

# Patterns of predation risk and survival of bird nests in a Chilean agricultural landscape

Willson, Mary F.

Morrison, Joan L.

Sieving, Kathryn E.

De Santo, Toni L.

Santisteban, Leonard

Díaz, Iván

We used experimental nests baited with California Quail (*Callipepla californica*) eggs or clay eggs to examine relative risks of nest predation in an agricultural landscape and in two large forest preserves in a south-temperate rainforest in Chile. The most common predators, as identified by marks on clay eggs, were a caracara (*Milvago chimango*), a blackbird (*Curaeus curaeus*), and rodents. Nest losses from predation were similar in large and small forest patches and lower in patches than in extensive forest. In general, predation risk was higher (and nest survival therefore lower) on forest edges than in forest interior, in short-grass pasture than in tall-grass pasture, in narrow corridors than in wide corridors, and on visible nests than on concealed nests. High predation risks in pasture habitat tended to increase the risk of nest predation in adjacent forest edges. For open-cup nesters, the risk of nest predation was relatively high in the present agricultural landscape, indicating