

The *Revista Catalana d'Ornitologia* publishes original research articles on any ornithological subject, including matters related to bird management and conservation. Special emphasis is, however, placed on papers using ringing as a field method. Reviews or articles on theoretical topics will also be considered, with the aim of promoting discussions about methodology, techniques and other related subjects. Papers on new records of species or abnormalities (e.g. albinism, malformations, etc.) will not be accepted unless they have additional biological implications. Papers containing descriptions of experiments with birds will be accepted only if the procedures used are clearly described and designed according to ethical norms and fulfil all existing legal requirements. In addition, referees are invited to express any ethical concerns regarding animal experimentation. No manuscript submitted to the *Revista Catalana d'Ornitologia* may be offered to any other journal until the editor has given the author(s) a decision.

Electronic submission of papers is encouraged. Please use the address: ico@ornitologia.org

The preferred format is a document in RTF or DOC, including all text, tables and figures.

Once received, the submitted paper will be assigned to an editor. All the manuscripts will be peer-reviewed by experts, and authors may suggest potential reviewers. All decisions of the editor are final. Manuscripts that are accepted on condition of revision must be returned to the editor within 60 days, after which time they will lose their priority. Authors will receive proofs of their articles prior to publication. Proofs must be read carefully to correct any typographical errors, and returned to the editor within five days of receipt. Upon their acceptance, manuscripts will become the property of the journal, which will hold the copyright, and no published material may be reproduced or published elsewhere without quoting its origin. An electronic copy (PDF format) will be supplied to the author free of charge.

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

The text should be written concisely, clearly and grammatically, and may be written in English, Catalan or Spanish. Authors are encouraged to send their contributions in English. The journal provides a free service of correction by a professional translator specialized in scientific publications.

Manuscripts should be written double-spaced and with a margin of 2.5 cm on all sides, in 12-point letters; please do not use text justification. Main headings should be written in bold and second-level headings in italics; headings must not be numbered. Typical main headings for regular articles are: Material and methods; Results; Discussion; Acknowledgements; Summary; and References. The text should open with an introduction without a heading. Material should not be repeated in different forms (e.g. in the text and a table, or in a table and a figure). Manuscripts should not normally exceed 20 pages, including figures and tables.

When referring to a species for the first time, be it in the abstract, the main text or the summary, both common and scientific names must be given with the latter in italics (e.g. the Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava*). In subsequent citations only the common name should be used. All common names of birds should have initial capital letters, whereas those of any other organisms should be named entirely in lower case. Subspecific identity should not be given unless pertinent. Place names should either be in their local form or in the language of the manuscript, and the same criterion must be followed throughout the work. Numbers one to ten should be written in full in the text except for measurements (e.g. five birds, 3 km, 5 cm). Footnotes should always be avoided. Please use the following dating form: 25 January 2001; 1-20 July 1999; 25 May to 15 June. Please use the 24-hour clock: 12:00 h; 14:15 h; 12:15-13:25. Metric units should be used throughout.

Wherever possible, please avoid the citation of personal communications and unpublished reports. References must be presented in accordance with the following examples:

“... according to Arcos (2001) ...”

“... has been defined by Margalida & Bertran (2000) ...”

“... the studies that have been carried out (Carrera 1986, Oro *et al.* 1997b, Herrando 1998, Carrera 2000, 2001) ...”

Manuscripts should be organized and sent in the following order: (1) Title page; (2) Text; (3) Tables; and (4) Figures and figures legends.

1. TITLE PAGE

The title page should be composed as described below:

Title. The title must be concise, but should clearly indicate the contents.

Subtitle. Add a short title covering the subject that you are dealing with in your article (no more than 40 characters). This title will be used as a brief title on the page headings.

Names of authors. Write the full name of each author as it is to appear in the journal, with each author separated by a comma.

Abstract. This must be in English, no longer than 250 type-written words, and summarise the contents of the article (introduction, material, methods, results, discussion and conclusions). For papers written in a language other than English they should start with the title in English.

Key words. Also in English. These words should indicate the content of the manuscript, in the following order: species, with vernacular name, then scientific name; subject; and geographical area.

Address. Please provide name, address and electronic mail for the author or authors.

Address contact. In multi-authored papers, the author responsible for correspondence should be indicated. Please provide an e-mail address for the corresponding author.

2. TEXT

The text page should be composed as described below:

Introduction. The introduction should convey an idea of the historical background of the subject, as well as the aims of the work. This section has no heading.

