

*The Condor*  
Volume 107, No. 3  
August 2005 C.E.  
Abstracts

## SHORT COMMUNICATIONS

### **CATTLE GRAZING IN A NATIONAL FOREST GREATLY REDUCES NESTING SUCCESS IN A GROUND-NESTING SPARROW**

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Manuscript received 18 January 2005; accepted 27 April 2005.

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*Abstract.* Grazing of domestic livestock on public lands in the western United States is a major source of habitat destruction. I quantified nest success of ground-nesting Dark-eyed Juncos (*Junco hyemalis*) breeding in ponderosa pine forests and pine savanna in the Kaibab National Forest of northern Arizona. Comparison of results for areas grazed by cattle to results for immediately adjacent areas protected from grazing revealed that cattle grazing was associated with a dramatic (75%) reduction in nest success. Cattle grazing reduced vegetation cover over nests by an average of 41%, exposing the nest to more extreme climatic conditions as well as possibly making them more conspicuous to predators.

*Key words:* cattle, grazing, *Junco*, *Junco hyemalis*, nest success.