

INTERNATIONAL BIRD PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST

DELTA PHOTO CONTEST 2026



Welcome to the **DELTA PHOTO CONTEST**, the photography competition of the **DELTA BIRDING FESTIVAL**.

We invite all photographers—both amateur and professional—who share the belief that photography is a powerful tool for the conservation of birds and their habitats.

In the selection of photographs, priority will be given to originality, technical and artistic quality, and the difficulty involved in capturing the images, as well as their ability to convey to the viewer the undeniable need to protect the natural environment.

The **DELTA PHOTO CONTEST 2026** is sponsored by **NIKON** (sponsor of the three photography equipment prizes), **Photo Logistics** (festival co-organizer, contest coordinator, and sponsor of the three cash prizes and hide sessions) and **Foto Ruano** (sponsor of the photographic exhibition prints) and **Novogreen** (sponsor of the photographic exhibition marquee).



RULES

PARTICIPANTS

All photographers, ornithologists, and nature lovers—whether amateur or professional—may participate in the **DELTA PHOTO CONTEST**, provided they are the authors of the submitted photographs and hold full rights to them.

The entry fee for this competition is **€15 in total for the three main categories** (Conservation, Observation and Action), and **free of charge for the two special categories** (Young Photographers and Birds of the Delta).

The organizers of the contest and the festival, sponsors, and individuals directly related to members of the jury are not eligible to participate.

THEME AND CATEGORIES

The competition's overall theme is birdlife from anywhere in the world, and entries may be submitted in accordance with the following categories:

- **1st CATEGORY: CONSERVATION**

A set of three images that, related to each other, tell a story in which a bird is the main subject. The aim of this photographic portfolio is to present the visual journey of a personal or professional project, always connected to the conservation of one or more species. It may be linked to habitat improvement for biodiversity in a given area, the recovery of threatened or endangered species, the personal experience of monitoring a bird within a local patch, or participation or work in a conservation project.

This set of photographs will be considered valid as long as it provokes some kind of reflection or emotional response in the viewer. The only requirement is that birds must appear in at least 2 of the 3 images; the remaining elements—whether human or material—may form part of the composition as the author sees fit.

In this category, there will be **one winner and two finalists**, resulting in a total of **9 photographs** displayed in the exhibition.

The winner will receive a **prize consisting of photography equipment valued at €1,799**, corresponding to the **Nikon Z6II camera body and the NIKKOR Z 40mm f/2 lens**, sponsored by **NIKON**.

The winner will also receive a **cash prize of €1,000**, awarded by the sponsor **Photo Logistics**. This monetary prize must be used to further develop a project over the following year. This prize commits the author to presenting, in the next edition, a talk with the results of their project. This presentation will take place during the awards ceremony of the following year. The winner will receive instructions for organizing this work once the festival has ended and will be invited to the next DBF with all expenses covered to deliver the presentation.

The two finalists will be awarded a **one-year subscription to Oryx magazine**, the book **Bird Photographer of the Year**, and a **€100 voucher** redeemable for products

in the Oryx store. **This package is valued at 115€** and is sponsored by **Oryx, the nature lover's store**.

- **2nd CATEGORY: OBSERVATION**

We celebrate birdwatching in our surroundings and across the world, from our doorstep to the most remote corners of the planet. The aim of this category is images in which the bird is the most prominent element of the composition. The featured species must be a bird from any continent that meets the conditions that make it attractive to ornithologists: being rare or difficult to observe, having particularly striking plumage, displaying little-known behavior, inhabiting a very special habitat, or other characteristics that make this photograph a record of a special sighting—without compromising technical quality, composition, and aesthetics. The image may depict portrait, environmental, or behavioral scenes and, although priority is given to the species, composition and overall photographic quality will be highly valued.

In this category, there will be **one winner and two finalists**, resulting in a total of **3 photographs** displayed in the exhibition.

The winner will receive a **prize consisting of photography equipment valued at €1,349**, corresponding to the **Nikon COOLPIX P1100 camera**, sponsored by **NIKON**.

The winner will also receive a cash prize of **€500**, awarded by the sponsor **Photo Logistics**.

