



## Monitoring the state-endangered Common Raven (*Corvus corax*) in southeastern Kentucky

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### **Abstract**

In the eastern U.S., direct killing by humans and the loss of forest habitat and large mammals during the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries caused the extirpation of ravens in all but the most inaccessible and rugged portions of the Appalachian Mountains. Remnant raven populations in these areas have since served as a source of individuals that have successfully colonized portions of its former range. However, in many areas that appear suitable for its recovery, such as the Cumberland Plateau of Kentucky, the raven has yet to reestablish. We speculate as to what factors may be responsible for the failure of ravens to repopulate eastern Kentucky and outline our plan to assess its status in this region.

### **Resumen**

En el este de los Estados Unidos, la pérdida de bosque de hábitat y las matanzas de mamíferos grandes durante los siglos 19 y 20 causaron el exterminio de cuervos en todas las regiones de la cordillera Apalachian excepto las zonas menos accesibles. Las poblaciones remanentes de cuervos han servido como una fuente de individuos que han colonizado porciones de su dominio anterior. Sin embargo, en áreas que parecen ideales para su recuperación, como la planicie de Cumberland, el cuervo no ha logrado reestablecerse. Especulamos sobre las razones del fracaso de los cuervos de volver a establecerse en el oriente de Kentucky y presentamos nuestro plan para analizar el estado actual de esta región.