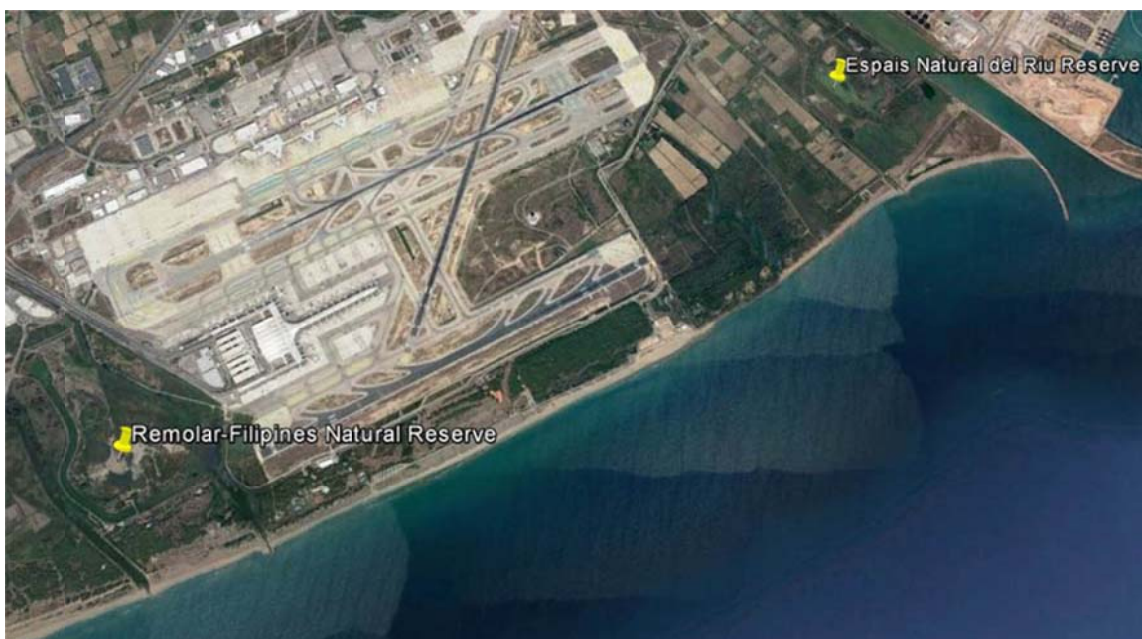


# A guide for birders wanting to visit the Llobregat Delta Reserves (Remolar-Filipines and Espais Naturals del Riu)

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The Nature Reserves of the Llobregat Delta are well-known not only to local birders but also to birders from around Spain, as they constitute the 3rd most important area of wetlands in Catalonia and enjoy one of the largest diversities of birdlife of any of the protected areas in the Iberian Peninsula. However, even though the Delta played a very important part in the recent European record for observation of birds in 24 hours (in May 2017), it has not always had due recognition of its importance beyond the borders of the country and it perhaps does not enjoy the international reputation it really deserves as an outstanding area of wetlands which is really close to the airport and city of Barcelona. For this reason, we would like to give some detailed information aimed at birders from other countries who might be interested in visiting the Llobregat Delta in the future, giving a step-by-step explanation of how to get to the two most important areas in the Delta so that all birders can get the maximum benefit from their visit, whatever time of year they want to come.



Map 1

## Advantages of the Llobregat Delta

Its greatest advantage is the surprising diversity of species that can be seen there: to date, a total of 350 species on the official list have been observed. In view of the fact that the protected natural area is only about 1000 hectares in size, this means that the Delta has one of the greatest concentrations of species per hectare of any natural area in Europe, a fact which allows observers to find the species they are looking for relatively quickly.

Another great advantage of the Delta is its geographical location: both Nature Reserves are right next to Barcelona-El Prat airport: the *Reserva Natural del Remolar-Filipines* is immediately to the south of the airport, while the *Espais Naturals del Riu* (see map 1) are right on the northern edge, allowing quick, easy access to either or both Reserves. The Reserves are also very close to Barcelona itself, being only a 15-20 minute drive from the city.

You can get the latest, detailed information on what species are being seen day-to-day on the Delta by consulting the bird blog at this address:

[www.consorcideltallobregat.blogspot.com](http://www.consorcideltallobregat.blogspot.com)

Even though most of the information given is in Catalan, the names of all species also appear in Spanish and English.

