PREPARE to conduct Crows Count

1. Learn about crows, ravens, magpies, or jays that live in your region
2. Find a Study Site for Crows Count
3. Fill out a Habitat Form
   For each Study Site you only need to complete one Habitat Form
4. Practice observing crows, ravens, magpies, or jays (optional)

CONDUCT Crows Count

1. On the Tally Sheet, fill in
   a. date, start time, and site name or number
   b. the species you are observing
2. Begin counting crows, ravens, magpies, or jays
   a. Record the total number of birds in the group.
   b. Record the number of sentinels.
   c. Observe and record the behaviors of the birds.
   d. Before leaving your Study Site, record
      i. weather
      ii. other notes
      iii. end time
3. Submit your data
   Mail your Habitat Forms and Tally Sheets to the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. Send only one Habitat Form per Study Site. You can send many Tally Sheets for each Transect.

   Mail your Habitat Forms and Tally Sheets to
   Urban Bird Studies / Crows Count
   Cornell Lab of Ornithology
   159 Sapsucker Woods Road
   Ithaca, NY  14850
   You may include any questions, comments and concerns in the same envelope.

MATERIALS NEEDED

- a Tally Sheet printed from the web site for recording your data
- pen or pencil and clipboard or other hard surface
Optional:
- field guide
- binoculars
PREPARE TO CONDUCT Crows Count

1. LEARN ABOUT CROWS, RAVENS, MAGPIES, AND JAYS (FAMILY CORVIDAE)

2. FIND A STUDY SITE

Study Sites can be located by
1. Looking for a place with crows, ravens, magpies, or jays
2. Noticing a location that has the right kind of habitat or food
3. Conducting Birds in the City and looking for corvids

Look in parks with lawns or picnic areas, at bird feeders or locations where birds find handouts from people, or anyplace they can get into garbage or compost.

NOTE: Please be sure to record data separately for each species at each location and each time that you conduct your observations.

3. COMPLETE A HABITAT FORM

For each Study Site you should fill out a Habitat Form before you count your birds. You can use the same Study Site for PigeonWatch, Crows Count, or Gulls Galore. Only fill out a Habitat Form once even if you use the site for more than one project.

4. PRACTICE COUNTING

You may want to print a Tally Sheet and practice counting crows before you collect data to submit to the Lab. This may help you to decide how to count the birds while they are moving around and flying away.
CONDUCT CROWS COUNT

1. **On the Tally Sheet Fill In**
   a. Study Site name or number (needs to match Habitat Form)
   b. Date and start time
   c. The species you are observing

2. **Begin Counting Crows, Ravens, Magpies, or Jays**

   If you are observing more than one species record each species separately
   1. Count and record the total number of birds in the group
   2. Count and record the number of sentinels
   3. Observe and record the behaviors of the birds, make a check mark next to each behavior you observe

   The behaviors you record will help us to determine if your group is made up of one or more families or if other circumstances have caused more than one “family” group to gather together. For example, if you recorded fighting or chasing, more than one family is probably involved.

   **When you are finished recording your observations, fill out the remaining parts of the Tally Sheet**
   1. Weather
   2. Other notes
   3. End time and length of observation

3. **Submit your Data to the Cornell Lab of Ornithology**

   Mail your Habitat Forms and Tally Sheets to the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. Send only one Habitat Form per Study Site. Send one Tally Sheet for each observation you have conducted.

   **Mail to:**
   Urban Bird Studies/Crows Count
   Cornell Lab of Ornithology
   159 Sapsucker Woods Road
   Ithaca, NY 14850

   You may include any questions, comments and concerns in the same envelope.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BEHAVIOR SEEN</th>
<th>RECORD AS:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>· one or more birds sitting upright on a perch above or near a group and looking around</td>
<td>SENTINEL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>· physically attacking another of the same species</td>
<td>FIGHTING</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>· flying closely (within 3 feet) behind another of the same species</td>
<td>CHASING</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| · eating  
· walking/hopping on the ground  
· standing on or near food (including dead animal) | FEEDING/FORAGING |
| · picking up food and flying away with it | CACHING |
| · perched quietly and still, not alert, usually on a low perch | SITTING (SILENT) |
| · making sounds as advertisement or because of disturbance | CALLING |
| · flying high and then diving towards a perched predator bird  
(you may not be able to see the predator) | PREDATOR MOBBING |
| · flying above or behind a flying predator bird | PREDATOR CHASING |
| · at dusk, birds flying into and perching in trees  
· at dawn, groups of birds flying from perches in trees | ROOSTING |
| · using head or beak to straighten or flatten feathers | PREENING |
| · splashing water or dust over body | BATHING |
| · disturbing an ant mound with feet or belly; the bird may lie spread out on the ant mound or on its side for a long period of time (up to two hours); it may even appear to fall asleep; often spreads out one or both wings  
(note: it may be difficult to distinguish between sunning and anting) | ANTING |
| · resting in a sunny spot on the ground or a rooftop; as in anting, the bird may remain in the sunny spot for a long time and may appear to fall asleep, even falling over onto its side as it relaxes; often spreads out one or both wings | SUNNING |
| · flying high across your Study Site without stopping | FLYOVER |