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CHICK GROWTH AND BREEDING SUCCESS OF THE BURROWING PARROT

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Abstract. We present the first data on the breeding biology of wild Burrowing Parrots (*Cyanoliseus patagonus*). We studied chick growth and breeding success at the largest colony of the species in the province of Río Negro, Patagonia, Argentina, during the 1999–2000 breeding season. A very high fledging success was observed and related to the absence of nest predation and the colonial breeding system. Safe nest sites were also thought to favor large mass recession of the nestlings before fledging. Mortality during the nestling period tended to be higher for fourth and fifth nestlings of a brood, indicating that brood reduction occurred. Burrowing Parrots in the study colony showed large variability in growth parameters between nestlings, possibly related to the hatching asynchrony observed. Allometric relationships for egg mass, clutch size, relative clutch mass and nestling period of 29 wild psittaciform species are described and compared with the data from the Burrowing Parrots.

Key words: breeding success, chick growth, *Cyanoliseus patagonus*, hatching order, mass recession, Patagonian Conure, *Psittaciformes*.