Bait Presentation for Camera Studies: 2016 in Bowling Alley 2016 & 2017 Mescal Wildlife Sanctuary

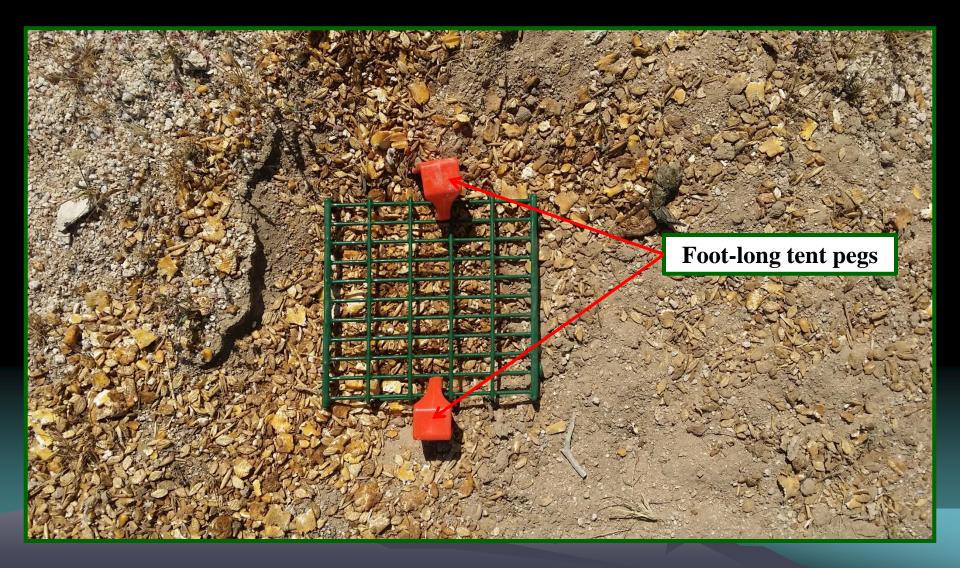
> Ed LaRue, Jr., M.S. Circle Mountain Biological Consultants, Inc. P.O. Box 3197, Wrightwood, CA 92397 ed.larue@verizon.net Cell: (760) 964-0012



Bowling Alley Grid 1 = 10 Cameras May 5-10, 2016



Close-up of suet cage



Close-up of bird feeder



Pegged to ground and with end caps



Camera set-up with suet cage

Staggered placement of bait piles, bird feeders, and suet cages





Suet Cage: 25 raven images on 2 visits (Same visit if images are ≤3 minutes apart Cameras set to take five images at a time)



2 visits on 5/6/2016 @ 10:12 & 18:15: Closest encounter; no eating





Open bait pile: 53 images on 6 visits, on May 5, 6, & 7 @ ±09:30 & 18:15



Open bait pile on 5/5-5/6/2016; 5 images of 1 visit on 5/5/2016 at 18:24

Camera 3 Bird feeder 5/7 to 5/10/2016



5/8/2016



End caps still in place at 08:44

5/8/2016



End caps dislodged at 19:05

5/9/2016 @ 05:14



Kit foxes were common but did not remove either bird feeders or suet cages

They did however...



Would marking deter rodent use?

5/9/2016 @ 19:03



5/10/2016 @ 08:07



Cleaned out one end, now inside

5/10/2016 @ 08:22



Now digging under cage to release bait

- Open bait pile
- 10 images of 2 raven visits:
 - 1st raven at 18:45 on May 5th
 - 2nd raven at 18:53 on May 9th
 - Actively eating grain and peanut butter

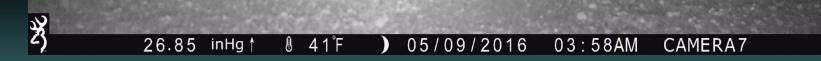
- Bait in suet cage
- 11 images of 2 raven visits:
 - At 09:50, 15:28 both on 5/5/2016
 - No actual feeding observed

- Open bait pile
- 66 images of 7 raven visits:
 - May 5th = 4 visits: 06:43, 06:53, 12:31, 18:08
 - May 7th = 1 visit: 18:32

