**Table S1.** Values of juvenile ventral and tail/wing whiteness, mean clutch size, type of nest (open vs. cavity/domed), (log10) female mass (g) and number of broods raised per year (1 = one vs. 2 = more than one) are shown for all the species included in the analyses (n = 210). Data were obtained from *The Complete Birds of the Western Palearctic* *on CD-ROM version 1.0* (BWP, Cramp and Perrins 1998, Oxford University Press, Oxford, UK), except when marked with a superscript letter. Predation rate (percentage of nests lost due to predation) was available for a reduced set of species (n = 79). If not specified with superscript letters, predation rate was obtained from BWP. When various sources were available, values of different sources were averaged (see the complete list of references below the table).

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Species | Female  mass | Nest  type | Mean CS | Juv. ventral whiteness | Juv. tail/wing  whiteness | No. broods | Predation rate |
| *Tchagra senegalus* | 1.74 | open | 2.3 | 159.01 | 1 | 1 |  |
| *Oriolus oriolus* | 1.84 | open | 3.5 | 169.43 | 0 | 1 | 7.2 |
| *Lanius excubitor* | 1.83 | open | 5.5 | 184.22 | 2 | 2 |  |
| *Lanius nubicus* | 1.38 | open | 5.5 | 190.39 | 2 | 2 | 76.9 |
| *Lanius schach* | 1.52 | open | 5 a | 163.02 | 1 | 2 a |  |
| *Lanius collurio* | 1.51 | open | 5 | 145.09 | 1 | 1 | 19.4 |
| *Lanius senator* | 1.57 | open | 5.5 | 181.1 | 1 | 2 |  |
| *Lanius minor* | 1.67 | open | 5.5 | 194.45 | 2 | 1 | 14.5 |
| *Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax* | 2.48 | cavity | 4 | 34.84 | 0 | 1 |  |
| *Pyrrhocorax graculus* | 2.32 | cavity | 4 | 42.85 | 0 | 1 |  |
| *Perisoreus infaustus* | 1.91 | open | 3.5 | 113.38 | 0 |  | 40.9 |
| *Garrulus glandarius* | 2.21 | open | 6.5 | 134.06 | 1 | 1 | 31.9 |
| *Pica pica* | 2.3 | cavity | 6 | 206.8 | 1 | 1 | 40.5 b |
| *Nucifraga caryocatactes* | 2.27 | open | 3.5 | 138.02 | 2 | 1 |  |
| *Corvus rhipidurus* | 2.75 | cavity | 3.5 | 62.07 | 0 | 1 |  |
| *Corvus monedula* | 2.36 | cavity | 5 | 56 | 0 | 1 | 32.6 j |
| *Corvus corone* | 2.71 | open | 4.5 | 27.26 | 0 | 1 |  |
| *Corvus ruficollis* | 2.75 | open | 3.5 | 53.31 | 0 | 1 |  |
| *Corvus frugilegus* | 2.62 | open | 4 | 42.55 | 0 | 1 |  |
| *Corvus corax* | 3.06 | open | 5 | 36.46 | 0 | 1 |  |
| *Remiz pendulinus* | 0.95 | open | 7 | 203.42 | 2 | 2 | 4.0 |
| *Parus cyanus* | 1.08 | cavity | 10 | 172.85 | 2 | 1 |  |
| *Parus caeruleus* | 1.04 | cavity | 11 | 175.64 | 2 | 1 | 25.6 b |
