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Italian Ornithological Commission (COI) - Report 31

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Abstract - Italian Ornithological Commission (COI) - Report 31. This report refers to records from January 1st 2022 to December 31st 2022, with the addition of a number of records from previous years that were submitted more recently. For each species, the records are listed by date and information is given as follows: English and scientific name, number of accepted records pre- and post-1950 (the numbers in this abstract refer to the total number of records), number of individuals if more than one, age or plumage and sex if known, location, date, names of the observers, and available documentation (photograph, sound recording, specimen, etc.). According with the new CISO-COI Italian Checklist, which also includes subspecies, the taxonomy follows the HBW-BirdLife Check-list, as decided by the CISO council in 2018.

A total of 40 records involving 31 taxa were assessed. The following 30 records, involving 22 taxa, were accepted, including six first records for Italy (Cat. AERC: A – COI Category 1A, 1B): **Red-footed Booby *Sula sula*** (Campania 2022; 1st record); White-tailed Lapwing *Vanellus leucurus* (Apulia 2022; 7th record); White-rumped Sandpiper *Calidris fuscicollis* (Latium 2022; 3rd record); **Sharp-tailed Sandpiper *Calidris acuminata*** (Sardinia 2022; 1st record); Franklin's Gull *Larus pipixcan* (Liguria 2022; 6th record); **Bonaparte's Gull *Larus philadelphia*** (Veneto 2022; 1st record); Glaucous Gull *Larus hyperboreus* (Veneto 2021; 20th record); **Arctic Herring Gull (Vega Gull) *Larus smithsonianus vegae*** (Marche 2022; 1st record); Roseate Tern *Sterna dougallii* (Friuli-Venezia-Giulia 2022; 5th record); Levant Sparrowhawk *Accipiter brevipes* (Latium 2021; 12th record); **East Siberian Merlin *Falco columbarius insignis*** (Piedmont 1952; 1st record); Red-eyed Vireo *Vireo olivaceus* (Sicily 2022; 2nd record); Desert Shrike *Lanius excubitor elegans/algeriensis* (Campania 2021, Sicily 2022; 12th-13th record); Steppe Grey Shrike *Lanius excubitor pallidirostris* (Calabria 2022; 9th record); Brown Shrike *Lanius cristatus* (Tuscany 2021, Calabria 2021; 3rd-4th record); Isabelline Shrike *Lanius isabellinus* (Sicily 2021, Apulia 2022; 10th-11th record); Bar-tailed Lark *Ammomanes cinctura* (Sicily 2021, 2022; 5th-6th record); Olivaceus Warbler *Iduna pallida* (Sicily 2021; 14rd-15th record); Eastern Bonelli's Warbler *Phylloscopus orientalis* (Sicily 2010, 2022; Apulia 2022; 6th-8th record); Black-throated Wheatear *Oenanthe seebohmi* (Latium 2022; 2nd record); Caspian Stonechat *Saxicola torquatus hemprichii* (Latium 2022, Tuscany 2022; 6th-7th record); **Eastern Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla tschutschensis*** (Sicily 2021; 1st record).

The addition of Red-footed Booby, Sharp-tailed Sandpiper, Bonaparte's Gull, Arctic Herring Gull and Easter Yellow Wagtail Kittlitz's Plover brings the Italian list to 562 accepted species.

Records not accepted (COI List 5A, 5B) were: White-rumped Swift *Apus caffer* (Latium 2021); Pacific Golden Plover *Pluvialis fulva* (Emilia Romagna 2022, Apulia 2022); White-cheeked Tern *Sterna repressa* (Friuli-Venezia-Giulia 2022); Oriental Honey-buzzard *Pernis ptilorhynchus* (Calabria 2021); Arctic Warbler *Phylloscopus borealis* (Calabria 2022); Siberian Thrush *Geokichla sibirica* (Tuscany 2021); Oriental Reed-warbler *Acrocephalus orientalis* (Emilia Romagna 2022); Western Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava flavissima* (Tuscany 2005).

