

# Rare Birds in Extremadura

4th report from the Extremadura Rarities Committee  
(CREX) 2020



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## **Rare Birds in Extremadura: 4th report from the Extremadura Rarities Committee (CREX) 2020**

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### **SUMMARY**

This document is the fourth report from the Extremaduran Rarities Committee (CREX). The committee was created in 2016 and comprises seven members. 56 records have been assessed for the year 2020, apart from three records from 2019 and a single record from 2016. 96.4% of the records received were accepted. In 2020, just 52 records were received, 58.9% of the total received for 2019. The Covid-19 pandemic has had an important impact on records received, as the lockdown between the 14th of March and the 11<sup>th</sup> of May had a negative impact on international and national birding tourism as well as local birding in our region. However, lockdown did generate interest in audible nocturnal migration (NocMig), which resulted in two records of Baillon's Crake *Zapornia pusilla*, whose calls were recorded on new recording equipment. Other noteworthy records that appear in this report are of Barnacle Goose *Branta leucopsis*, after a three-year absence of records in the region, the sixth record of Corn Crake *Crex crex* which unfortunately referred to another illegally shot individual, the fifth record of Lesser Yellowlegs *Tringa flavipes* and the fourth of Red-throated Pipit *Anthus cervinus*.

### **INTRODUCTION**

This is the fourth report of the Extremaduran Rarities Committee (CREX), which was formed in 2016. It is in charge of compiling and assessing all records of birds considered regional rarities in Extremadura, as well as overseeing the delivery of records of national rarities in the territory to the Spanish SEO National Rarities Committee (herewith referred to as CR).

## Report layout

All records featured in this report correspond to 2020 except for three records from 2019 and a single record from 2016. Records appear in the report in taxonomical order. Each observation of a species is detailed as follows: 1) year; 2) province; 3) locality (area and municipality); 4) number of individuals present; 5) sex and/ or age of individual(s) seen (where determinable); 6) date (day and month); 7) name of observer (corresponding to the order put in the original record form received by the committee) and 8) photo (where received).

## How CREX works

Considerable work has gone into the collection and compilation of records for the region, both historic but in the main from since 2016. 570 records have been assessed to date. However, it should be remembered that the records presented in this report only correspond to those whose authors have sent in the record for assessment by the committee, or which have been gleaned from birder WhatsApp groups and platforms like eBird, Observado or foroavex, an online forum for birdwatchers in Extremadura.

In this report, 56 records were assessed, of which 50 (88.2%) referred to regional rarities and 6 (10.8%) **national rarities (NR)**. **These last correspond to three taxa: Sociable Lapwing *Vanellus gregarius*, Lesser Yellowlegs *Tringa flavipes* and Corn Crake *Crex crex***. These have been submitted to the CR for consideration. However, CREX has carried out a preliminary assessment of these records given that the majority are sufficiently documented as to make a concrete decision on the veracity of the observations. They will be formally accepted and rejected pending the decision of the CR.

Of the 56 records received, 54 (96.4%) were accepted while the rest were rejected. As in other rarities committees, CREX assesses each record according to all available evidence and decides whether the observation is irrefutable or whether it cannot be accepted due to a lack of information. Records are divided into four categories:

**A) Accepted Records:** those observations where no doubt as to their veracity exists from the information received

**B) Records attributed to species of Unknown Origin**

**C) Pending Records:** those observations where more information was necessary to allow their proper valuation

**D) Rejected Records:** those records deemed unacceptable due to a failure to receive more information or where the description referred to another species/ taxon.

A number in brackets separated by a forward slash (x/x) appears after the scientific name of each species. The first numeral corresponds to the number of accepted records of the species currently documented for Extremadura, and the second numeral represents total number of individuals seen. It should be pointed out that this figure does not correspond to the total number of individuals of a species recorded in Extremadura, given there are still many historical

records that have not yet been considered by the committee. These historical records can be found in the latest annual publication (Sánchez, Mayordomo, Prieta & Cardalliaget, 2020).

Taxa considered rarities in Extremadura can be found on the CREX website at <http://crextremadura.info/listado-de-especies-homologables/>

Criteria for the inclusion of taxa on this list are as follows:

- Less than 40 records in the last ten years (average of four records annually)
- Less than three annual records in seven of the last ten years
- Three or more years with no records in the last ten years

**This report is the result of the work of the CREX members, who are:**

- **Adjudicating members:**

Marc Gálvez

Fergus Crystal

Martin Kelsey

Hugo Sánchez (Secretary)

Sergio Mayordomo

- **Non-adjudicating members:**

José Luis Bautista

Raúl Granados

### ***How to collaborate with CREX***

CREX asks all bird observers in Extremadura to kindly submit their records of rare or scarce birds in the region for consideration by the committee, old records as well as new ones. To make the process easier, there is a record form on our website that can be filled out online <http://crextremadura.info/enviar-cita/>. The website serves as a touchpoint for birders in Extremadura or birders from abroad who are visiting the area. All the latest information of recent sightings of rarities and their locations are posted on the regularly updated site, in Spanish and English. There is also information on the rarities that can be found in the region. Records can also be registered by email to [contact@crextremadura.info](mailto:contact@crextremadura.info) or on the CREX Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/crextremadura.info/>.

