

RED LIST OF ITALIAN BIRDS

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1. INTRODUCTION AND AIMS

At present most nations, European at least, have already compiled their own Red List. This achievement is not to be intended as a simple elenca-tion of those species (of birds, or other animals) which are known or sup-posed to be in danger of extinction, rapidly declining or in any other way menaced. The Red List must be a working document to be circulated a-mong all those who have the responsibility of the management of the natu-ral resources, of the environment as a whole, of wildlife. The Red List must be something of real concern for all of us living in a country. It must be our duty to stop entering new species in the list or better to make every effort in order to cancel as many species as possible out of the list itself. The E.E.C. Directive for the protection of migratory birds has been a very important step towards a common legislation for most West European countries. Of course a sound legislation must be based on facts not on guesses.

Unfortunately what we know of the status, distribution and breeding rate of many birds is rather incomplete in some countries among which Italy ranks between the first ones. For this reason we are among the last ones to have compiled the Red List.

Our list is surely a provisional one and in it are listed the species oc-curing in Italy classified according to criteria somewhat different from those adopted in many other similar lists. These criteria, in practice , are almost identical to those of the U.I.C.N. Red Data Book because we believe them better suited for the actual situation in Italy.

In our country long term studies on the breeding species are almost lac-king and this prevents any evaluation on their population dynamic espe-cially during the last ten years.

2.1. DEFINITIONS

2.1.1 Criteria

Extinct Species

Species extinct in Italy after 1850 and whose re-establishment would re-quire special measures.

Status: species whose extinction is scientifically documented.

- Species in danger of extinction

Species which will become extinct if causal factors continue to operate.

Status: - species the population of which have reached a critical level.

- species rapidly declining but still present in very small and isolated populations.

- species whose habitat has been so drastically reduced that ex-tinction is near.

- Vulnerable Species

Species whose populations are declining so that in relatively short time will enter into category 3.1.2. (in danger of extinction) if causal factors continue to operate.

Status: - species whose populations are progressively declining because of extensive habitat destruction and/or alteration of other environmental factors.

- species whose populations have been intensively persecuted and whose survival is not, as yet, assured.

- species with still abundant populations but which are potentially threatened by several factors operating in their "Italian range".

- Rare Species

Species present in Italy with small populations which at present are not threatened nor considered vulnerable but whose "natural" rarity puts them in peril.

Status: - species which, in Italy, are on the "edge" of their geographical range.

- species whose populations are very local within their range or which are present with very low density even on a wider range.

- species of recent (after 1950) establishment in Italy and whose populations need special conservation measures to facilitate their spreading into suitable habitats and their permanent establishment.

- Species of unknown status

Species probably belonging to one of the previous four categories but for which at present there is not sufficient information.

Status: - species whose distribution and/or abundance in Italy has not been object of specific research.

- species which are at present doubtfully or irregularly breeding in Italy.

- Migratory Species

Species for which Italy is of paramount importance during migration and/or as wintering area.

2.1.2 Abundance categories

I =more than 10,000 breeding pairs

II =1,001 to 10,000 breeding pairs

III =101 to 1,000 breeding pairs

IV =11 to 100 breeding pairs

V =1 to 10 breeding pairs

2.1.3 Causal factors for extinction and/or threat

A : Indirect human influences

A1 : Wetland reclamation

A2 : Modifications and/or transformation of ecosystems

A3 : Use of pesticides and/or environmental or biological poisons

A4 : Agricultural, dairying, fishing, hunting and research activities

A5 : Outdoor recreations (hiking, mountaineering, nautical sports, photography, motor cross, etc.)

B : Direct human influence

B1 : Hunting

B2 : Vermin control

B3 : Poaching

B4 : Commercial collection of eggs, pulli and adults

B5 : Vandalism (nest spoiling, egg destruction, etc.)

C : Natural causes

D : Unknown factors

2.2 REMARKS

Definition of causal factors determining the status of those bird species which we believe to be of our concern in a way or another, is obviously somewhat arbitrary and we would be glad to receive any substantial criticism or amendment for a better and, we hope, a "shorter" Red List. As will be apparent, in some cases (e.g. the White Stork *Ciconia ciconia*) a species may be included in more than one category, if its status claims for such an arrangement, because both the breeding and the migrating or wintering populations are threatened.

3. RED LIST

3.1 NESTING SPECIES

3.1.1 Extinct species

<i>Haliaeetus albicilla</i>	- after 1956
<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	- after 1968
<i>Francolinus francolinus</i>	- 1869
<i>Turnix sylvatica</i>	- ca 1920
<i>Grus grus</i>	- ca 1920?

