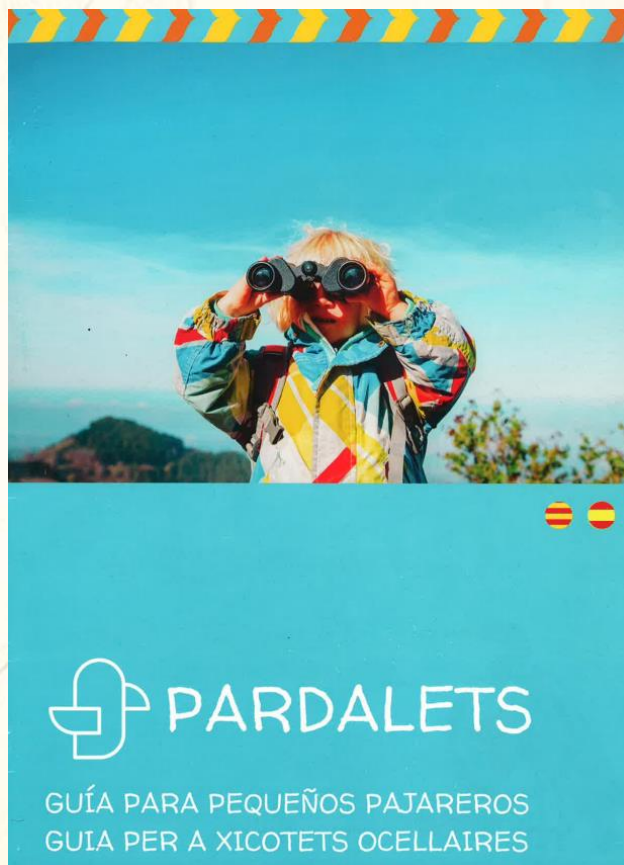




Little Birdies

Guide for young bird watchers

ENG





PAGE 1

Common kingfisher (*Alcedo atthis*)

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Great White Egret (*Egretta alba*)

PAGE 3

Where are we?

Boys and girls!

We are standing in one of the most important biodiversity areas, located in this part of the Mediterranean. Do you know what this means? That many different living beings live here, in ever-changing landscapes, and that they are waiting for you to tell their stories. Would you like to fly with them?

Map

Equipment to experience bird watching

- Covered information panels in forest areas
- Information panels to the self-guided path
- Platform information panels
- Covered information panels in coastal areas
- Panoramic information panel

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Nules Lagoon

Marsh / Almenara Lagoon

Forest Zone

Transition Zone

Wetland

Coastal Zone

PAGE 4

Parents!

Watch out! Bird watching is a highly addictive activity. If your children start to like beaks, paws and multi-coloured feathers, it is possible that they will wake up early from now on. Oh yes: together, you will live unforgettable experiences in wonderful environments. Will you accept this challenge?

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The birds

- They are vertebrate animals (they have bones)
- They have a pair of wings although not all birds can fly
- The beak changes its shape depending on their food regime.
- The paws have four scale-covered toes.
- The feathers, in addition of allowing the flight, are used to protect the birds from the cold and the heat.
- They are oviparous: they lay eggs to reproduce themselves
- There are over than 8.000 species of birds all over the world.

Purple Heron (*Purple Ardea*)

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The squacco heron (*Ardeola ralloides*)

Crown

Eye pupil

Iris

Nape

Secondary feathers

Scapulars/shoulders

Primary feathers

Tertials

Rump

Tail or rectrices

Cloaca/vent

Tarsus

Fingers

Thigh

Belly

Chest

Throat

- The organs are adapted to the flight (hollow bones, lungs and a very efficient circulatory system, among others).
- Depending on the bird species, they can live up to 100 years.

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Beaks and feeding

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Many different kinds of tails

Wedged tail

Double-rounded tail

Forked tail

Rounded tail

Squared tail

PAGE 10

Eurasian golden oriole (*Oriolus oriolus*)

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The Wings According to the Flight

Elliptic

Short, rounded wings

Lifting

Wide, grooved wings

High speed

Thin, pointed wings

Gliders

Long, narrow wings

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Examples

Eurasian jay (*Garrulus glandarius*)

It has a short and fast flight, avoiding areas of dense vegetation

Common buzzard (*Buteo buteo*)

It flies by taking advantage of the wind's currents and it reaches high altitudes

Common Swift (*Apus apus*)

It has a fast and agile flight, with a high frequency of wing flapping

Mediterranean Gull (*Larus melanocephalus*)

It has a slow and supported flight with a great dependence on the wind

PAGE 13

Tell me how do you tread and I'll tell you where do you live

Climber birds

Prey birds

Aquatic birds

Aquatic birds(wader)

Woodland birds


PAGE 15

An amazing trip

Many birds travel great distances searching for places with better temperatures and with more available food. This fact means that there are different types of migratory birds. Some are classified according to their migratory behaviour in the region:

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- 
- Sedentary
 - Summer birds
 - Wintering birds
 - Passers-by birds

They can also be classified according to the distance: large, medium or short.

