

# FLORA & FAUNA

*Among flamingos and reeds*



**A MOSAIC OF WATER AND LAND WHERE  
TIME SEEMS TO STAND STILL.**

The Comacchio Marshes and Valleys are the beating heart of the Po Delta Park. In this brackish realm, nature puts on a spectacular show with over 300 species of birds, including the iconic pink flamingos, which coexist with rare and fascinating flora capable of blooming where salt dominates the landscape.



### The pink flamingo:

Comacchio is home to one of Europe's largest flamingo colonies. This is a tangible sign of the excellent ecological health of the brackish-water ecosystem in our Valli.

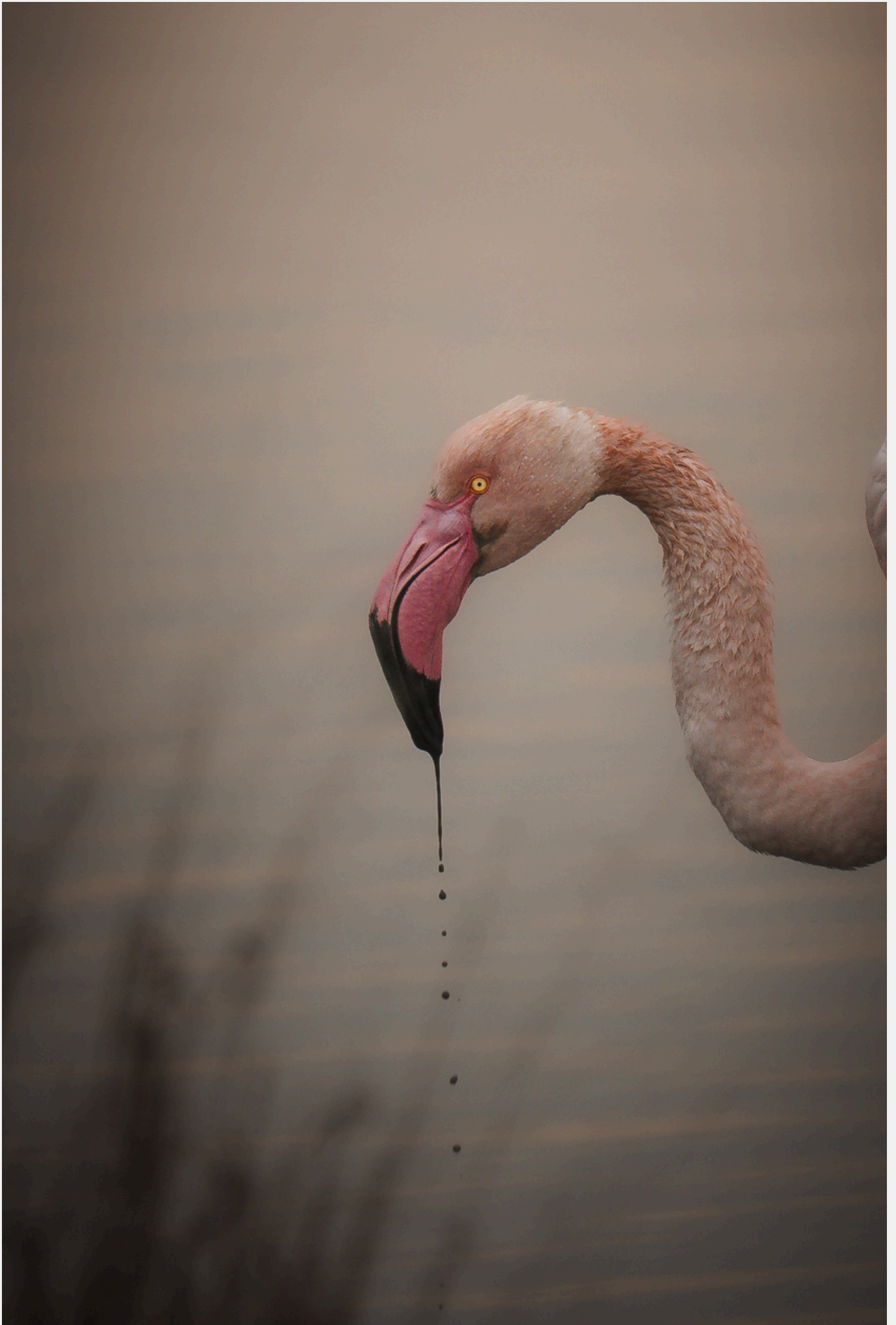
Its famous pink hue comes from its diet: it feeds on small crustaceans (such as *Artemia salina*) rich in carotenoids, which "color" its plumage.

They love the shallow, brackish waters of the valleys, where they can walk easily on their long legs and filter the mud with their curved beaks.

Seeing them in groups as they rest on one leg, during takeoff, or in flight is a truly unforgettable experience.

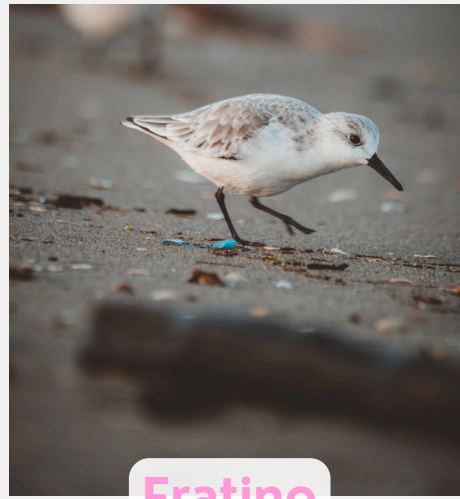
Almost every evening, you can see them passing by shortly after sunset at the beach bar.







