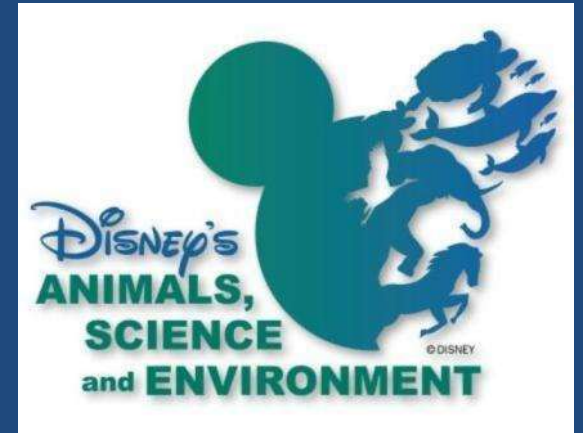


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Avian Scientific Advisory Group

Who's Your Mama? Or:



An accidental experiment on nest
and chick recognition in
Taveta golden weavers

Disney's Animal Kingdom

Thanks to :
Dr Annie Valuska
Behavior Research Fellow
Disney's Animal Kingdom

DAK Keepers:
Shawnlei Breeding,
Glory Quinones,
Brent Nelson and
Christy Sky







AVIARY



OFF EXHIBIT

OBSERVATIONS

- Each nest marked with a different colored pipe cleaner
- 20 minutes of observation collected each day
- 14 days of observation



1 male , 3 females and 3
nests
All hanging from one large
potted fern

Then:
On the 15th day the nests
were rotated by a overnight
storm

"PATTY"



"LAVERNE"

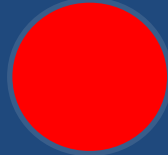


"MAXENE"

"PATTY"



3 DAYS OLD



"LAVERNE"



