

Increasing species richness of breeding birds in Campania region: an analysis from 1989 to 2022

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Abstract

The first checklist of Campania's birds was published in 1989 and reported 123 breeding species in the region. An underestimation justified by few human resources and territorial knowledge available in that period. This publication stimulated new research. In 1993 a new checklist was published with 127 breeding species and in this case an underestimation is probable. In following years, the number of birdwatchers in Campania grew and with it the ornithological knowledge of the region. In 2001 a new checklist was published showing 144 breeding species; two years later (2003) it was corrected indicating 143 while with the 2007 update the species decreased to 141.

With the publication of "Avifauna della Campania" (2015), which saw the involvement of ornithologists and birdwatchers, and thorough a critical bibliographic analysis, new data emerged, and the checklist counted 150 breeding species. The latest (2020) indicates 154.

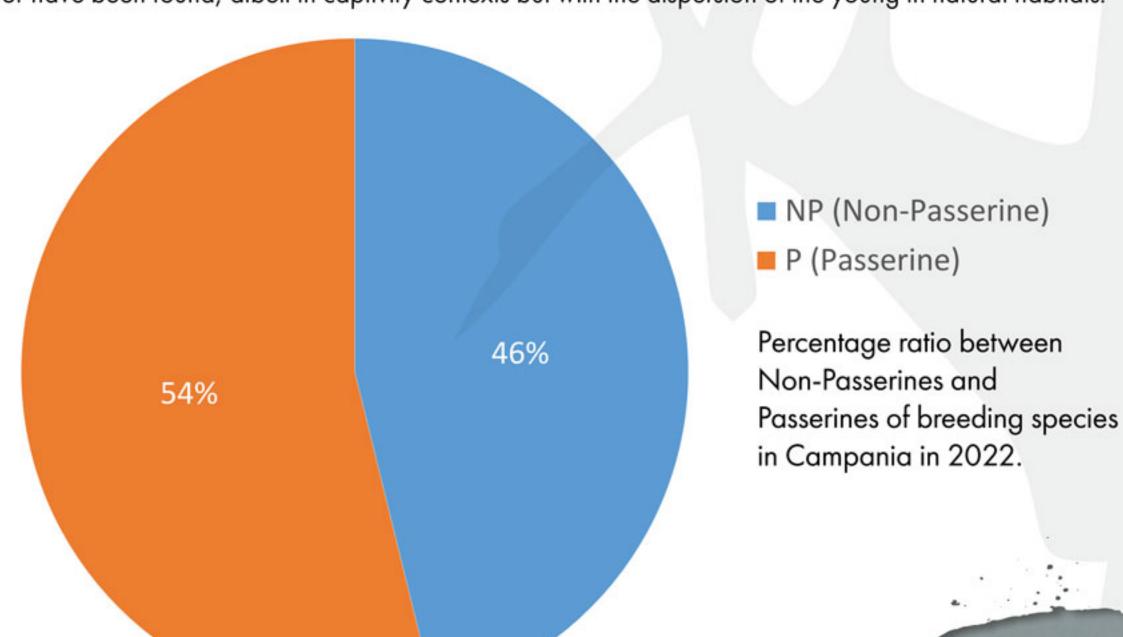
The numbers of the first decade of the 2000s compared to the last two checklists are not due to a lack of information but to an effective increase in richness of breeding species on regional territory. In the period between the first and second decades of the 21st century, the following new breeding species were found: Common Shelduck, Red-crested Pochard, Black Stork, White Stork, Glossy Ibis, Grey Heron, Western Cattle Egret, Pygmy Cormorant, Pied Avocet, Rose-ringed Parakeet, Common Myna, White-winged Snowfinch. In the period under examination, only one extinction was recorded, the Lanner Falcon, which adds to the previous extinctions of the Eurasian Eagle-Owl and Egyptian Vulture.

