

Marbella, July 2025

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ProDUNAS
MARBELLA



NEWSLETTER





30 days of intense and continuous work in the dunes

During the weeks of June, the Ecological Reserve - Dunes of Marbella has been the scene of a key action for the conservation of the environment: more than **155,177 kg** of reeds and false mimosas have been removed thanks to the joint effort of the machinery provided by the Delegation of Environment and Beaches, their operators, and our tireless and brave volunteers. As we mentioned, all these workdays have been supported by the constant presence of our volunteers, who have not only accompanied the work, but have also been fundamental in grouping branches and roots, thus facilitating their later removal by the machinery.

These have been demanding days, under intense heat and with a very rigorous work plan that has allowed the removal of these invasive exotic species in the following **dune ecosystems**:

- Calahonda Dune
- La Víbora East Dune
- La Víbora West Dune
- Real de Zaragoza Dune Sections 1 + 2 + 3
- El Barronal de la Morena Dune
- El Alicate Dune
- La Adelfa Dune

This great work deserves recognition. We encourage you to walk through our dunes this summer and see with your own eyes the transformation of the landscape: areas once dominated by reeds and false mimosas now show a clean terrain with space for native flora to recover once the scorching heat passes.

Notable sighting at the mouth of the Río Real – the birds

During a monitoring tour at the mouth of the Río Real, Juan Caracuel, ProDunas Marbella guide and ornithology expert, was able to observe some interesting bird species.

Among the species recorded were several pairs of **little ringed plover** (*Charadrius dubius*) with chicks — at least 2 or 3 per group — as well as one **common ringed plover** (*Charadrius hiaticula*), a species rarely seen in June.

However, the most remarkable finding of the day was the sighting of a **rufous-tailed scrub robin** (*Cercotrichas galactotes*), a small passerine bird listed as “**endangered**” in the Spanish Red Book of Birds. Although it is most likely an individual in migratory passage (since this species migrates late), active monitoring of the area will be maintained in case it decides to settle.



After **6 intense workdays** with the collaboration of operators, machinery, and volunteers, we have succeeded in eradicating **748.77 m³ of invasive exotic species**, mainly **False Mimosas (*Acacias*)** and **Reeds (*Arundo donax*)**, which were seriously affecting this dune environment — especially around the two pedestrian walkways.

What until just a few days ago was a dense mass of mimosas and reeds, blocking the views and **even breaking the wooden planks of the walkway with their roots**, is now clear and open.

Nature and native flora can finally reclaim their space.

Thanks to everyone who made this intervention possible — and above all, a heartfelt ode to our volunteers, who worked tirelessly alongside us. We continue to protect our dunes, step by step.



AN EXCITING EXPERIENCE!



Once again, we emphasize the importance of letting nature take its course and avoiding unnecessary intervention. Our member Gisela did just that — and the result was truly beautiful.

In June, due to wind and rain, two gull chicks fell from their nest in a palm tree — a fall from about 25 meters high. Fortunately, they were not hurt, but Gisela was very distressed: “Should I feed them? What do I do with my dog and cat around...?”

Our advice: **let the mother gull find them — she knows what to do!**

And that’s exactly what happened. The mother attentively brought them food each day, making loud noises and cries to protect them and assert her presence so that humans wouldn’t interfere.

The chicks grew beautifully and, after about six weeks, took off to fly back to their **natural habitat** at sea.

They might return next year.

Here’s a short home video we’d like to share with you: <https://youtube.com/shorts/JWRmlarImbA>

LA ADELFA DUNE – LITTLE BY LITTLE WE’RE MAKING IMPROVEMENTS TO THE FURNITURE

The furniture in the Marbella dunes is a public good — that’s why we kindly ask those who damage the benches and railings to reconsider. Let’s all take care of what belongs to everyone.

It doesn’t take much — just a little kindness and respect so that we can all enjoy the improvements at **La Adelfa Dune**, in the Bay of Marbella.

We will all appreciate it – thank you.





ATTENTION! NOT ALL CHICKS YOU SEE ON THE GROUND NEED HUMAN HELP

At this time of year, it's common to find baby birds on the ground. Many people assume they're abandoned, but in most cases, they are not. **They're in the middle of learning to fly**, a natural stage in which **their parents stay nearby, watching and feeding them**, even if they're not always visible.

- **What should you do if you find a chick on the ground?**
- **Do not touch or pick it up.**
- **Watch it from a distance.**
- **Do not feed it** (no bread, no milk).

Only if it's in real danger (predators, traffic, visible injuries), **contact an authorized wildlife recovery center** in your area or dial the emergency number: 112.

At **ProDunas Marbella**, we support the awareness campaign promoted by the **Spanish Ornithological Society (SEO/BirdLife)**. **Unnecessary intervention may disrupt the natural development of the bird or separate it from its parents**, who are the ones best suited to care for it. Remember that **respecting wildlife is also protecting it**. Understanding the natural processes of birds is key to preventing unintentional harm and encouraging harmonious coexistence with the biodiversity that inhabits our natural spaces.

PRODUNAS MARBELLA WAS PRESENT AT THE OFFICIAL FLAG-RAISING CEREMONY

On Tuesday, July 23, we had the honor of attending the ceremony held at the Mediterranean Park, organized by the Marbella City Council, to recognize the **19 beaches awarded the Q for Quality**, the **19 beaches with the S for Sustainability**, and the **10 beaches that received Blue Flags** this year.

Our Association was one of the entities invited, along with other departments, security forces, lifeguard and cleaning services, and local associations. A symbolic event that acknowledges the joint effort to keep our beaches cleaner, safer, and better cared for. Thank you for including us. We remain committed to the protection of the coastline.



SEE YOU IN AUGUST

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