

Does Beak Size Determine Aggressiveness of Small Birds Towards Avian Predators?

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Abstract

Small birds have an instinct to aggravate anything they perceive as a threat with a behavior known as mobbing. Birds will mob an enemy in order to protect their young, as well as to increase the security in their environment. Understanding bird behavior is important for the preservation efforts of endangered species of both song birds and predators. For this investigation, data from bird mobbing trials during the years 2007 to 2010 were analyzed and organized to test the effect of beak length on the degree of response towards avian predators. The results demonstrated that there is no apparent correlation between bird beak length and the amount of aggression displayed towards predators. If there are endangered birds in the area, according to the results, there are no particular beak lengths that are more likely to bother the bird and decrease its chance of survival or any that would not protect themselves.