



## **Birdwatching contest at Pian di Spagna and Lago di Mezzola Natural Reserve**

**April 15<sup>th</sup> 2007**

### **Regulation**

Only two people teams can participate to the contest.

To participate together with relatives will be possible, but they can't intervene in bird localization.

The help from other birdwatchers (not in the team) is NOT allowed, unless it is accidental and unintentional. Noising activities to make birds visible are NOT allowed. The use of mobile phones or walkie-talkie (or other communication system) to receive information on bird localization is NOT allowed.

The use of the car to move within the contest area (as defined on the map that will be given to the participants) is allowed, according to the Natural Reserve rules on car circulation.

### **Registration**

The registration to the contest is possible by writing an e-mail to the Natural Reserve address ([piandispagna@libero.it](mailto:piandispagna@libero.it)), specifying "BW contest registration" as subject. The e-mail text must include the personal data of every participant (Name, Last name, Birth date, Address).

The registration deadline is **April 13<sup>th</sup> 2007**.

### **Criteria for the species listed**

The aim of the contest is to contact as many bird species as possible. The participants can list seen and/or heard bird species after a certain identification. The birds must be seen and/or heard by **both** the members of the team.

The official species list to refer to is the CISO-COI Italian check list, updated on January 25<sup>th</sup> 2005 (available at <http://www.ciso-coi.org/COImateriale/ListaCISO-COI.pdf>); the species not included in this list are not valid for the contest. Alien species are valid only in case there are documented naturalized populations in the area.

The birds observed must be alive, wild and not pulled by calls and/or sings registered by any electronic device; to pull the birds by voice is allowed.

In case of especially rare or unusual species, the participants must promptly inform one of the members of the jury (even by mobile phone) in order to approve the observation.

### **Contest area**

A map with the boundaries of the official contest area will be given to the team members at the beginning of the contest. Within the Natural Reserve boundaries the access by foot will be allowed everywhere.

### **Field form**

A standard field form will be given to the team members. The participants will write their names and last names on it, together with the list of the species observed.

### **Contest time table**

The contest will start on April 15<sup>th</sup> at 5 AM and will end on the same day at 1 PM.

The contest start will also be possible until 7 PM of April 15<sup>th</sup>.

The contest material (maps and forms) will be given to the participants at the Natural Reserve headquarter on April 15<sup>th</sup> from 5 AM to 7 PM.

### **Jury**

The jury will look out for the contest progress and will be completely helpful for explanations during the contest. The mobile phones of the members of the jury will be available to the participants.

The members of the jury will be present widespread within the contest area.

At the end of the contest the jury will examine the compiled field forms returned by the participants. The decision of the jury is final.

### **Compiled field form return**

At the end of the contest the compiled field forms will be returned to the jury at the Natural reserve headquarter by 1 PM of April 15<sup>th</sup>. The delivery time will be written down on the forms by the jury.

The forms returned after the deadline will be subjected to the following penalties:

- form returned by 1.05 PM: one species removed from the list
- form returned by 1.10 PM: two species removed from the list
- form returned by 1.15 PM: three specie removed from the list

The forms returned AFTER 1.15 PM WON'T be considered.

At the end of the examination, the forms will be classified according to the number of the species observed. In case of equal score, the forms earlier returned will have the priority. In case of equal score of forms returned at the same time, the jury will assign a special score to species considered as more significant.

### **Awards**

The prize awarding ceremony will be held on April 15<sup>th</sup> 2007 at the Natural Reserve headquarter. The first three teams classified in the contest and one team drawn among all the participants will be awarded. Each member of the team will be awarded.

- First prize: two binoculars Swarovski SLC 10x42;
- Second prize: Stihl Timbersports technical sportswear (for two people) and two annual subscription to the Italian magazine "Parchi e Riserve";
- Third prize: Stihl Timbersports technical sportswear (for two people) and two annual subscription to the Italian magazine "Parchi e Riserve";
- Drawn prize: Stihl Timbersports technical sportswear (for two people).