

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. Tufted Duck *Aythya fuligula*

Observers: Enrico Caprio (enrico.caprio@unito.it), Fabrizio Genco

Category: Species of unusual occurrence for a given area

Number of individuals: 1 female

Status: Unknown

Site location: Cimebianche Lake (2812 m asl), Valtournanche (Aosta), Italy

Date of observation: 24th August 2006

Reason of interest: The species has been observed at an unusually high elevation.

2. Stock Dove *Columba oenas*

Observer: Alessandro Pavesi (ale.pavesi18@gmail.com)

Category: Unusual phenology, unusual behaviour

Number of individuals: 1 male

Status: Mating display

Site location: Carpi (Modena) Italy

Date of observation: 06th, 13th and 19th June 2021

Notes of the observer: Apparently unpaired male displaying and singing from a row of Pedunculata Oaks and Poplars with, at least, two suitable nest cavities. Seen courting Jackdaw *Corvus monedula* (06th June) and Wood Pigeon *Columba palumbus* (19th June), fortuitously perched on the proximities of the cavities.

Reasons of interest: Summer presence of the Stock

Dove in the central and eastern Po Valley is very rare, with few observations and no confirmed breeding in the last decade. In the province of Modena, only a previous breeding attempt is known, in 1989. Extraspecific courtship seems to be infrequent, however wild hybrids with the Wood Pigeon are known.



3. Sarus Crane *Grus antigone*

Observer: Ashish Kumar Arya (ashishtyagi.gkv@gmail.com)

Category: Species of unusual occurrence for a given area

Number of individuals: 2

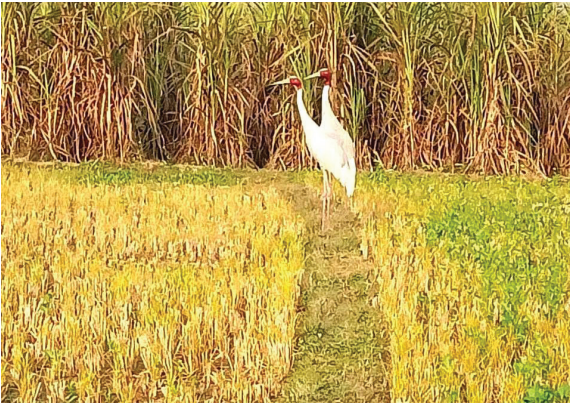
Status: Wintering

Site location: District Muzaffarnagar, Uttar Pradesh, India

Date of observation: 19th December 2021

Notes of the observer: A pair of Sarus Cranes continually moved between different mustered crops. The individuals were observed foraging on harvested rice stems.

Reasons of interest: The population of the Sarus Crane is rapidly declining; this is the first known observation of the species for this region in the last 15 years, as well as the first photographic record for the area.



2021. Breeding occurred in this period for the first time in the Empoli and Vinci municipalities. Currently the local population counts for at least 12 individuals, which have been observed while feeding on fruits of *Melia azedarach* and *Catalpa bignonioides*.

Reasons of interest: The Rose-ringed Parakeet is an alien species with increasing populations throughout Europe. Mapping the distribution and keeping occurrence maps updated is necessary to prevent damages to biodiversity. Before this record, the species was known to be present in Tuscany in the Firenze metropolitan area (between Sesto Fiorentino and Lastra a Signa, 25 km far from this study site), in Forte dei Marmi (Lucca, 70 km far from the study site), and in the coastal area between Follonica (Grosseto) and Piombino (Livorno), 90 km far from the study site.



4. Rose-ringed Parakeet *Psittacula krameri*

Observer: Andrea Viviano (a.viviano@studenti.unipi.it)

Category: Unusual breeding location

Number of individuals: 12

Status: Breeding

Site location: Empoli; Sovigliana, Vinci; Castelfiorentino; Padule di Fucecchio (Firenze), Italy

Date of observation: from July 2021 to March 2022

Notes of the observer: The first flock (7 individuals) of this invasive species was observed in Empoli in July