

Communication in Red Fox Dyads:  
A Computer Simulation Study

GERALD GENE MONTGOMERY

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*Gerald Gene Montgomery*



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## ABSTRACT

Montgomery, Gerald G. Communication in Red Fox Dyads: A Computer Simulation Study. *Smithsonian Contributions to Zoology*, number 187, 30 pages, 16 figures, 9 tables, 1974.—This paper reports on a computer simulation study of communication that occurs in red fox [*Vulpes vulpes* (= *V. fulva*)] dyads with various means of signalling when the animals move about and signal with various emission intensities and at various time intervals.

For any two animals, three major factors limit communication: (1) whether appropriate signal mechanisms are available, (2) whether they are motivated to communicate, and (3) whether their movements and locations are such that signals can pass between them. In this study, signal mechanisms and motivation were not considered as variables, but the role of animal movement in limiting communication was.

No tactile communication occurred between members of any of the simulated dyads, and close-range visual or vocal communication (from 16 m or less) occurred only rarely. Visual communication occurred frequently with reasonably short visual ranges (20 percent of the time from 306 m), and is probably usually limited by darkness and terrain. Vocal signals that could be heard from 644 meters gave communication 20 percent of the time when the signaller vocalized 4.7 times per hour. Wild red fox seldom emit loud vocalizations, however, and vocal communication is probably not of prime importance in maintaining dyadic social bonds. Communication occurred 20 percent of the time with scent point signalling (scent marking), when scent remained effective for 8 hours or longer, when scent could be smelled 96 m from the scent mark, and when the signaller marked twice per hour. Thus, high levels of dyadic communication may be achieved through scent marking, and this form of signalling may be of great importance in maintaining dyadic spacing and social bonding.

The particular movement patterns of the animals that formed each dyad had a differential effect on the level of communication, regardless of the means of signalling. Those means of signalling that involved the fewest communication variables were most severely limited by movements of the animals. Where more variables associated with emission of signal were available to the animal, emission could be optimized to minimize effects of movement on communication.

This study suggests that the animals can adjust the distance between them, the time between them, or both, if prior communication has given mutual awareness of the locations and movement patterns. In these adjustments, they can increase or decrease the efficiency of signalling in one or more ways, and thus control the level of dyadic communication.

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# Communication in Red Fox Dyads: A Computer Simulation Study

*Gerald Gene Montgomery*

## **Introduction**

This paper reports a study, by computer simulation, of amounts of communication that occur in red fox dyads when the animals paired to form a dyad move about and signal in various sensory modalities and in various ways. The reader is cautioned at the outset that the situations in which wild red fox communicate were simplified in order to model movements of the animals and communication between them. In effect, I attempted to model the case in which the fewest variables affected the amount of communication that occurred. For example, communication was modeled such that the word "communication," as used throughout this paper, is synonymous with reception of signal, although factors other than whether signal is received surely determine whether or not communication actually occurs.

Because of this simplification, the results of simulation reported here may only approximate those that will result when more variables are added to the models and more complex situations are simulated. As more and more variables that affect communication are added, the simulation models may become a closer approximation of real situations in which communication between wild red fox occurs. The study is an attempt to establish base-line information that can give a basis for comparison as more and more variables are successively added to the models and as the simulated situation more closely approaches the real one. This study is but

a beginning of this approach to computer simulation study of communication processes among wild mammals, with red fox as an example.

In addition to establishing base-line information and in general pointing up the role of animal movement in communication, the objectives of the study were (1) to compare the various means of communication available to red fox and estimate the relative amount of communication provided by each means, (2) to determine some of the factors that limit communication with various means of signalling, and (3) to learn whether different ways of moving about have an effect on the level of communication in red fox dyads.

The role of the movements of individual mammals in limiting the amounts and kinds of communication that occur is not well understood. Of the three major factors that contribute to communication between any two free-living mammals (signal mechanisms, motivation, and location), only the first two have been subjects of major reviews (e.g., Tinbergen, 1964; Andrew, 1972), which indicates the relative emphasis in research on the three factors. Emphasis in this paper is on the role of movement and location in communication. This emphasis does not minimize the role of signal mechanisms and motivation, but will serve to show that all three factors are necessary for effective communication among mobile, free-living mammals.

Most studies of communication begin with individuals that are at places from which they can communicate if they are motivated to do so and if they have the means for signalling and receiving signal. Yet it is clear that not all members of local

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species populations or even of loosely organized social groups can communicate at all times, because distances between them are too great for signal to pass among them. As an example of the way in which location of the individuals has generally been ignored in studies of communication, Altmann (1962a; 1965) studied communication among wild rhesus monkeys (*Macaca mulatta*) and computed the probabilities that certain communicative behaviors would occur in the population. These computations were made without regard for the proportion of time that the study animals were *not* at locations from which they could communicate. That spatial arrangements of individuals within a group could influence communication was mentioned (Altmann, 1965:521), but was ignored in the exhaustive analysis.

The study of communication among free-living mammals has centered on those forms which live in groups (cf., Wickler, 1969:89-90; Rowell, 1969), and the limitations that movements of individuals place on communication are less obvious when the individuals move about together. Even where the animals under study tend to be solitary, however, observations on communication have been made (cf., Leyhausen, 1965) only on individuals that were at places from which communication could occur.

The movements of individual mammals place limits on the amounts and kinds of communication that can take place among them. For communication between any two mobile, free-living mammals to occur, as defined in terms of a demonstrable behavioral reaction to receiving signal (Klopfer and Hatch, 1968:32-33; Mackay, 1972:3-6), locations of the individuals in time and space must of course be such that signals can pass between them. Thus, given that signal mechanisms and motivation are adequate, movements of the individuals must bring them to certain locations before communication is possible.

Given that animals can communicate if they are at appropriate locations, how much is the amount of communication that occurs influenced by how the animals move about? Two kinds of limits are placed on communication by movements of the animals and the resultant spacing between them. First, movements determine the sensory modality and within the modality the means (Scott, 1968: 17-19) by which communication can or cannot

occur at a particular time (Theberge and Falls, 1967:377). For example, movements may bring individuals to locations from which they can hear each other but cannot see each other. To quote Marler (1967:773):

The usefulness of certain modalities may be restricted by an animal's habits. A strictly nocturnal species has less use for visual communication than a diurnal animal has. A solitary species may have less use for tactile signals than does an animal in constant proximity with several companions.

Further, Lancaster (1968:442) and Marler (1965: 583) point out that the location of the animals can affect the range of signals that the animal can use. As distances between animals increase, there is a general tendency for less use of multimodal constellations of signal elements and greater use of less ambiguous signals sent in a single optimal modality.

In the second kind of limit on communication, locations of the animals limit the amount or kind of information that can be transmitted once a communication link is possible. The information content of messages is determined to some extent by the sensory modality by which they are transmitted (Klopfer and Hatch, 1968:33; Sebeok, 1967: 367-368; Marler, 1965:547) and movements of the animals can allow choices in the modalities that the animals can use at a particular time. When, for example, both vocal and visual means of communication are possible, an animal might choose to use vocalizations, which might convey more information than visual signals. Discussion of whether or not nonhuman mammals do in fact choose the modality by which they communicate on the basis of attempting to maximize communication is outside the scope of this paper. Suffice it to say that movements of the individuals can provide for such choice.

Within a particular modality, different locations can continue to affect the amount of communication. Marler (1968:106) points out that problems of transmission of visual signals are lessened by reduced distance between individuals. Shorter distance allows greater choice of the visual signal mechanisms and presumably increases the amount of information that can be transmitted.

Is it important to know how often animals communicate, as well as to infer what information is communicated? Rowell (1969:284) points out that different types of social organization will result within the same species when the information is

communicated at different rates, even though the same information is transmitted. Thus one of the factors that determines the social organizational pattern in a population of mammals is the frequency with which the individuals can communicate. If the total amount of communication between any two individuals that form a dyad is important in maintaining social relations between them, it seems worthwhile to ask how often the animals are at places from which they can communicate, and how often their movements prevent communication.

When the members of a dyad do not travel together, then the opportunities for communication depend on the interaction of their patterns of movement and the range of effect of their signals. Busnel (1963:73-74) recognized this interaction, but only as it applied to the probabilities of communication among any members of a population, not between specific individuals:

. . . the probabilities of individuals meeting (male and female, for example) depend on their density per surface unit, on their total mobility and on the richness and qualities of the means of information they have at their disposal enabling them to increase their individual field of radiation and their perceptive universe . . . . The range of a signal is in direct proportion to its intensity, other physical conditions of the medium and signal being equal . . . if the density of the animal population is high, signals of low intensity will suffice for the information to be received, while if the density is low, the emission intensity must be greater to attain the same aim.

Communication can take place at two levels: universal and individual (Theberge and Falls, 1967:335). In universal communication, some of the effects of communication may be shown through influencing other members of a population, regardless of the identities of those individuals and their social relationships with a signalling animal (Wynne-Edwards, 1962:16-17; Calhoun, 1963:38, 41; Altmann, 1962b:280). However, many of those effects that relate directly to maintaining social relationships and social structure depend on a signaller communicating with specific individuals (individual communication), rather than with any individual that happens to be within range when he signals.

It is useful to analyze social communication in terms of dyads formed by pairs of communicating animals, even when a signaller may communicate simultaneously with several individuals (Poirier, 1968a). In red fox, some dyads are formed by

mated pairs that occupy home range space from which other red fox are excluded (Sargeant, et al., in press; Storm, 1972:73). Yet even within these dyads, red fox are generally solitary. Red fox in captivity also move and act independently of each other (Kleiman, 1967:367). Most of the assumed communication within red fox dyads must, therefore, involve signalling over relatively long distances or involve signalling by scent over relatively long time spans. Study of communication in red fox (Fox, 1971:78-79; Tembrock, 1968:362-368) has concentrated on signals that function over short distances. For example, published data on the distance over which vocal signals from one red fox are heard and reacted to by other red fox are not available. The study of communication in this and other mammalian species has concentrated on the physical form of various visual and vocal signals, and on responses to signals that can travel over relatively short distances (usually less than 10 m).

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### Bases for Simulation Models

#### HOME RANGE SPACE AND INDIVIDUAL MOVEMENT PATTERNS

The movements of an individual mammal are usually confined to a limited area for at least a large portion of its lifetime. The portion of space used by an animal has been called its home range (Burt, 1943). In my view, a major factor that determines where the animal goes, and thus the limits and features of the way it uses its home range space, is a set of learned responses to the local environment. This view is reflected in the way in which both home range space and individual movement patterns were simulated.

The life of an individual mammal occurs within limits of time and space, the beginning points of which are controlled by the parent(s). Suitable places where the animal could go from this initial point are, in theory, limited only by geographic and biotic barriers, by the mobility of the individual, and by its lifespan. Most mammals, however, confine their movements to a relatively small area for long periods of time, perhaps for their lifetime (Jewell, 1966). This localization (J. P. Scott, 1963: 241) forms early in the lives of many mammals, but may form later after dispersal from the natal range (cf. Storm, 1972:66-122; Hawkins, et al., 1971; Phillips, et al., 1972). Dispersal movements generally occur in relation to sexual maturity (Blair, 1953:26), a relationship confirmed for red fox (Storm, 1972:71), and may be an important population regulation mechanism in some species (Krebs, et al., 1973).

From a beginning point that has been determined for it, or from a point that it chooses after dispersal, an individual uses particular areas of space more often than it uses other areas, as time progresses. Many factors may influence this differential use as, for example, innately determined preference for unevenly distributed biotic and structural features of the habitat (Wecker, 1963), preferences gained through influence of social associates (Terman, 1963; Montgomery and Sunquist,

in press) and responses to the presence of non-associates and neighbors (Poirier, 1968b:353; Hawkins and Montgomery, 1969:202).

As Burt (1943) conceived the home range, this differential use of an area that is smaller than the area potentially available to the animal is a necessary feature for determining whether or not an individual has a home range. In my view, and in that of others (J. P. Scott, 1963:241), those places that an animal remembers, and to which it returns more or less regularly, become part of its home range. Washburn and Hamburg (1965:616-617) consider that familiarity with an area is the prime factor that limits use of space, rather than availability of food or method of locomotion. Jewell (1966) in his term "lifetime range" means the total area with which a mammal has become familiar. Some areas known to a mammal may change or be forgotten, and thus will no longer be included in the home range (Ewer, 1968:65).