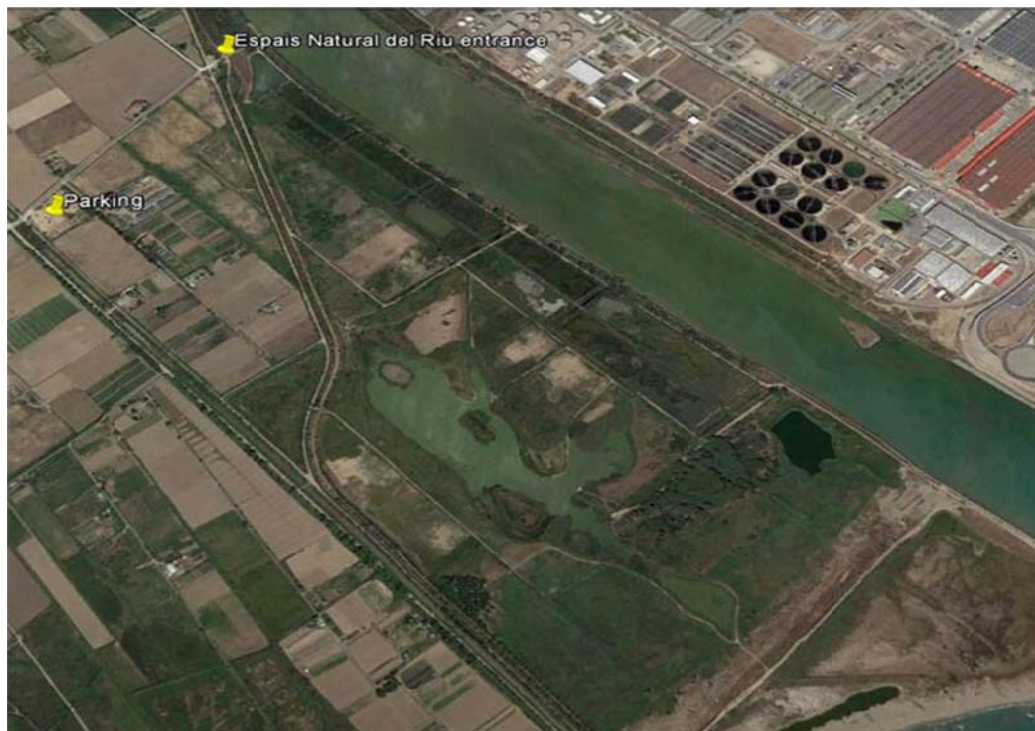
## How to reach the two Reserves

- 1 By taxi.** Most taxi drivers are unaware of the exact location of the entrances to the two Reserves but you can guide them yourself by using your mobile phone to give them the exact coordinates: the entrance to the Remolar-Filipines Reserve is at 41.278757 2.063811, which is also the location of the information centre. However, at weekends (Saturday and Sunday) there is no access to this point by car so you will have to ask the taxi driver to drop you at the barrier at 41.287647 2.055147 and walk about 1 kilometre from there to reach the entrance to the Reserve (see map 2).



Map 2

The coordinates for the entrance to the Espais Naturals del Riu are 41.312571 2.115873 (see map 3). To return to the airport, you will have to phone previously for a taxi. In both Reserves, the information centre will help you to do this. **Please note that both Reserves are closed all day on Monday!**



Map 3



- 2 **Through the guide service offered by the management of the Reserves.** This is the fastest, most convenient and most efficient way of getting to the Reserves, as the price includes pick-up at, and return to, the airport and avoids the inconvenience of having to call a taxi or hiring a car privately. Another advantage is that you will be taken into the Reserves by car, which will save you a lot of time which you would otherwise have to spend walking to access the entrance. To contract this service, send an e-mail to [administracio@consorciodelta.org](mailto:administracio@consorciodelta.org) or call +34 934793201 (during working hours) at least one day in advance.
  
- 3 **By metro.** (N.B. this option is only for access to the Espais Naturals del Riu Reserve). You can take line 9 (L9) from Zona Universitaria station when coming from Barcelona itself (8 stops), or from Terminal 1 or Terminal 2 of the airport (6 stops and 5 stops respectively); in both cases, you need to exit at Las Moreres station, which is in the city of El Prat del Llobregat, not far from the airport, and then walk about 2 kilometres to the entrance (see map 4).



Map 4



If you are coming by car from Barcelona, follow the same coordinates given in paragraph 1 ('By taxi') above to access the Reserves.

Parking instructions are as follows:

- (a) for the Remolar-Filipines Reserve: from **Tuesday to Friday** (inclusive), you can park in this car park: 41.278559 2.062848. At weekends (Saturday & Sunday), however, you will have to park here: 41.287990 2.051556, because the barrier will be down (see map 2).
- (b) for the Espais Naturals del Riu Llobregat Reserve, the car park (every day except Monday) is here: 41.308825 2.111992 (see map 3).

### Why have so many bird species been observed?

Over time, urban growth has made the two Reserves increasingly isolated. The huge changes in recent years in urban infrastructure in the vicinity of the Reserves, such as the diversion of the mouth of the river Llobregat and the expansion of the runways at El Prat airport, have broken up the areas of suitable habitat. As a result, these areas have decreased considerably in size but at the same time this has allowed closer monitoring of the birds, some of which are considered European rarities, such as Lesser Scaup, Black Duck, Long-billed Dowitcher, Wilson's Phalarope, Pacific Golden Plover, Sociable Lapwing, Cream-coloured Courser, Franklin's Gull, Elegant Tern, Desert Wheatear, Paddyfield Warbler, Blue-cheeked Bee-eater or Eastern Bonelli's Warbler (the full checklist can be downloaded here: [http://www.deltallobregat.cat/files/4-180588-annex/llista\\_patro\\_delta\\_del\\_llobregat\\_2016\\_def.pdf](http://www.deltallobregat.cat/files/4-180588-annex/llista_patro_delta_del_llobregat_2016_def.pdf)).

