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NESTING SUCCESS OF THE LARK BUNTING NEAR THE PERIPHERY OF ITS BREEDING RANGE

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The Lark Bunting (*Calamospiza melanocorys*) is an uncommon to common transient and summer resident in Ellis County, Kansas, from late April or early May until late August, with stragglers remaining in the area until mid-September (Ely, 1971). Its status can best be described as variable. Its movements during migration are irregular; its abundance fluctuates from year to year at a given locality and it apparently forms no attachment to any particular nesting ground.

For example, in the summer of 1964, Orville Rice, L. B. Carson, and T. W. Nelson found a nesting colony in northwestern Shawnee County, Kansas, far outside the normal breeding range. At least 20 males and several females was observed near an alfalfa field and although only one nest was found (27 June) several fledglings were observed later in the season, thus indicating "fair" nesting success. Rice (1965) described and commented on this nesting colony.

In the present study I investigated the effects of agricultural practices on selection of nest sites and nesting success. The three main objectives were: 1) to determine whether buntings prefer cultivated areas or native grassland for nest sites; 2) to determine whether destruction of nests by agricultural practices results in renesting in "safer" habitats (such as grasslands); and 3) to elucidate the life history of this species near the periphery of its breeding range.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Nesting by Lark Buntings in Ellis County, west-central Kansas, was studied during spring and summer of 1974. Ellis County is 30 miles square and its native vegetation originally consisted largely of mixed grasses, but with narrow ribbons of riparian woodland along three major watercourses (the Saline River, Big Creek, and the Smoky Hill River) that traverse the county from west to east. Riparian vegetation along Big Creek (and to a lesser extent along the Smoky Hill River) is intermittent as a result of intensive agricultural activities. About 53 per cent of the land in Ellis County presently is under cultivation, whereas 40 per cent is range land. Most of the cultivated land is planted to wheat, milo (grain sorghum), and alfalfa. The central third of the county is predominately agricultural with most of the land under cultivation; the southern third is less intensely cultivated; and the northern third is primarily range land, (Ely, 1971).

Albertson and Tomanek (1965), in their detailed studies of ungrazed prairie near Hays, recognized three major subdivisions of the Mixed Prairie. The deeper, mature soils of the uplands are dominated by short grasses with numerous forbs and mid-grasses. Shallower soils on hillsides and in ravines are dominated by scattered clumps of little bluestem (*Schizachyrium scoparius*) and lesser amounts of mid-grasses and forbs such as bladderpod (*Lesquerella ovalifolia*) and resinous skullcap (*Scutellaria resinosa*). On the deeper soils of ravines and the lowlands, tall grasses and forbs such as leadplant (*Amorpha canescens*) are common. The woody vegetation in ravines included buckbrush (*Synphoricarpos orbiculatus*) and some trees, chiefly common hackberry (*Celtis occidentalis*). Woody vegetation along rivers is more continuous and is generally dominated by such trees as plains cottonwood (*Populus deltoides*).

Studies were concentrated in two native grassland areas and two milo stubble fields left fallow from the previous fall. Each area was visited regularly from the

time the buntings arrived until they departed. Intensive efforts were made to locate all nests by dragging a rope over each area. Additional nests were located by observing the activities of nesting adults and by chance flushing of incubating birds. Activities associated with each nest were observed until the completion or premature termination of the nest. Nests were checked approximately every four days except when eggs were hatching or young were fledging, at which times nests were checked more frequently; to check nests more frequently than this might have increased the risk of predation (already dangerously high in ground nesting species) or desertion of the nest.

Pairs of buntings which nested in two stubble fields were netted, banded, and individually color-marked so that their activities could be studied further after the nest sites were destroyed by agricultural practices. A mist net was set up in the form of a triangle around the nest (using 3 poles) and with one end open. The incubating adult was then flushed into the mist net by walking toward the nest from the direction of the open side.

Adults were individually marked by spraying different colors of paint on one or both wing patches. After a marked bird's nest was destroyed, the surrounding area was carefully searched for three and one-half weeks in an attempt to find the adults. Intensive efforts were made to find both displaying males and the less conspicuous females.

