

BREVI NOTE / SHORT NOTES

ANTONINO DUCHI

FIRST OBSERVATIONS OF THE PURPLE SWAMP-HEN
PORPHYRIO PORPHYRIO (*Aves Rallidae*)
IN THE S.C.I. ITA080007 COASTAL WETLAND PANTANO DI MAGANUCO (SICILY)

Prime osservazioni di Pollo Sultano Porphyrio porphyrio nell'area umida costiera S.I.C. ITA080007 Pantano di Maganuco

The Purple Swamp-hen *Porphyrio porphyrio* (Linnaeus, 1758) is a rail whose main distribution is tropical and subtropical (ANDREOTTI, 2001). According to the IUCN its conservation status is Least Concern in its entire distribution area (BIRDLIFE INTERNATIONAL, 2012). The subspecies *Porphyrio p. porphyrio* is considered SPEC3 by BirdLife International (GARIBOLDI, 1997). It is also listed in Annex II to the Bern Convention and in Annex I to the European Directive 79/409/EEC. In the Italian Red List of breeding birds the Purple Swamp-hen is considered Near Threatened (PERONACE *et al.*, 2012).

In Italy in 2001 the Purple Swamp-hen was nesting only in Sardinia (ANDREOTTI, 2001). In Sicily it became extinct ca. 1960; therefore a reintroduction project was launched and between 2000 and 2003 about 100 individuals were released. The species has subsequently begun to nest and dispersing birds were also observed in several sites of the island (AAVV, 2008). Thus, observations of individuals in new sites are particularly important, both to evaluate the trend of the species dispersal and to identify potentially good sites for its reproduction.

Since spring of 2015 ornithological observations have been carried out in the coastal wetland Pantano di Maganuco (36°43'07"N, 14°49'09"E; S.C.I. ITA080007) through binoculars Zeiss 10x50 and telescopes Nikon 15-45x and Zeiss 20-75x.

In this context two adults of Purple Swamp-hen were observed on 2nd November 2015 and again on 8th December 2015, 29th January 2016 and 1st February 2016. They are the first observations for this species in this site; probably observed individuals were coming from the coastal wetland Pantani della Sicilia Sud-Orientale (S.C.I. ITA090003), where the Purple Swamp-hen is breeding since few years. This would confirm the connection between the two wetlands already highlighted by the recent observation of the nesting of the Ferruginous Duck (DUCHI, 2015).

Acknowledgements — Observations were carried out during the project 'Un Mare d'Ambiente', managed in partnership by Associazione Legambiente Circolo 'Il Carrubo' of Ragusa and the Local Council of Pozzallo, and funded by the Ministero della Gioventù e del Servizio Civile Nazionale. Deep thanks to Joseph Buttigieg for proofreading the text.

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