

BREVI NOTE

Acknowledgements - This work was supported by a grant from the Parco Faunistico "Le Cornelle" of Valbrembo, Italy. We are also grateful to WARM Department and especially to prof. Christine Dranzoa for facilitating us in various ways.

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Riv. ital. Orn., Milano, 80 (1): 59-61, 31-XII-2010

BIRDS ON THE ROADS: A PRELIMINARY NOTE FROM CENTRAL ITALY

RIASSUNTO – *Uccelli sulle strade: dati preliminari dall'Italia centrale.*

Road ecology is a new disciplinary arena (FORMAN & ALEXANDER, 1998). Despite research on negative effect on birds of roads with high volume of motor vehicle traffic are widely available in recent literature (e.g., HODSON, 1962; VAN DER ZANDE *et alii*, 1980; REIJNEN *et alii*, 1995, 1996), data on their active use as feeding sites are very lacking (LAURSEN, 1981; BENNETT, 1991).

From January 2009 to March 2010, we sampled all the bird species encountered on ground of three types of roads at different hierarchical level (i.e., national roads, urban roads and highways) of Latium (Central Italy). We observed individuals belonging to nine species of birds: *Columba livia* forma *domestica*, *Streptopelia decaocto*, *Motacilla cinerea*, *Motacilla alba*, *Turdus merula*, *Pica pica*, *Corvus cornix*, *Sturnus vulgaris* and *Passer domesticus*. All the species (except *Motacilla cinerea*) are known as species with generalist and synanthropic habits.

Table I - Number of birds sampled on road types at different hierarchical level (national roads, urban roads, highways).

AKI: Abundance Kilometric Index (n. ind./km);

nkm: total number of sampled kilometres; n: number of sampled individuals.

Road type		<i>Passer domesticus</i>	<i>Motacilla alba</i>	<i>Columba livia</i> forma <i>domestica</i>	<i>Turdus merula</i>	<i>Corvus cornix</i>	Total
National/provincial roads	AKI	0.393	0.025	0.013	0.013	0.013	0.457
nkm = 788.2	n	31	2	1	1	1	36
Urban roads	AKI	0.020			0.010	0.010	0.039
nkm = 102	n	2			1	1	4
Highways	AKI		0.061			0.061	0.121
nkm = 165	n		1			1	2
total	AKI	0.313	0.028	0.009	0.019	0.028	0.398
nkm = 1055.2	n	33	3	1	2	3	42

In the same study period, we carried out also a preliminary standardized assessment of the number of birds/km on 1.055 kms of national, urban roads and highways (Tab. I). We sampled a total of 42 birds belonging to five species. The frequency of each species (AKI species/AKI tot) on the roads is significantly different among them ($\chi^2 = 88.161$; $p < 0.001$; d.f. = 4). *Passer domesticus* was the most common species (highest kilometric abundance index) in national/provincial and urban roads. On 165 kms of highways only occasional individuals were recorded. All the individuals utilized the asphalted ground as feeding sites (food consisted especially of garbage thrown by motor vehicles and road killed animals, e.g. hedgehogs or birds).

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Riv. ital. Orn., Milano, 80 (1): 61-62, 31-XII-2010

ACCERTATA NIDIFICAZIONE DI CUCULO DAL CIUFFO, *CLAMATOR GLANDARIUS*, IN CAMPANIA

ABSTRACT - *Ascertained nesting of Great Spotted Cuckoo, Clamator glandarius, in Campania (S Italy).*

Il 25 giugno 2009 è stata accertata la nidificazione di Cuculo dal ciuffo, *Clamator glandarius*, in Campania presso la località Pineta Grande - Castelvoturno (CE), km 30 via Domitiana; un giovane è stato osservato mentre veniva imbeccato da una Gazza, *Pica pica*, su di un Pino domestico.

L'ambiente in cui è stata effettuata l'osservazione è costituito da una Pineta mista di Pino domestico, *Pinus pinea*, e di Pino marittimo, *Pinus pinaster*, mediamente antropizzata, posta sul lato mare della via Domitiana, con esemplari di altezza compresa fra i 10 e i 12 metri. L'albero su cui è stato osservato il soggetto era posto al margine di un'area aperta con presenza di giovani eucalipti e antistante un ampio parcheggio (cementato ed asfaltato).

Il giovane reclamava il cibo con il tipico verso della specie; dopo l'imbeccata la gazza è volata via, mentre il giovane cuculo è rimasto ancora qualche secondo prima di raggiungerla nella parte più interna della pineta. Successivamente è stato visto ancora effettuare brevi voli tra le chiome inseguendo il "genitore adottivo".

Negli ultimi anni, il litorale domitio e in particolar modo l'importante area umida dei Variconi (Foce Volturno) si è mostrato zona in cui la specie è stata regolarmente avvistata. Tali avvistamenti si sono concentrati nel periodo del passo di ritorno, tra marzo e i primi di maggio, con un picco in aprile. I dati