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selection; 7.2 Growth bar width as an honest signal; 7.3 Feather pigment color as an honest signal; 7.4 Feather structural color as an honest signal; 7.5 Carotenoids versus melanins; 7.6 Multiple signals of quality; 7.7 Fluctuating asymmetry; 7.8 Summary; 8 Reproductive effort 8.1 Brood size 8.2 Breeding and molting; 8.3 Tests of theories of reproductive effort; 8.4 Summary; 9 Nestling condition; 9.1 Summary; 10 Prolonged brood-care; 10.1 Adult nutritional condition; 10.2 Nutritional condition of retained offspring; 10.3 Summary; 11 Taking stock and looking ahead; 11.1 Conceptual issues; 11.2 What causes growth bars?; 11.3 On 24-hours' worth of feather growth per growth bar; 11.4 Linking growth bar width and nutritional condition; 11.5 Potentially confounding factors; 11.6 Original versus induced feathers; 11.7 Controlling for structural body size 11.8 Feather growth lag times 11.9 Relations among growth bar width, feather length, and feather mass; 11.10 Ptilochronology and fitness; 11.11 Ptilochronology and conservation biology; 11.12 Correlation versus causation; Appendix 1; Appendix 2; References; Index; A; B; C; E; F; G; H; I; J; M; N; O; P; Q; R; S; T; V; W

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Sommario/riassunto

Reporting and summarising the findings of several studies that have used ptilochronology as a research tool, this work provides a practical resource as well as a source of understanding of how the technique can be used to address important questions in avian biology.

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