

Rare Birds in Extremadura

6th Report of the Extremaduran Rarities Committee
(CREX) 2023



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6º INFORME DEL COMITÉ DE RAREZAS DE EXTREMADURA (CREX) 2023

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SUMMARY

This document is the sixth Extremaduran Rarities Committee (CREX) report. CREX was created in 2016 and comprises six members. For this report, 61 records of rare birds in the region were assessed, all of them from the year 2022. All records submitted were accepted. In 2022 Extremadura saw its first record of Citrine Wagtail *Lavandera citreola*. Other records of interest were a Great Northern Diver *Gavia immer* at Proserpina dam (a different individual to the one recorded there in 2021), a record count of 107 Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica*, four records each of Red Phalarope *Phalaropus fulicarius* and Black-legged Kittiwake *Rissa tridactyla* due to strong meteorological conditions brought about in December by Storm Denise, the third records of Great Black-backed Gull *Larus atlanticus*, Parasitic Jaeger *Stercorarius parasiticus* and Sandwich Tern *Thalasseus sandvicensis*, and the second records of White-backed Vulture *Gyps africanus* and White-tailed Eagle *Haliaeetus albicilla* (From the introduction project in Asturias), which were recorded as a result of GPS tracking.

INTRODUCTION

This is the sixth report of the [Extremaduran Rarities Committee \(CREX\)](#). CREX was founded in 2016 and is dedicated to collecting and assessing all reports of wild birds considered rarities in the region of Extremadura, Spain. CREX also sends on records of national rarities seen in its territory to the [SEO Rarites Committee \(CR\)](#) which periodically assess records and produce bimonthly updates: <https://seo.org/informes-rarezas/>.

Report layout

All records in this report refer to 2022. All recorded species are arranged taxonomically. For each entry, details are arranged in the following order: 1) year; 2) province (Caceres or Badajoz); 3) number of individuals observed; 4) age and sex (age in relative terms- e.g. adult, immature, or more exactly if the age is known by calendar year); 5) locality (site and municipality); 6) date or period of observation(s); 7) observer name (indicated on the rare record forms submitted to CREX); 8) photograph (where supporting images were received by the committee). Three-letter abbreviations are provided for months as are abbreviations of age/ sex: ad (adult); juv (juvenile); 1st w (first winter); imm (immature); 2nd cy (second calendar year); ind (individual). Reservoir is given as “res.”.

CREX Origins

Se Considerable effort has been made in the compilation of records of rare birds for the region, including older records but more completely from 2016. The tally stands at 679 records. However not every record is submitted to the committee and some work is involved in chasing up reports of rare birds in the region. Records assessed by the committee for the report are those that were submitted directly to the committee through the website or by email, or were posted in local birding fora (foroavex) or online platforms like eBird and Observado and collected by CREX members for evaluation.

A total of 61 records were assessed for this report, of which 58 (95%) were regional rarities and 3 (5%) were En este volumen se han procesado un total de 61 citas, de las cuales 58 (95%) son de rarezas regionales y 3 (5%) de **National Rarities (NR)**. These latter refer to two taxa: *Vanellus gregarius* and *Gyps africanus*, with the record of *Haliaeetus albicilla* coming from the Asturias introduction project for the species and thus considered a regional rarity. These latter records have been forwarded to the National Records Committee (CR). However, CREX has made a prior evaluation as the majority of these records are sufficiently documented to be able to include them in our reports while awaiting a verdict from the CR.

All 61 records received were accepted. As with other rarities committees, CREX evaluates each observation with its supporting evidence and determines whether the record is irrefutable or whether it is not possible to confirm the sighting due to the evidence received. Records are divided into the following four categories:

A) Accepted records: records where there is no doubt as to the veracity of the record, based on information received.

B) Records of birds of uncertain origin

C) Pending: records where more information or supporting evidence is required by CREX in order to proceed with the evaluation. This category is maintained until further information is received.

D) Rejected records: records where the information received was insufficient to ensure identification or where the information received referred to another taxon. To contest this decision further documentation is required.

