

# First Ornithofestival in Bosnia-Herzegovina welcomes over a hundred bird lovers

## Title

**On 20 and 21 April 2012, the cities of Kraljeva Sutjeska and Kakanj in Bosnia-Herzegovina (BH) hosted the country's first 'Ornithofestival'.** Organised by Our Birds, the Bosnian non-governmental ornithological association, and sponsored by the Federal Ministry of Environment and Tourism of BH, the Municipality of Kakanj (BH), EuroNatur, the Mava Foundation, the Foundation Visoki, HeidelbergCement at Kakanj and Astra sat.

The festival was a great success. More than a hundred of people, from Croatia, Serbia, Slovenia, Germany and Bosnia-Herzegovina gathered to celebrate birds over two days, participating in numerous activities.

The event was opened with lively speeches: Mehmed Cero from the Federal Ministry of Environment and Tourism opened the festival; Dražen Kotročan, chairman of Our Birds, and Fadil Medić from the Municipality of Kakanj also spoke.

On the first day, participants could attend a seminar on 'Birds and Tourism' and watch the recently launched documentary 'I feel I'm in Heaven' by Ilhan Dervović (Vice-president of Our Birds), on the issues of wildlife, eco-tourism and sustainable use of agricultural lands around the Bistrik wetland area in Kakanj Municipality, a site of great importance for birds.

On the second day, tourism and arts were celebrated. Guests were invited to take a tour: starting with Bistrik wetland, one of Europe's rich natural environments, they went on to admire the historical heritage of the medieval town of Bistrik, capital of the Bosnian kings, the Franciscan Monastery and the country's oldest Mosque in Kraljeva Sutjeska. An ornitho-fair was organised and there was an opportunity to participate in the launch of a beautiful photo exhibition of the birds of Bistrik wetland by Dročić Narcis and Sumeja.

For more information, please contact [Ena Ćimic](#), project coordinator and conservation biologist at Our Birds.

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