- May 9th = 2 visits: 18:20, 18:56
- Actively eating grain and peanut butter

- Open bait pile
- 20 images of 4 raven visits:
 - May 5th = 3 visits: 06:33, 12:15, 18:13
 - May 8th = 1 visit: 06:35
 - Actively eating grain and peanut butter





 Open bait pile May 5 & 6
 20 images of 3 visits on May 5, actively eating grain and peanut butter:

- May 5th = 3 visits: 12:35, 15:09, 18:16

Bird feeder May 7 through 10

- 1 image of 2 ravens on May 10
 - One raven visit on May 10th, no feeding



Two ravens at feeder on May 10th @ 07:08 but do not feed (in spite of peanut butter)

- Open bait pile
- 88 images of 9 raven visits:
 - May 5th = 3 visits: 11:55, 12:05, 14:53
 - May 7th = 1 visit: 14:27
 - May 8th = 2 visits: 09:00, 11:20
 - May 9th = 2 visits: 08:27, 19:01
 - May 10th = 1 visit: 0700
 - Feeding common

- Bait in suet cage
- 7 images of 1 raven visit:
- One raven visit on 5/5/2016 at 18:08
- No actual feeding observed



Closest image to bait; appears "suspicious?"





On 5/10, AGS undermines cage for bait

Summary of Raven Photos

<u>#</u>	<u>Type</u>	# Images	<u># Visits</u>	Feeding?
1	Suet	25	2	No
2	Open	53	6	Yes
3	Open 2 days	5	1	Yes
3	Cage 4 days	0	0	No
4	Open	10	2	Yes
5	Suet	11	2	No
6	Open	66	8	Yes
7	Open	20	4	Yes
8	Open 2 days	20	3	Yes
8	Cage 4 days	1	1	No
9	Open	88	9	Yes
10	Suet	7.		No

Mescal Wildlife Sanctuary Trapped in 2016

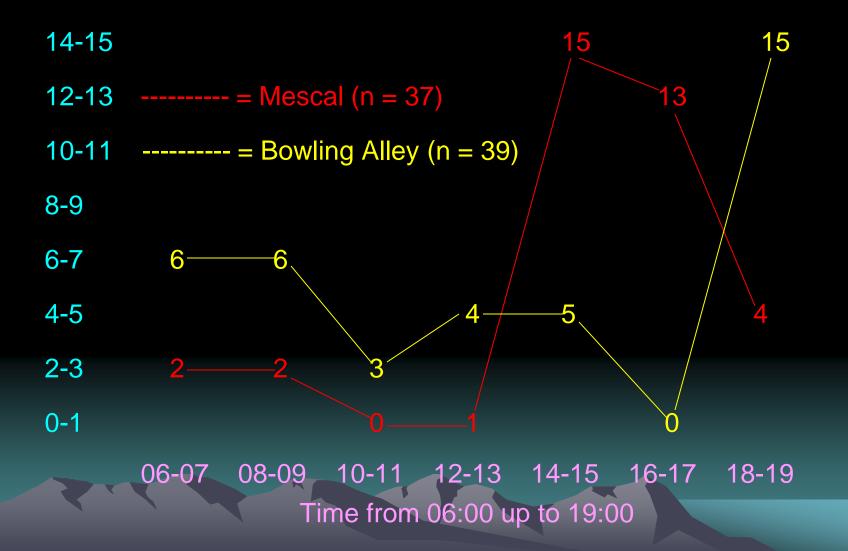
- 5 camera stations trapped by Sharon Dougherty from 4/27 to 5/2/2016
- With following results:
 - #1 = 51 images of 6 raven visits
 - -#2 = 85 images of 9 raven visits
 - -#3 = 60 images of 10 raven visits
 - -#4 = 21 images of 3 raven visits
 - #5 = 64 images of 9 raven visits