The two finalists will be awarded a **one-year subscription to Oryx magazine**, the book **Bird Photographer of the Year**, and a **€50 voucher** redeemable for products in the Oryx store. **This package is valued at €115** and is sponsored by **Oryx, the nature lover's store**.

- **3rd CATEGORY: ACTION**

Images of birds in action (flights, flocks, dives, fights, courtship, hunting or feeding scenes, etc.) that showcase unique aspects of their behavior. Special value will be given to dynamism, energy, and the difficulty of capturing the image; in short, capturing striking and impactful scenes.

In this category, there will be **one winner and two finalists**, resulting in a total of **3 photographs** displayed in the exhibition.

The winner will also receive a **prize consisting of photography equipment valued at €999**, corresponding to the **Nikon Z50 II camera body** and the **NIKKOR Z DX 16-50 mm f/3.5-6.3 VR lens**, sponsored by **NIKON**.

The winner will receive a **cash prize of €500**, awarded by the sponsor **Photo Logistics**.

The two finalists will be awarded a **one-year subscription to Oryx magazine**, the book **Bird Photographer of the Year**, and a **€50 voucher** redeemable for products

in the Oryx store. This **package is valued at €115** and is sponsored by **Oryx, the nature lover's store**.

SPECIAL CATEGORIES

- **4th CATEGORY: YOUNG PHOTOGRAPHERS**

Images of birds taken by photographers under 18 years of age. Participants under 18 may only enter this category.

In this category, there will be **one winner and two finalists**, resulting in a total of **3 photographs** displayed in the exhibition.

The winner will receive a **seasonal hide photography** session in Catalonia, valued at up to **€190**, awarded by the sponsor **Photo Logistics**.

The two finalists will be awarded a **one-year subscription to Oryx magazine** and the book **Bird Photographer of the Year**. This **package is valued at €65** and is sponsored by **Oryx, the nature lover's store**.

- **5th CATEGORY: EBRO DELTA BIRDS**

Images of birds that may be portraits, behavioral shots, or birds in their environment, with the particular requirement that they were taken in the Ebro Delta. As in the previous categories, the image submitted in this category must not have been entered in any other category.

In this category, there will be **one winner and two finalists**, resulting in a total of **3 photographs** displayed in the exhibition.

The winner will receive a **seasonal hide photography** session in Catalonia, valued at up to **€190**, awarded by the sponsor **Photo Logistics**.

The two finalists will be awarded a **one-year subscription to Oryx magazine** and the book **Bird Photographer of the Year**. This **package is valued at €65** and is sponsored by **Oryx, the nature lover's store**.

IMAGE NAMING

1- File names must begin with the **title of the image**, with spaces replaced by underscores, followed by another underscore and the **category code** (C1, C2, C3, C4, or C5). The image title can be written in the language of the author's choice and is recommended not to exceed **5 words**.

2- File names must **not contain special characters** (e.g., “#” or “<>”) or punctuation marks (e.g., accents, “!”, “?”, or “.”).

3- **Spaces must be replaced with underscores** (_).

4- An example of a correct file name would be: **Spring_Memories_C3**

The contest organizers reserve the right to **disqualify any image** that is not submitted following this naming convention.

IMAGE SUBMISSION FORMAT FOR THE CONTEST

Regardless of the medium used to create them, images must be submitted to the contest **only as digital files** in **JPEG, JPG, or TIFF format**, preferably with **Adobe RGB 1998 color profile**, and **without added frames, borders, or captions**.

Since winning and finalist images will be sent for production to be printed and physically displayed in the contest exhibition during the three days of the festival, it is very important that the submitted images are in **5:7 format**. Images should preferably be uploaded at **254 dpi, 8 bits**, and with a size of **50 cm × 70 cm** (70 cm being the long side, whether presented horizontally or vertically).

When uploading photographs to the contest website (details provided below), you can also attach your **original file (RAW or DNG)**.

If your photo passes the first phase of jury evaluation and you have not yet uploaded the original file to the platform, the team will contact you via the email used for participation.

