



## **Nest Site Selection by Pleskes Ground Jay**

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For many species of birds, habitat selection is of particular importance. However, as of yet no study has been made of the nestling habitats of Pleskes Ground Jay. Apart from the observations made by Zarundy (1911), Farnsworth (1992) and Hamedanian (1991), little is known of this bird's habitat. The aim of this study is to identify such parameters as proportion of floral cover, density, frequency, bare ground, normal gravel, fine gravel and topographical features of the plots surrounding the active and inactive old nests and their comparison with random sites not selected for nests. Ghareh Tappeh, a protected site with an area of 50,000 hectares south of Yazd Province in the central Iranian plateau was explored in 2005 and 2006 following the Bird Protocol (Martin, T.E. and G.R. Geupel, 1993). Some 30 active nests (14 active nests in 2005, 16 active nests in 2006), 202 inactive nests (30 nests in 2005, 173 nests in 2006) were found and the above parameters were measured for a total 232 nests at random habitat spots. Floral cover, density, frequency, proportion of bare ground and the topographical features were measured at both nest sites and random non-nest sites, for both active and inactive nests during the interval of the first and second year by placing plots and then were compared using a t-test, whereupon no statistically significant difference was observed ( $p \leq 0.05$ ).

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