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6 June 2015

Dear Editor,

We hope that you will consider our revised manuscript entitled “Stressful colors: corticosterone concentrations in a free-living songbird vary with the spectral composition of experimental illumination” for publication in *Biology Letters*.

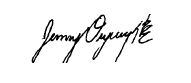
We believe that the data presented in this manuscript are of great interest for the broad readership of *Biology Letters*. In our manuscript, we use a large-scale, unique experimental field set-up to assess the effects of different spectra of artificial light on stress physiology in a free-living bird. We found that individuals nesting in white light had high corticosterone concentrations compared to the other treatments and an effect of distance in the red light: individual nesting closer to red light had higher corticosterone than individuals farther from lampposts. We consider these findings important for improving our understanding of altered endocrine phenotype in response to urban change and opening up the possibility to mitigate these changes by using different spectra of lighting.

In response to the reviewers’ comments, we now highlight the result of the main effect: white light increased corticosterone concentrations. We include more details on our experimental setup and revised figure 2 as the reviewer suggested. We include in our response to reviewers a detailed response to each comment with the referenced line numbers in the revised manuscript.

No part of this manuscript has been reported previously and it is not under consideration elsewhere. All of the data were collected under the appropriate state and federal permits and approved by the authorities of the Netherlands. All authors of this paper have made significant contributions throughout the project and have carefully commented on all drafts of this manuscript. All authors have agreed to this resubmission.

Thank you for considering this manuscript for publication in *Biology Letters*, and we look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,



Jenny Ouyang