



FIELD SAFETY PANEL

Field Inclusive Week 2023

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EGG REJECTION & THE AMERICAN ROBIN

- **Egg rejection** is a defense behavior against brood parasitism
 - Can include abandonment, egg burial, puncture rejection, ejection
 - Small number of hosts perform rejection behaviors



American Robin

SPECIES IN THE SPOTLIGHT

ethology  WILEY

The American robin (*Turdus migratorius*): A focal species for anti-parasitic egg rejection studies among hosts of the brown-headed cowbird (*Molothrus ater*)

Abbigail M. Turner  | Mark E. Hauber

MY RESEARCH

- **Hormonal mechanisms of egg rejection**

- Does corticosterone manipulation affect egg rejection rates?
- What is the natural corticosterone response to foreign eggs?



- **Characteristics of egg rejection**

- Where does the female deposit the foreign egg once she ejects it?
 - Does individual personality influence these decisions? If not, what does?
- How fast are they taken out of the nest and what affects the latency of rejection?



FIELD SAFETY ISSUES/CONCERNS



Field Site: Tree Nursery in Urbana, IL, USA



← Thread

Pinned Tweet

 **Abbigail Turner**
@saveelephants

I cannot sleep. So, as the 2022 field season approaches, I can't help but think about a truly traumatic experience I had while out in the field last year that I'd like to share. Here's a thread about the time a police officer was called on me & my team in the field.

6:59 AM · Mar 25, 2022

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GOOD SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE FIELDWORK

Field Work Level

- Wearing affiliation branded clothing
 - Maybe neon vests? (this doesn't work so well when you're trying to catch robins...)
- Branded car magnets (for all sides of the vehicle)
- Contact local police stations
- Carry "permit packs"
 - Permits
 - Emergency contact info
 - Letters/written from private landowners (if needed)

Lab/Department/University Level

- Support -> recognize there are certain challenges marginalized field researchers may face in the field!
- Advocate & action -> Field safety protocols for all possible issues/scenarios (especially if they haven't happened yet!)