### What birds can be seen according to the season?

Undoubtedly, the best times of the year for bird observation coincide with the two migration periods. In spring, the best weeks are normally the second fortnight of April

and the first week of May. The autumn migration is more prolonged and usually coincides with the months of September and October.

- **In the migration seasons (from March to May and from August to October) (*only the species of greatest interest are listed*):**

Ferruginous Duck, Garganey, Cory's Shearwater, Mediterranean Shearwater, Balearic Shearwater, Shag (subs. *desmarestii*), Little Bittern, Night Heron, Squacco Heron, Great White Egret, Purple Heron, Glossy Ibis, Spoonbill, Flamingo, Osprey, Short-toed Eagle, Booted Eagle, Red-footed Falcon, Spotted Crake, Little Crake, Collared Pratincole, Kentish Plover, Temminck's Stint, Marsh Sandpiper, Great Snipe (rare), Pectoral Sandpiper (rare), Great Skua, Pomarine Skua, Slender-billed Gull, Mediterranean Gull, Audouin's Gull, Little Gull, Gull-billed Tern, Caspian Tern, White-winged Tern, Whiskered Tern, Great Spotted Cuckoo, Scops Owl, Nightjar, Red-necked Nightjar, Pallid Swift, Bee-eater, Roller, Lesser Spotted Woodpecker, Wryneck, Short-toed Lark, Red-rumped Swallow, Tawny Pipit, Red-throated Pipit, Citrine Wagtail (rare), Bluethroat, Black-eared Wheatear (scarce), Western Orphean Warbler (scarce), Sardinian Warbler, Spectacled Warbler (scarce), Subalpine Warbler, Dartford Warbler, Moustached Warbler, Grasshopper Warbler, Savi's Warbler, Icterine Warbler, Western Bonelli's Warbler, Iberian Chiffchaff (rare), Penduline Tit, Red-backed Shrike, Woodchat Shrike, Spotless Starling, Ortolan Bunting (scarce), Corn Bunting.

- **In Summer and the breeding season (breeding species are marked with a letter (b)) (*only the species of greatest interest are listed*):**

Greylag Goose (b), Shelduck (b), Red-crested Pochard (b), Mediterranean Shearwater, Balearic Shearwater, Shag, Little Bittern (b), Night Heron (b), Squacco Heron, Purple Heron (b), Glossy Ibis, Spoonbill, Flamingo, Peregrine Falcon, Water Rail (b), Purple Swamphen (b), Oystercatcher (b), Avocet, Black-winged Stilt (b), Collared Pratincole (b), Kentish Plover (b), Slender-billed Gull, Mediterranean Gull, Audouin's Gull (b), Little Tern (b), Gull-billed Tern, Whiskered Tern, Great Spotted Cuckoo (b), Scops Owl (b), Red-necked Nightjar (b), Nightjar, Pallid Swift, Hoopoe (b), Bee-eater (b), Roller, Lesser Spotted Woodpecker (b), Short-toed Lark (b), Tawny Pipit (b), Sardinian Warbler (b), Cetti's Warbler (b), Great Reed Warbler (b), Western Bonelli's Warbler (b), Penduline Tit (b), Spotless Starling (b), Golden Oriole (b).

- **Wintering birds (*only the species of greatest interest are listed*):**

Greylag Goose, Shelduck, Red-crested Pochard, Ferruginous Duck (scarce), Common Scoter (scarce), Velvet Scoter (scarce), Red-throated Diver (scarce), Black-necked Grebe, Mediterranean Shearwater, Balearic Shearwater, Shag, Little Bittern (scarce), Great Bittern, Night Heron, Great White Egret, Flamingo, Booted Eagle, Hen Harrier, Goshawk, Merlin (scarce), Peregrine Falcon, Water Rail, Purple Swamphen, Stone Curlew, Kentish Plover, Grey Plover, Golden Plover, Turnstone, Sanderling, Whimbrel (scarce), Jack Snipe, Great Skua, Arctic Skua, Mediterranean Gull, Audouin's Gull (scarce), Razorbill, Hoopoe, Lesser Spotted Woodpecker, Bluethroat, Sardinian Warbler, Dartford Warbler, Moustached Warbler, Cetti's Warbler, Penduline Tit, Spotless Starling, Rock Sparrow (scarce), Cirl Bunting, Rock Bunting, Corn Bunting.

- **Category C birds (all year) (*only the species of greatest interest are listed*):**

Pheasant, Common Waxbill, Rose-ringed Parakeet, Monk Parakeet.