

## Project Update: February 2019

In this project session, we focused on promotion of this project and education among citizens and pupils in schools. We also prepared the artificial nesting sites in the wetlands that we have surveyed in spring 2018.

Our oral presentations were accomplished during the winter period between December 2018 and February 2019. We have visited all schools in Sombor and given a detailed oral presentation about wetlands, wetland conservation and about the moustached warbler (*Acrocephalus melanopogon*) as a species of high priority in lowland marshes. The summary of oral presentations and main aims of the current projects were briefly presented on flyers and posters in schools. Flyers were given to pupils and to citizens. We have prepared also a report to the electronic media that was sent to the newspapers and magazines. The estimated date of publishing is March 2019.



During October and November 2018, we visited all marshes included in this project, in order to create artificial nesting sites for the moustached warbler. We spent altogether 8 days in field. Because of the drought during summer and autumn, we were unable to construct the artificial nesting sites. Out of 10 wetlands, five marshes were completely dry and three had water level at minimum, with reed stands on dry land. The marsh near Gakovo could be not assessed because of the deep mud. Only the water level of Lake Ludas was acceptable, because it could be regulated via canals. The problem why these artificial nest sites could not be created in such circumstances is because we don't know how high will be the level of water at end of winter or early spring. If the artificial nesting sites completely flooded or will stay dry, so being completely unsuitable for nesting. Therefore, we decided to wait for February 2019 to complete the establishing of artificial nesting sites. After winter rain and snow fall, we assumed that the water level would increase. In February 2019, all marshes had some water, but it was far below annual spring average. At eight marshes we made 32 nesting sites. The pond near Gakovo could be still not assessed due to deep mud, and on the Lake Ludas the creation of such sites from canoes was not possible.



In the next project session we aim to do capturing and marking of nesting adult individuals in the period between March and June 2019. We will also search for nests in the territories to quantify the breeding success of the species. With further material, we plan to draw attention to citizens about the importance of natural wetlands that remain in our region. At the end of the project period, we plan to prepare an analysis and evaluation of the results and communicate this topic with the Provincial Institution for Nature Conservation.