

PREDATORY BEHAVIOR OF YELLOW-FOOTED GULLS TOWARD  
HEERMANN'S GULL CHICKS AT DENSE AND  
SCATTERED NESTING SITES

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ABSTRACT. — Predation has been widely hypothesized as one of the factors having a major influence on group formation in birds. I studied the predatory behavior of Yellow-footed Gulls (*Larus livens*) toward Heermann's Gull (*L. heermanni*) chicks at dense and scattered nesting areas at Isla Rasa, Baja California. Gulls on dense areas had a significantly greater search time and number of predation attempts, obtained more prey but at a lower proportion than those on the more open areas. Although Heermann's Gull chicks cannot be a major food item for Yellow-footed Gulls, this predator may have an influence by selecting dense nesting in the Heermann's Gull. Topographic conditions may determine nesting density and set a limit to nest site availability for this species on islands of this area.

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