CALIFORNIA STATE SCIENCE FAIR
2002 PROJECT SUMMARY

Name(s)
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Project Number
S1904

Project Title
Communication Preference of Ravens (Corvus corax)

Abstract

Objectives/Goals
Determine which method of communication Ravens prefer when attracting other ravens to sources of food, predators or mates.

Methods/Materials
Seven life-size Raven cardboard decoys and a digital sound recording of live birds are used individually and/or in combination to see which method attract the most ravens to a central study site.

Results
Many ravens can be attracted to a flock or central location using a combination of life size decoys and sound recordings.

Conclusions/Discussion
Using a combination of both raven decoys and sound recordings, one can create a situation or atmosphere to draw many birds to a central location for further research or even to draw birds away. In the case of California's desert tortoise, this technique may be useful to protect baby tortoises from hungry ravens.

Summary Statement
Discover if ravens (Corvus corax), when flocking, prefer sight, sound or a combination of both to attract other ravens.

Help Received
My father assisted in building decoys and in conducting the experiment; my youngest sister Chrystine helped with artwork; my other sister Chrysanta, helped with project display board and documentation.