

*Fotorejse til*  
**Rumænien**



**Scanbird**

*Birds & Wildlife tours and guiding - Wildlife photography*

# Danube-Delta in Spring

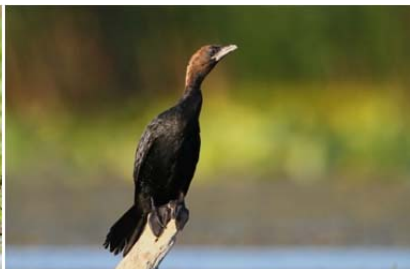
Hide-photography in Europe's largest wetland and the Dobrodgea steppes with  
**Scanbird**

**8 days in 2013**



*All images were taken by János Oláh on our exploratory tour in 2011.*

This fantastic eight-day tour focuses on the Danube-Delta and Dobrodgea area of Romania which is an amazingly diverse breeding and migration hotspot of Europe! The tour combines hide-photography and stalking photography, though these two will merge together in our special photo-boat inside the delta allowing superb possibilities getting close to birds!



*Glossy Ibis, Pygmy Cormorant and White Pelicans are amongst the commonest birds of the Delta...*



*White-tailed Eagle (above) and Pallas's Gull (below) can be photographed with a bit of luck...*



### **Potential photographic highlights:**

- Fantastic selection of waterbirds from a specially designed photo-boat inside the delta
- White and Dalmatian Pelicans
- Breeding plumaged Red-necked and Black-necked Grebes
- European Herons and Egrets
- Possibility of breeding plumaged Pallas's Gull, a rare European species
- Whiskered Tern colonies
- Drinking hides in the Macin Mountain National Park
- Sombre Tit and Levant Sparrowhawk
- Stalking photography for steppe species like Isabelline and Pied Wheatears
- Collared Pratincole colonies
- If Rose-coloured Starlings breeding excellent opportunities for this superb species (they breed regularly but not every year!)
- Delightful Souslik photography



*Purple Heron catching a small fish*



*Dalmatian Pelican is one of the highlights of the Danube-Delta*

### **Itinerary:**

**Day 1** The tour begins at Bucharest, from where we will transfer to Tulcea – the gateway to the Sulina arm of the Danube-Delta. Upon arrival we will board our special photo-boat and travel to Mila 23 which will be our base for the next 3 nights. If time allows we will spend this first afternoon with photography.

**Days 2 - 3** We will have two full days of photography inside the Danube-Delta. This will allow us to enjoy a variety of subjects in this last wilderness of Europe. The exact programme will be determined by the available subjects and the desires of the photographers. We will have two photo sessions daily. We usually start 30 minutes before sunrise and return to our accommodation for lunch and rest. The afternoon session will last until sunset.



*Squacco Heron is common and delightful photo-subject...*



*Red-necked Grebe is fairly common in the Danube-Delta*

**Day 4** After a last morning session we will sadly leave the Danube-Delta behind and travel back to Tulcea for an overnight.

**Day 5 - 6** Early this morning we leave for the Macin Mountain National Park where we have a photo hide for drinking birds. This rather dry habitat support a lot of scarce birds and our drinking pool will most probably be visited by many species. Two people will spend the morning in the hide while our guide will take the other two clients to photograph Souselik and various steppe bird species. If any suitable subject found dog-house type blinds can be used any time. In the afternoon the other two photographers will use the drinking hide. The following day is the same but vice versa. One night will be spent in Macin. On the second day we will transfer to Constanta for a two night stay.



*Levant Sparrowhawk and Ortolan Buntings are fairly common in the Macin Mountain NP*



*Bee-eater is a common breeding bird and we will have various opportunities to photograph them...*

**Days 7** A full day will be spent around Constanta where we will concentrate our efforts on Steppe species. We will be doing mainly stalking photography but blinds can be used if required.



*We will photograph Collared Pratincoles around Constanta plus other steppe species like Isabelline and Pied Wheatears ...*



**Day 8** After an early morning photography we will return to Bucharest where the tour will end...



*Collared Pratincole and Paddyfield Warbler near Constanta...*

**Price:** All inclusive except the international flight, the guide tip and the personnel expenses such as alcoholic drinks, laundry and phone calls.

**Accommodation & Road Transport:** The hotels are of a good standard for most of the tour. In the Macin area slightly lower standard but it is clean (one night). Road transport is by minibus and roads are generally good.

**Walking:** The walking effort is mostly easy throughout the tour.

**Climate:** In June most days are warm, dry and sunny and temperature is up to 30C. We will focus on the early morning and late afternoon hours however so it will not be inconvenient.

**This section is depending on the agreed date for the tour in case of partner operators!**

**Recommended equipment:** All sorts of lenses can be used but a larger 400 or 500 mm lens is recommended on this tour. We will supply special beanbags in the boat. These are useful when photographing through the curtain or without. Tripods are essential to bring for the tour.

**What to bring:**

- torch
- binocular
- photo equipment
- plenty of memory cards
- tripod
- insect repellent
- waterproof and/or slipping proof sandals or slippers
- wind proof clothing, sun block and hat



*White Pelicans and Whiskered Tern*



**About your boat:** This 6,5 m long very stable flat bottomed boat was designed for photographers. It has four seats in the middle of the boat which are removable so when needed photography takes place from cushions allowing the lowest possible angle. The boat is installed with special photo-through glass – the same as in our hides in Hungary – on both side and also with a curtain system. The windows are turn able so photography also possible through the curtains only. The boat can be used in all weather as it has a removable roof as well.



**About your guide:** Zoltán joined Sakertour officially in 2008 when the hide photography section was launched, but has been helping our company in the Transylvania region for many years. He speaks good English, good Romanian and perfect Hungarian. He began birding when he was 13 years old. He is based in Székelyudvarhely (Odorheiu Scuiesc) and his local patch is the Hargita Mountain and the various wetlands around his home town. Zoltán has an intimate knowledge of his local area but he has also travelled extensively in the Danube-delta area over the years and had led many birdwatching tours there. He started his bird and nature

protection work when he joined the Aves Foundation in 1998 where he carried out surveys and monitoring works. He has been one of the authors of the Romanian bird checklist. Zoltán has also travelled in the Western Palearctic to watch birds. He has been to Slovakia, Bulgaria, Greece and Turkey. Most importantly however he is a keen photographer and has perfect knowledge and good eyes to get you into the best photography positions!



**Hope to see you in the Danube-Delta with [Scanbird!](#)**