

A CASE OF ANTHOPHAGY IN SARDINIAN WARBLER *Sylvia melanocephala*

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Riassunto – Un caso di antofagia in Occhicotto *Sylvia melanocephala*. Viene descritto il caso di un Occhicotto che si nutriva dei petali di Feijova *Acca sellowiana*, forse svolgendo un ruolo da impollinatore.

Anthophagy or florivory, as defined by Burgess (1991), refers to the consumption of all or part of the structures of a flower and can theoretically damage the floral bud or mature flower before seed capsule development. This behavior is common in many species of tropical birds (e.g.: Riley & Smith, 1986; Parrini & Raposo, 2010; Gonsioroski et al., 2021), but it is poorly understood for European species (Silva, 2016). On May 18th and 22nd, 2023, a male individual of Sardinian Warbler *Sylvia melanocephala* was observed feeding on the petals of Feijoa *Acca sellowiana* (Myrtaceae) in Marina di Cerveteri (Rome). This plant, native to South America, is commonly cultivated for ornamental purposes and for its fruits, and the petals are also edible (De Souza et al., 2016). It is already known in the literature that its petals are consumed by birds (Sazima & Sazima, 2007), but exclusively in its native regions, and there is a lack of data for our continent. It is likely that this behavior of the Sardinian Warbler does not negatively affect the regular fruit development, indeed, the role that this species can play as a pollinator is well-documented (e.g.: Cecere et al., 2011; De Luca et al., 2014).

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