

4.2. Problems

The methodology of the behavioural observations through the focal sampling method and the scan sampling method were feasible. Depending on the observer position, existence of blind spots, where the behaviour could not be recorded, occurred. This was noted in a "not visible"-category and later helped to adjust the proportion of the behavioural observations. Maybe an application of video cameras would yield more precise results in the sense of observing all types of behaviour. During the observation of the chicks, they often changed the enclosures and it was not feasible to observe all the chicks simultaneously. The comparison of the present results with literature data has to be treated with caution. Depending on the methodological proceedings during the experimental studies, it can lead to different results. Because of the small sample size, no statistical analyse was done.

4.3. Conclusion

Through the current study the behavioural repertoire of the male and female ostrich and their chicks at Basel Zoo could be investigated. Because most of the studies have been carried out either on farmed ostriches or wild ones, this study serves as a useful supplementary on zoo ostriches.

In respect to behaviour, the ostriches at Basel Zoo seem not to be affected negatively by captivity. Although some abnormal behaviour like *pecking other*, *pecking chicks* and *false dust bathing* was observed, it appeared in a very low frequency and seems not alarming. The behavioural repertoire they displayed was mainly comparable to data of wild ostriches (Mushi et al., 2008 and Cooper et al., 2010). An exception was related to comfort behaviour, where the performance of *preening* was much higher than in literature. According to Kummerfeld (1997), comfort behaviour as preening is an essential contribution to well-being. If we take comfort behaviour as an indicator for well-being, it would be higher in the zoo ostriches than in farm ostriches and in wild ostriches.

However, a recommendation towards improved husbandry condition for the ostriches at Basel Zoo would be a revision of the roofed sand place at the inner yard. Without great effort, the elaboration of the roof would help to minimize the behaviour *false dust bathing* and support to optimize ostrich husbandry and thus animal well-being.