

Ravens Today

**Third International Symposium on the Raven (*Corvus corax*)
at the
Biological Institute of Metelen/Germany
– German-wide School of Species Conservation –
19-21 July 2004 (NEW DATE!)**

Talks and Posters _ Round Table Discussions _ Excursions



*Second Circular (March 2004)
Programme
Registration Form*



Welcome to Metelen!

The Common Raven (*Corvus corax*) is a widespread corvid species (nearly the whole northern hemisphere) which received much attention by ancient people as well as modern science. Its highly evolved behaviour has especially stimulated many observations and scientific studies since the early works of the famous Konrad Lorenz. Ravens have caused economic and conservation problems in some areas within its broad range, while in other areas it has disappeared due to human persecution. In Central Europe the species is resettling old breeding areas due to protection.

In 1990 and 2000, the Biological Institute of Metelen (Germany) held two European symposia that dealt with the behaviour, ecology, and recovery of the species in Central Europe. We are now hosting the first worldwide symposium on this species. We invite all colleagues from academia, government agencies, and conservation organizations, who are interested in the Raven to come to Metelen.

The aims of the symposium are to get an overview of the recent knowledge of the species in a worldwide perspective and to discuss aspects of systematics, genetics, biogeography, behaviour, ecology, conservation measures and species management in a critical and stimulating manner. Round table discussions will raise new questions and ideas for further research and will help to find a common position in dealing with actual conservation and economic problems in connection with the species. Some comparative studies on the behaviour and ecology of other corvids may stimulate new perspectives in working with the Raven.

The **congress fee** is 80 € for each participant (except contributors of talks and posters) and includes an issue containing the abstracts of talks and posters. The fees for the excursions are to be paid separately and are not free for anybody. Register soon for the excursions as they are limited and will be reserved on a first come first served basis.

Deadline for registration and abstracts of posters and talks

1st May 2004

Metelen, a small town with about 6000 inhabitants, is about 40 km northwest of the University town of Münster/Westphalia (Northwest Germany). It lies in the beautiful rural landscape of the Münsterland region and can be reached by train (Railway station “Metelen-Land”, coming from Münster/Westphalia or from Enschede/The Netherlands) or by car. About one hour by car from Metelen is the Münster-Osnabrück Airport (FMO) with connections to Amsterdam-Schiphol, London, Frankfurt/Main, Berlin, Munich and other international airports.

A shuttle from and to the Münster-Osnabrück Airport will be arranged. **For the shuttle, we need your name and arrival/departure times by July 12!**

The Biological Institute of Metelen is in the “Heath of Metelen”, which is four kilometers from the town of Metelen. The neighbouring institution is the bird park “Metelener Heide” presenting many bird species, including *Corvus corax* and 9 other species of corvids from three continents.

The Biological Institute of Metelen was founded in 1980 as an institution for applied research and advice on habitat and species conservation in Northwest Germany. The Congress will be held in a new 600 m² section of the institute that was opened in October 2001. The building was sponsored by the “Deutsche Bundesstiftung Umwelt” (German Environmental Foundation) as a part of a project to establish a “German-wide School of Species Conservation” (Bundesweite Artenschutzschule).

The institute operates an international rescue centre in compliance with the Washington agreement of species conservation (CITES), where numerous confiscated animals (mainly birds and reptiles) from all continents can be seen.

The Biological Institute of Metelen also contains a 10-hectare outdoor ground with examples of habitat types that are typical of the Münsterland region. Many native plants and animals can be observed there.

The organizing committee and the staff of the institute will be glad to welcome you to Metelen!

Organizing Committee:

Dr. WILLIAM I. BOARMAN (United States Geological Survey, Western Ecological Research Center, San Diego/USA)

Dr. DIETER GLANDT (Biological Institute of Metelen and German-wide School of Species Conservation, Metelen/Germany)

Prof. Dr. BERND HEINRICH (University of Vermont, Burlington/USA)

Prof. Dr. KURT KOTRSCHAL (Konrad Lorenz Research Station, Grünau/Austria and University of Vienna)

With support of the “Corvid Project Group of the German Ornithological Society” (Project group leader: Prof. Dr. DIETER WALLSCHLÄGER, University of Potsdam/Germany),

the State of Northrhine-Westphalia
and the German Environmental Foundation (DBU)

Technical facilities: We will have available overhead and slide projectors, as well as a beamer with laptop. You should present a Power Point presentation as is usual at most symposia. Please send us a CD with the complete presentation by July 5. So we can eliminate any technical problems ahead of time. To avoid disturbing the speakers and the audience, please do not bring your own laptops to the symposium!