Buntings were censused along specified routes from early May through August in order to observe fluctuations in numbers, to help determine the peak nesting period and to include the period during which young birds were flocking prior to migration. Each census route was 9.5 miles long and consisted of 20 stops at 0.5 mile intervals. At each stop, all birds seen or heard during a 3-minute period were recorded. Until about mid-June, buntings were censused along each route once during the week beginning between 08:00 and 08:30 hours (CDST) and once each weekend beginning at sunrise.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Nesting

Graber and Graber (1951) noted that most migrant Lark Buntings arrive in southwestern Kansas in mid-April and reach the eastern plains of Colorado about two weeks later. The first observed spring arrival for the Hays area in 1974 was a male on 30 April. Other arrival dates for the Hays area (9 years) range from 27 April to 9 May, (pers. comm., C. Ely). The first female arrived on 8 May nine days after the first male, (about as expected, Bent, 1968). Subsequently the sex ratio gradually increased in favor of females until the time of nesting.

Courtship in the Lark Bunting lasts approximately 2 weeks, from the time the flocks arrive until they disperse to nesting areas (Bent, 1968). The flight song of the male presumably plays an important role in courtship and territorial "defense," but this behavior continues until late July. The song sometimes is emitted by males perched on fence posts but more commonly while in flight. Males do not rigorously defend their territories. They often were observed pursuing one another across several nesting areas, but no physical contact was noted. In some instances, nests were found within 10 to 15 yards of one another. Accordingly, with nests so closely spaced and with "defense" so weak many of the territorial adaptations that occur in other passerines are lacking.

Nests invariably are located in depressions in the ground and comprise a loose structure of grass blades, milo blades, or fine roots (often lined with finer materials such as hair or narrow-bladed grasses). All of the seven nests found in an alfalfa field had fine alfalfa leaves and stems interwoven into their structure. Upon completion of construction, the upper rim of the nest usually is flush with the surface of the ground.

Each of the 83 Lark Bunting nests located was situated at the base of a plant in such a way as to allow clear visibility in at least two directions. Stubble fields were the favored site for early nesting. Until early May the limited vegetation growth in these fields allowed excellent visibility, and new nesting activity seemed to stop when the vegetation became so tall and dense that visibility was reduced. In stubble, nests commonly were constructed beneath marestail (*Conyza*

canadensis), but several nests were neatly constructed at the bases of bent-over milo stalks which provided cover above but clear visibility to the sides. In native grassland, nests usually were situated on hillsides having shallow soil, sparse vegetation, and good visibility. Nests in these locations usually were at the bases of resinous skullcap, broom snakeweed (*Gutierrezia sarothrae*) or stemless tetraneuris (*Tetraneuris stenophylla*). In two instances, nests were in dense growths of grass; however, the nest itself was situated in a clump of yellowspine thistle (*Cirsium ochracentrum*) that provided a small, open area of good visibility.

Nest building, based on the discovery of several partially constructed nests and observation of progress at subsequent visits, probably averages two or three days. Birds just beginning to construct their nests were not disturbed because buntings frequently abandon their efforts if disturbed at this stage.

Clutch size was determined only for the 70 (of 83) nests with complete clutches. For example, a nest containing three or four eggs when first found and empty when next visited was not included in the calculations. When a nest was parasitized by cowbirds, one egg was added to the number of bunting eggs therein on the assumption that one bunting egg had been removed by the female cowbird.

Clutch size ranged from two to six eggs ($\bar{x}$=4.8), with 64.3 per cent (45 of 70 nests) of the nests having five eggs. Clutch size averaged 5.0 in alfalfa, 4.9 in stubble and 4.5 in grassland. Six of the seven 6-egg clutches were in stubble.

The date the first egg was laid was determined for each nest by observing either the date the clutch was initiated, the date the clutch was completed (and clutch size), or the date of first hatching. It was assumed that one egg was laid daily, and that the incubation period was 12 days (Cameron, 1908). Clutches in 46 nests were initiated from 11 May through 7 June (a range of 28 days). Rising (1974) noted a peak in clutch completion in mid-June (11 through 20 June). All but one of my observed clutches were initiated before this period. The earlier peak in clutch completion in my study (21 through 31 May) may have been the result of different weather patterns during the two years.

The sexes share incubation but females apparently incubate more than males. The sex of the incubating bird was noted whenever a nest was checked; females were on the nests 84.3 per cent of the time (in 145 of 172 visits). There was no obvious relationship between time of day and sex of the incubating bird.

Dates of hatching, determined either directly or indirectly for 27 nests, ranged over 28 days (from 27 May through 22 June). There was no obvious peak period of hatching. Dates of fledging could be approximated for only 17 nests. These dates are less accurate than those on which eggs hatched because the young buntings often fledged prematurely if their nests were disturbed and also because daily visits were not always possible. Fledging occurred over a 23-day period (from 8 June through 30 June). The apparent shorter span of fledging (compared to incubation and egg laying) is probably the result of the smaller sample size. This agrees with Cameron (1908) who noted that young Lark Buntings fledge before 1 July.

