

MARbled DUCK *Marmaronetta angustirostris*:

The Marbled Duck is a very rare visitor to the region from its nearest breeding grounds in Valencia, where the most important population of birds is found at el Hondo Natural Park, in the province of Alicante. Here the breeding population was to the tune of 90 pairs in 1997, although after the devastating effects of insecticide poisoning in that same year its numbers were significantly reduced.

Closer to the region, another site where the species appears to have established itself is the Marjal del Moro, near Sagunt, Valencia, where between 1 and 5 pairs have bred since at least 1996.

The species has occurred a few times in both the Ebro and Llobregat Deltas, in September-October at the former and increasingly at different times throughout the year at the latter, with almost annual occurrences in recent years. There are two records from Aragón.



1) El Hondo Natural Park, Elche (Elx):

heading south along the CV90 either turn left at the village of el Realengo or at San Felipe de Neri further on, following the signs to the reserve. Although much can be seen from the outer boundaries permission is required to visit the reserve itself; this can be obtained by phoning the park's information centre at 966 678515.

2) Marjal del Moro, Sagunt: from Sagunt head towards the Port of Sagunt and then get onto the southbound road towards Puçol. Follow the signs to the Interpretation Centre of the reserve (CEA), at some 5km from the port.