
1989 Avocetta 13: 140

Italian Sparrow *Passer italiae* feeding on insects on vehicle

On 28th July 1988 at a service station near the Egna-Ora toll station, in Bolzano province (NE Italy) on the Modena-Brennero motorway, I observed four or five Italian Sparrows *Passer italiae*, two of which were first year specimens, feeding upon the squashed insects clinging to the radiator grills of vehicles, both cars and lorries, standing while they were filled with fuel. The Sparrows, standing on the ground near a petrol pump, waited for a new vehicle to arrive and investigated the radiator grill until the engine started. This behaviour was rarely observed in Great Britain (Simmons K.E.L. & Bankier A.M. 1984. House Sparrows collecting insects from cars. *British Birds* 77:121) but had never been observed in Italy.

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Passeri d'Italia si alimentano su veicoli in sosta

Ricevuto il 12 ottobre 1988

1989 Avocetta 13: 140

Aggressive display in the Sardinian Warbler *Sylvia melanocephala*

On 4th April 1988 on Pantelleria Island (Trapani, Southern Italy) I observed a male Sardinian Warbler *Sylvia melanocephala* singing from the top of a bush. A second male perched on the same bush. The singing individual immediately faced the other raising the head and showing its white throat, raising its tail and lowering its wings and enlarging its flank and back feathers to form two tufts on both sides of the body, one of them under and the other below the wings, nearly covering them. Its breast thus resulted much larger when observed from the front. The aggressor emitted many alarm-calls. The display lasted for one minute until the intruder left the bush. The distance between the two rivals was 30-40 cm, while height from the ground was about 1 m. A third male, probably attracted by the display, came to about 1 m from the fighters, but did not participate.

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Parata aggressiva in Occhiocotto *Sylvia melanocephala*

Ricevuto il 12 ottobre 1988