



Insects found in birds' nests from Argentina: *Tachycineta leucorrhoa leucorrhoa* (Vieillot, 1817) [Aves: Hirundinidae], a new host for *Acanthocrios furnarii* (Cordero & Vogelsang, 1928) [Hemiptera: Cimicidae]

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Abstract

Nest-boxes used by the White-rumped Swallows, *Tachycineta leucorrhoa leucorrhoa* (Vieillot, 1817) [Aves: Hirundinidae] were sampled during two consecutive breeding seasons in the province of Buenos Aires, Argentina. A total of 11 taxa of insects were found in the nests of this species: 10 in the order Coleoptera: Coccinellidae [*Cycloneda ancoralis*; *Scymnus* sp.]; Cavognathidae [*Cavognatha* sp.]; Aphodiidae [*Aphodius* sp.]; Dermestidae [*Trogoderma* sp.; *Dermestes maculatus*]; Histeridae [*Saprinus* sp.]; Carabidae [*Notaphus fisheri*; *Bradycellus* sp.]; Elateridae [undetermined sp.]; Undetermined family (larvae), and one in the order Hemiptera: Cimicidae [*Acanthocrios furnarii*]. These insects were differentiated from prey remains, sometimes entire specimens. The species of Cimicidae appeared in two different nests built in the same box by the same female. The composition of the insect fauna found in swallows' nests is similar to those in natural birds' nests from the same province, but the diversity, abundance and richness in swallows' nests inside boxes were lower.

Key words: *Tachycineta leucorrhoa leucorrhoa*, nests, insects, prey, Cimicidae, Argentina

Introduction

Swallows (Aves: Hirundinidae) are represented in Argentina by 15 species and/or subspecies (Pereyra 1969; Olrog 1979). Some breed in North America being spring-summer visitors in Argentina or migrate from Argentina to northern South America during late summer or in autumn (Pereyra 1969; Olrog 1979). Nevertheless, some nearctic species are beginning to breed in Argentina during southern spring and summer (Martínez 1983; Petracci & Delhey 2004; Carpintero & Aramburú 2007). Natural swallows' nests in Argentina were described by Petracci & Delhey (2004) and De la Peña (2005), and nests inside nestboxes by Bulit & Massoni (2004). Swallows nesting in nests of other birds were summarized by Turienzo & Di Iorio (2007).

Insects in swallows' nests

Hicks (1959) summarized worldwide the insects found in swallows' nests. Hicks' catalogue is organized by insect and bird species (countries and localities were not given) but many times insects were not distinguished between prey and those related to the birds (parasites) and their nests (comensals, saprofares, hibernants). Insects found in swallows' nests from Argentina were not mentioned until 2006–2007 when a cimicid bug was found in nests of *Hirundo rustica* [*erythrogaster* Boddaert, 1783], *Progne chalybea* [*domestica* (Vieillot, 1817)] (Aramburú & Carpintero 2006) and also *Progne* [*modesta*] *elegans* Baird, 1865 [Aves: Hirun-