

Bernstein

entire

3 July 1990

Dear Jim,

Sorry that I missed you when you were at Lakeside. The only exciting bird news to report is the Upland Sandpiper situation at Cayler Prairie. We found one nest early in June, but it was soon depredated. Soon after, we began finding more nests. Eventually, we found 5 more nests. Three hatched almost simultaneously. I banded 4 young from one nest and saw 2 other young from another nest. A fourth nest was depredated and we found part of the adult. The fifth nest recently hatched 2 young, and 2 of the eggs may be non-viable. We banded the two young. Throughout this, there have not been 10 birds on the prairie, leading me to suspect possible polyandry. We intend to pursue this next year. Do you know how to do a laparoscopy or have references? I haven't really started looking into the literature, but have a sabbatical next fall.

Alice tried a drift fence to keep the young close to the nest on my idea. Two out of three birds did not accept the fence. We collected some data on vegetation around the fence, and, while individual differences may account for the rejection, the vegetation data were interesting. We're writing it up into a short note.

The cowbird parasitism research is coming along nicely, and I am finding new dimensions to pursue. Need more time. I began looking more closely at the redwings this year. Dickcissels are not doing much at Cayler. I have seen about 7 males and one female. No nests although I had 4 at this time last year. I almost wonder if they do better in alfalfa fields than the prairie preserves? I found one nest at Stinson Prairie with 3 Dickcissel eggs and 5 cowbird eggs.

In general, bird populations seem lower. Especially marsh nesters. Perhaps a few more orioles and Great Crested Flycatchers on campus, but lower numbers of others (except female cowbirds and 2 starlings). I thought that I heard a Cerulean Warbler at Ft. Defiance State Park, but couldn't be sure.

Anyway, as you can see, I have more ideas than time and assistance. Hope all is well with you and Steve.

See you,

