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SHORT COMMUNICATIONS

EXTRA-PAIR PATERNITY IN THE COMMON MURRE¹

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Abstract. Multi-locus DNA fingerprinting was used to estimate the frequency of extra-pair paternity in the Common Murre (*Uria aalge*), a colonial, sexually monomorphic seabird that breeds at very high densities and in which extra-pair copulation is frequent. Common Murres produce a single chick. We detected 6 cases of extra-pair paternity in 77 families (7.8%). This value was higher than the proportion of successful extra-pair copulations (1.6%) estimated from behavioral data from an earlier study of the same population.

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