

Announcement to IBG 2024

Capercaillie and effects of predation on reproduction: an experimental test.



Capercaillie (*Tetrao urogallus*), a lek breeding species, is also considered to be an umbrella species. It has been declining over much of its range, where fragmentation and/or nest predation seems to be the main causes of this decline.

The aim of this project is to investigate potential predators, both mammals and birds' effects on nests of the Capercaillie. We will use an experimental approach and put out chicken eggs filled with plaster and painted with small dots to mimic the natural eggs of Capercaillie. We will put out the eggs in the field where we know there are Capercaillie leks. We will then go back to the experimental nests to observe if there have been any predation events on the eggs. If it is a mammal, we can observe tooth marks on the eggs which species that has been the predator (see photo below from an event from an earlier study).



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