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

CREX wishes to thank all observers who sent in records and photos in 2019. Thanks also to Magnus Robb, and especially to Miguel Rodríguez-Esteban, whose revisions substantially improved the quality of this edition. Thanks to all the sponsors of our website for creating and continuing to fund the project, and to Isabel Rodríguez for her continuing work in running the CREX website.



## Sponsors in 2020



Links:

**Birding Extremadura**  
<http://www.birdingextremadura.com/>

**Iberian Nature**  
<http://www.iberian-nature.com>

**Iduna Tours**  
<https://www.idunatours.com/>

**Lonely Birder**  
<http://lonelybirder.com/>

**Spainbirds**  
<https://www.spainbirds.com/>

**Wildroots**  
<https://www.wildrootsextremadura.com/>



# LIST OF RECORDS 2020

## A) ACCEPTED RECORDS

### BARNACLE GOOSE

*Branta leucopsis* (8/14)

- **2020. BADAJOZ.** Canchales res., Mérida: 1 on 29th Dec (José Luis Vinagre).



**Barnacle Goose** *Branta leucopsis*. Canchales reservoir, (Mérida, Badajoz). Photo: José Luis Vinagre.

### GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE

*Anser albifrons* (21/63)

- **2020. BADAJOZ.** Casas de Hitos drainage pond, Navalvillar de Pela: 1st w. on 8th Jan (Martin Kelsey, Patrick Kelsey).
- **2020. CÁCERES.** Logrosán rice field; 2 (1st w. and adult) 18th Nov (Hugo Sánchez, Raquel Lozano).
- **2020. CÁCERES.** Madrigalejo, Casas de Hitos rice fields: 1 ad 22nd Dec (David Lindo).



**Greater White-fronted Goose** *Anser albifrons*. Logrosán rice fields, (Logrosán, Cáceres). Photo: Hugo Sánchez.

### LITTLE SWIFT

*Apus affinis* (3/3)

- **2020. CÁCERES.** Los Arenales, Cáceres: 1 on 16th Jun (Raúl Granados, Fátima Romero).

### CORN CRAKE (NR)

*Crex crex* (6/6)

- **2019. BADAJOZ.** Los Santos de Maimona: 1 shot illegally on 1st Dec (anonymous, submitted by Francisco Montaña).



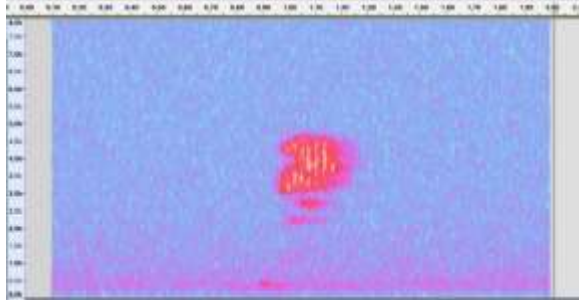
**Corn Crane** *Crex crex*. Los Santos de Maimona. Photo: Anon., record submitted by Francisco Montaña.

## FOURTH REPORT OF THE EXTREMADURAN RARITIES COMMITTEE (CREX) 2019

### BAILLON'S CRAKE

*Zapornia pusilla* (7/7)

- **2020. BADAJOZ.** Hornachos: 1 on 10th Apr (Eduardo Realinho) detected and recorded on nocturnal migration.
- **2020. BADAJOZ.** Don Álvaro: 1 on 21st Apr (Fergus Crystal) detected and recorded on nocturnal migration.



**Baillon's Crake** *Zapornia pusilla*. Hornachos (Badajoz). Sonogram: Eduardo Realinho.

### EURASIAN OYSTERCATCHER

*Haematopus ostralegus* (4/7)

- **2020. BADAJOZ.** Villalba de los Barros res., Fuente del Maestro: 3 on 18th May (José Luis Bautista).

