



# XXVII Convegno della Società Italiana di Etologia

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## Abstracts

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# **XXVII Congresso SIE - Calci, 18-21 Giugno 2017**

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**Un ringraziamento particolare va a tutto il personale del Museo di Storia Naturale per l'attiva collaborazione alla realizzazione dell'evento.**

anthropomorphism could greatly contribute on the discussion about animal welfare, on the other hand it could make harder the study of animal behavior and emotions giving a non-objective interpretation of an experimental situation and of its results. This topic is particularly relevant when considering pet animals living in a family environment with a strong affective/emotional relationship with humans. A previous study investigating emotional contagion showed that domestic dogs oriented toward their owner or a stranger more often when the person was pretending to cry than when they were talking or humming. Our study expands this previous work, analyzing behavioral and cardiac reactions of three different groups of dogs when their owners are crying, laughing, or emitting an unusual but emotively neutral sound “Om”. Behaviors and cardiac data were collected during the baseline, the stimulation and immediately after it. A similar number of dogs approached the owner in response to different stimuli ( $\chi=0.503$ ,  $P=0.777$ ). Besides, dogs were simply waked up if they were resting (decrement in Rest:  $F=6.11$ ,  $P=0.003$ ) and they looked at the owner during stimulation (increase in Looking at the owner:  $F=5.34$ ,  $P=0.006$ ). Cardiac parameters did not vary among phases. Therefore, dogs seem to be behavioral activated by stimuli; however, they do not seem to discriminate among them. In conclusion, these data does not confirm the existence of emotional contagion and they suggest that this experimental setting could not be the most suitable to investigate this topic.

*Keywords: emotional recognition, heart rate variability, dog-owner relationship*

## **MIGRATORY RESTLESSNESS IN SHOREBIRDS (AVES, CHARADRIIFORMES). A CASE STUDY BY MEANS OF ACCELEROMETERS**

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The knowledge of individual and environmental parameters affecting stopover length in shorebirds is important for the conservation and management of species and habitats often seriously threatened, such as Mediterranean wetlands. The role of external factors affecting the decision to leave a stopover site is not always easy to study in the field, due to the high number of variables (i.e., atmospheric conditions) potentially involved. Combining both field and laboratory research has proved to be extremely useful in order to identify the main factors affecting stopover length, at least in passerines. Recent studies demonstrated that the amount of migratory restlessness in these species can be considered a good proxy for quantifying the willingness to depart from a refuelling site. Even if shorebirds have proved to be good models for laboratory research, the only papers regarding migratory restlessness in this group concern studies on orientation mechanisms, which are mainly aimed at showing their use of magnetic compass. The present work aims at studying the migratory restlessness in shorebirds and its relation with body conditions and stopover length by using spring migrating Wood sandpiper (*Tringa glareola*) as a model species. Despite this method proved to be effective in recording Wood sandpipers activity, we failed to find any relationship among their stopover length, body conditions and nocturnal activity. The degree of nocturnal activity was overall low, whereas a peak in activity was registered at sunset. This twilight activity was oriented, and its amount varied significantly according to the amount of available food in captivity. Our results suggested that migratory restlessness in shorebirds might show some peculiar characteristics that would deserve further investigations.

*Keywords: migratory restlessness, shorebirds, accelerometer*