Mescal Wildlife Sanctuary Trapped 4/27 to 5/2/2016 #1 = 51 images of 6 visits: 4/30 14:21, 17:50, 18:08, 18:25, 18:49; 5/1 06:10 (morning) #2 = 85 images of 9 visits: 4/30 14:29, 14:38, 14:52, 15:06, 15:19, 16:08, 16:16, 16:49; 5/1 07:45 #3 = 60 images of 10 visits: **4/29** 15:47; **4/30** 15:37, 15:44, 15:55, 16:04, 16:20, 16:29, 16:45, 17:47; 5/1 09:27 #4 = 21 images of 3 visits: 4/30 15:01, 15:12, 15:32 #5 = 64 images of 9 visits: **4/27** 13:45; **4/29** 15:49; **4/30** 15:57, 16:51, 16:58, 17:17, 17:57, 19:10; 5/1 09:09 [4 of 37 (11%) morning visits]

Bowling Alley Trapped 5/5 to 5/10/2016 #1 = 25 images of 2 visits: 5/6 10:11 and 18:15 #2 = 53 images of 6 visits: **5/5 18:27**; **5/6** 09:16, 09:31, **15:19**, **18:12**; **5/7** 09:32 #3 = 5 images of 1 visit: 5/5 18:24 #4 = 10 images of 2 visits: **5/5** 18:22; **5/9** 18:53 #5 = 11 images of 2 visits: 5/5 09:50, 15:28

Bowling Alley Trapped 5/5 to 5/10/2016 #6 = 66 images of 8 visits: **5/5** 06:43, 06:54, 12:31, 18:08; **5/7** 18:32; **5/9** 18:20, 18:23, 18:56 #7 = 20 images of 4 visits: **5/5** 06:33, **12:15**, **18:13**; **5/8** 06:33 #8 = 21 images of 4 visits: **5/5** 12:34, 15:09, 18:16; **5/10** 07:08 #9 = 88 images of 9 visits: 5/5 11:53, 12:06, 14:53; 5/7 14:27; 5/8 09:00, 11:20; 5/9 08:27, 19:01; 5/10 07:00 #10 = 7 images of 1 visit: 5:5 18:08 [13 of 39 (33%) visits in the morning]

Frequency of Raven Visits



Bowling Alley versus Mescal Wildlife Sanctuary both in 2016

- Bowling Alley = 306 images of 39 visits
- 10 cameras, so $\overline{X} = 30.6$ images of 3.9 visits
- Mescal = 281 images of 37 visits

• 5 cameras, so $\overline{X} = 56.2$ images of 7.4 visits

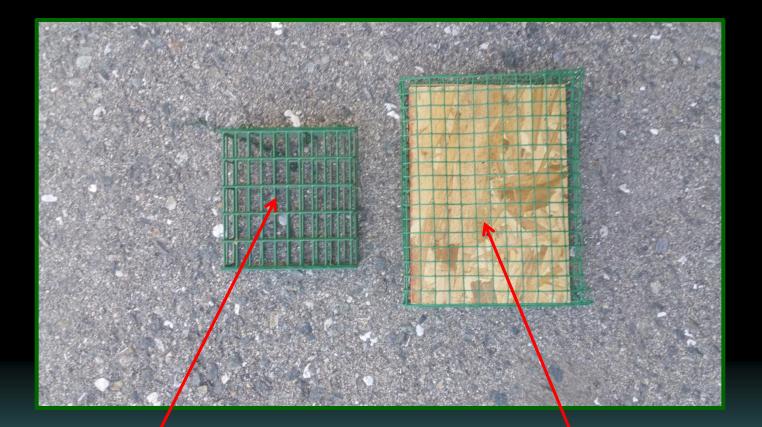
Mescal Wildlife Sanctuary February 2017



Schedule and Results

- 2/4/2017: 5 cameras in wire cages
- 2/10/2017: 90% bait removed; replenished;
 1 raven image; are ravens common?
- 2/11/2017: Add five open bait piles
 <u>90% bait removed from cages</u>; 2 raven images
 - All bait removed from piles; ravens at all piles
- 2/12-2/17/17: Wire boxes replace cages (no ravens) and open bait piles present (ravens at all piles)

2017 modify suet cage to have wooden base to prevent rodent undermining



2016 = 1 x ¹/₂" Suet Cage

2017 = ½ x ½" Wire Cage

Suet cage with wooden bottom, partially buried, with 12" central dowel





Suet cage on top of soil

2 buried 1 partially buried 2 on top of soil

2/4/2017 to 2/10/2017 = 830 images, this is only raven image:



But bait 90% depleted overnight

Typical scenario where nocturnal rodents remove 90% of bait on the 1st night



Several nice shots!