Next to the biological name for each species are two figures in brackets separated by a slash (xx/xx). The first figure corresponds to the number of records of said species processed by CREX, and the second figure refers to the total number of individuals of that species recorded. It is important to point out that the total number represents only those records so far processed by CREX. The actual historical number is greater, but many of these records have so far not been evaluated by the committee. These records can be found in the latest annual report for Extremadura ([Sánchez, Mayordomo, Prieta & Cardalliaget, 2020](#)).

The Extremaduran rarities list can be found at the CREX website <http://crextremadura.info/listado-de-especies-homologables/>

Criteria for inclusion of a species on the Extremaduran rarities list are as follows:

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

This report is the result of work by the following members of CREX:

- **Adjudicating members:**

Marc Gálvez

Fergus Crystal

Martin Kelsey

Hugo Sánchez (Coordinator)

José Luis Bautista

Raúl Granados

How to collaborate with CREX

CREX invites all birders who visit or are active in Extremadura to submit their records of rare or scarce birds in the region, both recent and historical sightings. There is a submission page on the website where you can fill in your sightings online (<http://crextremadura.info/enviar-cita>). The website also provides useful information on the latest rare bird records in the region, including drop pins, so it is a useful tool for visiting and resident birders alike. Please forward this report or a link to the website to anyone who might be visiting the region in the future. At the moment, records can be submitted by email contact@crextremadura.info, our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/crextremadura.info/> or our Twitter account [@CrexExtremadura](#).

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The CREX team wish to thank all birders who kindly submitted their records and/or photos for this report. Also many thanks to our website sponsors for creating and financing the project, and to Isabel Rodriguex for her work in maintaining the website.

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LIST OF OBSERVATIONS 2022

A) ACCEPTED RECORDS

GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE

Anser albifrons (27/99)

- **2022. BADAJOZ.** 3 (2 ad, 1 1st w) Moheda Alta gravel pit, Navalvillar de Pela 22nd Oct (Seppo Hjerrpe). Three individuals in Madrigalejo in Jan 2023 were probably the same birds.
- **2022. BADAJOZ.** 2 (ad, 1st w) Canchales res., Merida 31st Dec through to Jan 2023 (José Luis Bautista).
- **2022. CÁCERES.** Torrejoncillo, embalse de Portaje. 2 (ad, 1st w) Portaje res., Torrejoncillo 17th Dec through to Jan 2023 Marco Antonio Sánchez and Raúl Granados).

LITTLE SWIFT

Apus affinis (5/5)

- **2022. BADAJOZ.** 1 Alange res., Alange 7th May (Yeray Seminario *et al.*).
- **2022. BADAJOZ.** de 1 Alange res., Oliva de Merida 14th Nov (Antonio Núñez).

GREAT NORTHERN DIVER

Gavia immer (2/2)

- **2022. BADAJOZ.** 1st w Proserpina dam, Merida 7th to 29th Jan (José María Benítez *et al.*).

Photos received confirm the bird was a first winter and so different from the first winter recorded at the same site in Jan 2021.



Great Northern Diver *Gavia immer*. Proserpina dam (Mérida, Badajoz). Photo: Neil Renwick.

NORTHERN BALD IBIS

Geronticus eremita (6/11)

- **2022. BADAJOZ.** A ringed adult was present at Finca Las Perrazas, Castuera from 7th Apr to 30th Nov (Jacinto P. comunicado por Juan José Benítez).

The bird was a male born in 2020 in the Basilea zoo and released at Barbate, Cadiz in February 2021 as part of the Andalusian reintroduction programme. This individual spent several months in the El Rocio marshes, Doñana where it lost its transmitter.



Northern bald Ibis *Geronticus eremita*. Finca Las Perrazas (Castuera, Badajoz). Photo: Juan José Benítez.

EURASIAN OYSTERCATCHER*Haematopus ostralegus* (6/9)

- 2022. CÁCERES. 1 Alcollarin res., Alcollarin on 13th Apr (Veronique Bouquelle).
- 2022. CÁCERES. 1 Tajo river at Romangordo 23rd Apr (Noel Keogh, Brian Porter, Jim Creamer).

