

Italian Ornithological Commission (COI) - Report 30

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Abstract - Italian Ornithological Commission (COI) - Report 30. This report refers to records from January 1st 2020 to December 31st 2021, with the addition of a number of records from previous years that were submitted more recently. For each species, the records are listed by date and information is given as follows: English and scientific name, number of accepted records pre- and post-1950 (the numbers in this abstract refer to the total number of records), number of individuals if more than one, age or plumage and sex if known, location, date, names of the observers, and available documentation (photograph, sound recording, specimen, etc.). The taxonomy is in line with the new CISO-COI Italian Checklist, which also includes subspecies and follows the taxonomy adopted by the HBW-BirdLife Check-list, as decided by the CISO council in 2018. A total of 52 records involving 31 taxa were assessed. The following 40 records, involving 23 taxa, were accepted, including eight first records for Italy (Cat. AERC: A – COI Category 1A, 1B): Oriental Turtle-dove *Streptopelia orientalis* (Friuli-Venezia Giulia 2021, 4th record); Little Swift *Apus affinis* (Emilia-Romagna 2020, 7th record); **White-rumped Swift** *Apus caffer* (Calabria 2020, 1st record and 1st breeding); Allen's Gullinule *Porphyrio alleni* (Tuscany 2013, 9th record; Piedmont 2021, 10th record); **Atlantic Yellow-nosed Albatross** *Thalassarche chlororhynchos* (Latium 2021, 1st record); Brown Booby *Sula leucogaster* (Tuscany 2020, 8th record; Liguria 2020, 9th record; Tuscany 2021, 10th record); Pacific Golden Plover *Pluvialis fulva* (Campania 2020, 17th record; Basilicata 2020, 18th record; Apulia 2020, 19th record); **Grey-headed Lapwing** *Vanellus cinereus* (Umbria 2021, 1st record); White-tailed Lapwing *Vanellus leucurus* (Apulia 2020, 6th record); Upland Sandpiper *Bartramia longicauda* (Campania 2013, 11th record); **Western Sandpiper** *Calidris mauri* (Lombardy 2021, 1st record); Long-billed Dowitcher *Limnodromus scolopaceus* (Piedmont 2020, 8th record; Latium 2020, 9th record); Lesser Yellowlegs *Tringa flavipes* (Latium 2021, 12th record; Apulia 2021, 13th record); Black-winged Pratincole *Glareola nordmanni* (Lombardy 2021, 12th record); 'Russian Mew Gull' *Larus canus heinei* (Lombardy 2019-2021, 2nd to 11th records; Emilia-Romagna 2021, 12th record); Heuglin's Gull *Larus fuscus heuglini* (Abruzzo 2017, 4th record); **Thick-billed Murre** *Uria lomvia* (Liguria 2021, 1st record); Steppe Grey Shrike *Lanius excubitor pallidirostris* (Apulia 2020, 8th record); **Red-tailed Shrike** *Lanius phoenicuroides* (Sicily 2021, 1st record); Booted Warbler *Iduna caligata* (Tuscany 2021, 2nd record); Siberian Trush *Geokikla sibirica* (Lombardy 2020, 4th record); **Black-throated Wheatear** *Oenanthe seebohmi* (Abruzzo 2020, 1st record); Caspian Stonechat *Saxicola torquatus hemprichii* (Sicily 2019, 5th record). The addition of White-rumped Swift, Atlantic Yellow-nosed Albatross, Grey-headed Lapwing, Western Sandpiper, Thick-billed Murre, Red-tailed Shrike and Black-throated Wheatear brings the Italian list to 557 accepted species. Records not accepted (COI List 5A, 5B) were: Black-browed Albatross *Thalassarche melanophris* (Tuscany 2021); Yellow-billed Egret *Ardea brachyrhyncha* (Piedmont 2020); Steppe Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus alboaxillaris* (Veneto 2020); Eastern Orphean Warbler *Sylvia crassirostris* (two records: Friuli-Venezia Giulia 2009-2011; Latium 2019); Ehrenberg's Redstart *Phoenicurus phoenicurus samamisticus* (Tuscany 2020); Naumann's Trush *Turdus naumanni* (Lombardy 2007); Western Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava iberiae* (Tuscany 2020); Yellow-breasted Bunting *Emberiza aureola* (Veneto 2019).