Introduction

This report details the records of rare species and subspecies in Italy submitted to and assessed by the Italian Bird Rarities Committe (Commissione Ornitologica Italiana - COI) as of 31st December 2022. The members who voted on the records in this report are Emiliano Arcamone, Nicola Baccetti, Pierandrea Brichetti, Adriano De Faveri, Giancarlo Fracasso, Egidio Fulco (Secretary), Andrea Galimberti, Luca Giussani, Ottavio Janni, Cristiano Liuzzi (Secretary), Sergio Nissardi, Menotti Passarella, Lorenzo Vanni and Michele Viganò. For more information on the Committee, including current members, please refer to the COI page on the CISO website (https://www.ciso-coi.it/coi/). Further details on the procedures according to which the Committee operates and on the categorisations attributed to each examined record can be found in Report 24 (Janni & Fracasso 2012), available online at the address mentioned above. All previous COI reports are listed below:

Rivista Italiana di Ornitologia: (1) 1982, 52: 205-206; (2) 1983, 53: 194-195; (3) 1985, 55: 186-187; (4) 1986, 56: 245-246; (5) 1987, 57: 243-246; (6) 1989, 59: 269-272; (7) 1992, 62: 41-43; (8) 1993, 63: 193-198; (9) 1995, 65: 63-68; (10) 1995, 65: 147-149; (11) 1996, 66: 171-174; (12) 1997, 67: 189-192; (13) 1998, 68: 205-208; (14) 1999, 69: 211-214.

Avocetta: (15) 2002, 26: 117-121; (16) 2003, 27: 207-210; (17) 2004, 28: 41-44; (18) 2004, 28: 97-102; (19) 2005, 29: 93-97; (20) 2007, 31: 75-79; (21) 2008, 32: 82-86; (22) 2009, 33: 117-146; (23) 2010, 34: 71-106; (24) 2012, 36: 81-88; (25) 2013, 37: 67-70; (26) 2015, 39: 37-40; (27) 2018, 45-54; (28) 2019, 43: 177-188; (29) 2020, 44: 107-114; (30) 2022, 46: 123-133.

The English names are those in the latest CISO-COI List of Italian Birds (Baccetti et al. 2021) or in the HBW & BirdLife International checklist (2022) for species first recorded in Italy. In accordance with the resolution adopted by the Committee in January 2018, this checklist includes all subspecies reported in Italy and follows the taxonomy of the HBW-BirdLife Checklist (del Hoyo & Collar 2014, 2016, HBW & BirdLife International 2020). The English names of the subspecies are not "official" because they are not reported in the world reference lists mentioned above. They were obtained from current literature. For each taxon, records are listed by date and accompanied by the following information: number of individuals (if more than one); age / sex if known (in non-adults the age is expressed in "calendar years" abbreviated to "cy"); updated number of accepted records since 1st January 1950 and before this date; locality including municipality (where applicable) and province; names of the observers; and nature of the provided documentation (photos, sound recordings, specimens, etc.).

ACCEPTED RECORDS (Category 1A, 1B)

Red-footed Booby *Sula sula*

(post-1949 = 1, pre-1950 = 0)

Ischia island (Naples province), 09.IV.2022. Adult. Finder: Michelangelo Ambrosini (category 1A). Documented by photos, later identified by Ottavio Janni. First record for Italy.



Figure 1. Red-footed Booby *Sula sula* found in spring 2020 by Michelangelo Ambrosini in “Punta Imperatore” off-coast area of Ischia Island (Naples province) and subsequently identified by Ottavio Janni. First Italian record. Ph. Michelangelo Ambrosini.

An extremely rare species in the western Palearctic, fewer than 40 records are known in the period 1977-2023 (Haas 2017; tarsiger.com). Species with pantropical chorology, it breeds on small islands with scattered colonies. The closest breeding site is in Cape Verde, where it recently settled in 2021 (Loureiro et al. 2021). In the Mediterranean basin only three reports are known, two from Spain: 1 ind. in August-

December 2010 (Armada 2010, Gutiérrez et al. 2011); 1 ind. in June-July 2019 (tarsiger.com) and one from France in July 2011 (Reeber & CHN 2012). This therefore represents the first Italian record and the fourth for the entire Mediterranean basin.

White-tailed Lapwing *Vanellus leucurus*

(post-1949 = 7, pre-1950 = 0)

Zapponeta (Foggia province), 09-21.III.2022. Finder: Giuseppe Vecchio (category 1A). Documented by photos.