Nesting Success

A total of 83 nests was studied (Table 1). Five were abandoned or destroyed before any eggs were laid. Seventeen of the remainder fledged young, a fledging success of only 20.5 per cent when the results of nests in all four habitats were combined. The per cent success for all eggs laid was only 14.3 per cent (58 of 335 eggs both hatched and fledged), whereas 65.9 per cent (58 of 88) of all eggs which hatched resulted in successful fledging. Two factors contributing to the high, early nest loss are the type of habitat in which most nests were located and the nature of the study.

Fifty-four nests (65.1%) were in milo stubble which had been left fallow since the previous fall. Such fields usually are prepared for planting in the early spring (from about mid-April until the end of May), and nests are destroyed during this process. The time of preparation (disking, undercutting, or plowing) depends on the amount of precipitation that falls during spring; a wet spring will delay agricultural activities and thereby increase the chance for successful nesting. The

spring of 1974 was very dry, and most stubble fields were worked before the buntings arrived from the south. This possibly concentrated the birds in fewer areas than normal, and increased the likelihood that a substantial percentage of their nests could be destroyed by a few catastrophic events. For example, one of the two study areas was disked four days after the nests therein were found and one of the nests survived.

Nesting failure in two of the study areas also resulted from the necessity of considerable disturbance to nesting birds. Netting operations were undertaken in the two stubble fields to band and mark the nesting adults to allow observation of these birds if any renested elsewhere after their first nests were destroyed. This activity resulted in increased rates of desertion and predation. However, disking of one of the fields was unexpectedly delayed until after all nests in that field had either fledged young or had proven unsuccessful. This allowed direct comparison of the rates of desertion of nests under different conditions. Desertion resulting from disturbance by the researcher was approximately three times as great in the fallow field as on the native prairie, where disturbance was minimal.

Nest success in milo stubble (Table 1) was only 7.4 per cent (4 of 54 nests). The 29 nests in grassland (17 in native prairie and 5 in stands of planted grass) or alfalfa (7) fared much better; 13 (45%) resulted in successful fledging of young. Nesting success by habitat was: alfalfa, 57 per cent successful (4 or 7); native grassland, 53 per cent successful (9 of 17); and planted grass, 0 per cent successful (0 of 5).

Predation and farming activities were major factors responsible for reduced nesting success (Table 1); each accounted for the destruction of 24 of the 83 nests, or 28.9 per cent each. Sixteen of the remaining nests (19.3%) were deserted.

The higher observed rate of predation (41.2%) in grassland compared with that (24.1%) in milo stubble is an easily explained artifact. Twenty-four nests in one stubble field were destroyed by farming activities only four days after they were discovered. In this short period only one nest was lost to predators, but many more doubtlessly would have been lost in the ensuing month had the nests not already been destroyed by disking.

Young fledged from nests in only three of the four habitats studied—stubble, alfalfa, and native grassland. The number of young fledged per nest among these habitats (Table 1) was greatest (4.2) in alfalfa, intermediate (3.5) in stubble, and least (3.0) in native grassland. The apparent lack of nesting success in planted grass is probably the result of small sample size.

A total of 55 fledglings from 17 broods were banded but no returns or recoveries have yet been obtained.

Nest Parasitism

The Lark Bunting is "moderately" parasitized by the Brown-headed Cowbird (*Molothrus ater*), (Mayfield, 1965). Data for 77 nests with clutch size of three or more, were considered adequate for analysis of the incidence and effects of nests parasitism. Parasitism rarely occurs after a clutch has progressed to this stage.

Sixteen of the 77 nests (20.8%) were parasitized, but no cowbirds fledged from any of the parasitized nests. Milo stubble had the highest rate of parasitism of the different habitats (Table 2). None of the seven nests located in alfalfa were parasitized, but this may have been an artifact resulting from small sample size. Only one of the 16 parasitized nests was successful, largely because most (12) of the parasitized nests were in stubble fields where few nests survived. Of the 12 parasitized nests in stubble fields, four were destroyed by farming activities, two were lost due to predation, and the remaining six were deserted. Two of the four parasitized nests in grassland were deserted during incubation and one was destroyed by a predator after the eggs had hatched. One cowbird egg and one bunting egg disappeared from the fourth nest, which ultimately fledged the remaining two buntings.

