9, 13 a 17	T
Grey Phalarope	1,2,7,8,9,13	T
Common Coot	1 a 17, 28,29,32	T
Common Coot	1,2,7,9,13,15,29	T
Whiskered Tern	1,2,7,8,9,13,15,16	s,S
Pin-tailed Sandgrouse	7,10,13	T
Little Egret	1 a 13, 19 a 17	T
Little Egret	3,4,6,9,13	A,W
Squacco Heron	1,3,7,8,9,13	s,S
Purple Heron	1,3 a 9,13	s,S
Grey Heron	1 a 17, 23,24,28,29	T
Sparrowhawk	18 a 22	A,W
Black-headed Gull	1 a 9, 11 a 17	T
Red-rumped Swallow	20,23,26,27	s,S
Jackdaw	1,2,8,	T
Common Crane	1,4,5,6,7,13	W
Peregrine	2,6,7,9,13,16	T
Goldfinch	1 a 35	T
Yellow Wagtail	1 a 9,13,15,16,31	s,S
Barn Owl	1 a 35	T
Siskin	2,4,8,9,10,13	W
Siskin	2,13,29	T
River Kingfisher	1 a 17	T
Night Heron	1,2,3,8,9,10,11,12,13,14,15,16	T
Black Kite	18 a 25	s,S
Red Kite	1 a 18, 19,20	s,S
Long-tailed Tit	13,18,19,20,26,27	T
Long-tailed Tit	1 a 35	T
Glossy Ibis	1 a 9, 11,13,15,16	T
Golden Oriole	12,14,26,27	T
European Storm-petrel	3,4,5,6,8,9, 13 a 17	W,s
Linnet	1 a 35	W
Linnet	1,2,6,7,8,9,13,15,16	T
Bluethroat	3,4,5,9,13,15,16,17	A,W
Barbary Partridge	18 a 24, 29,36	T
Green Woodpecker	18 a 24	T
Green Woodpecker	3,4,5,8,9,13,15	T
Greater Scaup	1,2,5,6,7,8,9,13,14,15,29	A,W
Tufted Duck	2,13,14,29	T
Tufted Duck	13,29	T
Red-billed Quelea	18 a 24	T
Firecrest	18 a 22	T
Nightingale	12,13,14,23,26,27	s,S
Wigeon	5,6,7,8,9	W
Wigeon	33	T
Common Shelduck	1,7,9	W
Short-toed Lark	1 a 16, 16	T
Lesser Short-toed Lark	4,10,15,16	T
Corn Bunting	1 a 10, 13,15,16,17,29,35	W,s,S
European Serin	1 a 35	T
Melodious Warbler	1 a 5, 8,13,15,16,17	s,S



ROUTE I

- MARSHES ROUTE OF DOÑANA**
- Dehesa de Abajo
 - Cañada de los Pájaros
 - La Cangrejera
 - Entremuros
 - Vuelta de la Arena
 - Lucío del Cangrejo
 - Lucío del Lobo
 - Centro de Visitantes "José Antonio Valverde"
 - Caño del Guadiamar

ROUTE II

- RICE FIELDS ROUTE**
- Veta de Ali
 - Río Guadalquivir
 - Brazo de los Jerónimos
 - Veta la Palma

ROUTE III

- GUADALQUIVIR ROUTE**
- Olivillos
 - Encauzamiento del Río Guadaira
 - El Cestero
 - La Margazuela

ROUTE IV

- FOREST CROWN**
- Montes del Rey
 - Dehesa de Tornero
 - Vado del Quema
 - Cañada Honda
 - La Juliana
 - Itinerario Botánico
 - Arroyo del Alcarayón
 - Villamanrique de la Condesa
 - Laguna de San Lázaro
 - Arroyo de Pilas

ROUTE V

- GREEN CORRIDOR**
- Canal de Desagüe del Guadiamar
 - Vado del Quema
 - Cañada Honda
 - Mirador de Benacazón
 - Las Doblas
 - La Campiña
 - Ruinas del Torreón de San Antonio
 - Salteras

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- Motorway and roads
- Settlements
- Rivers and lakes
- Green Corridor
- Sites of interest

s = spring W = Winter A = Autumn S = Summer