SOCIABLE LAPWING (NR)*Vanellus gregarius* (18/18)

- 2022. BADAJOZ. 1 Morantes res., Montijo from 1st Jan (Jorge Rubio) to 20th Feb (see Pardo de Santayana *et al.* 2022a).
- 2022. BADAJOZ. 1 Puebla de Alcollarín ricefields 2nd- 11th Feb. (Arturo Esteban).



Sociable Lapwing *Vanellus gregarius*. Puebla de Alcollarín ricefields (Badajoz). Photo: José Luis Bautista.

BAR-TAILED GODWIT*Limosa lapponica* (14/164)

- 2022. BADAJOZ. 107 Palazuelo ricefields on 22nd Apr (John Muddeman *et al.*).
- 2022. CÁCERES. 36 Alcollarín reservoir, Alcollarin 22nd Apr (Martin Kelsey).

Unprecedented counts for this species in Extremadura. Previously the maximum count was of 36 at Aldea del Cano, Cáceres in April 2013.



Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica*. Palazuelo ricefields (Badajoz). Photo: Martin Kelsey.

RED KNOT*Calidris canutus* (18/28)

- 2022. BADAJOZ. 1 juv Esparragaleo pond, Esparragalejo 12th to 24th Sep (Francis Martín).
- 2022. BADAJOZ. 1 Arroyoconejo res., Llerena 19th Sep (Miguel Corvillo).
- 2022. CÁCERES. 1 ad Valdesalor res., Cáceres 29th Apr (Fátima Romero, Francis Martín).
- 2022. CÁCERES. 1 ad Valdecañas res., El Gordo 19th Jun (César Clemente, Sergio Mayordomo).
- 2022. CÁCERES. 1 juv Casar de Cáceres res., Casar de Cáceres, 1st and 2nd Sept (Francis Martín).



Red Knot *Calidris canutus*. Valdesalor res. (El Gordo, Cáceres). Photo: Francis Martín.

PECTORAL SANDPIPER

Calidris melanotos (20/22)

- 2022. CÁCERES. 1 ad Valdecañas res., El Gordo 19th- 21st Jul (César Clemente).
- 2022. CÁCERES. 1 ad, Charca del Cojuge, Casar de Cáceres 11th Aug (David Lindo). Present until 13th Aug at Casar de Cáceres res.



Pectoral Sandpiper *Calidris melanotos*. Valdecañas res. (el Gordo, Cáceres). Photo: César Clemente.

RED PHALAROPE

Phalaropus fulicarius (8/8)

- 2022. BADAJOZ. 1 Olivenza 17th Nov (José Sánchez).
- 2022. BADAJOZ. 1 Ruecas 15th Dec (José Antonio Román).
- 2022. CÁCERES. 1 Portaje res., Portaje 19th-20th Nov (Raúl Granados).
- 2022. CÁCERES. 1 Madrigalejo 29th Nov (Martin Kelsey).

A record season for Extremadura with four records due to meteorological conditions caused by Storm Denise.



Red Phalarope *Phalaropus fulicarius*. Portaje res. (Portaje, Cáceres). Photo: Raúl Granados.

BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE

Rissa tridactyla (7/7)

- 2022. BADAJOZ. 1 ad Palazuelo 23rd Nov (David Lindo, Ray York).
- 2022. BADAJOZ. 1 ad Alburquerque 26th Nov (Helios Dalmau et al.)
- 2022. CÁCERES. 1st w Portaje res., Portaje 21st Nov, (Raúl Granados).
- 2022. CÁCERES. 1st w Miajadas 24th Nov (Martin Kelsey) to 16th Dec.

A record season for Extremadura with four records, part of a record influx for Spain as a consequence of Storm Denise. This surpassed the previous record of three sightings in Feb 2009 after Hurricane Klaus.



Black-legged Kittiwake *Rissa tridactyla*. Miajadas (Cáceres). Photo: Martin Kelsey.

LITTLE GULL

Hydrocoloeus minutus (14/17)

- **2022. CÁCERES.** 1st w Monfrague NP, Torrejon el Rubio 21st Nov (André Geelhoed).
- **2022. CÁCERES.** 1 ad Alcollarin res., Alcollarin 16th Dec (Martin Kelsey).

GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL

Larus marinus (1/1)

- **2022. BADAJOZ.** 1st w Canchales res., Merida 15th Feb (Killian Mullaney, David Lindo).

Third record for Extremadura and the first since 2010.



Great Black-backed Gull *Larus marinus*. Canchales res. (Mérida, Badajoz). Photo: David Lindo.

CASPIAN TERN

Hydroprogne caspia (26/66)

- **2022. BADAJOZ.** 4 Alqueva, Villanueva del Fresno 19th Jan (Joaquín Mazón, José Luis Vinagre).

2022. BADAJOZ. 4- 11 individuals Badajoz weir, Badajoz from 28th Jan (Jesús Guerrero, José Leal *et al.*) to 23rd Apr. This is the highest count observed in Extremadura to date.

- **2022. BADAJOZ.** 1 Canchales res., Mérida 22nd Feb (Francis Prieto *et al.*).
- **2022. BADAJOZ.** 1 Alange res., Alange 9th to 30th Apr (Martin Kelsey).
- **2022. BADAJOZ.** 2-3 inds Canchales res., Merida 1st- 9th May (Francis Prieto).

- **2022. BADAJOZ.** 1 Canchales res., Merida 25th Aug (José Antonio Román).

- **2022. BADAJOZ.** 3 Villalba de los Barros res., Villalba de los Barros 16th Sep (José Antonio Román, José Leal, Francisco de la Cruz.).

- **2022. CÁCERES.** 1 Sierra Brava res., Zorita 16th Sep (Seppo Hjerpe).

- **2022. CÁCERES.** 1 Portaje res., Portaje 17th Sep (Victoria Utrera, José Velasco).



Caspian Tern *Hydroprogne caspia*. Badajoz weir (Badajoz). Photo: José Leal.

SANDWICH TERN

Thalasseus sandvicensis (1/8)

- **2022. CÁCERES.** 8 Valdesalor res., Cáceres 14th-15th Jul (Sebastián Molano).

Third record for Extremadura and the first since 2012.



Sandwich Tern *Thalasseus sandvicensis*. Valdesalor res (Valdesalor, Cáceres). Photo: Sebastián Molano.

PARASITIC JAEGER

Stercorarius parasiticus (1/1)

- 2022. CÁCERES. 1 Alpotrel res., Valencia de Alcántara 10th Sep (Fran J. Boraita).

Third record for Extremadura, adding to the 2021 record of a Parasitic or Long-tailed Jaeger para Extremadura, which had not been specifically identified due to video quality.



Parasitic Jaeger *Stercorarius parasiticus*. Alpotrel res. (Valencia de Alcántara, Cáceres). Photo: Fran J. Boraita.

BEARDED VULTURE

Gypaetus barbatus (9/9)

- 2022. CÁCERES. 2nd yr bird Monfragüe NP, Torrejón el Rubio on 2nd Jun (Martin Bro, José Arias et al.). From the Andalusian reintroduction programme.



Quebrantahuesos *Gypaetus barbatus*. Monfragüe NP (Torrejón el Rubio, Cáceres). Photo: José Arias.

WHITE-BACKED VULTURE (NR)

Gyps africanus (2/2)

- 2022. CÁCERES. Imm Coria 13th Jun (Javier Elorriaga pers. comm.).

On the same day the bird crossed into Portugal. The bird had been GPS tagged by Migres in Málaga. Second Extremaduran record (see Pardo de Santayana et al. 2022c).



White-backed Vulture *Gyps africanus*. The bird's movements during May and June. Photo: MIGRES.

RÜPPELL'S VULTURE

Gyps rueppelli (16/16)

- 2022. BADAJOZ. Imm Oliva de la Frontera 11th May (AMUS photocapture).
- 2022. BADAJOZ. Imm Montijo 4th Nov (Arturo Pérez).
- 2022. CÁCERES. Imm Monfragüe NP, Torrejón el Rubio 20th Jun (Javier Gómez).



