

needs, or 2) in possible search for female mates. Support of the former hypothesis is that fence posts were 9–11°C cooler than the surrounding ground and all lizards were observed on the side of the post facing away from the sun. Related *Holbrookia* species are known to climb vegetation for thermoregulatory escape (Sena 1978. *Southwest. Nat.* 23:41–50; Hager 2000. *Contemp. Herpetol.* 2000: <https://doi.org/10.17161/ch.vi1.11960>). We base our latter hypothesis on the fact that our survey was conducted during the breeding season and that females were displaying iridescent green coloration as indicative during breeding (Hibbitts and Hibbitts 2015. *Texas Lizards: a Field Guide*, University of Texas Press, Austin, Texas. 351 pp.), and males climbed fence posts for a better vantage point of their surroundings in their search for females. We theorize that because we only observed males, that these observations may be attributable to breeding behavior. Eight female *H. subcaudalis* also were observed and captured during the same days and times, but all females were found on the ground. Further investigation is needed to fully understand the ecological and physiological drivers of this behavior.

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**LACERTA STRIGATA (Caspian Green Lizard). SAUROPHAGY.** *Lacerta strigata* occurs in almost the entire Caucasus, Elburz, and adjacent territories (Darevskij 1984. *In* Böhme [ed.], *Handbuch der Reptilien und Amphibien Europas*. Band 2/I. Echsen (Sauria) II. [Lacertidae II: Lacerta], pp. 82–99. Akademische Verlagsgesellschaft, Wiesbaden), and little information is available on their diet (Doronin 2016. *Current Stud. Herpetol.* 16:164–166). Here I present an instance of saurophagy by *L. strigata* on *Darevskia praticola*.

On 14 August 2021 I observed an adult male *L. strigata* in the process of eating a juvenile *D. praticola* along the banks of the Etoika River in the village of Nizhneetoksky, Stavropol Territory, Russia (43.9944°N, 43.36650°E; WGS 84; 430 m elev.). At the time of the observation, the juvenile lizard was dead and being swallowed headfirst, and one-third of the body was swallowed, but the *L. strigata* ran away and I did not see it complete ingestion. To my knowledge this is the first record of saurophagy in *L. strigata*. Most *Lacerta* prey on invertebrates (Darevskij 1984, *op. cit.*), but some species are known to prey on small vertebrates, including other lizards (Zhukov 1941. *Proc. Krasnodar State Pedagog. Instit. Komsomol* 8:326–335; Darevsky 1953. *Moscow State University, Moscow, Russia*. 222 pp.).

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**SCELOPORUS CLARKII (Clark's Spiny Lizard). PREDATION.** *Sceloporus clarkii* is found from the Mogollon Rim in Arizona and Mogollon Plateau of southwestern New Mexico, USA southward to northern Jalisco, Mexico (Jones and Lovich 2009. *Lizards of the American Southwest*. Rio Nuevo Publishers, Tucson, Arizona. 567 pp.). At least eight snakes, five colubrid and three



FIG. 1. A) Female *Glaucidium gnoma* from Arizona, USA, holding the recently delivered *Sceloporus clarkii*; B) *S. clarkii* head being swallowed by the owl.

rattlesnake species, have been reported to feed on *S. clarkii* (Holycross and Mitchell 2020. *Snakes of Arizona*. ECO Publishing, Rodeo, New Mexico. 860 pp.), and only one avian predator is known (Stensrude 1965. *Condor* 67:319–321). In the case of the latter predator, *Buteo plagiatus* (Gray Hawk), *S. clarkii* appears to be this raptor's favorite prey (Stensrude 1965, *op. cit.*). Here we report a second novel avian predator on *S. clarkii* from southeastern Arizona.

On 25 April 2022, we observed a male *Glaucidium gnoma* (Northern Pygmy-Owl) deliver an adult *S. clarkii* to a female, presumably its mate, at the Ramsey Canyon Preserve (31.4463°N, 110.3097°W; WGS 84; 1700 m elev.), in the Huachuca Mountains, Cochise County, Arizona, USA. The female *G. gnoma* was roosting on a branch 8 m up in a silverleaf oak (*Quercus hypoleucoides*) when the male brought her the *S. clarkii*. First, the female owl bit off the head and swallowed it, then she swallowed the remainder of the lizard whole, head-first (Fig. 1). It took ca. 90 s from when the female owl started consuming the lizard to swallowing it completely.

To our knowledge, this is the first report of predation of *S. clarkii* by *G. gnoma*. These small forest owls are known to