

Instructions to authors

AVOCETTA publishes original articles, short notes and reviews on all aspects of ornithology, with particular reference to the ecology, ethology and biogeography of Mediterranean and Alpine avifaunas. Preference will be given to papers adopting a quantitative approach rather than to purely descriptive ones.

Paper submission and review process

Papers, either in Italian or English, should be submitted to the Editor in electronic format via e-mail at the address: avocetta@unipv.it; the file, comprehensive of text, tables and figures, should be in Word or RTF format. It must be specified that the material is original and has not been submitted elsewhere. Papers will be evaluated by at least 2 referees and, following their indications, they will be accepted, returned to the authors for corrections, or rejected. The final decision is exclusive competence of the Editor and will be notified as a rule within 2 months of receipt. Once accepted, the paper is covered by exclusive copyright. Authors will receive 25 reprints free of charge and a PDF file to use at their discretion. Requests for a greater number of reprints should be addressed when returning the corrected proofs. Particularly complex tables and colour figures will be published to expenses of the authors.

Format of the text

Type all papers with double line spacing, preferably in Times New Roman, size 12. Pages should be numbered consecutively in Arabic numerals. The scientific names of the species must be in italics and only given at the first citation in the text, without parenthesis. The common names should be in lower-case. For the measurement units use the standard abbreviations (mm, m, km, g, kg, Hz, s, min, h, °C, etc). For the statistical terms use r , rs , t , χ^2 , F , U , Z , g.l., DS, ES, N , P . Mean values should be always associated to a variability measure (es.: mean \pm ES). Avoid or limit the use of acronyms.

Organization of the text and style

For regular articles, the text should be arranged as follows: Title page, Abstract, Introduction, Methods, Results, Discussion, Acknowledgements, References, Tables, Appendices, Figure Legends, Figures. Appropriate subheadings may be inserted in order to further organize the text. Short notes should not contain headings and should not exceed 3000 words (including an English abstract of 150 words and references).

Title page - should include the following information: Title, Name and Last name of the authors and relative affiliations and addresses. At the page bottom, give the telephone number, fax and e-mail of the corresponding author.

Abstract - should be both in Italian and in English, for a maximum of 300 words, and should list the purpose of the study, outlining the major findings and conclusions; references, abbreviations and symbols should be avoided. An Italian translation for authors which are unfamiliar with the Italian language will be provided by the editorial office.

Introduction - should present concisely and clearly the argument of the study. It should explicitly state the aims of the study. Continuity with previous research should be emphasised with appropriate references.

Methods - should be sufficiently clear and detailed to allow the reader to replicate them. In some cases description of methods can be reduced by referring to previous research. Always report sample sizes. Where necessary, the Methods should contain an adequate description of study area and type of statistics employed.

Results - the text should integrate the data reported in tables and figures, but not repeat them. Statistical tests should be reported together with the value of the test, sample size and/or degrees of freedom and significance level (e.g.: Spearman Test, $r_s = 0.87$, $N = 16$, $P < 0.05$). Number Tables and Figures in the order in which they appear in the text.

Discussion - should supply a summary of the main results, but above all it should comment on the significance of the results and set them in the context of previous work. Discussion should be concise and not excessively speculative.

References - the citations in the text should be given as: Mayr (1963), Andrewartha and Birch (1984), Fasola *et al.* (1987) or at the end of the sentence in chronological order (Mayr 1963, Fasola *et al.* 1987). References at the end of the paper should conform to the following examples:

- Book: Lack D 1954. The natural regulation of animal numbers. Clarendon Press, Oxford.
- Book chapter: Baldaccini NE, Benvenuti S, Fiaschi V, Ioalé P, Papi F 1982. Pigeon orientation: experiments on the role of olfactory stimuli perceived during the outward journey. In: Papi F, Wallraff HG (eds). Avian navigation. Springer, Berlin, pp. 160-169.
- Journal article: Galeotti P 1994. Patterns of territory size and defence level in rural and urban tawny owl (*Strix aluco*) populations. Journal of Zoology 234: 641-658.
- Thesis: Rubolini D 2000. Strategie di ingrassamento premigratorio della rondine *Hirundo rustica* in Europa. Msc Thesis, University of Pavia.

Journal titles should be reported in extended format. For papers in the course of publication, use "in press" to replace the date and give the journal name in the references. Unpublished material may be cited in the text as "unpublished data", but should not be included in references.

Tables - they should be numbered consecutively with Arabic numerals and typed on separate pages (one table per page). Keep Tables as simple as possible and make them understandable without reference to the text. Tables should not contain vertical lines, and the main body of the table should not contain horizontal lines. In the text, tables should be reported as Tab. 1, etc.

Figures - they must be 1.5-2 times larger than the final format and numbered with Arabic numerals. Lettering should be readable after reduction. Figure legends should be typed on a separate sheet. In the text the figures should be reported as Fig. 1, etc.