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*Aquila fasciata* (Vieillot, 1822) and *Corvus monedula* (Linnaeus, 1758) - Italy, southern Sicily

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**Bonelli's Eagle, *Aquila fasciata* (Vieillot, 1822) (Accipitriformes Accipitridae).**

It is a polytypic species with a Palearctic-tropical distribution with two subspecies. It is widespread in northern Africa, in Mediterranean Europe, southern Asia and some islands of Oceania. Almost all of the Italian population lives in Sicily, as it is very rare in Sardinia and sporadic in Calabria. It inhabits extensive agricultural areas, arable land and pastures, shrubs and the Mediterranean scrub with walls and rocky environments where it nests. It is a species protected by law 157/92 (Rules for the protection of wildlife and homeotherms and for hunting). It is included: in the SPEC3 list (populations concentrated in Europe, with an unfavorable conservation status); in attachment 1 of the Birds Directive CE79/409, amended with CE2009/147; in the Red List of Breeding Birds in Italy, category EN (endangered). The Sicilian population, in the 70s of the last century, is made by 40 couples. In 2000, a population of 13 couples was registered, in 2013, of 33 couples, of which 7 territorial, and finally, in 2017, there were 44 couples. Recent surveys carried out in Sicily in the province of Caltanissetta and adjacent territories have confirmed the positive growth trend found in Sicily and recorded a population of 20 couples with a density of 255 sq km/couples. In the province of Caltanissetta alone, it went from 5 couples in 2004 to 9 in 2017. In 21 nestings, from 2012 to 2017, fledglings were recorded from the first week of May to the second of June. The species is threatened by poaching, habitat changes and the ever more invasive human presence in the breeding and feeding areas.

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*Aquila fasciata* adult (above) and young specimen (below). Southern Sicily (Italy).