

BREVI NOTE / SHORT NOTES

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THE PURPLE SWAMP-HEN *PORPHYRIO PORPHYRIO* (LINNAEUS, 1758) (*Aves Gallidae*)
BREEDS IN THE COASTAL WETLAND PANTANO DI MARINA DI MODICA
(S.C.I. ITA080008 - CONTRADA RELIGIONE)

Riproduzione del Pollo Sultano Porphyrio porphyrio (Linnaeus, 1758) nell'area umida costiera Pantano di Marina di Modica (S.I.C ITA080008)

After its extinction, around 1960, in the years 2000 and 2003 the Purple Swamp-hen *Porphyrio porphyrio* has been reintroduced in Sicily. The species has subsequently nested and dispersing birds were also observed in several sites of the island (AA.VV., 2008). Therefore it is particularly important to monitor this dispersion and to identify new reproduction sites.

During the ornithological monitoring recently carried out in the coastal wetland Pantano di Maganuco in the autumn 2015 and winter 2016 two adults of Purple Swamp-hen were observed (DUCHI, 2016). As the wetland was drying very early, observations were started in the near Pantano di Marina di Modica (36° 42' 37"N; 14° 47' 01"E; WGS84), where the water is more abundant and a thick reed-bed surrounds the wetland. Table I synthesizes observations, showing that the Purple Swamp-hen has started to breed in this coastal wetland.

This shows that the species is still going on spreading and nesting along the island's wetlands: the next one could be the Pantano di Maganuco, due to the tight connection between these two very near sites, although probably in an irregular way because of the high variability of the water presence.

Acknowledgements — Many thanks to the people who participated in the monitoring activities: Antonio Gallo, Monica Giampiccolo, Marella Magro, Donatella Sciveres.

Observations 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.

Table I
Observations of the Purple Swamp-hen in the Pantano di Marina di Modica

DATE	NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS	BEHAVIOURAL NOTES
21 JUNE 2016	1 adult	It took a leaf of reed and disappeared inside the vegetation.
9 JULY 2016	2 adults + 1 young of the year	A first adult moved from the water into the reed-beds with a something (a leaf ?) in the bill; then stopped to feed. Shortly after a young appeared and they fed together; then another adult appeared and the young moved between them.
19 JULY 2016	1 adult + 1 young of the year	The young was about half in size than the adult. They fed together and separately.
24 JULY 2016	1 adult	It fed at the edge, between the water and the reeds.
3 AUGUST 2016	2 adults + 2 young of the year	Two pairs (one adult and one young) were feeding and preening together.
18 AUGUST 2016	3 adults + 2 young of the year	One adult together with one young; others alone.
25 AUGUST 2016	3 adults + 1 young of the year	The adults were separated from each other. Shortly after one young approached one adult and they fed together. One individual was bathing.
13 SEPTEMBER 2016	2 young of the year	Young very similar to adults. One was very confident: after feeding between the reeds moved to the sandy shore, then crossed the swamp swimming and was attacked by some Coots <i>Fulica atra</i> near the other bank.

REFERENCES

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