

Raven Distribution, Population Dynamics, and Ecology
in Grand Teton National Park
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This is a study of the distribution, population dynamics, food habits, relationships to artificial food sources and interaction with other fauna of the common raven (Corvus corax sinuatus Wagler) in Grand Teton National Park and adjacent areas.

The study was initiated on June 1, 1970, and the first summer of work was terminated August 29, 1970. A general survey of raven distribution within Grand Teton National Park was made. The raven population appears to be concentrated on the valley floor; very few birds were seen in the mountain canyons or at higher elevations.

Twelve raven nests were located in the Park. Five of these contained young at the time they were first found. Three of these nests were readily accessible. Mouth color, eye color, feather development, head position and body size of the young in these three nests were noted for later comparison with literature descriptions of known-age nestling ravens. Four young in a Uhl Hill cliff nest were just able to fly when the nest was first visited on June 18, and they were tagged with numbered, orange patagial disks and a federal leg band.

Regurgitated stomach pellets were collected beneath all of the nests for later analysis to obtain information on food habits. Actual feeding site observations were made on ravens whenever possible; however, the disturbing presence of the observer usually terminated any feeding activity, and only qualitative food data could be obtained.

Twenty-six birds were captured with a cannon net at three dump sites within the Park. These were aged using mouth color and feather wear patterns, banded, tagged and released. These individuals will aid in a study of movements of population segments.

This study will be resumed on February 1, 1971 and continued through August 1971. During the winter, distribution and food habits will be studied. A more intensive study of the breeding population is planned for the spring.

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