

# 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. Common Swift *Apus apus*

**Observer:** Roberto Brembilla ([bremby.var@gmail.com](mailto:bremby.var@gmail.com))

**Category:** Unusual breeding location

**Number of individuals:** 3-4 active nests

**Status:** Breeding

**Site location:** Montespluga, Madesimo (Sondrio), Italy (1908 m asl)

**Date of observation:** 26<sup>th</sup> June 2022

**Notes of the observer:** The colony has been active since 1992 at least. Regular breeding has been confirmed since 2010.

**Reason of interest:** This is one of the highest known breeding colonies of the species in the Italian Alps.



### 2. Common Swift *Apus apus*

**Observer:** Mario Caffi ([tubocaffi@libero.it](mailto:tubocaffi@libero.it))

**Category:** Unusual chromatic aberration

**Number of individuals:** 1

**Status:** Breeding

**Site location:** Swift tower of San Paolo (Brescia), Italy

**Date of observation:** Between April and July 2022

**Reason of interest:** Leucistic individual. It successfully bred inside the Swift tower, which in the breeding season 2022 hosted 124 pairs.



### 3. Scopoli's Shearwater *Calonectris diomedea*

**Observers:** Roberto Vento (roberto.vento01@community.unipa.it), Sara Pedone

**Category:** Unusual breeding location

**Number of individuals:** 4 nests estimated

**Status:** Breeding

**Site location:** Lipari (Messina), Italy

**Date of observation:** 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2022

**Notes of the observers:** The observations have been made according to the guidelines from ISPRA for the monitoring of the species.

**Reason of interest:** This is a new and unpublished breeding site of this species of conservation interest.

### 4. Yelkouan Shearwater *Puffinus yelkouan*

**Observers:** Roberto Vento (roberto.vento01@community.unipa.it), Andrea Cusmano

**Category:** Unusual breeding location

**Number of individuals:** 6 nests estimated

**Status:** Breeding

**Site location:** Ustica (Palermo), Italy

**Date of observation:** 25<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup> April 2022

**Notes of the observers:** The observations have been made according to the guidelines from ISPRA for the monitoring of the species.

**Reason of interest:** This is a new and unpublished breeding site of this species of conservation interest.

### 5. Eurasian Thick-knee *Burhinus oedicnemus*

**Observers:** Sandro Bertè, Daniele Ecotti, Franco Roscelli, Guido Sardella (oasighirardi@wwf.it)

**Category:** Unusual behaviour

**Number of individuals:** 4

**Status:** Breeding

**Site location:** Ingegna River, Albareto (Parma), Italy (480 m asl)

**Date of observation:** Between June and August 2022

**Notes of the observers:** Placed on the border of the Ghirardi Nature Reserve, Ingegna is a stream tributary of the Taro River in the Parmesan Apennines. It flows in a North-South direction having a large and flat gravel bed, flanked by woods and meadows regularly mowed in spring-summer. For the first time, we observed reproductive behaviours (calls, injury-feigning, two adults with two juveniles) in this site, located at 480 m asl.

**Reason of interest:** In Northern Italy, Eurasian Thick-knees nest usually from sea level up to 250 m asl.





### 6. Lesser Grey Shrike *Lanius minor*

**Observer:** Giuseppe Speranza (gisperbw@gmail.com)

**Category:** Unusual breeding location

**Number of individuals:** 4 (1 adult and 3 juveniles)

**Status:** Breeding

**Site location:** Atessa (Chieti), Italy (42.106352 N; 14.501270 E; 240 m asl)

**Date of observation:** 16<sup>th</sup> - 18<sup>th</sup> August 2019

**Notes of the observer:** I observed one adult feeding three recently fledged juveniles. I also saw one individual 1 cy in the same place at the end of August 2021, so I suppose that one or more pairs could breed in this area.

**Reason of interest:** The species is considered a very rare breeder in Abruzzo, with no confirmed breeding attempts in the last years.



### 7. Common Raven *Corvus corax*, Northern Goshawk *Accipiter gentilis*

**Observer:** Alessandro Berlusconi (aberlusconi@unin-subria.it)

**Category:** Unusual behaviour

**Number of individuals:** 1 Common Raven, 1 Northern Goshawk

**Status:** Foraging

**Site location:** Colle di San Maffeo, Rodero (Como), Italy (45.831944 N; 8.922222 E; 505 m asl)

**Date of observation:** 27<sup>th</sup> September 2022

**Notes of the observer:** Kleptoparasitic behaviour by Common Raven on Northern Goshawk during prey (probably a Passerine bird) transport.

**Reason of interest:** Unusual behaviour, never described for the Common Raven on Northern Goshawk so far.

### 8. Eurasian Crag Martin *Ptyonoprogne rupestris*

**Observers:** Maurizio Saltarelli, Marco Pantalone (pantalone.marco@libero.it)

**Category:** Unusual behaviour

**Number of individuals:** Between 4 and 7

**Status:** Breeding

**Site location:** Gorge of Furlo, Acqualagna (Pesaro e Urbino), Italy

**Date of observation:** Between May and June 2022

**Notes of the observers:** Some individuals of Eurasian Crag Martin have been observed for a long period and for the whole day capturing insects near a Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus* nest. The abundance of winged insects was due to the numerous remains of prey not consumed by the three Peregrine Falcon nestlings. This situation created a preferential hunting area for the Eurasian Crag Martins breeding in the surroundings. The behaviour began about ten days after the hatch of the Peregrine Falcon chicks, continuing until their fledging. In the Gorge of Furlo, Peregrine Falcon nests (1-3 breeding pairs per year) have been monitored constantly since 1997 and this behaviour has never been observed before.

**Reason of interest:** Unusual commensal behaviour for an Hirundinidae; some individuals have learned to exploit the abundance of food around a raptor nest.

### 9. Collared Sand Martin *Riparia riparia*

**Observers:** Salvatore Surdo (salvatore.surdo@unipa.it)

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it), Andrea Cusmano, Danilo Graffeo, Roberto Vento

**Category:** Unusual phenology

**Number of individuals:** 1

**Status:** Wintering

**Site location:** Trapani salt pans (Trapani), Italy

**Date of observation:** 6<sup>th</sup> December 2022

**Notes of the observers:** Observation of a single individual flying over the salt pans and feeding for a long time.

**Reason of interest:** The Collared Sand Martin is an occasional wintering species for Italy, with very few confirmed observations.

