

REPORT ON THE 1974 STUDY PHASE OF THE INVESTIGATION
OF COMMUNICATION SYSTEMS IN
FREE-RANGING WILD UNGULATES

Margaret Altmann
Department of Psychology
University of Colorado
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The 1974 field research in the Jackson Hole area was carried out from May 18 to September 9, 1974.

Comparative observations were centered on the development of signal competence during various stages of the game animal life span. Particular interest concerned the signal reactions of elk and moose calves and adolescents.

Extreme weather conditions (flood and later drought) and man-made environmental pressures (disruptive logging and air-traffic impact) combined to disrupt the normal activities and social dynamics of the game to a high extent. We will, therefore, not draw any conclusions from the observed materials at this point, but continue the study in the next season when a clearer picture can be obtained.

As in the previous years, Ms. Betty Erickson served as research assistant in this study.

To the Director of the Jackson Hole Biological Research Station, Professor Oscar H. Paris, goes our sincere thanks for his encouragement and hospitality during the field research period.