

Columns

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Bird news

This column aims to collect a series of interesting observations and to make it accessible to the scientific community in future. We collect observations without time, space or species limitation but we focus on a limited series of category of interest. See more on Avocetta website: <http://www.avocetta.org/bird-news-column/>

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1. Stock Dove *Columba oenas*

Observers: Sergio Nissardi, Carla Zucca (anthus@anthus.info)

Category: Unusual number

Number of individuals: ca. 500

Status: Wintering

Site location: fields around San Gavino (South Sardinia), Italy

Date of observation: 11th January 2021

Notes of the observers: The birds fed in ploughed fields and roosted in a *Eucalyptus* tree row.

Reasons of interest: To the best of our knowledge, this is the largest flock ever reported for Sardinia.



2. Sacred ibis *Threskiornis aethiopicus*

Observer: Christian Pietri (christian.pietri@hotmail.com)

Category: Species of unusual occurrence for a given area

Number of individuals: 1

Status: Unknown

Site location: Canna marshes, Serra di Fium'Orbu (Haute-Corse), France

Date of observation: 14th January 2021

Notes of the observer: Adult found dead. No marking device. Other sighting of one individual (maybe the same) in the previous days in Oletta, near Bastia. Head preserved.

Reasons of interest: First sighting of the species for Corsica.



3. Purple Heron *Ardea purpurea*

Observers: Alessandro Pavesi (ale.pavesi18@gmail.com), Lorenzo Maffezzoli

Category: Unusual breeding for nest location

Number of individuals: 14 occupied nests

Status: Breeding

Site location: Canale Bogina, Viadana (Mantova), Italy

Date of observation: 31st May 2018, 21st May 2019, 21st May 2020

Notes of the observers: During three years of heronry survey, we observed a total of 14 nests located between 8-15 m on poplars *Populus* spp. The nests were located in a Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea* heronry, hosting ca. 55 Grey Heron nests.

Reasons of interest: Purple and Grey herons usually segregate completely at the nest site, by breeding in different subcolonies when they co-occur in a heronry, or by nesting at different heights, or by species turnover when separate subcolonies are not available. Despite the presence of reedbeds in the same spot, we found, in 3 year of monitoring, only 2 nests in reedbeds and 5 on bushes. 28 nests were at a height of 8-15 m: 14 on Mulberry *Morus* spp. and Pedunculate Oak *Quercus robur* and the other 14 on Poplar *Populus* spp.

4. Broad-billed Sandpiper *Calidris falcinellus*

Observers: Gaia Bazzi, Giacomo Assandri (giacomo.assandri@gmail.com)

Category: Unusual phenology

Number of individuals: 1

Status: Wintering

Site location: Foce Canale Gobbino, Sacca di Bellocchio, Comacchio (Ferrara)

Date of observation: 6th February 2021 (repeatedly observed until 15th February 2021)

Notes of observers: foraging in a flock of Dunlin.

Reason of interest: Less than 10 winter records known for Italy.



5. Caspian Tern *Hydroprogne caspia*

Observer: Alvise Luchetta (alvise.luchetta@icloud.com)

Category: Species of unusual occurrence for a given area

Number of individuals: 1

Status: Unknown

Site location: Parco Bissuola, Mestre (Venice), Italy

Date of observation: 19th April 2021

Reasons of interest: Unusual observation of the species in a highly urbanized site (see figure).



6. Rosy Starling *Pastor roseus*

Observer: Gianfranco Sciegghi, compiled by Roberto Brembilla (*bremby.var@gmail.com*)

Category: Species of unusual occurrence for a given area

Number of individuals: ca. 100 (2018); 4 (2021)

Status: Unknown

Site location: Torchione, Albosaggia (Sondrio), Italy

Date of observation: 27th May 2018, 27th May 2021

Notes of the observer: Two flocks of Rosy Starlings observed in the same orchard three years apart.

Reasons of interest: The Rosy Starling is an irruptive migrant in Italy. However, there are few observations reported for Valtellina (Sondrio).



7. Olive-backed Pipit *Anthus hodgsoni*

Observer: Fabio Moretto (*fa.moretto@alice.it*)

Category: Species of unusual occurrence for a given area

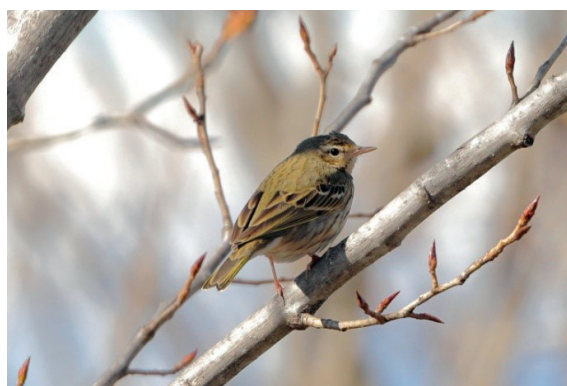
Number of individuals: 1

Status: Unknown

Site location: Carmignano di Brenta (Padova), Italy

Date of observation: 14th February 2021 (repeatedly observed until 7th March 2021)

Reasons of interest: The species is a scarce but regular migrant in Italy. However, there are few observations referring to the winter period.



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