On 2/12 replace cages with boxes and add 5 open bait piles through 2/17



No bait removed from wire boxes after six days



Boxed bait on 2/12/2017



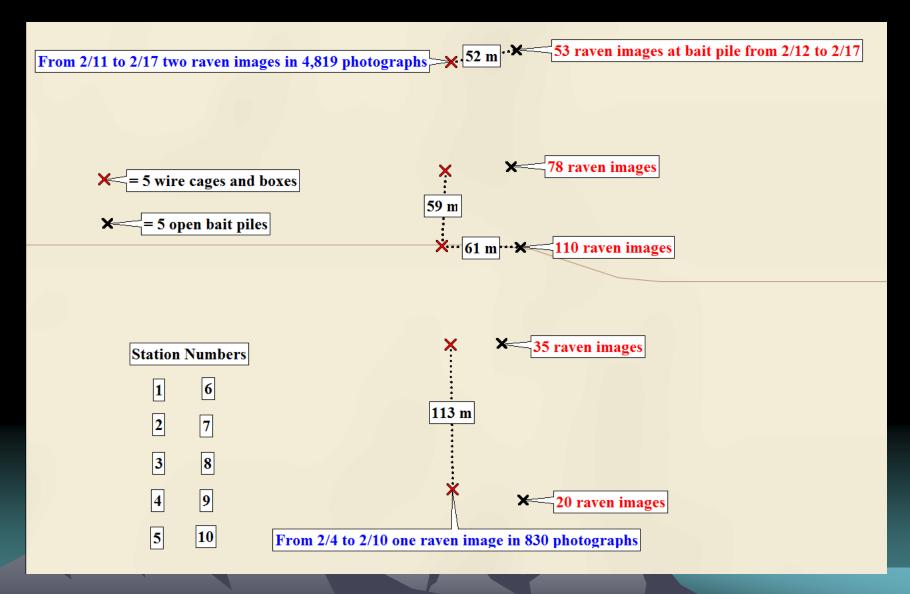
Boxed bait on 2/17/2017

Best to bury boxes as 3" height obscures some AGS images

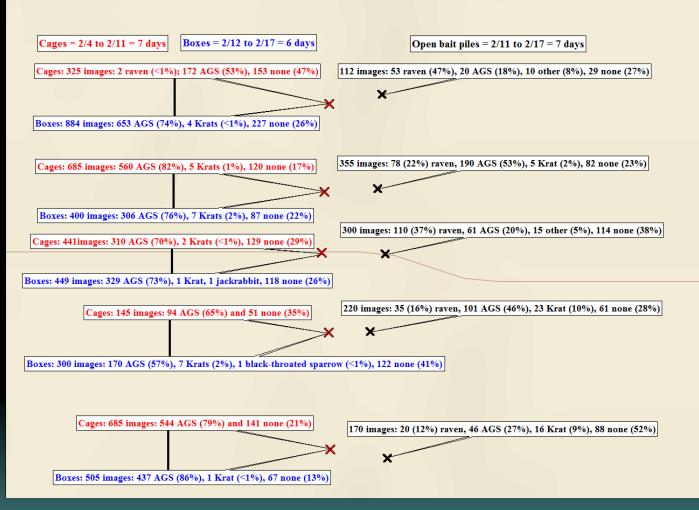
Still seeking bait on sixth day



Raven Observations



All Observed Images



Summary Statistics

- Cages = 7 days, 2281 images
 2 raven, 1680 AGS, 7 other, 594 none
 <1% 74% 0.3% 26%
- Boxes = 6 days, 2538 images
 0 raven, 1895 AGS, 21 other, 621 none
 0% 75% 0.8% 24%
- Bait pile = 7 days, 1157 images
 296 raven, 418 AGS, 69 other, 374 none
 36% 6% 32%

2017 Plans