Programme

Monday, 19 July 2004

9.00 Opening ceremony

Introductory contribution

9.15 **The evolutionary relationships of Ravens: Worldwide phylogeography and a phylogeny of the genus *Corvus***

ROBERT FLEISCHER, KEVIN OMLAND & WILLIAM I. BOARMAN

9.45 Discussion

Population biology and ecology

10.00 **Population genetics of Ravens in the Western United States: an analysis of movements, population size, and patterns of colonization**

ROBERT FLEISCHER, WILLIAM I. BOARMAN, ELENA GUITIERREZ, ALVARO GODINEZ, KEVIN OMLAND, SARAH YOUNG & CARL MCINTOSH

10.20 Discussion

10.30 **Extreme population growth of the Raven in California, habitat use and movements**

WILLIAM I. BOARMAN

11.00 Discussion

11.15 *Coffee break*

11.30 **Habitat requirements and nest site selection of the Common Raven (*Corvus corax*) in Bia_owie_a Forest, Poland**

THOMAS MÜLLER, NURIA SELVA, EUGENIUSZ PUGACEWICZ & ERIK PRINS

12.00 Discussion

12.15 **Population dynamics, reproductive success and intraspecific regulation in North Germany, a long-term study**

THOMAS GRÜNKORN

12.45 Discussion

13.00 Lunch

Breeding and field biology, distribution, reintroduction

14.00 Comparative breeding biology of Common Ravens in northern Germany
THOMAS GRÜNKORN, CARSTEN HINNERICHS & BERND REICHEL

14.30 Discussion

14.45 Persecution, recolonization and distribution of the Raven in Central Europe
DIETER GLANDT

15.15 Discussion

15.30 Coffee break

15.45 The recent status of the reintroduction project in The Netherlands
THOM A. RENSSSEN & ROB L. VOGEL

16.15 Discussion

16.30 Breeding biology and distribution of the Raven in Corsica
ANNE DELESTRADÉ

17.00 Discussion

17.15 Juvenile survival and movements in Ravens of the Mojave Desert
WILLIAM C. WEBB & WILLIAM I. BOARMAN

17.45 Discussion

18.00 End of the first day

Townhall of Metelen

19.15 Reception
The mayor of Metelen

Dinner

Tuesday, 20 July 2004

The feeding niche of the Raven and its ecological consequences

8.30 The role of Ravens in the guild of scavengers in the Bia_owie_a Forest, East Poland

NURIA SELVA

9.00 Discussion

9.15 Spatial aspects in carrion use of Common Ravens (*Corvus corax*) in Bia_owie_a Forest, East Poland

SASCHA RÖSNER

9.45 Discussion

10.00 Studies on the feeding ecology of Common Ravens during the breeding period in southwestern Brandenburgia, Germany

CARSTEN HINNERICHS

10.30 Discussion

10.45 *Coffee break*

11.00 The role of Ravens in seed dispersal of plants in the Canary Islands

MANUEL NOGALES

11.30 Discussion

11.45 Relationship between anthropogenic resources and reproductive success in Ravens in the Mojave Desert

WILLIAM B. KRISTAN, III & WILLIAM I. BOARMAN

12.15 Discussion

12.30 Round table discussion

What should be future research on distribution, ecology, and population biology in the Raven?

Chair/stimulating statements: DIETER GLANDT, WILLIAM I. BOARMAN

13.15 Lunch

Visit of the Institutes' outdoor grounds and the CITES Rescue Centre

Social behaviour and cognition of the Raven and some other corvids

14.30 Test of Raven understanding

BERND HEINRICH & THOMAS BUGNYAR

15.00 Discussion

15.15 Effects of social environment on exploration in Ravens (*Corvus corax*)

MAREIKE STÖWE, THOMAS BUGNYAR, BERND HEINRICH & KURT KOTSCHRAL

15.45 Discussion

16.00 Deception and social cognition in Ravens

THOMAS BUGNYAR & BERND HEINRICH

16.30 Discussion

16.45 Coffee break

17.00 Are ravens „intelligent“? About species-centrism and the usefulness of cognitive concepts

KURT KOTRSCHAL

17.30 Discussion

17.45 Social cognition in food-caching corvids

NATHAN EMERY & NICOLA S. CLAYTON

18.15 Discussion

18.30 Retrospective and prospective cognition in food-caching scrub-jays

NICOLA S. CLAYTON & ANTHONY DICKINSON

19.00 Discussion

19.15 End of the second day

Dinner (on one's own)

Wednesday, 21 July 2004

8.30 Raven calls

1 – Pathways of cultural transmission

PETER ENGGIST-DÜBLIN

2 – Communication between pair partners

UELI PFISTER

9.15 Discussion

9.30 “Corvus habilis”: the cognitive basis of tool use and manufacture in New Caledonian crows (*Corvus moneduloides*)

JACKIE CHAPPELL, BEN KENWARD, ALEX WEIR & ALEX KACELNIK

10.00 Discussion

10.30 Towards a better understanding of jackdaws’ relationships

ANKE ADRIAN

11.00 Discussion

11.15 *Coffee break*

11.30 Round table discussion

What should be future research on behavioural biology in the Raven and related corvids?

