Does nest-site cover reduce nest predation for rhinocryptids?

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Cover at nesting sites selected by breeding birds can reduce the risk of nest predation. Using artificial nests, we tested whether dense cover reduces nest predation upon understory birds (rhinocryptids) in temperate forest of Chile. We compared nest predation for artificial nests placed under a dense thicket, nests placed with no cover, and nests located randomly regarding available cover. Contrary to predictions, we found no differences in nest predation probabilities for the three covered nest-site treatments. Cover at nesting sites is not an effective anti-predator mechanism as the main predators, generalist small mammals, also prefer the same sites.