

Nest-Site Selection of Crested Lark (*Galerida cristata*) in Yazd Province, Iran

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Abstract : Nest site selection of Crested Lark was investigated in Boroyeh wildlife sanctuary of Harat during spring 2014. Habitat variables such as number of plant species, soil texture, distance to the nearest water resources, farms and roads were compared in the species presence plots with absence ones. Our analysis showed that the average number of *Zygophyllum atriplicoides* and *Artemisia sieberi* were higher while fine-textured soil percent cover (with very little and gravel) was lower in species presence plots than control plots. We resulted that the most affecting factor in the species nest site selection is the number of *Z. atriplicoides* and soil texture. *Z. atriplicoides* and *A. sieberi* can provide cover for nests and chickens against predators and environmental harsh events such as sunshine and wind. The stability of built nest forces the birds to select sites with not fine-textured soil. Some of the nests were detected in Alfalfa farms that can be related to its cover producing capability.

Keywords : habitat selection, Yazd Province, presence and absence plots, habitat variables

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