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Lacerta schreiberi using a *Lanius collurio* nest as a sleeping site

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The occupation of bird's nests by *Lacerta schreiberi* has not been cited in published reviews of this lacertid species (Salvador, 1984, 1985). In this note I present information regarding *L. schreiberi* using the nest of a red-backed shrike, *Lanius collurio*. I assumed it to be the same individual on each occasion, although this was not proven.

The observations took place in the Valdecurueño valley (latitude 42°44', longitude 5°30', altitude 915 m), Ruiforco de Torío, León province, NW Spain. The nest was situated in a valley bottom at the edge of a flooded pasture fed by nearby springs. The local vegetation consisted of shrubs (*Rosa*, *Crataegus*, *Rubus*, and *Prunus* spp.), and lowland slopes covered by Pyrenean oak (*Quercus pyrenaica*). The nest was constructed in a slightly dense wild rose (*Rosa* sp.) shrub; shrub height = 1.95 m; nest height = 0.93 m; exposure of the nest within the shrub = NE; distance from nest to shrub exterior = 0.55 m; shrub measurements (length × width) = 2.5 × 2.0 m. The exterior diameter of the nest = 12.0 × 11.0 cm; interior diameter = 7.5 × 7.0 cm; height = 7.5 cm; depth = 4.6 cm.

The nest was occupied by an incubating female *L. collurio* on 3 July 1988. The bird abandoned the nest, with two eggs, on 5 July; by 7 July the eggs had disappeared due to predation.

Subsequent observations of the nest took place as follows:

7 August: a large female lizard inside the nest at dusk.

10 August: the lizard again inside the nest at dusk.

11 and 12 August: the lizard rolled up in a spiral position in the nest at dusk.

13 August: the lizard was not in the nest at 1055 and 1830 h, but was there at 1914 h.

14 August: the lizard was in the nest at 1836 h.

15 August: the lizard was in the nest, with the head raised towards the outside, at 0705 h. It was not in the nest at 0930 h, but had returned at 1818 h.

16 August: the lizard was not in the nest at 1810 h, but had returned and was rolled up in a spiral position, with the head not visible, at 1910 h.

17 August: the lizard was in the nest at 1915 h.

The lizard was not again observed during subsequent visits to the nest.

These data appear to indicate that the *L. schreiberi* used the *L. collurio* nest as a sleeping site, as it entered it at dusk and abandoned it during the early morning hours. While monitoring 97 *L. collurio* nests during 1988–1990 in areas inhabited by *L. schreiberi*, this was the only case detected.

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