White-rumped Sandpiper *Calidris fuscicollis*

(post-1949 = 3, pre-1950 = 0)

Sabaudia (Latina province), 13-15.VII.2022. Adult. Finders: Daniela Comuzzi, Enrico Ferrari, Roberto Ragno (category 1A). Documented by photos.

Sharp-tailed Sandpiper *Calidris acuminata*

(post-1949 = 1, pre-1950 = 0)

Cabras (Oristano province), 13.X.2022. Adult. Finder: Johannes Frühauf (category 1A). Documented by photos. First record for Italy.



Figure 2. Sharp-tailed Sandpiper *Calidris acuminata* found on 13.X.2022 in Cabras wetlands (Oristano province). First Italian record. Ph. Johannes Frühauf.

The Sharp-tailed Sandpiper is a long-distance migrant that breeds in eastern Arctic Siberia. Post-breeding, adults rapidly migrate to their wintering grounds in Australasia along a mainly interior continental route through Asia (van Gils et al. 2020). Many juveniles, in contrast, take an extensive detour and cross the Bering Sea to western Alaska, where they probably fuel for a non-stop flight across the Pacific (Handel & Gill 2010, Lindström et al. 2011). About fifty individuals have been seen in Europe so far, about half of which on the British Isles.

Franklin's Gull *Larus pipixcan*

(post-1949 = 6, pre-1950 = 0)

Taggia (Imperia province), 27.II.2022-21.III.2022. 2nd cy. Finder: Luigi Giunta. (category 1A). Documented by photos.

Bonaparte's Gull *Larus philadelphia*

(post-1949 = 1, pre-1950 = 0)

Venice, 27.V.2022. 2nd cy. Finder: Emanuele Stival (category 1A). Documented by photos. First record for Italy.

Nearctic species, a regular vagrant to Europe (especially along the Atlantic coast) but only very rarely observed in the Mediterranean Basin (e.g. Spain and Malta).



Figure 3. Bonaparte's Gull *Larus philadelphia* observed on 27.V.2022 in Venice's Lagoon. First Italian record. Ph. Emanuele Stival.

Glaucous Gull *Larus hyperboreus*

(post-1949 = 12, pre-1950 = 8)

Porto Bergamini, Peschiera del Garda (Verona province), 31.XII.2021. 1st cy. Finders: Lorenzo Della Libera, Michelangelo Lamera (category 1A). Documented by photos

Table 1. List of known sightings of Glaucous Gull *Larus hyperboreus* in Italy (1950- 2022).

N	Site	Date	COI exam. status	References
1	Fano (Pesaro-Urbino province)	8.XII.1957	not examined	Brichetti & Fracasso, 2006
2	Foce Isonzo (Gorizia province)	12.III.1979	not examined	Brichetti & Fracasso 2006
3	Foce Isonzo (Gorizia province)	26.III.1979	not examined	Brichetti & Fracasso 2006
4	Savona	10.II.1987	not examined	Brichetti & Fracasso 2006
5	Laguna di Marano (Udine province)	5-16.III.1989	not examined, but documented.	Brichetti & Fracasso 2006
6	Marina di Ravenna (Ravenna province)	9.II.1991	not examined	Brichetti & Fracasso 2006
7	Chioggia (Venice province)	24.V.1992	not examined	Brichetti & Fracasso 2006
8	Pozzuolo del Friuli (Udine province)	11-12.II.1999	not examined	Brichetti & Fracasso 2006
9	Laguna di Marano (Venice province)	I.2000	not examined	Brichetti & Fracasso 2018
10	Ravenna	11.XII.2001	not examined	Brichetti & Fracasso 2018
11	Livorno	18.II.2011	accepted 1A	(Janni & Fracasso, 2012)
12	Invaso del Meisino (Turin province)	5-13.II.2012	not examined, but documented.	Brichetti & Fracasso 2018
13	Chioggia (Venice province)	21.II.-29.III.2015	not examined, but documented	Brichetti & Fracasso 2018
14	Peschiera del Garda (Verona province)	31.XII.2021	accepted 1A	present Report

Arctic Herring Gull (Vega Gull) *Larus smithsonianus vegae*

(post-1949 = 1, pre-1950 = 0)

Marina Palmense, Fermo (FM), 10.XII.2022. Adult. Finders: Mario Maroni, Francesco Paci (category 1A); Adult. Documented by photos. First record for Italy.