Color-marking and Renesting

Forty-five adults, at two different locations, were banded and individually color-marked in an effort to observe their activities after their nests were destroyed. T. G. Shane (**pers. comm.**) has found that buntings will renest after nest destruction.

Table 1. Comparative nesting success of Lark Buntings in four habitats in Ellis County, Kansas, 1974.

Overall Success	Milo Stubble		Native Grassland		Seeded Pasture		Alfalfa		Total	
	No.	Percent	No.	Percent	No.	Percent	No.	Percent	No.	Percent
Number of Nests	54		17		5		7		83	
Successful	4	(7.4)	9	(53.0)	0		4	(57.1)	17	(20.5)
Fledging Success										
Successful Nests	4		9		0		4		17	
Young Fledged	14		27		0		17		58	
No.-Nest	3.5		3.0		0		4.2		3.4	
Source of Nest Loss										
Desertion	13	(24.1)	1	(6.0)	0		2	(28.6)	16	(19.3)
Predation	13	(24.1)	7	(41.2)	4	(80.0)	0		24	(28.9)
Farming Practices	24	(44.4)	0		0		0		24	(28.9)
Other	0		0		1	(20.0)	1	(20.0)	2	(2.4)
Cowbird Parasitism										
No. Nests	48		22	(18.2)	0		7		77	
Parasitized	12	(25.0)	4	(18.2)	0		0		16	(20.8)

Birds were captured in stubble fields in which nest destruction by agricultural practices was anticipated.

Eight males and 15 females were banded and color-marked at a location approximately three miles south and nine miles east of Hays. Adults were captured at 16 different nests; at seven of these, both members of the pair were marked. Nests in this field were destroyed by farming activities four days after it was searched for nests (one nest was lost to predation in the meantime). Only one marked bird was later observed—a male seen about one-quarter mile from its initial nest in an area of milo, alfalfa, and grassland. A careful search of the area failed to discover a nest, but the male was seen displaying at this same location on four subsequent occasions. He was last seen on 17 June, 17 days after his first nest was destroyed. The female (also color-marked) was not observed after the nest (with its full clutch of five eggs) was destroyed.

Eight males and 17 females were banded and individually color-marked at a second site about one mile west of Hays. Destruction of this field was unexpectedly delayed until after nesting was completed, and four of the 24 nests were successful. At least one member of the pair of eight of the unsuccessful nests was color-marked, but repeated searches of the surrounding area failed to reveal the presence of any of these color-marked birds.

Intensive searches for marked birds in a 5-mile area surrounding each study area was undertaken three times weekly for approximately three and one-half weeks after destruction of the nests, but only the one male was found. From this

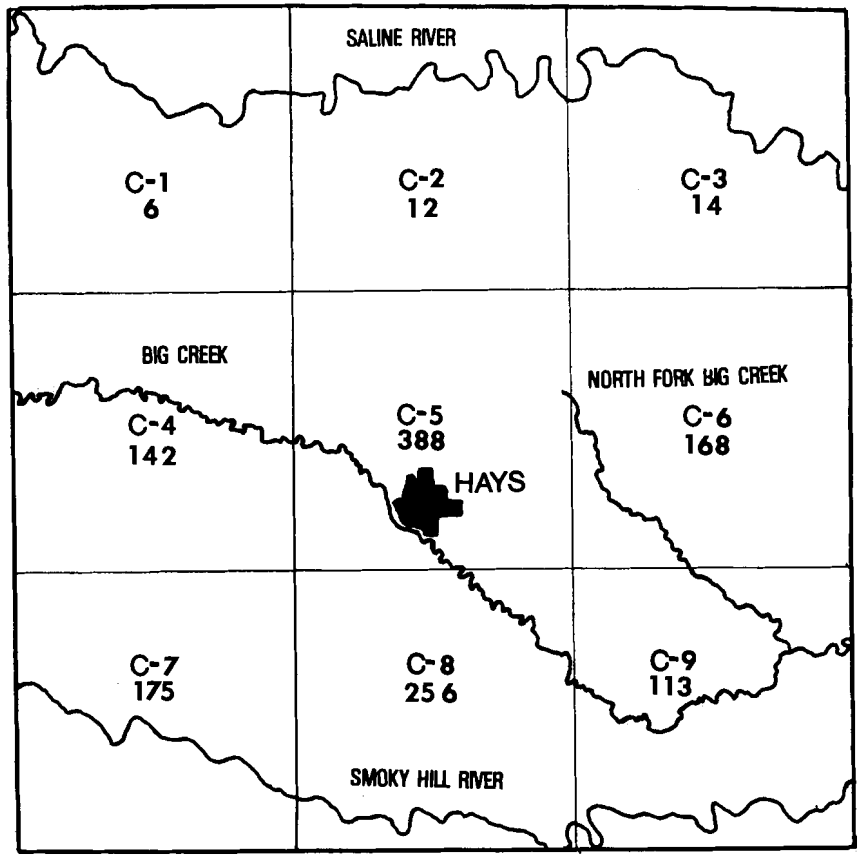

Figure 1. Relative abundance of Lark Buntings throughout Ellis County, Kansas, as determined by June census routes, 1968-1974.

