Variation in plumage colour of the Great tit Parus major in relation to habitat, season and food
The great tit (Parus major) is a passerine bird in the tit family Paridae. It is a widespread and common species throughout Europe, the Middle East, Central and Northern Asia, and parts of North Africa where it is generally resident in any sort of woodland; most great tits do not migrate except in extremely harsh winters. Until 2005 this species was lumped with numerous other subspecies. DNA studies have shown these other subspecies to be distinctive from the great tit and these have now been in the great tit Parus major: the roles of carotenoids and melanins differ. Abstract The size and coloration of some body characters seem to influence mate choice in many species. Most animal colours are either structural or based on melanin or carotenoid pigments. It has recently been suggested that carotenoid-based or structural coloration may be a condition-dependent trait, whereas melanin-based coloration is not; a difference that may be highly relevant when studying the evolution of multiple mating preferences. We tested this hypothesis in the great tit (Parus major). Proc R Soc Lond B 269:257–261. Slagsvold T, Lifjeld JT (1985) Variation in plumage colour of the great tit Parus major in relation to habitat, season and food. J. Zool 206:321–328. Previous work on great tits suggested that female mate choice was based on the characteristics of the male rather than the quality of his territory. The aim of this paper was to see whether females... Hinde RA (1952) The behaviour of the great tit (Parus major) and some related species. Behaviour (Suppl) 11: 1–201Google Scholar. Hoelzer GA (1989) The good parent process of sexual selection. Anim Behav 38:1067–1078Google Scholar. Jarvi T, Roskaft E, Bakken M, Zumsteg B (1987) Evolution of variation in male secondary sexual characters: a test of eight hypotheses applied to the pied flycatcher. Behav Ecol Sociobiol 20:161–169Google Scholar. Johnson EJ, Best LB (1982) Factors affecting feeding and brooding of Gray catbird nestlings.