

# Body mass dynamics during incubation and duration of parental care in Pacific Dunlins *Calidris alpina pacifica*: a test of the differential parental capacity hypothesis

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Body mass dynamics during incubation and duration of parental care in Pacific Dunlins *Calidris alpina pacifica*: a test of the differential parental capacity hypothesis

Dunlins are a species of shorebird that breed in coastal areas of North America. They are known for their long migrations and their ability to survive in harsh environments. This study focuses on the body mass dynamics of Pacific Dunlins during incubation and parental care. The differential parental capacity hypothesis suggests that parents with higher body mass at the start of incubation will have higher body mass at the end of incubation and will provide longer periods of parental care. This hypothesis is tested using data from a field study of Pacific Dunlins. The results show that parents with higher body mass at the start of incubation do indeed have higher body mass at the end of incubation and provide longer periods of parental care. This supports the differential parental capacity hypothesis.

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(2)  $\mu = \dots$





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