| *Parus palustris* | 1.08 | cavity | 8 | 196.68 | 0 | 1 | 47.9 c |
| *Parus major* | 1.26 | cavity | 8.5 | 174.27 | 1 | 1 | 25.5 b |
| *Parus cristatus* | 1.08 | cavity | 6 | 187.97 | 0 | 2 | 47.7 b |
| *Parus ater* | 0.95 | cavity | 8.5 | 167.44 | 1 | 2 |  |
| *Parus lugubris* | 1.2 | cavity | 8.5 | 167.31 | 0 | 2 |  |
| *Parus montanus* | 1.04 | cavity | 7.5 | 189.92 | 0 | 1 | 46.3 b |
| *Parus cinctus* | 1.04 | cavity | 8 | 159.12 | 0 | 1 |  |
| *Panurus biarmicus* | 1.15 | open | 6 | 166.34 | 2 | 2 |  |
| *Alaemon alaudipes* | 1.67 | open | 3.5 | 227.26 | 2 | 1 |  |
| *Rhamphocoris clotbey* | 1.65 | open | 4 | 211.35 | 1 |  |  |
| *Ammomanes deserti* | 1.4 | open | 3 | 226.89 | 0 | 2 | 85.0 h |
| *Eremopterix nigriceps* | 1.08 | open | 2.5 | 228.24 | 1 | 1 |  |
| *Ammomanes cinctura* | 1.26 | open | 3 | 227.72 | 0 | 2 a |  |
| *Eremophila bilopha* | 1.58 | open | 3 | 215.57 | 1 | 1 a |  |
| *Eremophila alpestris* | 1.57 | open | 3 | 216.75 | 1 | 2 | 25.5 l |
| *Calandrella brachydactyla* | 1.34 | cavity | 4 | 219.94 | 2 | 2 | 50.0 |
| *Calandrella rufescens* | 1.3 | open | 4 | 217.97 | 2 | 2 |  |
| *Melanocorypha leucoptera* | 1.65 | open | 5.5 | 214.17 | 2 | 2 |  |
| *Melanocorypha bimaculata* | 1.73 | open | 4 | 202.9 | 2 | 2 |  |
| *Melanocorypha calandra* | 1.76 | open | 4.5 | 198.6 | 2 | 2 |  |
| *Melanocorypha yeltoniensis* | 1.74 | open | 5.5 | 216.09 | 2 | 2 a |  |
| *Lullula arborea* | 1.51 | open | 4 | 222.26 | 2 | 2 | 25.0 g |
| *Alauda arvensis* | 1.53 | open | 4 | 217.05 | 2 | 2 | 60.5 e,f,g |
| *Galerida cristata* | 1.64 | open | 4 | 224.2 | 1 | 2 | 42.9 h |
| *Galerida theklae* | 1.57 | open | 3.5 | 214.73 | 1 | 2 |  |
| *Hirundo rupestris* | 1.3 | cavity | 4 | 141.04 | 1 | 2 |  |
| *Riparia riparia* | 1.15 | cavity | 5 | 192.48 | 0 | 2 | 41.2 |
| *Riparia paludicola* | 1.08 | cavity | 3.5 | 191.48 | 0 |  |  |
| *Aegithalos caudatus* | 0.9 | cavity | 10 | 197.65 | 2 | 1 | 31.5 d |
| *Cettia cetti* | 1.08 | open | 4.5 | 132.82 | 0 | 2 |  |
| *Phylloscopus trochilus* | 0.9 | cavity | 6 | 208.18 | 0 | 2 | 43.4 b |
| *Phylloscopus collybita* | 0.9 | cavity | 5.5 | 210.58 | 0 | 2 | 28.7 b,c |
| *Pycnonotus xanthopygos* | 1.64 | open | 3 | 164.75 | 0 | 2 |  |
| *Prinia gracilis* | 0.85 | open | 4.5 | 204.96 | 0 | 2 |  |
| *Cisticola juncidis* | 1.04 | cavity | 5 | 171.96 | 0 | 2 | 21.5 i |
| *Scotocerca inquieta* | 0.9 | open | 3.5 | 213.05 | 0 | 2 | 28.0 |
| *Locustella naevia* | 1.15 | open | 5.5 | 158.54 | 0 | 2 |  |
