

Name: _____

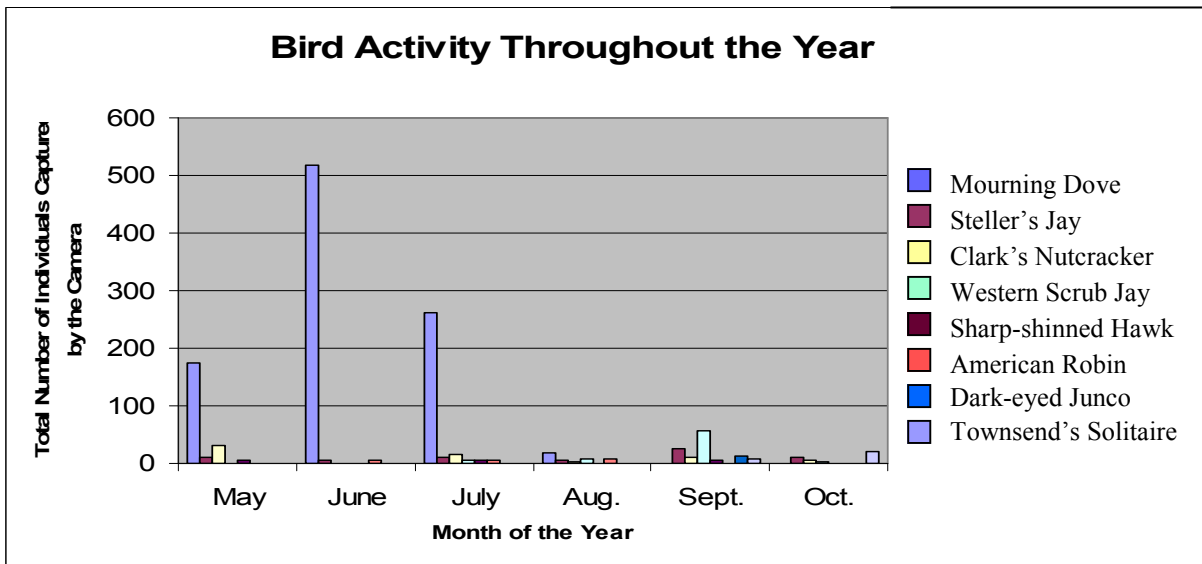
Date: _____

Teacher Sheet: Birds and Caves at Lava Beds National Monument

✓ Fledglings

Answer the following questions by interpreting the graphs from digital imaging monitoring of a cave with year round water at Lava Beds National Monument

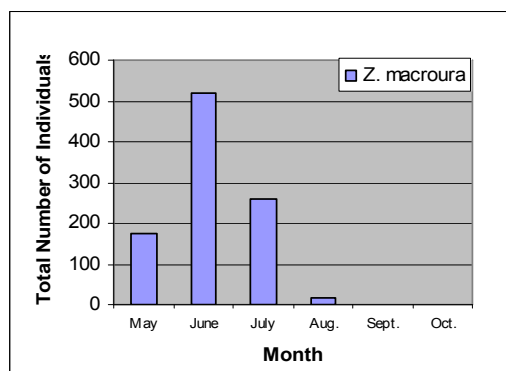
1. What month saw the most bird activity in a cave with water?



June.

The following graphs are from individual species data captured on the camera.

2. Mourning Dove (*Z. macroura*) was the most abundant animal photographed in the cave. Using the data given for Mourning Dove, why do you think that there was an increase followed by a decline in the number of individuals photographed?



Mourning Doves were the most abundant animal photographed in the cave. Their high numbers in June could indicate that they were breeding near the cave and in July the young fledged the nest reducing the number of individuals captured on camera in August.

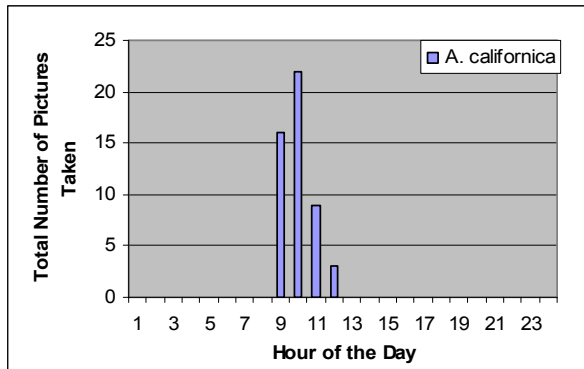
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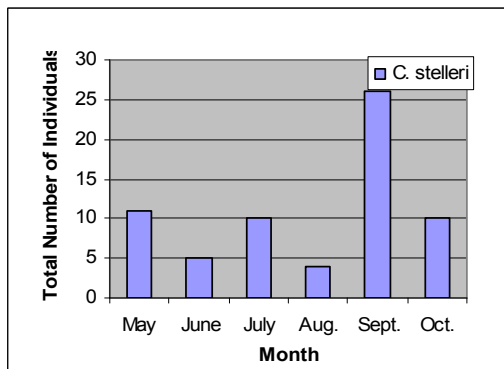
✓Fledglings

3. The graph below illustrates data on the time of day Western Scrub Jay (*A. californica*) was photographed. What insight to the Western Scrub Jay's behavior does this graph provide?



Western Scrub Jays forage exclusively in the cave between 9 and 11 am to use the cave's water source.

4. Come up with an interpretation for the data on Steller's Jay (*C. stelleri*) that explains the spike in the number of individuals seen in September.



It appears that the Steller's Jay is a resident of Lava Beds National Monument. One explanation for the increase in individuals in September could be that another population of Steller's Jays came into the area to use the cave resources and then left in October for their wintering grounds.

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✓Fledglings

Practice your journaling and observational skills while watching a wildlife monitoring video. Take 3 minutes of general observations followed by 1 minute of very detailed observations and note taking.

General Observations:

The baby falcons are moving their beaks and their heads. The mom or dad brought them some food.

Detailed Observations and Notes:

When the parent falcon came back, it had a mouse in its beak. The parent tore the mouse into very small pieces and gave some to each baby with its beak. They swallowed the food.

If you could set up a wildlife monitoring camera or video system, what animal would you monitor? What research question would you try to answer by observing your animal? What behavior would you watch for?

If I could set up a camera, I would monitor giraffes. I would try to see whether they only eat leaves from tall trees or if they also eat leaves from shrubs and plants on the ground. I would watch to see what they were eating.

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Teacher Sheet: Birds and Caves at Lava Beds National Monument

✓Nestlings
✓Fledglings

Practice your observational skills and assessment skills!

Along Schonchin Butte Road, practice your journaling skills and record any evidence or sightings of Purple Martins.