

More than 100 (102) people registered, a crowded hall: the first meeting - and first ever Italian Little Owl meeting - of GIC (Gruppo Italiano Civetta - Italian Little Owl Group) held last March in Osio Sotto (Bergamo District, Northern Italy) turned out to be a success.

GIC was founded only few months ago, last October.

To date, it has more than 90 members. Among them, many naturalists and specialists in nocturnal raptors.

Initially, the meeting was mainly to be an opportunity to give a face to many GIC members (and e-mails). No one would have expected that more than 30 people would have filled the registration form. The number of forms - sent from all over Italy and by non-members of GIC too - increased day by day so that the meeting became a real national conference. The main goals of it were to share knowledge and experience, and to focus on defining the future of GIC. Little Owl is poorly known in our country and many aspects of its biology and ecology need to be dealt with. That is why some presentations and posters touched more on themes to be studied and on problems than on results.

Many items were on the agenda: monitoring and censusing, status in Italy, diet and pellets, behaviour, ecology, mythology and antropology.

For a complete list of communications and poster, see below.

Special guest and star of the event was Dries Van Nieuwenhuysse from Herzele (Flanders, Belgium), one of the most important Little Owl Men in the world. Dries opened the meeting and generated enthusiasm. He spoke on the Little Owl monitoring project in Flanders and provided excellent suggestions to our group, emphasizing the importance of focusing on one (or more) national programm and stressing the role of non-experts and volunteers.

Two items are of great moment: Little Owl monitoring in urban areas and diet. Marco Mastrorilli showed the main problems in dealing with nocturnal raptors, when censusing birds for urban atlases. We need to invest effort into defining a protocol. Marco Mastrorilli gave some suggestions. Armando Nappi and Danilo Mario Piccolino allowed for a short discussion around Little Owl diet and pellets: guidelines and problems. Armando Nappi is dealing with a complete study of pellets collected all over the country. Michele Bux gave a communication about the diet of Little Owl in a salterm in Southern Italy.

Elisabetta De Carli and Gianpiero Calvi analysed the data given by MITO (Italian Ornithological Monitoring 2000-2002). Even if not suitable for nocturnal birds, the census gave interesting results, showing a diurnal activity of Little Owls in Sardinia.

Pierluigi Beraudo and Roberto Toffoli presented a study performed in Cuneo District (Piedmont, Northern Italy) from 2000 to 2003: density and habitats, and landscape-occurrence correlations.

Little Owl (and nocturnal raptors) is poorly known in Liguria (Northern Italy). Sara Sanetti provided an introduction to a complete study to be performed: status, distribution, interactions with other Owls. Liguria is characterized by the occurrence of many different landscapes, from the Mediterranean seaside up to the Alps.

In Europe and in the Mediterranean Basin, we can distinguish a primary Little Owl distribution area and a secondary one. The former is the original one (steppe and deserts), the latter is related to the interaction man-Little Owl. Duccio Centili gave interesting and thoughtful notes about this theme.

GIC aimed to offer a broad spectrum of themes. Giorgio Dimitriadis dealt with the role of Little Owl in prehistorical iconography. Marta Villa spoke on witches and Little Owls in history, and on the use of nocturnal raptors to symbolize the Hebrews.

The meeting gave a great opportunity to push GIC up. Our next step will be the definition of a national program. It will deal with diet and distribution in Italy.

## **INTRODUCTION**

### **HABITAT SELECTION STUDIES OF LITTLE OWL WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE INTERNATIONAL LITTLE OWL WORKING GROUP. OPPORTUNITIES FOR INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION**

Dries Van Nieuwenhuysse  
*Atos Origin, Minervastraat 7 - 1930 ZAVENEM, BELGIO*

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## **ECOLOGY AND DISTRIBUTION**

### **ORAL COMMUNICATIONS**

#### **THE LITTLE OWL IN THE ITALIAN ORNITHOLOGICAL MONITORING (MITO) 2000-2002**

Gianpiero Calvi\*, Elisabetta de Carli\*, Lia Buvoli\*, Lorenzo Fornasari\*\*  
*\*FaunaViva, Via Biringhello 114 – 20017 RHO (MI); \*\*Dipartimento di Scienze dell'Ambiente e del Territorio, Università di Milano Bicocca, Piazza della Scienza 1 – 20126 MILANO*

