

The Condor
Volume 104, Number 4
November 2002 C.E.
Abstracts

BRIEF COMMUNICATIONS

PATTERNS OF GROWTH IN NESTLING INDIAN BARN-OWLS

RAJARATHINAVELU NAGARAJAN,¹ KRISHINAMOORTHY THIYAGESAN,
RAJAGOPALAN NATARAJAN AND RAMALINAGM KANAKASABAI

*Department of Zoology, Division of Wildlife Biology, AVC College, Mannampandal
609305, India*

Manuscript received 27 July 2001; accepted 26 July 2002.

¹E-mail: r.nagarajan@ex.ac.uk

Abstract. We examined nestling growth patterns of the Indian Barn-Owl (*Tyto alba stertens*) in Tamilnadu, Southern India, with reference to body mass, body length, bill length, bill width, wing length, wingspan, tail length, tarsus length, and middle claw length. Body mass reached an asymptote of 447.0 ± 6.8 g during week 7, which was 10% higher than the adult mass. Then it significantly declined to 437.0 ± 10.9 g at fledging. At the end of week 4, the body length, bill length, bill width, tarsus length, and middle toe length had surpassed 50% of adult sizes. The wingspan and tarsus length reached almost adult size by the time of fledging. A logistic growth curve was found to be a good fit for all the growth variables and explained between 71% (wing length) and 86% (body length) of the variance.

Key words: altricial, Barn Owl, growth, logistic curve, morphometry, *Tyto alba stertens*.