They all have to prepare themselves before the trip by storing up large reserves of energy and changing their feathers, so that they can be perfect.

And how do they know which way to follow? This is a mystery that never ceases to amaze us. These tiny little heads have, inside them, a kind of map that they follow perfectly, year after year. They use the earth's magnetic field, the sun, the stars and the geographical references to guide themselves, just like us.

BALL on PAGE 16

Many birds sleep standing up or in mid-flight

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Who lives here?

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Woodland area

In the Serra de Espadán, between red peaks and humid ravines full of cork oaks, the birds of prey, such as Eagles (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*), are the queens and the Jay (*Garrulus glandarius*) is an authentic “farmer” of the groves.



Wetland / Marsh

In the lagoons and marshes of Almenara, La Llosa, Chilches, Moncofa and Nules live the Black-winged Stilt (*Himantopus himantopus*), the Whiskered tern (*Chlidonias hybrida*), the Cattle egret (*Bubulcus ibis*) and the Common kingfisher (*Alcedo atthis*).

Coastal area

We have sandy, pebble and gravel beaches, where birds like the Balearic shearwater (*Puffinus mauretanicus*), the Audouin's Gull (*Ichthyaetus audouinii*), the Slender-billed seagull (*chroicocephalus genei*) or the Kentish Plover (*charadrius alexandrinus*) await us.

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Balearic shearwater (*Puffinus mauretanicus*)

Some examples

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Woodland area

Hoopoe (*Upupa epops*)

Its striking crest makes it unmistakable. The name comes from its sing/chirp, a characteristic “uppu-pu-pu”.

Bonelli's Eagle (*Aquila fasciata*)

They breed on rocky cliffs. Its main preys are: the partridge (*Alectoris rufa*), the crows (*Corvus corone*) and rabbits (*Oryctolagus cuniculus Linnaeus*).

Nightingale (*Luscinia megarhynchos*)

It is an insectivorous bird. It is famous for its unique singing, including during the night.

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Great spotted woodpecker (*Dendrocopos major*)

Our “carpenter” bird uses its beak to look up for invertebrate larvae, in the bark of trees, and to build their nests there.

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Wetland /Marsh

Purple Swamphen (*Porphyrio porphyrio*)

It uses its wide and skilful fingers to handle stems, sprouts, roots and seeds of the aquatic plants that make up its food.

Flamingo (*Phoenicopterus roseus*)

It has an adapted beak to remove mud and to eat crustaceans and other invertebrates. This kind of nutrition causes it to turn pink.

Marsh Harrier (*Circus aeruginosus*)

It is a glider bird, that uses the hot currents to rise up and to launch itself on its preys (fish, reptiles and small mammals).

Capped heron (*Pilberodius pileatus*)

It has proper feet to walk in flooded areas (wader bird). It has a retractable beak and neck which makes it a great fishing bird.

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Coastal Zones

Yellow-legged Gull (*Larus michabellis*)

It has a very varied diet, including human waste. It is the most abundant species of the seagull family.



Sandwich Tern (*Thalasseus sandvicensis*)

It fishes like no one else. It launches itself into the sea, diving for more than 10 meters deep, like the gannet goose (*Morus bassanus*).

Balearic Shearwater (*Puffinus mauretanicus*)

It is an endemic seabird to the Balearic Islands. It can be seen, on this coast, in the non-breeding season.

Little Ringed Plover (*Charadrius dubius*)

During the non-breeding period it can be found in the muddy coastal areas, where it is looking for invertebrates, with its small beak.

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Let's Play!

Geocaching is an activity that is based on hiding and finding “treasures” with the help of a GPS. Thus, a person obtains the coordinates of an object and tries to find it.

What are coordinates?

Geographic coordinates are imaginary lines (parallels and meridians) drawn on the surface of the earth that help us to locate any point on the planet.

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To find a spot on the map... just use your smartphones.

We have to enter the coordinates in the following format (don't forget the comma between the two rows of numbers); 00.000000, -0.000000. The first number is the latitude (our distance from the Equator) and the second is the longitude (our distance to the Zero or Greenwich meridian).



Where can we find a QR Code?

In each of the coordinates you will find a QR code to read, which will give you the necessary keywords.

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A bird's heart beats _____ times per minute while _____ and up to _____ beats per minute while _____ .