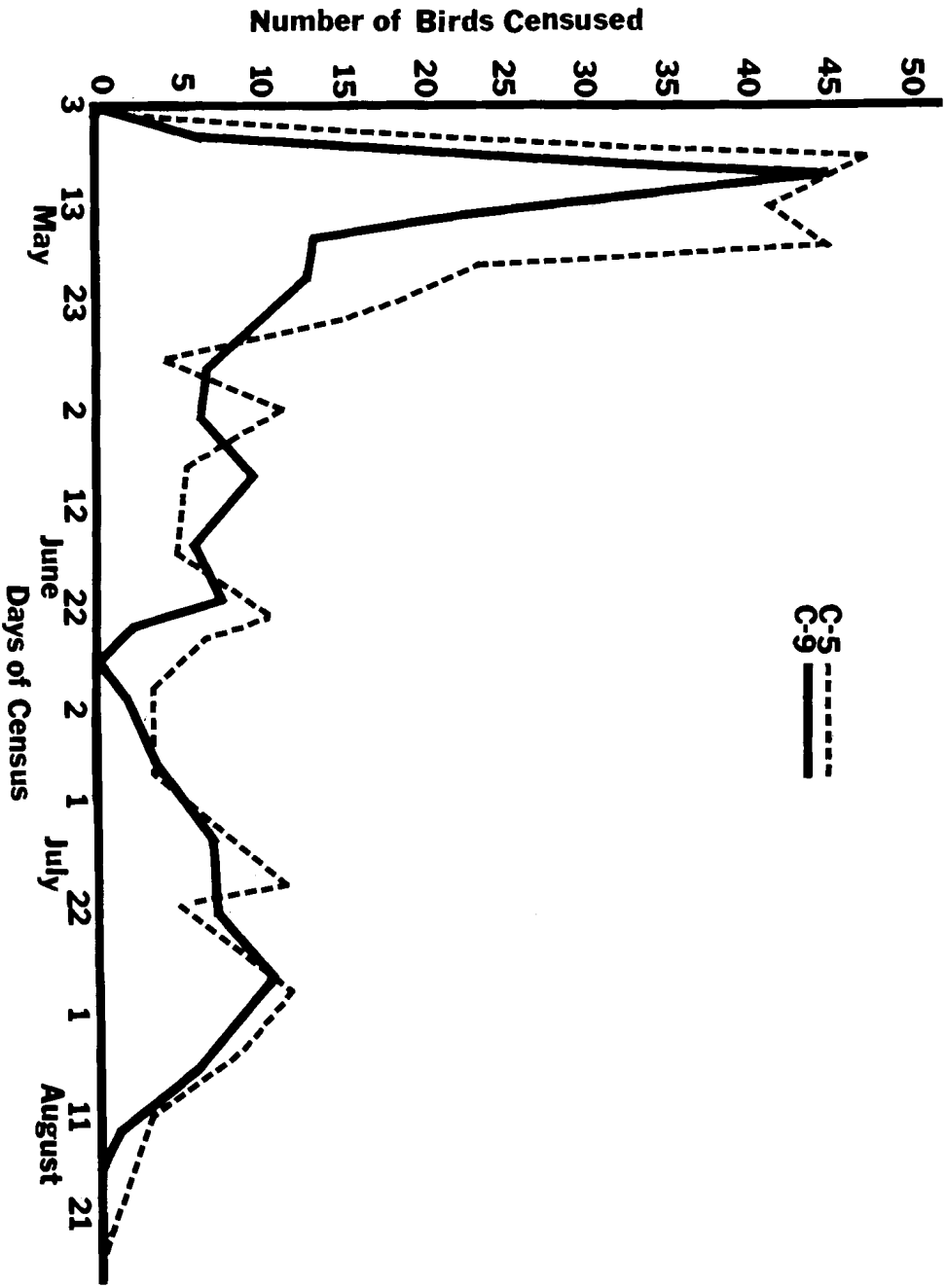

Figure 2. Relative abundance of Lark Buntings on two breeding bird survey routes in Ellis County, Kansas, 1968-1974.

indirect evidence, it would seem that most buntings leave the area immediately after their nest is destroyed rather than move to a nearby "safe" habitat such as prairie. On no occasion was evidence for renesting found.