Update of the Birds of Campania checklist to 2022

To the 31st December 2022, the Campania checklist counts 366 species, of which 219 Non-Passerines and 147 Passerines. There are 156 breeding species (72 NP, 84 P), of which 148 (66 NP, 82 P) are regular and 8 (6 NP, 2 P) are irregular, 2 (2 NP) species are classified extinct breeder and 5 (3 NP, 2 P) are dubious breeder.

The Lanner Falco biarmicus has been included among the dubious species because there has been no certain news of breeding for a decade and that it could be classified as extinct in the region.

Compared to the last update, the regular breeding of the Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna* in Campania has been ascertained (definitively eliminating the dubious species status) and the first breeding of Mute Swans Cygnus olor have been found, albeit in captivity contexts but with the dispersion of the young in natural habitats.





3 Conservation context of breeding species

In relation to the protection and conservation status of species: 36 species (34 regular, 2 irregular) are included in Annex I of the European Birds Directive; 6 are classified SPEC1, 13 SPEC2 and 29 SPEC3; based on national classification IUCN criteria, 9 species are Endangered (EN), 18 Vulnerable (VU), 12 Near Threatened (NT), 107 Least Concern (LC), 7 Data Deficient (DD).

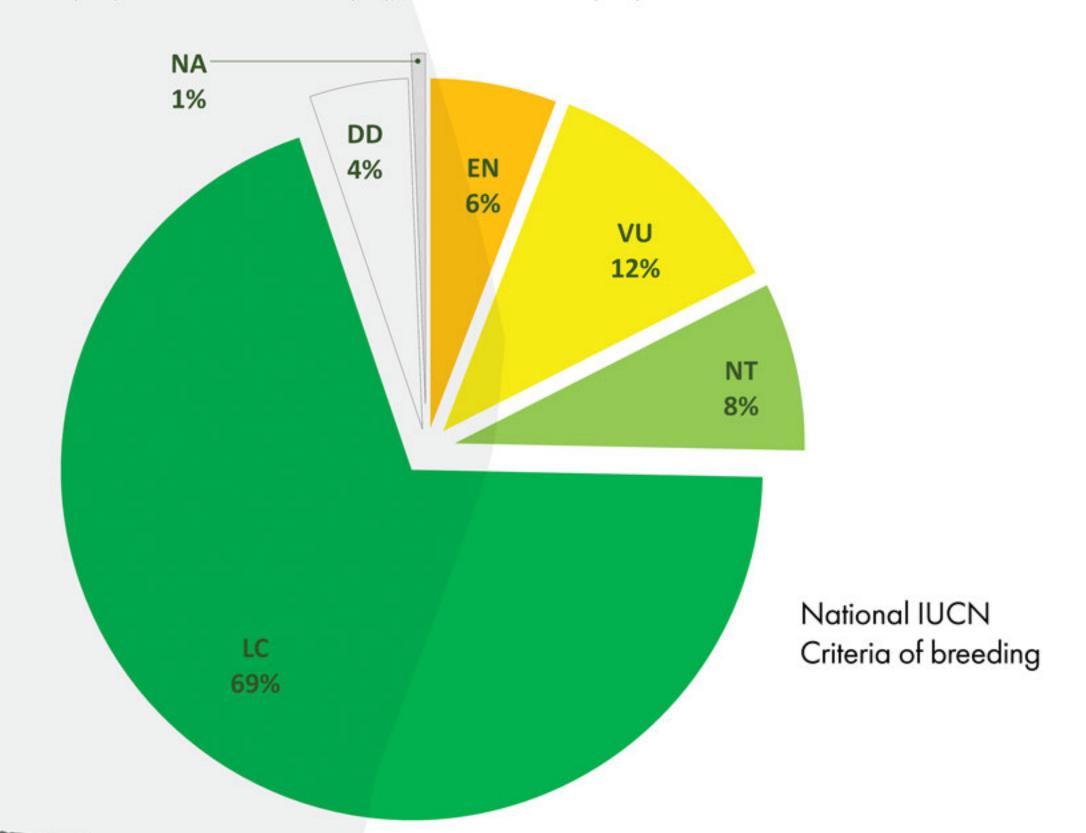




Photo - Maurizio Fraissinet



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Bibliografia

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