Introduction

This report details the records of rare species and subspecies in Italy submitted to and assessed by the Italian Ornithological Commission (Commissione Ornithologica Italiana - COI) as of 31st December 2021. The members who voted on the records in this report are Emiliano Arcamone, Nicola Baccetti, Pierandrea Brichetti, Adriano De Faveri, Giancarlo Fracasso, Egidio Fulco (Secretary), Andrea Galimberti, Ottavio Janni, Cristiano Liuzzi (Secretary), Sergio Nissardi, Menotti Passarella, Lorenzo Vanni and Michele Viganò. For more information on the Committee, including current members, please refer to the COI page on the CISO website (<https://www.ciso-coi.it/coi/>). Further details on the procedures with which the Committee operates and on the categorisations attributed to each examined record can be found in Report 24 (Janni & Fracasso 2012), available online at the address mentioned above. All previous COI reports are listed below:

Rivista italiana di Ornitologia: (1) 1982, 52: 205-206; (2) 1983, 53: 194-195; (3) 1985, 55: 186-187; (4) 1986, 56: 245-246; (5) 1987, 57: 243-246; (6) 1989, 59: 269-272; (7) 1992, 62: 41-43; (8) 1993, 63: 193-198; (9) 1995, 65: 63-68; (10) 1995, 65: 147-149; (11) 1996, 66: 171-174; (12) 1997, 67: 189-192; (13) 1998, 68: 205-208; (14) 1999, 69: 211-214.

Avocetta: (15) 2002, 26: 117-121; (16) 2003, 27: 207-210; (17) 2004, 28: 41-44; (18) 2004, 28: 97-102; (19) 2005, 29: 93-97; (20) 2007, 31: 75-79; (21) 2008, 32: 82-86; (22) 2009, 33: 117-146; (23) 2010, 34: 71-106; (24) 2012, 36: 81-88; (25) 2013, 37: 67-70; (26) 2015, 39: 37-40; (27) 2018, 45-54; (28) 2019, 43: 177-188; (29) 2020, 44: 107-114.

The English names are those in the latest CISO-COI List of Italian Birds (Baccetti et al. 2021) or in the HBW & BirdLife International checklist (2022) for species first recorded in Italy. In accordance with the resolution adopted by the Committee in January 2018, this checklist includes all subspecies reported in Italy and follows the taxonomy of the HBW-BirdLife Checklist (del Hoyo & Collar 2014, 2016, HBW & BirdLife International 2018). The English names of the subspe-

cies are not “official” because they are not reported in the world reference lists already mentioned. They were drawn from current literature. For each taxon, records are listed by date and accompanied by the following information: number of individuals (if more than one); age / sex if known (in non-adults the age is expressed in “calendar years” abbreviated to “cy”); updated number of accepted records since 1st January 1950 and before this date; locality including municipality (where applicable) and the province (abbreviated); names of the observers; and the nature of the provided documentation (photos, sound recordings, specimens, etc.).

ACCEPTED RECORDS (Category 1A, 1B)

Oriental Turtle-dove *Streptopelia orientalis*

(post-1949 = 3, pre-1950 = 1)

Rondover, Porcia (Pordenone Province), 29.III.2021; 1.IV.2021. Finder: Pier Luigi Taiariol (category 1A). Ssp. *meena*; documented by camera-trap on an artificial pond.

Little Swift *Apus affinis*

(post-1949 = 5, pre-1950 = 2)

Forlimpopoli (Forlì-Cesena province), 11.V.2020. Finder: Mattia Bacci (category 1B).

White-rumped Swift *Apus caffer*

(post-1949 = 1, pre-1950 = 0)

Umbriatico (Crotone province), 20.VI.2020 - 30.X.2020. Finder: Mario Pucci (category 1A). First report for Italy and first breeding record. (Fig. 1). Two pairs of White-rumped Swifts were observed, both exhibiting territorial behavior. One of them successfully completed its breeding cycle, fledging at least one juvenile. In both cases, the species used a Red-rumped Swallow nest, as usual across its breeding range including the Iberian Peninsula, where 50-100 pairs breed (Chantler & Boesman 2020). This is an Afrotropical species with only small breeding populations in the Palearctic: Morocco and Iberia. It is very rare in the rest of North Africa (Tunisia) and

Europe (UK, Finland, Sweden and Norway, www.tar-siger.com). The species nested again at the same site in 2021 (Pucci in litt.).



