

SCOLOPORUS UNDULATUS ELONGATUS
(Eastern Fence Lizard, North Plateau Lizard).

BEHAVIOR. We recently observed an extraordinarily gluttonous individual of this species. The lizard was captured on 5 June 1987 in Jones Canyon in Dinosaur National Monument. Although the temperature was warm (ca. 29°C) with sunny weather, this male, in apparently good condition, was not as mobile nor agile as is typical of the species, being unusually easy to capture by hand. The width of this individual's abdomen was about one-third of its SVL and was bulging and slightly lumpy due to engorged food. These food items could be felt while holding the lizard. We could not find a similar instance in the literature where an individual of this species had engorged itself to such an extent that its ability to escape predation was significantly affected. The diet of this species is known to include a variety of insects, including Orthopterans (Hammerson, G.A. 1982. Amphibians and Reptiles in Colorado. Colo. Div. Wildlife, DOW-M-1-27-82. 131 pp.). This individual probably had been feeding on Mormon crickets (*Anabrus simplex*), which are currently experiencing a population explosion in the area. The population of Mormon crickets at the site where the lizard was caught was extremely dense, essentially forming a moving dark mass on the ground and low lying rocks such as the one on which the lizard was captured. That these large crickets formed a readily available, easy-to-capture prey base only conservatively describes the situation.

Because we were in a national monument, we could not legally verify this by examining stomach contents and the lizard was released.

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