

FREE ACCESSO TO THE ITALIAN MIGRATION ATLAS

INTRODUCTION AND INSTRUCTIONS

1. Introduction

Birds represent an important component of global biodiversity. Thanks to the interest they stimulate with their behaviours, colours and songs, birds are the best known group of organisms at the global level and the one for which the most extended time series of data are available.

With their long journeys, migratory birds represent a component of biodiversity whose conservation is particularly challenging, given the need for an international, when not intercontinental, approach to the relevant legislation for their protection.

Within the Palaearctic-African migration system Italy has a primary role as a passage, staging and wintering area for huge numbers of birds moving across the Mediterranean. The knowledge of migratory movements of birds across Italy is a crucial requisite to define efficient conservation and management policies based on sound scientific data.

A positive co-operation between the Istituto Superiore per la Protezione e la Ricerca Ambientale ISPRA with its Italian Ringing Centre and the Ministry of Environment, Land and Sea (General Directorate for Nature and Sea Protection), has led to the publication of the Italian Migration Atlas. Based on data collected between 1906-2003, the two volumes offer results of analyses on more than 165,000 recoveries of ringed birds, referred to 316 species/*taxa*. ISPRA is happy to offer on-line access to the contents of the Italian Migration Atlas.

2. How to access the Atlas

In this section of our ISPRA web site you will be able to read, download or print the two volumes of the Atlas in their original format. In order to make this scientific material widely accessible, the Atlas offers the introductory sections of both volumes fully translated into English, as well as English captions of all graphs and figures; extended English summaries are reported at the end of each of the species accounts.

The volumes are divided in a series of pdf files; each file is identified based on the pages of the atlas it contains. The two files named "indice1.pdf" and "indice2.pdf" will allow choosing which pdf file to select in order to track a given species. For further details please contact the Authors Fernando Spina and Stefano Volponi at fernando.spina@isprambiente.it