Figure 1. White-rumped Swift *Apus caffer* found in spring 2020 by Mario Pucci in Umbriatico (Calabria). Adult using a Red-rumped Swallow's nest as breeding site. First Italian record. Ph. Giuseppe Martino.

Allen's Gallinule *Porphyrio alleni*

(post-1949 = 6, pre-1950 = 4)

Livorno, 5.XII.2013. Finder: Nicola Maggi, Giorgio Paesani (category 1A). "Lago Piccolo di Avigliana" (Torino province), 9.II.2021. Finder: Ivan Ellena (category 1A).

Atlantic Yellow-nosed Albatross

Thalassarche chlororhynchos

(post-1949 = 1, pre-1950 = 0)

"Secche di Tor Paterno" protected marine area, Campo Ascolano, Pomezia (Rome province), 11.V.2021. Finders: Tiziano De Angelis, Corrado De Angelis (category 1A). First record for Italy and the Mediterranean. (Fig. 2).

The entire population of Atlantic Yellow-nosed Albatross, *Thalassarche chlororhynchos* breeds on a few islands in the Tristan da Cunha archipelago and on the nearby Gough Island in the South Atlantic Ocean. Outside the breeding season, which extends from September to April, the species disperses through the oceanic waters along the coasts of Argentina and Southern Africa, usually south of the Tropic of Capricorn. Similarly to Black-browed Albatross, *Thalassarche melanophris*, some birds cross the Equator

and visit the North Atlantic up to the highest latitudes. These two mollymawks are the only albatrosses that occur regularly in the North Atlantic; Black-browed Albatross is relatively more frequent along the European seaboard, whereas the opposite has been observed along the eastern seaboard of North America, where Atlantic Yellow-nosed Albatross is an almost annual visitor. Atlantic Yellow-nosed Albatross remains a very rare vagrant to Europe, where it has been recorded mostly along the Atlantic seaboard (Norway, Faroe Islands, British Isles, France, Portugal and Spain), and exceptionally in the extreme southwestern Baltic Sea (Sweden) and Mediterranean (Italy).

To date, 7 different individuals of Atlantic Yellow-nosed Albatross have been recorded and accepted by the relevant national rarity committees in the Western Palearctic (Fig. 3). In fact, the total number of reported observations is significantly higher because some records were very likely, or possibly, involved the same individual, an event that has been noted not uncommonly in other large seabirds, especially albatrosses. This is the case with the two British and one Swedish records of Atlantic Yellow-nosed Albatross in 2007, whereas two almost contemporaneous sightings in Norway have been attributed to a different individual. Even in 2020, two sightings a few days apart in Spain and Portugal probably involved the same bird (P. Ramalho in litt.). An almost contemporaneous observation in Spain was not sufficiently documented to ensure a specific identification, as is noted in the present report about the 2021 observation in Liguria.

Most North Atlantic observations have taken place between the late spring and late summer, a period that coincides with the post-breeding season of the species. The over 50 records along the eastern North America seaboard have occurred almost year-round but mostly from May to August; European records are concentrated in June and July, but the full range of dates spans from April to September.

The small sample of Atlantic Yellow-nosed Albatross records in Europe does not allow highlighting



Figure 2. Yellow-nosed Albatross *Thalassarche chlororhynchos* found on 11.V.2021 in “Secche di Tor Paterno” protected marine area (Latium). Ph. Tiziano De Angelis.

