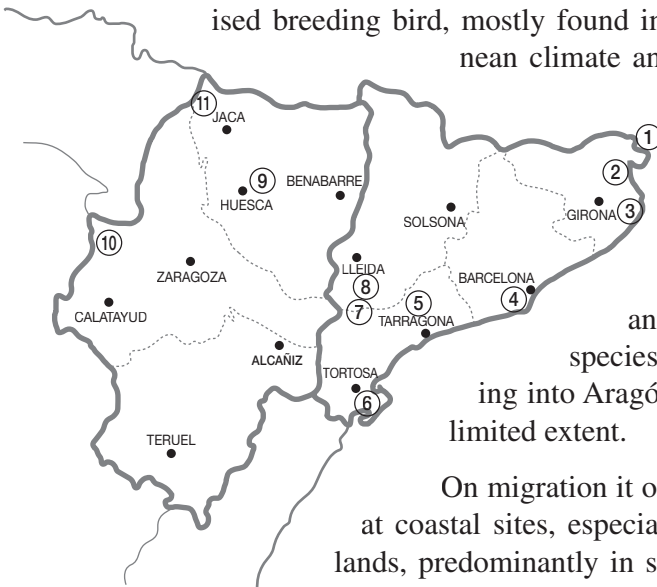


## RED-RUMPED SWALLOW *Hirundo daurica*:

The Red-rumped Swallow is a summer visitor to the region, present from mid-March to early October. In Catalunya it is a scarce and localised breeding bird, mostly found in habitats with a Mediterranean climate and rarely far from open water,

although the process of range expansion that it is currently undergoing has led it to colonise a variety of inland sites, mostly in the provinces of Tarragona and the south of Lleida. The species also appears to be expanding into Aragón, although to a much more limited extent.

On migration it occurs with certain regularity at coastal sites, especially the 3 main coastal wetlands, predominantly in spring and to a lesser extent in autumn.



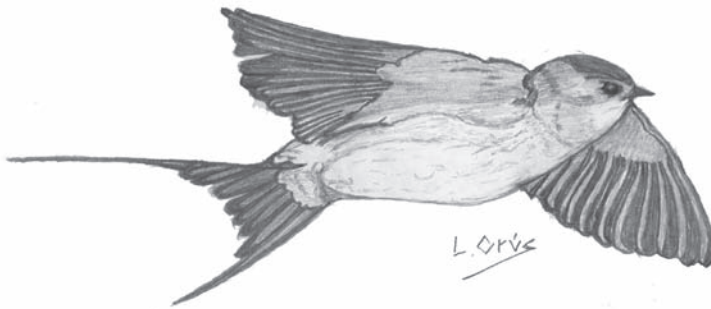
- 1) **Cap de Creus Natural Park:** more than 10 pairs of breeding Red-rumped Swallows are dotted around this area, but regular observations come from Puig del Clapé (between Colera and Portbou), near the bridge over the Torrelles approximately 1km to the east of Capmany on the GI-602, and between the villages of Garriguella and Vilajuïga. A very reliable site is that of Cala Jóncols, which is located at the northeastern corner of the Cap de Norfeu. There are also breeding birds at Port de la Selva and Cadaqués (south of the village in the direction of Norfeu). (Site map 14).
- 2) **Aiguamolls Natural Park:** migrant birds are regularly recorded at the Estansys of Palau and Cortalet and near the Closes de Mornau.
- 3) **Sant Feliu de Guíxols-Tossa de Mar:** the GI-682 winds its way through some of the most impressive scenery of the Costa Brava, as well as past a good number of Red-rumped Swallow territories! Wherever possible check bridges and tunnels for its characteristic nest. One well-known site is the bridge at Cala de Giverola, a few kms north of Tossa de Mar.

In the massif of Montgrí to the north a pair of Red-rumped Swallows has been seen regularly in recent years near the buildings at the Pla del Milà, due south of the Punta del Milà. (Site map 16).

- 4) **Llobregat Delta:** most observations of birds passing through on migration are at the Remolar Reserve and along the Riera de San Climent.
- 5) **Siurana, Montsant:** several pairs of Red-rumped Swallows nest in spectacular settings in the vicinity of the village of Siurana, in the Montsant Range. From Cornudella de Montsant head north on the C-242 and after approximately 500m turn right, signposted to “Siurana”. The road winds up towards the village at the top of the hill, but it is worth stopping and scanning the cliffs at the foot of the village after some 3km. Continue on to the car park with the village in sight, and either be a little patient and wait for birds to fly over the village or walk through the village itself to overlook the reservoir and the cliff face.

The species is also becoming established as a breeding bird at other nearby sites such as at the village of Arbolí to the southwest of the Pantà de Siurana.

- 6) **Amposta:** birds nest under the bridges of the A-7 motorway between Amposta and Masdenverge.



- 7) **Bovera-Flix:** the species is obviously breeding in the area between Flix, Palma d'Ebre and Bovera, although the numbers of birds involved and their precise locations are poorly known. In the past birds have been found nesting in the overhangs at the hermitage of Mare de Déu del Remei (km 4) and adults and juvenile birds have been observed in the breeding season between km 5 and 9 of the Flix-La Granadella road. In September the species now appears regularly in the village of Bovera itself, with a maximum of some 16 birds or more flying over the swimming pools in early September 2002.
- 8) **River Set near Lleida:** the species is in the process of becoming established along the River Set between the villages of Aspa and Cervià de les Garrigues. In 2002 birds were seen regularly near Aspa, whilst others were observed collecting mud near Cogul. (Site map 11).
- 9) **Sagarillo, Sierra de Guara:** birds bred near the hydroelectric plant for 3 consecutive years, from 2000 to 2002 and it seems likely that they will return to the site, despite their absence in 2003 due to the fact that some bright spark thought it would be great fun to break their nest. From San Julián de Banzo take a westward track down to the River Flumen and search the riverside to the south of Sagarillo.
- 10) **Moncayo and the Upper Isuela:** this is the part of Aragón which boasts the greatest number of records of the species, including abandoned or empty nests, although breeding has yet to be confirmed. Nevertheless, if searching for the species in Aragón then this is the place to look, especially on the southern side of Moncayo, between the villages of Trasobares and Beratón on the A-2302. Pay particular attention to the Barranco de Valdelaplata between Trasobares and Calcena and bridges and overhangs along the River Isuela in the vicinity of Purujosa, including the Barranco de Valcongosto. On the northern side of the

massif birds have been observed in the area between Veruela, Litago and Agramonte. (Site map 20).

- 11) **Foz de Biniés:** the species has made timid encroachments into this area in the past, and if it does so again in the future this will be its nearest location to the Pyrenees of Aragón. Head north from Berdún and stop after passing through the first tunnel to scan the gorge.