



79° Congresso Nazionale
UZI2018
Unione Zoologica Italiana
Lecce 25-28 Settembre 2018

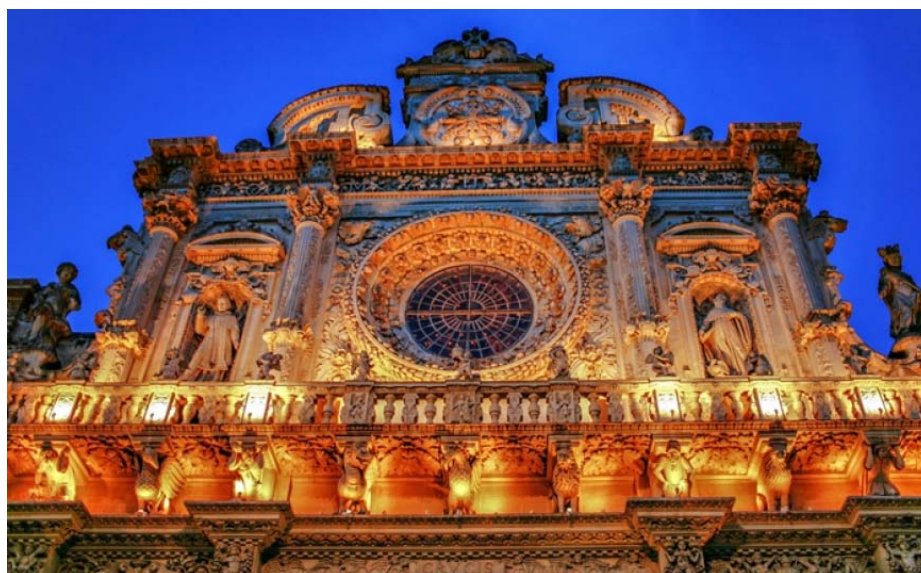


**UNIVERSITÀ
DEL SALENTO**

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Riassunti



MANUEL ANDREA ZAFARANA¹, ROSARIO GRASSO¹, MARIA TERESA SPENA¹, ANTONINO BARBERA¹, GIOVANNI SPINELLA¹, SALVATORE SURDO¹, DAVIDE PEPI¹, MASSIMILIANO DI VITTORIO¹

¹ C.L.E.S.A. (Comitato Linee Elettriche Sicure per l'Avifauna), c/o Laboratorio di Ornitofauna e territorio
Dipartimento di Scienze Biologiche, Geologiche ed Ambientali - Sez. di Biologia Animale, Via Androne, 81
95124, Catania (CT) www.clesa.org - comitatoclesa@gmail.com

THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT OF POWER LINES ON BIRDS IN SICILY

Electrocution is a serious conservation problem worldwide for a large number of bird species (BEVANGER, 1994, 1998; BIRDLIFE INTERNATIONAL, 2004; PRINSEN *et al.*, 2011). Due to its wide extension, it is necessary to seek methods that optimize the identification of the most dangerous pylons (JANSS and FERRER, 2001; MANOSA, 2001), lines and the highest risk areas (TINTÓ *et al.*, 2010; GUIL *et al.*, 2011). Actually, the data on bird mortality caused by electrocution and collision in Sicily are deficient, however, a preliminary study suggests that the White Stork (*Ciconia ciconia* L., 1758) is one of the most threatened species inside two Special Protection Areas (SPA) (ZAFARANA and BARBERA, 2016). The project C.L.E.S.A. aims at making a complete checklist of the species at risk, collecting information from published articles and personal reports. Unpublished data were collected through a request for information widely circulated among professional and dabbler ornithologists, local sections of bird conservation ONG and wildlife services. A standard monitoring method was used to collect data, monthly during the entire sampling period. First, we selected different transects randomly, and, subsequently, we counted and removed all the birds found dead. A total of 152 cases were collected from 1996 to 2017, of which 85 caused by electrocution and 67 by collision. The 55.5% of the founded species are considered as "Birds of Community Importance" (included in Annex I of the Council Directive 2009/147/EC on the conservation of wild birds). *C. ciconia* is the most species killed by electrocution and *Phoenicopiterus roseus* Pallas, 1811 by collision. These preliminary results suggest that this problem, as well as having serious consequences in terms of conservation, could have serious economic repercussions for human societies, as power failures, loss of revenue, necessity of repairs infrastructures and cost of legal compliance (LEHMAN *et al.*, 2007). The monitoring activities of the C.L.E.S.A. volunteers have the purpose of implementing direct conservation actions for endangered species. The synergy between power companies and C.L.E.S.A. will be basic to adopt the measures suggested by the Conference of the Parties in Resolution 7.4 "Electrocution of migratory birds" (BONN, 2002) and the current management plans for SPAs. This partnership will improve the effective field actions in Sicily.