In my view, a distinction should be made between how, as observers, we conceive an individual's home range on evidence provided by movements of the animal, and the "concept" that the animal has of the space in which it lives. I choose to call the latter concept the animal's "home range," and the former the animal's "home range space." Places which the mammal has not visited but of which it is aware become part of the home range (but not of the home range space), when they contribute to orientation of the individual in the space that it actually uses, its home range space.

In this view, the animal's concept of the space in which it lives gives rise to the differential way in which it uses space. Generally, the individual will spend time in its home range space in a nonrandom manner; its pattern of use of the home range space will be distinguishable from random movement. As time progresses, radio-marked mammals of several species, such as snowshoe hare (*Lepus americanus*), raccoon (*Procyon lotor*), white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*) and red fox, have been shown to use a series of locations, and the spatial distribution of these locations is demonstrably different from a random distribution (Tester and Siniff, 1965; Siniff and Jessen, 1969). That animals move directly between points on their home range space has been shown for white-tailed deer (Rongstad and Tester, 1969:375) and for a blind raccoon (Sunquist, et al., 1969).

### RED FOX MOVEMENTS AND HOME RANGE SPACE

Considerable information is available on the characteristics of red fox home range spaces and on the patterns of movement which occur on them. Sargeant, et al. (in press.) conducted a three-year study of radio-marked red fox on the Cedar Creek Natural History Area, near Bethel, Minnesota. Their work, supplemented with that of Ables (1959), Storm (1965; 1972), T. G. Scott (1943), Scott and Klimstra (1955), and Arnold and Schofield (1956), provided generalizations about patterns of movement, size, shape, and spacing of red fox home range spaces, and other aspects of red fox biology, which are summarized below.

In general, each red fox home range space is surrounded by neighboring home range spaces, except at the limits of the species range and in other special situations. The total area of a typical home range space is one to three square miles (259 to 777 ha), the space being about one and one-half miles (2.4 km) across at its widest point. The space is usually shared by one adult male, one (rarely two) adult female(s), and seasonally by their young. Other red fox are excluded from this space.

Although the dyad formed by a mated pair shares the same space, the individuals are seldom together. They may use the same portions of the space, but do so at different times—although they are usually active simultaneously. Most of the activity occurs at night, and the remainder during late afternoon and early morning. The animals are typically active for 8 to 10 hours of each 24.

While a fox is active, more than 80 percent of its time is spent in travel; an individual covers a major portion of the home range space during the time it moves each night. Red fox average about 8 miles (12.8 km) of travel per 24 hours, and may travel as much as 15 miles (24.1 km), all within the confines of the home range space. Borders of the space are not patrolled.

### SIMULATION OF INDIVIDUAL MOVEMENT PATTERNS

Simulated movement patterns of 8 individual red fox were created with a Fortran IV computer program modified from the program that repre-

sents the Siniff-Jessen model of animal movement (Siniff and Jessen, 1969). All simulations for this study were done with a CDC 6600 computer at the University of Minnesota.

The location, size, and shape of the area in which a simulated animal's home range space could lie were specified and were controlled by the program. All such areas in this study corresponded to the same ellipse, which had axes of 1.0 and 1.5 miles (1609 and 2563 m). The movements of each animal determined where on this area its home range space actually was. Movements had a high probability of being confined to the area, because the animal was programmed so that the probability of moving to areas it had used previously was higher than movement to areas where it had never been. Before the simulation of each movement pattern, the animal was given a number of locations distributed equally over the elliptical area, and none outside it, equivalent to uniform use of all the area. Thus at the beginning, the animal could seek out any part of the area, but avoided going outside the area. As the simulation proceeded, the animal differentially used various portions of the area and tended to seek those places where it had been most often as it built up its home range space. For this study, I programmed the animals to tend to go toward places that were within 0.15 mile (241 m) of those which had been used 5 or more times previously. If they failed to find such a place, they were programmed to tend to go toward the center of the elliptical area.

The individual's movements on the area were controlled by a modified random walk procedure, as follows: With the animal at a location, initially set by me, the angle that it would turn (resulting in a direction which it would travel) and the rate of travel (resulting in the distance that it would travel during the next regular time interval) were chosen from probability distributions. Direction of travel could be biased by where the animal had previously been, as outlined above. The X-Y coordinates of the animal's next location were computed (based on the direction and distance of travel), the animal was advanced to that location, and time was incremented. Subsequent locations were computed in a like manner until a series of locations resulted. Additional features of the Siniff-Jessen model, the logic used in its development, and examples of simulated movement patterns are

given in Siniff and Jessen (1969) and Siniff (1967).

In this study, all animals moved once per 5 minutes, in simulated time, until a series of 900 locations had accrued. This movement pattern, represented by the 900 serial locations, was stored on magnetic tape until needed.

The computer program tested the simulated movement patterns against the distribution of locations that resulted from the movement patterns of radio-tracked red fox (Siniff and Jessen, 1969: 210-213). For this study, a grid-system of 0.10 mile-square (161 m square) grids was superimposed over the elliptical area. The number of simulated locations within each square was counted. The frequency distribution of number of locations per square was tested, by a goodness of fit procedure, against the distribution of locations that resulted when radio-tracking data from red fox were summarized in a like manner. All movement patterns simulated for this study showed satisfactory fit. Moreover, visual comparisons of computer-generated plots of real and simulated movement patterns showed them to be very similar.

#### CHARACTERISTICS OF SIMULATED INDIVIDUAL MOVEMENT PATTERNS

Eight movement patterns were simulated, and each pattern had individual characteristics, which resulted from the random walk procedure used in the simulation. Four parameters were used to distinguish among the movement patterns (Table 1). Two parameters, mean rate of movement and angle turned between successive locations (Siniff

and Jessen, 1969:189), were used to characterize the way an individual moved about its home range space. Angles turned were compared with respect to the tendency of an individual to travel straight ahead, or within 30° of straight ahead, in successive movements. An animal with a high mean rate of travel and a high tendency to travel straight ahead (e.g., No. 5 in Table 1) would cover its home range space relatively quickly. Siniff (1967:41) showed no apparent relationship between these parameters for a particular real movement pattern. Animals simulated for this study, however, tended to travel in relatively straighter paths when they moved at higher rates of travel.

The remaining two parameters, the K value of the negative binomial distribution fit to the number of locations per square (Siniff, 1967:38; Siniff and Jessen, 1969:197-199), and the total number of squares used by an animal were used to describe each individual's distribution of locations after a series of movements. With respect to the overall pattern with which an animal used the elliptical area, a high K value and use of a high number of squares indicate that the individual used a relatively large portion of the area, and that it used all parts of it relatively infrequently. Animal No. 8 (Table 1) provides an example of such a movement pattern. The animal used 92 squares, while animal No. 2 used only 56, both in their respective series of 900 locations.

#### COMMUNICATION AND THE LOCATION OF HOME RANGE SPACE

The relative locations of the home ranges of any two individuals have a great influence on whether or not they can communicate and, if so, on the constraints that movement patterns and signalling place on the amount of communication. There is no possibility for direct communication when two animals have home ranges that are far apart in time and space. A red fox that died in 1960 cannot communicate directly with one born in 1970, even when they have the same home range space. Likewise, a red fox whose home range is in Illinois cannot communicate directly with a contemporary fox in Minnesota.

Between these extremes, we might expect that an individual would move and signal in such a way as to optimize communication with particular

TABLE 1.—Comparison of four parameters of movements patterns of eight simulated red fox used in study

Number of individual	Mean rate of movement (mph)	Percent of movements within ±30° of straight ahead travel	K value of negative binomial distribution	Total number of grid-squares used
1.....	0.721	32.1	0.562	78
2.....	0.719	29.8	0.231	56
3.....	0.731	34.0	0.559	77
4.....	0.736	34.7	0.675	77
5.....	0.759	34.4	0.676	77
6.....	0.697	32.2	0.665	74
7.....	0.748	30.9	0.394	78
8.....	0.722	29.8	1.140	92

members of the population that are within limits of time and space. Calhoun (1963:41) has proposed that small mammals will have evolved signal mechanisms that enable an animal at the center of its home range space to respond to an individual signalling from the border. Hediger (1961:54) considers that individuals of a society will be apart only to some maximum distance, termed the "social distance"; red fox seem to be what he termed "distance-type" animals, which avoid contact and stay at a distance from each other. Maintaining such a distance implies that the animals communicate regularly. The area about an individual in which it can influence other animals has been termed a "social force field" (McBride, 1964:79-84); this field generates the individual distances among animals. That author discusses social factors that may modify the extent of such a field, including social position of the individual, size of the group in which it lives, and frequencies of agonistic contacts.

Given that any two animals have sufficient motivation and the appropriate signal mechanisms to communicate, then the relationship among (1) movement patterns, (2) the spatial relationships of the home range spaces, and (3) the effective range of the signals determines whether or not communication can occur. The effective signal range varies with the mode of communication. Modes of communication listed by Scott (1968:18-19) and classified in terms of the sense organ through which information is received are considered below, but electrical and kinesthetic modes of communication (Busnel, 1963:69) are excluded.

*Tactile communication* can occur only when (1) the home range spaces of two individuals overlap in both time and space, and (2) the individuals move in such a way that they both arrive very near the same place(s) at the same time(s). Close-range communication by any means has similar restraints, except that the animals can be some short distance(s) apart.

*Visual communication* can occur only when (1) the home range spaces overlap or when they have proximal boundaries no farther apart than some maximum distance over which the animals can be seen, and (2) the individuals move in such a way that they are no more than this distance apart at some point(s) in time.

*Vocal communication* can occur only when (1) the home range spaces overlap or when they have

proximal boundaries no farther apart than some maximum distance over which the animals can be heard, and (2) the individuals move in such a way that they are no more than this distance apart when one of them vocalizes.

*Olfactory communication* can occur only when (1) the home range spaces overlap or have proximal boundaries no farther apart than a scent substance can disperse and remain at a concentration that will elicit a response, and (2) the individuals move in such a way that one of them arrives at a point in space, or within some maximum distance of that point, within some time after the other was at the point; both the distance and time limits are determined by dispersal of scent from the point used by the first animal.

Many variables other than those considered above surely affect communication. For example, motivational states of the animals may prevent communication although the movement patterns and range of effect of signals are adequate to allow signals to pass between them. Physical barriers, darkness, and wind may interfere with signals and prevent communication even though the conditions given above are met. Introduction of these additional variables, however, would have deterred the basic aim of this study, which was to simulate communication with the fewest number of variables. Additional variables, such as those above, can be programmed into the communication models at a later time.

### The Communication Models

These limiting constraints, which movement of the animals place on communication, were used as a basis for programming simple models that describe the way in which red fox might communicate in the various modes. Several simplifying assumptions were used to minimize the number of variables.

With respect to the location of home range space, the only case considered was that in which boundaries of the home range spaces of both members of a dyad corresponded in time and space. The animals of a dyad moved about independently of each other on this space. Thus, only the effective range of signals in time and space, the frequency with which signals were emitted, and the movement pat-

terns of the individuals affected the amount of communication that occurred.

I assumed that only one of a dyad (signaller) could emit signals while the other (receiver) could only receive those signals. Although I assumed that communication occurred each time the animal received signal from the other, the receiver could not react to such communication by changing its movement pattern. Signal mechanisms and motivation to communicate were assumed to be always available when I programmed the signaller to emit a signal, and whenever the receiver came within range of the signal. Environmental factors such as terrain, wind, or vegetation were assumed not to interfere with a signal.

Five models, each describing a means of communication, were developed to simulate communi-

cation in the four modes. Tactile, visual, and vocal modes of communication may be envisioned, in their simplest form, as each fitting one model. However, two models were necessary to exhaust the simplest means of communication in the olfactory mode. Scent path communication, as discussed by Fuller and Fox (1969:472-474) is distinguished from scent point communication (scent marking) as discussed by Eibl-Eibesfeldt (1970:310-312). A schematic summary of the processes and decisions used in the computer-simulation models for all means of communication is shown as Figure 1.

