

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

SHORT COMMUNICATIONS

OBSERVATIONS OF FECAL SAC DISPOSAL BY EASTERN BLUEBIRDS

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Abstract. During systematic observations of Eastern Bluebird (*Sialia sialis*) parental behavior near Athens, Georgia, we observed adults placing fecal sacs on electric wires. Adults also placed fecal sacs on fence posts, tree branches, and utility poles. Females and males did not dispose of fecal sacs differently or remove fecal sacs at different rates. Adults carried fecal sacs 91 ± 11 m before disposal, 21–52 m (95% CI) farther than their average distance from the nest. This finding is consistent with the hypothesis that fecal sac removal reduces cues predators use to locate nests.

Key words: Eastern Bluebird, fecal sac, nest sanitation, predator avoidance, *Sialia sialis*.

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