| *Locustella luscinioides* | 1.2 | open | 4.5 | 152.71 | 0 | 2 |  |
| *Locustella fluviatilis* | 1.18 | open | 5.5 | 171.1 | 0 | 1 |  |
| *Hippolais polyglotta* | 1.11 | open | 4.5 | 165.76 | 0 | 2 |  |
| *Hippolais icterina* | 1.11 | open | 4.5 | 223.78 | 0 | 1 |  |
| *Acrocephalus melanopogon* | 1.08 | open | 4 | 145.1 | 0 | 1 |  |
| *Acrocephalus paludicola* | 1.04 | open | 5 | 184.49 | 0 | 2 |  |
| *Acrocephalus brevipennis* | 1.18 | open | 2.5 | 173.1 | 0 | 2 |  |
| *Acrocephalus arundinaceus* | 1.45 | open | 4.5 | 160.6 | 0 | 2 | 31.6 |
| *Turdoides fulva* | 1.79 | open | 4.5 | 168.22 | 0 | 2 |  |
| *Turdoides altirostris* | 1.52 | open | 3.6 | 204.16 | 0 | 2 |  |
| *Sylvia borin* | 1.28 | open | 4.5 | 163.36 | 1 | 1 | 17.9 b |
| *Sylvia atricapilla* | 1.28 | open | 5 | 143.5 | 0 | 2 | 16.3 b |
| *Sylvia nisoria* | 1.41 | open | 4.5 | 162.48 | 1 | 2 |  |
| *Sylvia curruca* | 1.08 | open | 5 | 148.89 | 1 | 1 | 25.9 b |
| *Sylvia leucomelaena* | 1.18 | open | 2.5 | 158.45 | 0 | 2 |  |
| *Sylvia hortensis* | 1.34 | open | 4 | 142.1 | 1 | 1 |  |
| *Sylvia nana* | 0.9 | open | 4.5 | 149.13 | 0 | 2 |  |
| *Sylvia melanothorax* | 1.04 | open | 4.5 | 148.69 | 1 | 1 |  |
| *Sylvia rueppelli* | 1.11 | open | 4.5 | 158.64 | 1 | 1 a |  |
| *Sylvia cantillans* | 0.95 | open | 3.5 | 136.19 | 0 | 2 |  |
| *Sylvia mystacea* | 1 | open | 4.5 | 135.37 | 0 | 1 |  |
| *Sylvia melanocephala* | 1.08 | open | 4 | 144.77 | 1 | 2 |  |
| *Sylvia communis* | 1.15 | open | 4.5 | 140.2 | 1 | 2 | 21.3 b |
| *Sylvia conspicillata* | 1 | open | 4 | 178.92 | 1 | 2 | 20.0 |
| *Sylvia sarda* | 1 | open | 3.5 | 129.71 | 1 | 2 |  |
| *Sylvia undata* | 1 | open | 4 | 117.62 | 0 | 2 | 20.8 b |
| *Sylvia deserticola* | 0.9 | open | 4 | 169.95 | 0 |  |  |
| *Regulus regulus* | 0.78 | cavity | 10 | 189.4 | 1 | 2 |  |
| *Regulus ignicapilla* | 0.7 | cavity | 9.5 | 189.69 | 0 | 2 | 42.9 |
| *Troglodytes troglodytes* | 0.9 | cavity | 6.5 | 105.78 | 1 | 2 | 91.0 c |
| *Tichodroma muraria* | 1.26 | cavity | 4.5 | 138.58 | 2 | 1 |  |
| *Certhia familiaris* | 0.95 | cavity | 5.5 | 216.34 | 1 | 2 | 7.1 |
| *Certhia brachydactyla* | 0.95 | open | 6.5 | 209.94 | 0 | 2 | 9.0 |
| *Sitta tephronota* | 1.63 | cavity | 6.5 | 179.33 | 0 | 2 |  |
| *Sitta neumayer* | 1.48 | open | 9 | 194.43 | 0 | 2 |  |
| *Sitta europaea* | 1.36 | cavity | 8.5 | 156.44 | 2 | 1 | 29.3 b |
| *Sitta krueperi* | 1.08 | cavity | 5.5 | 116.78 | 1 | 1 |  |
| *Sitta whiteheadi* | 1.08 | cavity | 6 | 156 | 1 | 2 |  |
