



**Closer  
to Nature**

## PRESS RELEASE

### New Bird-watching Platform near Šumperk

**(Šumperk, October 22, 2013)** The Czech Union for Nature Conservation and its general partner NET4GAS presented the general public with a new destination for excursions in the vicinity of Šumperk: a bird-watching platform on the shore of one of the Třemešek Fishponds. This marks already the 60th site that has been made accessible to nature lovers since 2007 in the program Closer to Nature, though this certainly does not mean that the program is about to be retired – far from it!

The Třemešek Fishponds (*Třemešské rybníky*) are a holdover from the fish-farming boom in North Moravia in the 17th century. The individual fishponds form a greater whole, which today represents an important natural site in the Šumperk area. It is especially rich in birds: the Třemešek Fishponds are home to a great number of avian species, but it also holds importance for amphibian life and other animal species. Not coincidentally, this is the site of regular events known as the “Welcoming of Birdsong” and the “Autumnal Birdlife Festival”. With this in mind, the local Šumperk chapter of the Czech Union for Nature Conservation has built a bird-watching platform on the shore of one of the Třemešek Fishponds. From among the local birds, the patient bird-watcher has a fair chance of spotting protected species such as the Great (White) Egret, the Common Kingfisher, or the Little Bittern, along with a great variety of their “more common” kin. Visitors can learn more about them, and about other intriguing aspects of the site, from two newly-installed information panels.

“To draw public attention to little-known sites such as this one, which are nonetheless extremely appealing to nature lovers: this has long been one of the main objectives of NET4GAS Closer to Nature,” says Zuzana Kučerová of NET4GAS.

“For our [i.e. the local ČSOP’s] Šumperk chapter, this is not a one-off activity. We plan further events for the general public at the Třemešek Fishponds, such as a litter-picking hike as part of our Keep the World Tidy campaign, ‘annotated walks’ (i.e. nature hikes with commentaries by a guide), and - in collaboration with the Jeseníky Nature Reserve - a Birdlife Day. Eventually, we also want to tackle the issue of restoring the tree-lined paths on the causeway,” adds Marcel Minář, President of the Czech Union for Nature Conservation.

The bird-watching station is located two kilometers outside Šumperk, east of the Třemešek Fishponds, and in close proximity to the road that leads from Šumperk to Třemešek. Visitors can reach the site from the railway station in Šumperk along the blue hiking trail, or via cycling path No. 6114.

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**The Czech Union for Nature Conservation** is a civic association of people who share an active interest in nature conservation and the environment. ČSOP's mission is to protect and restore nature, the landscape and the environment, to promote environmental education and support sustainable living. The Union currently has 9,000 members coming from the ranks of professional naturalists, experienced volunteers as well as pure enthusiasts who simply love nature. For more information please go to [www.csop.cz](http://www.csop.cz).

**NET4GAS** is aware of its social responsibility and therefore develops and constantly deepens its concept of corporate philanthropy and sponsorship. The company acts as a reliable and safe gas transmission system operator and develops a responsible environmental policy that takes into account the interests of future generations. The NET4GAS long-term strategy - which is put into practice through the NET4GAS Closer to Nature programme - springs from the close relation between the core business pursued by NET4GAS on the one hand, and nature-conservation and environmental issues on the other. NET4GAS is the general partner of the Czech Union for Nature Conservation since 2007 and supports other projects for which the motto "Closer to Nature" represents an integral part of sustainable development. For detailed information on the localities newly opened to the public and on other nature spots of interest, as well as for destination tips, please visit [www.closetonature.cz](http://www.closetonature.cz).