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Abstracts

SHORT COMMUNICATIONS

SEARCHING FOR CONSPICUOUS VERSUS CRYPTIC PREY: SEARCH RATES OF FLUSH-PURSUING VERSUS SUBSTRATE-GLEANING BIRDS PIOTR G. JABŁOŃSKI¹

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Abstract. Models predict that predators of cryptic prey should have a moderate or low search rate because at high search rates only a small proportion of cryptic prey is detected. Predators of conspicuous prey should have fast search rates because their prey are easily detectable. For a large difference in conspicuousness, this prediction is not affected by differences in prey characteristics. Substrate-gleaning birds rely upon searching for cryptic and largely immobile prey. Painted Redstarts (*Myioborus pictus*) use flashy pivoting body movements of a spread tail and wings to flush prey into the air, making the prey highly conspicuous. The birds then chase the prey in aerial pursuits (flush-pursue foraging). Using field observations of birds in the Chiricahua Mountains, Arizona, and using literature I show that differences in search rates between flush-pursue foragers and insectivorous substrate-gleaning foragers are consistent with the theoretical predictions.

Key words: crypticity, conspicuousness, *Myioborus pictus*, *Painted Redstart*, predator-prey, search rate.