

FRAMMENTI

LIPU-UK

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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.

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30th September

Ciao,

In the piazza Cittadella, in Piacenza, fifteen 70-year old trees were saved from the chain saw by a judge's ruling.

According to the local administration the trees needed to be cut down in order that a large underground car park for 200 cars could be constructed. At the first inkling of the works residents and activists manned the piazza day and night, gathering more than 30,000 signatures, making an appeal to the civil section of the Piacenza court. The judge, Antonio Fazio, gave an historic ruling on 24th September ordering the firm to refrain from "cutting down the trees and any action likely to damage them".

One of the most important passages criticises the measure of substituting "smaller plants without assessing the impact on the atmosphere or the temperature" with the relevant circumstance of schools nearby which would be damaged by the lack of trees. He added that this is a procedure that, in a civilised country, would not be conceivable. Care of the environment in the interests of future generations as mandated (not suggested) by the Constitution should not necessitate legal action.

Marco Dinetti, Head of Urban Ecology

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10th October

Alessandro Polinori, President of LIPU

For many years LIPU has had stalls in Italian piazzas offering panettoni with stickers attached and it has become an extremely pleasant Christmas tradition which means so much to our members and friends.

Our presence on the streets gives us the opportunity to meet so many people, to tell them of our important work in the reserves and recovery centres, our actions against wild hunting, conservation

and biodiversity, celebrate our victories and illustrate the difficulties and future challenges. It also gives them a bird's eye view of the wonderful vision that is the BirdLife network.

This year our staff (tireless to say the least!) have had to cope with unexpected difficulties but at the last moment managed to find solutions to allow "Christmas with Nature" to go ahead.

[Difficulties included: - the impossibility of procuring organic wine which was caused by a bad harvest that hit the wine sector, especially the organic one which couldn't use chemicals to ease the situation and a change in ownership of one of our 2 suppliers.]

To continue to be there in 2024 is extremely important, perhaps even more than in the past, considering the attacks nature is subjected to on every level.

I am certain that, thanks to the commitment of our marvellous teams of volunteers and staff, we will manage to be present in so many Italian piazzas.

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17th October

I am taking advantage of today's rain to tell you about an important anniversary for the Brabbia marsh: 40 years since its establishment and 30 years of management by LIPU in agreement with the province of Varese (Lombardy).

This year we wanted to celebrate this goal with more initiatives and create more connections with the region. We also wanted to use documentaries about the nature of the reserve, the work of LIPU and the volunteers and all the initiatives that revolve around it. There will be 4 episodes with the title "Life of the Reserve", each focused on a particular aspect. At the moment we have made 2 – on environmental management and on the activity of monitoring the fauna.

One important event was the autumn festival in which we spoke to the public of the first spark which, thanks to LIPU volunteers, led to the marsh becoming a nature reserve.

(A short video clip showing the reserve can be seen using this link: [Documentari "Vita in Oasi" | Trailer](#))

Barbara Ravasio (Oasi Brabbia warden)

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4th November, Danilo Selvaggi

A victory in Calabria as well

The Regional Administrative Court (with a definitive ruling) has upheld the appeal by LIPU, WWF and ENPA (Italian equivalent of RSPCA) and the hunting season for thrushes will end 3 weeks before that provided for in the hunting calendar. The hunting will stop on 9th January as we requested and was the opinion of ISPRA.

There have been so many victories this year and we are not stopping.

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15th November

Hunting in violation of the European rules. The EU has started the second phase of the infringement proceedings by sending Italy a justifiable judgment. The associations to the Government: there is a risk of an impending conviction, enough of the concessions to hunting, the citizens will pay out of their own pockets.

The sending of infringement proceedings to Italy by the EU Commission – that is the prelude to a final conviction – for not respecting the Birds Directive and the REACH regulations relating to the use of lead ammunition in wetlands is the result of a government policy made of concessions to the hunting world and the manufacturers of arms and ammunition and is against biodiversity. It could cost the Italian citizens dear if a conviction ensues. This is how the associations have commented on the new initiative from Brussels, which makes even more certain that Italy will be referred to the European Court of Justice for violation of European rules on hunting and the use of materials damaging to human and animal health.

In that sense it is unacceptable that, while 5.7 million Italians are living in absolute poverty, the Government continues to expose the country to the risk of a European conviction, which would be a high price to pay, not only politically but to those same citizens, the overwhelming majority in favour of nature and against hunting. Those who are against hunting must pay for the illegality of it: it adds insult to injury.

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