

Editorial

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A NEW LIFE FOR AVOCETTA BEGINS IN 2025

Avocetta was born in 1953 thanks to an effort by a team of Italian ornithologists who decided to found the Italian Centre for Ornithological Studies (CISO www.ciso-coi.it), with its scientific journal. This means that, formally, our journal recently celebrated its 72nd anniversary. Avocetta has experienced alternating periods of varying activity throughout its long history, but it has been published without interruption since 1978.

Such a long history implies **a great**

adaptive capacity which is an undoubted merit of the Chief and Associate Editors who have alternated in the journal management over the decades. As for a punctuated equilibrium model, periods of calm are alternated with periods of intense, continuous changes. Indeed, the Editorial Board led by Roberto Ambrosini represents one of these ‘changing periods’. Since 2019, we have launched a new website and expanded our presence on social media. We have then redesigned the journal, which became printed in full colour and completely published in English. We have revised our Open Access pol-



icy to become a full diamond open-access (free for readers and authors) and made **the entire publication history available on the journal website**. We have created new columns, such as the Bird News and the review of the ornithological PhD Theses. We have been indexed in DOAJ and FJN, two networks promoting high-quality open-access science against predatory journals. All of this has been done while strengthening our efforts to maintain a rigorous peer review and ensuring the fastest possible publication online after acceptance, with the introduction of the early-view publication format. Moreover, during these years, we focused on progressively raising publication standards, implying the harsh decision to reject a growing proportion of the submissions. As more recent advancements, in 2023 Avocetta moved to an online-only format and adopted a continuous publishing system, with a single issue per year.

It must be acknowledged that **all of this work has been and is still done on a completely voluntary basis** by an enthusiastic group of Editors who believe in this project and want to maintain it completely free of charge.

As a result of these efforts, Avocetta's ranking in Scopus has improved, **enhancing the journal's reputation within the global ornithological community**. Over the past two years, the submission rate to our journal has tripled, prompting the need to elevate our journal to align with the established workflows of international scientific publications.

We are thrilled to announce we are

embarking on an exciting new phase.

Starting this year, Avocetta will be published by the Milano University Press (MUP), an open-access publisher, thanks to an agreement between Milan University, which provides the MUP services free of charge, and CISO, which remains the journal's owner. This change allowed us to introduce several much-needed improvements in the journal editorial system to serve our authors, readers, and the broader scientific community better.

As part of this transition, we are introducing:

1. A New Website - <https://riviste.uni-mi.it/index.php/avocetta>

Adhering to the MUP policies, we will move to a new website, hosted by their servers and with a structure **that integrates the archive and the submission system**. Please note that **www.avocetta.org will permanently remain a valid link to reach our journal's homepage**. The complete journal archive will continue to be accessible to readers. Currently, during the transition period, both of the websites will be active.

2. Simplified and Automated Submission System

Our new editorial system will streamline the submission and review process through enhanced automation, reducing the administrative burdens for authors while ensuring a smooth and efficient publication experience.

3. Print-on-Demand Option

For the readers who prefer physical copies, we are introducing a print-on-demand service, offering the flexibility to

obtain printed versions of their favourite articles or entire issues.

Our partnership with Milan University Press builds on Avocetta's rich legacy of promoting ornithological research while ensuring that the journal remains at the forefront of modern scientific publishing. These changes reaffirm our commitment to providing a global platform for high-quality, accessible research that supports the advancement of ornithology for generations to come.



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