

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

SHORT COMMUNICATIONS

SERIAL POLYANDRY AND ALLOPARENTING IN LONG-EARED OWLS

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Manuscript received 10 May 2001; accepted 1 October 2001.

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Abstract. We used DNA fingerprinting to document serial polyandry in a double-brooded female Long-eared Owl (*Asio otus*) in western Montana. We also determined that an extra male that helped provision offspring at a nest was a close relative of the female parent. The nest had split paternity, and it is not clear whether the helper was the sire or brother of two of the four nestlings. These data constitute the first known cases of serial polyandry and alloparenting in Long-eared Owls and leave open the question of whether cooperative polyandry also occurs in this species.

Key words: *Asio otus, DNA fingerprinting, helping, Long-eared Owl, polyandry.*

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