In all the models except that for tactile communication, I controlled, through the appropriate parts of the computer program, one or more of the variables (communication variable(s)) that influenced the amount of communication between the animals. The uncontrolled variable in all the models was where the animals were at particular times. Descriptions of the models are grouped according to the number of communication variables that I controlled.

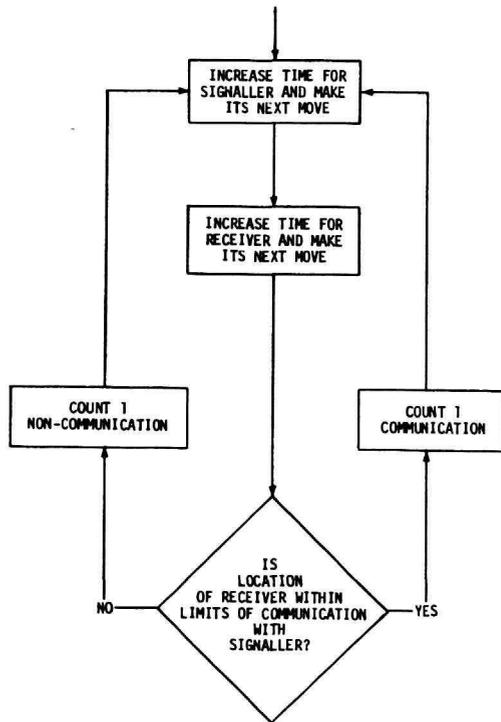


FIGURE 1.—Schematic summary of the flow of processes and the decision used in the computer simulation models of communication in red fox dyads. (See text for details of the different limitations placed on communication between the animals.)

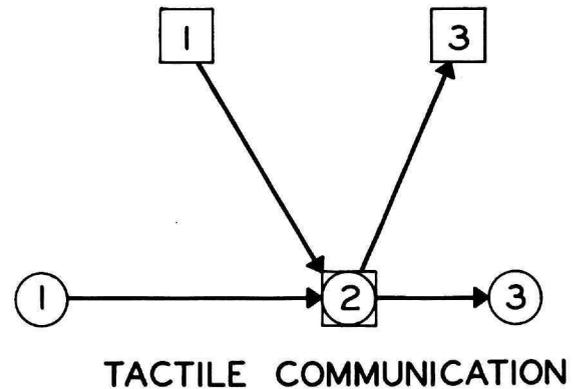


FIGURE 2.—Operation of the tactile communication model. Symbols indicate the locations of the members of the dyad, with circles representing the signaller and squares the receiver. Numbers inside the symbols indicate the time at which the animals were at their respective locations. Movements leading to communication at time 2 between a signaller and a receiver are shown. At time 1 the signaller is at ① and the receiver at ①. At time 2, both animals move to the same location, and communication occurs. At time 3, both animals move to locations ③, ③ from which tactile communication cannot occur. Communication at time 2 did not affect the movements of either animal from time 2 to time 3.

THE TACTILE COMMUNICATION MODEL

Tactile communication (Figure 2) occurred each time the simulated animals were at the same location at the same time. Animals had point dimensions, thus their locations had to exactly match. No communication variables were under my control, because only the movement patterns determined when the individuals would be at a particular location. In this and all other communication models, the number of prior times communication had occurred did not affect the receiver's response to signal; communication occurred each time he and the signaller were in the same place at the same time.

THE VISUAL COMMUNICATION MODEL

Visual communication (Figure 3) occurred each time the animals were within some distance  $X_v$  (visual range) of each other. The visual range was under my control. The signaller was equally visible to the receiver at all times from anywhere within

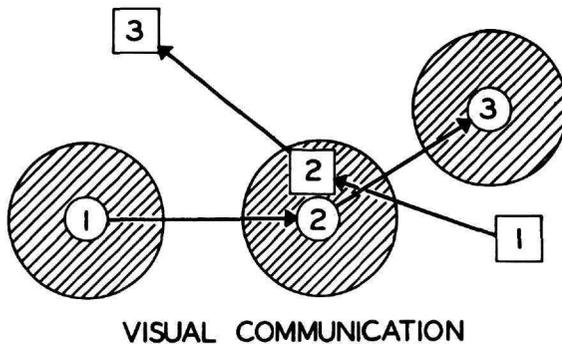
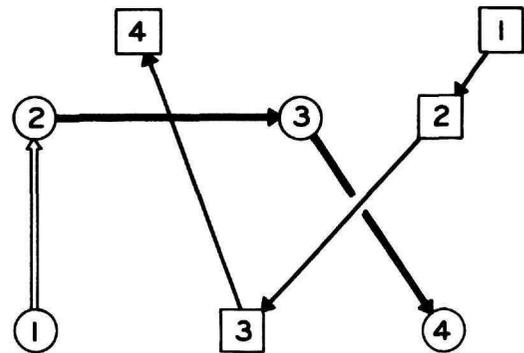


FIGURE 3.—Operation of the visual communication model. The shaded areas around locations of the signaller represent the simulated visual range and the resulting areas in which visual communication could occur. Movements leading to communication at time 2 are shown. The signaller is at ① and the receiver at ① at time 1. At time 2, the animals move to ② and ② and communication occurs because the receiver is within visual range of the signaller (within the shaded area which represents the circle of radius visual range). At time 3, the animals move to locations ③ and ③, from which visual communication cannot occur. In this sequence of movements, there were two times when communication could not occur and once when it did. Communication thus occurred 33 percent of the time. (See Figure 2 for explanation of symbols.)

a circle around the signaller's location; the radius of the circle was the visual range. There was no gradation of effect of the visual signal as the distance from the signaller increased, thus a visual signal of strength equal to or greater than some single response threshold occurred throughout the circle of effect while a signal outside the circle was below the response threshold.

THE SCENT PATH COMMUNICATION MODEL

Scent path communication (Figure 4) occurred each time the receiver crossed the travel path of the signaller within  $Y_t$  minutes (scent effect time) after the signaller had used that portion of its travel path. The travel path was the line that connected successive locations used by an animal. The communication variable, scent effect time, was under my control. I assumed that the signaller constantly emitted a scent substance as it moved



SCENT PATH COMMUNICATION

FIGURE 4.—Operation of the scent path communication model. Heavy lines connecting circles indicate effective scent paths, while the open line between circles indicates a scent path that is no longer effective. Scent effect time is 10 minutes, thus the scent path left by the signaller between times 1 and 2 becomes ineffective when the signaller moves between times 3 and 4. Movements leading to communication between times 3 and 4 are shown. The receiver moves from ① to ③ and no communication results because the signaller has not yet traveled from ③ to ④. When the receiver moves from ③ to ④ it crosses a scented travel path, the scent is still effective, and communication occurs. Had the receiver crossed the line connecting ① and ② when it moved between times 3 and 4, no communication would have resulted from its last move. (See Figure 2 for explanation of symbols.)

about the home range, thus leaving a path of scent. The scent was emitted such that the scent path did not increase in width with time, but had only line width at all times while scent remained effective. The scent remained equally effective during the entire scent effect time, and disappeared instantaneously (or reached a concentration that was below response threshold) at the end of that time.

#### THE VOCAL COMMUNICATION MODEL

Vocal communication (Figure 5) occurred each time the animals were within some distance  $X_v$  (vocal range) of each other at a time when the signaller vocalized; the signaller vocalized after each regular  $Y_v$ th time interval (vocalization frequency). The vocal signal could be heard equally well from anywhere within a circle of radius  $X_v$  about the location of the signaller. There was no gradation of effect of the signal as the distance from the signaller increased. Two communication variables, vocal range and vocalization frequency, were under my control.

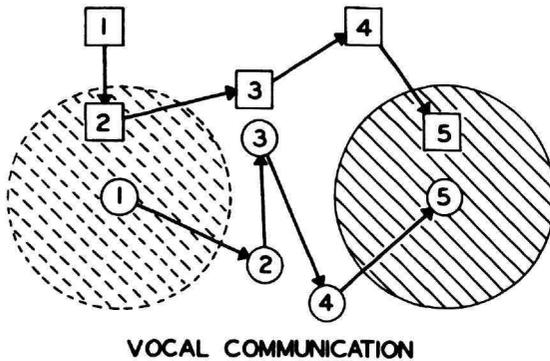
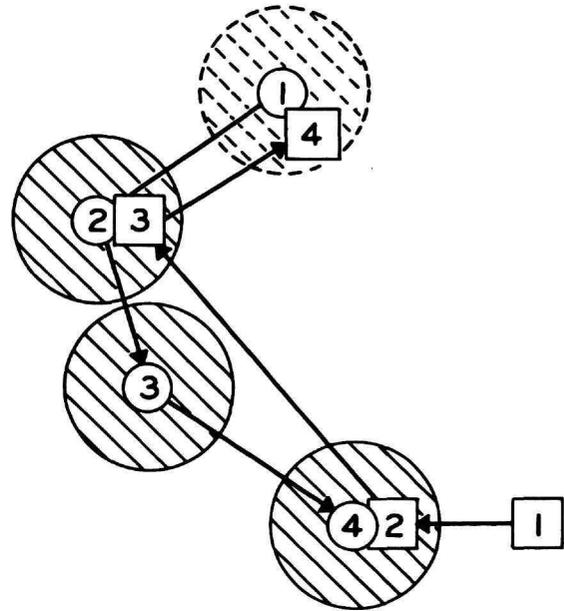


FIGURE 5.—Operation of the vocal communication model. The signaller is programmed to vocalize at intervals of 25 minutes (at every fifth location), and the shaded areas around ① and ⑤ indicate the vocal range. Movements leading to communication at time 5 are shown. At time 1 the signaller vocalizes at ① but the receiver is outside the vocal range at ④ and no communication occurs. No communication occurs when the receiver moves to ② because the vocal signal is no longer effective. No communication occurs at times 3 and 4 because the signaller does not vocalize at those times. At time 5 the signaller vocalizes from ⑤ and communication occurs because the receiver, at ⑤, is within the vocal range. (See Figure 2 for explanation of symbols.)

#### THE SCENT POINT COMMUNICATION MODEL

Scent point communication (Figure 6) occurred each time the receiver was within some distance  $X_s$  (scent range) of a location scented by the signaller when not more than some time  $Y_s$  (scent effect time) had passed after scent was deposited. The signaller deposited scent after each regular  $Z_s$ th time interval (scenting frequency), i.e., at each  $Z_s$ th location that it used. The three communication variables; scent range, scent effect time, and scenting frequency, were under my control.

I assumed that scent diffused instantaneously out to scent range  $X_s$  and that it was equally effective throughout a circle about the  $Z_s$ th location for



#### SCENT POINT COMMUNICATION

FIGURE 6.—Operation of the scent point communication model. Scent effect time was programmed to be 15 minutes. Three scent points, in this case those placed at times 2, 3, and 4, are thus effective at any time. Shaded areas surrounding circles represent the areas in which scent is effective. Movements which result in communication at time 3 are shown. No communication occurs at time 2 because the signaller has not yet reached ④. Communication occurs at time 3 because the receiver at ③ is within scent range of ② and the scent left there at time 2 is still effective. No communication occurs at time 4 because scent left by the signaller at ① is no longer effective. (See Figure 2 for explanation of symbols.)

the entire scent effect time  $Y_i$ . There was no gradation of effect with either distance from the scent source or the time after scent was deposited. Scent disappeared instantaneously at the end of scent effect time. When scent circles overlapped each other, there was no increased effect on the receiver in the area of overlap.

**Use of the Models for Simulating Communication**

The movements of each of the five dyads (Table 2) for each range of value of the communication variables were simulated using each of the five communication models.

TABLE 2.—Combinations of movement patterns used to form five dyads used in study (numbers refer to particular movement patterns; characteristics of the pattern are shown in Table 1)

Dyad	Signaller	Receiver
A.....	1	8
B.....	2	7
C.....	3	6
D.....	4	5
E.....	5	4

The study thus involved, for each of the five dyads, simulated communication under a total of 154 different limits on communication. In all, 770 simulations were done for the study.

