Crows Count

INSTRUCTIONS

How do crow group sizes change with seasons?

It’s EASY!
1. Find one or more Study Sites for studying crows, ravens, magpies, or jays.
2. Record the habitat information on simple Habitat Forms (only completed once per Study Site).
3. Count and record the group sizes of crows and their relatives, and record their behaviors.
4. Report your data to the Cornell Lab of Ornithology.

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. your name, e-mail address (optional), and identification number (optional)
   b. the number and description of your Study Site
      (assign a number to the location where you will watch crows and describe it--make sure it matches your Habitat Form), zip code
      for your Study Site, date of observations, and start time
   c. the species you are observing
2. Count 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
   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.
   Send only one Habitat Form per Study Site—you can send many Tally Sheets for each Study Site.

MATERIALS NEEDED
• a Tally Sheet printed from the web site for recording your data
• pen or pencil and clipboard or other hard surface
Optional
• a bird field guide
• binoculars
• camera

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Name of your group (optional) ____________________________________________
Your Name: __________________________________________________________
Email address: _________________________________________________________
Id Number: ____________________________________________________________
Study Site Number and Description: ______________________________________________________________________________
Zip Code: __________ Date: __________ Start time: __________ End time: __________

BEHAVIORS (Check all that apply):

- Total # of Birds in the Group
- # Sentinels

- Feeding/foraging: eating, walking or hopping on ground, standing on or near food (including dead animals)
- Caching: picking up food and flying away with it
- Fighting: physically attacking another bird of the same species
- Chasing: flying closely behind another bird of the same species
- Predator mobbing: flying high and then diving towards a perched predator bird (you may not be able to see the predator)
- Calling: advertisement or disturbance
- Flyover: flying high across your study site without stopping
- Sitting (silent): perched quietly and still, usually on a low perch, not alert
- Roosting: at dusk, birds flying into and perching in trees; at dawn groups of birds flying from perches in trees
- Preening: using head or beak to straighten or flatten feathers
- Bathing: splashing water or dust over body
- Anting: disturbing an ant mound with feet or belly
- Sunning: resting in a sunny spot on the ground or a rooftop
- Predator chasing: flying above or behind a predator bird

Notes:

BEHAVIORS (Check all that apply):

- Temperature: °C °F
- Precipitation (Choose one):
  - none
  - rain
  - rain & snow
- Snow Cover (Choose one):
  - none
  - 2-4 inches
  - 4-6 inches
  - more than 6 inches

Species:

- Temperature: °C °F
- Precipitation (Choose one):
  - none
  - rain
  - rain & snow
- Snow Cover (Choose one):
  - none
  - 2-4 inches
  - 4-6 inches
  - more than 6 inches

Weather: