

restricted habitats. Populations were censused and observed throughout the year. Interspecific competition and predation probably either were not significant or (for the grouse) could be only roughly estimated. Social behavior could be observed or at least inferred. Finally, important resources could be roughly quantified. Thus each of these three studies satisfied most of the requirements for a simplified natural system suggested in our introduction. Despite the simplicity of these systems, a large number of processes were shown to be clearly important.

It is reasonable to conclude that in order to make progress in the study of population regulation, researchers must study a wide range of factors affecting their populations. Given the state of our knowledge, studies on relatively simple systems are much more likely to yield results that are valid, and more easily interpreted. Much about the dynamics of Dipper populations remains to be clarified, but because of their simple habitat and other characteristics mentioned earlier, this species is unusually well suited to studies of population regulation. Further work on this fascinating group of birds should be well rewarded.

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