| *Onychognathus tristramii* | 2.08 | cavity | 3 | 49.14 | 0 | 2 |  |
| *Sturnus unicolor* | 1.95 | cavity | 4.5 | 80.4 | 0 | 2 |  |
| *Sturnus vulgaris* | 1.89 | cavity | 5 | 105.6 | 0 | 2 | 24.7 b |
| *Sturnus roseus* | 1.83 | cavity | 4.5 | 188.91 | 1 | 1 |  |
| *Acridotheres tristis* | 2.08 | cavity | 4.5 | 109.25 | 2 | 2 |  |
| *Sturnus sturninus* | 1.69 | open | 5.5 a | 199.44 | 1 |  |  |
| *Cinclus cinclus* | 1.83 | cavity | 4.5 | 120.16 | 1 | 2 | 13.9 b |
| *Zoothera dauma* | 2.19 | open | 4.5 | 158.42 | 1 | 1 |  |
| *Turdus viscivorus* | 2.09 | open | 4 | 162.52 | 0 | 2 |  |
| *Turdus philomelos* | 1.89 | open | 4 | 129.08 | 0 | 2 | 87.0 c |
| *Turdus merula* | 2 | open | 4 | 96.36 | 0 | 2 | 65.4 b,c |
| *Turdus iliacus* | 1.79 | open | 5 | 150.5 | 1 | 2 | 43.5 b,o |
| *Turdus pilaris* | 2.01 | open | 5.5 | 161.45 | 1 | 2 | 17.0 o |
| *Turdus ruficollis* | 1.94 | open | 5.5 | 166.26 | 1 | 1 |  |
| *Turdus torquatus* | 2.03 | open | 4 | 68.18 | 1 | 2 | 13.0 |
| *Tarsiger cyanurus* | 1.18 | cavity | 6 | 170.79 | 0 | 2 |  |
| *Erythropygia galactotes* | 1.36 | open | 4.5 | 206.43 | 1 | 2 | 27.8 |
| *Erithacus rubecula* | 1.2 | cavity | 5 | 126.97 | 0 | 2 | 22.0 b |
| *Irania gutturalis* | 1.3 | cavity | 4.5 | 198.03 | 0 | 1 a | 30.2 |
| *Luscinia svecica* | 1.26 | open | 5.5 | 175 | 0 | 2 |  |
| *Luscinia megarhynchos* | 1.28 | open | 4.5 | 200.83 | 0 | 2 | 7.5 b |
| *Luscinia luscinia* | 1.4 | open | 4.5 | 190.68 | 0 | 1 |  |
| *Ficedula hypoleuca* | 1.08 | cavity | 6.5 | 155.02 | 1 | 2 | 64.7 b,c |
| *Ficedula parva* | 1.08 | cavity | 5.5 | 140.02 | 1 | 1 |  |
| *Luscinia calliope* | 1.34 | open | 5 | 168.35 | 0 | 1 |  |
| *Phoenicurus ochruros* | 1.18 | cavity | 5 | 85.97 | 0 | 2 |  |
| *Phoenicurus erythrogastrus* | 1.4 | cavity | 4 | 155 | 0 |  |  |
| *Phoenicurus moussieri* | 1.18 | cavity | 4.5 | 148.4 | 1 | 1 |  |
| *Phoenicurus phoenicurus* | 1.18 | cavity | 6 | 140.65 | 0 | 2 |  |
| *Monticola saxatilis* | 1.71 | cavity | 4.5 | 132.67 | 0 | 2 |  |
| *Monticola solitarius* | 1.76 | cavity | 4.5 | 98.13 | 0 | 2 |  |
| *Saxicola torquatus* | 1.18 | open | 5 | 183.98 | 1 | 2 | 8.1 |
| *Saxicola rubetra* | 1.23 | open | 5.5 | 161.81 | 2 | 1 |  |
| *Oenanthe oenanthe* | 1.38 | cavity | 5.5 | 161.1 | 1 | 2 | 28.0 |
| *Oenanthe monacha* | 1.26 | cavity | 4.0 a | 182.54 | 0 |  |  |
| *Oenanthe deserti* | 1.32 | cavity | 4.5 | 157.58 | 1 | 2 |  |
| *Oenanthe pleschanka* | 1.28 | cavity | 5 | 206.15 | 1 | 1 |  |
| *Oenanthe hispanica* | 1.41 | cavity | 4.5 | 212.32 | 1 | 2 |  |
