

(M) Mixed colony: where more than one species breed. The abbreviated names of species can be mentioned e.g., if Little Egrets (e), Cattle Egrets (c), and Black-crowned Night Herons (bn) breed in the same colony then it is-M<sub>e,c,bn</sub>.

The combination of all the above characters can be used to designate a particular heron colony. For example, if only Cattle Egrets breed in a colony, which is in a city on three trees of *Acacia arabica* and mean inter-nest distance of < 2 m, then is H P<sub>c</sub> T<sub>3</sub> Ho C.

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Un metodo per descrivere e classificare le colonie di Aironi

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**Audouin's Gulls *Larus audouinii* taking offal**

On 30th March 1986 we watched two adult Audouin's Gulls *Larus audouinii* that were swimming at about 100 m from the rocky shore of a bay in North-Eastern Sardinia. When we threw a piece of bone (a remnant of our meal) into the water at some 20 m from the shore, the Gulls immediately flew closer and picked up the item. We repeated the offer of food (bones, meat and bread) 10 times and the Audouin's Gulls continued to fly along the shore and to collect the items, by the dip-to surface action typical of gulls.

Throughout this interlude, two Yellow-legged Gulls *Larus cachinnans* tried to kleptoparasitize the birds by collecting the offal, but were unsuccessful as they did not dare to come as close to us as the Audouin's did.

One of us had already observed some Audouin's Gulls taking the offal that was thrown overboard by the passengers of a ferry near the Isle of Elba, Tuscany (Brichetti, P. & Cambi, D. 1979. Studio preliminare su di una colonia di *Larus audouinii* Payraudeau (Gabbiano corso) nell'Arcipelago Toscano. Riv. ital. Orn. 49:277-281, Cramp, S. & Simmons, K.E.L. 1983. The Birds of the Western Palearctic. Oxford Univ. Press) briefly state that this Gull was "Observed taking offal", but that it "does not normally take interest in passing wessels, or scavenge for fishermen's offal". Our observations suggest that the feeding repertoire of the Audouin's Gull frequently includes exploiting the food offered by man.

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Gabbiani corsi che si cibano di rifiuti

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