

# International Birdwatching and Naturalistic Tourism Fair

## 2007 Edition Special Slow Tourism

April 28<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> Fairground & May 1<sup>st</sup> “Slow” Day

Po Delta Park

Emilia-Romagna, Comacchio (Ferrara)

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### **THE FAIR FOR BIRDWATCHING AND NATURALISTIC TOURISM CONTINUES**

#### **Great presence of public on the second day of the International Po Delta Birdwatching Fair**

**COMACCHIO (Fe).** Great success and extraordinary presence of public at the **International Po Delta Birdwatching Fair** of Comacchio on its second opening day. Naturalistic excursions on the Po Delta and all kinds of initiatives in the pavillions were sold out; public and organisers were really satisfied.

There has been quite an interest for evening events, above all the astronomy observation, organised by the exhibitors of optic devices, the classic music concert by the pupils of Ravenna's Conservatory, and the projection of cartoons and photos for children.

The **Bird-TT (Birdwatching Travel Trade)**, a tourism workshop linking demand and supply for birdwatching and naturalistic tourism sectors, has been greatly appreciated. Italian and foreign tour operators were satisfied by the various and structured supply which met exactly their expectations.

As far as photographic contests are concerned, a prestigious jury of naturalistic photographers has awarded the prizes for “**Asferico 2007**”, the first international naturalistic photography contest, whose theme was ice. The winner for the “Mammals” category was Mr. Simone Sbaraglia from Cagliari; Mr. Alessandro Cappuccini, from Florence, won the prize for “Landscape”, and Mr. Luciano Gaudenzio from Pordenone won the prize for “park landscape”.

Mr. Bence Máté (from Hungary) was awarded for the “Birds” category, Mr. Marzio Moretti from Udine won the prize for the category “Other animals”. Mr. Jesper Tønning was awarded for “Plants”, whereas Mr. Andrea Rocchetti from Viterbo won the prize for “Compositions and forms” and, last but not least, Alessandra Meniconzi from Switzerland won the prize for the category “Ice”.

The third day of the fair will be devoted to slow tourism, particularly the one on river.

The fair will host the arrival of the river raid Locarno-Venice, and the following press conference to present it.

At 2.30 pm the seminary “**Hop onboard – Talk and slide show: from Lago Maggiore to the Adriatic Sea**” will be held. It is organised as a part of the project “Water routes of Northern Italy”, with the support of the Italian Nautical Association. The meeting will be moderated by the President of Delta 2000, Mr. Giancarlo Malacarne, and will discuss topics related to slow tourism and navigation on rivers.

On April 30th, at 11 am, the Ravenna and Ferrara sections of the Italian Forest Army will release some specimens of birds that were taken back from poachers and healed at the center “Il pettirosso” in Modena. It is an important demonstration against illegal capture of wild animals and

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**Promoting Committee:** Regione Emilia-Romagna, APT Servizi Regione Emilia-Romagna, Parco Delta del Po Emilia-Romagna, Provincia di Ferrara, Provincia di Ravenna, Camera di Commercio di Ferrara, Camera di Commercio di Ravenna, DELTA 2000, Comune di Comacchio, Comune di Ravenna, Comune di Cervia

**Under the patronage of:** LIPU – Lega Italiana Protezione Uccelli, WWF Italia – Onlus, Legambiente Turismo, Birdlife International, Federazione Italiana Parchi e Riserve Naturali, Touring Club Italiano, EBN Italia - Euro Bird Net, ASOER - Associazione Ornitologi Emilia-Romagna, INFS - Istituto Nazionale della Fauna Selvatica

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poachery, a cruel act done with traps of all sorts (as exhibited at the stand of the Forest Army) that threaten and kill animals making them suffer.

At stand 19 of pavillion A, the famous chef, Igles Corelli, will present “**The embrace of Mother Earth, the ideal container for mushrooms: gastronomy and art join forces**”. This event, among the gastronomic ones of the fair, will offer a tasty trial of dishes with mushrooms and will present an original sculpture to contain this precious earth fruit.

On April 30<sup>th</sup> the absolute novelty of this year’s fair will go on: **Sound Walking**, a very particular technique coming from Canada. Its aim is a new way to observe nature getting rid of sight and stressing hearing. People will walk blindfolded guided by other people in order to enhance hearing sensitiveness, paying attention to those special sounds that are normally not considered.

On May 1<sup>st</sup> **Eco-Running** will take place for the first time: a non-competitive run combining sport to the knowledge of nature and of the terrain, with important testimonials such as the skipper, **Cino Ricci**, and the marathon runner, **Laura Fogli**. In the contest ten teams will be created, each one with four components who, using binoculars, compass, cameras and ID cards, will face all the problems a contest in a natural environment deals with.

The **exhibition village**, built on Argine Fattibello, next to the Comacchio Valleys, hosts state-of-the-art equipment and tools for birdwatchers and those who love naturalistic tourism: optic and photographic instruments, specialised press, travel suggestions, equipment for open-air sports, facilities to feel fully the contact with nature, and much more. You can access directly the valley from the pavillion, and you can directly test optic devices.

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