For each of the dyads, movements with 8 visual ranges from 0 to 0.01 miles (16 m) were simulated to study tactile and close-range communication (total 40 simulations). Movements with 10 visual ranges from 0.05 to 0.90 mile (80 to 1448 m) were simulated for each of the five dyads (total 50 simulations) to study visual communication. Movements with 8 scent effect times from 0.33 to 24 hours (total 40 simulations) were used for each of the five dyads to study scent path communication. For each dyad, movements with 48 different combinations of vocal range and vocalization frequency (total 240 simulations) were simulated to study vocal communication; vocal ranges of 0.10 to 0.80 mile (161 to 1287 m) were combined with vocalization frequencies of 0.33 to 6.00 per hour (one per 1½ hours to one per 10 minutes). Movements of each of the five dyads were simulated with 80 different combinations of scent range, scent effect time, and scenting frequency to study scent point

communication (total 400 simulations); scent ranges from 0.05 to 0.50 mile (80 to 800 m), scent effect times of 1 to 8 hours, and scenting frequencies of 0.33 to 2.00 per hour (one per 1½ hours to one per 30 minutes) were used in various combinations.

For each dyad, when a particular communication model and value(s) of the communication variable(s) were used, the simulation began by retrieving the movement patterns of the two animals from magnetic tape (Figure 7). The movement patterns were then recreated simultaneously on the home range space. The initial locations of the animals were randomized, and they could have been anywhere on the space. As simulated time advanced in 5-minute increments, both animals moved from location-to-location, following their

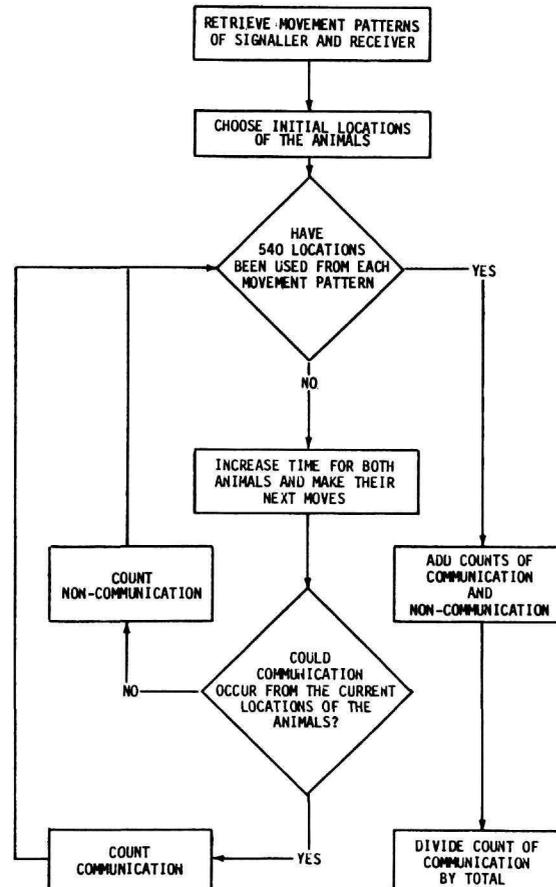


FIGURE 7.—Summary of the flow of processes and decisions used in simulating communication between a particular pair of red fox that formed a dyad on the same home range space.

previously determined movement patterns. The computer program that controlled these processes and those described below is included as an Appendix in Montgomery, 1973.

While the animals moved about, the signaller emitted signals according to the simulation schedule. The interaction of the movement patterns, the frequency of the signaller-emitted signals, and the range of effect of the signals, determined the level of communication that occurred.

I used 540 locations from each movement pattern (the remaining 360 were used to allow the animals to start from randomly determined locations), thus a simulation was equivalent to the movements of two red fox for 45 hours (5 days of 9 hours of fox activity each day). The program counted the number of times the animals' movements brought them to locations from which communication could occur, and how often they were outside the limits on communication. The number of times communication was possible was divided by the total (communication plus noncommunication) to give the percentage of time during each simulation when communication occurred.

The movement patterns of each of the members of a dyad remained the same, regardless of which communication model was used in a simulation, or of the values of the communication variable(s) used. Choice of the movement patterns that represented a dyad were made without regard for individual characteristics of the movement patterns; movement patterns of the animals were thus random variables in each of the simulations.

For each dyad, movement patterns of the animals were controlled variables, allowing comparison of amounts of communication that occurred with a communication model, when the values of the communication variable(s) were changed between simulations. Comparisons among the dyads were also made, for the same communication model and value(s) of the communication variable(s), to indicate variation in amounts of communication attributable to characteristics of the individual movement patterns.

To compare movement patterns with levels of communication, scores for each dyad for the level of communication that resulted from each means of communication were ranked. These rank scores were then compared with rank scores for the four parameters of the movement patterns. The com-

parisons indicated ways in which communication was enhanced by the slight differences in the way various simulated animals moved about.

When a particular communication variable or a combination of variables was held constant for all dyads, different levels of communication resulted among the dyads (see below), because movement patterns influenced communication and each pair of movement patterns was unique. The levels of communication that resulted from each value of a communication variable (e.g., a visual range of 0.40 mile, or 644 m) or for each combination of communication variables (e.g., a vocalization frequency of 1 per hour and a vocal range of 0.80 mile, or 1287 m) were averaged for the five dyads. Many values of the communication variable(s) were simulated for each means of communication, and the average level of communication was computed for each value or combination of values. All the average values for a particular means of communication were plotted (Figures 8, 9, 10) and the value(s) of the communication variable(s) that gave, on the average, 20 percent communication was interpolated from each plot. Then for each means of communication, the level of communication that resulted, when the value(s) of the communication variable(s) used in simulation equalled this interpolated value(s), was ranked among the five dyads. Rank 1 was given to the dyad that showed the maximum level of communication with this value(s) of the communication variable(s).

For comparison of movement patterns with levels of communication, the five signallers and the five receivers were ranked for each of the four movement parameters. A rank of 1 for rate of travel among signallers means, for example, that the simulated animal had the highest mean rate of travel among the five signallers. Numerical bases for the rankings are shown in Table 1, while identities of signallers and receivers are shown in Table 2.

#### Levels of Communication with Five Means of Signalling

Results from the simulation of each means of communication are presented as follows: The level of communication that occurred for the various values of the communication variable(s) is shown in a figure and discussed. Factors that reduced the

effectiveness of attempts to increase communication are outlined and discussed. Characteristics of the movement patterns that resulted in higher or lower levels of communication for particular dyads are considered. Finally the results of the simulation are compared with available information on communication among red fox. It should be kept in mind that simulation was with deliberately simplified models. The simulation results thus may not reflect levels of communication that occur with the many variables which affect levels of communication among wild red fox.

#### TACTILE AND CLOSE-RANGE COMMUNICATION

No tactile communication occurred between members of any of the five dyads (Figure 8). Tactile communication depended on the animals being

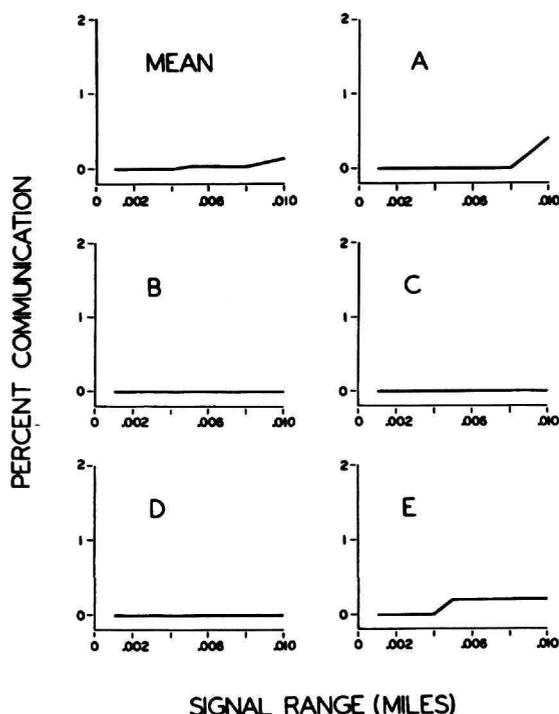


FIGURE 8.—Levels of tactile, close-range visual, and close-range vocal communication that occurred in five simulated red fox dyads (A-E) with signal ranges of 0.01 mile (16 m) and less, and the mean levels of communication for the five dyads. Note that none of the dyads communicated more than 0.5 percent of the time by these means, and dyads B, C, and D did not communicate at all.

in the same place at the same time. Close-range visual and vocal communication was arbitrarily defined as occurring with visual or vocal ranges of 0.01 mile (16 m) or less and with continuous or less frequent vocalization where appropriate. Close-range communication occurred 0.15 percent of the time or less for the average of the five dyads (Figure 8). No close-range communication occurred within signal ranges of less than 0.005 mile (8 m) for any dyad, and three of the dyads showed no communication with ranges as great as 0.01 mile (16 m).

Tactile and other close-range means of communication were severely limited by movements of the simulated animals. These results suggest that communication by close-range means would occur very rarely between red fox, unless some other means of communication was first employed to allow the members of a dyad to move closer together. In the absence of such communication and coordination of movements, it is doubtful that close-range communication would occur often enough to account for social bonding in red fox dyads.

#### VISUAL COMMUNICATION

Increasing the visual range, which increased the area in which the signaller could be seen by the receiver, increased the level of communication for all dyads (Figure 9). Because of the specified dimensions of the elliptical area that included the home range spaces, visual communication would have occurred 100 percent of the time for all dyads with a visual range of 1.50 mile (2413 m). With that visual range a signal from anywhere on the home range space would have covered the entire space. The maximum visual range that I simulated was 0.90 mile (1448 m), and with this range four of the five dyads communicated more than 80 percent of the time. The maximum rate of communication was 96 percent for dyad B and the minimum was 75 percent for dyad A.

With linear increases in visual range, increases in level of communication were nonlinear (Figure 9). On the average, a greater increase in communication resulted from a unit increase in visual range when the range was less than 0.40 mile (644 m). For visual ranges of 0.10 to 0.40 mile (161 to 644 m) each increase of 0.10 mile (161 m) in range

gave an additional 15 percent communication. For ranges of 0.40 to 0.70 mile (644 to 1126 m), however, an increase in visual range of 0.10 mile (161 m) resulted in only 8 percent more communication. This result may indicate that attempts by a red fox to increase visual communication by becoming more conspicuous will be more efficient if the visual signal travels less than 0.40 mile (644 m) to reach a potential receiver of the signal.

With increased visual ranges the curves (Figure 9) showing the relationship between visual range and level of communication were inflected. This inflection suggests that some limit on an increase in level of communication was approached as the visual range increased. Wastage of visual signal

emitted beyond the boundary of the home range space accounts for the limit on effectiveness of increasing visual range. For communication within any dyad by any means, the signal is wasted when it goes into space not used by the receiving animal. Such signal may not in fact be wasted, however, when it is used for communication outside the particular dyad under consideration. Visual signal emitted to places on the home range space other than that place occupied by the receiving animal was wasted as well, but more visual signal on the home range space increased the chances that the receiver would be in a location from which it could see the signaller.

Signal was not wasted beyond the boundary of the receiver's home range space when the signaller was the same distance as the visual range from the nearest boundary of that space, or more than the visual range from any of its boundaries. For a given visual range, there was thus a set of locations that formed a threshold for such wastage of signal. Beyond these threshold locations, the amount of wasted signal increased for a given visual range whenever the signaller moved toward the boundary of the receiver's home range space or, from a given location, as the visual range increased. In general, such a set of threshold locations exist for all means of communication for each signaller using a given emission intensity in dyadic communication. Given that the signaller is aware of the extent of the receiver's home range space, the locations outline an area from which the signaller could most efficiently signal the other member of the dyad.

For a particular visual range, only differences in movement patterns could account for the different levels of communication which were shown among the dyads (Figure 9), since all other variables were held constant. On the average, the dyads communicated 20 percent of the time when the visual range was 0.19 mile (306 m). There was considerable variation among the dyads in the amount of communication that occurred with that visual range, from 7 percent for dyad A to 36 percent for dyad D. For this and a wide variety of visual ranges, the dyads consistently ranked as follows with respect to levels of communication with a particular visual range: D=1, B=2, E=3, C=4, A=5.

