

Loggerhead Shrike predation on the Southern Alligator Lizard, Common Side-blotched Lizard, and Western Fence Lizard

Howard O. Clark, Jr., Wildlife Division, H. T. Harvey & Associates, Fresno, CA 93711, USA; hclark@harveyecology.com

Robert A. Shields, Wildlife Division, H. T. Harvey & Associates, Los Gatos, CA 95032, USA; rshields@harveyecology.com

The Loggerhead Shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus*) is best known for its predatory behavior on a variety of vertebrate and invertebrate species, including amphibians and reptiles. It typically impales its prey on sharp objects, such as barbed wire, thorns, and branches (see Clark 2011a, b). Herein we report Loggerhead Shrike predatory behavior on the Southern Alligator Lizard (*Elgaria multicarinata*), Common Side-blotched Lizard (*Uta stansburiana*), and Western Fence Lizard (*Sceloporus occidentalis*).

In a previous review (Clark 2011a), the Common Side-blotched Lizard was reported as Loggerhead Shrike prey (Reid and Fulbright 1981, Wilson 1991), but here we provide additional photographic documentation. Figure 1 shows a side-blotched lizard impaled on a black mustard (*Brassica nigra*) plant, photographed on 8 November 2012, in San Luis Obispo County, CA. In Figure 2, a trail camera captured a Loggerhead Shrike in action—a Common Side-blotched Lizard is secured in the shrike's beak—on its way to becoming a meal.

To our knowledge, the Southern Alligator Lizard and the Western Fence Lizard have not been reported as Loggerhead Shrike prey, although likely to be a common occurrence (if the readership knows of a record, we would like to know the details). Here, we provide photographs of impaled specimens: Figures 3-5, Southern Alligator Lizard, Montezuma Hills, Solano County, CA; and Figure 6, Western Fence Lizard, Montezuma Hills, Solano County, CA.



Figure 1. Common Side-blotched Lizard (*Uta stansburiana*) impaled by a Loggerhead Shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus*) on black mustard, 8 November 2012, Carrizo Plain, San Luis Obispo County, CA. Photo by Howard Clark.

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Figure 2. Loggerhead Shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus*) with Common Side-blotched Lizard (*Uta stansburiana*), photographed by Robert Shields using a Wildgame trail camera, 10 November 2011, Carrizo Plain, San Luis Obispo County, CA.



Figures 3-5. Southern Alligator Lizards (*Elgaria multicarinata*) impaled by the Loggerhead Shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus*). All photos from Montezuma Hills, Solano County, CA. Photo dates: Figure 3, 17 May 2012; Figure 4, 21 May 2012; Figure 4, 16 May 2012.

Figure 6. Western Fence Lizard (*Sceloporus occidentalis*) impaled by the Loggerhead Shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus*). Photo date 30 May 2012; Montezuma Hills, Solano County, CA. All photos by Robert Shields.

Literature Cited

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