

good example can be found in the description of territoriality.

Whether or not they have helpers, breeding pairs of Florida Scrub Jays almost always form monogamous, territorial pairs. However, on five occasions the authors have seen multipair territories. Woolfenden and Fitzpatrick use case histories to describe the particulars of these exceptional groups, noting that they "suggest evolutionary pathways that may have been followed in the development of the more complicated communal breeding systems of other birds, and especially of other jays" (p. 162).

It is the careful documentation of departures from mean population behavior that allows the reader to begin to appreciate the surprising range of variability displayed even in a population in which saturation places severe constraints on pathways to breeding status. It remains a puzzle whether such natural variation is especially characteristic of New World jays, or whether long-term demographic studies of the other cooperative breeding birds will also reveal unexpected within-population behavioral plasticity.

When it comes to theory building, however, the authors are less interested in the origins of behavioral plasticity than in the ecological factors that select for mean social organization. To this end, Woolfenden and Fitzpatrick draw heavily from their demographic information to generate a model for the evolution of cooperative breeding. The model is an algebraic expression of the idea that habitat stability and saturation can result in the evolution of cooperative breeding. Although not a new notion, the model is carefully constructed with a clear expression of assumptions and predictions. Thus, Woolfenden and Fitzpatrick have used great data to construct good theory. Their model is well-suited for application to other species in order to provide a strong test of current ideas about how selection shapes avian cooperative breeding systems.

*The Florida Scrub Jay: demography of a cooperative-breeding bird*, is a classic contribution to ornithology and a paradigm for future studies. To paraphrase another ornithological organization—Woolfenden and Fitzpatrick do Scrub Jays right.—MARCY F. LAWTON, Department of Biological Sciences, University of Alabama in Huntsville, Huntsville, AL 35899.

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