Chair/stimulating statements: BERND HEINRICH, KURT KOTRSCHAL

12.00 *Lunch*

Visit of the bird park “Metelener Heide” (neighbouring the Biological Institute)

The Raven as a “predator”

13.30 The Raven as a subsidized predator

WILLIAM I. BOARMAN & WILLIAM B. KRISTAN, III

14.00 Discussion

14.15 Responses of Ravens and other corvids to human settlement and recreation in a temperate rain forest

JOHN M. MARZLUFF & ERIK A. NEATHERLIN

14.45 Ravens in cattle and sheep flocks: a scavenger and/or a predator?

DIETER WALLSCHLÄGER, ANGELIKA BREHME & TORSTEN LANGGEMACH

15.00 Discussion

15.15 Coffee break

Cultural aspects

15.30 The reputation of Corvids in German people – results of a sociological study

ANTONIA HERETH

16.00 Discussion

16.15 Cultural coevolution between Ravens and people

JOHN M. MARZLUFF & JOHN ANGELL

16.45 Discussion

17.00 Final round table discussion

**The Raven – a “useful” or a “harmful” animal? Endangered or a pest?
A threat or threatend?**

Chair/stimulating statements: DIETER WALLSCHLÄGER, WILLIAM I. BOARMAN

17.45 Closing ceremony

POSTERS

Aspects of the moult of primaries of nonbreeding Ravens in Brandenburgia, Germany

CARSTEN HINNERICHS

Wolf poster exhibit (with emphasis to the wolf-raven-relationship)

MARTINA OTTENS & OLIVER MATLA

Breeding population and feeding habits of the Raven *Corvus corax* in Wigry National Park (NE Poland)

DOROTA ZAWADZKA

Comparative analysis of the calls in *Corvus* and *Nucifraga*: the effect of morphology and phylogeny

LAILO PAOLA , LOREDANA CARISIO & ANTONO ROLANDO

The Raven in Brittany and Normandy (Western part of France): the survival of a small population

THIERRY QUÉLENNEC

Social behaviour and communication in the Alpine Chough, *Pyrrhocorax graculus*

ANNE DELESTRADE

Influence of military training activities on Raven roosting and habitat use

H. DOUGLAS CHAMBLIN & WILLIAM I. BOARMAN

Personalized memories for food-caches in Magpies (*Pica pica*)

HELMUT PRIOR, NICOLE GONZALEZ & ONUR GÜNTÜRKÜN

EXCURSIONS

You can choose between two excursions:

A) Heath of Lüneburg, North Germany (22 July 2003)

Number of participants: 25

Costs: 35 € per person (including bus and visit of the “Bird Park Walsrode”)

Departure from Metelen by bus: 8.00 a.m.

Back at Metelen about 8.00 p.m.

What can be seen? A large population of Ravens in a pinewood dominated area with large flocks (up to 400 nonbreeders) at a landfill in the lowland of N. Germany. Up to 30 Red Kites (*Milvus milvus*) and Black Kites (*Milvus migrans*) can also be seen at the landfill. This will be a good opportunity to observe raven habitat, breeding ecology, and the problem of damages to adjacent agricultural fields.

Leader: BERND REICHELT

Furthermore the famous “Bird Park of Walsrode” (with more than 700 bird species from all continents, one the greatest bird parks in the world!) will be visited under the leadership of an English speaking park guide.

B) Brandenburgia near Berlin, East Germany (22-23 July 2004)

Number of participants: 30

Costs: for each person 11 € for the bus within Brandenburgia; accomodation: single room per night 40 €, double room per night 60 €

The excursion will start at Berlin (driving to Berlin on one’s own). We travel by train to Belzig, a small town near the city of Potsdam. Colleagues who drive by private car should go directly to Belzig. Details will be given during the symposium.

What can be seen? Large population of Ravens: Nest sites in pine forests; hundreds of nonbreeders at a landfill.

Furthermore, there will be opportunities to sightsee in the Fläming hills, the castle „Rabenstein“ and a small town named „Raben“ with an exhibition on the natural history of the Fläming region. Nearby the area containing one of the last remaining German populations of the Great Bustard (*Otis tarda*) can be visited.

Leader: CARSTEN HINNERICHS

On 24 July 2004 a guided visit to the famous „Castle of Sanssouci“ (Potsdam) can be arranged.

Book sellers during the congress

- **CHRIST MEDIA NATUR, Minden (great presentation of international ornithological literature)**
- **Antiquarian books, Dr. Schliermann, Nottuln**

Art exhibition

The group „ARTenvielfalt“ (Angelika Bornstein, Monica Schwarz and Dagmar Schröter) will present several nice bird pictures which you can buy during the congress.