Gray Heron

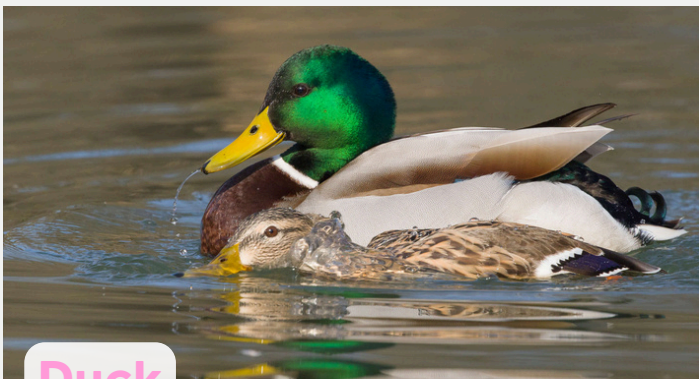


Fratino



Martin Fisherman

In addition to the graceful flamingos, the Valleys are home to an incredible variety of wildlife. Along the canals, you can catch a glimpse of the swift flight of the kingfisher and the proud silhouettes of the gray heron and the black-winged stilt. Among the reeds and pools of water, cormorants, coots, and the majestic marsh harrier coexist.

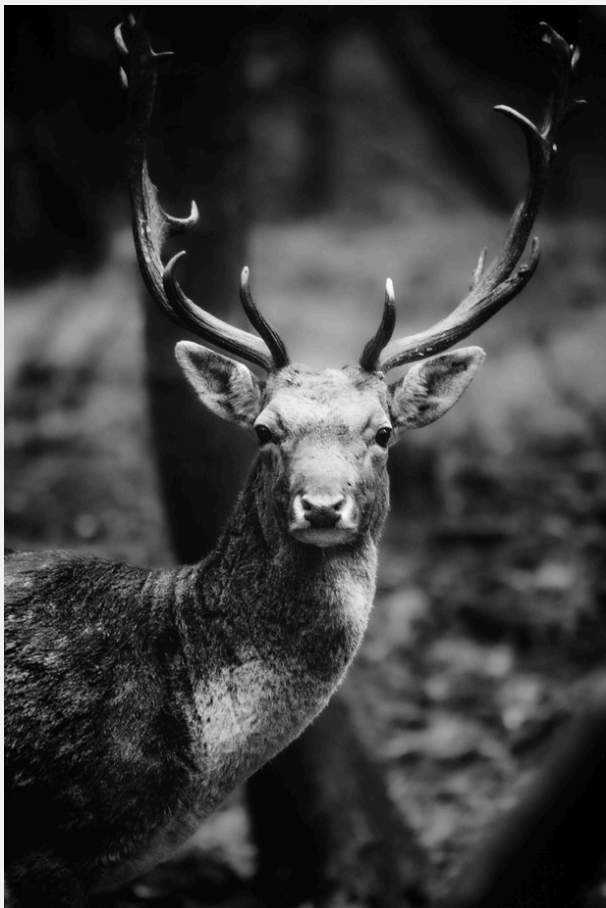


Duck



Marsh Harrier

A special visitor to our region is the Fratino, a small and rare migratory bird that chooses our beaches as its nesting grounds between March and July: a treasure of biodiversity that we must protect with care.



Deer

In the inland areas, it's not uncommon to catch the curious gaze of fallow deer, with whom close encounters are now a common occurrence, while our coasts have become the preferred nesting grounds for the loggerhead sea turtle.

All of this gives us pause for thought and leaves us with unmistakable evidence that the Delta is a living paradise, the ideal place where life is reborn.

## Caretta Caretta sea turtle



The flora of the Comacchio Valleys is an extraordinary example of extreme adaptation: only halophytes survive here —species that “love salt” and are capable of growing in soils where others would wither within hours.

Among the best known is the salicornia, which changes color with the seasons, shifting from bright green in summer to deep red in autumn.

Artemisia: An aromatic plant with a characteristic silver-gray color, highly resistant to salt and sea winds, and the common reed, found where the water is less brackish, creates dense reed beds that provide shelter and nesting sites for hundreds of bird species.

**Reeds**



**Artemisia**



**Salicornia**





## VOLANO PINE FOREST

The Po Delta Park also offers us a green oasis stretching between the dunes and the sea: the Volano Pine Forest. Nestled within the 386 hectares of the State Nature Reserve, the Volano Pine Forest is a treasure trove of biodiversity that spans the coastline, from Scanno di Volano to Lago delle Nazioni.

Established in the 1930s as a forest of domestic and maritime pines, the reserve was able to regenerate after the great storm surge of 1966. This tragic event, which led to the loss of many trees due to salt damage, transformed the face of the forest: today, alongside the resilient maritime pines, other species typical of our region thrive, such as the holm oak and the English oak.

Today, visitors can walk or cycle through the approximately 6 km of the pine forest to experience its unique biodiversity.