

Cooperative breeding is an unusual kind of social behavior, found in a few hundred species world-wide, in which individuals other than the parents help to raise young. Understanding the apparently altruistic behavior of helpers has provided numerous challenges to evolutionary biologists.

This book includes detailed first-hand summaries of many of the major empirical studies of cooperatively breeding birds. It provides comparative information on the demography, social behavior and behavioral ecology of these unusual species and explores the diversity of ideas and the controversies which have developed in this field. The studies are all long-term and consequently the book summarizes some of the most extensive studies of the behavior of marked individual birds ever undertaken. Graduate students and research workers in ornithology, socio-biology, behavioral ecology and evolutionary biology will find much of value in this book.

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