Population Changes

Breeding birds have been censused along nine specified routes in Ellis County, Kansas, since 1968 in order to document relative abundance of certain species from year to year. The shape of Ellis County (30 miles square) made it convenient to divide the county into nine areas of equal size (10 x 10 miles, or 100 square miles) numbered C-1 through C-9 (Figure 1). One 9½-mile roadside census route (20 stops) was then established in each.

A chi-square test (x^2=900.5, significant at the .05 level) showed that Lark Buntings were not distributed evenly throughout the county (Figure 1). Only 32 of the 1,274 buntings censused were on the northern three census routes, which pass largely through rangeland. Buntings were much more abundant in the more intensely cultivated central portion of the county (routes C-4 through C-6), where 698 individuals were observed and in the southern third where 544 (about 20% fewer than in the central portion) were censused. The southern section contains more grassland than does the central portion, and some of the cultivated land is under intensive irrigation which leads to heavier stubble and poorer nesting habitat. These observations suggest that the abundance of Lark Buntings is enhanced by cultivation of seed crops even though farming activities result in destruction of many nests, and that abundance is (and perhaps always was) least in prairie habitats.

Routes C-5 and C-9, those nearest my study areas, were selected to assess variation in pure relative abundance of buntings in Ellis County since 1968 (Figure 2). Both routes show the same pattern, differing only in consistently fewer birds on route C-9 than route C-5. Regardless of abundance in a given year, buntings show a decided preference for the "better" habitat along route C-5 than along route C-9; only in years of high abundance are poor habitats utilized for nesting (e.g., route C-1, Figure 1).

Abundance of buntings was greater in 1969, and secondarily in 1972, than in any other year since records have been maintained. Tout (1902) suggested that buntings are more abundant during dry than during wet years. However, in Ellis County the year of greatest bunting abundance followed a wetter than normal spring, and the year of least abundance followed a dry spring. Distribution of the precipitation throughout the year could possibly have an effect on bunting abundance.

Precipitation totals prior to spring (January through April) for each year since 1968 were compared with data from census routes. As mentioned above, 1969 was noteworthy for an abundance of buntings and abundant precipitation. However, the springs of 1971 and 1973 (both of which were wetter than 1969) were characterized by low numbers of buntings as indicated by the breeding bird surveys. Conversely, the spring of 1972 was slightly drier than the previous year. These data indicate that the relationship between precipitation and abundance, if indeed a relationship exists, is indirect or complicated by the interactions of other factors.

Routes C-5 and C-9 also were used to monitor bunting populations near the study areas during the breeding season (Figure 3). From 8 through 16 May large numbers were observed along both routes, showing the buildup in numbers preceding initiation of nesting and possibly indicating continued migration or the later arrival of females. Numbers declined abruptly at the end of this period, indicating the beginning of nesting for most birds (some had begun earlier). Numbers decreased steadily for about two weeks before they stabilized again. The small peak in numbers in late July was probably the result of young birds flocking prior to southward migration. Numbers then gradually declined until 17 August when the last buntings were observed on either route. A small flock of four individuals—young or females—was observed five miles northwest of Hays on 9 September. Approximately three weeks elapsed from the period of presumed flocking of young birds until the departure of the last observed birds (excepting the previously mentioned small flock).

