

**Fifth Meeting of the Signatories
of the Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation and
Management of the Middle-European Population of the Great Bustard
(*Otis tarda*)**

Bratislava, Slovakia, 18 – 21 September 2023

UNEP/CMS/GB/MOS5/Inf.8.1

REPORT FROM ITALY

1. *Otis tarda* was considered very rare vagrant and winter visitor in Italy, prior to 1980. Prior to 1970 there are more than 160 records, between September and April, peaking from December to January when 60% of the records are reported. Most records have been reported in northern Italy (Friuli Venezia Giulia, Lombardia and Emilia Romagna). The species is also reported in central Italy (Marche and Tuscany) and southern Italy (Apulia and Sicily) while only few or no records are reported for other regions.
2. Usually only single birds were recorded, rarely flocks of 2-5 individuals, with a maximum of 16 birds. Occurrences in Italy have decreased since mid XIX century, probably as a consequence of the population decline in Western Europe. Between 80ies and early 90ies, few birds were spotted in Tuscany and Friuli Venezia Giulia (Brichetti P. & Fracasso G. - 2018. The Birds of Italy. Volume 1. Edizioni Belvedere, Latina (Italy), "Historia naturae" (6), pp.512.).
3. Since 2000, only three records of single birds during winter are reported in Basilicata, Piedmont and Lombardy where the last record dated 2006 (C.R.O.S. Centro Ricerche Ornitologiche Scagnatta, Annuario 2006).