

Short Communication

Preliminary Survey of Eurasian Skylarks *Alauda arvensis* and Crested Lark *Galerida cristata* Feeding on Oilseed Rape in Northern Iran

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An investigation of the damage caused by larks feeding on oilseed rape (*Brassica napus* L.) in fields in the Mazandaran, Golestan and Moghan regions was carried out in the 2001-2002 period. Two species, Eurasian Skylark *Alauda arvensis* and Crested Lark *Galerida cristata* were found to feed on oilseed rape

plants. *A. arvensis* is a migratory winter visitor and *G. cristata* is resident. The bird species counts in oilseed rape fields, showed Eurasian Skylark to be the most numerous species in all surveyed regions, while the damage caused by *G. cristata* was observed in Moghan and Golestan.

(*Alauda arvensis*)

(*Galerida cristata*)

(Alaudidae)

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(*Brassica napus* L.)

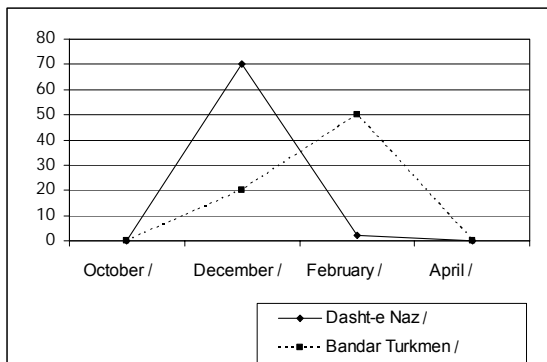
(Inglis *et al.* 1992)

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(*Galerida cristata*)

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(*Alauda arvensis*)



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Figure 1. Estimation of density (per hectare) of Skylarks at Oilseed Rape fields of Bandar Turkmen and Dasht-e Naz, Sari.

REFERENCES

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Edgar & Isaacson)

(Inglis *et al.* 1989)

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(1974)

