

Fauna

Its size, geographical location and geological characterization give rise to a rich assortment of species of fauna within the district of Casares, distributed across a number of distinct habitats.

MAMMALS: the protection of the law has permitted the preservation of large populations of species. These include the common hedgehog (*Erinaceus Europaeus*), the mongoose (*Herpestes Ichneumon*), the otter, the wild cat (*Felis Silvestris*), the shrew (*Crocidura Russula*), the common pipistrelle bat (*Pipistrellus Pipistrellus*), rabbit (*Oryctolagus Cuniculus*), dormouse (*Elyomis Quercinus*), water vole (*Arvicola Lapidus*), field mouse (*Apodemus Sylvaticus*), common rat (*Rattus Norvegicus*), fox (*Vulpes Vulpes*), badger (*Meles Meles*), weasel (*Mustela Nivalis*), marten (*Martes Foina*), genet (*Genetta Genetta*), wild boar, etc ... For their high value for the hunt, the deer, fallow deer, mouflon, mountain goat and roe deer are also worth special mention.



BIRDS: Among the most significant for their high scientific value, the presence of eagles (though scarce) and griffon vultures (in the Sierra Crestellina) should be especially noted. Others of more minor interest are: the kestrel (*Falco Tinnunculus*), common partridge (*Alectoris Rufa*), dove (*Streptopelia Turtur*), scops owl (*Otus scops*), little owl (*Athene noctua*), tawny owl (*Strix aluco*), barn owl (*Tyto alba*), Swift (*Apus apus*), Hoopoe (*Upupa epops*), kingfisher (*Alcedo Attis*), Woodpecker (*Deudrocopus major*), crag martin (*Ptyonoprogne rupestres*), Swallow (*Hirundo rustica*), robin (*Erithacus rubecula*), blackbird (*Turdus merula*), song thrush (*Turdus philomelos*), great tit (*Parus major*), sparrow (*Passer domesticus*), Finch (*Fringilla coelebs*), serin (*Serinus Serinus*), greenfinch (*Carduella ehloris*), goldfinch (*Carduelis Carduelis*), Linnet (*Acauthis cannabina*), etc ...



REPTILES: Noteworthy for their ecological value, but not abundant, are the chameleon, Spanish pond turtle (*Mauremys caspica*), large Psammmodromus lizard (*Psammmodromus algirus*), ocellated lizard (*Lacerta lepida*), Iberian lizard (*Lacerta hispanica*), common gecko (*Terentola mauritanica*), three-toed skink (*Chalcides chalcides*), Montpellier snake (*Malpolon monspessulanus*), horseshoe whip snake (*Coluber hippocrepis*), ladder snake (*Elaphe scalaris*), water snake (*Natrix natrix*), etc ...

To round off this summary, within the class of **AMPHIBIANS** the most noteworthy without doubt would be the marbled newt. The presence of **FISH** in the rivers has been heavily influenced by the action of man though the introduction of alien species and the pollution of watercourses. As in most of the rivers in the province of Málaga, the total picture is a poor one. Amongst the most common species are the carp, barbel and eel.