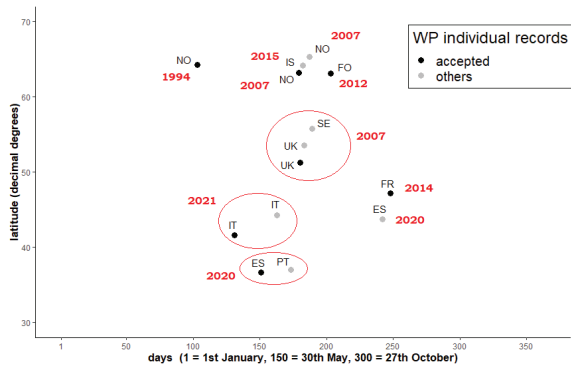


Figure 3. Latitudinal and seasonal distribution of *T. chlororhynchos* records in the Western Palearctic. Black dots show individual records accepted by national committees. Circles encompass records that were likely or possibly attributed to the same bird, with black dots that show the first observation. Grey dots show subsequent observations of the same individual or records possibly attributed to this species. Country abbreviations: ES = Spain, FO = Faroe Islands (Denmark), FR = France, IS = Iceland, IT = Italy, NO = Norway, PT = Portugal, SE = Sweden, UK = British Isles.

any relationship between seasonal and geographical (latitudinal) occurrences. This is unsurprising for such an accomplished ocean wanderer, which can move freely through the European seas over the summer months once it has crossed the equatorial doldrums.

Brown Booby *Sula leucogaster*

(post-1949 = 10, pre-1950 = 0)

Mouth of the River Serchio, Vecchiano (Pisa province), 25.X.2020. Finder: Alessio Quagliarini (category 1B).

Tino island, Portovenere (La Spezia province), 23.XI.2020. Finder: Fabio Giacomazzi (category 1A); documented by photos.

Mouth of the River Serchio, Vecchiano (Pisa province), 9.VII.2021. Finder: Alessio Quagliarini (category 1B).

Pacific Golden Plover *Pluvialis fulva*

(post-1949 = 14, pre-1950 = 5)

Mouth of the River Regi Lagni, Castel Volturno (Caseria province), 21-26.V.2020. Finder: Marco D’Errico (category 1A); documented by photos (Fig. 4).

Mouth of the River Agri, Policoro (Matera province), 10.VII.2020. Finder: Alfredo Vilmer Sabino (category 1A); documented by photos.

Lake Lesina, Lesina (Foggia province), 24-25.X.2020. Giuseppe Amodeo (category 1A); documented by photos.



Figure 4. Pacific golden Plover *Pluvialis fulva* observed on 21.V.2020 in Castel Volturno (Campania). Ph. Marco D’Errico.

Grey-headed Lapwing *Vanellus cinereus*

(post-1949 = 1, pre-1950 = 0)

Olmo Lungo, Citerna (Perugia province), 18.VIII.2021.

Finder: Mario Andreini (category 1A); documented by photos. First report for Italy. (Fig. 5).

This Asian species was first reported in the Western Palearctic in March 2018 in Turkey (Wiersma & Kirwan, 2020). The Turkish record was followed by three observations in May-June 2019 in Norway, Sweden and the Netherlands, probably referring to the same individual (Swedish Rarities Committee birdlife.se/rk/

raritetskatalogen). On 5 August 2021, an individual of this species was reported in Slovenia (<http://www.tarsiger.com>), where it remained for a few days. The sighting in central Italy occurred a few days after the last observation in Slovenia and very likely involved the same bird.



Figure 5. Grey-headed Lapwing *Vanellus cinereus* found on 18.VIII.2021 in Olmo lungo (Umbria). First record for Italy. Ph. Marco Andreini.

White-tailed Lapwing *Vanellus leucurus*

(post-1949 = 6, pre-1950 = 0)

Mouth of the River Fortore, Serracapriola (Foggia province), 21.I.2020-1.II.2020. Finder: Marco Zenatello (category 1A); documented by photos.

Upland Sandpiper *Bartramia longicauda*

(post-1949 = 9, pre-1950 = 2)

Ischia Island (Naples province), X.2013. Finder: Karl Ecke Demandt (category 1A). Feather's photos available (Fig. 6).

The circumstances of this record are noteworthy, for the collaboration shown by the many figures involved: the observer was Karl Ecke Demandt, who found some feathers on the island of Ischia in October 2013. The identification was made by two German ornithologists, Ralph Loesebrug and Hans-Joachim Böhr. Mr. Ecke Demandt unfortunately passed away recently and the feathers were kept by his wife. Hans-Joachim Böhr contacted Andrea Corso to whom he provided photos of the feathers and a clarification on the circumstances of the discovery. Andrea Corso subsequently informed the COI by sending the photos kindly provided by the German colleagues.