The **original file** is requested so the jury can compare it with the edited image and determine if it qualifies for the final selection. Therefore, the request for the RAW file **does not mean the image is a finalist**, only that it is being evaluated for potential inclusion in the final phase. If the image is selected as a winner or finalist, this will be communicated via another email.

Failure to submit the **RAW file** will result in **disqualification** of the photograph.

NUMBER

Each adult author (18 years or older) may submit a **maximum of 15 photographs** in total across the three main categories: **Portfolio, Birds in Action, and Birds in Behavior**. In the free **Birds of the Ebro Delta** category, they may submit up to **5 photographs**.

Thus, if an adult author participates in both the paid and free categories, they may submit a **maximum of 20 photographs** in total.

We remind that authors under 18 years old may **only participate** in the free **Young Photographers** category, with a maximum of **5 photographs**. **Submitting the same photograph in different categories is not allowed**.

PRESENTATION

Image submissions must be made **exclusively through registration** on the following website: <https://photocontest.deltabirdingfestival.com/>

Particular emphasis will be placed on the **novelty and uniqueness** of the image. However, photographs that are part of previously awarded series, that show significant similarities, or that have received special mentions or been finalists in other contests (different from the **DELTA PHOTO CONTEST**) will also be accepted.

When submitting images on the website, an **explanatory text** will be required. For the first category (**Portfolio**), each set of 3 photos must include one text, which can be written below the first image of the set, with a **maximum of 400 words per 3-image story**.

Each image entered in the second, third, fourth, and fifth categories must be accompanied by a **single text per image**. All texts must comply with the **400-word maximum** and provide a detailed description of the photograph's story—explaining how and where it was taken, the species involved, and any other relevant information.

If a photograph is selected as a winner or finalist, these texts will **accompany the printed images**. The descriptions will be displayed on panels in the exhibition tent during the festival on **September 18, 19, and 20**.

SUBMISSION DEADLINE

From 21st May to 31st de July.

JURY

The jury, coordinated by **Carles Santana** from Photo Logistics, will be composed of **5 members**:

- **Marks White** — photographer, ornithologist, and Swarovski Optik ambassador.
- **Jaroa López-Carrasco** — ornithologist, assistant bird ringer, and wildlife photographer.
- **Bruna Roqué** — illustrator and photographer, OM-System ambassador.
- **Juan José Ramos Melo** — naturalist, nature photographer and director of Letras Verdes
- **Nicolas Reusens** — wildlife photographer and SONY collaborator.

...all individuals of recognized prestige in ornithological and nature photography, appointed by the organizers of the **DELTA PHOTO CONTEST**. Their decision is **final** and will resolve any issues or incidents that may arise.

Photographs submitted to the contest will be evaluated **individually and anonymously**, based on the alphanumeric code assigned by the system at the moment of submission.

VERDICT

The jury's verdict will be made **privately** from **August 7 to 15**, during which the organizers will contact the finalists to request the **RAW file** if it has not yet been uploaded to the platform.

Between **August 18 and 25**, the organizers will email the winners and finalists to inform them of their position in the festival and remind them that their images will be displayed in the exhibition on **September 18, 19, and 20** at **MónNatura Delta**.

During this period, participants whose photos were **not selected** in the final phase will also be contacted to thank them for their participation.

The organizers will confirm the **availability of the winners** to attend the awards ceremony under the invitation of the **DELTA BIRDING FESTIVAL** on **Saturday, September 19**, where the jury will present the prizes. If a winner cannot attend the festival, a **video or audio** will be requested to introduce the winner to the audience, which will be shown on the big screen during the ceremony along with the presentation of their winning photograph. The winner's **physical address** will also be requested privately to deliver the prize.

Finalist and winning photographs will be published with the **title and author's name**, but **without mentioning the category or award position**, on the **DELTA BIRDING FESTIVAL** website and social media on **September 1**. The position of each author will only be revealed at the festival inauguration. The photographic exhibition will be visible from **Friday, September 18 to Sunday, September 20**, and the results will be celebrated during the **awards ceremony on September 19**. The category details and award positions will be made public on the festival website and social media on **September 19**, after the ceremony.

The brands, companies, or entities sponsoring the product prizes will be announced throughout the contest on the website and social media, and they will also deliver the prizes during the gala on **Saturday, September 19**.

