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Abstracts

## FEATURE ARTICLES

### SEX DIFFERENCES IN SPACE USE OF BREEDING COMMON RAVENS IN WESTERN MARIN COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

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*Abstract.* We estimated core areas and home-range sizes and evaluated sex differences in home-range size, seasonal variation in movements, and space use for breeding Common Ravens (*Corvus corax*) in western Marin County, California. There were no significant interannual differences in average core area or average home-range size for either sex, although there were small-scale shifts in home-range use for 67% of females and 63% of males. There was no significant difference in home-range size between the sexes. Home-range size was positively correlated with distance to food source. Ravens traveled shorter distances from the nest during the incubation + nestling stage compared to other stages of the breeding season. Core areas were centered around nest sites and food sources, with significantly aggregated locations for 83% and 100% of females in 2000 and 2001, respectively. Males were more variable in their use of space, with significantly aggregated locations for 38% and 44% of males in 2000 and 2001, respectively. Individual variation in home-range size, movements, and space use was likely due to differences in the distribution of important food sources in the area.

*Key words:* Common Raven, core area, *Corvus corax*, home range, seasonal variation, sex differences, space use.