Figure 6. Upland Sandpiper *Bartramia longicauda*. Detail of tail feathers collected in October 2013 on Ischia Island by Mr. Karl Ecke Demandt (†). Ph. Hans-Joachim Böhr.

Western Sandpiper *Calidris mauri*

(post-1949 = 1, pre-1950 = 0)

Casei Gerola (Pavia province), 27.IX.2021. Finder: Lorenzo Prada (category 1A); documented by photos.

First record for Italy.

A Nearctic species breeding in Alaska and in North-eastern Siberia and wintering mostly along the eastern coasts of North, Central and South America (Franks et al., 2020). Very rare visitor in Europe, mainly in the Azores, Great Britain and France (www.tarsiger.it). A few days before the Italian observation, this same individual was observed in Switzerland, in the Maggia delta between 15 and 19 September, about 120 km north of Casei Gerola; the initial identification of the Swiss bird was made by Luca Giusani on the basis of photos posted on www.ornitho.ch and labeled as Dunlin (*Calidris alpina*). A number of plumage features, in particular an aberrant tuft of feathers, confirmed that the records in Switzerland and Italy referred to the same individual. This decision was shared with the Swiss Rarity Committee (Martinez & Schweizer 2022).

Long-billed Dowitcher *Limnodromus scolopaceus*

(post-1949 = 9, pre-1950 = 0)

Cascina Spinola, Livorno Ferraris (Vercelli province), 25.V.2020. Finders: Franco Carpegna, Romeo Nicolini (category 1A); documented by photos.

Pantani dell'Inferno, Sabaudia (Latina province),

22.VII.2020. Finder: Giuseppe Di Lieto (category 1A); documented by photos and videos.

Lesser Yellowlegs *Tringa flavipes*

(post-1949 = 13*, pre-1950 = 0)

Lake Fogliano, Latina (Latina province), 22.IX.2021.

Finder: Giuseppe Di Lieto (category 1A); documented by photos and videos.

Aloise, Zapponeta (Foggia province), 16.X.2021. Finder: Giuseppe Fiorella (category 1A); documented by photos.

There are currently 13 records of *Tringa flavipes* in Italy that are considered valid, but few clarifications are necessary: the first two sightings predate the establishment of the COI, and as such were never examined. During its initial decades of work, COI only examined species for which there were 5 or less records in Italy, so some of the records listed below (i.e. number 6 and 7) were never examined by COI. Tab. 1 shows the list of records known so far, indicating which are considered valid, which have been examined by the COI, and which are known to have been documented by photos or videos but have not yet been submitted to the Committee.

Black-winged Pratincole *Glareola nordmanni*

(post-1949 = 7, pre-1950 = 5)

Bordenotte, Viadana (Mantova province), 28.VIII.2021 to 2.IX.2021. Finder: Alessandro Pavesi (category 1A); documented by photos.

Russian Common Gull *Larus canus heinei*

(post-1949 = 12*, pre-1950 = 0)

Schiranna, Varese (Varese province), 11.I.2019. Finder: Luca Giussani (category 1A).

Ranco (Varese province), 24.I.2019-11.II.2019; 28.XII.2019 - 3.I.2020. Finder: Luca Giussani (category 1A).

Onno, Oliveto Lario (Lecco province), 6.II.2020. Finder: Francesco Ornaghi (category 1A).

Bosisio Parini (Lecco province), 9.II.2020. Finder: Enrico Viganò (category 1A).

Mouth of the River Tresa, Germignana (Varese prov-

ince), 21.II.2020. Finder: Luca Giussani (category 1A).

Mandello del Lario (Lecco province), 22.XII.2020. Finder: Enrico Viganò (category 1A).

Abbadia Lariana (Lecco province), 4.I.2021. Finder: Enrico Viganò (category 1A).

Oggiono (Lecco province), 8.I.2021 fino a 24.II.2021. Finder: Enrico Viganò (category 1A).

Oggiono (Lecco province), 9.II.2021. Finder: Enrico Viganò (category 1A).