If winners were unable to attend the event and have not provided a postal address to the festival organizers, they have a **maximum of two months** from the jury's announcement to contact the contest organizers via **info@deltabirdingfestival.com** to arrange prize collection at **Oryx**. The **deadline to contact** is **November 30, 2026**.

EXHIBITION AND AWARDS CEREMONY

The awards will be presented during the **DELTA BIRDING FESTIVAL** on **Saturday, September 19, 2026, at 14:00** in **Marquee 1**.

The gala will be hosted by an internationally recognized photography presenter, who will introduce the **winning photographs** and their **winners and finalists** live. Representatives from the brands and entities sponsoring the prizes will be responsible for delivering the awards.

The **finalist and winning photographs** from each category will be **printed for the DELTA PHOTO CONTEST exhibition**, which will be open to the public on **September 18, 19, and 20, 2026**.

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

Submitted images may **only undergo the following modifications**:

- The image must meet the **minimum pixel requirements** within the requested format to be evaluated and later printed in good quality.
- **No vignettes, watermarks, captions, or signatures** may be included. Digital manipulation or alteration of images, as well as adding or removing elements, is not allowed. Only **moderate adjustments** are permitted affecting: global

tone corrections, white balance, brightness, contrast, color saturation, and shadow and highlight adjustments; conversion of the image to black and white; moderate sharpening and selective reduction of digital noise and pixelation; vignette removal, dust cleaning, correction of distortions and optical aberrations.

- Special techniques are allowed, such as **high-speed photography**, images composed of multiple exposures in-camera, or using in-camera image overlay modes.
- The **same photograph or a very similar one cannot be submitted in different categories.**
- **AI-generated images are not allowed.**

All images that pass the first phase will be compared with their corresponding **original file**, to review the image placement (in the case of category C5) and evaluate if any further modifications have been made.

The same photograph **cannot be submitted to different categories.** If this occurs, the repeated image will only be accepted in the first category in which it was submitted.

The organization **is not responsible for any violations of applicable law** committed by the participant to obtain the submitted image. However, the organization reserves the right to **reject photographs** that clearly show negative effects on wildlife or the natural environment where they were obtained and/or to request the necessary authorizations from the participant. Photography from hides, use of barriers, and remote triggers is allowed, provided minimum distances are respected and wildlife is not disturbed.

The **winning author**, by participating in the contest, agrees that their photograph may be used on the organization's and sponsors' websites and social media, who reserve the right to use it for **one year**. The organization and sponsors may make copies necessary for reproduction in exhibitions, projections, or publications related **only to the contest activities**, without limitation of medium, time, or geographic scope, always crediting the author. Notwithstanding this, authors remain the **holders of the exploitation rights** for any future use.

Winning and finalist authors also agree, if they attend the awards ceremony, to be **photographed**, and that images of them may appear on the event's and sponsors' social media.

The contest will **reject any third-party commercial requests**, such as transfer, loan, exploitation, sale, etc., of participants' personal data or submitted images. If a third party shows interest in purchasing an image or its rights, the organization will **contact the interested party directly with the author**, who will decide as they see fit.

Images must be submitted following the **format and naming instructions**. If the requested high-resolution image does not maintain the same appearance as the low-resolution submission, it will **not be considered for finalist or winning status**.

Participants must be the **sole holders of the copyright** of the photographs and are responsible for ensuring that no third-party rights exist, as well as for any claims regarding image rights.

Participants **certify and guarantee** that the content of the submitted works is **not contrary to law, morality, or public order**.

DATA PROTECTION POLICY

The personal data provided by participants will be **processed in accordance with the provisions of Organic Law 15/1999 of December 13 on the Protection of Personal Data**, and participants may exercise their rights of **access, rectification, and cancellation**.

By participating in the contest, the participant **agrees that their data may be incorporated into the database** of the organization and the festival sponsors.

BASES ACEPTATION

Participation in this edition of the **DELTA PHOTO CONTEST** implies **acceptance of all of these rules and regulations**. The organization reserves the right to **resolve any situation not foreseen in them**.

