



The effects of bison reintroduction on grassland bird nest success in tallgrass prairie

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Significance

- Tallgrass prairie has been converted to agriculture over the past century (99.99% lost in Illinois)
- Re-vegetation, fire, and grazing are used to restore previously cultivated land
- Bison presence and fire interval decreases the abundance of some grassland birds in western remnant prairie
- The immediate impacts of bison following reintroduction have yet to be quantified









Methods

1. Nest Survey

- Systematically walked transects
- Flushed birds, recorded contents GPS, checked every 3-7 days
- Calculated daily survivorship rate (DSR) as a measure of success
- Vegetation measurements
- Robel pole used to measure visual obstruction (VO) of nests
- * Same measurements at controls
- sites 25m away from known nests
- Compared VO for nests and conand if bison were present
- Community composition
- Determined the known breed
- Grouped them by year, site, and



Research Questions

Study Location

prairie affect grassland birds? How does a recent bison reintroduction in an eastern tallgrass

- Does bison presence influence the success of nests and is it lowered due to an increase in trampling or brood parasitism?
- Do birds place their nests in denser vegetation and is that vegetation density altered by bison presence?
- Is the known breeder community shifting to more grazing tolerant species in less than five years since reintroduction





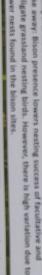


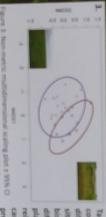




Results and Take Away Messages







ites with and with Herent between ice before and afte on. These sed by the VO in the bison sites and lack of a lake away. Nests sites have lower vi clear, but could be related to increased predation re were fewer nests found in these areas. The ex-