### SOCIABLE LAPWING (NR)

*Vanellus gregarius* (16/16)

- **2020. BADAJOZ.** Cabeza del Buey, La Serena: 1 ad 13th Jan (Antonio Carrasco, Francisco Montoro, M<sup>ª</sup> José Verdejo).
- **2020. CÁCERES.** West of Aldea del Obispo, Trujillo: 1st w. from 17th Jan (Neil Renwick) to 28<sup>th</sup> Feb.
- **2020. BADAJOZ.** Los Manchones, Villareal de Olivenza: 1 ad from 24th Oct (Julián Cabello) to 13th Nov. Probably the same individual as observed there in 2017 and 2019. Record accepted by CR-SEO (Rodríguez-Esteban *et al.*, 2020b).

- **2020. BADAJOZ.** Cabeza del Buey, La Serena: 1st w. from 21st Nov (Juan José Benítez –cover photograph-, Rafael Almena) to Jan 2021. Record

accepted by CR-SEO (Rodríguez-Esteban *et al.*, 2020b).



**Sociable Lapwing** *Vanellus gregarius*. La Serena (Cabeza del Buey, Badajoz). Photo: unknown author (various observers).

### BAR-TAILED GODWIT

*Limosa lapponica* (12/21)

- **2020. BADAJOZ.** Villalba de los Barros res.: 1st w. on 5th Nov (José María Álvarez).
- **2020. CÁCERES.** Portaje res., Portaje: 1 ad on 8th Sept (Sergio Mayordomo).



**Bar-tailed Godwit** *Limosa lapponica*. Villalba de los Barros reservoir (Villalba de los Barros, Badajoz). Photo: José María Álvarez.



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### RED KNOT

*Calidris canutus* (10/18)

- **2020. BADAJOZ.** Canchales res., Mérida: 1 ad 28th Aug (José Luis Bautista).
- **2020. CÁCERES.** Portaje res., Torrejoncillo: 1 juv 20th Sept (Sergio Mayordomo).
- **2020. BADAJOZ.** Canchales res., Mérida: 3 juvs 21st Sept (José Luis Bautista). One of them stayed until 27th Sept.
- **2020. CÁCERES.** Portaje res., Torrejoncillo: 4 ads 3rd Oct (Ismael Romero).



**Red Knot** *Calidris canutus*. Portaje reservoir (Torrejoncillo, Cáceres). Photo: Sergio Mayordomo.

### RED-NECKED PHALAROPE

*Phalaropus lobatus* (4/4)

- **2016. CÁCERES.** Marinejo res., Trujillo: 1 juv 1st Sept (Virginia Fairchild, Robert Rackcliffe).



**Red-necked Phalarope** *Phalaropus lobatus*. Marinejo reservoir (Trujillo, Cáceres). Photo: Virginia Fairchild.

### MARSH SANDPIPER

*Tringa stagnatilis* (11/12)

- **2020. BADAJOZ.** Palazuelo rice fields: 1 ad 8th Feb (Julián Cabello).
- **2020. CÁCERES.** Galisteo pool, Galisteo: 1 juv 19th-22nd Sept (Sergio Mayordomo).



**Marsh Sandpiper** *Tringa stagnatilis*. Galisteo pool (Galisteo, Cáceres). Photo: Antonio Ceballos.

### LESSER YELLOWLEGS (NR)

*Tringa flavipes* (5/5)

- **2020. CÁCERES. Galisteo pool, Galisteo:** 1 juv 1<sup>st</sup>-15th Nov (Sergio Mayordomo). Fifth record for Extremadura. Record accepted by CR-SEO (Rodríguez-Esteban *et al.*, 2020c).



**Lesser Yellowlegs** *Tringa flavipes*. Galisteo lake (Galisteo, Cáceres). Photo: Sergio Mayordomo.

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### LITTLE GULL

*Hydrocoloeus minutus* (8/10)

- **2020. BADAJOZ.** Alange res., Alange: 1st w. 21st Jan (Marc Gálvez).
- **2020. CÁCERES.** Laguna de El Estanco, Oliva de Plasencia: 1st w. on 22nd Oct (Hugo Sánchez, Raquel Lozano).
- **2020. BADAJOZ.** Alange res., Alange: 1st w. 2nd Nov (Raúl Granados).
- **2020. CÁCERES.** Alcollarín res., Alcollarín: 1 ad 20th Nov (Seppo Hjerppe).



Little Gull *Hydrocoloeus minutus*. Laguna del Estanco (Oliva de Plasencia, Cáceres). Photo: Hugo Sánchez.