#### **THE LITTLE OWL *ATHENE NOCTUA*: TO WHAT DEGREE RELATED TO MAN?**

Duccio Centili  
*Via Scipione Gaetano 11 – 00197 ROMA*

#### **THE URBAN POPULATIONS OF LITTLE OWL *ATHENE NOCTUA* IN ITALY: A PROPOSAL FOR MONITORING STANDARDIZATION**

Marco Mastrorilli, Matteo Barattieri, Gianpiero Calvi, Diego Fasano  
*Gruppo Italiano Civette, c/o Terranostra, Via Umberto I 17/E – 24050 BARIANO (BG)*

#### **SOME NOTES ON THE LITTLE OWL *ATHENE NOCTUA* DENSITY IN THE CUNEO DISTRICT (NORTHERN ITALY)**

Roberto Toffoli\*, Pierluigi Beraudo\*\*  
*\*Via Tetto Mantello 13 - 12011 BORGIO SAN DALMAZZO (CN); \*\*Via Roma 19 - 12040 SALMOUR (CN)*

#### **THE LITTLE OWL *ATHENE NOCTUA* IN LIGURIA (NORTHERN ITALY): A REVIEW**

Sara Sanetti  
*Corso Europa 1654/7 - 16166 GENOVA*

## POSTERS

### **FIRST DATA OF LITTLE OWL *ATHENE NOCTUA* DISTRIBUTION IN CAMPI FLEGREI (NEAPLES DISTRICT, SOUTHERN ITALY)**

Marcello Giannotti\*, Rosario Balestrieri\*, Fabio Gori\*, Vincenzo Gori\*, Vittorio D'Apice\*\*,  
Roberto Guglielmi\*

\*A.S.O.I.M., c.p. 253 - 80046 S. GIORGIO A CREMANO (NA); \*\*Via U. De Vita 27 - 80022 ARZANO (NA)

### **THE LITTLE OWL *ATHENE NOCTUA* STATUS IN MOLISE (SOUHERN ITALY): A REVIEW BY GMSO (MOLISE ORNITHOLOGIAL STUDIES GROUP)**

Nicola Norante

*Gruppo Molisano Studi Ornitologici (GMSO), Viale Favorita 61/a - 86042 CAMPOMARINO (CB)*

### **THE LITTLE OWL *ATHENE NOCTUA* USUAL PERCHES IN A RURAL AREA IN THE MODENA DISTRICT (NORTHERN ITALY ): PRELIMINARY DATA**

Enrico Selmi, Giovanni Ronchetti, Alessandro Zoboli, Luciano Conventi

*LIPU Modena, Via Canaletto 88 - 41100*

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## BEHAVIOUR, DIET, REPRODUCTION

### ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

#### **MOBBING ON *ATHENE NOCTUA* IN A MEDITERRANEAN AREA**

Roberto Casalini

*Museo Civico di Zoologia, Via Ulisse Aldrovandi 18 - 00197 ROMA*

#### **THE LITTLE OWL DIET: PROBLEMS AND METHODS, AND A SHORT ANALYSIS OF THE ITALIAN SITUATION**

Armando Nappi

*Corso Umberto I 237 - 80138 NAPOLI*

#### **THE LITTLE OWL *ATHENE NOCTUA* DIET IN A SALTERN IN SOUTHERN ITALY: PRELIMINARY DATA**

Michele Bux, Vincenzo Rizzi

*Museo del Dipartimento di Zoologia, Università degli Studi di Bari, Via Orabona 4/a - 70125 BARI*