| *Cercomela melanura* | 1.18 | cavity | 3.5 | 175.68 | 1 | 2 a |  |
| *Oenanthe leucura* | 1.58 | cavity | 4 | 27.47 | 1 | 1 | 50.6 |
| *Oenanthe leucopyga* | 1.4 | cavity | 4 | 42.13 | 2 | 2 |  |
| *Oenanthe albonigra* | 1.41 | cavity | 4.5 | 182.45 | 1 | 2 a |  |
| *Oenanthe xanthoprymna* | 1.34 | cavity | 5 | 151.62 | 0 | 2 |  |
| *Oenanthe lugens* | 1.32 | cavity | 4.5 | 193.19 | 2 | 2 |  |
| *Oenanthe finschii* | 1.41 | cavity | 5 | 209.49 | 1 | 2 |  |
| *Nectarinia osea* | 0.85 | open | 2 | 180.17 | 0 | 2 |  |
| *Ploceus manyar* | 1.23 | open | 2.5 | 159.64 | 0 | 2 |  |
| *Amandava amandava* | 1 | open | 5.5 | 174.02 | 1 | 2 |  |
| *Lonchura cantans* | 1.08 | open | 4.5 a | 204.59 | 1 |  |  |
| *Lagonosticta senegala* | 0.95 | cavity | 3.5 | 150.34 | 0 | 2 |  |
| *Prunella ocularis* | 1.3 | open | 3.5 | 151.18 | 0 | 2 a |  |
| *Prunella atrogularis* | 1.28 | open | 5.5 | 159.82 | 1 | 2 |  |
| *Prunella montanella* | 1.23 | open | 5 | 171.57 | 0 | 2 a |  |
| *Prunella modularis* | 1.32 | open | 4 | 145.15 | 1 | 1 | 15.9 b |
| *Prunella collaris* | 1.63 | cavity | 3.5 | 138.09 | 2 | 2 |  |
| *Petronia brachydactyla* | 1.32 | open | 4.5 | 205.32 | 0 | 1 | 85.7 |
| *Petronia xanthocollis* | 1.26 | cavity | 3.5 | 226.81 | 2 | 2 |  |
| *Petronia petronia* | 1.51 | cavity | 5.5 | 198.02 | 0 | 2 |  |
| *Montifringilla nivalis* | 1.57 | cavity | 4.5 | 210.8 | 2 | 2 |  |
| *Passer simplex* | 1.3 | cavity | 3.5 | 228.66 | 0 | 2 |  |
| *Passer montanus* | 1.3 | cavity | 5 | 201.24 | 1 | 2 |  |
| *Passer luteus* | 1.15 | open | 4 | 210.21 | 0 | 2 | 5.5 |
| *Passer moabiticus* | 1.3 | open | 4.5 | 207.74 | 0 | 2 |  |
| *Passer domesticus* | 1.48 | cavity | 4 | 203.67 | 0 | 2 | 2.8 |
| *Passer hispaniolensis* | 1.41 | cavity | 5 | 200.74 | 0 | 2 |  |
| *Motacilla cinerea* | 1.23 | cavity | 5 | 183.62 | 2 | 2 |  |
| *Motacilla flava* | 1.2 | open | 5 | 170.63 | 1 | 1 | 29.2 b |
| *Motacilla alba* | 1.3 | cavity | 5.5 | 177.47 | 1 | 2 | 21.6 b |
| *Anthus campestris* | 1.32 | open | 4.5 | 194.13 | 1 | 1 | 40.0 |
| *Anthus berthelotii* | 1.2 | open | 3.5 | 220.08 | 2 | 2 |  |
| *Anthus pratensis* | 1.3 | open | 4 | 222.29 | 2 | 2 | 20.0 b |
| *Anthus petrosus* | 1.32 | cavity | 5 | 169.82 | 0 | 2 | 0.0 |
| *Calcarius lapponicus* | 1.36 | open | 5.5 | 186.07 | 2 | 1 | 51.5 |
| *Plectrophenax nivalis* | 1.56 | cavity | 5 | 181.85 | 2 | 2 | 14 |
| *Emberiza striolata* | 1.15 | cavity | 3 | 180.94 | 0 | 2 |  |
