CURRENT ORNITHOLOGY

VOLUME 9

Current Ornithology

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Edited by

DENNIS M. POWER

*Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History
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PREFACE

We in the United States tend to be dominated by the flow of information from our own universities, institutes, and museums. Accordingly, one of the important roles *Current Ornithology* may take, and one that I have endeavored to foster during my editorship, is to promote an international exchange of ideas. I am therefore pleased that in Volume 9 we are able to continue to publish the research of ornithologists from around the world.

Working out of the Canadian Department of Fisheries and Oceans in New Brunswick, David Cairns addresses two competing concepts of seabird population regulation: stochastic versus density-dependent mechanisms. Studies of seabird colonies have long played a role in theories concerning population regulation. J. Christopher Haney and Andrew R. Solow, from Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, examine the spatial relationships between seabirds and resources. Variability in distribution and abundance of food in the ocean provides challenges for marine ecologists. Quantitative methods and models for mensurative techniques are discussed.

Enrique Bucher, University of Córdoba, Argentina, writes about the extinction of the Passenger Pigeon, rediscovering a topic that I complacently thought had been put to rest. He combines recent knowledge on the adaptive value of flocking (social facilitation) and the ecology of colonially breeding pigeons to give insight into extinction processes. I will not give away his findings. Frank Götmark, University of Göteborg, Sweden, looks at a different kind of disturbance: the effects of investigators visiting territories and nests. He reviews the literature and shows that an impact of investigators on nesting parameters (lowered produc-

tivity) may be common and that some species seem more susceptible than others.

Thomas Martin, University of Arkansas, examines the balancing demands of parents in both guarding the young to protect them from predators and foraging for food to nourish nestlings. He develops and describes a graphical model that helps predict the reproductive consequences of trade-offs in time allocation between these two demands. David Spector, University of Massachusetts, reviews the literature on wood-warbler song. He identifies “song systems” and allocates genera according to song group. Developmental plasticity, ecological correlates, and other topics are addressed.

Several of the chapters in this volume offer advice on conducting research, offer thoughts on topics for future research, or point out implications for conservation biology. I hope that no reader will leave this volume without a little more insight into how the discipline of ornithology works and ideas for future studies.

We continue to solicit reviews, syntheses, and position papers addressing current topics and active areas of research in avian biology. Interested authors may contact any member of the editorial board or send a letter, outline, and prospectus to me at the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History, Santa Barbara, California 93105.

I remain grateful to the editorial board for suggesting potential contributors and for their advice on the suitability of papers. Special thanks are due the authors who worked diligently on the chapters in this volume.

Dennis M. Power

Santa Barbara, California

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