Extremely rare taxon in the Western Palearctic; not only this individual represents the first report from Italy, but it is also the first from the Mediterranean and the third for Europe, after records from Ireland (January 2016) and France (November 2016). Based on the taxonomy used by COI, this taxon is considered a subspecies of Arctic Herring Gull *Larus smithsonianus*, while according to the IOC it would be the nominate subspecies of Vega Gull *L. vegae*.



Figure 4. Arctic Herring Gull (Vega Gull) *Larus smithsonianus vegae* observed on 10.XII.2022 in Fermo (Marche) by Mario Maroni and Francesco Paci. First Italian record. Ph. Mario Maroni.

Roseate Tern *Sterna dougallii*

(post-1949 = 2, pre-1950 = 3)

Isonzo mouth, Staranzano (Gorizia province), 19.VI.2022. 3rd cy. Finder: Silvano Candotto (category 1A). Documented by photos.

A very significant record as it is the second in Italy after 1949 and the only one to be documented. Furthermore, this individual was ringed on 7th July 2020 on Coquet Island in the North Sea, off the coast of Northumberland (UK).



Figure 5. Roseate Tern *Sterna dougallii* with metal ring found on 19.VI.2022 in Isonzo Mouth (Gorizia province) by Silvano Candotto. Here in comparison with a Sandwich Tern. This bird was ringed on 7 July 2020 on Coquet Island in the North Sea, off the coast of Northumberland (UK). Ph. Silvano Candotto.

Levant Sparrowhawk *Accipiter brevipes*

(post-1949 = 11, pre-1950 = 1)

Allumiere (Rome province), 09.IX.2021. 1st cy. Finder: Paolo Nicolai (category 1A). Documented by photos.

East Siberian Merlin *Falco columbarius insignis*

(post-1949 = 1, pre-1950 = 0)

Stupinigi (Turin), -.XII.1952. Finders: Giovanni Boano, Andrea Corso (category 1A).

The report concerns a specimen held in the "Admetos Rolando Barberis" collection located in the Piedmont Po Park in Bosco Marengo (AL) and recently reviewed (Corso & Boano, in press). The biometric data and the plumage indicate that it belongs to the taxon that breeds in far north-eastern Asia, *F. columbarius insignis*. This is the only known European record of this subspecies.

Red-eyed Vireo *Vireo olivaceus*

(post-1949 = 2, pre-1950 = 0)

Lampedusa Island (Agrigento province), 29-30.X.2022. Finder: Luca Bergamaschi (category 1A). Documented by photos.

Elegant/Algerian* Shrike *Lanius excubitor elegans/algeriensis*

(post-1949 = 12, pre-1950 = 1)

Castel Volturno (Caserta province), 17.III.2021; Finder: Alessio Usai (category 1A). Documented by photos. Accepted as *algeriensis*. This is the first record post-1949 for continental Italy, all other records being from Sicily and its satellite islands;

Scicli (Ragusa province), 20.I.2022; Finder: Angelo Vaccaro (category 1B). Documented by photos and videos. Accepted as *elegans/algeriensis*.

The total number of Italian records includes reports of the subsepecies *elegans*, *algeriensis* and the intermediate forms known as "*batesi*" (also known as "*dodsoni*"). These, along with several other reports from Sicily and one from Sardinia, are the subject of a forthcoming in-depth study aimed at defining their status

Although this taxon is probably regular in the Pelagian Islands (at least the "*elegans*" form), the Committee will continue to examine future reports because of of the difficulties in separating the different subspecies and to preserve useful data for any future taxonomic revisions.

* English names "Elegant/Algerian Shrike" are based on Shiriai & Svensson (2018) and the latest updated monograph by Lefranc (2022).

Steppe Grey Shrike *Lanius excubitor pallidirostris*

(post-1949 = 9, pre-1950 = 0)

Punta Alice, Cirò Marina (Crotone province), 2.XII.2022. 1st cy. Finder: Mario Pucci (category 1A). Documented by photos and videos.

Brown Shrike *Lanius cristatus*

(post-1949 = 4, pre-1950 = 0)

Piombino (Livorno province), 1-30.IV.2022. 2nd cy. Finder: Gianni Galeotti (category 1A). Documented by photos.