It is thus shown by variation in level of communication among the dyads that the way in which

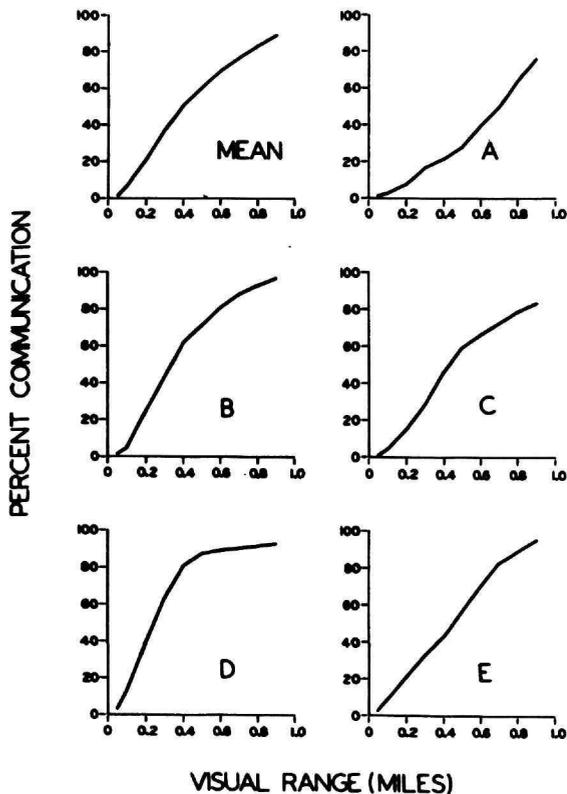


FIGURE 9.—Levels of visual communication that occurred in five simulated red fox dyads (A-E) with visual ranges of 0.05 to 0.90 mile (80 to 1448 m), and the mean levels of visual communication for the five dyads. On the average, the animals communicated 20 percent of the time when the receiver could see the signaller from 0.19 mile (306 m).

TABLE 3.—Comparison of level of visual communication provided by pairs of movement patterns that formed each of five dyads with four parameters of movement patterns of signallers and receivers within each dyad (criteria for ranking levels of communication among dyads and for ranking movement patterns among signallers and receivers are given in the text)

Dyad	Communica- tion rank	Rate of movement (mean)		Straight ahead travel $\pm 30^\circ$		Contagion of locations (K)		Total number of grid-squares	
		Signaller	Receiver	Signaller	Receiver	Signaller	Receiver	Signaller	Receiver
D	1	2	1	1	2	2	2	3	2.5
B	2	5	2	5	4	5	5	1	4
E	3	1	3	2	1	1	3	3	2.5
C	4	3	5	3	3	4	4	3	1
A	5	4	4	4	5	3	1	5	5

one or both members of each dyad moved about influenced their ability to communicate visually. There was no apparent rank correlation between the level of visual communication in a dyad and any of the four parameters of movement of signallers (Table 3), and the manner in which signallers moved about apparently did not greatly influence visual communication. There was a good rank correlation, however, between rate of movement of receivers and level of visual communication. This result may indicate that the way in which receivers moved about had a great influence on the level of visual communication, regardless of the movement pattern of signallers. If this were true, the signaller could do little to enhance communication except change the visual range, unless he exerted some control over the receiver's movement pattern, and in so doing increased the rate at which the receiver moved about its home range space.

Although simulation shows that movements of the animals alone does not prevent significant levels of visual communication (Figure 9), red fox are primarily nocturnal, which precludes use of visual signalling in long-range dyadic communication. Even for short-range location of prey (from 30 m or less), vision was shown to be important only during daylight hours (Osterholm, 1966:54), and senses of hearing and particularly smell became more important in twilight and darkness. As stated by Osterholm (1966:55): ". . . the fox's own daily rhythm has the result that in nature the sense of sight is not a particularly important receptor to the red fox." In general, in spite of adaptations for improved vision in darkness, nocturnal animals

can rely less on vision than other senses for communication (Marler, 1965:547). An additive factor that would further reduce the effectiveness of visual signalling is interference by topography and vegetation. Interference with visual signals by vegetation was shown by Bronson (1964) to seasonally decrease visual communication among woodchucks (*Marmota monax*), a diurnal mammal. Interference, when combined with darkness, would make visual communication over moderate or long distance very difficult for red fox. Visual communication is thus probably of little importance in maintaining social bonds in red fox dyads, not because movements prevent it, but because fox are primarily nocturnal and because the habitat interferes with visual signals.

#### SCENT PATH COMMUNICATION

Increasing the scent effect time, which increased the length of the path of effective scent that was available at any time, increased levels of communication for all dyads (Figure 10). Amounts of communication afforded by longer lasting scent, however, quickly reached an upper limit. On the average, scent path signalling provided communication no more than 25 percent of the time, even when scent remained effective for 12 hours or more. At the extremes for the five dyads, the upper limit in level of communication was reached with 18 hours of scent effect for dyad A and 10 hours for dyads B, C, and D. At the upper limit in level of communication for the dyads considered separately, the maximum level was 38 percent for dyad D and the minimum level was 19 percent for dyad A. Dyad

A, which could communicate no more than 19 percent of the time by scent path signalling regardless of the scent effect time, required a longer scent effect time to reach its maximum level of communication. Dyad D, in contrast, needed a shorter scent effect time to reach a higher maximum level of communication.

A limit on the effect of increasing scent effect times was approached as these times increased (Figure 10). The limiting factor(s) is unknown; no scent path signal was wasted by emission outside the boundary of the elliptical area that included the home range spaces. The home range spaces of the two members of each dyad, however, depended on where within the elliptical area each animal

actually moved. The home range spaces of dyad members may have diverged enough so that some scent path signal could not be received and was wasted.

As with the other means of communication, only differences in movement patterns among the dyads could account for the different levels of communication with the same scent effect time (Figure 10). On the average, the dyads communicated 20 percent of the time when scent was effective for 7.6 hours. Variation among the dyads with a scent effect time of 7.6 hours ranged from 15 percent communication for dyad A to 28 percent for dyad D. For a particular scent effect time, the dyads consistently ranked as follows with respect to levels of communication: D=1, E=2, C=3, B=4, A=5.

The variation among dyads, and the consistency in relative level of communication with each of many scent effect times shows that the movements of one or both dyad members influenced the level of scent path communication. In contrast to visual signalling, the way in which signallers moved about while signalling with scent paths apparently influenced the level of communication (Table 4). Signallers that had a relatively high rate of travel and, particularly, those that tended to travel straight ahead at a rapid rate were more successful in signalling the receiver of their dyad. A critical factor in scent path communication is the total length of path that carries effective scent at any time, because a longer effective path increases the probability that the receiver will move across it before the scent becomes ineffective. Where the animals move over large areas, a second critical factor is the total area in which scent paths are effective. Given the same length of effective scent path, the probability of communication would be lower when a particular path is concentrated in one small part of the receiver's home range space because the receiver may be moving in an entirely different part of the space while the scent is effective. A movement pattern in which the signaller moves rapidly and seldom turns would provide both a longer effective scent path at any time, and a tendency to distribute that path over a large portion of the receiver's home range space.

Scent path signalling is potentially an efficient means for providing moderate levels of communication in red fox dyads. Red fox have interdigital glands, which produce odor distinguishable even

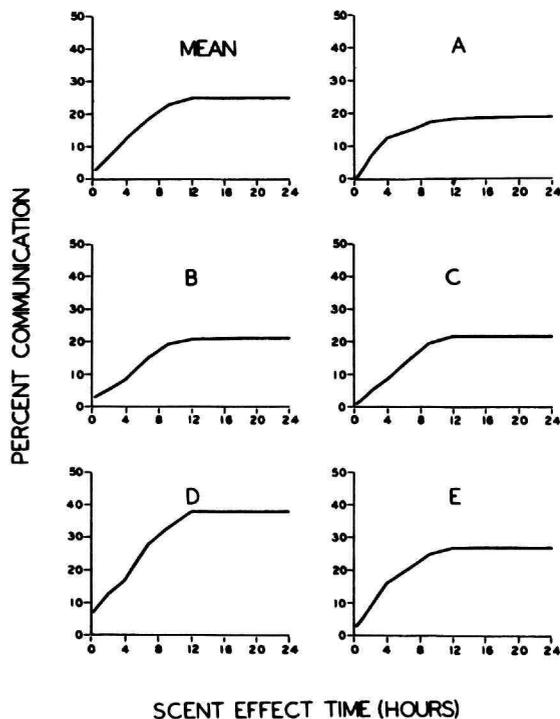


FIGURE 10.—Levels of scent-path communication that occurred in five simulated red fox dyads (A-E) with scent effect times of 0.33 to 24 hours, and the mean levels of communication for the five dyads. Note an increase in level of communication with increasing scent effect times to about 12 hours; further increases in scent effect time did not give further increases in communication. On the average, the animals communicated 20 percent of the time when scent remained effective for 7.6 hours.

TABLE 4.—Comparison of level of scent path communication provided by pairs of movement patterns that formed each of five dyads with four parameters of movement patterns of signallers and receivers within each dyad (criteria for ranking levels of communication among dyads and for ranking movement patterns among signallers and receivers are given in text)

Dyad	Communica- tion rank	Rate of movement (mean)		Straight ahead travel $\pm 30^\circ$		Contagion of locations (K)		Total number of grid-squares	
		Signaller	Receiver	Signaller	Receiver	Signaller	Receiver	Signaller	Receiver
D	1	2	1	1	2	2	2	3	2.5
E	2	1	3	2	1	1	3	3	2.5
C	3	3	5	3	3	4	4	3	1
B	4	5	2	5	4	5	5	1	4
A	5	4	4	4	5	3	1	5	5

to humans and which may contribute to leaving a scent trail as the animals move about (Fox, 1971: 201). Anal and other scent glands may also produce odors that are left as a trail, along with distinctive chemical substances from nonglandular parts of the fox's body surface. Because a scent trail is left as the animal moves about, incidental to its other activities (Ewer, 1968:112-113), a fox need not spend much additional time and energy in communication. Scent trails can carry information about the identity and state of the individual which leaves them (cf., Wilson, 1968:90) and, because of concentration gradients along a trail, about the direction of travel and the amount of time that has passed since the trail was laid (Bosert and Wilson, 1963:458-463). Information inherent in scent trails could thus allow fox to maintain a degree of spacing or help to bring them together.

Red fox almost certainly can use information from scent trails, although good evidence for them doing so is lacking. Certain breeds of the domestic dog (*Canis familiaris*) have outstanding ability to discriminate among and to follow scent trails (Fuller and Fox, 1969:472-474). That this ability is generally developed in canids is indicated by observations of timber wolves following the scent trails of conspecifics (Mech, et al. 1971:23; Jordan, et al., 1967:243).

Simulation indicates that moderate levels of communication are possible with red fox movements when scent remains effective for about 9 hours, but that further increases in scent effect time are inefficient in terms of increasing commu-

nication. Thus, the optimal level of scent emission is that which provides communication over a time approximately equal to the length of the daily activity period. It seems possible that the primary function of scent path signalling is to reveal the location of the signaller during the same daily activity period that scent trails are left. Ambiguity introduced by scent persisting from one daily activity period to the next may be avoided by the signaller emitting only that kind or amount of scent that provides an optimal scent effect time.

VOCAL COMMUNICATION

Changes in the communication variables, which tended to increase the area covered by signal, the time covered by signal, or both, resulted in higher levels of communication for all dyads in the complex relationship among vocal range, vocalization frequency, and communication (Figure 11). Vocal communication would have occurred 100 percent of the time for all dyads with a vocal range of 1.50 mile (2413 m) and a vocalization frequency of 12 per hour. With those values, a signal from anywhere on the home range space covered the entire elliptical area, and vocalizing 12 times per hour (once per 5 minutes) was equivalent to continuous vocalization in the communication model. With the maximum values that I simulated, a vocal range of 0.80 mile (1287 m) and a vocalization frequency of 6 per hour (one per 10 minutes), three dyads communicated more than 40 percent of the time and the remaining two dyads more than 30 percent of the time. The maximum rate of com-

munication with these values was 45.9 percent for dyad D and the minimum was 34.6 percent for dyad A.