### COMMON GULL

*Larus canus* (29/36)

- **2020. CÁCERES.** Valdesalor res., Cáceres: 1 (2nd summer) on 24th Apr (Raúl Granados).
- **2020. CÁCERES.** El Gordo, Valdecañas res.: 1 (2nd summer) 13th Jul (Hugo Sánchez) to 28th Aug.
- **2020. CÁCERES.** El Gordo, Valdecañas res.: 1 ad 20th Aug (José Luis Bautista, Hugo Sánchez) to 13th Sept.
- **2020. CÁCERES.** Guadiloba res., Cáceres: 1st w. from 18th Dec (Raúl Granados, Fátima Romero) through to Jan 2021.

From 2021, *Larus canus* will be removed from the list of rarities in Extremadura.



Common Gull *Larus canus*. Valdecañas res. (El Gordo, Cáceres). Photo: Hugo Sánchez.

### CASPIAN TERN

*Hydroprogne caspia* (16/28)

- **2020. BADAJOZ.** Alqueva res., Olivenza: 1 ad 8th Mar (Julián Cabello) to 22nd May, when a second individual was observed.



Caspian Tern *Hydroprogne caspia*. Alqueva reservoir (Olivenza, Badajoz). Photo: Julián Cabello.

### COMMON TERN

*Sterna hirundo* (20/35)

Records away from Valdecañas reservoir:

- **2020. BADAJOZ.** Guadiana river, Villareal. 5 on 12th Jul (José Antonio Román, José María Álvarez).
- **2020. BADAJOZ.** Canchales res., Mérida: 1 on 1st Aug (José María Benítez).

From 2021, *Sterna hirundo* will be removed from the list of rarities in Extremadura.

FOURTH REPORT OF THE EXTREMADURAN RARITIES COMMITTEE (CREX) 2019

WHITE-WINGED TERN

*Chlidonias leucopterus* (3/3)

- **2020. CÁCERES.** Arrocampo res., Saucedilla: 1st w. 29th Sept (Jesús Carreras, Isabel Mañas).



**White-winged Tern** *Chlidonias leucopterus*. Arrocampo reservoir (Saucedilla, Cáceres). Photo: Isabel Mañas.

BEARDED VULTURE

*Gypaetus barbatus* (6/6)

- **2020. CÁCERES.** Torrejón el Rubio, Monfragüe N. P.: 1 2nd yr female 25th May (Joaquín Mazón, Carlos Casas, Deirdre Molinero). This individual, born in 2019 and named “Transhumancia”, was from the LIFE Bearded Vulture reintroduction project in Andalusia.



**Bearded Vulture** *Gypaetus barbatus*. Monfragüe National Park (Torrejón el Rubio, Cáceres). Photo: Joaquín Mazón.

RÜPPELL’S VULTURE

*Gyps rueppelli* (9/9)

- **2020. BADAJOZ.** Alcántara quarry, Alcántara: 1 imm 5th May (José Luis Bautista).
- **2020. BADAJOZ.** Hornachos, over town: 1 imm 9th May (Eduardo Realinho).

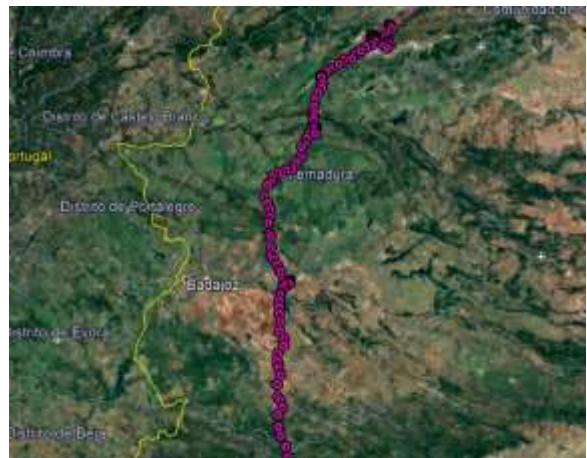


**Rüppell's Vulture** *Gyps rueppelli*. Alcántara quarry (Alcántara, Cáceres). Photo: José Luis Bautista.

LESSER-SPOTTED X SPOTTED EAGLE

*Clanga pomarina x clanga* (1/1)

- **2020. CÁCERES/BADAJOZ.** An individual of Lithuanian origin fitted with a GPS/ GSM transmitter as a juvenile in 2015, crossed Extremadura from north to south in Oct 2020, resting overnight at Jerte (CC) on 22nd and Alange (BA) on 23rd Oct. This same individual has crossed Extremadura partially or totally on migrations since 2016.



**Lesser-spotted x Spotted Eagle** *Clanga pomarina x clanga*. Migration track of bird in Oct 2020 (Ornitela/Movebank).



### PALLID HARRIER

*Circus macrourus* (21/21)

- **2019. CÁCERES.** La Pulgosa, Cáceres: 2nd cy female 16th May (Frédéric Baeuez, Jérémy Calvo).
- **2020. CÁCERES.** Cáceres plains, Cáceres: 1 ad male 28th Dec 1 (Raúl Granados, Fátima Romero). Probably the same individual that has wintered in the area since Feb 2018.