Punta Alice, Cirò Marina (Crotone province), 1.V.2022. Adult. Finder: Mario Pucci (category 1A). Documented by photos and videos.



Figure 6. Adult Brown Shrike *Lanius cristatus* observed in "Punta Alice" (Crotone province) by Mario Pucci on 1.V.2022. Ph. Mario Pucci.

Isabelline Shrike *Lanius isabellinus*

(post-1949 = 11, pre-1950 = 0)

Pantano Longarini (Siracusa province), 10-12.XII.2021. Finders: Giancarlo Torre, Egle Gambino, Carlo Capuzziello (category 1A). Documented by photos.

Bari, 28.IV.2022. Adult. Finder: Gabriele Fortunato (category 1A). Documented by photos.

Bar-tailed Lark *Ammomanes cinctura*

(post-1949 = 6, pre-1950 = 0)

Lampedusa Island (Agrigento province), 02-03.XI.2021. Finder: Marco Sozzi (category 1A). Documented by photos.

Lampedusa Island (Agrigento province), 14-20.IV.2022. Finders: Martina Gelfi, Luca Fabbriccini, Luciano Gelfi (category 1A). Documented by photos.



Figure 7. Bar-tailed Lark *Ammomanes cinctura* found on 2.XI.2021 in Lampedusa Island by Marco Sozzi. Ph. Daniele Panaretti.

Olivaceus Warbler *Iduna pallida*

(post-1949 = 10, pre-1950 = 5)

Linosa Island (Agrigento province), 24.V.2021. Finder: Ottavio Janni (category 1A). Documented by photos and videos.

Linosa Island (Agrigento province), 26.V.2021. Finder: Ottavio Janni (category 1B). Documented by photos.

The number of post-1949 records (10) refers to those accepted by COI; we are aware of at least 7 other reports between 1990 and 2018 that were never submitted (Brichetti & Fracasso, 2020). Given the difficulties in separating this species from the closely related *I. opaca*, and the potential for African sub-species such as *I. pallida reiseri* (cfr. Shiriai & Svensson, 2018) to occur in Italy, the Commission will continue to examine reports of this taxon. Observers are therefore encouraged to collect as much material as possible in order to provide comprehensive documentation. In particular, field observers are urged to obtain sound recordings of songs and/or calls, as well as photos that show the lores, the secondaries, and the primary extent. In addition to the standard biometric data, ringers are also asked to record the complete wing formula and take close-up, high quality photos of the tarsi, bill, wing tip, secondaries (open and closed wing), lores and rectrices.

Eastern Bonelli's Warbler *Phylloscopus orientalis*
(post-1949 = 8, pre-1950 = 0)
Linosa Island, 7.IV.2010, Finder: Andrea Corso (category 1B). Documented by photos.
Linosa Island, 6.IV.2022. Finder: Ottavio Janni (category 1A). Documented by videos and call recording.
Otranto (Lecce province), 22.IV.2022. Finder: Simone Todisco (category 1A). Documented by photos and call recording.

Black-throated Wheatear *Oenanthe seebohmi*
(post-1949 = 2, pre-1950 = 0)
Ponza, (Latina), 21.IV.2022. Adult male. Finder: Massimiliano Cardinale (category 1A). Ringed bird documented by photos.

Caspian Stonechat *Saxicola torquatus hemprichii*
(post-1949 = 7, pre-1950 = 0)
San Felice al Circeo (Latina), 12-14.I.2022. Finder: Alessandro Di Federico (category 1A). Documented by photos.
Vecchiano (Pisa), 31.X-14.XI.2022. Finder: Gianni Ginesi (category 1A). Documented by photos. Individual first identified as a Siberian Stonechat *Saxicola maurus* and in the following days re-evaluated by Ernesto Occhiato as a probable Caspian Stonechat.

