

Researchers from University of Lausanne Report Details of New Studies and Findings in the Area of Life Sciences (Real-time context-dependent cooperation in parental provisioning reveals fitness payoffs in barn owls)

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Body

2025 OCT 21 (NewsRx) -- By a News Reporter-Staff News Editor at NewsRx Life Science Daily -- New research on Life Sciences is the subject of a report. According to news reporting originating in Lausanne, Switzerland, by NewsRx journalists, research stated, "Parental cooperation in species with extended biparental care is essential for offspring survival, yet real-time negotiation and coordination in the wild remain poorly understood. We simultaneously Global Positioning System (GPS)- and accelerometer-tracked 68 breeding pairs of barn owls () during chick rearing, quantifying parents' hunting effort, prey deliveries, self-feeding, nest attendance, and partner encounters."

The news reporters obtained a quote from the research from the University of Lausanne, "Within pairs, parental investment was highly plastic, with low repeatability of nightly provisioning shares. Females increased provisioning when males underperformed or when foraging habitat was likely poor. Parents synchronized foraging schedules and nest visits, exhibiting turn-taking-like coordination; pairs that shared provisioning more equally foraged in parallel overnight and met frequently at the nest. We detected sequential, between-night adjustments, whereby effort on one night influenced provisioning the next. Pairs maintaining more equitable care achieved higher survival and growth in their later-hatching nestlings."

According to the news reporters, the research concluded: "Our findings demonstrate how high-resolution biologging reveals dynamic behavioral mechanisms underpinning flexible biparental care under ecological variability."

For more information on this research see: Real-time context-dependent cooperation in parental provisioning reveals fitness payoffs in barn owls. iScience, 2025;28(10):113533. iScience can be contacted at: Cell Press, 50 Hampshire St, Floor 5, Cambridge, MA 02139, USA.

Our news correspondents report that additional information may be obtained by contacting Kim Schalcher, Dept. of Ecology and Evolution, University of Lausanne, 1015 Lausanne, Switzerland. Additional authors for this research include Paolo Becciu, Estelle Milliet, James L. Savage, Andrea Romano, Bettina Almasi and **Alexandre Roulin**.

The publisher of the journal iScience can be contacted at: Cell Press, 50 Hampshire St, Floor 5, Cambridge, MA 02139, USA.

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