

# ***Points of Ornithological Interest P.O.I. NERPIO***

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In this section we will describe the most interesting facilities to observe birds in the municipality of Nerpio.

## ***Facilities and materials for bird watchers***

Nerpio Town Hall provides bird watchers who want to visit the municipality with a network of viewpoints, observatories, photography hides, scientific bird ringing stations and sign posted tracks.

Binoculars and telescopes can be borrowed at the local tourist information office, and guided visits to make the most of the birdwatching excursion can be arranged with expert local guides.

Educational activities are also organized, especially directed at school groups with the aim of getting to know the birds of the region and learning to respect them.

The resources presently available for the bird watcher are the following:

## ***Mingarnao Bird Observatory***

The first bird observatory in Castilla-La Mancha specializing in the observation of birds of prey. It can be found at an altitude of 1,600 metres and situated 300 metres from Muladar de Mingarnao (feeding place for vultures). Being surrounded by rocky cliffs makes it possible to observe all types of birds of prey and mountain birds.

The construction of the observatory is all stone and wood and integrates completely into the environment. From the observatory we can observe the birds comfortably, sheltered from the inclement elements typical to mountain areas. In order to use the part which is closed, it is necessary to ask for a key from the Nerpio Tourist Information Office. Guided visits booked in advance are also organized.



1. Mingarnao Bird Observatory

## ***Photography hide of the Muladar de Mingarnao***

A wooden hide designed and equipped for professional nature photography. From the hide, it is possible to photograph the main species of necrophagous birds which fly in the sky above Nerpio. So far, all of the species of vultures which inhabit the Iberian Peninsula have been observed, so nothing can be ruled out.

In order to use the hide, permission must be requested from Nerpio Town Hall, which is in charge of managing the visit and processing any permits required for taking photos.

It is possible to stay overnight for a weekly charge of only 150€ and by following the regulations in place.



2. Photographic hide in the feeding place

## ***Mingarnao drinking place hide***

This is a small hide made of a camouflage material and a metallic structure which makes even the most demanding photos and digiscope photos a delight.

Having access to a pond-drinking place which was especially constructed for the wild fauna, it is possible to photograph all kinds of mountain passeriforms. In winter, the Ring Ouzel (*Turdus torquatus*) is the master and Lord of the pond, being one of the most abundant species along with other thrushes. In order to use the hide, it is necessary to consult the availability at Nerpio Tourist Information Office.



3. Drinking place hide

## ***Yetas Ornithological Station***

Recently included in the Castilla-La-Mancha Environmental Equipment Network, the Yetas O.S. periodically organized scientific bird ringing campaigns and environmental education activities in which the protagonists are the ringed birds which are re-released into the wild.

Every year, an international volunteer campaign is organized which attracts ornithologists from all over the world to the town.

The Yetas O.S. and all of its materials and facilities are available to the ringing groups and ringers with a ringing licence in Castilla-La-Mancha who want to use it out with the volunteer programmes. It is also possible to ring in the programme accompanied by a local expert ringer with all of the appropriate permits in order.



4. Ringers at Yetas Ornithological Station

