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Abstracts

SHORT COMMUNICATIONS

MALE CHESTNUT-COLLARED LONGSPURS ARE ESSENTIAL FOR NESTLING SURVIVAL: A REMOVAL STUDY

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Abstract. We examined the value of paternal care in the socially monogamous Chestnut-collared Longspur (*Calcarius ornatus*). We removed parental males from their territories after eggs hatched, and compared fledging success of these nests with that of nests at which both parents attended young. We demonstrate that males were essential for nestling survival: no young fledged from female-only nests. Thus, constraints of the breeding environment apparently impose a need for biparental care in this species. We relate this study to previous research, and suggest that ecological variables constraining males to care for young may also dictate patterns of male behavior in response to the steroid hormone testosterone.

Key words: *Calcarius ornatus, male removal, monogamy, paternal care, testosterone.*