

Questions

Here are sample questions from former exams. In many instances, other examiners would comment they had similar or even identical ones.

Research

PhD_1

fragment spacing and size = does their home range size and/or territory movement patterns fully overlap or extend beyond small patch sizes?

site fidelity

timing

can you use remote sensing to measure fragments

veg sampling for nest is the same as fragments?

does your detailed veg sampling match the literature?

what is the sample size you need for individual birds, ie is 9 sufficient?

do you need to use MARK to test mark-recapture theory?

more stats work - habitat occupancy models

deeper or wider for a PhD - a choice that structures design and sampling effort for subsequent work

things you can control and those things you cannot - spring detections

PhD_2

1. Nesting success over the two-year study was significantly lower on agricultural sites (26.5 % success compared to 50.0 % success on non-agricultural sites) with a similar but non-significant pattern for fledgling survival (21.4 % survival on agricultural compared to 35.3 % on non-agricultural sites).

why do you think you had a similar but non-significant pattern?

2. is there any evidence from your work how we could modify ag lands to be more nesting friendly? It would be great to turn habitat loss into habitat modification.
3. In your intro, you state the results to date from lit are conflicted. Any insights from your work how this can be resolved?
4. had no relation to habitat variables such as crop type, availability of natural margins, and surrounding grasslands and woodlands (Bradbury et al., 2003) - what is the driver that matters then?
5. intensive agriculture is low quality habitat due to higher nest predation and lower food supply:

so how do you measure predation risk? arthropods is the measure of food supply.

6. do sparrows have arthropod feeding preferences or will they eat anything?
7. Can you have a p-value of 0? p13
8. How do you reconcile mixed positive/n.s. results? some measures were not significant whilst others were?
9. discuss results on p11