XVIII CONGRESO ESPAÑOL y III IBÉRICO de ORNITOLOGÍA

Centro de Congresos "Ciutat d'Elx"

(Elche, Alicante)
del 12 al 15
de octubre de 2006

Organizan:

SEO/BirdLife

SPEA
SOCIEDADE PORTUGUESA
PARA O ESTUDO DAS AVES

Ajuntament d'ELX
■ Regidoria de Medi Ambient

1

Nest site selection, successful nesting and nest predator selection of the red-legged partridge (*Alectoris rufa*) in olive groves

Jesús Duarte y J. Mario Vargas

Dpto. Biología Animal. Facultad de Ciencias. Universidad de Málaga. Campus de Teatinos
29071 Málaga
Email: jduarte@daidin.com

In 1996-1998 a total of 165 red-legged partridge's nests were monitored in olive groves located in Málaga. The aim was to set the habitat features determining the selection and success of these nests. For the comparision between selected nest sites and the available habitat a serie of random points into the olive grove was generated by computer, located by GPS and its habitat features measured. For the analisys of nest predated selection, predated and success nest habitat features were compared. A loggistic regression analisys and univariant tests were used to study the selection patterns.

The habitat features used were: herbaceous coverage and height under the olive tree, distance to ecotones (roads and tracks, boundaries, cultures, shrubland patches and other edges), presence and height of new branches, type of irrigation system, distance to a water available point, heterogeinity of the herbaceous coverage and of the soil area under olive tree canopy, canopy coverage and heterogeinity, presence of cut and dried branches close to the tree.

Partridges selected for nesting (classified correctly 79,5% of nests and 88,3% of controls) olive trees with high herbaceous coverage, low height of new branches, low distance between soil and tree canopy, heterogeneous canopies and with dropping irrigation system. Predated nests (classified correctly 66,7% of predated nests and 94,3% of controls) were next to an other type of culture, far away from a water available point and had cut dried branches under canopy. Nests robbed were next to roads and tracks (U-Mann test, $p<0,01$) and those gone wrong by agricultural machinery or works had small canopies (U-Mann test, $p<0,01$), were next to edges (U-Mann test, $p=0,01$), the soil under the canopy was irregular (U-Mann test, $p<0,05$). We also found a relation between the predation frequency and the fact that a nest was first damaged by agricultural labours (χ^2 test, $p<0,0001$).