

The bird of the oasi

There are few wetlands not only in Italy but in the wider Mediterranean context that can count on such a rich, diversified and important birdlife for conservation value that the valleys of Argenta host in the various phases of the year.

The presence of extensive wetland areas of fresh water, with large open areas next to small and medium sized clearings, the more recent existence of "humid meadows" created through the environmental redevelopment of former cultivated areas, together offer a mosaic of environments that favors a high diversity of ecological niches for birds also very different in terms of ecological needs.

Therefore birds are the protagonists of the extensive reed groves, apparently uniform environments that are frequented by a wide spectrum of species, for example the herons stand out in this respect.

Most of the herons nidify in colonies of even hundreds of nests; the most voluminous are those of the ash herons, located at the border between the reeds and the water, and of the rare white herons, whose reproduction has been confirmed only in the last

years, and which are instead localized inside very dense spots of mature reed.

Certainly one of the main characteristics of Valle Campotto is its extensive laminate plantation with *Nimphaea alba*; on the expanse of white flowers, among the large floating leaves, the rare Mignattini, the symbol of the valleys of Argenta, build their floating nest.