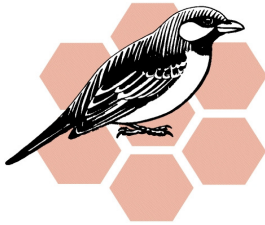


Article in BirdLife International's e-newsletter, February 2009

Sustainable tourism and the BirdLife Partnership



In March Marcelino Cardalliaguet, the Extremadura representative from SEO (BirdLife in Spain) will make his short annual journey to meet a group of British tourists on a wildlife holiday, where he will explain more about the challenges for bird conservation in this wonderful Spanish region, and will go back with a considerable donation for SEO. Similarly, in June, British birdwatchers will be meeting young birdwatchers from Falco cherrug, one of SOR's (BirdLife in Romania) local groups, in Romania's Danube Delta.

What these meetings have in common is that both are organised through Honeyguide Wildlife Holidays, an organisation based in Norwich, England. Honeyguide organises sustainable travels and supports BirdLife Partners by including a donation of £35 for each holiday participant, which will support a conservation project in the country they have chosen for their holiday. The donations go through the Honeyguide Wildlife Charitable Trust, allowing top-ups from the UK Government through a 'gift aid' on charity donations. Established in 1991, Honeyguide has already contributed £53,635 to various conservation projects.

Honeyguide's manager, Chris Durdin, says: "We see this donation as giving back something towards the conservation of the wildlife we have enjoyed. Where possible, we arrange meetings between tourists and local conservationists. An exchange of information, moral support from our travellers and sometimes local publicity for the donation adds extra value to the supported projects".

Until recently Chris has been working for the RSPB (BirdLife in the UK), where this activity in Honeyguide was a natural link between holidays and conservation work. The destinations of these natural history holidays cover many European countries and South Africa.

For more information contact Chris at honeyguide@tesco.net or visit www.honeyguide.co.uk