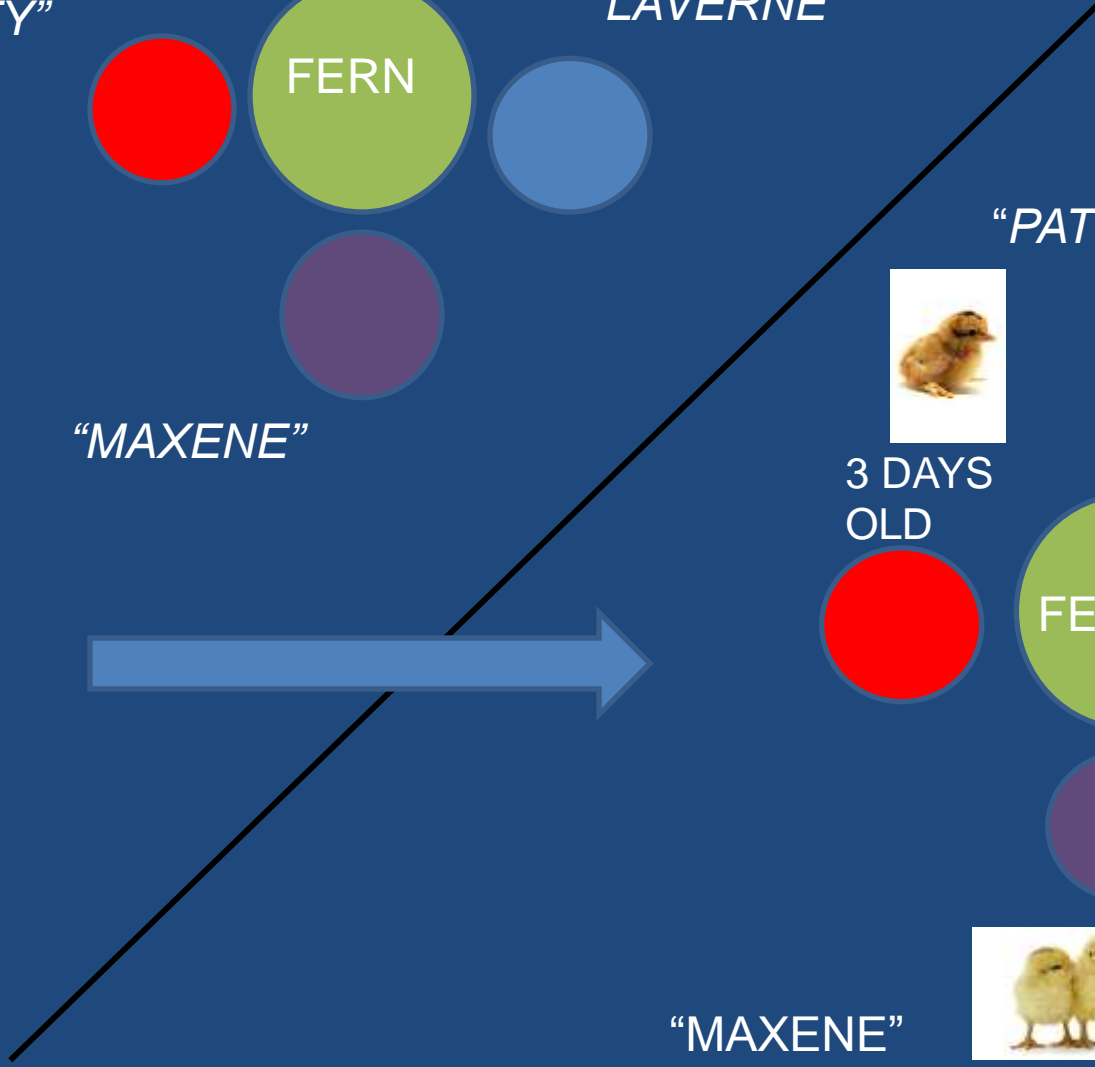
12 DAYS OLD



