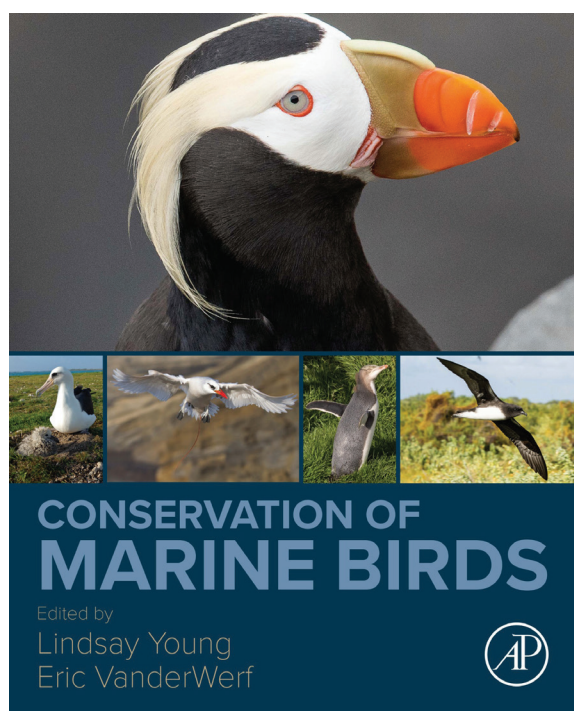


Book reviews

Publishers and Authors are invited to submit a copy of their books for a review in the journal. Books are to be sent to the Deputy Editor-in-chief of Avocetta (Dr. Michelangelo Morganti - CNR-IRSA Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche, Istituto di ricerca sulle acque - Via del Mulino 19, 20861 Brugherio - MB)

Flying against the storm: A synthesis of threats and conservation solutions to halt the decline of marine birds



Marine birds are navigating through stormy waters. Indeed global trends show that the world's monitored seabird populations have dropped by 70 percent since the 1950s. Currently, seabirds are the most threatened group of avian species, with more than half experiencing population declines because of the impacts of human-related activities. Therefore, there is great concern among conservationists and ecologists about the future of seabirds. If these words have caught your attention, then you can't miss this

recently published book: "Conservation of Marine Birds". It is a superb example of how seabird experts, by sharing their knowledge, provide guidance and inspire solutions to overcome global seabirds' conservation challenges. The book skilfully edited by Lynday Young and Eric VanderWerf (directors of the Pacific Rim Conservation, Honolulu, Hawaii, USA) and published by Academic Press was conceived to become a benchmark for all people who are directly or indirectly linked to seabird conservation or simply fascinated by their unique ecology and behaviour. Researchers, conservationists and students should consider this book as a useful resource to examine in detail the most alarming threats to seabirds and to provide practical recommendations to support their conservation. The book (624 pages) comprises 20 chapters in which state-of-the-art literature on marine bird threats and conservation strategies is organised and presented, starting with the fundamental question "What is a marine bird?". The book is divided in two sections, the first 10 chapters (section 1) focus on "Threats", and the remaining 10 on "Solutions". The list of examined threats is exhaustive and includes climate change, invasive species, harvesting of seabirds and eggs, light attraction, collision risk and by-catch, among others. Similarly, the list of solutions (Section 2) includes a wide range of conservation tools and measures related to biosecurity, eradication strategies, marine spatial planning, criteria and challenges for best practices for the mitigation of seabird bycatch, perspectives on indigenous conservation, restoration, translocation and conceptual models

to prioritise habitat conservation. Likely, Section 2 makes the book a unique “resource”, thanks to its pragmatic and enlightening case studies coming from field experience and research results.

In conclusion, “Conservation of Marine birds” is one of the books that all seabird conservationists/ ecologists should have in their hands to be inspired in applying solutions contributing to revert seabird populations’ decline.

Letizia Campioni

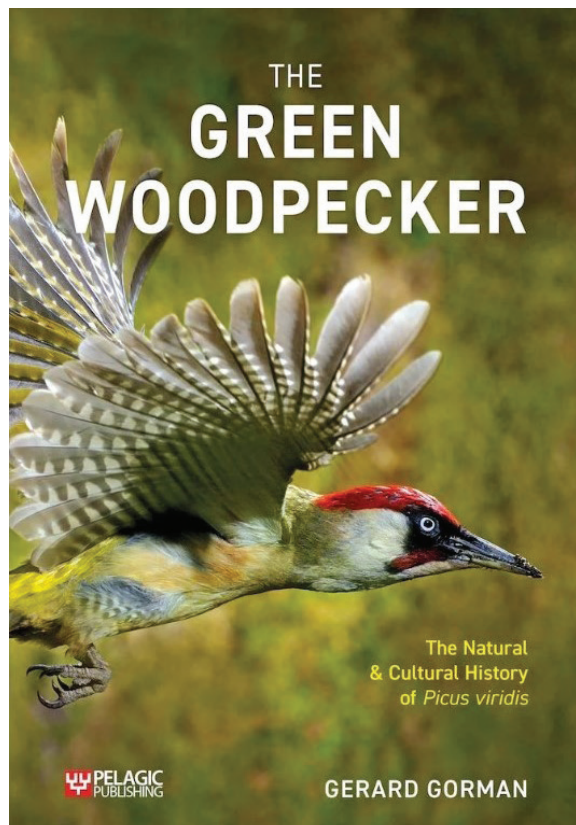
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Reference

