

Did you know?

Cavana of Monfalcone is part of the **Natura 2000 network**, the European Union's main policy tool for biodiversity conservation.

It is an ecological network designed to ensure the long-term maintenance of natural habitats and endangered or rare species of flora and fauna at EU level.

Cavana main features

The **Cavana marsh** is the coastal southernmost section of the larger Schiavetti-Cavana spring water area, which was separated in the 1920s by the excavation of the Brancolo canal that collects **spring water** and rainwater from the plain between the Isonzo river and Monfalcone.

The Cavana marsh is completely embanked and excess water is drained by two sluice gates, which have enabled the reclamation of large areas of the lower Isonzo plain.

In addition to the main embankments that border the coast and the Brancolo canal, there are secondary embankments that separate the proper marshland from the wet meadows used for haymaking.

These environments, sought after by humans in ancient times for their abundance of fish and water birds, are now protected and can offer **ecosystem services**: carbon sequestration, biodiversity conservation and protection from extreme weather events.

In the Cavana of Monfalcone, **nesting birdlife** is a notable feature. In the 1980s, the *montagu's harrier* nested there and, at least in one year, the *marsh harrier*. Currently, the most notable nesting species are the *ferruginous duck*, the *little bittern*, the *greylag goose* and the *little grebe*.

The *pygmy cormorant* stops and feeds there all year round.

Did you know?

The sea in front of the coastline between Marina Julia and Marina Nova is part of the **Gulf of Panzano**, the northernmost point of the Mediterranean.

This marine area has unique characteristics due to its shallow depth, low salinity, significance of tides, and presence of extensive **seagrass meadows**.

The seabirds from autumn to spring

Birds constitute the most visible part of a rich and complex environment that coexists with multiple human activities.

The avifauna is peculiar for the regular **presence of rare species in the Mediterranean area** such as the *slavonian grebe*, which here has the most significant wintering site in Italy, and the *red-throated diver*, along with many others, particularly from late autumn to early spring.

Predominantly, ichthyophagous birds such as the *red-breasted mergansers*, *grebes*, *divers*, and '*cormorants*' prevail, while herbivores are represented by the *coot* and the *mute swan*. Along the shores, the *little egret*, the *common sandpiper* and the *kingfisher* are common. Many rarities are observed irregularly, such as the *great northern diver* or the *long-tailed duck*.

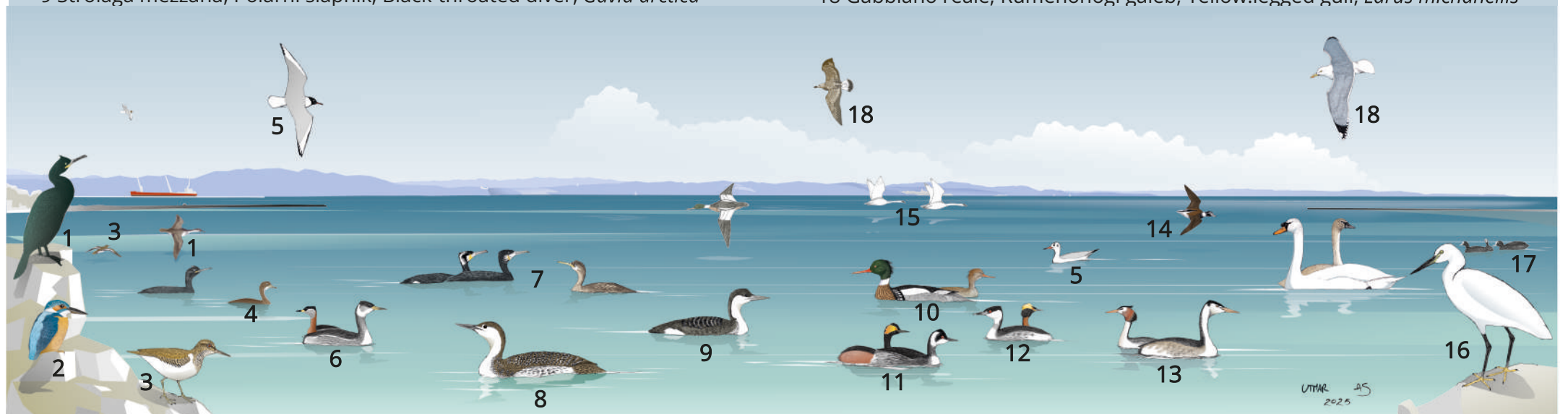
The *slavonian grebe* and the closely related *black-necked grebe* are often seen fishing, particularly for *needlefish*. During summer and even more so in autumn, the *European shag* is numerous, as it migrates in winter to the Croatian coasts for breeding.