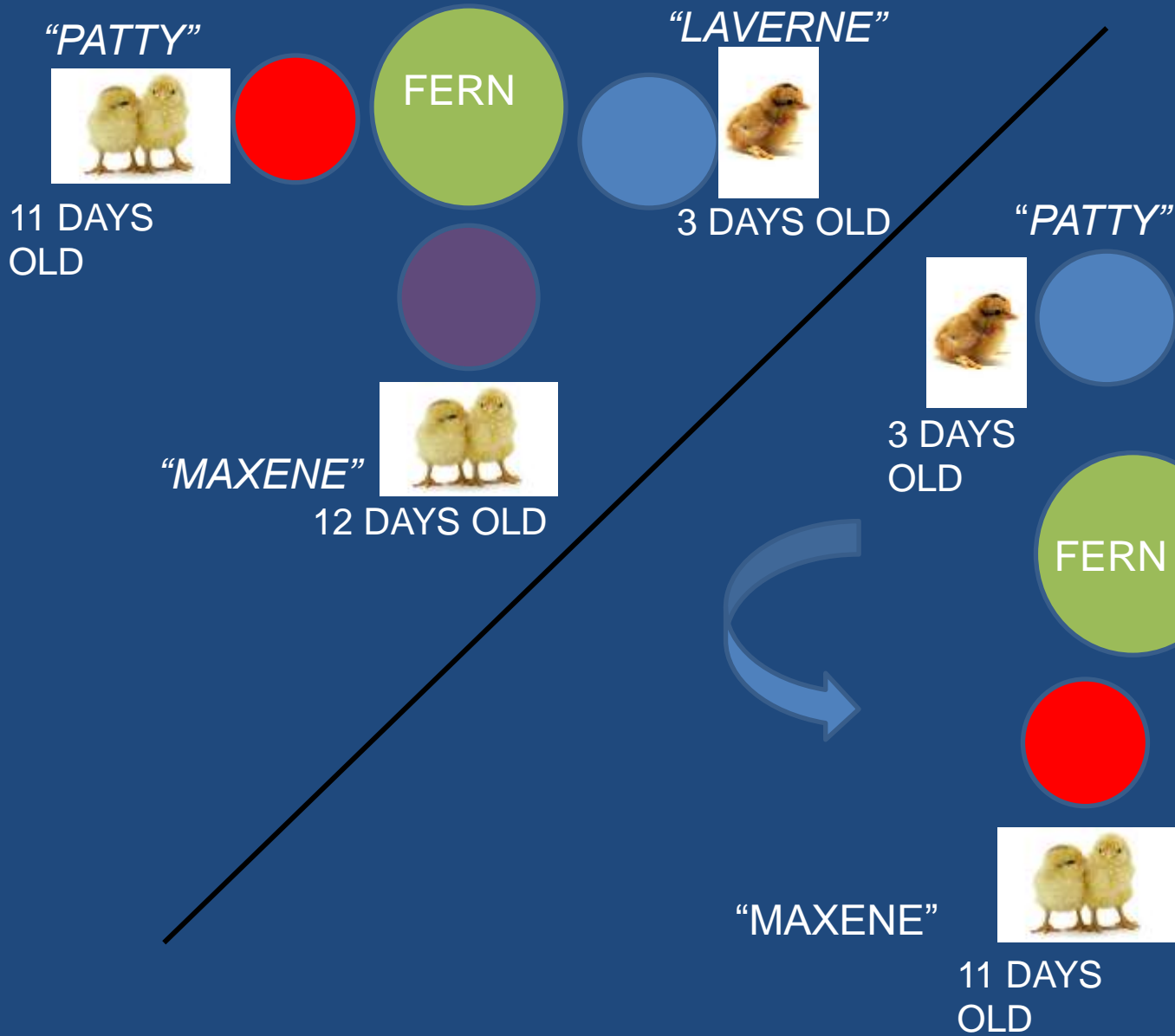
"MAXENE"



