

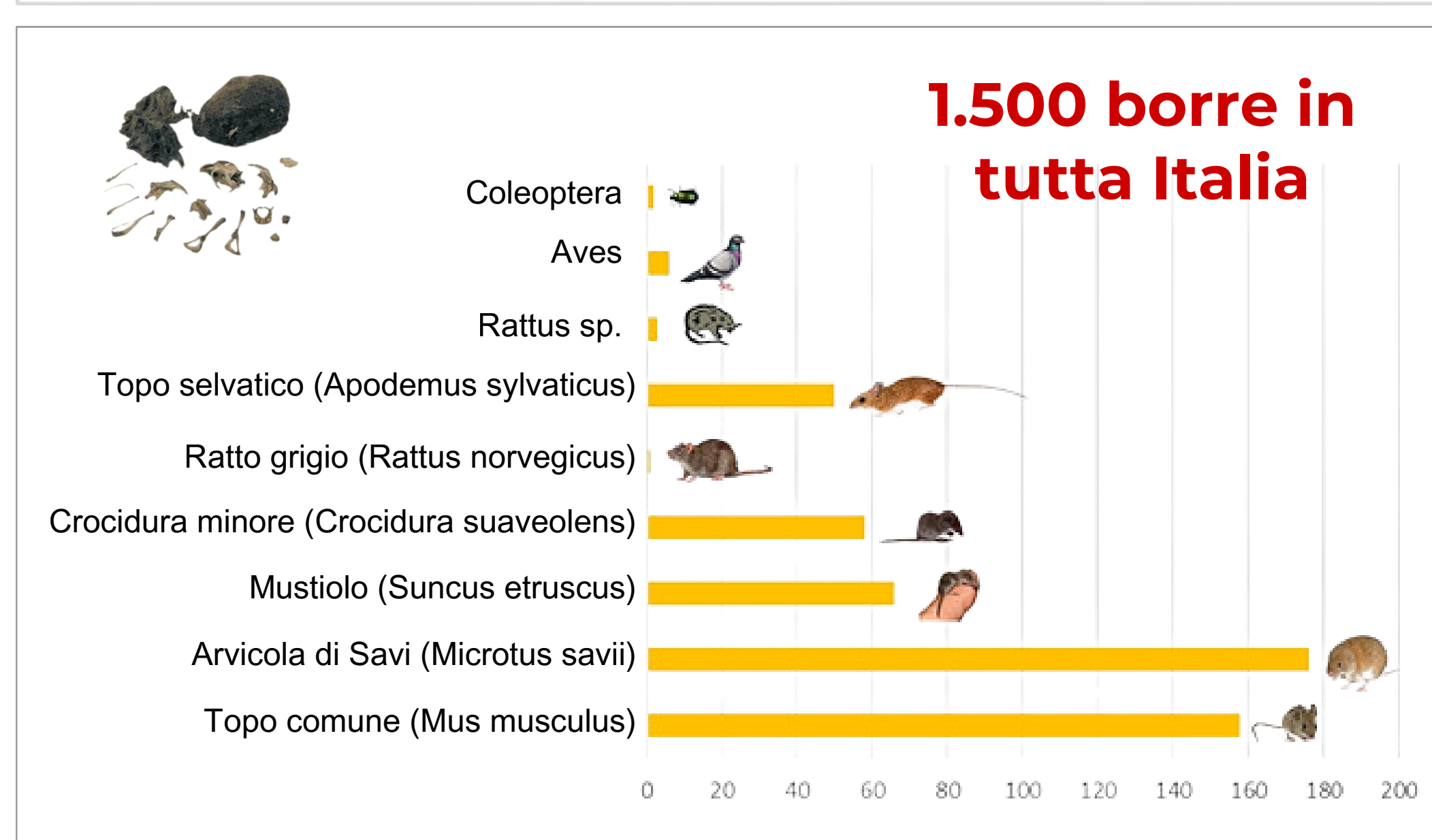
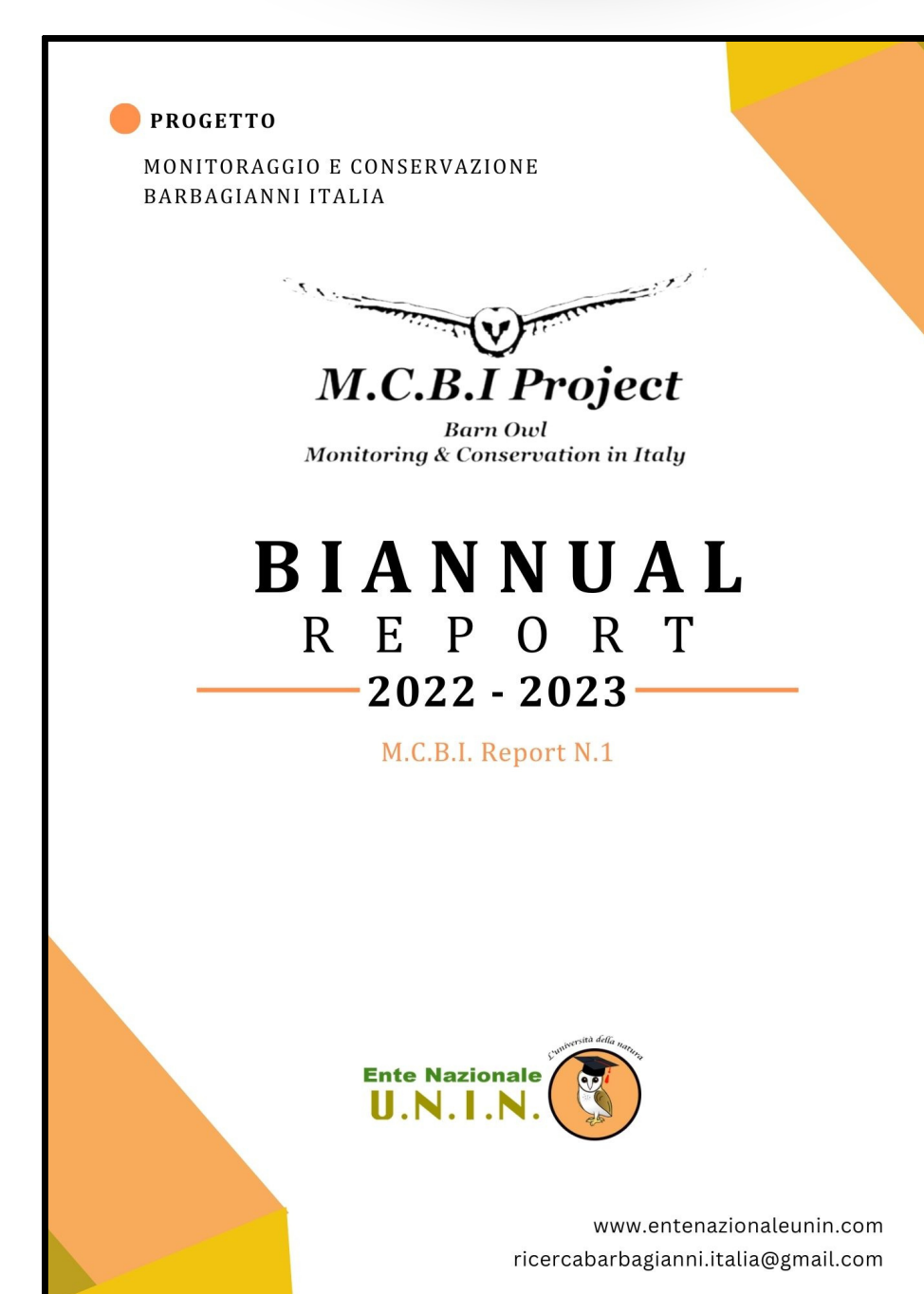
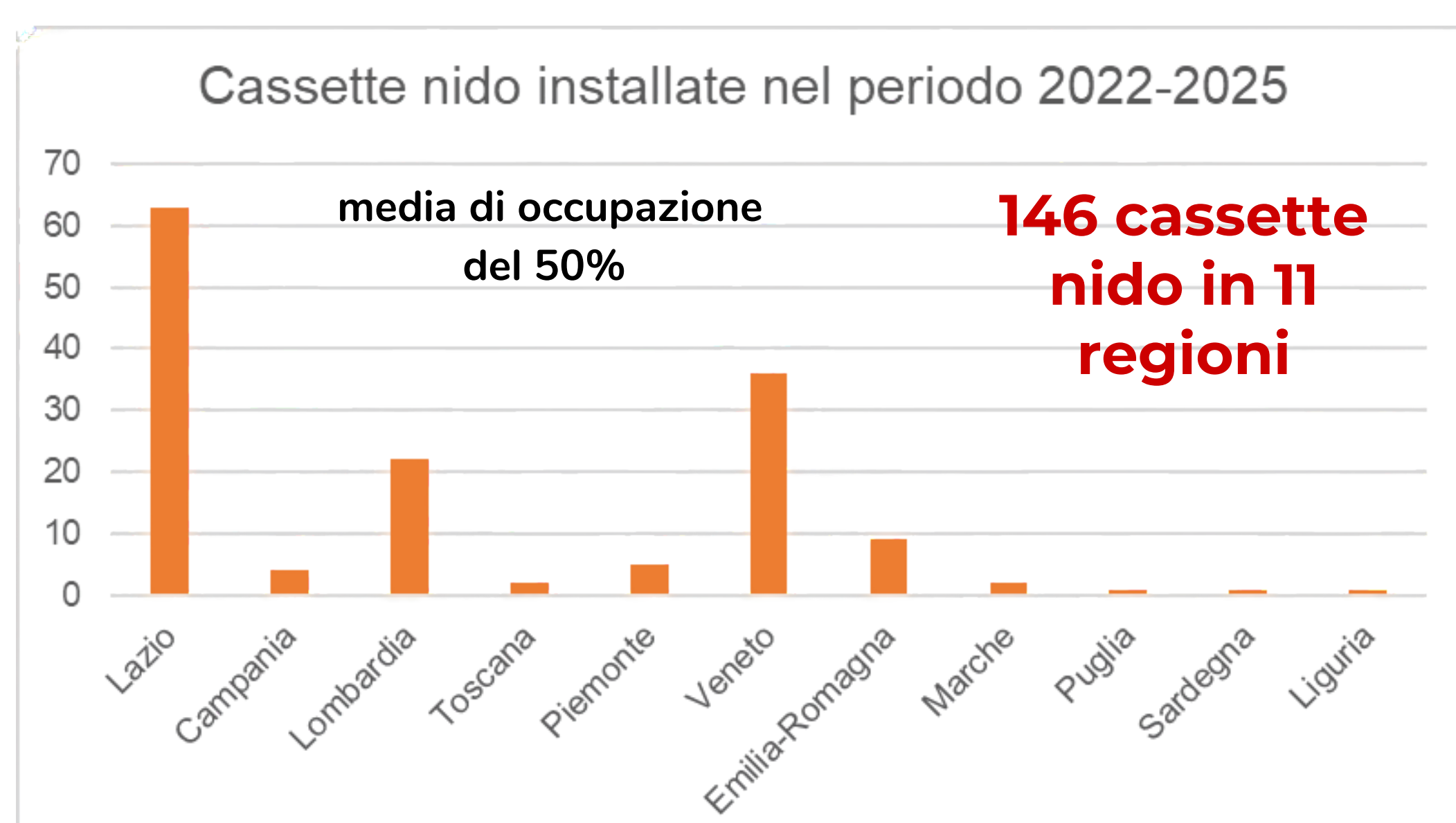
22° CONVEGNO ITALIANO DI ORNITOLOGIA

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The “Barn Owl Monitoring and Conservation in Italy” (M.C.B.I.) project: a comprehensive overview of the preliminary results of what will be a long-term monitoring activities

As part of the “Barn Owl Monitoring and Conservation in Italy” (M.C.B.I.) project, launched by Gabriele Stanisci in 2021 and self-financed, the authors present the preliminary results of what will be a long-term monitoring of the Barn Owl (*Tyto alba*). Research is conducted by project operators using methods like visual censuses, pellet dissection, and audio-video analysis. To date, 146 nesting boxes have been installed across 11 regions, with a 50% occupancy rate and documented nesting and fledging. Several 24h live streaming sessions on YouTube have been used for data collection and public engagement. The bioacoustic data collected from the audio-video material has allowed the creation of the first Italian sound archive dedicated to the Barn Owl, and the first complete recording of a fight between two male individuals in a nesting box has been filmed. Over 1500 pellets have been collected and analyzed across Italy, with some analyses still ongoing. In 2024, a collaboration with the University of Lausanne was launched for genetic studies using feather samples. The project also promotes environmental education through the “Science Kit” and raised awareness among local communities and farmers to promote sustainable agricultural practices and eliminate the use of rodenticides. Through collaborations with public and private entities, the project aims to integrate Barn Owl conservation into broader territorial and biodiversity management strategies.



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