Young L. and VanderWerf E., 2022. Conservation of Marine Birds. Academic Press 624 pp. eBook and Paperback 112.50 \$

Feathers and Fables: A close view into the captivating world of ‘The Green Woodpecker’



Among the variety of creatures present at our latitudes, few of them captivate people’s imagination like the Green Woodpecker. This charismatic bird, with its striking green plumage and distinctive laugh-like call, is the focal point of a new book authored by Gerard Gorman. His name might ring a bell to those who read the book reviews published in volume 46 of Avocetta (Campioni 2022 in Book Review Avocetta 46). This time, Gorman proposes a monograph entitled “The Green Woodpeckers: A Natural and Cultural History of *Picus viridis*”. Like in his previous monographic book on the Wryneck *Jynx torquilla*, here he weaves together the threads of biology, ecology and cultural significance to reveal the hidden sides of the Green woodpecker's existence. Written with a blend of scientific rigour and a narrative style, the "Green Woodpecker" invites both nature enthusiasts and curious minds to embark on a journey that deeps down into the species taxonomy, behaviours and conservation by highlighting the links between the bird and its surroundings.

In the present volume consisting of 17 chapters (and 224 pages), Gorman maintains the same book structure used in The Wryneck monograph. As before, the text is enriched with many pictures used to clarify the numerous details and information provided within the text. Such a mix of text and images makes the reading pleasant for those who are less familiar with the topic. The book starts with the origin, taxonomy, anatomy and moult, followed by chapters describing woodpecker distribution, conservation and behaviours. Then, it develops by moving the focus towards woodland habitats, tracks, signs, foraging and food. Finally, it closes with two chapters in which the author tells us about inter-specific interactions with other woodpeckers, and the numerous myths, fables and superstitions developed around the Green Woodpecker. Aesthetically the book is compact, the cover presents a blurred background on which a sharp photo of a flying woodpecker strongly draws the attention of the readers. The monograph has been issued by the same publisher Pelagic Publishing and maintained the same size and style as the previous

book (The Wryneck), likely to launch a collection of monographs on woodpeckers. Finally, the cost of the book was maintained at the affordable price of 24.99€.

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Gorman G., 2023. The Green Woodpecker. The Natural and Cultural History of *Picus viridis*. Pelagic Publishing, Exeter, UK. 224 pp. 29.95 €

A modern province-scale atlas of wintering birds



The Atlas of the birds present in winter in the Province of Brescia (Lombardy), winters 2012/2013 – 2018/2019 [Atlante degli Uccelli presenti in inverno in Provincia di Brescia (Lombardia). Inverni 2012/2013

– 2018/2019; in Italian with English abstract] updates the previous assessments of wintering birds in the Province of Brescia (Eastern Lombardy, Northern Italy) which dated back to the '80s. This complete atlas is based on more than 100,000 records collected over seven winters and reports the occurrence and distribution of 206 species, 155 of which are classified as regularly wintering in the area. The Province of Brescia is the largest in Lombardy and includes a wide range of climates and environments, from sub-mediterranean ones around Garda Lake (the largest Italian lake) to the largest glacier in the Italian Alps (the Adamello Glacier). This wide environmental diversity, well explained in the introduction of the atlas that includes a climatic and chorological description of the province, explains the large number of wintering species.

The atlas focuses particularly on the changes that occurred since the previous edition. Indeed, it shows both the species distribution assessed in this survey and the data collected for the previous atlas of birds wintering in the Province of Brescia (winters 1984/1985 – 1987/1988) and in the atlas of wintering birds in Lombardy, including some subsequent winters up to 1990/1991. For each species, a couple of maps are shown, representing the current and the previous data, and are accompanied by a comment on the observed changes and a discussion of the possible causes. Changes in winter climate and land use that occurred in the province of Brescia in the same period are also provided in the introduction. Interestingly, the atlas includes also accidental and non-native species. Appendices at the end of the book provide a list of species signalled in the Province of Brescia during winter but not recorded during the survey with the relative references and notes.

Published by the Natural History Museums of Brescia as a monograph of “Natura Bresciana” (the scientific journal of the museum), this atlas represents a reference for investigating the long-term consequences of climate and environmental changes on bird communities.

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Reference

Vezzoli D., Brichetti P., Forlani E., Gargioni A., Sottile. F. & Trotti P. (eds), 2021. Atlante degli uccelli presenti in inverno in provincia di Brescia (Lombardia). Inverni 2012/2013 – 2018/2019. Monografie n. 33 di Natura Bresciana, Museo Civico di Scienze Naturali di Brescia, Brescia, Italy, 272 pp.

Freely available at: https://www.comune.brescia.it/lfs/servizi/arteculturaeturismo/museoscienze/Documents/Atlante_Uccelli_n33_2021_LR.pdf