**Description of the codes used in ­Appendix 1: Lyon, BE & Eadie JM. 2017. A comprehensive synthesis of life history attributes of conspecific brood parasitism.**

**Minus sign:** throughout we use a minus sign to indicate that some factor was specifically investigated but not observed. Black cells or missing codes indicate that a specific factor was not reported.

**1. Detection methods**

(#) Number of markers used in the study

AZ: Allozymes

C: Camera

CS: Clutch size

CV: Captive population

DF: Minisatellite DNA fingerprinting

DO: Direct observation

EF: Egg features

EWP: Egg white proteins

GP: Genetic polymorphism chicks

L: Laying patterns

M: Microsatellite DNA

M(f): maternal microsatellite DNA from egg

PF: Protein fingerprinting

SCV: Semi-captive population

**2. Experiment conducted?**

An entry indicates that experiments were conducted on the following:

E: egg experiment (eggs added or removed)

E, C: both egg and chick experiments conducted

E, N: both egg and nest experiments conducted

N: nest availability manipulated

**3. Type of parasite**

NP: Nesting parasite, parasitic eggs were attributed to a female with her own nest

P: Non-nesting female, parasitic eggs could not be attributed to any females

(%): Percent all parasitic eggs attributed to one of the two types of parasites; both types add to 100%

**4. Flexibility across attempts**

Y: Females were studied across attempts and females engaged in both nesting and parasitism at some point over the study

R: Parasitism specifically by nesting females was repeatable across reproductive bouts

**5. Fitness parasite tactics relative to non-parasite**

Below are the different fitness components; in the appendix we compare these in terms of whether one component is larger than another (>) or not found to be significantly different (=):

ASH: adult survival host

ASN: Adult survival non-parasite

ASP: Adult survival parasite

FN: fecundity non-parasitic nester

FNP: fecundity nesting parasite

FP: fecundity non-nesting parasite

H: host

HHE: hatching success host eggs

HNE: hatching success eggs in unparasitized nests

HPE: hatch parasitic eggs

N: Non-parasitic nesting female

NP: Nesting parasite (nest and lay parasitic eggs)

P: Non-nesting parasitic female

PHBS: Post hatching brood survival

**6. Correlates of parasitism**

A: Age experience of females

D: Density of nests

ECD: Ecological conditions – drought

ECF: Ecological conditions – flooding

FC: Female body condition or size

H: Density/availability of hosts

ML: Mate limitation

NC: Nest site competition

NL: Nest limitation/territory limitation

NQ: Quality of nest site/territory

S: Synchrony of nesting

T: Time in season

Where parasitism is associated with breeding interruption (including nest loss) we do not include this as a correlate of parasitism; instead, this is included in the next section as evidence for the Breeding Interruption Hypothesis.

**7. Hypotheses for CBP**

BI: Breeding interruption (includes nest loss from predators and conspecific disturbance)

BOBJ: Best of a bad job

NC: Nest competition

RE: Reproductive enhancement

RS: Risk spreading

We report the hypotheses that the authors suggested as long as there was some logic or evidence for the claims. In one specific case, a hypotheses that is not logically sound was claimed as supported (e.g. Risk Spreading Hypothesis). We report these as the authors did but then discussed in the body of a paper why this hypothesis cannot apply (Lyon, B.E. & Eadie, J.M. 2017. Why *do* birds lay eggs in conspecifics’ nests?In: Soler M (ed) Avian Brood Parasitism - Behaviour, Ecology, Evolution and Coevolution. Springer Nature, Heidelberg

\* the asterisk for one study of starling indicates that different results were observed for experimental nests compared to natural nests.

**8. Kinship patterns**

Y: kinship patterns observed, host parasite related

Y(AK): kinship patterns observed, parasites avoid relatives

N: kinship investigated but no patterns found

**9. Mechanism of host-parasite relatedness**

KR: kin recognition

V: population viscocity

**10. Quasi-parasitism**

Y: Quasi-parasitism shown, male host sires parasitic eggs in his own nest

N: Quasi-parasitism examined but not found

**11. Cost/Benefits to hosts**

• asterisk indicates that investigation of a cost/benefit was determined experimentally

BS: Reduced host brood size

CS: Reduced host clutch size

EL: Egg loss during parasitism

FC: Female condition

FS: Reduced host fledge success nest

HS; Reduced host hatching success

I: Longer incubation period

NHS: Reduced hatch success of entire clutch

NS: Reduced nest success % hatch

PHS: Reduced host post-hatch survival

RS: Reduced host overall reproductive success

SA: Reduced host adult survival

**12. Host defenses**

AB: Abandon nest

AT: Alter timing of nesting

CS: adaptive adjustment of clutch size

DE: Displace eggs

DN: Defend nest

ET: Egg toss; host removes eggs laid before host has laid

RPC: Reject parasite chicks

RPE: Reject parasite eggs

**13. Parasite tactics**

AE: Allocate eggs

ED: Host egg destruction

EM: Host egg matching

HQ: Choose high quality hosts

LA: Nesting parasites lay after own nest

LB: Nesting parasites lay before own nest

ME: Maternal effects

R: Remove host eggs

S: Synchronize laying with host

SN: Search multiple host nests

TE: Transfer eggs

**14. Population consequences**

When either density-dependence (DD) or frequency-dependence (D) is followed by a parameter in brackets, this indicates the parameter that showed frequency or density dependence

DD: density-dependence

FF: frequency-dependence

NHS: hatch success

NS: nest success

RT: recruitment

**15. Spatial aspects to parasitism**

actual distances are indicated in meters (m)

numbers indicate maximum radius in terms of territories or nest boxes in which parasitism by nesting females occurred