There was a linear increase in communication with linear increase in vocalization frequency (Figure 11) for each vocal range from 0.10 to 0.80 mile (161 to 1287 m). Vocal range and vocalization frequency interacted such that, as vocal range increased the effect of increasing vocalization frequency became more pronounced. For example, an increase of one vocalization per hour with a vocal range of 0.20 mile (322 m) gave 1.6 percent more communication, while an increase of one vocalization per hour with a vocal range of 0.80 mile (1287 m) gave 7.0 percent more communication. This result indicates that an increase in the frequency with which a fox vocalizes will have a

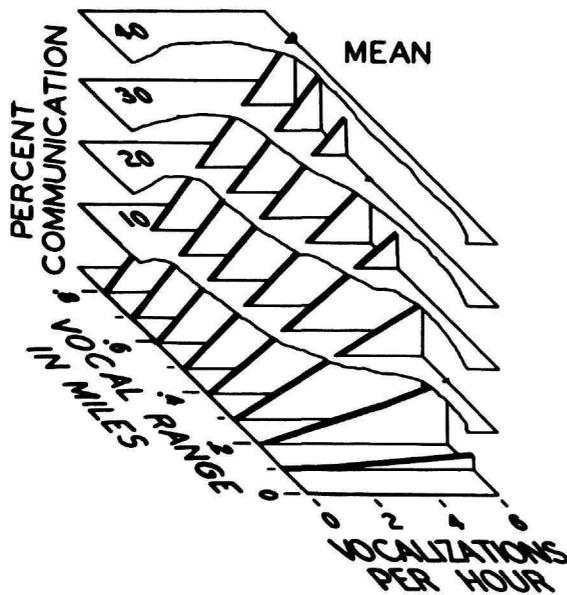


FIGURE 11.—Mean levels of vocal communication that occurred in five simulated red fox dyads with vocal ranges of 0.10 to 0.80 miles (161 to 1287 m) and vocalization frequencies of 0.33 to 6.00 per hour (one per 1½ hours to one per 10 minutes). Note that a linear increase in vocalization frequency gave a linear increase in level of communication for each simulated vocal range. Several vocal ranges and vocalization frequencies gave an average of 20 percent communication, including 2.8 vocalizations per hour with a vocal range of 0.80 miles (1287 m), and 4.7 vocalizations per hour with a vocal range of 0.40 miles (644 m).

greater effect on the level of dyadic communication when the vocalizations are emitted such that they can be heard from far away.

The effect of increasing vocal range on level of communication was nonlinear, becoming more and more limited as the vocal range increased with a given vocalization frequency (Figure 12). Wastage of vocal signal emitted beyond the boundary of the elliptical area accounts for a part of this limit. As with visual communication, signal was wasted when it went into space not used by the receiving animal, and a similar set of threshold locations existed for such wastage of vocal signal. In contrast to visual signalling, the signaller could move outside these threshold locations without reducing the efficiency of signalling, so long as it did so between the times when it emitted vocal signals. Given that a signaller is aware of the location of a potential receiver, vocal signalling may be made more efficient by directional emission of signal toward the receiver (Busnel, 1963), which

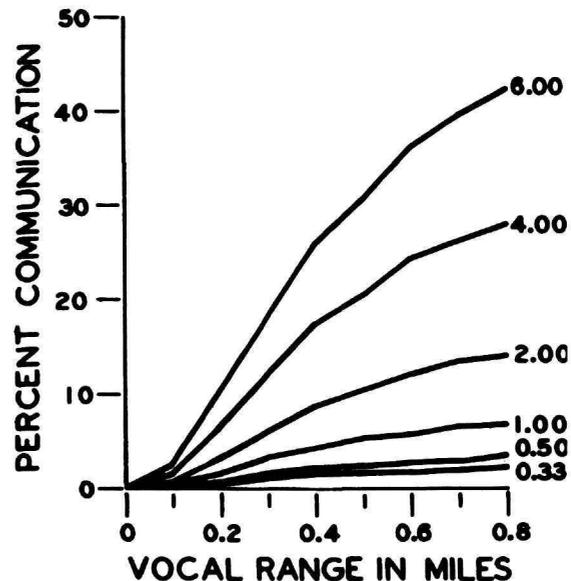


FIGURE 12.—The relationship between increasing vocal range and mean amount of communication that resulted for five dyads with the six vocalization frequencies indicated at the right of the figure. The inflection of the curves for vocalization frequencies greater than 0.50 per hour illustrates the limit that wastage of vocal signal placed on the effectiveness of increasing the vocal range.

reduces wastage of signal. Directional emission was excluded from the communication model when I assumed that all communication was unidirectional.

For a particular combination of vocal range and vocalization frequency, only differences in movement patterns could account for the different levels of communication shown among the dyads. On the average (Figure 11) the minimum values of vocal range and vocalization frequency, which gave communication 20 percent of the time, were 2.8 vocalizations per hour with a vocal range of 0.80 mile (1287 m), and 4.7 vocalizations per hour with a vocal range of 0.40 mile (644 m). There was considerable variation among the dyads in the levels of communication that occurred with these sets of values. With 2.8 vocalizations per hour and a vocal range of 0.80 mile (1287 m), communication ranged from 16.0 percent for dyad A to 21.2 percent for dyads D and E. Communication ranged from 13.5 percent for dyad A to 26.0 percent for dyads D and E, with 4.7 vocalizations per hour and a vocal range of 0.40 mile (644 m). The relative amount of communication per dyad was consistent among the dyads for these two and many other sets of values of the communication variables. Levels of communication among the dyads ranked as follows: D = E=1.5, B=3, C=4, A=5.

Although the way in which the animals moved about influenced their ability to communicate vocally, there were no obvious correlations between ways of moving about and levels of communication (Table 5). Dyads, however, whose members tended to travel at greater speeds and tended to turn less

often (both members) ranked highest in levels of vocal communication. Lowest levels of communication resulted when both members of a dyad traveled slowly and turned frequently. Theoretically, either pattern of movement could have resulted in higher levels of communication if the movement patterns of the animals had been coordinated such that used the same portions of the elliptical area at the same times. Where the movements were not coordinated, the probability that they were close together depended on chance alone, and the chance that both animals would be in the same part of the elliptical area at the same time was apparently increased when both animals traveled at high rates in fairly straight lines.

Parameters that summarize the distribution of locations resulting from a pattern of movement should show less correlation with levels of communication than do parameters that describe the pattern of movement per se. Communication by any means of signalling depends on the individuals being at certain places at certain times, and the over-all distribution of locations does not reflect the timing of the animal's movements. For example, both members of a dyad might concentrate a portion of their activity on the same part of the elliptical area without enhancing vocal communication if they were not both in that part at the same time.

There was an indication, however, that movement patterns that resulted in maximum dispersion of locations (high K values) gave more vocal communication than patterns that resulted in greater clumping of locations (Table 5). Unless the two members of a dyad were mutually aware

TABLE 5.—Comparison of level of vocal communication provided by pairs of movement patterns that formed each of five dyads with four parameters of movement patterns of signallers and receivers within each dyad (criteria for ranking levels of communication among dyads and for ranking movement patterns among signallers and receivers are given in text)

Dyad	Communica- tion rank	Rate of movement (mean)		Straight ahead travel $\pm 30^\circ$		Contagion of locations (K)		Total number of grid-squares	
		Signaller	Receiver	Signaller	Receiver	Signaller	Receiver	Signaller	Receiver
D	1.5	2	1	1	2	2	2	3	2.5
E	1.5	1	3	2	1	1	3	3	2.5
B	3	5	2	5	4	5	5	1	4
C	4	3	5	3	3	4	4	3	1
A	5	4	4	4	5	3	1	5	5

of locations used by the other member and had clumps of locations in the same portion of the home range space, or unless clumping in the same portions occurred by chance, there should have been an advantage in maximizing dispersion of locations used by both the members. This is because clumps of locations for the two animals located in distal portions of the elliptical area, when combined with short vocal ranges, would have resulted in low levels of communication regardless of when the animals used these clumps.

Vocal signalling could be an effective means for maintaining social contact in red fox dyads. As shown by simulation, movements of the animals allow them to communicate a reasonably high proportion of the time with relatively low emission intensities and frequencies of signalling. Vocal signalling is efficient in terms of energy cost to the animal, relative to other means of communication (Sebeok, 1967:368) and may require less interference with ongoing behavior of the animal than do other means of signalling (Marler, 1967:773). In the total energy budget for a red fox, the cost of vocalizing a few times per hour is probably not important, regardless of the emission intensity. High frequencies of signalling with greater vocal ranges might allow a potential predator of red fox to better locate its prey (Hall, 1965), and thus promote selective pressure against such vocal signalling. The most probable predator, the timber wolf, however, generally locates its prey by scent or sight (Mech, 1966:118-125).

Red fox probably are capable of emitting vocalizations that can be heard over distances at least as great as the vocal ranges that I simulated. Fox (1971:43) indicates that auditory signals are well developed in the more solitary canids for communication over greater distances, notably in the red fox. That author, however, presents no data on absolute vocal ranges. The loud vocal signals are highly stereotyped (Fox, 1971:185) as predicted (Marler, 1965:583, 1967:772; Nottebohm, 1972:131; Lancaster, 1968:442) for signals that transmit information over relatively long distance. Timber wolves respond by vocalizing to the howls of wolves that are at least 0.50 miles (804 m) away (Rutter and Pimlott, 1968:138), and farm dogs by barking to the baying of hounds that are 1 mile (1609 m) or more away (pers. obs.). Spotted hyenas (*Crocuta crocuta*) respond to tape-recorded vocaliza-

tions from as far as 3000 m (Kruuk, 1972). From distances of at least 10 m and less, red fox can precisely locate, on the basis of hearing alone, slight noises made by prey (Osterholm, 1966:57). Localization from both short and long distance is enhanced (Busnel, 1963) by repetition of signalling, which allows a receiver to "home in" on the direction of the signal source. Red fox are thus probably capable of both emitting loud vocal signals and using these signals for communication over long distance. As indicated by simulation, these loud vocalizations when emitted often enough could provide high levels of dyadic communication when red fox move about.

Why then do red fox not vocalize more often with emission intensities that can be heard over long distances? Nocturnal animals, such as the red fox, might be expected to rely on audition as the dominant modality for communication over long distances (Nottebohm, 1972:131). Timber wolves apparently use long-distance vocalizations as a means for maintaining contact among members of social units when they become separated (Theberge and Falls, 1967). However, Fox (1971:184) indicates that, unlike domestic dogs, wild canids in general do not often vocalize. Red fox apparently seldom emit loud vocalizations. Sargeant (pers. comm.) observed pairs of red fox in a 10-acre (4-ha.) enclosure and "very rarely" heard them vocalize. On the fewer than five occasions during several months of observation when vocalizations were heard, the animals apparently responded either to the presence of the observer or to other disturbance. Burrows (1968:170-173) listed all fox vocalizations heard during a one-year period. Vocalizations, excluding those on eight dates by cubs at a den, were noted on only 56 dates, and on most of these only a single vocalization was heard. There were long periods of consecutive dates when the foxes did not vocalize; for example, "during February 1966 I heard foxes on only three nights" (Burrows, 1968:45).

It is unlikely that red fox would depend entirely on vocal signalling, or on any other single means of communication, for maintaining social contact between members of dyads. Marler (1967:773) notes that when vision is limited there tends to be more reliance, in general, on olfaction for both close-range and distant communication. Red fox have well-developed scent glands and olfactory

capabilities (Fox, 1971). As indicated previously, the movements of red fox can provide for moderate to high levels of olfactory communication. This study suggests that vocal communication could be effective in maintaining social contact in red fox dyads. That such communication occurs infrequently is explainable in at least two ways. Levels of communication required to maintain social bonding in red fox dyads may be very low or, more likely, other means of communication, such as those provided by scent marks and trails, may usually preclude the necessity for using long-distance vocal communication.

