

QUINTA DO EGA

The marshland surrounding “Quinta do Ega” is a refuge, reproduction and feeding area to many animal species. Here we can watch several predatory birds such as the kestrel (*Falco tinnunculus*), the buzzard (*Buteo buteo*); the black kite (*Milvus migrans*) that arrives during spring/ summer season, and the osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*) in winter.

Once in the banks, we can watch the grey heron (*Ardea cinerea*) with its long neck, standing in the middle of the marsh, patiently waiting to catch some preys. While flying, its long neck is contracted, a characteristic that distinguishes it from the white stork (*Ciconia ciconia*), which nests here during spring/summer.

One of the shorebirds that nests in this area is the little ringed plover

(*Charadrius dubius*). It inhabits this area from March to September and during this period it looks for insect larvae, worms and small crustaceans in the mud. This small bird, when surprised, pretends to have a broken wing to distract the observer’s attention from the nest.

We can identify the kingfisher (*Alcedo atthis*) because of its fast and swooped on the water. With any luck and patience, this beautiful bird can be watched perching on branches near the water, while it is looking for small fish in order to capture them by diving vertically.

Learning about this wetlands is very important to promote its sustainable conservation.

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Falco tinnunculus



Buteo buteo



Milvus migrans



Pandion haliaetus



Ciconia ciconia



Charadrius dubius