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Titolo Progetto: Together Investigate and Learn to Tackle Climate Issues

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TILT

Together Investigate and Learn to Tackle Climate Issues

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Fauna in Sicily and Huelva WATERFOWL

The Red-crested Pochard *Netta rufina* (Pallas, 1773) is in Italy a breeding, migratory and wintering species, with a total of 145-160 pairs estimated for recent years; it is listed as “vulnerable” (VU) in the last Red List of Italian Breeding Birds. In Sicily, it has been considered as a scarce breeder before 1900. The latest Sicilian breeding of the 20th century are reported for the '40s in the wetland of “Biviere di Lentini”. Subsequently, the species became extinct as a breeder in the region, and, to date, only a single ascertained breeding case was reported, relating to a female with its ducklings observed in May-June 2004 in “Pantano Leone” (Agrigento) (SCIABICA, 2004).



Netta rufina

Shelduck, Tadorna, tadorna

Data on the breeding biology of Shelducks were gathered in four coastal regions over the years 1989-1996. The laying period goes from the beginning of April to the end of May; the mean number of chicks per pair is 7.3. Breeding pairs are mostly found on barrier islands, saltmarsh islets, artificial islands and saltpans, whereas nests are made on dunes, banks or in dense vegetation. Some nests have been found close or inside gull colonies. The populations of four coastal areas increased markedly in two regions: Friuli-Venezia Giulia and Sicily: Priolo saltmarsh ; Syracuse saltmarsh (Vendicari's pond) and Morghello saltmarsh.



Tadorna, tadorna

Cormoran grande

The Ionian coast of south-eastern Sicily is home to migratory birds. From Estonia to Aci Trezza, thanks to a flight of over two thousand and five hundred kilometers, a young cormorant arrived in search of milder temperatures. The bird ringed as a chick in Estonia is now "resident" since last November on the rocks of the cyclopean islet of the Isola Lachea and Faraglioni dei Ciclopi integral nature reserve. The subject, observed and immortalized several times in recent months, thanks to a telescope, on the rocks of the Lachea Island and the Faraglioni by the staff of the university center, the ornithologist who read the colored ring bearing the three-letter code ("JYA"), affixed in the left paw of the cormorant.

Cormoran grande
Phalacrocorax carbo



A pair of Shoveler ducks (*Anas clypeata*) in the swamp of the Simeto River, Sicily

Unmistakable species for its large spatula-shaped beak. The breeding male (wedding dress) has a green head (which depending on the light condition can also appear blue, black and / or violet in various shades), a white breast and a brown-gnawed belly and flanks, the eyes are of yellow. The females are light brown to orange, the size is smaller. The post-reproductive migration towards the wintering areas takes place from August to December, with peaks in October and November; the pre-breeding migration towards the nesting areas is evident from February to the end of April. In Italy it is a regular migratory species, wintering and locally nesting in the Comacchio Valleys, in the Po Delta and in the lagoons, as in the swamp of the Simeto river in Sicily. .



Anas clypeata»Shoveler ducks»