

Murakami, M. & Nakano, S. (2000): Species-specific bird functions in a forest-canopy food web. Proc. R. Soc. Lond. B 267: 1597-1601.

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Abstract

Species-specific bird functions in a forest-canopy food web

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Bird functions in a forest-canopy food web were evaluated by a large-scale field experiment using 'canopy' enclosures. By controlling the presence of two bird species, great tits (*Parus major*; foliage gleaner) and nuthatches (*Sitta europaea*; trunk gleaner), in the enclosures, their effect on predatory insects (ants), herbivorous insects (*Lepidoptera* larvae) and producers (oak trees) was quantified. Great tits reduced the density of *Lepidoptera* larvae and, indirectly, leaf damage, but had no impact on ants. Nuthatches decreased the density of ants but did not influence either *Lepidoptera* larvae or leaf damage. These results highlight species-specific functions of birds in the maintenance of forest ecosystems.

[biodiversity: arthropods](#)

[biodiversity: birds](#)

[forest ecology](#)

[forest stand structure: community structure](#)

[ecosystem: food chain](#)

Notes

cascading effects; canopy enclosure; avian predation; ants; *Lepidoptera* larvae; oak

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