

SOME CASES OF KLEPTOPARASITISM OF BLACK-HEADED GULL *LARUS RIDIBUNDUS* AGAINST HOODED CROW *CORVUS CO-* *RONE CORNIX*, RUFF *PHILOMACHUS PUGNAX* AND GARGANEY *ANAS QUERQUEDULA*

ENRICO CALVARIO
FULVIO FRATICELLI
UMBERTO RUVOLO

Stazione Romana per l'Osservazione e la
Protezione degli Uccelli
c/o Oasi Naturale WWF "Bosco di Palo"
Via Palo Laziale 2
00055 Ladispoli (Roma)

The kleptoparasitic behaviour of the Black-headed Gull *Larus ridibundus* is very frequent and was also recently observed and described in Italy (Baccetti 1983, Angle 1983).

On 17th January 1984 at 10.05 a.m. on the beach of "Oasi Naturale WWF Bosco di Palo" (41°56' N, 12°05' E), 40 Km North of Rome, we observed four adult Black-headed Gulls hovering and repeatedly pouncing upon two Hooded Crows *Corvus corone cornix* that were near the seashore. Moving closer, we observed that the Hooded Crows were feeding on the valves of certain sea-shore specimens of *Mytilus edulis*. We observed a dozen attacks, but no none was successful. Eventually, the two Hooded Crows, flew away, each of them taking a mussel in the bill.

Kleptoparasitism between these two species is not very common. Brockman & Barnard (1979) report in fact only one case of kleptoparasitism between the Black-headed Gull and the *Corvus corone*.

On 20th March 1984 at 3.30 p.m. on a flooded meadow, in the "Riserva Naturale di Macchia Tonda" (42°00' N, 11°59' E), 60 Km North of Rome, we observed seven adult Black-headed Gulls successfully kleptoparasitize 15 Ruff *Philomachus pugnax* that were feeding on *Lombricus* sp. (Anellida). On the same meadow we then observed a successful instance of kleptoparasitism upon a single Garganey *Anas querquedula* belonging to a flock of about 30 individuals of the same species that were feeding on the same food.

Kleptoparasitism by the Black-headed Gull upon those two species has never been reported so far (Brockman & Barnard 1979).

RIASSUNTO

ALCUNI CASI DI CLEPTOPARASSITISMO DI GABBIANO COMUNE *Larus ridibundus* NEI CONFRONTI DI CORNACCHIA GRIGIA *Corvus corone cornix*, DI COMBATTENTE *Philomachus pugnax* E DI MARZAIOLA *Anas querquedula*. Vengono descritti casi di cleptoparassitismo di Gabbiano comune *Larus ridibundus* nei confronti di Cornacchia grigia *Corvus corone cornix*, un comportamento poco comune e che non era mai stato segnalato per l'Italia, e nei confronti di Combattente *Philomachus pugnax* e di Marzaiola *Anas querquedula*. Per queste due ultime

specie il cleptoparassitismo del Gabbiano comune non era mai stato segnalato in letteratura.

RESUME'

DES CAS DE CLEPTOPARASITISME DE LA MOUETTE RIEUSE *LARUS RIDIBUNDUS* A L'EGARD DE CORNEILLE MANTELEE *CORVUS CORONE CORNIX*, DE CHEVALIER COMBATTANT *PHILOMACHUS PUGNAX* ET DE SARCELLE D'ETE *ANAS QUERQUEDULA*.

On décrit des cas de clèptoparasitisme de la Mouette rieuse à l'égard de la Corneille mantelée *Corvus corone cornix* (comportement qui n'avait jamais été signalé pour l'Italie), et à l'égard du Chevalier combattant *Philomachus pugnax* et de la Sarcelle d'été *Anas querquedula*. Pour les deux dernières espèces le cleptoparasitisme par la Mouette rieuse n'avait été jamais signalé dans la littérature.

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