Overview of total due

Conference fee	_____
Monday lunch	_____
Monday reception/dinner	_____
Tuesday lunch	_____
Wednesday lunch	_____
Heath of Lüneburg excursion	_____
Brandenburgia excursion	_____
Total due	_____

The total due in Euro (€) has to be received by 1st May 2004:

Biologisches Institut Metelen e.V.
 Account no. 5036660
 Bank name: „Sparkasse Steinfurt/Ibbenbüren“
 Bank code number 403 510 60
 Remark: „Ravens Today“

If you cancel your registration before the deadline (1st May), 70 % of the conference fee will be refunded. If you cancel after May 1, we will refund none of the 80 € registration fee!

Please send abstracts (talks, posters) by E-mail or disk, Maximum 350 words in total!

Also include: title, name (s) of author (s), institution, address, then an informative text containing a summary of the contribution, some key words at the end. **No figures and no references!**

Please send the registration form (page 14) by fax or mail by 1st May 2004 (deadline) to:

**Biological Institute of Metelen
German-wide School of Species Conservation
Samberg 65
D-48629 Metelen/Germany
Fax: 0049-2556-996971**

General information: German-wide School of Species Conservation, Mrs. KERSTIN ULLRICH, Phone: 0049-2556-996970, Fax: 0049-2556-996971, E-mail: BIM.Artenschutzschule@t-online.de

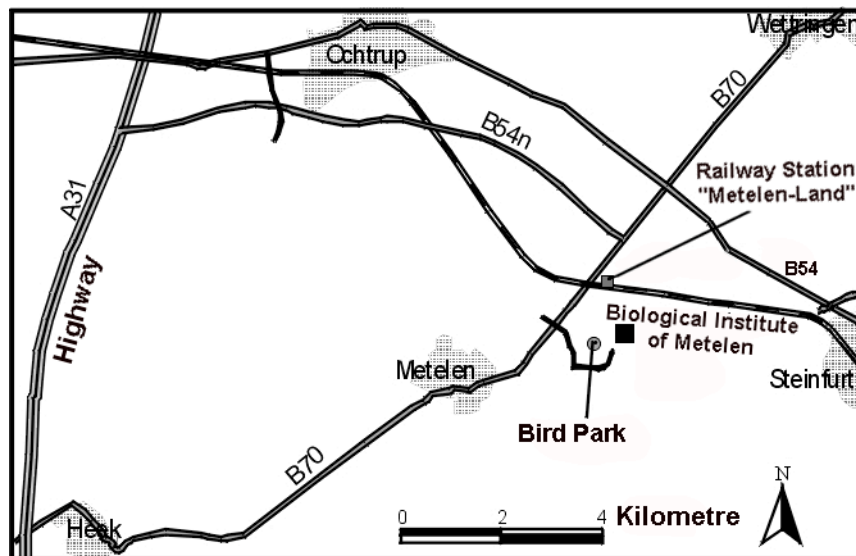
Scientific information: Dr. DIETER GLANDT, Phone: 0049-2556-93840, Fax: 0049-2556-938444, E-mail: BIM.Zentrale@t-online.de

Visit us on our home page: www.bioinstitutmetelen.de

How to get to the BIOLOGICAL INSTITUTE OF METELEN:

By train: railway Münster-Enschede, railway station „Metelen-Land“, then about 4 km footpath to the institute (or call Taxi Waldmann from Metelen station, phone 997766)

By car: from B70 to the Bird Park and then follow the white signs to the institute (see map). **By air:** see page 2!



ROOM ACCOMODATION:

The Biological Institute makes no room reservations! Please order your hotel room exclusively by

Tourist-Information of the town of Metelen, Mrs. Antje Schmies
phone: 0049-2556-8922; fax: 0049-2556-8944; E-mail: touristinfo@metelen.de
You will get all information you need from Mrs. Schmies! www.metelen.de

Registration form

**Please send this by fax or mail by 1st May 2004 (deadline) to:
 Biological Institute of Metelen, German-wide School of Species Conservation
 Samberg 65, D-48629 Metelen/Germany, Fax 0049-2556-996971**

Last Name: _____

First name (s): _____

Institution: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____

E-mail: _____

Please mark with an X!

I will participate in the symposium on the Raven (*Corvus corax*) at the Biological Institute of Metelen, 19-21 July 2004

I will participate in the excursion

A or B or Neither

I will definitely purchase the following lunches at the Institute (Please mark with an X):

Monday, 19 July 2004 carrott-stew with rissoles (€ 5,80)

Tuesday, 20 July 2004 potatoe-vegetable-trivle with salad (€ 5,80)

Wednesday, 21 July 2004 cream-ragout with noodles and salad (€ 6,20)

I shall participate the reception with cold büffet in the Townhall of Metelen on Monday evening (€ 7,0).