

VareseNews

Man who poached birds has been arrested for stealing from the State

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A poacher has been arrested in **Venegono Superiore**, as he was getting ready to catch birds indiscriminately. In the garden of his large property, in Via Rimembranze, he had set up 5 nets, each 10 m wide and 2 m high. He also had 4 nets on poles and 2 still wrapped up, none of which were in use.

Photos of the seizure

FIRST ARREST FOR STEALING FROM THE STATE

This is a rather rare case, from a legal point of view, because being arrested for poaching does not happen often. **The man is 70**, he is real estate developer, and he will have to appear before the judge at Varese Court next Wednesday morning, and spend the night in a cell at the Carabinieri Station. At his home, the Carabinieri from Castiglione Olona and the Interprovincial Service for Animal Protection found a cage, used as a trap, 8 plastic bird shapes and **3 cages with trapped birds, that were in conditions that the judicial police considered constituted criminal maltreatment**. The birds were alive, their wings had many cuts, and they were used as a decoys.

The material seized

PROTECTED SPECIES

Among the birds that were found, there were also **10 redwings, 8 song thrushes, 2 blackbirds, 2 crossbills, 8 siskins, 8 tree pipits, 1 grosbeak, and 3 chaffinches**. Part of the material was in a shed that is apparently illegal. The 70-year-old man has been arrested on charges of aggravated theft and of receiving stolen goods (6 of the birds, 4 redwings, one song thrush, and one tree pipit, were apparently purchased on the black market). He has also been charged with mistreating the animals (because the 3 birds in the metal cages, were left in the open, in cramped conditions, causing visible lesions and **bleeding**). The charges also include one of violating Law No. 157, of 1992, which refers to the Berne Convention on the protection of European wildlife: grosbeaks, siskins, crossbills, and other birds are included in the list of species at risk.

All of the protected species of birds

What the law says

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