PHOTOS BY J. M. HARDING

FIG. 1. *Hemidactylus mabouia* (Tropical House Gecko) being preyed upon by *Campylorhamphus falcularius* (Black-billed Scythebill) in southeastern Brazil.

Here we document an unprecedented record of predation on *H. mabouia* by a typical forest bird, the Black-billed Scythebill (*Campylorhamphus falcularius*).

Our observation occurred in the municipality of Paty do Alferes, Rio de Janeiro State, Brazil, on a small farm (22.3989°S, 43.4296°W, WGS84; 615 m elev.) surrounded by sparse woodland patches. This site is ca. 12 km N of Reserva Biológica do Tinguá, a large (26,260 ha) protected area in the metropolitan region of the state. This reserve is included in the Serra do Mar Mountain range, one of the best preserved Atlantic forest remnants in the state of Rio de Janeiro. At 1552 h on 22 May 2014, one of us (JMH) noticed a *C. falcularius* foraging on an old and deeply creviced log suspended in the trees. The log was ca. 2 m aboveground, and supported. The bird was seen peering and probing into the crevices up to its forehead. The bird then extracted a gecko, holding it by the axillae in the tip of its bill. The gecko was first observed without the tail, probably autotomously shed at that moment. The bird flew to the trunk of a small tree about a meter away, where it beat the prey back and forth on the trunk with its beak. We identified the lizard as *H. mabouia* by the shape of its head and fingers and the ventral and dorsal color pattern (Fig. 1). The gecko's SVL was similar to the exposed culmen (dorsal ridge of the bill) of the *C. falcularius*, which measures ca. 60 mm (Sick 1997. Ornitologia Brasileira. Ed. Nova Fronteira, Rio de Janeiro. 912 pp.). The bird swallowed the gecko by tilting its head back and dropping it into its throat; however, it took a few attempts to get the right position, adjusting the prey between the middle and the tip of its long mandible. The entire predation event took <2 minutes.

On first analysis, interactions between *H. mabouia* and *C. falcularius* would be unlikely, as the bird is a diurnal species endemic to Atlantic forest dependent on evergreen forest, and highly sensitive to human disturbances (Parker et al. 1996. *In* Stotz et al. [eds.] Neotropical Birds: Ecology and Conservation, pp. 118–436. University of Chicago Press, Chicago, Illinois) and generally avoids small fragments (Willis 1979. Pap. Avul. Zool. 33:1–25). In Brazil, most reported native predators on *H. mabouia* have crepuscular or nocturnal activity and tolerate open and anthropogenic habitats, such as the snakes *Oxyrhopus guibei* (Brazilian False Coral Snake) (Andrade and Silvano 1996. Rev. Bras. Zool. 13:143–150) and *Thamnodynastes* spp. (Rocha and Vrcibradic 1998. Ciênc. Cult. 50:364– 368; Bernarde et al. 2000. Rev. Bras. Biol. 60:695–699). Among birds, there are records of predation by *Athene cunicularia* (Burrowing Owl) (Vrcibradic and Rocha 1998, *op. cit.*) and by *Pitangus sulphuratus* (Great Kiskadee), the latter surely in daylight (Argel-de-Oliveira et al. 1998. Rev. Bras. Zool. 15:1103–1109). Even usual predators may have difficulty locating individuals of *H. mabouia* while the gecko is immobile and camouflaged (Andrade and Silvano 1996, *op. cit.*),

Most woodcreepers (birds of the family Dendrocolaptidae) use their long and thin bills to probe for invertebrates on trunks and major tree branches. Sick (1997, *op. cit.*) reported that, in addition to arthropods picked from trunk gaps and epiphytic bromeliads, woodcreepers can prey upon small vertebrates such as treefrogs, tadpoles and lizards. On the day of our observation, at least two other species of woodcreepers were recorded at the site: *Lepidocolaptes squamatus* (Scaled Woodcreeper) and *Sittasomus griseicapillus* (Olivaceous Woodcreeper). In southern Brazil, Lima and Rodrigues (2008. Rev. Bras. Ornitol. 16:380–382) observed three foraging events (all successful) in which *C. falcularius* preyed on a treefrog, *Scinax rizibilis*. The frogs were picked off from leaves of bromeliads and swallowed, after the bird hit them against a hard surface; these authors suggest that this foraging tactic, similar to our observation, is common for *C. falcularius*.

We believe that the increasing spread of *H. mabouia* into natural areas of Atlantic Forest (e.g., Almeida-Gomes and Rocha 2014. J. Herpetol. 48:423–429) might increase the frequency of predation on *H. mabouia* by *C. falcularius* and other native woodcreepers, given that bromeliads and tree trunks are the main microhabitats used by this gecko in natural environments in Brazil (Rocha et al. 2011, *op. cit.*).

