

## Book Reviews - Recensioni

*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 CISO secretary (Tommaso La Mantia - Dipartimento SAF (Scienze agrarie e forestali), Università di Palermo - Viale delle Scienze, Ed. 4, Ingr. H - 90128 Palermo (Italy) – Editori e Autori sono invitati a sottoporre una copia dei loro volumi per una recensione. I volumi devono essere spediti alla segreteria CISO (Tommaso La Mantia - Dipartimento SAF (Scienze agrarie e forestali), Università di Palermo - Viale delle Scienze, Ed. 4, Ingr. H - 90128 Palermo (Italy).*

**Cauli F. & Genero F. (eds), 2017.** Rapaci d'Italia. Ed. Belvedere, Latina (Italy), 448 pp., € 48,00 (price to 2018 CISO members: € 36,00). [www.edizionibelvedere.it](http://www.edizionibelvedere.it)

The editors of this book, Federico Cauli and Fulvio Genero, were able to involve more than 30 hands of selected Italian authors among the most experienced in diurnal raptor research and their conservation. In this way the authors presented a completely new publication for Italy, very well and finely printed; resulting in an important reference book, not only for Italy but also for other European countries.

### *Structure and organization of this volume*

The first chapter, co-authored by F. Cauli, F. Genero, B. Massa and M. Panuccio, concerns the life style of raptors. The authors present interesting and often little known information on etymology, classification, morphology and adaptations, eyesight, habitats, hunting modalities, migration, nesting and breeding cycle.

The title of the second chapter, jointly written by M. Panuccio, G. Dell'Omo, F. Genero and F. Cauli, is "Studiare i Rapaci" (studying raptors). The authors give an excellent overview of methods used to estimate populations (concerning this subject cf. contents of this issue of *Avocetta*, dedicated to the status of the Golden Eagle in Italy), the use of radar and other tools provided by modern technology (satellite receivers, webcams, etc), food analysis, biometrics, bioacoustics, marking methods, etc.

Following this wide introduction covering ca. 80 pages, the book regards the 25 species of diurnal raptors breeding in Italy, and the other seventeen (some of them rare or occasional) migrating through our country; a significant sample of the European avifauna. The original and of high caliber color plates of raptors in flight have been prepared by Andrea Ambrogio.

Each species is extensively treated in the following way: on the left page a nice drawing by Federico Gemma presents the species, while on the right page a short story on a particular encounter with that species by one of the 30 collaborators to the volume is presented.

The coverage of each species is wide and includes every significant aspect of its life; there are different authors for each species.

Other drawings are scattered in the volume, prepared by Luigi Corsetti, Niccolò Falchi, Fabio Perco and Alessandro Troisi, among the best Italian bird illustrators. This part of the book covers about 200 pages.

F. Genero and F. Cauli present a short annotated list of non-breeder raptors. After, F. Perco introduces an interesting subject, raptors in myths and the legends; this long chapter (15 pages) is very rich in information, some of which are difficult to find.

The last parts of the book are devoted to projects related to raptor protection, conservation priorities, relationships with man, and past, present and future threats to raptors by J. Cecere and A. Andreotti.

Raptor conservation projects in Italy include: the re-introduction of the Osprey in Maremma (Tuscany) by G. Sammuri; the return of the Lammergeyer in the Alps by F. Genero; the efforts to reintroduce the Egyptian Vulture into Tuscany by G. Ceccolini; the long and fearless battle to safeguard migrant raptors through the Strait of Messina by A. Giordano; the reintroduction of the Griffon Vulture in some Italian regions by F. Genero; the active protection against the theft of nestlings of the Bonelli's Eagle by poachers and falconers by M. Gustin; the protection of Montagu's Harrier nests in wheat fields by E. Calevi; the reintroduction of the Red Kite in Tuscany by A. Cenerini; the installation of nest-boxes to entice the colonization by the Lesser Kestrel in Northern Italy by M. Gustin; the recent colonization of the Red-footed Falcon in the prov-

## *Columns - Rubriche*

ince of Parma by M. Gustin; the study and the conservation camps at Carloforte (Sardinia) aimed for the protection of the Eleonora's Falcon by G. Pinna and the project to protect the Lanner Falcon in Italy by A. Andreotti.

Finally, there are 32 pages of selected bibliography, divided by arguments, prepared by F. Genero and M. Pannuccio, and some appendices: a list of nature conservation associations involved in raptor conservation, and a list of

short biographies of the 32 authors of this book. The volume is enriched by many colour photographs of very high quality.

Overall, this is a very nice and original book on raptors, penned by Italian researchers, who demonstrate that Italian research on raptors has risen to high levels and that the conservation of these important and keystone birds in the food-webs is now in secure hands.

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