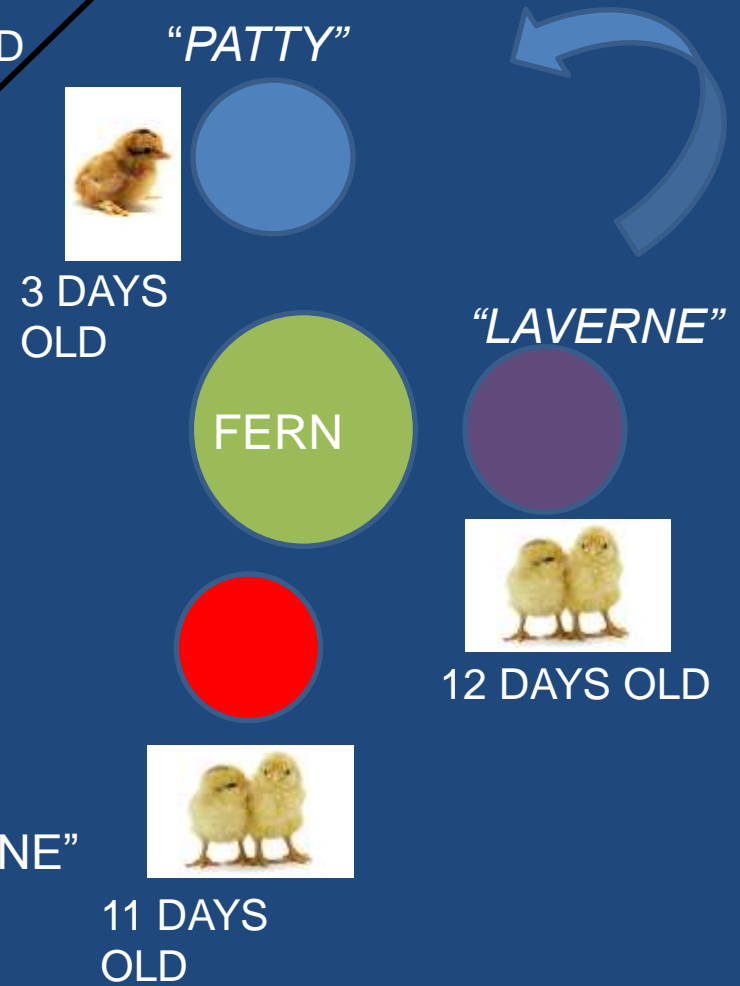
11 DAYS OLD



A



B

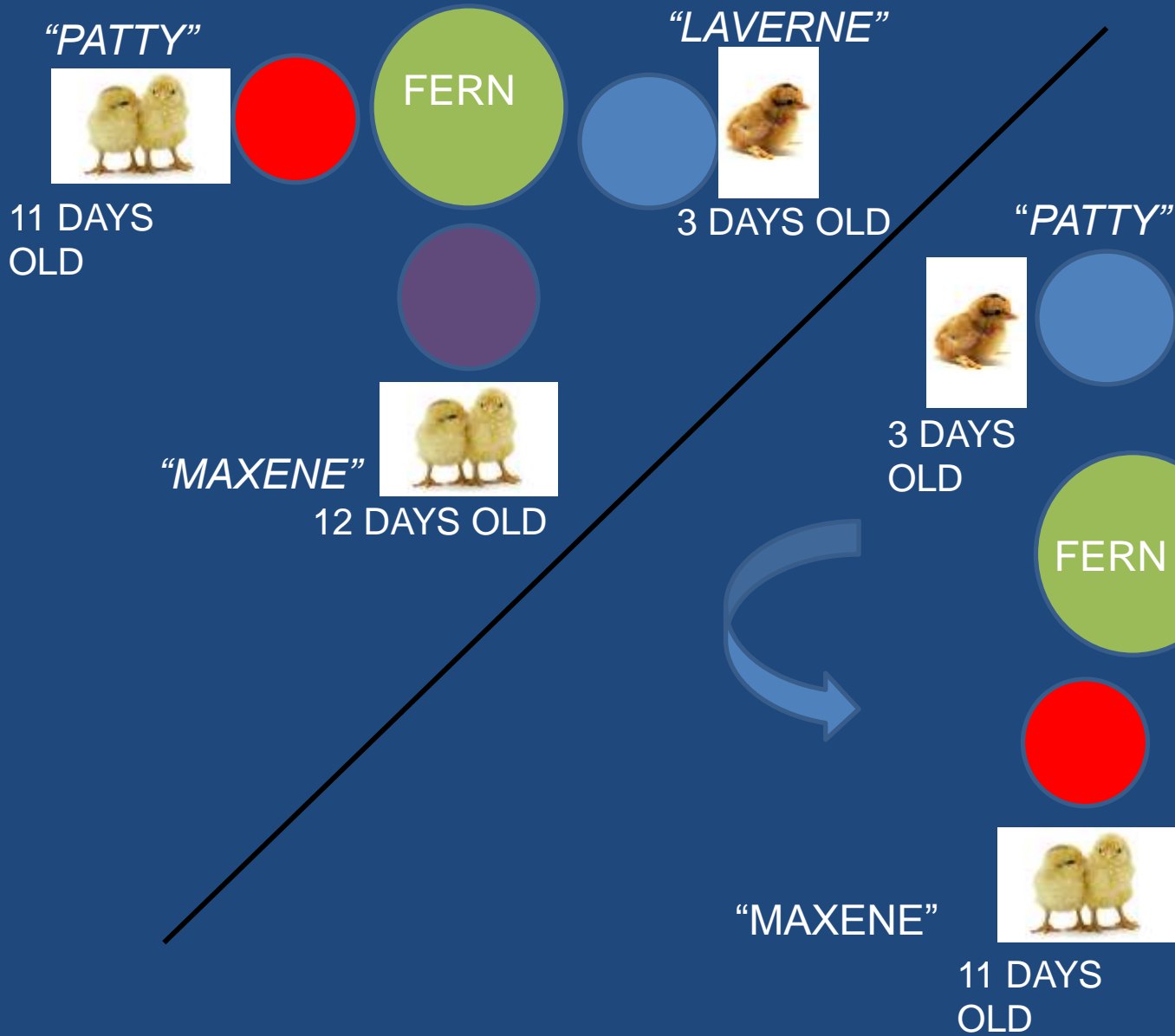


ORIGINAL 14 DAY OBSERVATIONS SHOWED:

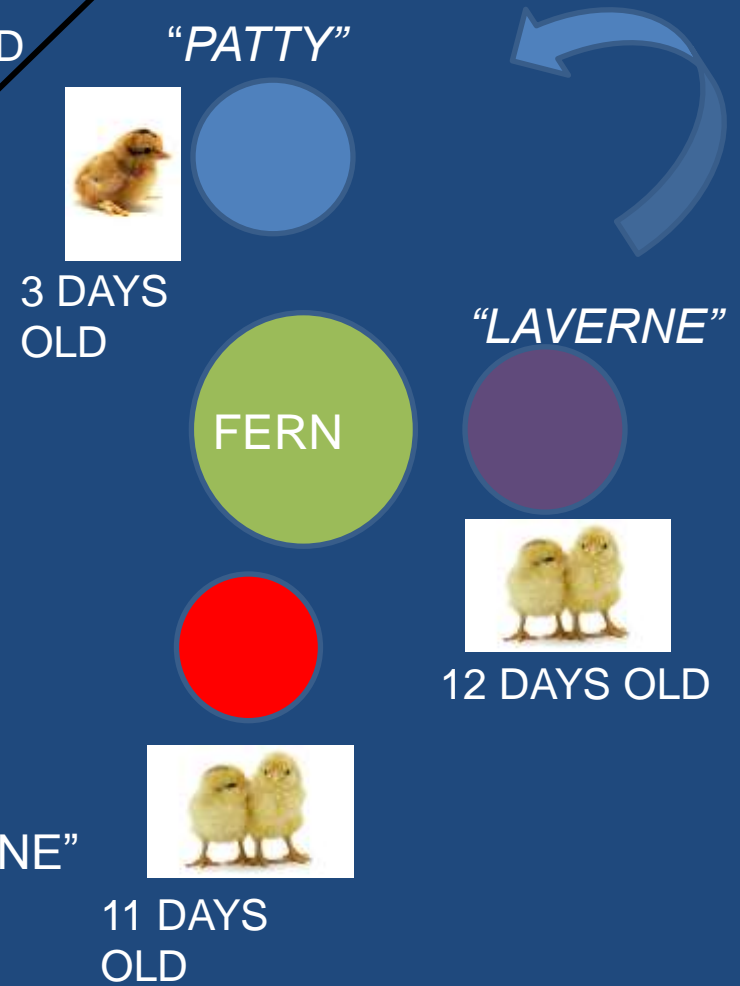
- No nest visited by any other female than it's owner
- Data was ALSO consistent with observations in the walk thru aviary
- Both locations –females were highly faithful to their own nests
- Female owners did not visit other nests, and did not tolerate visitors to their own

- Fern rotated and nests rotated 90 degrees counterclockwise
- Females did not rotate care with the nests
- Females started to care for the chicks in the nests in the same location as their original nest despite size differences
- As one position-RED nest-became vacant , female red shifted to the new position previously vacant

A



B



IT'S ONLY A FOOTNOTE But:

- Taveta weavers do not recognize their own chicks
- Taveta weavers rely on location based cues to identify their nests
- Cross fostering may be possible
- Could husbandry be applied to other similar species

Question:

- Would they have continued to feed chicks to fledging

**BUT WE'RE ALWAYS LEARNING
SOMETHING NEW!**