Eastern Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla tschutschensis*
(post-1949 = 1, pre-1950 = 0)
Longarini, (Siracusa), 12.XII.2021. Finders: Carlo Cappuzziello, Egle Gambino (category 1A). Documented by photos and call recordings. First record for Italy.
Individual first identified as Citrine Wagtail *Motacilla citreola*, subsequently re-twitched by Andrea Corso who identified it as Eastern Yellow Wagtail, based on flight call and plumage features.
First Italian record of this species whose systematics has not been fully clarified yet. According to the HBW list, *Motacilla tschutschensis* is to be considered a polytypic species with 6 subspecies: *tschutschensis*, *angarensis*, *simillima*, *taivana*, *macronyx*, *plexa* (Alstrom et al. 2003, Banks et al. 2004, Harris et al. 2018, del Hoyo et al. 2019).
Identification is very challenging and must be based on the combination of plumage characters and vocalizations. The flight call represents the most reliable feature, especially when examined by spectrogram analysis.
In Italy, only one record is known from Giuseppe di Lieto in January 2021 in the province of Latina, relating to a subject whose plumage is fully compatible with this taxon (Corso et al., 2022). The lack of sound recordings of the flight call did not allow us to proceed further with the identification. During the winter 2022-2023, a further "eastern type" wagtail was observed in Apulia, whose flight call was however compatible with the *thumbergi* subspecies, as also kindly confirmed by Magnuss Robb. So, the record reported here is the only certain datum about the presence of *Motacilla tschutschensis* in Italy.



Figure 8. Eastern Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla tchutschensis* in 1st winter plumage, observed on 12.XII.2021 in Longarini (Siracusa province) by Carlo Capuzziello, Egle Gambino and Andrea Corso. First Italian record. Ph. Carlo Capuzziello.

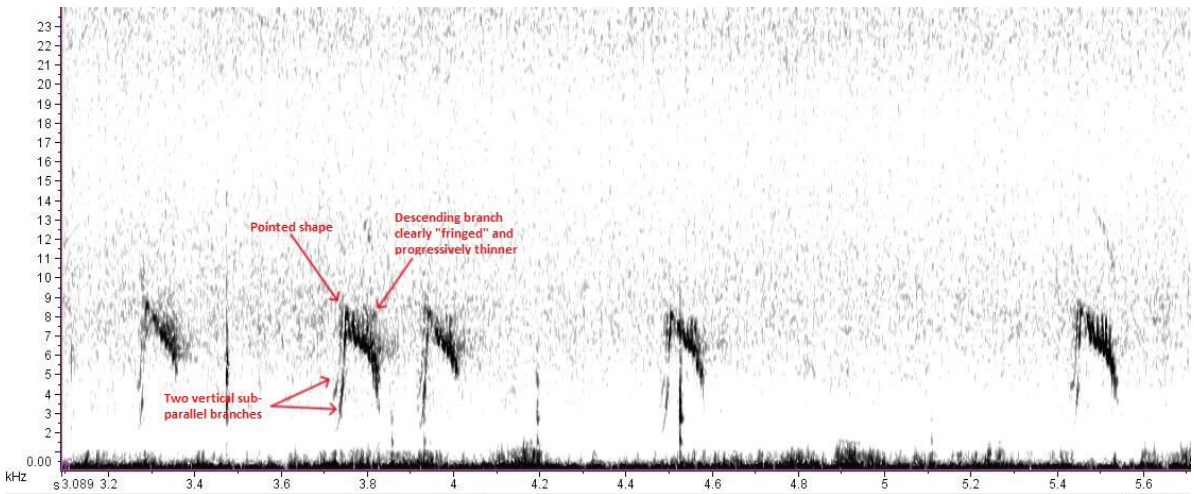


Figure 9. Eastern Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla tchutschensis*, sonogram analysis by COI.

Sonogram analysis:

As with many yellow wagtails, the sonogram looks like an inverted "V". We based our call note analysis on Bot et al. (2014), who divide the sonogram into two parts: ascending and descending.

The ascending part of the sonogram of the Sicilian individual has two vertical branches, very thin and very close together, almost parallel and slightly converging, while the descending branch appears as a line sloping downwards and to the right, rather thick but progressively thinner and clearly "fringed". This combination is typical of the *tschutschensis* group of northern and eastern Asia up to Alaska.

In the northwestern group, which includes *flavissima*, *flava*, *thunbergi* and *beema*, the descending part is thinner, of the same width for all his length and lacking "fringes".

Within the southern group, which includes *iberiae*, *cinereocapilla* and *feldegg*, the differences are more pronounced: in the first two the descending part shows a strong fringe but is more developed horizontally than vertically. In *feldegg* the descending arm is rather similar to the *tschutschensis* group, but the ascending arm is completely different: the two thin and sub-vertical branches are much further apart from each other and are connected to the base by a short but clearly marked segment sloping upwards and to the right.