3.1.2 Species threatened with extinction

	Category of abundance	Causes
<i>Hydrobates pelagicus</i>	IV	A2, A3, A5, B4, D
<i>Phalacrocorax carbo sinensis</i>	IV	A2, A4, A5, B1
<i>Botaurus stellaris</i>	IV?	A1, A3, A4, A5, B1, B3, B4
<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>	V	A1, A4, A5, B1, B3, B4, C
<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>	IV	A1, A4, A5, B1, B3, B4
<i>Netta rufina</i>	IV	A1, A4, B1, B3, B4
<i>Oxyura leucocephala</i>	V	A1, A3, A4, B1, B3, B4, C
<i>Gyps fulvus</i>	IV	A2, A3, A4, A5, B1, B2, B3, B4
<i>Aegypius monachus</i>	V	A2, A3, A4, B1, B2, B3, B4
<i>Gypaetus barbatus</i>	V	A2, A3, A4, B1, B2, B3, B4
<i>Hieraëtus fasciatus</i>	IV/III?	A2, A3, A4, A5, B1, B2, B3, B4
<i>Eudromias morinellus</i>	V/IV?	A2, A5, B4, C
<i>Larus melanocephalus</i>	IV	A1, A4, A5, B4, B5, C
<i>Larus genei</i>	III	A1, A3, A5, B1, B3, B4, B5, C
<i>Chlidonias niger</i>	V/IV?	A1, A3, A4, A5, B4, C
<i>Chlidonias hybrida</i>	IV	A1, A3, A4, A5, B4, C
<i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>	V	A1, A4, A5, B4, B5, C, D
<i>Gelochelidon nilotica</i>	IV/III	A1, A2, A3, A4, A5, B4, B5

3.1.3 Vulnerable species

	Category of abundance	Causes
<i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis desmarestii</i>	III/II?	A2, A3, A4, A5, B4, B5
<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	III	A1, A2, A3, A4, A5, B1, B3, B4, B5
<i>Ardeola ralloides</i>	III	A1, A2, A3, A4, A5, B5, B4,
<i>Aythya nyroca</i>	IV	A1, A4, B1, B3, B4
<i>Neophron percnopterus</i>	IV	A2, A3, A4, A5, B1, B2, B3, B4
<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>	IV	A1, A3, A4, B1, B2, B3, B4
<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	III	A2, A3, A5, B1, B2, B3, B4, B5
<i>Falco biarmicus</i>	IV/III?	A2, A3, A5, B1, B2, B3, B4, B5
<i>Tetrax tetrax</i>	III	A2, A4, A5, B1, B3
<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>	III	A1, A4, A5, B1, B3, B4
<i>Glareola pratincola</i>	IV/III?	A1, A3, A4, A5, B4, B5
<i>Larus audouinii</i>	III	A2, A3, A4, A5, B4, B5
<i>Sterna hirundo</i>	III	A1, A3, A4, A5, B4, B5
<i>Sterna albifrons</i>	II	A1, A3, A5, B4, B5

<i>Bubo bubo</i>	IV/III?	A2,A3,A4,A5,B1,B2,B3,B4,B5
<i>Lanius minor</i>	IV/III	A3,C,D

2.1.4 Rare Species

	Catagory of abundance	Causes
<i>Phoenicopterus ruber</i>	attempts of nesting	A1,A4,A5
<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>	III	A2,A3,A4,A5,B1,B2,B3,B4,B5
<i>Falco subbuteo</i>	III?	A3,C,D
<i>Falco eleonorae</i>	III	A2,A3,A5,B3,B4,B5
<i>Lyrurus tetrix</i>	III?	A2,B1,B3,C,D
<i>Lagopus mutus</i>	III?	A2,B1,B3,C,D
<i>Tetrao urogallus</i>	III?	A2,B1,B3,C,D
<i>Tetrastes bonasia</i>	III?	A2,B1,B3,C,D
<i>Porphyrio porphyrio</i>	III	A1,A4,B1,B3,B4
<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>	V/IV?	A1,A4,A5,B1,B3,B4
<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	IV	A4,A5,B1,B4,C
<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>	IV?	A4,A5,C
<i>Limosa limosa</i>	V	A4,A5,C
<i>Tringa totanus</i>	IV	A1,A4,A5,B4,C
<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>	III	A1,A4,A5,B4,B5
<i>Larus ridibundus</i>	III	A1,A4,A5,B4,B5,C
<i>Columba oenas</i>	?	A2,B1,C
<i>Clamator glandarius</i>	?	A3,C
<i>Aegolius funereus</i>	IV/III?	A2,A3,B2,C
<i>Glaucidium passerinum</i>	?	A2,C
<i>Picus carus</i>	?	A2,C
<i>Dendrocopos leucotos</i>	III?	A2,C
<i>Hirundo daurica</i>	?	C
<i>Ficedula hypoleuca</i>	?	A2,C
<i>Sylvia nisoria</i>	?	A2,A3,C
<i>Oenanthe leucura</i>	V/IV?	C
<i>Turdus pilaris</i>	?	B1,C
<i>Emberiza melanocephala</i>	?	C

