

The Condor
Volume 105, No. 2
May 2003 C.E.
Abstracts

SHORT COMMUNICATIONS

SEX ROLES DURING INCUBATION IN THE COMMON RINGED PLOVER

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Manuscript received 7 November 2000; accepted 21 November 2002

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Abstract. Parental behavior during incubation is an important aspect of the breeding system, which varies greatly among shorebirds. There are, however, few studies of incubation sex roles in shorebirds during darkness. In *Charadrius* species, males are believed to perform most of the incubation during the night. In this study of night- and daytime incubation sex roles in the Common Ringed Plover (*Charadrius hiaticula*), males tended to do more of the nighttime incubation (58%) than did females; during the day the roles tended to be reversed (males 45%), but the differences were not statistically significant. The reasons why mates of the Common Ringed Plover seem to share nocturnal incubation more equally than do other *Charadrius* species are not clear but may involve differences in food levels and day length between areas.

Key words: *Charadrius, Common Ringed Plover, nocturnal incubation, sex roles, shorebirds, waders.*