Both the ascending and descending parts of the sonogram match very well that of the Eastern Yellow Wagtail; in addiction the shape of the tip without inflections and the lack of the segment inclined upwards in the very initial part of the ascending branch also support this identification. According to more recent studies on Eastern Yellow Wagtails (Hellquist 2021) the sonogram of the Sicilian individual is compatible with the population of the north-eastern region of Russia, east of the Taymyr Peninsula. Ultimately, based on the combination of plumage and vocalization characteristics, this individual can be attributed to *M. tschutschensis* and, probably to the populations of the spp. *simillima/ tschutschensis/angarensis*.

ACCEPTED RECORDS (Category 1C)

Sykes's/Booted Warbler *Iduna rama/caligata*

Capo Murro di Porco (Siracusa province), 5.V.2019. Finder Andrea Corso (category 1C).

The documentation provided conclusively proves the identification as either Sykes's or Booted Warbler, but while it suggests the former, it does not rule out the latter. The committee did not reach a unanimous decision and sought an outside opinion from Lars Svensson (an expert in the identification of *Iduna* genus) and from the British Bird Rarities Committee,

which has recently examined several similar records. Ultimately, after lengthy and stimulating discussions, we jointly reached the conclusion that on the basis of the documentation and descriptions provided, this record could not be unequivocally assigned to one or the other species. In keeping with the approach adopted by records committees in other European countries (e.g. Great Britain), COI decided to accept this record in category 1C as *Iduna caligata/rama*.

RECORDS NOT ACCEPTED (LIST COI 5)

White-rumped Swift *Apus caffer*

Rome, 5.IV.2021. (category 5A).

Kittlitz's Plover *Charadrius pecuarius*

Bari, 1908. (category 5B).

This record concerns a museum specimen previously accepted by COI (Report 26 - Janni & Fracasso, 2015). We have re-evaluated the museum specimen following discussions with Tor Olsen (Norwegian Rarities Committee) and Killian Mullarney, who are reviewing all sightings of Kittlitz's Plover in the Western Paleartic. In addition to examining all the morphometric measurements and plumage features on the museum specimen, we also carried out specific genetic analyses thanks to the support of Dr. Irene Pellegrino (Zoology Department for Sustainable Development and Ecological Transition - DISSTE. University of Piemonte Orientale, Vercelli, Italy). The results indicated unequivocally that the specimen is a Kentish Plover *Charadrius alexandrinus*. The species is thus excluded from the Italian Check-List (Baccetti et al. 2021).

Pacific Golden Plover *Pluvialis fulva*

Mirandola (Modena province), 30.VIII.2022. (category 5A).

Zapponeta (Foggia province), 31.VIII.2022. (categoty 5A).

White-cheeked Tern *Sterna repressa*

Grado (Gorizia province), 29.IV.2022. (category 5B).

Oriental Honey-buzzard *Pernis ptilorhynchus*

Bagnara calabra (Reggio Calabria province), 28.V.2021. (category 5A).

Arctic Warbler *Phylloscopus borealis*

Punta Alice, Cirò Marina (Crotone province), 14.IX.2022. (category 5A).

Siberian Thrush *Geokichla sibirica*

Vecchiano (Pisa province), 23.XI.2021. (category 5A).

Oriental Reed-warbler *Acrocephalus orientalis*

Savignano a mare (Forlì-Cesena province), 7.X.2022. (category 5B).

Western Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava flavissima*

Sesto fiorentino (Firenze province), 16.IV.2005. (category 5A).

ITALIAN BIRD CHECK-LIST UPDATE (CISO-COI Lists A, B and C)

With the addition of Red-footed Booby *Sula sula*, Sharp-tailed Sandpiper *Calidris acuminata*, Arctic Herring Gull (Vega Gull) *Larus smithsonianus vegae*, Bonaparte's Gull *Larus philadelphia*, Eastern Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla tschuschensis* and the deletion of Kittlitz's Plover *Charadrius pecuarius*, the total number of species on the Italian bird list (A, B and C) increases to 562 (Baccetti et al. 2021). Furthermore, a subspecies *Falco columbarius insignis* was also added, the first record for Italy and Europe.

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