

Wildlife Responses to Dogs and Pedestrians

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Purpose

- Measure the response of wildlife to
 - Pedestrians
 - Pedestrians with Dog
 - Dogs

On and Off Trail

Which Wildlife?

- Forest
 - Mule Deer
 - American Robin
- Grassland
 - Vesper Sparrow
 - Western Meadowlark



Photo by Geo



Photo by Peter



Photo by Chan Robbins

Results: Grasslands

- The shorter the distance between the bird and the trail (or line of travel), the greater the likelihood the bird would flush.
- The area of influence greater for travel off trail v. on trail.
- Pedestrians alone and dogs on leash have smaller area of influence than dogs alone for travel on trail (and off trail for vesper sparrow).
- Flushing distances greater for meadowlarks
- Meadowlarks flew greater distances when flushed.

Results: Grasslands



- Vesper Sparrow
 - Flushing distance highest for pedestrian alone or dog on leash (both off-trail). Dog alone had lower flushing distance
 - Birds flushed by off trail use traveled further than birds flushed by on trail use

Results: Grasslands

- Western Meadowlark
 - Flushing distance greater for off trail travel
 - Flushing distance greater for pedestrian alone and dog on leash (on trail). Dog alone had lower flushing distance.
 - Distance moved was greater for dog alone (on trail)
 - Distance moved was greater for pedestrian alone and dog on leash on trail when compared to off trail



Forest

■ Robins

- The shorter the distance between robins and the trail(or line of travel), the greater the likelihood of flushing
- Area of influence greater for off trail v. on trail travel
- Flush distance greater for off trail compared to on trail, and greater for dog on leash when compared to pedestrian alone



Forest

- Robins

- Distance moved greatest for off trail dog on leash
- Distance moved shortest for on-trail pedestrian alone



Forest



- Mule Deer: Alert Distance

- The shorter the distance between the deer and the trail (or line of travel), the greater the likelihood the deer would become alert.
- Area of influence greatest for off trail travel regardless of activity type. Deer always became alert with off trail travel
- Area of influence on trail, greater for dog on leash
- Alert distance greater when dog present

Forest



- Mule Deer: Flushing
 - Deer more likely to flush the closer the visitor
 - Area of influence greater for off trail travel
 - Area of influence greater when dog present
 - Flush distance greatest for off trail, dog on leash
 - Distance moved greater for off trail pedestrian alone v. ped on trail or dog on leash on trail (dog on leash off trail not analyzed)

Forest

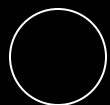
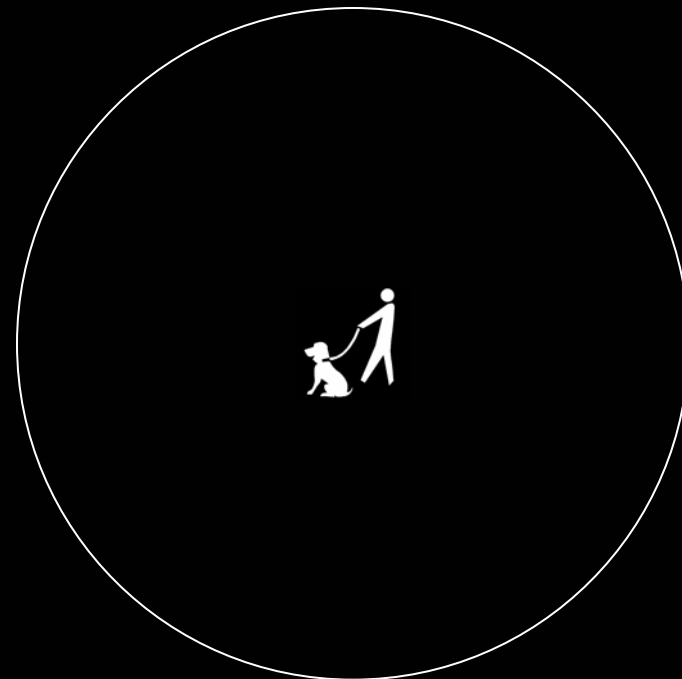
■ Mule Deer: Flushing



On Trail



Off Trail



20 m

Probability of flushing \geq 80%

Discussion

- Why were dogs alone least likely to elicit a response from grassland songbirds?
 - Not perceived as a predator (?)
 - Birds seek to remain undetected and not flush until necessary (?)

Discussion

- Are dogs on leash just like people alone?
 - Indications that this is the case from both American Robins and Grassland birds
- Is off trail activity more likely to result in flushing or alert behavior
 - Indications are that this is the case almost without exception
 - Trail use is frequent and predictable (supported by other studies of marmots, large mammals, and birds)

Discussion

- Deer and Dogs: Response (both alert and flush) greater in presence of dogs
 - Canids well established as predators to deer (similar results found for marmots and big-horn sheep).
- Area of influence smaller for on trail use, but still important