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BOOK OF ABSTRACTS

AUGUST 8-11 · PUERTO IGUAZÚ, MISIONES PROVINCE, ARGENTINA · CENTRO DE EVENTOS Y CONVENCIONES DEL IGUAZÚ, HOTEL AMERIAN

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Matthew Shumar, Ohio Bird Conservation Initiative and Association of Field Ornithologists (AFO)

adjust paternal care when paired to the same female partner. We also show that – in monogamous broods – the proportion of provisioning visits made by males yields fitness benefits in terms of fledging success. Our results suggest that socially monogamous females that engage in extra-pair behavior may suffer fitness costs, as their partners' reduction in paternal care can negatively affect fledging success.

10470 SIMILAR PARENTAL CARE IN *Milvago chimango*: THE IMPORTANCE OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND CHICK AGE

Gallego, Diego[1,2]; Larrea, Mikel[1]; Solaro, Claudina[1]; Sarasola, José Hernán[1] [1]Centro para el Estudio y Conservación de Aves Rapaces en Argentina (CECARA), Facultad de Ciencias Exactas y Naturales, Universidad Nacional de La Pampa (UNLPAM), Argentina [2]diegothen@gmail.com

Parental care in raptors is particularly important since it can have strong implications for their ecology and reproductive success. Chimango caracara (*Milvago chimango*) is the most abundant and common raptor in Argentina, as it nests in a wide variety of environments, including urbanized areas. However, there are no studies describing parental care behavior of this raptor. We performed focal observations (109 h) in 24 nests of chimango in two environments (suburban and rural) of La Pampa province, during the 2016/2017 breeding season. Incubation time did not differ significantly between males and females, and it did not depend on lay size. Similarly, feeding rate (number of prey contributions per hour) was not affected by sex or by the number of chicks in nest. However, feeding rate increased significantly with the age of the chicks (presumably, in order to meet higher energetic requirements), and it was lower in the suburban environment than in the rural one. None of these variables (incubation time and feeding rate) explained the variation in the reproductive parameters of chimangos (reproductive success and productivity), a fact that evokes the importance of other external factors for the success of nests. These findings suggest a similar (and symmetrical) parental investment of both sexes in the reproductive stage. Concerning the degree of anthropic disturbance in the environment, it could be affecting the parental care behavior of those raptors that nest in urbanized areas.

10610 PARENTAL CARE OF *Elaenia albiceps* NESTLINGS IN THE ANDEAN-PATAGONIAN FOREST

Gorosito, Cristian A.[1,3]; Tuero, Diego T.[2]; Cueto, Víctor R.[1] [1]Centro de Investigación Esquel de Montaña y Estepa Patagónica (CIEMEP, CONICET-UNPSJB) [2]Laboratorio de Ecología y Comportamiento Animal, Departamento de Ecología, Genética y Evolución, Facultad de Ciencias Exactas y Naturales, Universidad de Buenos Aires, Argentina [3]cgorosito@conicet.gov.ar

Most bird species provide biparental care, which is mainly observed in monogamous species with altricial nestlings. Biparental care is not always equally shared between sexes, and females provide more parental care than males. Our aim was study the parental care in *Elaenia albiceps*, which is a migrant species that reproduces in the Andean-Patagonian Forest during the austral summer. Field work took place in Esquel,

Argentina, in two breeding seasons (2015/2016 and 2016/2017). *E. albiceps* nests were filmed during 45-90 minutes when the nestlings were 2-4 days and 9-10 days old (they were close to becoming fledglings). The provisioning frequency of nestlings by females was higher than the one for males, and both sexes increased their provisioning frequencies with the age of nestlings. Those females that fed nestlings alone had the same provisioning frequency than the females assisted by males. We differentiated males that did not provide parental care, males that had scarce contribution to parental care and males that had provided as much parental care as females. Our results indicate that *E. albiceps* has a biparental care biased to females, and females can raise a brood without contribution of the male. The great variance in parental care observed among males suggests a monogamous mating system with a low paternity certainty, therefore further studies about the frequency of extra-pair fertilizations will allow us to assess this hypothesis.

10640 THREE'S A CROWD: UNUSUAL MATING SYSTEM IN THE BURROWING OWL

Lois, Nicolás A.[1]; Rodríguez-Martínez, Sol[2]; Rebolo-Ifrán, Natalia[3]; Tella, Jose L. [4]; Carrete, Martina[5] [1]Laboratorio de Ecología y Comportamiento Animal. IEGEBA-CONICET. Facultad de Ciencias Exactas y Naturales, Universidad de Buenos Aires, Argentina [2]Departamento de Ecología Evolutiva, Estación Biológica Doñana, CSIC, España [3]Grupo de Investigaciones en Biologia de la Conservacion - INIBIOMA. CONICET - Universidad Nacional del Comahue [4]Departamento de Biología de la Conservación, Estación Biológica Doñana, CSIC, España [5]Departamento de Sistemas Físicos, Químicos y Naturales, Universidad Pablo de Olavide, España

Despite the well-documented negative impact of the development of urban centers on biodiversity, some native species have invaded these environments and developed stable populations. The Burrowing Owl (*Athene cunicularia*), in the city of Bahía Blanca (Buenos Aires, Argentina), has a stable population in which the presence of unusual reproductive units with more than two individuals has been detected. In this work, the factors that promote the occurrence of these reproductive units are investigated and the costs and benefits for their members are evaluated, discussing possible ecological and evolutionary connotations. Between 1% and 4% of the territories observed in the study population between 2009 and 2012 (n = 1210) opted for this strategy. Through kinship molecular analysis, it was determined that a reproductive pair shared the territory with a son of one or both members. These units tended to be formed in areas of higher quality and in territories more distant from conspecifics. However, neither the general aggregation of the territories nor the urbanization of the environment affect the formation of these breeding units, which rejects the hypotheses referring to urbanization as a promoter of these cooperative units. These units presented the same reproductive success as the couples and did not show significant differences in the defense of their territories, although productivity did increase. If not predated, the presence of non-reproductive individuals sharing the territory benefits the breeding pair by increasing the number of surviving chicks.