





# STAGE 15

## Vva. de Algaidas - Cuevas Bajas

### LOCATION

Stage 15 begins in the north of Villanueva de Algaidas, and you will be mainly following direction north for the whole duration of the stage. The **10,1 km** lead through olive groves until you reach the village of Cuevas Bajas.



View of the Sotos de Genil. PHOTO: JSM

### DESCRIPTION

#### ABOUT THE BIRDLIFE:

Again the olive grove is the main type of environment throughout Stage 15. At the very beginning you will cross the Arroyo del Bebedero (also called Río Burriana), before arriving in La Atalaya, and at the end of the stage you will encounter the same river again in Cuevas Bajas.

### HIGHLIGHTED SPECIES

Stage 15 is less diverse than Stage 14 due to the ever-present olive grove.

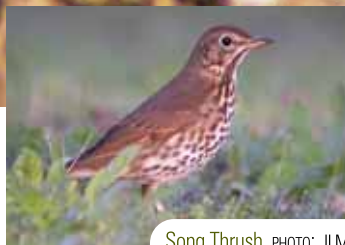
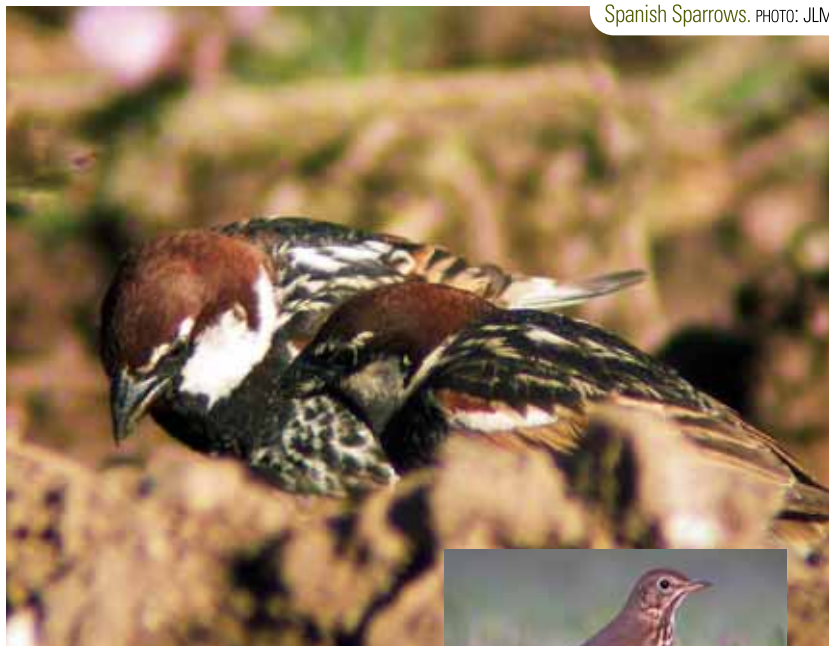
However, still, the diversity of species here can still be surprising when you lift your binoculars. The large holm oaks which are sprinkled around the great sweep of olive trees attract such species as Common Buzzard, a bird of prey which can be seen along the way. Other birds which can be found along Stage 15 are Red-legged Partridge, European Turtle Dove, Red-necked Nightjar, Hoopoe, Crested Lark, Song Thrush, European Robin, Common Blackbird, Sardinian Warbler, Blackcap, Common Chaffinch, Great Tit, Azure-winged Magpie, Spotless and Common Starling, Goldfinch, Greenfinch, Common

### DID YOU KNOW?

In **Cuevas Bajas**, the Genil river opens up in an extensive plain which forms an ample fluvial grove (soto) where there is a dense riparian wood, the Lago de los Fernández lake and where you can find El Molino de la Agusadera, one of best-preserved mills in the province. The high biodiversity of birdlife and other fauna was the reason behind building a hide next to the mill. TEXT: JSM



Spanish Sparrows. PHOTO: JLM



Song Thrush. PHOTO: JLM

Linnet and Serin. At the last section Bee-eaters appear, during the time of the the year when they are present here, at the high sandy river banks; also there is Common Nightingale, Common Stonechat, Woodchat Shrike, Western Jackdaw and, again, typical urban-dwelling species (Eurasian Collared Dove, Swifts, House Martin, and House Sparrow).

### TIMING

Stage 15 is recommended during winter season as the best time to look for birds. Very close to Cuevas Bajas, at the river Genil, spring makes for a good birdwatching season as well where you can watch typical riverside environment species of birds.




Young Common Blackbird. PHOTO: JLM



### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Upstream from Cuevas Bajas, on the river bank, there is a birdwatching viewpoint in surrounded by galleried woods and a clay slope. Here you can watch such species as Kingfisher, Hoopoe, Sand Martin, Eurasian Reed

Warbler, Western Olivaceous Warbler, Eurasian Penduline Tit, Azure-winged Magpie and waterfowl such as Great Cormorant, Mallard, Moorhen, Little Egret, Night Heron and Common Sandpiper. 

Western Olivaceous Warbler. PHOTO: JLM



European Turtle Dove. PHOTO: JLM



Sand Martins. PHOTO: JLM