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***HOLBROOKIA MACULATA* (Lesser Earless Lizard). PREDATION.** *Holbrookia maculata* is a common lizard of prairies and desert grasslands found throughout the central and southwestern U.S. (Rosenblum et al. 2009. *In* Jones and Lovich [eds.], Lizards of the American Southwest, pp. 154–157. Rio Nuevo Publishers, Tucson, Arizona). Their primary documented predators are snakes (Ernst and Ernst 2003. Snakes of the United States and Canada. Smithsonian Institution Press, Washington, D.C. 668 pp.); however, they are probably preyed upon by a variety of avian and mammalian predators. On 01 November 2014, 11.5 km SE of Valentine, Jeff Davis Co., Texas, USA (30.52166°N, 104.40198°W; WGS 84), we discovered a larder of seven individual *H. maculata* impaled on barbed wire (Fig. 1) by *Lanius ludovicianus* (Loggerhead Shrike). We collected these lizards along a 1.6-km section of a paved farm road bordered on both sides by barbed wire fences. Some lizards appeared to have been cached for some time and appeared mummified; however, two representive specimens deposited in the James F. Scudday Vertebrate Collections at Sul Ross State University (SRSU 6656–6657) were

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FIG. 1. *Holbrookia maculata* impaled on barbed wire by *Lanius ludovicianus* in Jeff Davis Co., Texas, USA.

relatively fresh. The lizards were in various stages of dismemberment; several were simply heads attached to barbs, while the collected specimens were more intact. Our general impression is that the lizards are killed and fed upon frequently by shrikes in this area. To our knowledge this is the first record of *H. maculata* being preyed upon by *L. ludovicianus* (Clark 2011. Son. Herpetol. 24:20–22).

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LIOLAEMUS CHACOENSIS **(Chaco Sand Lizard). PREDATION.** *Liolaemus chacoensis* is a small lizard (up to 55 mm SVL)

FIG. 1. A pair of Spotted-winged Falconets (*Spiziapteryx circumcincta*), one with an adult *Liolaemus chacoensis* in its beak, from Valle Fertil, San Juan, Argentina.

occurring in the Chaco Ecoregion, which includes Argentina, Paraguay, and Bolivia (Cruz and Ramirez Pinilla 1996. Rev. Esp. Herpetol. 10:33–39). In San Juan, Argentina, it inhabits the Occidental Chaco Ecoregion located in the county of Valle Fértil (Ávila et al. 1998. Cuad. Herpetol. 12:11–29), where it lives in the dense vegetation of the Chaco forest (Cei 1986. Reptiles del Centro, Centro-oeste y Sur de la Argentina. Mon. IV. Mus. Reg. Sci. Nat., Torino. 527 pp.). Here we report the first observation of predation on *L. chacoensis* by the Spot-winged Falconet (*Spiziapteryx circumcincta*).

At 1755 h on 20 September 2014, during field work in La Majadita, Valle Fértil, San Juan Province, Argentina (30.71306°S, 67.49556°W, WGS84; 976 m elev.), we observed a Spot-winged Falconet perched on a *Prosopis chilensis* tree, apparently calling to its mate or parent for food. A few minutes later, another falcon arrived carrying an adult *L. chacoensis* by its neck (Fig. 1). Immediately after, the falcon consumed the lizard and flew away, and the other falconet followed. Although it is well known that *S. circumcincta* feeds on lizards (de la Peña 1992. Guía de Aves Argentinas, segunda edición. Incluye Nidos y Huevos. Tomo II. Falconiformes-Charadriiformes. LOLA, Buenos Aires. 180 pp.), our observation is the first record of predation on *L. chacoensis* by *S. circumcincta*.

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PHRYNOSOMA ASIO **(Giant Horned Lizard). NATURAL LONGEVITY (AGE).** Decade-long monitoring of natural populations of horned lizards is infrequent, but we have been studying various aspects of the natural history of *Phrynosoma asio* since 1996 (Sherbrooke and Beltrán-Sánchez 2005. Herpetol. Rev. 36:64–65; Barbosa Rodriguez 2010. Phrynosomatics 15:1,3; Granados-Calixto and González-Alvarado 2010. Phrynosomatics 15:6–8) at Cerro Tepetlayo, Zumpango de Neri, north of Chilpancingo, Municipio de Eduardo Neri, Guerrero, México.

In captivity some *Phrynosoma* species may be long lived, including *P. asio* (Baur 1986. Bull. Maryland Herpetol. Soc. 22:149–151: 10 years, 10 months, 19 days; Montanucci 1989. Bull. Chicago Herpetol. Soc. 24:229–238: 13 years, 8 months, 29 days) but survival longevity in nature is poorly known in the genus and unknown in this tropical latitude species. Here we report on three captures (15 May 1998, 8 June 1999, 26 June 2010) of a single female *P. asio* (sequential SVLs, 41, 92, 112 mm and mass, 44, 65, 76 g) that survived for over 12 years, 1 month, and 11 days. This female hatched in November 1997, probably seven months before first being encountered (hatching occurs in November at this location; first SVL is in the range of hatchling sizes; García Pareja 2012. Thesis, Universidad Autónoma de Guerrero, Chilpancingo, México). The longevity of this lizard (about 12 years, 8 months) in the wild allows comparisons with records of longevity for conspecific captives, and with other species of *Phrynosoma*, captive or wild, and confirms that *P. asio* are long-lived.

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