

Offspring Development Mode and the Evolution of Brood Parasitism
*the thorny case of *Coccyzus cuckoos**
Dearborn, MacDade, Robinson, Fink, and Fink

Presented at the biennial meeting of the International Society for Behavioral Ecology
at Cornell University in August, 2008¹

Layout and Appearance		
Criteria	Positive	Negative
<p>APPEARANCE: Is the poster neatly constructed? Do the text and the figures stand out against the background? Are colors and fonts used consistently? Is the text large and legible from 3–6 feet away?</p> <p>SECTIONS: Does each section begin with a descriptive heading? Is there sufficient space between sections? Do the sections naturally flow from top left to bottom right?</p> <p>BALANCE: Is there a nice balance between text and figures? Is there too much text?</p> <p>PROOFREADING: Is the text free of typos and grammatical errors?</p>	<p>Poster made with PowerPoint® looks professionally done.</p> <p>Text and figures stand out against the background.</p> <p>Font is large and legible.</p> <p>Non-traditional box headings are effective.</p> <p>Flow of sections is assisted by numbered boxes.</p> <p>Good balance between text and figures.</p> <p>No apparent typos.</p>	
Content		
Criteria	Positive	Negative
<p>TITLE: Does the title grab your attention?</p> <p>AUTHORS: Are the authors' names, affiliations, and contact information provided?</p> <p>INTRODUCTION: Were the objectives clearly stated? Do you understand why this study was done? Did you get enough background information to understand the system? Were any abbreviations defined for the general visitor? Were the hypotheses rational?</p> <p>METHODS: Were the methods described clearly and concisely?</p> <p>RESULTS: Were the graphs easy to understand? Were any graphics distracting?</p> <p>CONCLUSIONS: Do the conclusions match the data? Are reasonable ideas put forth to explain the observed patterns? Is there a clear connection between the conclusions and the original objectives?</p>	<p>Authors and affiliations are provided.</p> <p>Abstract helps viewers determine whether they are interested in the work.</p> <p>Technical terms are explained in Box 2 background (altricial versus precocial offspring).</p> <p>Objectives are clearly stated in Box 3 background.</p> <p>Results focus on the question, with the answer immediately following.</p> <p>Graphs and images support the answer.</p> <p>Conclusions are given in Box 7.</p> <p>There is a clear connection between the conclusions and the original objectives.</p> <p>References support statements made in the background boxes.</p> <p>Acknowledgments are given.</p>	<p>Title does not hint at the results.²</p>

¹ This work was subsequently published in this society's journal. Dearborn D. C., MacDade L. S., Robinson S., Fink A. D. D., and Fink, M. L. 2009. Offspring development mode and the evolution of brood parasitism. *Behavioral Ecology* 20:517–524.

² The first author comments that the main result could be perceived as uninteresting (“These cuckoos are NOT the brood parasites that we thought they were; rather, they reproduce parentally like 99% of bird species.”).