



# The Birds of the National Hunting Grounds of Mafra



# Welcome to the World of Birds!

Birds have always grasped the fascination of man whether out of their capacity to fly or the diversity of both their colours and their song. With an enormous variety of species, birds have adapted whether to different habitats or to different diets. The field of biology dedicated to the study of birds is Ornithology. The National Hunting Grounds of Mafra are home to

over 50 species of birds and of the most varied sizes and colours.

To better detail these various species, we shall break them down into three groups: Birds of Prey, Passeriformes, Others. Within the Passeriformes group, we make a further subdivision in accordance with their respective diets: Insectivores, Granivores and Omnivores.

## Birds of Prey in the National Hunting of Mafra

Generally among the largest of birds and carnivorous in diet, birds of prey thus display sharp and strong beaks and very powerful and pointed claws. The genders are usually similar even while the females as a general rule are larger than the males. They are all excellent fliers.

### The Common Buzzard

*(Buteo buteo)*

**Size:** 43-50 cm in length;  
100-125 cm in breadth;

**Diet:** Rodents, birds, reptiles. When food is in short supply, this species may feed off carcases;

**Breeding:**

2-3 eggs are laid in April/May with incubation taking around 35 days before the chicks remain in the nest for a further 40 days.





**Bonelli's Eagle**  
(*Hieraaetus fasciatus*)

**Size:**  
60-66 cm in length;  
140-165 cm in breadth;  
**Diet:**  
Wild rabbits, rodents, pigeons, lizards and snakes;  
**Breeding:**  
1-2 eggs are laid in February/March with incubation taking around 40 days before the chicks remain in the nest for a further two months.



**Northern Goshawk**  
(*Accipiter gentilis*)

**Size:**  
48-60 cm in length;  
85-115 cm in breadth;  
**Diet:**  
Rodents, rabbits and birds;  
**Breeding:**  
2-5 eggs are laid in March/April with incubation taking around 40 days.  
The female incubates the eggs alone with the male only meeting the food needs.



**Eurasian Sparrowhawk**  
(*Accipiter nisus*)

**Size:**  
30-39 cm in length;  
58-77 cm in length;  
**Diet:** Small birds;  
**Breeding:**  
5-7 eggs are laid in April/May with incubation taking around 34 days before the chicks remain in the nest for a further 30 days; These birds are monogamous with couples remaining together for life.



**Common Kestrel**  
(*Falco tinnunculus*)

**Size:**  
32-38 cm in length;  
68-78 cm in breadth;  
**Diet:** Rodents, reptiles and small birds;  
**Breeding:** does not make a nest but rather takes advantage of those of other birds. 4-6 eggs are laid in April/May with incubation taking around 30 days before the chicks remain in the nest for a further month;  
This bird patrols the soil by rapidly beating its wings to hover in position and displays aggression towards other birds of prey entering its hunting and breeding territory.



**Barn Swallow**  
(*Hirundo rustica*)  
Size: 19 cm

**Common House Martin**  
(*Delichon urbica*)  
Size: 14 cm



**Grey Wagtail**  
(*Motocilla cinerea*)  
Size: 18 cm

**Common Blackbird**  
(*Turdus merula*)  
Size: 24 cm

# Passeriformes

in the National Hunting Grounds of Mafra



**European Robin**  
(*Erithacus rubecula*)  
Size: 14 cm



## Eurasian Blue Tit

(*Parus caeruleus*)

Size: 12 cm



## Royal Tit

(*Parus caeruleus*)

Size: 14 cm



## Coal Tit

(*Parus ater*)

Size: 11 cm



## Long-tailed Tit

(*Aegithalus caudatus*)

Size: 16 cm



## Black Redstart

(*Phoenicurus ochruros*)

