

## Sexually distinct foraging strategies in an omnivorous seabird

## Marine Biology

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Frequency of occurrence of prey items related to most likely area of origin. Because most prey samples (pellets and other regurgitates), collected from territories of Lesser Black-backed Gulls (2008-2011), contained more than just single prey types, these frequencies do not add up to 100%.

| Breeding status | Samples | Marine | Intertidal | Terrestrial | Anthropogenic | Undetermined |
|-----------------|---------|--------|------------|-------------|---------------|--------------|
| Egg phase       | 1517    | 93.7%  | 2.9%       | 30.9%       | 5.9%          | 3.3%         |
| Chick phase     | 1877    | 81.7%  | 1.9%       | 34.5%       | 6.3%          | 2.8%         |
| Failed breeders | 59      | 72.9%  | 3.4%       | 49.2%       | 5.1%          | 1.7%         |
| Overall         | 3453    | 86.9%  | 2.3%       | 33.1%       | 6.1%          | 3.0%         |

Commonest prey types and prey species (frequency of occurrence, %) in 3453 prey samples of Lesser Black-backed Gulls, 2008-2011.

| <b>Marine prey (top 10)</b>   | <b>Freq %</b> | <b>Terrestrial prey (top 10)</b> | <b>Freq %</b> |
|-------------------------------|---------------|----------------------------------|---------------|
| <i>Merlangius merlangus</i>   | 36.4          | Coleoptera                       | 7.8           |
| <i>Pleuronectes platessa</i>  | 23.9          | unident insect                   | 6.6           |
| <i>Trachurus trachurus</i>    | 16.3          | large gull pullus                | 5.6           |
| <i>Limanda limanda</i>        | 15.8          | <i>Lumbricus terrestris</i>      | 3.3           |
| <i>Nereis longissima</i>      | 15.2          | <i>Empetrum nigrum</i> berries   | 2.6           |
| <i>Liocarcinus holsatus</i>   | 15.2          | <i>Zea mays</i>                  | 2.2           |
| <i>Pleuronectes / Limanda</i> | 12.9          | large gull egg                   | 2.0           |
| <i>Ammodytes</i> spp.         | 9.5           | unidentif. grass seed            | 1.4           |
| <i>Solea solea</i>            | 8.0           | unidentif. plant seed            | 1.3           |
| <i>Trigla/Eutrigla</i>        | 5.6           | Elateridae                       | 0.9           |

| <b>Intertidal prey (top 5)</b> | <b>Freq %</b> | <b>Anthropogenic (top 10)</b> | <b>Freq %</b> |
|--------------------------------|---------------|-------------------------------|---------------|
| <i>Carcinus/Liocarcinus</i>    | 1.0           | bread                         | 0.9           |
| <i>Nereis virens</i>           | 0.8           | plastic line, thread          | 0.8           |
| <i>Ensis americanus</i>        | 0.2           | bread seeds                   | 0.8           |
| <i>Mytilus edulis</i>          | 0.1           | plastic fragments             | 0.7           |
| <i>Donax vittatus</i>          | 0.1           | plastic foil                  | 0.7           |
|                                |               | plastic packaging             | 0.5           |
|                                |               | plastic pellets               | 0.4           |
|                                |               | paper                         | 0.4           |
|                                |               | aluminium foil                | 0.3           |
|                                |               | unidentified refuse           | 0.2           |