3.1.5 Species of undetermined status

Podiceps nigricollis
Puffinus puffinus
Calonectris diomedes
Ciconia ciconia

Anas crecca
Anas querquedula
Anas clypeata
Aythya ferina
Aythya fuligula
Pernis apivorus
Accipiter nisus
Accipiter gentilis
Milvus milvus
Circus cyaneus
Circus pygargus
Circus gallicus
Falco naumanni
Perdix perdix
Porzana porzana
Porzana pusilla
Porzana parva
Crex crex
Scolopax rusticola
Asio otus
Asio flammeus
Alcedo atthis
Coracias garrulus
Dendrocopus medius

Dendrocopus minor
Dryocopus martius
Melanocorypha calandra
Anthus pratensis
Lanius collurio
Lanius excubitor
Locustella naevia
Acrocephalus melanopogon
Acrocephalus schoenobaenus
Acrocephalus palustris
Acrocephalus arundinaceus
Hippolais icterina
Hippolais pallida
Sylvia curruca
Sylvia conspicillata
Luscinia svecica
Oenanthe hispanica
Turdus iliacus
Panurus biarmicus
Emberiza cia
Emberiza hortulana
Fingilla montifringilla
Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax
Corvus frugilegus

3.2 MIGRATORY SPECIES

Podiceps cristatus
Podiceps nigricollis
Phalacrocorax carbo sinensis
Ardea cinerea
Casmerodius albus
Egretta garzetta
Botaurus stellaris
Ciconia ciconia
Ciconia nigra
Plegadis falcinellus
Platalea leucorodia
Phoenicopterus ruber
Anser albifrons
Tadorna tadorna
Anas penelope

Anas strepera
Anas crecca
Anas acuta
Anas querquedula
Anas clypeata
Aythya ferina
Aythya fuligula
Aythya nyroca
Melanitta nigra
Mergus serrator
Pernis apivorus
Milvus milvus
Circus aeruginosus
Circus cyaneus
Circus macrourus

<i>Circus pygargus</i>	<i>Tringa stagnatilis</i>
<i>Accipiter nisus</i>	<i>Philomachus pugnax</i>
<i>Aquila clanga</i>	<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>
<i>Pandion haliaëtus</i>	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>
<i>Falco columbarius</i>	<i>Burhinus oediconemus</i>
<i>Grus grus</i>	<i>Larus minutus</i>
<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	<i>Chlidonias niger</i>
<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>	<i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>
<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>	<i>Sterna sandvicensis</i>
<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>	<i>Columba oenas</i>
<i>Scolopax rusticola</i>	<i>Columba palumbus</i>
<i>Limosa limosa</i>	<i>Asio otus</i>
<i>Tringa erythropus</i>	<i>Asio flammeus</i>
<i>Tringa totanus</i>	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>

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LISTA ROSSA DEGLI UCCELLI ITALIANI

Attualmente molte nazioni europee hanno compilato una propria Lista Rossa, che elenca le specie in pericolo di estinzione, in rapido declino, o in qualche modo minacciate. Tali liste vanno intese come un documento base per chi è interessato alla conservazione e alla gestione delle risorse naturali.

La presente lista per l'Italia è basata sulle attuali conoscenze, ancora purtroppo incomplete, ed è quindi provvisoria. I criteri sono praticamente identici a quelli del Red Data Book dell'I.U.C.N..

Sono elencate le specie nelle categorie:

- 3.1. Specie nidificanti
 - 3.1.1. estinte
 - 3.1.2. minacciate d'estinzione
 - 3.1.3. vulnerabili
 - 3.1.4. rare
 - 3.1.5. a stato indeterminato
- 3.2. Specie migratrici

Per ognuna è specificata la categoria di abbondanza in numero di coppie nidificanti (in numeri romani) e i fattori causali di estinzione o minaccia (in sigle).

LISTE ROUGE DES OISEAUX ITALIENS

Aujourd'hui beaucoup de pays européens ont dressé une liste rouge des espèces en danger d'extinction, ou menacées d'une façon ou d'une autre.

On doit considérer ces listes comme des documents de base pour ceux qui sont intéressés à la conservation et à la gestion des ressources naturelles. La liste pour l'Italie est fondée sur les connaissances actuelles, malheureusement encore incomplètes et pourtant elle est provisoire. Les critères sont identiques à ceux du Red Data Book de l'I.U.C.N.

On a dressé les espèces dans les catégories suivantes:

- 3.1 Espèces nicheuses
 - 3.1.1. Menacées d'extinction
 - 3.1.2. Eteintes
 - 3.1.3. Vulnérables
 - 3.1.4. Rares
 - 3.1.5. À état indéterminé
- 3.2. Espèces migratrices

Pour chaque espèce on a spécifié l'index d'abondance en nombre des couples nicheurs (en chiffres romains) et les facteurs causals d'extinction ou de menace (en sigles).

Ricevuto ottobre 1981

We accepted with enthusiasm, although somewhat worried, the invitation by the I.C.B.P. Italian Section to work out a first draft of the Italian Red List. Our scanty knowledge of the actual status of many species puts heavy constraints to our ambitions. Nonetheless we hope that our effort will prove of some utility and will stimulate those who will surely add more circumstantial information and help to prepare a complete Red List.

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