

**ABSTRACTS FOR *CONDOR* 103(2) MAY 2001**

**SHORT COMMUNICATIONS**

**THE SOCIAL ORGANIZATION AND MATING SYSTEM OF THE STRIATED GRASSWREN<sup>1</sup>**

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*Abstract.* This paper summarizes the breeding biology, social organization, and mating system of the Striated Grasswren (*Amytornis striatus*), a member of one of the least-known genera of Australian passerines, the grasswrens. I studied 18 color-banded groups and 14 nests in South Australia for one breeding season in 1996. Mean territory size was 3.0 ha, and territories consisted of sandy dunes dominated by spinifex (*Triodea irritans*). This apparent dependency on mature spinifex, coupled with poor dispersal ability, suggests that the Striated Grasswren is particularly susceptible to habitat destruction. Most groups consisted of socially monogamous pairs, mean group size was 2.1 adults, and the adult sex ratio was 0.95 (males:females). The average clutch size was  $2.2 \pm 0.4$  eggs and an average of  $1.1 \pm 1.1$  young fledged per nesting effort. A male and a female provided similar amounts of parental care at a single nest. Cloacal protuberance size and amount of sperm collected did not suggest intense sperm competition among males.

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