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Abstracts

## SHORT COMMUNICATIONS

### ORGANOCHLORINE PESTICIDES ARE NOT IMPLICATED IN THE DECLINE OF THE LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE

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*Abstract.* I compared pesticide levels in the eggs of Loggerhead Shrikes (*Lanius ludovicianus*) collected from Illinois in 1995–1996 with those reported for the state in 1971–1972. Pesticides were detected in 19 of 21 (90%) eggs from 1995–1996. DDE was the most frequently detected pesticide, occurring in 17 of 21 eggs. DDT was the second most frequent pesticide detected and was found in nine eggs. Mean DDE levels in shrike eggs from 1995–1996 were 79% lower than in eggs from 1971–1972. Unlike most bird species for which pesticide levels are known to have been reduced (whose populations have tended to increase), Loggerhead Shrike populations have declined during the period in which pesticide levels within their eggs has been reduced. These data suggest that organochlorine pesticides are likely not driving current Loggerhead Shrike declines in Illinois.

*Key words:* *Lanius ludovicianus*, *Loggerhead Shrike*, *pesticides*, *population decline*.