

Cooperative Breeding in Vertebrates

Cooperative breeders are species in which individuals beyond a pair assist in the production of young in a single brood or litter. Although relatively rare, cooperative breeding is widespread taxonomically and continues to pose challenges to our understanding of the evolution of cooperation and altruistic behavior.

Bringing together long-term studies of cooperatively breeding birds, mammals, and fishes, this book provides a synthesis of current studies in the field. The chapters are organized by individual studies of particular species or (in the case of mole-rats) two closely related cooperatively breeding species. Each focuses not only on describing behavior and ecology but also on testing evolutionary hypotheses for the form and function of the diverse and extraordinary cooperative breeding lifestyles that have been discovered. This unique and comprehensive text will be of interest to graduate students and researchers of behavioral ecology and the evolution of cooperation.

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Cover illustration: three guira cuckoos (*Guira guira*), a plural breeding cooperative breeder, near Pirenópolis, Brazil. Photo © Bruce Lyon.

Cover designed by Hart McLeod Ltd

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UNIVERSITY PRESS
www.cambridge.org

ISBN 978-1-107-04343-5



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