INCUBATION PERIOD OF THE ASTRAL PYGMY-OWL (GLAUCIDIIUM NANA): A CORRECTION

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The shortest incubation periods known for an owl, 21–24 d, have been measured in small species such as the African Scops-Owl (Otus senegalensis) and the Elf Owl (Micathene whitneyi; Marks et al. 1999, König and Weick 2008). In an article on the biology of the Austral Pygmy-Owl (Glaucidium nana) in Chile, Jiménez and Jaksč (1989) noted that Housse (1945) gave an incubation period of 15–17 d for that species. Housse’s (1945) information on incubation was not supported by data, however, and almost certainly was a conjecture. More recently, Ibarra et al. (2014, 2015) also reported an incubation period of 15–17 d for G. nana in Chile. However, they did not record laying and hatching dates at the same nest (J. Ibarra and T. Altamirano pers. comm.). König et al. (1999) stated that incubation lasts 26–28 d on the basis of observations of a pair of G. nana that nested in captivity (C. König pers. comm.). During their study of wild pairs that nested in boxes in Argentina (Santillán et al. 2010), MAS, DEP, and AT (unpubl. data) determined that incubation lasted from 27–29 d at three nests, which agrees closely with observations of captives by König et al. (1999), and which also is consistent with data from other species of Glaucidium such as Eurasian Pygmy-Owl (G. passerinum), Pearl-spotted Owlet (G. perlata), Northern Pygmy-Owl (G. gnoma), and Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl (G. brasiliannum; Holt and Norton 1986, König and Weick 2008). Thus, at least in species for which data are available, no species of owl is known to have an incubation period shorter than 3 wk.

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LITERATURE CITED


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