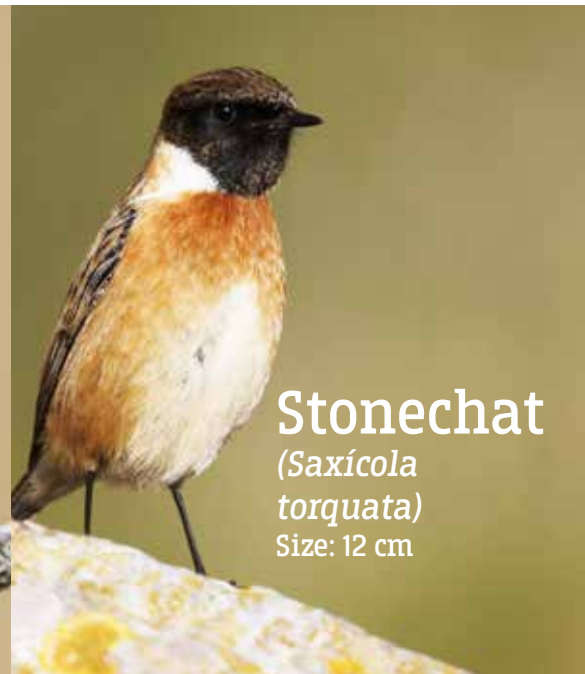
Size: 15 cm



## Mistle Thrush

(*Turdus viscivorus*)

Size: 28 cm



## Stonechat

(*Saxicola torquata*)

Size: 12 cm

## Passeriformes: Insectivores

With fine and sharpened beaks, this bird group spans those that eat insects and spiders whilst other species feed off worms and slugs.

In certain periods of the year, they may also feed off berries and dry seeds.

They are mostly migratory birds.

## Eurasian Blackcap

(*Sylvia atricapilla*)

Size: 14 cm

## Eurasian Nuthatch

(*Sitta europaea*)

Size: 14 cm



## Short-toed Trecreeper

(*Certhia brachydactyla*)

Size: 13 cm





**Cirl Bunting**  
(*Emberiza cirlus*)  
Size: 16,50 cm



**Common Chaffinch**  
(*Fringilla coelebs*)  
Dimensões: 15 cm

## Passeriformes: Granivores

These feed mainly off berries and seeds and thus have strong and conical beaks.



**European Goldfinch**  
(*Carduelis carduelis*)  
Size: 14 cm



**House Sparrow**  
(*Passer domesticus*)  
Size: 14,50 cm



**European Serin**  
(*Serinus serinus*)  
Size: 11 cm



**Eurasian Siskin**  
(*Carduelis spinus*)  
Size: 12 cm



## Eurasian Jay

(*Garrulus glandarius*)

Size: 35 cm

## Common Raven

(*Corvus corax*)

Size: 64 cm



## European Turtle Dove

(*Streptopelia turtur*)

Size: 27 cm



## Common Cuckoo

(*Cuculus canorus*)

Size: 33 cm

## Jackdaw

(*Corvus monedula*)

Size: 33 cm



## Other Birds

### Red-legged Partridge

(*Alectoris rufa*)

Size: 35 cm



## Passeriformes: Omnivores

Characterised by their very large and strong beaks that serve a multiple range of functions.



# Protecting the Birds What can we do?

All bird species are covered by various regulatory directives that provide them with direct protection. Individually, we may take various measures:

- Protecting their habitats for example by controlling pollution levels and preventing fires;
- Encouraging the growing of gardens with plants producing berries and seeds and that serve not only as excellent sources of shelter but also the food needed by small birds;

- Never take away the eggs or the chicks from a nest and prevent anyone who is thinking of doing so. In addition to being illegal, nobody is better than the progenitors at caring for their young;
- In spring, you may encounter chicks on their own. Please do not engage with them as despite being out of the nest, their progenitors are continuing to feed them;



Lesser Spotted Woodpecker  
(*Dendrocopos minor*)  
Size: 15 cm



European Green Woodpecker  
(*Picus viridis*)  
Size: 30 cm



Hoopoe  
(*Upupa epops*)  
Size: 28 cm



Great Spotted Woodpecker  
(*Dendrocopos major*)  
Size: 23 cm

# The Birds of the National Hunting Grounds of Mafra

PATRIMÓNIO  
NATURAL  
COM HISTÓRIA.

