

were 1 male and 2 female adult *C. munda*, about 1 m apart. As the ants moved their insect prey along the line a lizard would dash over and pluck it from an ant, move about 30 cm from the ant trail and consume the prey. Piracy of prey items from the ants by *C. munda* was observed on all four days I was at this site. On one occasion a fight developed between the two females when one animal attempted to swap positions. Piracy of prey from ants was observed at another field site on a single day (pers. obs.) and at other sites (M. Guinea, pers. comm.). Tail waving was observed on many occasions and did not appear related to prey piracy.

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CNEMIDOPHORUS GULARIS GULARIS (Texas Spotted Whiptail). **MAXIMUM SIZE.** The maximum size for *Cnemidophorus g. gularis* given by Conant and Collins (1991. A Field Guide to the Reptiles and Amphibians of Eastern and Central North America, 3rd ed. Houghton Mifflin Co., Boston, Massachusetts, xviii + 450 pp.) is SVL 3 1/2 in. (90 mm) and TL 11 in. (279 mm). The Tulane University Museum of Natural History contains a male specimen TU 22914 from 3.5 mi (5.6 km) north of Shamrock, Wheeler County, Texas collected by Robert R. Hollander on 14 May 1987 which measures 105 mm (3 7/8 in.) SVL and 296 mm (1 13/16 in.) TL. The postantibrachial scales of the specimen appear somewhat larger than the usual postantibrachials of the race and a count of 97 granular scales near mid body where the ventral scute rows are widest is somewhat higher than the 93 previously reported by Conant and Collins (*op. cit.*). Somewhat farther forward the granular scute count is at least 112.

John W. Wright kindly verified the identity of the specimen.

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GAMBELIA SILA (Blunt-nosed Leopard Lizard). **PREDATION.** Territoriality exhibited by male *Gambelia sila* (Montanucci 1965. *Herpetologica* 21:270-283; Tollestrup 1983. *Z. Tierphyscol.* 62:307-320) may expose these lizards to higher rates of predation than if they were secretive. Territoriality may also expose adult *G. sila* to some avian predators that might not be able to catch these lizards if they were hidden in vegetation. On the Elkhorn Plain in San Luis Obispo County, California, adult *G. sila* are conspicuous because they often bask on sparsely vegetated mounds of giant kangaroo rats (*Dipodomys ingens*; Germano and Williams, unpubl. data). Predators known to take *G. sila* include the San Joaquin coachwhip (*Masticophis flagellum ruddocki*), gopher snake (*Pituophis melanoleucus*), loggerhead shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus*), American kestrel (*Falco sparverius*), burrowing owl (*Athene cunicularia*), and roadrunner (*Geococcyx californianus*), and other snakes, birds, and mammals are suspected of being predators (Montanucci 1965. *Herpetologica* 21:270-283; Tollestrup 1979. Unpubl. Ph.D. diss., Univ. California, Berkeley). Here we report the observation of predation of *G. sila* by a bird previously not known to eat these lizards.

On 17 June 1994, we observed an act of predation on a *Gambelia sila* while we were censusing the perimeter of one of our plots on the Elkhorn Plain, California (Germano and Williams 1994. *Northwestern Nat.* 75:11-19). As we walked the perimeter to find marked lizards, we spotted a medium-sized male *G. sila* (estimated 100 mm SVL) on a kangaroo rat mound at about 1130 h

(PDT). We approached the male with our pole and noose and were about 4 m from the lizard when we saw from the corner of our eyes movement and a large shadow coming from behind us. An instant later, we saw a prairie falcon (*Falco mexicanus*) catch the lizard in its talons, bank quickly to our right, and fly back by us. The falcon flew about 2 m off the ground for approximately 10 m until it was able to gain altitude. It continued flying with the lizard in its talons to the southwest towards the nearby Panorama Hills. This is the first recorded observation of predation of *G. sila* by a prairie falcon.

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VARANUS GRISEUS (Desert Monitor Lizard). **REPRODUCTION.** Data on clutch size for monitor lizards from Middle Asia in general, and Kazakhstan in particular, have rarely been reported. On 21 June 1989 a road-killed female *Varanus griseus*, TL = 105 cm (47 cm SVL + 58 cm tail) was found near Sjutkent settlement, South Kazakhstan Region, Republic of Kazakhstan (67°40'E, 41°50'N). Dissection revealed 24 soft-shelled eggs (13 in the left oviduct, 11 in the right), eight of which were damaged. The eggs had an average size of 48.0 x 26.9 mm (46.0-52.0 mm x 26.0-28.0 mm, N = 16) and a mean mass of 20.4 g (N = 16).

The largest clutch size previously known for Middle Asian desert monitors (23 eggs) was recorded in a female of 99 cm TL (44 cm SVL + 55 cm tail) from the Surchan-Darja Region of Uzbekistan on 8 June 1949 (Bogdanov 1960. *The Fauna of Uzbekistan*, vol. 1 [in Russian]. Academy of Sciences of Uzbekistan, Tashkent. 115 pp.).

Boris Gubin (Institute of Zoology of the National Academy of Sciences, Kazakhstan) helped to measure the lizard.

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SERPENTES

CORONELLA GIRONDICA (Southern Smooth Snake). **PREY SIZE.** *Coronella girondica* is a small colubrid with a total length usually < 70 cm. It is nocturnal and secretive, which probably accounts for it being one of the least known snakes in France (Saint Girons 1989. In J. Castanet and R. Guyétant (eds.), *Atlas de Repartition des Amphibiens et Reptiles de France*. Soc. Herp. Fr. p. 153). The snake's diet consists primarily of small lizards and occasionally small mammals. The following reptiles have been documented in the diet of *C. girondica*: *Hemidactylus turcicus*, *Tarentola mauritanica*, *Anguis fragilis*, *Chalcides bedriagai*, *C. chalcides*, *Acanthodactylus erythrurus*, *Psammotromus algerus*, *P. hispanicus*, *Podarcis bocagei*, *P. hispanica*, *P. muralis*, and *P. sicula* (Vericard and Escarre 1976. *Mediterranea*, Alicante 1:5-32).

On 5 August 1994, in the "Causse du Larzac," Millau, Aveyron Prov. France, we found a male *Coronella girondica* (SVL = 465 mm, mass = 40 g) feeding on an adult *Lacerta viridis*. The snake had already swallowed the head and body of the prey up to the point of the cloaca. Thus, the maximum circumference of the prey had passed the articulation of the snake's quadrates with the mandibles. When captured, the snake immediately regurgitated the prey. The lizard was still alive and regained full consciousness after 5 minutes. The total length of the *L. viridis* was 312 mm