

# Trip report Spain: Andujar (Sierra Morena), Monfrague, Somiedo

## April 2015 + January 2016

This is a short report of two attempts for Iberian lynx in Spain.

*I will write a separate report about a trip for wild cat, wolf and bear September 2015.*

Some years before I made some trips to Andujar and Donana. In these I had seen the lynx only two times, but very brief and from distance. The first crossing a road in Donana (no photo) and one in Andujar around the viewpoint but very far away, a dot in the photo... So I still wanted to try again for better views because this cat is just a must see.

If lynx would not work this trip in April after some days I would try for bear in Somiedo later on the trip not to lose time only in Andujar.

from reports of [www.mammalwatching.com](http://www.mammalwatching.com) I read in 2010 I found that the sierra Morena near Andujar is the best place to go. I stayed here in hotel 'Los Pinos', a good place to start your trip, other options here are 'villa Mathilde' or 'la Cariatola'. From direction Andujar you just take the first road to the right after Los Pinos, from here it is a 20-30 minute drive to the split where you can start the bad dirt road to the part where there are several viewpoints. This is about 10 minutes through open woodland after that the whole road is a big viewpoint. I suggest other reports for details of how to get there.

I rented a car from Madrid, from there it is a 4 hour drive to Andujar.

Photography is my passion and always when I see wildlife my goal is to make a good picture of any mammal during the trip. I hope you will enjoy this report. Please feel free to commend or ask questions!

Specially I want to thank [www.mammalwatching.com](http://www.mammalwatching.com) for presenting such great trip reports.

Best regards,

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### First trip Andujar April 2015:

April is not a very good time... I can be short: I stayed around the viewpoints for 6 days in the field morning and evening around but did not see a lynx, although I drove the road several times and watched long times. I think I just was unlucky... and the one lynx that was seen this period I missed since two guy just didn't gave a signal that they had one only 100 meters away from me! (and some other people..). As soon as I was aware of something happening it was already too dark and the lynx had walked in the bush. (not to thank these two guys who kept the sighting for themselves...).

What I can recommend is the beautiful flowering period in April, the views are just great, but the lynx are hard to find.

I did see here in April: **red deer, wild boar, rabbit, Mouflon, fallow deer**

### Further to Somiedo and Monfrague...

Rather disappointed I decided to try my last days for brown bear in **Somiedo**. I stayed here two evenings and a morning around the viewpoint along the main road (there is an official bear viewpoint nowadays. The weather was rainy and I didn't see any bear.... (although another group did see a bear family some days before...)

I drove a tour through Somiedo national park and saw a **Cantabrian Chamois** on the pass. On the highway to Leon I spotted a group of 5 **roe deer** in a field.

On the way to Somiedo I had a short visit to **Monfrague national park**. This is a great place to watch *vultures*. In the nearby area there are also some good places for *bustards*. I managed to see a *great bustard*. In **Monfrague red deer** are seen easily. To my surprise I saw an **Egyptian mongoose** on the other side of the river in the park. This is along the main road that goes through the park, just before the dam. The owner of the campsite told me that *genet* is also possible at night, but I had no time for trying since I could not leave the camp at night and it was rainy also. The highlight of the trip was a very beautiful **red fox** that posed very well.

### Second trip Andujar January 2016:

After the deception of April I decided to go in January again, in the middle of mating season. This would give best chances to find the lynx I thought. So I tried again for 5 days (my uncle joined me this time).

The approach was the same drive to the viewpoint and hope for lynx. *Andujar* is more open in winter so views are better. The weather was ok, dry but chilly in the morning. Unluckily we found that most mating activity was already done (people told us). There were no mauling Lynxes... But there were a lot of people watching, almost every corner of the viewpoint was checked by scopes all day.

So the same strategy as in April has to work, since the area is more open chances looked a bit better. During the five days we were there lynx were seen a view times but usually from far away. We had **two sightings** of a **Lynx** of which one was pretty decent through scopes (200 meter distance). But I think without mating activity chances are still pretty slim... more or less same as in April, although views are better because of the open.

In January you see lots of **red deer**, some **fallow deer** and some **rabbits**. We also had a view of three **mouflon** and two types of **bats** near the dam, in the tunnel (end of the road). We saw a **red fox** crossing the road at night, half way to Los Pinos. *Wild boar* are not seen regularly in winter and we saw none.