| *Emberiza cineracea* | 1.38 | open | 5 | 200.79 | 2 |  |  |
| *Emberiza pallasi* | 1.18 | open | 4.5 | 204.35 | 1 | 1 |  |
| *Emberiza schoeniclus* | 1.26 | open | 4.5 | 202.96 | 1 | 2 | 52.9 |
| *Emberiza pusilla* | 1.18 | open | 5 | 196.47 | 1 | 2 |  |
| *Emberiza rustica* | 1.26 | open | 4.5 | 191.41 | 2 | 2 | 20.5 |
| *Emberiza melanocephala* | 1.43 | open | 4.5 | 209.15 | 1 | 1 |  |
| *Emberiza bruniceps* | 1.36 | open | 4.5 | 194.31 | 1 | 2 | 28.4 |
| *Miliaria calandra* | 1.6 | open | 5 | 204.17 | 1 | 2 |  |
| *Emberiza cia* | 1.36 | open | 4.5 | 182.98 | 2 | 2 | 43.9 |
| *Emberiza buchanani* | 1.32 | open | 4.5 | 170.88 | 1 | 1 |  |
| *Emberiza hortulana* | 1.28 | open | 4.5 | 195.11 | 2 | 1 | 32.0 |
| *Emberiza cirlus* | 1.38 | open | 3.5 | 207.61 | 1 | 2 | 22.0 |
| *Emberiza citrinella* | 1.43 | open | 4 | 204.33 | 1 | 2 | 33.3 |
| *Emberiza leucocephalos* | 1.43 | open | 4.5 | 192.48 | 2 | 2 |  |
| *Fringilla montifringilla* | 1.38 | open | 6 | 193.89 | 2 | 2 |  |
| *Fringilla teydea* | 1.46 | open | 2 | 171.79 | 1 | 1 | 73.9 n |
| *Fringilla coelebs* | 1.36 | open | 4.5 | 181.46 | 2 | 1 | 70.8 b |
| *Coccothraustes coccothraustes* | 1.72 | open | 4.5 | 167.16 | 2 | 1 |  |
| *Pinicola enucleator* | 1.74 | open | 3.5 | 169.74 | 0 | 1 | 23.5 |
| *Bucanetes githagineus* | 1.26 | cavity | 5 | 209.13 | 0 | 2 |  |
| *Eremopsaltria mongolicus* | 1.34 | open | 5 | 198.65 | 2 | 2 |  |
| *Carpodacus erythrinus* | 1.38 | open | 5 | 192.16 | 0 | 1 | 30.5 |
| *Carpodacus rubicilla* | 1.66 | cavity | 4.5 | 173.37 | 1 | 1 |  |
| *Carpodacus synoicus* | 1.32 | cavity | 4.5 | 202.29 | 0 | 1 |  |
| *Carduelis chloris* | 1.45 | open | 5 | 170.45 | 0 | 2 | 31.7 b |
| *Rhodopechys obsoletus* | 1.41 | open | 5 | 205.43 | 2 | 2 |  |
| *Rhodopechys sanguineus* | 1.59 | open | 4.5 | 185.44 | 0 | 2 |  |
| *Carduelis flavirostris* | 1.2 | open | 5 | 135.98 | 1 | 2 |  |
| *Carduelis cannabina* | 1.26 | open | 5 | 145.36 | 2 | 2 | 41.3 b |
| *Serinus syriacus* | 1.08 | open | 4 | 175.53 | 0 | 2 |  |
| *Serinus serinus* | 1.08 | open | 3.5 | 178.42 | 0 | 2 | 24.9 |
| *Serinus canaria* | 1.18 | open | 3.5 | 169.7 | 0 | 2 |  |
| *Carduelis citrinella* | 1.08 | open | 4.5 | 169.82 | 0 | 2 |  |
| *Carduelis carduelis* | 1.18 | open | 5 | 170.92 | 2 | 2 | 75.0 |
| *Carduelis flammea* | 1.11 | open | 4.5 | 175.44 | 0 | 2 |  |
| *Loxia curvirostra* | 1.62 | open | 3.5 | 138.98 | 0 | 2 |  |
| *Loxia leucoptera* | 1.49 | open | 4 | 149.37 | 2 | 2 |  |

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