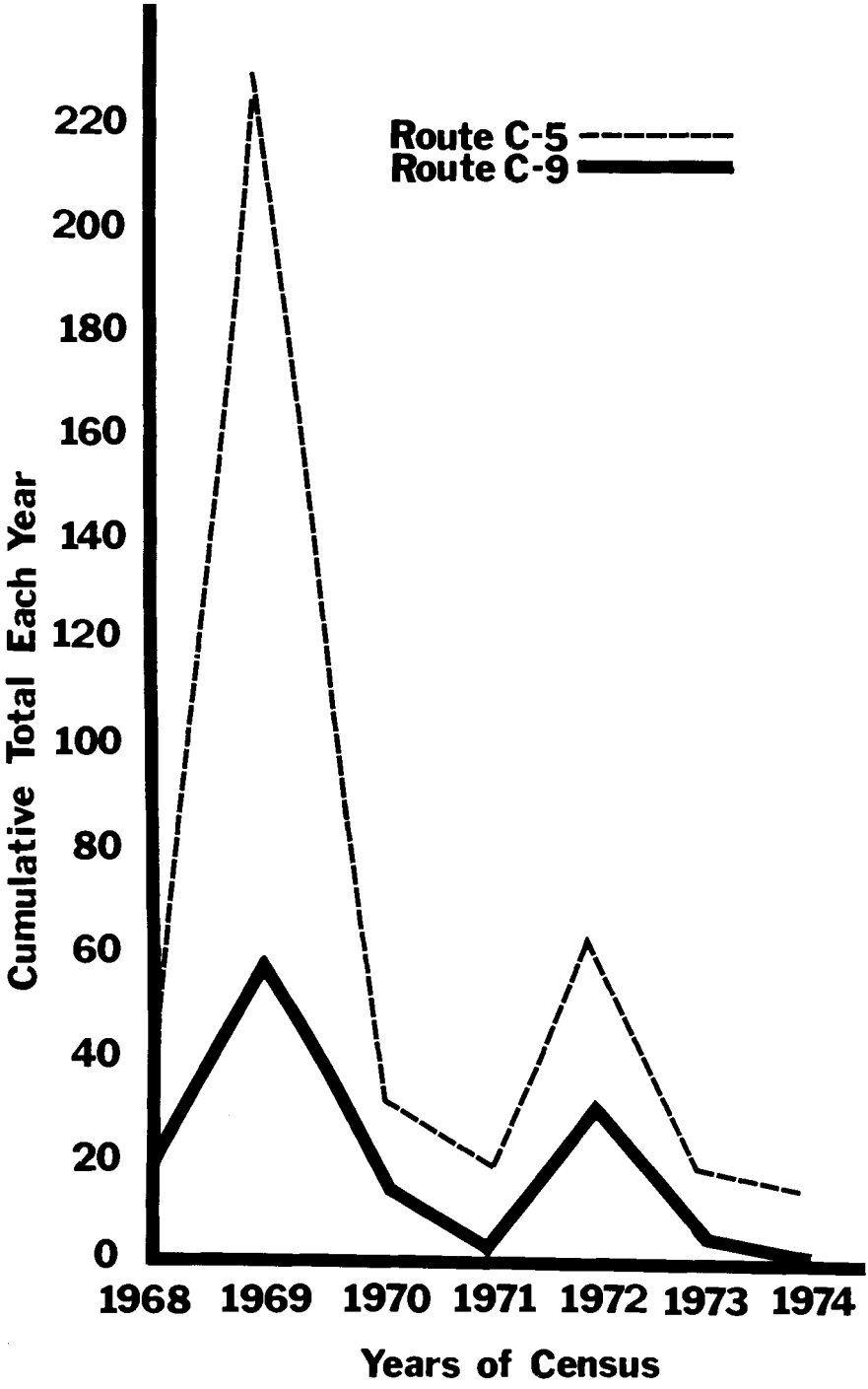

Figure 3. Seasonal distribution of Lark Buntings on two Ellis County, Kansas census routes from 3 May to 24 August 1974. Censusing was at five day intervals.

Acknowledgements

I wish to express my appreciation to Dr. Charles A. Ely, for directing the project and for his valuable suggestions during the preparation of the manuscript. I also thank Richard A. Hill for his invaluable aid in locating Lark Bunting nests.

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IN MEMORIAN: FRANK W. ROBL

Frank Robl died at the age of 79 in the Ellinwood Hospital on January 24, 1976. Frank was known throughout the country as the "duck man" and had been an active bird bander for more than 50 years. His farm, three miles north of Ellinwood, is some five miles southeast of the Cheyenne Bottoms marsh and has been visited by wildlife students, outdoor groups and wildlife enthusiasts for many years.

Frank was born March 5, 1896 at Ellinwood, married Gertrude Demerath in June 1923 and they have two children, Frank Jr. and Betty. Mrs. Robl died in 1961.

His bird banding began in 1923 and was most active from 1924 through 1939. During this period some 18,842 birds were banded; more than 16,000 of these were ducks. This early banding contributed much to our knowledge of the varying migration patterns, longevity, survival and general life history of our many species of ducks. His banding to date has accounted for more than 3,000 recoveries.

Frank was also an avid photographer and made early movies of waterfowl that were widely shown—including our K.O.S. meetings. He and Frank Jr. made the first Christmas bird count in Barton County. He was also a charter member of K.O.S.

