

Abstract

Recently, it has been found that the visual system of birds and humans differ remarkably, especially in the ability to perceive ultraviolet radiation. This component of the spectrum significantly affects various types of the birds' behaviour. UV reflection may be an indicator of the qualities of males, i.e. females often prefer individuals with expressive UV ornamentation. Likewise, parents can distribute the delivered food unevenly among their nestlings, depending on the nestlings' reflection of ultraviolet radiation. Recent studies also showed that the hosts of brood parasites may use UV spectrum as a key for recognizing the parasitic eggs from their own. The aim of my bachelor thesis is to review the current knowledge of the influence of UV radiation on sexual selection of birds, the interaction between parents and offspring and interactions between brood parasites and their hosts.