Abbadia Lariana (Lecco province), 27.II.2021. Finder: Enrico Viganò (category 1A).

Miramare di Rimini (Rimini province), 28.II.2021. Finder: Christian Montevecchi (category 1A).

Now that field identification criteria have been established, we examined as many claims as we could to gauge the status of this taxon in Italy, and whether it should be subject to examination by COI. Overall, we examined 11 claims, each accompanied by excellent photographic documentation. All observations were accepted, mainly on the basis of the identification criteria indicated by Adriaens & Gibbins 2016, and followed the first national record (Fulco & Liuzzi 2021). With the exception of a record in the northern Adriatic coast, all the observations took place in the pre-Alpine lakes of northern Italy (e.g. Lake Maggiore, Lake Como, Lake Varese).

Based on this analysis, *Larus canus heinei* will no longer be evaluated by the Italian Birds Rarities Committee as of January 2022.

Heuglin's Gull *Larus fuscus heuglini*

(post-1949 = 4, pre-1950 = 0)

Giulianova (TE), 2.XII.2017; Finder: Dimitri Marrone (category 1A); documented by photos.

Further observations at Tortoreto-Martinsicuro (Teramo province) during 2020-2021 were attributed to the same individual already approved in Report 28 (Fulco & Liuzzi 2019). Overall, there are 4 approved records in Italy, as summarized in Tab. 2, although several photographically documented claims are yet to be submitted.

Table 1. List of known sightings of *Tringa flavipes* in Italy (updated December 2021). The symbol * denotes the records examined by the COI.

N	Site	Date	COI examination status	References
1	Molentargius Salt pans (Cagliari province)	16.V.1962	not examined	Walter 1964
2	Orbetello Lagoon (Grosseto province)	15-25.X.1978	not examined	Angle et al. 1980
3*	Stagno di Capoterra (Cagliari province)	6.IV.1985	accepted 1B	Report COI 8 (Brichetti & Arcamone 1993)
4*	Montelargius Salt pans (Cagliari province)	22-23.III.1989	accepted 1B	Report COI 8 (Brichetti & Arcamone 1993)
5*	Lake Caprolace (Latina province)	Late July-early Sept. 1994	accepted 1A	Report COI 9 (Brichetti & Arcamone 1995)
6	Siracusa Salt pans and Augusta Salt pans	31.X.-1.XI.1995	not expected	Arcamone & Brichetti 1997
7	Montelargius Salt pans (Cagliari province)	14.IV.1999	not expected	Schenk 2012
8*	Codigoro (Ferrara province)	5.X.2003	accepted 1A	Report COI 18 (Brichetti & Occhiato 2004)
9*	Campobello di Mazara (Trapani province)	21.VIII-15.IX.2008	accepted 1A	Report COI 22 (Janni & Fracasso)
10	Valle Millecampi (Venice province)	25.VI.2011	not submitted, but documented. Pending	Sighele et al. 2012
11*	Aloise, Zapponeta (Foggia province)	13.XI.2011	accepted 1A	Report COI 25 (Janni & Fracasso 2013)
12	Pachino (Siracusa province)	8.IX.2012	not submitted, but documented. Pending	Corso in Nicoli et al. 2013
13*	Butera (Catania province)	12.XII.2013	accepted 1A	Report COI 26 (Janni & Fracasso 2015)
14	Casei Gerola (Pavia province)	27.X-7.XI.2020	not submitted, but documented. Pending	Torniolo in Nicoli et al. 2021
15*	Lake Fogliano (Latina province)	26.IX.2021	accepted 1A	present Report
16*	Aloise, Zapponeta (Foggia province)	16.X.2021	accepted 1A	present Report

Table 2. List of homologated records of *Larus fuscus heuglini* in Italy

Record	Age	Date	Place	Observers	References
1	Ad.	9.II.2001	Catania	A. Corso, L. Jonsson	Report COI 17 (Brichetti & Occhiato 2004)
2	Ad.	30.XI.2012-3.II.2013; 14.X.2013-13.II.2014	Mola di Bari (Bari province)	C. Liuzzi	Report COI 27 (Fracasso et al. 2018)
3	Ad.	4.X.2017-10.XII.2017; 25.X.2018 2.XII.2019-20.I.2020	Tortoreto-Martinsicuro (Teramo province)	D. Marrone, E. Viganò	Report COI 28 (Fulco & Liuzzi 2019)
4	Ad.	2.XI.2017; 4.I.2018-4.II.2019 15.XII.2019-27.XII.2019; 9.XII.2021- 6.I.2022	Giulianova (Teramo province)	D. Marrone, E. Viganò	Present Report

