

2013 Sagres Birdwatching Festival celebrates bird migration

Title

The **Sagres Peninsula**, which is the only place in Portugal where the autumn migration of **soaring birds** can be observed, will host the fourth edition of the **Birdwatching Festival** from 4th to 6th October 2013. The event is the biggest in Portugal devoted to birds and will include a range of activities with the aim to complement birdwatching with the enjoyment of nature, meeting the needs of both children and adults. The festival is organised by **SPEA** (BirdLife in Portugal) and the association **Almargem**, and is part of the rural development project **Um Outro Algarve? (Another Algarve)**. Although birds will be the event's main attraction, this year there will also be fieldtrips and mini-courses on topics such as astronomy, mushrooms, nocturnal butterflies or sharks. *This diversification of activities aims to make the most of, and familiarise people with, the region's natural heritage, focusing on the development of nature tourism?*, states Nuno Barros, Marine Program Assistant at SPEA. During the festival it will also be possible to take part in dolphin watching activities, or even to go horse riding accompanied by pack donkeys. Local businesses are offering special prices on accommodation, tourist activities and restaurants. Sagres, in the municipality of **Vila do Bispo**, is one of the most important areas for birdlife in Portugal. The area is home to unique species in the region of Algarve: from August to November, it becomes the main migratory corridor in the country for storks, eagles, vultures, hawks and falcons, and almost all the species of soaring birds found in Portugal can be seen here, as well as a number of rarities. The programme and the registration procedure can be found at the **official website** of the 4th Sagres Birdwatching Festival. For more information: please contact **Nuno Barros**, Marine Program Assistant at SPEA.