Rüppell's Vulture *Gyps rueppelli*. Monfragüe NP (Torrejón el Rubio, Cáceres). Photo: Javier Gómez.

PALLID HARRIER

Circus macrourus (28/28)

- 2022. BADAJOZ. 2 cy bird at La Serena 11th Apr (Jorge Safara).
- 2022. BADAJOZ. 3 cy male Llerena 8th May (Rafael Vicente).
- 2022. BADAJOZ. Juv Villafranca de los Barros 2nd Dec. Brought into AMUS injured by gunshot the same day.
- 2022. CÁCERES. Ad male Las Canteras, Trujillo 17th Sep (Martin Pitt).



Pallid Harrier *Circus macrourus*. Llerena (Badajoz). Photo: Rafael Vicente.

WHITE-TAILED EAGLE

Haliaeetus albicilla (2/2)

- 2022. CÁCERES. 1 La Vera 2nd- 4th Apr (GREFA).

An individual named Sella. GPS data from the Asturias introduction programme: spent two nights (2nd and 3rd Apr 2022) in La Vera, Cáceres, approximately in the Jaranda gorge, then crossed the Gredos range and the central plain and returned north for the rest of April journeying over the Cantabrian and Pyrenean ranges.

PEREGRINE FALCON SSP: CALIDUS

Falco peregrinus calidus (4/4)

- 2022. BADAJOZ. 1st w/ imm at Calamonte was brought in dead to AMUS in late Nov.



Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus calidus*. Collected dead in Calamonte (Badajoz). Foto: AMUS.

RED-THROATED PIPIT

Anthus cervinus (6/6)

- 2022. BADAJOZ. 1 ad Vegas Altas ricefields, Navalvillar de Pela 9th- 11th Apr (Stephan S. Basen Lund).



Red-throated Pipit *Anthus cervinus*. Vegas Altas ricefields (Navalvillar de Pela, Badajoz). Photo: Raúl Granados.

YELLOW WAGTAIL SSP. THUNBERGI

Motacilla flava thunbergi (9/9)

- 2022. CÁCERES. Ad male at Hinojal 17th Apr (Ángel Bereje).

CITRINE WAGTAIL

Motacilla citreola (1/1)

- 2022. BADAJOZ. 1st w at Vegas Altas ricefields, Navalvillar de Pela, 28th Dec (Neil Renwick) to 4th Jan 2023.

First Record for Extremadura.



Citrine Wagtail *Motacilla citreola*. Vegas Altas ricefields (Navalvillar de Pela, Badajoz). Photo: Neil Renwick.

MOUSTACHED WARBLER

Acrocephalus melanopogon (8/9)

Due to the drop in records in recent years, all records for the region should be submitted, including those from Arrocampo.

- 2022. BADAJOZ. 2 in gravel pits, Puebla de la Calzada 23rd Feb (José Luis Bautista) to 16th Mar.

AQUATIC WARBLER

Acrocephalus paludicola (7/8)

- 2022. BADAJOZ. 2 Vegas Altas ricefields, Navalpilar de Pela 30th Aug (Martin Kelsey).



Aquatic Warbler *Acrocephalus paludicola*. Vegas Altas ricefields (Navalvillar de Pela, Badajoz). Photo: Martin Kelsey.

YELLOW-BROWED WARBLER

Phylloscopus inornatus (13/14)

- 2022. CÁCERES. 1 Cilleros on 26th Oct (Raúl Granados).

- 2022. CÁCERES. 1 Alcollarín from 7th to 13th Nov (Martin Kelsey).



Yellow-browed Warbler *Phylloscopus inornatus*. Alcollarín (Cáceres). Photo: Martin Kelsey.

WALLCREEPER

Tichodroma muraria (8/9)

- 2022. CÁCERES. 1 Pico de Villuercas, 28th Dec (Martin Kelsey, David Lindo).



Treparriscos *Tichodroma muraria*. Pico de Villuercas (Navezuelas, Cáceres). Foto: Martin Kelsey.

B) Records of birds of uncertain origin

None

C) Pending records

None

D) Rejected records

None

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