***Andujar April***







**Red deer**







**Black-tailed jackrabbit (PR)**





**Monfrague culture rock**







Red fox and mongoose







**Red fox**







**Andujar spring**



**Grey fox (PR)**  
**Elephant seals @ Point Reyes NS**









**bulls**





**Somiedo in spring**





**Cantabrian chamois**





**Fallow deer and a wood mouse (probably)**



**Harbour seal (WEST COAST)**





**rabbit**



**Winter view andujar**





Red deer





Andujar sunset





Lynx spotting





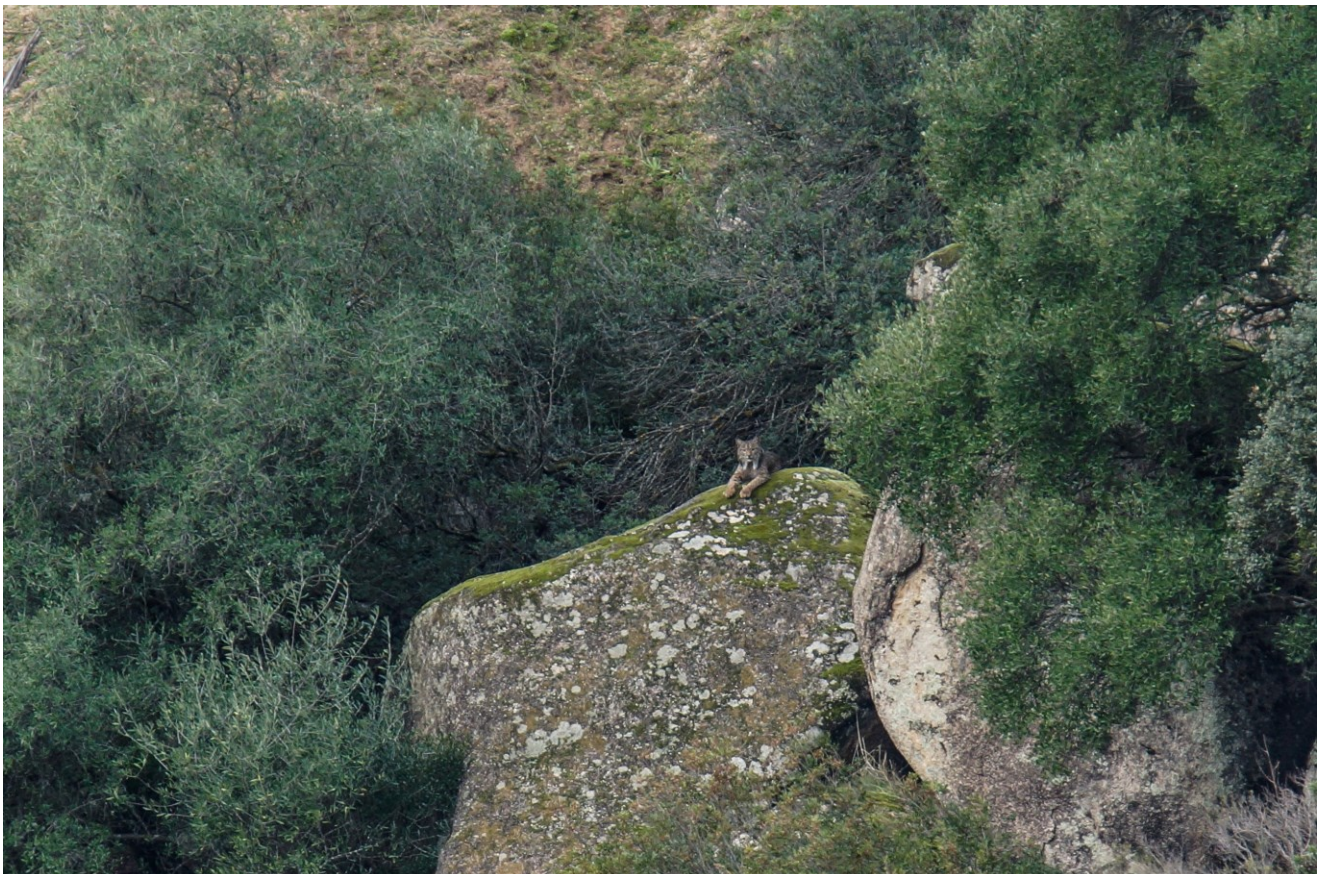
**Lynx and Spanish imperial eagle**







lynx







**Last lynx view**





## **TRIPLIST**

### **Places where mammals were seen:**

Andujar

Monfrague

Somiedo

### **Mammal-list**

1. Red deer April & January
2. Fallow deer April & January
3. Roe deer April somiedo
4. Red fox April & January
5. Rabbit April & January
6. Iberian Lynx January
7. Wood mouse January
8. Bat January
9. mouflon April & January
10. Cantabrian chamois April
11. Egyptian mongoose April
12. Wild boar April