

FRAMMENTI

LIPU-UK

Issue number 83

April/June 2024

This e-mail newsletter is published by LIPU-UK to supplement its printed publications. We intend it to be an informal way of passing on items of topical interest culled from Italian and other sources. We also invite members to contribute.

We want to encourage as wide a readership as possible so please pass it on to your acquaintances, and also get them to subscribe, at no cost of course. Just send an e-mail to David with "subscribe Frammenti" in the message box. Similarly, to unsubscribe send a message to David with "unsubscribe Frammenti" in the message box.

Comments and information should be directed to David Lingard, mail@lipu-uk.org with a copy to Lesley Tompkins, ltompkins8@msn.com

3rd April

In the Babalibri spring catalogue (the most important publishing house for the pre-school age range) two pages are dedicated to LIPU. They asked us, in view of the publication of *'A Space Flight'* by the Japanese author Tomoko Ohmura, where more than 50 species of bird are illustrated, to explain their appeal and what activities to carry out with young children to enable them to know birds better.

The catalogue is not only sent to all the bookshops in the country but also to many nurseries and toy libraries in Italy.

Chiara Manghetti, Head of Environmental Education and Training

5th April

Tomorrow we will celebrate an important milestone, the 20th anniversary of Pantenello (Lazio), its creation and contribution to biodiversity. We will do it with the Roffredo Caetani Foundation, landlord and creator of this reserve with whom LIPU has worked for 10 years.

In fact the link between LIPU and the Foundation is historic, dating back to the early '70s thanks to another link, the marriage between Leila Caetani, who started the Foundation dedicated to her father, Roffredo and Hubert Howard, honorary President of our organisation at that time. 100 hectares of farmland has been returned to nature – cultivated fields have been replaced by water, reeds, little bitterns and dragonflies.

We will celebrate this birthday with our friends from the Foundation, administrators of the Lazio region, representatives of local schools and communities, and the President of LIPU, Alessandro Polinori together with the Head of the Reserve, Gastone Gaiba, contributors and volunteers.

Ugo Farelli, Reserves manager

★ ★ ★

5th April

This is the message from the owner of a small villa, where a pair of swallows have decided to nest on a ceiling light (the photo is from last year).



“They came for the first time 7 years ago and tried to build a nest but the wall was too smooth and the nest slipped down, then they chose the cover. The man who does the pruning says there are no other nests around, we are the only favoured ones. I don’t know if it can be an explanation but the year before I retrieved a swallow, unconscious from an impact with the gate after a strong gust of wind and I manage to help it spread its wings again. It is a romantic and unlikely theory but I have no other explanation!”

Giovanni Cumbo, Palermo delegate

★ ★ ★

3rd June

I am bringing to your attention that, on 30th May, a court in Turin has passed a ruling blocking the planned felling of trees in Corso Belgio, and requiring a much delayed

scheduling (5 years) in order to exploit the ecosystem service still offered by the existing trees.

Furthermore, importantly, the correlation between urban trees and public health (reduction of atmospheric pollution, alleviation of heat etc) is highlighted. This refers to the established guideline of the Supreme Court that links to the right to health recognised by the Constitution. A private citizen can ask for work being undertaken by a public body to be suspended, on the grounds that it compromises the environment in which they live or work so harming their physical and psychological well-being.

It is an important ruling which we hope is a forerunner to other similar measures.

Marco Dinetti, Head of Urban Ecology

★ ★ ★

4th June

Attached is a summary of work carried out by our thesis student, Elisabetta D'Amicis under an agreement with the University of Bari and published in the Bulletin of Regional Natural History on 31st May

Summary (in English) taken from the article.

The Eurasian Eagle Owl, *Bubo bubo* is considered a globally declining species. Except for the Alps regions, the Eurasian Eagle Owl is irregularly distributed throughout Italy. Knowledge in Apulia and Basilicata is lacking, particularly in the Gravine Area, where sporadic sightings have been documented in recent decades. The aim of this work is to update information about the status of the Eurasian Eagle Owl in the area of the Lipu Oasis "Gravina di Laterza" and try to estimate the minimum number of reproductive pairs.

The study was developed over the years 2020 to 2023 by multiple methods, such as playback, camera trapping, and listening to spontaneous singing. Five monitoring stations were located in relation to various factors considered in the literature to be of primary importance for the owl. The first year a response was obtained from a male individual. In the same spot, in the following years, calls from a female and subsequently from two young individuals were recorded. A male individual was repeatedly filmed by camera trap. It is therefore believed that a stable reproductive pair of the species is present in the study area.

The email concludes by saying they hope there will shortly be further good news like this.

Gravina di Laterza

★ ★ ★

8th June

Yesterday I confirmed the presence of a new Black Stork nest in a new reserve on the slopes of Sila in Crotona province.

They had been observed for several years in the breeding season and we have been following them with interest. In fact last April I trained the guides in a seminar on the species in order for them to look for it and identify it (with all the necessary precautions). Over the years I have been regularly sent observations and relevant data.... Until yesterday when we received the happy news (a nest with an adult and a chick which will soon fledge). Incidentally I have seen another pair in the area but who knows if they are nesting there.

LIPU Sila promotes deliberate dissemination of the news so that people in the area can make a conscious commitment to the protection of this rare ornithological species. Calabria and Basilicata now account for half of Italy's breeding pairs.

Gianluca Congi, LIPU Sila