Thick-billed Murre *Uria lomvia*

(post-1949 = 1, pre-1950 = 0)

12 miles off the Genoa coast, 9.VI.2021. Finders: Giovanni Lucchi, Daniela Papi, Alessandro Verga (category 1A). First record for Italy and the Mediterranean. (Fig. 7).

An exclusively marine species that is very rare outside its range. Occasionally ranges to Britain and Netherlands, more exceptionally to France; the present record also represents the southernmost one in Europe.



Figure 7. Thick-billed Murre *Uria lomvia*. First Italian sighting. Observed on 09.IV.2021 12 miles off the Genoa coast (Liguria). Ph. Giovanni Lucchi.

Steppe Grey Shrike *Lanius excubitor pallidirostris*

(post-1949 = 8, pre-1950 = 0)

Margherita di Savoia (Barletta province), 20.XII.2020 - 16.I.2021. Finder: Salvatore Giannino (category 1A); documented by photos (Fig. 8).

Wintering individual. First wintering case documented in Italy. The subspecies identification of this record, first attributed to “Great Grey-Shrike” *sensu lato*, was proposed by Ottavio Janni on the basis of photos published online.



Figure 8. Steppe Grey Shrike *Lanius excubitor pallidirostris*. First documented wintering (20.XII.2020 - 16.I.2021) in Margherita di Savoia (Apulia). Ph. Salvatore Giannino.

Red-tailed Shrike *Lanius phoenicuroides*

(post-1949 = 1, pre-1950 = 0)

San Filippo del Mela (Messina province), 16.V.2021.

Finder: Enzo Lombardo et al. (category 1A); documented by photos (Fig. 9). First record for Italy.

Previous claims have been attributed to *Lanius phoenicuroides/isabellinus* due to the lack of adequate documentation that would allow discrimination between the two species (Fulco & Liuzzi 2019).



Figure 9. Red-tailed Shrike *Lanius phoenicuroides*. First Italian record in San Filippo del Mela (Sicily) on 16.V.2021. Ph. Enzo Lombardo.

Booted Warbler *Iduna caligata*

(post-1949 = 2, pre-1950 = 0)

Lake Massaciuccoli, Vecchiano (Pisa province), 27.IX.2021. Finder: Daniele Occhiato (category 1A); documented by photos.

Siberian Thrush *Geokichla sibirica*

(post-1949 = 1, pre-1950 = 3)

Càrzen Mount, Capovalle (Brescia province), 10.X.2020. Finder Alessandro Micheli (category 1A). 1st winter plumage.

The bird was accidentally shot by a hunter who showed the unidentified specimen to Alessandro Micheli. Subsequently Alessandro Micheli, having identified the species, submitted the record to the COI. Only 3 pre-1950 records are known in Italy. The only other post-1949 observation, referring to a subject caught by hand in 1991 in the province of Brescia, was attributed to an escaped bird (Brichetti & Arcamone 1995, Brichetti & Fracasso 2008).

Black-throated Wheatear *Oenanthe seebohmi*

(post-1949 = 1, pre-1950 = 0)

Campo Imperatore, L'Aquila, 14.V.2020. Finder Eliseo Strinella (category 1A); documented by photos (Fig. 10).

First record for Italy.



Figure 10. Black-throated Wheatear *Oenanthe seebohmi*. First Italian record. Campo Imperatore, L'Aquila (Abruzzo) on 14.V.2020. Ph. Eliseo Strinella.

Caspian Stonechat *Saxicola torquatus hemprichii*

(post-1949 = 5, pre-1950 = 0)

Linosa Island (Agrigento province), 28.X.2019. Finder Michele Viganò (category 1A); documented by photos.