SCENT POINT COMMUNICATION

Combinations of the three communication variables that produced relatively sparse, small circles of scent on the home range space gave low levels

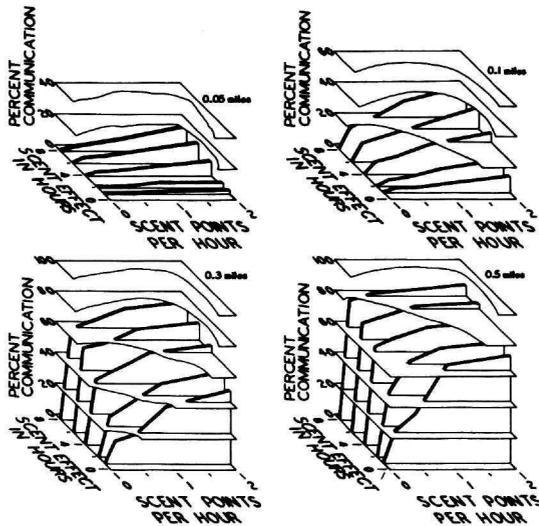


FIGURE 13.—Mean levels of scent point communication that occurred in five simulated red fox dyads for four scent ranges (0.05, 0.10, 0.30, and 0.50 miles or 80, 161, 482, and 804 m, respectively), scent effect times from 1 to 8 hours, and scenting frequencies of 0.33 to 2.00 per hour (one per 1½ hours to one per 30 minutes). Note that the average amount of communication increased with an increase in any one or more of the communication variables. Many values of the three variables resulted in an average of 20 percent communication including a set in which the signaller deposited scent once every 30 minutes (2 per hour), scent remained effective for 8 hours, and the receiver could smell scent from 0.06 miles (96 m).

of communication, while combinations that produced relatively common, large circles of scent gave high levels of communication (Figure 13). Higher levels of communication resulted from increasing the scent range, and for each scent range they resulted from increasing the number of effective scent points. A greater number of scent points effective at any time resulted from higher scenting frequencies, longer scent effect times, or both. Scent point communication would have occurred 100 percent of the time with a scent range of 1.50 miles (2413 m), a scenting frequency of 12 per hour, and a scent effect time of 5 minutes. With a scent range of 1.50 miles (2413 m) other combinations of scenting frequency and scent effect time would have given 100 percent communication, such as a frequency of 6 per hour and an effect time of 10 minutes, so long as one or more scent points were effective at any time. I simulated lower scent ranges from 0.05 to 0.50 mile (80 to 800 m), scent effect times of 1 to 8 hours, and scenting frequencies of 0.33 to 2.00 per hour (one per 3 hours to one per 30 minutes).

On the average, with maximum values of all three variables (0.50 mile or 800 m; 8 hours; 2 per hour), the animals communicated 86.8 percent of the time. With these high values, there was con-

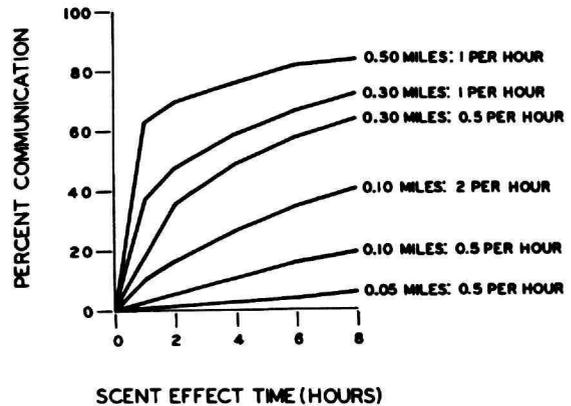


FIGURE 14.—The relationship between scent effect time and mean amount of communication that resulted for five dyads with the six combinations of scent range and scenting frequency shown at the right of the figure. The inflection of the curves for ranges greater than 0.10 miles (161 m) and frequencies greater than 2 per hour illustrates the limit that overlap of effective scent circles placed on the effectiveness of increasing the scent effect time.

siderable variation in level of communication among the dyads with dyad E communicating 99.8 percent of the time and dyad A 69.8 percent of the time. The lowest values that I simulated (0.05 mile or 80 m; 1 hour; 0.33 per hour) gave an average of 0.6 percent communication. There was negligible variation in level of communication among the dyads, with dyad A communicating 1.1 percent of the time and the remaining four dyads less than 1 percent of the time.

Increasing the value of any of the three communication variables while the other two were held constant did not result in expected increases in communication. Some factor(s) thus limited the effect of increasing the value(s) of the communication variable(s). The amount of communication that resulted from the scent point model, given a particular dyad's movement patterns, should have been directly related to the area covered by effective scent at any time. A change in any of the three variables that increased this area should have increased communication in direct relation to the increase in total scented area, other things being equal. When the other two variables were held constant, a linear increase in scent range (the area increased as the square) should have resulted in a nonlinear increase in communication. When the other two variables were held constant, a linear increase in either scent effect time or in scenting frequency should have given a linear increase in communication.

A unit increase in scent effect time gave less and less communication as more and more of the home range space was covered with scent because of higher scent ranges and scenting frequencies (Figure 14). For a particular combination of scent range and scenting frequency, the relationship between scent effect time and percent communication was linear as expected, but only for low scent ranges and scenting frequencies. A signaller could thus increase the level of communication by increasing the scent effect time, but would do so more efficiently when scent ranges and scenting frequency were held relatively low. This could be accomplished by scenting with a chemical that had a low diffusion coefficient and low volatility, as would be given by a substance with high molecular weight (Bossert and Wilson, 1963: 454). The resulting slow fade-out time would have the disadvantage of limiting the rate of infor-

mation transfer (Wilson, 1968:77), but could increase the overall level of communication in the dyad.

As with scent effect times, a unit increase in scenting frequency gave less and less communication as more and more of the home range space was covered with scent because of greater scent effect times and scent ranges (Figure 15). The expected linear increase in level of communication with linear increase in scenting frequency, for a particular combination of scent effect time and scent range, was shown only for low scent ranges and scent effect times. A factor that may have limited the effect of increasing scent effect time, scenting frequency, or both, was overlap of circles of effective scent. The probability that two or more effective scent circles would overlap increased as each scent point remained effective for a longer time, or, particularly, as scent points were deposited closer together in both time and space. When effective scent circles overlapped, the effect of a unit increase in the number of scent points on the home range space was reduced because each scent point covered less than the expected area around it with effective scent. There was no additional effect on communication in areas where effective scent circles overlapped.

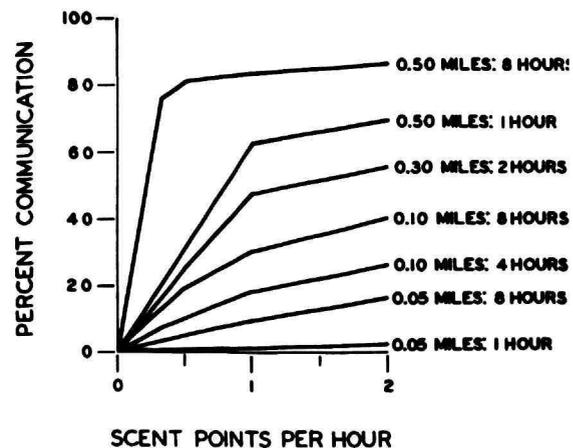


FIGURE 15.—The relationship between scenting frequency and mean amount of communication with the seven combinations of scent range and scent effect time shown at the right of the figure. The inflection of the curves illustrates the limit that overlap of effective scent circles placed on the effectiveness of increasing the number of scent points deposited per unit time.

The effect of increasing scent range on levels of communication was limited by at least two factors. These were overlap of scent circles, as discussed above, and wastage of signal emitted outside the home range space. A combination of these limiting factors resulted in deviations (Figure 16) of the relationship between scent range and percent communication from the expected increases.

Scent point signalling could be made most efficient by the signaller adjusting the scent range and scent effect time to give moderate fade-out times and moderate scent ranges, by scenting at least some threshold distance from the boundary of the home range space, and by distributing non-overlapping effective scent points over a relatively large part of the home range space, rather than their being placed within a small portion of it. That a red fox moves over a large portion of its home range space in a single night's travel indicates that at least the last qualification for efficient scent point signalling may be met by the animals.

Because of the interaction of the three communication variables, there were many sets of values that, on the average, resulted in 20 percent communication. I used one such set: 2 scent points per hour; 8 hours of scent effect; scent range 0.06 miles (96 m), for ranking scent point communication among the five dyads. With those values,

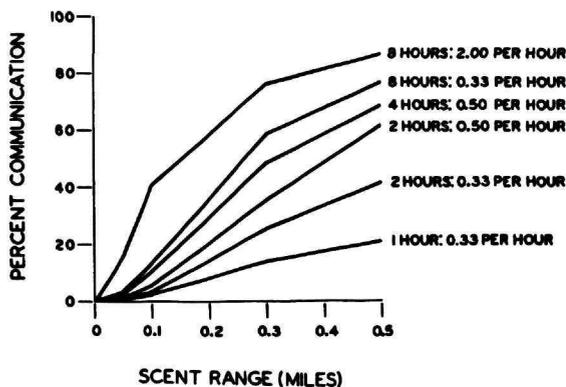


FIGURE 16.—The relationship between increasing scent range and mean amount of communication that resulted for five dyads with the six combinations of scent effect time and scenting frequency shown at the right of the figure. The inflection of the curves illustrates the limit that a combination of wastage of scent signal and overlap of effective scent circles placed on the effectiveness of increasing the scent range.

communication ranged from 15.2 percent for dyad B to 30.8 percent for dyad D. Communication ranked as follows among the dyads: D=1, E=2, C=3, A=4, B=5. For at least those values of the communication variables that produced moderate to high levels of communication, ranking was generally consistent over a wide range of values of all three variables. The variation in level of communication among the dyads with particular combinations of the communication variables, and the consistency shown over a range of values shows that the way in which the animals moved about influenced their ability to communicate with scent point signalling.

Dyads in which the signaller had a relatively high rate of movement combined with straight ahead travel had higher levels of scent point communication (Table 6). There was a good correlation between level of communication and both these movement parameters. The speed and directness with which the receiver moved showed no correlation with level of communication within the range of speeds and directivity that I simulated. Likewise, there were no apparent correlations for either signallers or receivers between level of communication and parameters that describe the overall distribution of locations (K or total number of grid-squares). When the signaller moves about rapidly and in straight lines, it tends to both distribute effective scent points over a large portion of its home range space and to reduce the overlap in effective scent points. Both effects would tend to increase the probability that a receiver would encounter an effective point and increase the level of scent point communication.

Scent point signalling with red fox movement patterns can provide dyads moderate to high levels of communication, as indicated by simulation. Red fox are known to scent mark regularly as they move about, the odor persists for several days, and other fox can detect scent marks from reasonable distances.

Field observations of the number of scent marks left on snow allow estimation of the rate at which such marks are placed, because marks left during the first activity period following snowfall are attributable only to that activity period, and distances that the animal is tracked can be converted to travel times by using average rates of fox movement. Murie (1936:11) reported that a fox uri-

TABLE 6.—Comparison of level of scent point communication provided by pairs of movement patterns that formed each of five dyads with four parameters of movement patterns of signallers and receivers within each dyad (criteria for ranking levels of communication among dyads and for ranking movement patterns among signallers and receivers are given in text)

Dyad	Communica- tion rank	Rate of movement (mean)		Straight ahead travel $\pm 30^\circ$		Contagion of locations (K)		Total number of grid-squares	
		Signaller	Receiver	Signaller	Receiver	Signaller	Receiver	Signaller	Receiver
D	1	2	1	1	2	2	2	3	2.5
E	2	1	3	2	1	1	3	3	2.5
C	3	3	5	3	3	4	4	3	1
A	4	4	4	4	5	3	1	5	5
B	5	5	2	5	4	5	5	1	4

nated 10 times along one-half mile (804 m) of track. Sargeant (in litt.) followed the tracks of a radio-marked male for a total of 3 miles (4827 m) on two dates, finding 41 places where the animal urinated and two where it defecated. For urine marks, these convert to 20 and 13 marks per mile, respectively, and for feces marks to one per 1.3 miles. Sargeant, et al. (in press), for radio-tracked red fox, report an average rate of nocturnal travel of 1.1 miles per hour (1770 m per hour). Using these figures, I estimate that the animals urine marked 18 and 11 times per hour, respectively, and marked with feces once per 57 minutes. Interpretation of these rates is confounded because the data on rates of urination and defecation were collected during the time of year when foxes breed. These estimated rates may thus be inflated because scent marking by red fox increases during the breeding season (Fox, 1971:186).

