



## FLORA AND VEGETATION

El Rodenal is a landscape dominated by mixed forests of maritime pine and Pyrenean oak, locally called 'marojo', with an undergrowth of steppe rockrose. These species find the optimal environment for their development in the acidic soil generated by these rocks.

Together with the rockrose in the undergrowth, we can also find species such as white heather and heather, as well as various types of hawthorn species (common hawthorn, blackthorn and dog rose).

In the most humid spots on the shady slopes, in the crevices between the sandstone towers, there are deciduous groves with Montpellier maples, hazelnut trees, mountain elms, ash trees, and St. Lucie cherry trees.

### *Delphinium bolosii*

The ravine Barranco de la Hoz is the habitat of one of the botanical treasures of Alto Tajo region: the *Delphinium bolosii* subsp. *sordidum*, an endemic Iberian buttercup family species with ornateshowy purple flowers that grows on sandstone ledges on shady slopes and is considered as an endangered species.



## GEOLOGY

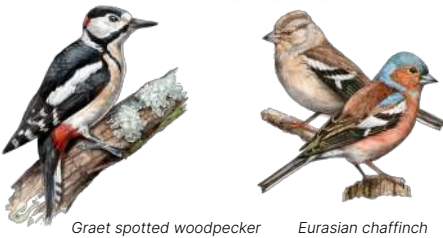
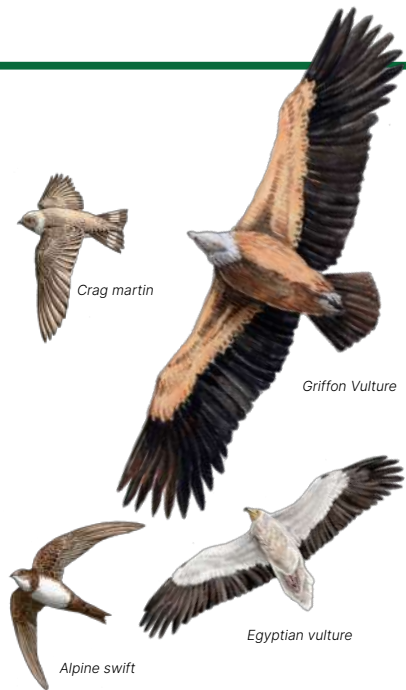
The reddish rocks that build the walls and towers that we can see from this viewpoint are sandstones and conglomerates that were formed in the Lower Triassic, more than 230 million years ago. These rocks, which occupy the northwestern fringe of the Natural Park, define this environmental area known as "El Rodenal".



*Sandstones in Barranco de la Hoz*

**CRAGS**

In El Rodenal, the walls of the gorges carved by the Gallo, Arandilla and Linares rivers have a large number of ledges due to the natural erosion of the layers of sandstone and conglomerates. These rock ledges provide an ideal nesting habitat for birds of prey such as golden eagles, peregrine falcons, griffon vultures and Egyptian vultures, as well as other rocky area birds, such as the Eurasian crag martin and the red-billed chough.



**FORESTS**

On the other hand, the extensive pine forests favour the existence of an abundant nesting community of forest birds of prey, including Eurasian goshawks, short-toed snake eagles, booted eagles, common buzzards and tawny owls, as well as a wide range of small forest birds: coal tit, crested tit, long-tailed tit, Eurasian chaffinch, great spotted woodpecker, etc.

**MAMMALS**

There is an abundant community of carnivorous mammals is also abundant in El Rodenal, with species such as beech martens, foxes, wild cats and common genets. Other mammals such as badgers, squirrels, European hedgehogs, wild boars, roe deers and red deers, among other species, also live in the area. Finally, the Gallo river, with its gallery forests of willows, poplars, ash trees and reeds, provides an ideal habitat for the common trout, the otter and a lots of passerine birds.

