



Hotel Cotto do Gatto

Ponte da Barca - Portugal

Birds

Discover the species present in nature around Cotto do Gatto...



Bee Hawk

It is a monogamous species that cares for its young until they are adults.

The Bee Hawk nests in branches or forks of tall trees, usually 10 to 20 m above the ground.

Its diet is essentially made up of larvae, insects, amphibians, reptiles, small mammals, fruit and berries



Montagu's Harrier

It is a diurnal bird of prey that flies at low altitudes to hunt small animals.

It feeds on rabbits, mice and insects.

The Castro Laboreiro area is the best place in the region to find this bird of prey.



White Heron

Until the end of the 1990s, it was a fairly rare species in our territory, but over the last 40 years, this bird has been getting closer, becoming more frequent in Portugal, specially in winter when it is looking for food.

It feeds on fish, small rodents, amphibians, reptiles and small birds.

It is a very intelligent bird, sometimes using pieces of bread as bait to attract the fish it feeds on.



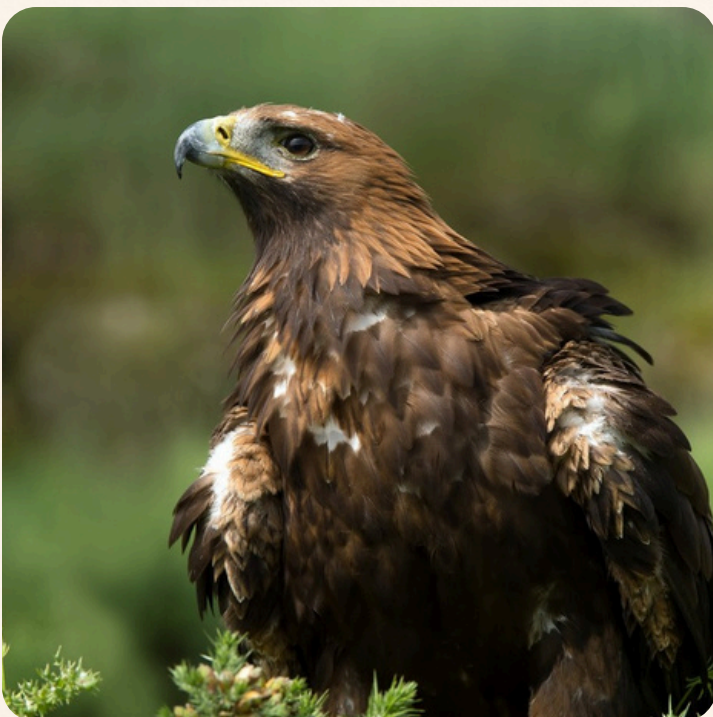
Common Snipe

It has a large beak that is almost twice as long as its head and is even noticeable in flight.

When it wants to feed, it buries its beak in the water with rapid movements like a sewing machine.

The Common Snipe takes off from the ground in an unpredictable way, escaping in swift zigzags and rising in altitude.

During nuptials, it performs a “rollercoaster” flight and produces a sound reminiscent of a goat, popularly known as the “air goat”.



Golden Eagle

A bird of prey with diurnal habits, it can reach up to 1 meter in length and weigh up to 7 kilos.

They feed mainly on mammals such as rabbits, fish, birds and medium-sized reptiles.

When hunting, the Golden Eagle flies very high and, with its excellent eyesight, can find possible prey even underwater.

During flight, they can reach speeds of up to 50 km/h.

They are monogamous birds, both the male and female build their own nest and breed once a year.



Royal Owl

It has a robust and compact appearance, a large head with long ears and reddish-orange eyes. Its diet consists mainly of small and medium-sized mammals, from mice to hares.

It hunts using several different techniques and can capture prey on the ground or in flight.



Galician Owl

It is a small, compact nocturnal bird of prey. Its diet consists mainly of insects and small mammals, but can also include small birds, reptiles, amphibians and earthworms.

It usually catches its prey from a perch, swooping down on them, but it is also capable of stalking them on the ground.

Although this species can be seen relatively easily during the day, it is mainly nocturnal, hunting until sunrise.



Magpie

It is a bird from the Corvidae family, also known as the magpie.

It is also one of the most intelligent bird species in the world, being one of only 9 species that can recognize its reflection in a mirror.

These birds can settle in fields, cities or cultivated land, but also in hedgerows, trees, rural woods, parks or gardens, in areas with sparse or leafy vegetation.



Barn Owl

They are monogamous animals.

This species has a very complex mating ritual, in which the male and female perform a dance in the air.

Normally, owls always use the same nest and in the nest the female lays between 4 and 7 eggs, which have an incubation time of 29 to 34 days.

They are carnivores and nocturnal predators that prefer small mammals such as mice, hares, rabbits and also small birds.

When it's completely dark, owls rely exclusively on their hearing.