

## **CODE OF GOOD PRACTICE FOR GUIDED TOURS WITHIN THE *RED MITO***

1. The birds' welfare should always be the overriding concern. Birdwatching should never represent any nuisance or harm for birds or any other living beings.
2. Try to alter the bird's natural behaviour as little as possible. Never use playbacks or recordings to coax the birds into view; this could cause stress and harm to many species of birds and other animals.
3. Use optical equipment (binoculars and/or telescopes) to avoid getting too close to the birds. Specialist guides and publications should also be used to get the most out of the experience.
4. Walk along quietly trying to disturb the habitat as little as possible. Don't stray off tracks and paths and make sure the whole group is aware of any special limitations and circumstances in the area visited.
5. Avoid disturbing fauna during the breeding season, observing the species from a safe distance. In general nests should never be visited. In particular the nests of threatened and/or protected species should be visited only with express permission from the authority that be, abiding by all conditions laid down in the permit.
6. Roosts are also sensitive areas. Don't get too close to them and avoid any disturbance.
7. Wear sombre clothing that blends into the scenery rather than clashing with it.
8. Most land is privately owned in Sierra Morena. Don't stray onto private land without previous permission from the owners. Some publicly owned land also calls for previous permission before making any visit.
9. Report any unsuitable behaviour that you may have observed as well as sightings of any rare or threatened species. Also give feedback on the state of facilities for public use.
10. The group leader has to be a role model of ethical behaviour for the group as a whole.
11. Groups should be restricted to the number that minimises impact on the environment, ensuring a top-quality service for clients.
12. Take all your rubbish away with you and deposit it in suitable places. Avoid any behaviour that might cause a fire.