Birdlife of the Gulf of Panzano

- 1 Marangone dal ciuffo, Vranjek, European shag, *Gulosus aristotelis*
- 2 Martin pescatore, Vodomec, Kingfisher, *Alcedo hattis*
- 3 Piro piro piccolo, Mali martinec, *Common sandpiper*
- 4 Marangone minore, Mali vraniek, Pygmy cormorant, *Microcarbo pygmaeus*
- 5 Gabbiano comune, Rečni galeb, Black-headed gull, *Chroicocephalus ridibundus*
- 6 Svasso collarosso, Rjavovrati ponirek, Red-necked grebe, *Podiceps grisegena*
- 7 Cormorano, Kormoran, Cormorant, *Phalacrocorax carbo*
- 8 Strolaga minore, Rdečegrli slapnik, Red-throated diver, *Gavia stellata*
- 9 Strolaga mezzana, Polarni slapnik, Black-throated diver, *Gavia arctica*

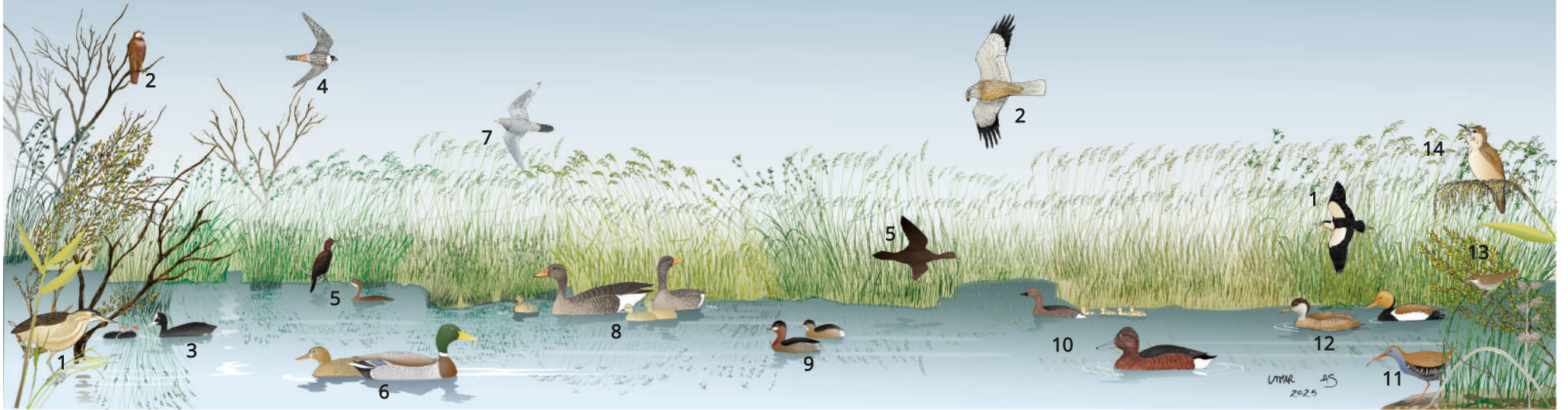
- 10 Smergo minore, Srednji žagar, Red-breasted merganser, *Mergus serrator*
- 11 Svasso piccolo, Črnovrati ponirek, Black-necked grebe, *Podiceps nigricollis*
- 12 Svasso cornuto, Zlatouhi ponirek, Slavonian grebe, *Podiceps auritus*
- 13 Svasso maggiore, Čopasti ponirek, Crested grebe, *Podiceps cristatus*
- 14 Moretta codona, Zimska raca, Long-tailed duck, *Clangula hyemalis*
- 15 Cigno reale, Labod grbec, Mute swan, *Cygnus olor*
- 16 Garzetta, Mala bela čaplja, Little egret, *Egretta garzetta*
- 17 Folaga, Liska, Coot, *Fulica atra*
- 18 Gabbiano reale, Rumeno nogi galeb, Yellow-legged gull, *Larus michahellis*



Birdlife of the Cavana of Monfalcone

- 1 Tarabusino, Čapljica, Little bittern, *Ixobrychus minutus*
- 2 Falco di palude, Rjavi lunj, Marsh harrier, *Circus aeruginosus*
- 3 Folaga, Liska, Coot, *Fulica atra*
- 4 Lodolaio, Škrjančar, Hobby, *Falco subbuteo*
- 5 Marangone minore, Mali vraniek, Pygmy cormorant, *Microcarbo pygmaeus*
- 6 Germano reale, Mlakarica, Mallard, *Anas platyrhynchos*
- 7 Cuculo, Kukavica, Cuckoo, *Cuculus canorus*

- 8 Oca selvatica, Siva gos, Greylag goose, *Anser anser*
- 9 Tuffetto, Mali ponirek, Little grebe, *Tachybaptus ruficollis*
- 10 Moretta tabaccata, Kostanjevka, Ferruginous duck, *Aythya nyroca*
- 11 Porciglione, Mocož, Water rail, *Rallus aquaticus*
- 12 Fistione turco, Tatarska žvižgavka, Red-crested pochard, *Netta rufina*
- 13 Usignolo di fiume, Svilnica, Cetti's warbler, *Cettia cetti*
- 14 Cannareccione, Rakar, Great reed warbler, *Acrocephalus arundinaceus*



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GRENNAT Project

Green infrastructure and
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for sustainable crossborder development

The rich heritage of the Cavana of Monfalcone

