



Figure 1: Survival Rates

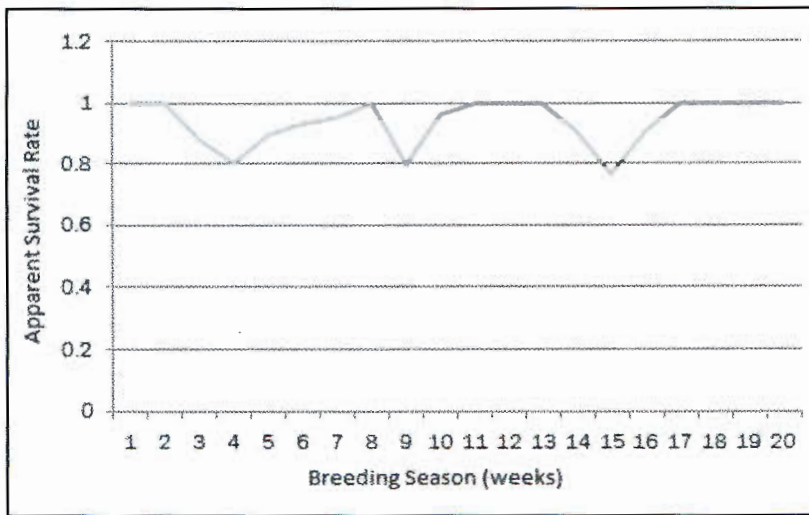
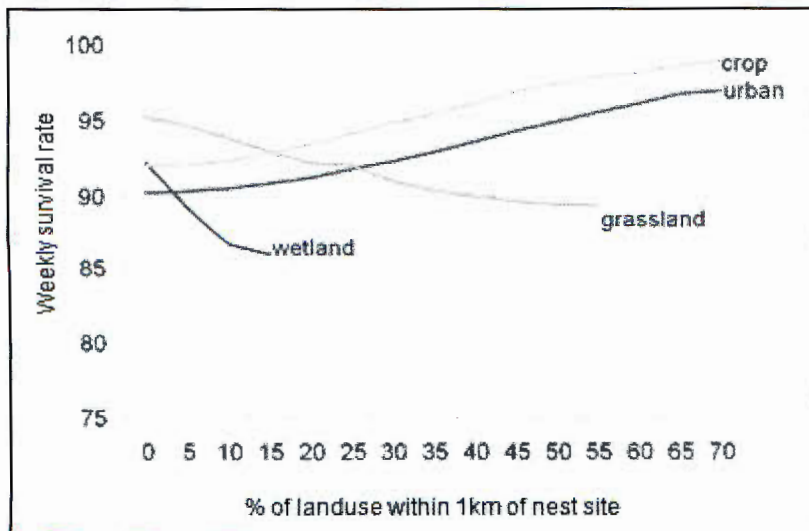


Figure 2: Land Use



behaviors suggest coyotes or foxes (five suspected kills), avian predators (two suspected kills), snapping turtles (two suspected kills), and raccoons (one suspected kill) are the most common predators. Three colts are suspected to have died from exposure during a severe storm in June 2009. One colt was found largely intact in a soybean field, the cause of mortality was not apparent. Pending official necropsies, however, no definitive conclusions can be made regarding exact causes of mortality. This fact is important to consider – it is certainly possible that feral or stray domestic dogs may have been responsible for some of the kills attributed to coyotes and foxes, in which case the conclusions pertinent to habitat management would differ significantly.

Survival over the course of this study so far is 47.61 percent with a mean annual survival rate of 38.97 percent. These statistics reflect colt survival to the fledgling stage, and until banded birds return in 2010 survival to independence cannot be determined (colts were not banded in 2008). However, previous research suggests mortality between the fledgling stage and independence might range from 8-50 percent (Nesbitt 1992, Toland 1999). An Akaike's information criterion (AIC) approach suggests that survival varies through time (Figure 1) and between sites with