

it succeed in doing so). These observations were made virtually daily throughout June. I

Dr J. T. R. Sharrock

Fountains, Park Lane, Blunham, Bedford MK44 3NJ

presume (though I cannot be certain) that just one individual Wood Pigeon was involved.

Berthelot's Pipit feeding on lizard

Beneharo Rodríguez



183. Berthelot's Pipit *Anthus berthelotii* taking a lizard *Gallotia atlantica*, La Santa, Lanzarote, Canary Islands, August 2006.

On 29th August 2006, we observed several Berthelot's Pipits *Anthus berthelotii* feeding along the rocky coast of La Santa, Lanzarote, Canary Islands. One bird captured a small endemic lizard *Gallotia atlantica* (plate 183), which it pecked for around five minutes and then swallowed head first. Although the predation of amphibians, fish and reptiles has been recorded in various motacillids (e.g. del Hoyo *et al.* 2004), we can find no published record of Berthelot's Pipit eating a lizard or any other vertebrate.

Reference
del Hoyo, J., Elliott, A., & Christie, D. (eds.). 2004. *Handbook of the Birds of the World. Vol 9. Cotingas to Pipits and Wagtails*. Lynx Edicions, Barcelona.

Airam Rodríguez, Beneharo Rodríguez and Tinguaro Montelongo

Island Ecology and Evolution Research Group (IPNA-CSIC), Avda. Astrofísico Francisco, Sánchez 3, 38206, La Laguna, S/C de Tenerife, Spain;

e-mail airamrquez@ipna.csic.es

Some observations on Wallcreeper nest material

On 28th May 1989, together with J. Levene and P. Kitchener, I was watching a female Wallcreeper *Tichodroma muraria* just north of Hecho, Aragon, Spain, at a site known as the Boca del Infierno ('Hell's Mouth'). After some time, it became clear that the bird was collecting nest material and taking it to a location some 2–3 m below the road, in the bare limestone rock face.

The bird began by searching the base of the rock wall beside the road, where we were able to approach to within 20 m. It soon became apparent that she was collecting goat hairs from the edge of the road and especially from the lower part of the rock wall, where the hairs must have rubbed off on the wall as goat herds were shepherded along the road. These hairs

were picked individually, each hair arranged crosswise in the bill, until a small bundle had been gathered; she then flew to the nest-site, where presumably the hairs formed part of a soft nest lining. As we watched, the Wallcreeper then selected a discarded cigarette filter (any number of which were lying along the edge of the road!). Holding the filter down with one foot, she proceeded to tear at the paper wrapping to expose the soft fibres inside. These fibres were torn out and, as with the goat hairs, were gathered cross-ways in the bill until a reasonable bundle was collected and taken to the nest-site.

The apparent ease with which the Wallcreeper dealt with the filters and the frequency with which she selected them from the roadside