

**ABSTRACTS FOR *CONDOR* 104(1) FEBRUARY 2002 C.E.**

**SHORT COMMUNICATIONS**

**LOW EXTRA-PAIR PATERNITY IN WHITE-TAILED PTARMIGAN**

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*Abstract.* The White-tailed Ptarmigan (*Lagopus leucurus*) is one of the few socially monogamous species within the highly polygynous grouse subfamily (Tetraoninae). I found White-tailed Ptarmigan in Glacier National Park, Montana, to be nearly genetically monogamous. Of 58 chicks with putative fathers identified, three were the result of extra-pair copulations (5%). Three of 18 clutches (17%) contained extra-pair offspring. I suggest that White-tailed Ptarmigan males are able to guard their females effectively from extra-pair copulations because of high visibility in their habitat and their ability to forage alongside their mate. The three extra-pair offspring were sired by unknown males.

*Key words:* *Lagopus leucurus*, *mate guarding*, *monogamy*, *paternal care*, *paternity*, *White-tailed Ptarmigan*.

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