

ABSTRACT

David Lack (1947) hypothesized that adult birds can only raise as many young as they can feed and that the most common clutch size in a population will be the most productive. The predictions of Lack's hypothesis were tested on a population of European Starlings, *Sturnus vulgaris*, in a study area north of Ogden, Utah, during the 2000-2002 breeding seasons. I tested whether the modal clutch size produced the greatest number of young on brood day 12 and whether modal clutch size varied over the breeding season. Clutches above modal produced significantly more fledged young. High late summer temperatures and low rainfall contributed to significantly lower late season mean brood masses, but did not affect modal clutch size. The results from this study do not support Lack's hypothesis.