Over the years he received numerous honors and recognition for his work contributions and was recently honored as the "duck man" by the Cheyenne Stamp Club with a special cachet for their annual stamp show. He was a member of Inland Bird Banding Association; National Audubon Society; Ducks Unlimited; St. Joseph Catholic Church; Knights of Columbus; Elks Lodge; Cheyenne Stamp Club; Director of Larned Federal Land Bank and Secretary of Ellinwood District Hospital.

In death Frank leaves many friends. Wildlife, particularly waterfowl, has lost an enthusiastic worker for their well being. *Marvin D. Schwilling, 115 W. Cleveland, Pratt, Kansas 67124.*

Nesting of the Pileated Woodpecker in Cowley County, Kansas.—The Pileated Woodpecker, *Dryocopus pileatus*, is of sporadic occurrence in Kansas, occupying primarily mature riparian woodland in the eastern third of the state. Until recently, it was known to breed only in the extreme eastern counties although breeding further west had been suspected for several years. On 8 May 1976 a nest was discovered by Thompson on the Arkansas River, 14 mil. S. Udall, Cowley Co.,

Kansas. The nest was situated about 60 feet high in a dead cottonwood, *Populus deltoides*. When found, the parent birds were observed bringing food to the nesting cavity. On 28 May, two young birds were seen sticking their heads out of the nesting cavity and calling to the parent birds. They were both male chicks. The young fledged on 31 May.

On 3 April 1976, a nest was discovered by Seibel at the Chaplin Nature Center, near Arkansas City. The nest was in a live Sycamore, *Platanus occidentalis*. The tree was about 60 feet tall with the nest placed at the 45 feet level. The hole was freshly hewn. The site was revisited on 14 April and one bird was seen in the vicinity. The success of this nest is unknown.

The Pileated Woodpecker was first noted in southern Kansas in northern Sumner Co. on the Arkansas River near Udall, in 1956 by Thompson. It has been seen nearly every year since that time from this area southward to the Kansas-Oklahoma border, becoming progressively more common in the southern part of Cowley County. In 1974 it was seen on the Walnut River north of Winfield and has probably moved further upstream in that area.

The Pileated Woodpecker is probably more common in Kansas than previously supposed. It's secretive nature makes it difficult to find. The best clue to its existence in an area is its call. The drumming is also distinctive. *Max C. Thompson and David Seibel, Dept. of Biology, Southwestern College, Winfield, Kansas 67156.*

Varied Thrush in Cowley County, Kansas. —On 20 December 1975, my brother Kent and I observed an adult male Varied Thrush, *Ixoreus naevius*, in woods along the Arkansas River on the west edge of Arkansas City, Cowley Co., Kansas. The bird was first spotted at 13:00 hours as I was watching a group of Yellow-rumped Warblers, *Dendroice coronata*, feeding in the woods about 1 mile north of the Chestnut St. bridge near the old Arkansas City landfill. The thrush was sitting quietly, close to the trunk and about twenty-five feet up in a slender sapling some 50 feet away from me. The tree in which it sat was one of the relatively few, scattered saplings growing in a shallow wash about 10 feet deep in the middle and 60 feet wide. The area was bordered on the east by the old Midland Valley Railroad and on the west by a hundred yards of thicker woods and then the Arkansas River. Within the depression is a small spring which keeps the ground moist and the vegetation green (mostly Water Cress). The Varied Thrush was facing me when I first saw it and its bright orange eye stripe and the distinct blackish breast band were noted. The bird was then viewed through a 25X spotting scope. The day was clear and the sun to our backs making identification easy. The thrush sat in the same spot for about three minutes, then flew to a dead tree covered with dense vines. It worked its way through the vines and took off again in about two minutes. It flew past us within 10 feet and the orange wingbars were clearly seen.

Subsequent attempts at spotting the thrush, by us and others, resulted in only one further sighting to confirm our identification and establish the fact that the bird remained in the area for at least three weeks. Wallace Champeny succeeded in finding the thrush, after several attempts on 11 January 1976. It was in the same area.

These sightings constitute the third record for the Varied Thrush for Kansas. This record being the easternmost. The first record was from Finney County on 18 October 1891, a specimen was collected but its whereabouts are now unknown. The second record was from Sherman County on 23 December 1974 (**Bull. Kansas Orni. Soc.**, 26:11). The literature shows several previous incidents of winter wanderings, and winter residency of the Varied Thrush in various localities to the south and even considerably to the east of Kansas. There appears to be no consistency or permanence to these extensions of range. *David Seibel, 601 N. 3rd St., Arkansas City, Kansas 67005.*

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