Material and methods. This section should include relevant information on the species studied, the materials used, the methods for collecting and analysing data, and the study area, in order that the significance of the results can be suitably interpreted.

Results. Only those results obtained from the work that have not previously been published should be presented.

Discussion. The results and their comparison with related works are to be discussed. Suggestions for future research may be offered at the end of this section.

Acknowledgements. These may include persons or organizations that have collaborated, in any way, in the study.

Summary (optional). For long articles, a summary in a different language (Catalan or Spanish) is recommended. The summary may include references to figures, tables and bibliography. Papers written in English will publish a translation of the abstract in Catalan and in Spanish; for authors not familiar with Catalan and/or Spanish, the journal will translate the summary into both languages.

References. They must be set out in alphabetical order of author, and chronologically for each author, adding the letters a, b, c... as appropriate, when dealing with different works by the same author from the same year. References should be listed with the text centred and following these models:

Borràs, A., Cabrera, T., Cabrera, J. & Senar, J.C. 2003. The diet of the Citril Finch (*Serinus citrinella*) in the Pyrenees and the role of *Pine* seeds as a key resource. *J. Ornithol.* 144 (3): 345-353.

Clavell, J. 2002. *Catàleg dels ocells dels Països Catalans*. Bellaterra: Lynx Edicions.

Curcó, A. & Estrada, J. 1999. Distribución y abundancia en Cataluña. In Herranz, J. & Suárez, F. (eds.): *La Ganga Ibérica (Pterocles alchata) y la Ganga Ortega (Pterocles orientalis) en España. Distribución, abundancia, biología y conservación*. Pp. 55-61. Madrid: Colección Técnica. Ministerio de Medio Ambiente.

Journal titles should be abbreviated according to international standards. If in doubt, please give the title in full.

3. TABLES

The same type-size should be as in the main text and should be double-spaced. Vertical lines should not be used. Tables must be isolated from the text on separate pages, and they should be numbered and referred to according to their sequence in the text. Captions of tables and figures must be clear, concise, and written both in the language of the manuscript and in English or Catalan and in italics. If the article is in English, captions should be copied in Catalan; if necessary, this translation will be done by the editors. The desired situation of the tables in the text should be clearly indicated by the authors.

4. FIGURES AND FIGURE LEGENDS

Illustrations must be presented on separate pages, with the title and the name of the author or authors written on the back in pencil. All illustrations (graphs or drawings) will be termed as figures and must be numbered and referred to according to the order of their appearance in the text. Figures will be published exactly as presented by the authors, so they should be submitted as high-resolution laser prints. Handwritten text or symbols are not acceptable. Figure width may be 6.6 cm, or 15.6 cm. Exceptionally, the journal may publish black-and-white or colour photographs; they should be submitted on glossy paper.

Figure legends should be clear and concise, and must be written both in the language of the manuscript and in English or Catalan in italics; if necessary, translation to Catalan will be done by the editors.

SHORT NOTES

These manuscripts follow the same procedure as articles and can have the same headings. The summary should be of a maximum of 150 words. Short Notes include papers shorter than five printed pages. As a guide, this generally includes manuscripts of less than 10 pages, including references, tables and figures. In terms of the review process, the norms of edition are the same as those for articles.

FOCUS

This section of the journal is designed to stimulate scientific debate and can include literature reviews, reviews based on historical data, reports and papers offering critical discussion, new points of view, ideas, and hypotheses or unconventional perspectives of current issues in ornithology, bird management or conservation, possibly based on recent publications in these fields.

There may be two other contributions to this section. One includes papers explaining analytical techniques, designs of laboratory and field equipment, computer software or unusual observations on any topics of interest to ringers and ornithologists. *Letters to the Editor* may expand explanations, provide new analyses or other comments or constructive criticism on material previously published in this journal or, occasionally, other journals.

Proposals of papers for this section should be discussed with the Executive Editor. Authors interested should first send a one-paragraph proposal (less than 400 words) to the Editor before preparing a detailed draft.

All kinds of paper in this section are subject to peer review except the *Letters to the Editor*. Any letter challenging published results or interpretations is transmitted to the author of the published work, with an invitation to respond. The letter and its response are published simultaneously. The decision to publish submitted letters rests entirely with the Executive Editor, who judges the appropriateness of the subject and its possible interest for readers.