

Another Success for the Owl Recovery Project at the Madre Vieja Environmental Station

- **The resident pair of owls have welcomed a second clutch and ten birds have been released**
- **The initiative is a joint project between the Junta de Andalucía (Regional Government of Andalusia) and the European Union**

The project to restore the owl population in the south of Spain being carried out at the Madre Vieja Environmental Station and managed by Fundación Cepsa has seen further success, with its resident pair of owl's producing a new clutch of eight eggs. This clutch is larger than the pair's first, showing that the birds are in good health and have adapted to their environment.

This initiative was launched in partnership with the Regional Government of Andalusia and the European Union's bird ringing service, EURING. What's more, after the installation of new nest boxes at the Madre Vieja Environmental Station, a group of these birds have now been released into the wild. Among the birds released are the six hatchlings from the first clutch along with four additional donations made to the project by GOES (Ornithological Group of Estrecho), as well as a private donation.

EURING, an organization that promotes international collaboration in the study of birds, particularly in Europe and along the Afro-Eurasian migration route, has authorized the Madre Vieja Environmental Station to use red rings with white digits. This will make Madre Vieja the only center in Europe to use this combination of colors, meaning that birds that are given a ring in San Roque, Cádiz, will be easily identifiable throughout the continent. The Madre Vieja Environmental Station currently has the facilities to take care of adult breeding owls and has recently welcomed its first pair of this species, whose offspring have been released. It also hopes to release other owls provided by the Regional Government of Andalusia's Center for the Recovery of Endangered Species.

The Madre Vieja Environmental Station is a research center and nature reserve owned by Fundación Cepsa, which has worked to restore the wetland since 2009. Since its inauguration in 2014, Ornitor has been working not only to conserve the area, but also to recover species and the passage of birds in this corner of Campo de Gibraltar, which is open to the public to enjoy and learn from.

Fundación Cepsa

Fundación Cepsa is a general interest, non-profit entity that aims to carry out initiatives that serve the needs and priorities of the local communities where its founder, Compañía Española de Petróleos S.A. (Cepsa), conducts its activities. The areas of

action for Fundación Cepsa are social, cultural, environmental, scientific-educational, and support for amateur sports.

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