ACCEPTED RECORDS (Category 1C)

Albatros sp. *Talassarche sp.*

Genoa, 21.VI.2021. Finder Carlo Ruaro e Gianfranco Giolfo (category 1C).

Despite the high probability that this individual was the same *T. chlororhynchos* observed and well documented a few months later in Rome province, the available documentation does not allow for a species-level identification.

Sykes's/Booted Warbler *Iduna rama/caligata*

Sesto fiorentino (Firenze province), 27.IX.2021. Finder Daniele Occhiato (category 1C).

Based on the description received and given the objective difficulty in discriminating with reasonable certainty between the two very similar species of "Asian warblers", the record has been attributed to the species aggregate *Iduna rama/caligata*.

Atlas/Iberian Pied Flycatcher *Ficedula hypoleuca speculigera/iberiae*

Ventotene Island (Latina province), 23.IV.2019. Finder Fabrizio Cimino (category 1C).

The only picture available appears to be compatible with *Ficedula hypoleuca speculigera*; however, given the great uncertainty in discriminating between *F. h. speculigera* and *F. h. iberiae*, and the frequent hybridization between "pied" *Ficedula* species, it is considered necessary to have at least a sound recording for safe identification. Recent studies have shown that it is almost impossible to distinguish the two taxa on morphological features in the field (Corso et al., 2015).

RECORDS NOT ACCEPTED (LIST COI 5)

Black-browed Albatross *Thalassarche melanophris*

Bocca di Serchio, Vecchiano (Pisa province), 4.III.2021. (category 5A).

Yellow-billed Egret *Ardea brachyrhyncha*

Castel'Alfero (Asti province), 18.I.2020. (category 5A).

Steppe Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus alboaxillaris*
Porto Tolle (Rovigo province), 31.VII.2020. (category 5A).

In order to evaluate this difficult record, which only had poor photographic documentation, the Committee contacted Gary Allport, in light of his considerable experience with this taxon. The opinion received confirmed that the photographic documentation available is not sufficient to identify this subspecies with reasonable certainty. The record, therefore, was not approved.

Eastern Orphean Warbler *Sylvia crassirostris*
Corona di Mariano del Friuli (Gorizia province), VII.2009. (category 5A). Breeding.

A bird attributed to this species was claimed to have bred during the period 2009 to 2012. However, the available documentation consists only of a very short recording of the song made in 2009 that does not exclude Western Orphean Warbler *Sylvia hortensis* or other species. Furthermore, no evidence of nesting was provided.

Ventotene Island (Latina province), 9.V.2019 (category 5B).

Ringed individual. The characters of the plumage and the biometric data are compatible with Western Orphean Warbler *Sylvia hortensis*.

Ehrenberg's Redstart *Phoenicurus phoenicurus samamisticus*

Arnino, San Pietro a Grado (Pisa province), 4.IV.2020 (category 5A).

This taxon is particularly challenging to identify in the absence of clear and unambiguous documentation. Recent research (Martinez et al. 2022) found a moderate frequency of breeding individuals showing some plumage features of *P. p. samamisticus* west of its known range (from the south-eastern Balkans to central Asia). The same article recommends attributing to this taxon only individuals with all or most typical characters. In conclusion, based on the available documentation, it is not possible to attribute this individual with reasonable certainty to the proposed taxon.

Naumann's Trush *Turdus naumanni*
Valtorta (Bergamo province), 15.XI.2007. (category 5B).

The observation concerns an individual that was captured and caged. Based on the images provided, it can be identified as a very rare hybrid *Turdus pilaris* x *Turdus iliacus*.

Western Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava iberiae*
Castiglione della Pescaia (Grosseto province), 15.V.2020. Breeding. (category 5B).

Yellow-breasted Bunting *Emberiza aureola*
Trissino (Vicenza Province), 5.VII.2019. (category 5B).

ITALIAN BIRD CHECK-LIST UPDATE (CISO-COI Lists A, B and C)

With the addition of White-rumped Swift, Atlantic Yellow-nosed Albatross, Grey-headed Lapwing, Western Sandpiper, Thick-billed Murre, Red-tailed Shrike and Black-throated Wheatear, the total number of species on the Italian bird list (A, B and C) increases to 557 (Baccetti et al. 2021).

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