#### **GUIDELINES FOR AN ENTOMOLOGICAL ANALYSIS OF LITTLE OWL PELLETS**

Danilo Mario Piccolino

*Corso Torino 12 - 27029 VIGEVANO (PV)*

## POSTERS

**THE INTERACTION LITTLE OWL *ATHENE NOCTUA* - BARN OWL *TYTO ALBA*: A  
CASE FROM NORTHERN ITALY**

Giacomo Sgorlon  
*Associazione Faunisti Veneti, c/o Museo Civico di Storia Naturale, S. Croce 1730 - 30175 VENEZIA*

**THE LITTLE OWL DIET IN A RICE-FIELD IN THE VERCELLI DISTRICT  
(NORTHERN ITALY)**

Armando Nappi  
*Corso Umberto I 237 – 80138 NAPOLI*

**UNUSUAL BREEDINGS OF LITTLE OWL *ATHENE NOCTUA* (SCOPOLI, 1769) IN  
ITALY**

Augusto De Sanctis, Marco Mastrorilli, Giacomo Sgorlon  
*Gruppo Italiano Civette, c/o Terranostra, Via Umberto I 17/E – 24050 BARIANO (BG)*

**LITTLE OWLS IN MY BACKYARD**

Silvio Spanò  
*DIP.TE.RIS., Corso Europa 26 - 16132 GENOVA*

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**RAPTORS CENTER**

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**POSTERS**

**TREATMENT AND REHABILITATION OF LITTLE OWL *ATHENE NOCTUA* AT THE WWF RAPTOR  
CENTER OF CASERTA (SOUTHERN ITALY) 1995–2003**

Adriano Argenio, Valeria Biundo, Marco Caporaso, Maurizio Fraissinet  
*Centro Recupero Animali Selvatici del WWF Italia, Sezione di Caserta, c/o Oasi WWF Bosco di San Silvestro, Via  
Giardini Reali 1/bis – 81020 SAN LEUCIO DI CASERTA (CE)*

**TREATMENT AND REHABILITATION OF LITTLE OWL *ATHENE NOCTUA* AT THE  
LIPU RAPTOR CENTER “LA FAGIANA” (MAGENTA, NORTHERN ITALY) 1998-2003**

Massimiliano Biasioli, Cristiana Bardini, Paolo Fumagalli  
*Oasi LIPU Cesano Maderno, Via Don Orione – 20031 CESANO MADERNO (MI)*

**TREATMENT AND REHABILITATION AND SOME NOTES ON LITTLE OWL *ATHENE  
NOCTUA* ECOLOGY FROM THE DATA OF LIPU RAPTOR CENTER IN MUGELLO  
(TUSCANY, CENTRAL ITALY) 2001-03**

Claudia Donati\*, Marco Banchi\*\*  
*\*Via A. De Gasperi 1 – 52023 LEVANE (AR); \*\*Centro di Recupero Rapaci del Mugello, Via Ponte a Vicchio 48 –  
50039 VICCHIO (FI)*

**LITTLE OWLS IN RAPTOR CENTERS: A PROTOCOL**

Paolo Taranto  
*Via Calvart 10 – 40129 BOLOGNA*

# **CULTURE AND POPULAR TRADITIONS**

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## **ORAL COMMUNICATIONS**

### ***ATHENE NOCTUA: THE LADY OF DARKNESS. THE LITTLE OWL IN PREHISTORICAL ICONOGRAPHY***

Giorgio Dimitriadis

*Dept. Valcamonica CCSP, Via Sammaione 12 - 25050 NIARDO (BS); Hellenic Rock Art Center - 640 03 PHILIPPI,  
GRECIA*

### ***OMNES STRIGES: UNDER A CURSE FOR CENTURIES***

Marta Villa

*Via Rena 2 - 20052 MONZA (MI)*

## **POSTERS**

### ***THE LITTLE OWL IN MITHOLOGY***

Francesca Florio

*Via Roberto Bracco 45 – 80133 NAPOLI*

### ***THE LITTLE OWL ATHENE NOCTUA IN THE "FABULA"***

Marco Mastrorilli

*Via Carducci 7 - 24040 BOLTIERE (BG)*

### ***LA CHOUETTE DE DIJON***

Armando Nappi

*Corso Umberto I 237 – 80138 NAPOLI*