**Pallid Harrier** *Circus macrourus*. Cáceres plains (Cáceres). Photo: Frédéric Baeuez.

### PERERGRINE FALCON SSP. CALIDUS

*Falco peregrinus calidus* (2/2)

- **2020. BADAJOZ.** Canchales res., Mérida: 1<sup>st</sup> year bird on 7th Nov (José Luis Vinagre). Second accepted record of this subspecies in Extremadura.



**Peregrine Falcon ssp. calidus** *Falco peregrinus calidus*. Canchales reservoir (Mérida, Badajoz). Photo: José Luis Vinagre.

### ELEONORA'S FALCON

*Falco eleonora* (4/4)

- **2020. CÁCERES.** Jálama summit, Acebo: 1 on 19th Jun (Miguel Rodríguez-Esteban, Iraida Marijuán).
- **2020. CÁCERES.** Tornavacas pass, Tornavacas: 1 on 20th Jun (Antonio Ceballos).

### RED-THROATED PIPIT

*Anthus cervinus* (4/4)

- **2020. CÁCERES.** Parque de la Isla, Plasencia: 1st w. 7th Jan (Sergio Mayordomo). Fourth record for Extremadura.

### WESTERN YELLOW WAGTAIL THUNBERGI

*Motacilla flava thunbergi* (6/6)

- **2020. CÁCERES.** Portaje res., Torrejoncillo: 1 ad male 20th Sept (Sergio Mayordomo).



**Western Yellow Wagtail ssp. thunbergi** *Motacilla flava thunbergi*. Portaje reservoir (Torrejoncillo, Cáceres). Photo: Sergio Mayordomo.

### FIELDFARE

*Turdus pilaris* (24/136)

- **2020. CÁCERES.** Aldea del Obispo: 1 on 20th Nov (Neil Renwick).
- **2020. CÁCERES.** Tiétar river, Talayuela: 1 on 3rd Dec (José Luis Guisado).

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- **2020. CÁCERES.** Navezuelas: 4 on 6th Dec (José María Benítez).

From 2021, *Turdus pilaris* will no longer be included on the rarities list for Extremadura.

### MOUSTACHED WARBLER

*Acrocephalus melanopogon* (7/7)

Records away from Arrocampo reservoir:

- **2020. CÁCERES.** Filled extraction pit, Madrigalejo: 1 on 6th Jan (Martin Kelsey). Probably the same individual that has wintered there since Nov 2017.

### AQUATIC WARBLER

*Acrocephalus paludicola* (6/6)

- **2020. CÁCERES.** Montehermoso rice fields, Montehermoso: 1 ad (EURING 4) on 26<sup>th</sup> Aug (Hugo Sánchez).



**Aquatic Warbler** *Acrocephalus paludicola*. Montehermoso rice fields (Montehermoso, Cáceres). Photo: Hugo Sánchez.

### YELLOW-BROWED WARBLER

*Phylloscopus inornatus* (10/11)

- **2020. CÁCERES.** Serradilla: 1 on 7th Oct (David Cobos).



**Yellow-browed Warbler** *Phylloscopus inornatus* Serradilla (Cáceres). Photo: David Cobos.

### WALLCREEPER

*Tichodroma muraria* (6/7)

- **2020. CÁCERES.** Peña Buitrera, Cabañas del Castillo: 1 on 18th Nov (Hugo Sánchez, Raquel Lozano). Probably the same individual found wintering in the area since Feb 2019. It was ringed in Feb 2020 and confirmed as the same individual that returned in Nov 2020.

### YELLOWHAMMER

*Emberiza citrinella* (3/5)

- **2020. CÁCERES.** El Horcajuelo, La Garganta: 2 on 18th Oct (Antonio Ceballos).



**A) RECORDS OF UNCERTAIN ORIGIN**

- No records received.

**B) PENDING RECORDS**

- No records pending.

**C) REJECTED RECORDS**

RED-THROATED PIPIT

*Anthus cervinus*

- **2020. BADAJOZ.** Valverde de Mérida: 1 on 22nd Sept. Heard and seen briefly in flight. Without a recording, the record cannot be accepted.

YELLOW-BROWED WARBLER

*Phylloscopus inornatus*

- **2019. BADAJOZ.** Tejares gravel pits, Villanueva de la Serena: 1 heard on 30th Oct. Without a recording, the record cannot be accepted.

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