

Raven Distribution, Population Dynamics, and Ecology
in Grand Teton National Park

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The second period of study began on February 2, 1971, and was terminated August 20, 1971. During February and March most of the ravens were concentrated near food sources, including the Kelly and Jackson-Wilson town garbage dumps or where fresh animal carcasses were available. The carcass pile on the National Elk Refuge was an important feeding site. Some sexual behavior was observed in early February, but actual nesting did not begin until early April.

Thirty-four active nests were located. Most of these were accessible, and were checked several times to determine clutch size and number of young leaving the nest. Average clutch size was 5.4 eggs per nest; average number of young leaving the nest was two. Twenty-four young of the year were marked with orange patagial tags and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service leg bands.

Regurgitated stomach pellets were collected beneath active nests for later analysis. Some of the calls of adults and young were recorded with a portable recorder and parabolic reflector. These sounds will be used to make sonagrams.

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