

The valleys of Argenta: crossroads of migration between Europe and Africa

As one of the most important wetlands of continental Italy, the Argenta Valleys represent a very important crossroads for large numbers of migrants moving between the two continents.

The maps reproduced here show the locations of ringing birds ringed abroad and reported in the Argenta Valleys, and those found abroad of marked birds in Val Campotto. The main routes that lead migrants to the Valleys involve the Baltic area, north to central Sweden and Finland and along the coasts of the Baltic Republics themselves.

Important also the connections with areas of central-eastern Europe, from Poland to the Czech Republic, to Hungary. Further westwards we observe numerous locations of Germany and distributed along the coasts of northern Europe, especially in Holland and Belgium, up to the United Kingdom.

Movements within the Mediterranean basin are witnessed by reports along the coasts of southern France and the eastern Iberian Peninsula, with concentrations of recapture, along the coasts of Algeria and Tunisia, of birds ringed in our valleys.

Fascinating are also the connections with distant African regions, as confirmed by the blackmail of birds ringed in Val Campotto in sub-Saharan central African countries, such as Nigeria and the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

These data make us understand how important it is that migrants find, during their stops in the Argenta Valleys, and even more if they are those who nest here, the appropriate environmental conditions to prepare successfully for such demanding flights, across sea and desert, thousands of miles south!