

## **Activity patterns of foraging Nightjars *Caprimulgus europaeus*.**

Cresswell, B. H. & Alexander, I. 1992.

In Priede, I. G. & Swift, S.M. (eds.). Wildlife Telemetry, 642-647. Ellis Horwood Series in Environmental Management, Science and Technology.

Nightjars (*Caprimulgus europaeus*) breeding in Britain and Europe are nocturnal, and their activity patterns are difficult to study. Radio tags with flight-sensing circuitry provide a means to collect these data. Peaks in nightjar activity at dusk and dawn agree with the findings of other workers and indicate that nightjars probably need at least some light to be able to forage successfully. In the lighter conditions near dusk and dawn, sustained flight foraging was used most, but nightjars switched to fly-catching later in the night. The proportion of time that nightjars were active in the middle third of the night was inversely correlated with the nightly minimum temperature. On moonlit nights there was a tendency (not significant) for more fly-catching in the middle night-third.