Red fox scent persists, even to humans, for at least several days after it is placed (Murie, 1936:13). Feces, in particular, can serve as scent marks for a long period but may require that a potential receiver break the scat to increase the scent level (Scott, 1943:435). As with scent trails, scent marks containing large molecules with low diffusion coefficients would increase the time over which a mark is effective, but would generally reduce the effective range (Bossert and Wilson, 1963:458-463) and the amount of information transferrable to a receiver (Wilson, 1968:77).

The range of effect of red fox scent marks has not been experimentally determined. Penned red fox are able to detect the odor of meat from 1.5 meters (Osterholm, 1966:56), and would probably

detect fox scent from even greater distance. The range would depend in part on wind direction and air flow. Busnel (1963:74) reported the upper limit in range of scent perception for wolves and dogs as 1500 to 2000 m but did not indicate, as seems likely, that wind had influenced this range. Heavy molecules can be carried (Van Arsdell, 1967:1228) by light winds and air flow over much greater distances, reaching to at least 5 to 10 miles (8045 to 16,090 m).

I did not simulate conditions in which a large number of small scented areas remained effective for periods of several days. Extensive modification of the computer program would be necessary to do so. Higher scenting frequencies with short scent ranges were not simulated, but are possible with the program I used (Montgomery, 1973). It can be inferred from the simulation results, however, (see particularly the upper curve of Figure 16) that scenting frequencies of 10 or more per hour would give 50 percent communication or more, even with scent effect times as short as 8 hours and scent ranges of 0.025 miles (40 m) or less.

Scent marking could be an effective means for dyadic communication in red fox. Leyhausen and Wolff (1959:670) proposed that such scent marks can allow the individuals to time their respective movements, and thus provide spacing and "territorial" responses even when home range spaces overlap. Timing based on scent marks could provide for spacing between mated pairs that occupy the same space as well.

The major alternative hypotheses for the role of scent marking (reviewed by Ewer, 1968:104-105, 116-120) is that scent marking by an individual

mammal serves to orient that individual on its home range space. Additional hypotheses concerning the role of scent marking are reviewed in Kleiman (1966). J. P. Scott (1967:379) notes that there is no evidence that domestic dogs respect as boundaries the scent marks left by other dogs. The usual reaction is to cover these marks with scent of their own. When a domestic dog enters a strange locality that has not previously been scent marked by any dog, it will urinate on any objects that are slightly elevated (Scott and Fuller, 1965:68). Among canids, red fox especially will urinate or defecate on unfamiliar objects (Fox, 1971:186). Once these objects have been marked, they are ignored for long periods of time, but the scent may be periodically renewed. Young (1944:304) notes that timber wolves renew such scent marks each time they pass by a place that they have previously scent marked. Because they are so wide ranging (Mech, et al., 1971:13-18), wolves may not return to a scent post for several days. Scent marking could simultaneously serve the dual functions of self-communication and dyadic communication.

### Comparisons among the Means of Communication

Movements of the animals had an effect on the level of communication in the simulated red fox dyads, regardless of the means of signalling. For all

except tactile signalling, some communication was provided by all models and movement patterns. Within the range of values of the communication variable(s) that I simulated, the maximum level of communication that resulted for any dyad for each means of signalling ranged from 0 to 100 percent, for tactile and scent point signalling, respectively (Table 7). Visual and vocal communication would have reached the 100 percent level had I used appropriate values of the communication variable(s). As noted earlier, "close-range" communication was a special case of the visual communication model. Scent path communication, which reached a maximum of 38 percent for any dyad, would not have reached a higher level regardless of how long scent paths remained effective.

The maximum levels of tactile and scent path communication that could be reached were limited by movements of the animals. Limitations placed by animal movement on visual, vocal, and scent point communication could have been overcome by increasing the value of the appropriate communication variable that controlled the spatial area of effect of the signal. No such variable exists for tactile communication, and none was programmed into the simulation model for scent path signalling.

Movements of the animals had a greater influence on the level of visual communication than on vocal or scent point communication. For each

TABLE 7.—Summary of values of various communication variables used to simulate communication in red fox dyads with simple models and of levels of communication resulting from simulation

Means of signalling	Controlled communication variable(s) <sup>1</sup>	Maximum value(s) simulated	Maximum communication for any dyad (percent)	Value(s) for 20 percent communication (average)	Range of communication among dyads (percent) <sup>2</sup>
Tactile.....	None	-	0	None	-
Close-range....	Signal range	0.01 miles	1	None	-
Visual.....	Visual range	0.90 miles	96	0.19 miles	29(7 to 36)
Scent path....	Scent effect time	24 hours	38	7.6 hours	13(15 to 28)
Vocal.....	Vocal range	0.80 miles	46	Various	13(13 to 26)
	Vocalization frequency	6 per hour		0.40 miles and 4.7 per hour	
Scent point....	Scent range	0.50 miles	100	Various	16(15 to 31)
	Scent effect time	8 hours		0.06 miles; 8 hours and 2 per hour	
	Scenting frequency	2 per hour			

<sup>1</sup> Movement of the animals was an uncontrolled variable with all means of signalling.

<sup>2</sup> Range when the value(s) that gave an average of 20 percent communication was used for each dyad.

TABLE 8.—Summary of factors that limited effectiveness of attempts to increase levels of communication with various simulated means of communication

Means of signalling	Controlled communication variable(s)	Optimal range for maximizing increase in communication	Major factor(s) limiting increase in level of communication
Tactile.....	None	-	Animal movement only
Close-range.....	Signal range	-	Animal movement only
Visual.....	Visual range	0.05 - 0.40 miles	Animal movement; wastage of signal
Scent path.....	Scent effect time	0.33 - 7.50 hours	Animal movement; divergence of home range spaces
Vocal.....	Vocal range	0.10 - 0.30 miles <sup>1</sup>	Animal movement; wastage of signal
Scent point.....	Vocalization frequency	0.33 - 6.00 per hour	Animal movement only
	Scent range	0.05 - 0.30 miles <sup>2</sup>	Animal movement; wastage of signal; overlap of effective scent circles
	Scent effect time	Various <sup>3</sup>	Animal movement; overlap of effective scent circles
	Scenting frequency	Various <sup>4</sup>	Animal movement; overlap of effective scent circles

<sup>1</sup> Optimal range for a vocal range depended on vocalization frequency.

<sup>2</sup> Optimal range for a scent range depended on scent effect time and scenting frequency.

<sup>3</sup> Optimal range for a scent effect time depended on scent range and scenting frequency.

<sup>4</sup> Optimal range for a scenting frequency depended on scent range and scent effect time.

communication model, when a particular value of the communication variable or a set of values of the communication variables were used in simulation, only differences among the movement patterns accounted for variability in level of communication among the dyads. Because the same five dyads were used for all means of signalling, this variability can be compared among the means of signalling, and indicates the relative importance of movement patterns on level of communication. With the value(s) of the communication variable(s) that gave an average of 20 percent communication, levels of visual communication ranged from 7 to 36 percent among the dyads (Table 7), a total range of 29 percent. Comparable total ranges were 13 and 16 percent for vocal and scent point communication, respectively. Those means of signalling that involved the fewest communication variables (i.e., tactile and scent point) were thus most severely limited by movements of the animals. This comparison suggests that where more variables affecting the level of communication are under control of the signalling animal, variables could be optimized to minimize the effects of movement on communication.

For the various means of signalling, different major factors limited the effectiveness of attempts to increase levels of communication (Table 8).

Animal movement patterns limited attempts to increase communication for all means of signalling, and were the sole major factor for tactile, close-range, and scent path signalling.

With tactile and close-range signalling, communication levels could be increased by coordination of movements of dyad members such that they were seldom far apart. Without rare chance meetings, some other means of signalling would be necessary to reveal their respective locations so that they could initially come together and could find each other after being separated. Levels with scent path signalling could be increased by coordinating the movements of dyad members such that, even though the animals were apart, they tended to travel in the same path with the receiver approximately or actually following the signaller. Scent path signalling alone could maintain such a leader-follower set of movement patterns, although other means of signalling might increase the chances that the receiver would initially make contact with an effective scent path. Initial contact, or scent path communication in the absence of leader-follower movement patterns, would be enhanced when the signaller seldom turned and traveled at high speed (Table 9).

For visual signalling, and for the spatial range variables of both vocal and scent point signalling,

communication could be made more efficient by proper choice of emission intensity (Table 8) and modification of the signaller's movement pattern. This modification would involve use of a set of threshold locations appropriate for the emission intensity and its signal range, and travel by the signaller at a high rate of speed (Table 9).

For the temporal variables of scent point communication, communication could be made more efficient by modification of the signaller's movement pattern through avoidance of slow travel with many turnings (Table 9) so as to reduce the overlap of circles of effective scent. It would be more efficient with proper dual choices of frequency of scenting and scent effect time, such choices further reducing the probability of overlap of effective scent circles.

Modifications of movement patterns by an individual to influence levels of communication would have to be made within the range of patterns dictated by many other factors affecting fox movements. The fox obviously could not afford to move so fast or far to increase communication that it expended energy beyond that which it needed to survive, and modifications should not be made that would drastically reduce the animal's chances for finding food.

Many interacting factors influence the movement pattern of an individual fox and, thus, the movement patterns of a fox dyad. Some of these influences are genetically controlled, such as limitations that structure and metabolism place on speed and duration of movement, while some, such as responses to particular features of the indi-

vidual's home range space, are learned. Selection should act to give a range of movement patterns that are possible for red fox, and the local environment should reduce this range by imposing limitations on individual movement. Still it seems likely that enough latitude in movement pattern is permissible under these constraints to allow modification, by an individual, of movement patterns to enhance communication. As an example of this latitude, Sargeant, et al. (in press) conclude from radio-tracking and concurrent field observations that food gathering rarely is the major determinant of red fox movement patterns. The animals that they studied moved much more than was apparently needed for finding and capturing prey, continued to move about after feeding, and showed similar total amounts of movement during periods of food scarcity and abundance. Their data support the view that, at least for one major factor affecting movement of foxes, there is latitude in the amount of influence that food gathering has on the pattern of movement.

### Summary

Results of this simulation study suggest that the way in which red fox move about differentially affects dyadic communication, the effect of movement depending on how one animal signals the other. The study further suggests that adjustments the signaller, the receiver, or both could make in their movement pattern(s), and the signaller could make in how it signals can affect both the level of dyadic communication and the efficiency of signaling. Such adjustments would require in general that the signaller be aware of the location of the receiver or have information on the receiver's previous movement pattern. This awareness of the pattern of movement of a receiver could result from bi-directional communication in which both animals of a dyad act as both signallers and receivers, one major function of communication being to maintain mutual awareness of the movement patterns of dyad members and promote further communication between them.

In general, two parameters determined by the movements of any two animals affect the potential for communication between them by determining the optimal means of signalling and by restricting information transfer via those means. These para-

TABLE 9.—*Summary of some characteristics of movement patterns of members of simulated red fox dyads that enhanced communication with various means of signalling*

Means of signalling	Type of movement pattern that enhanced communication
Visual.....	High rate of travel by receiver
Scent path.....	Straight-ahead travel at high rate by signaller
Vocal.....	Not clear; tendency toward straight-ahead travel at high rate by both signaller and receiver
Scent point.....	Straight-ahead travel at high rate by signaller

meters are distances between the animals at corresponding points in time, where the distance can range from 0 to a maximum determined by the dimensions and the spatial relationship of the two home range spaces; and times between the animal's use of corresponding areas of space, where the time can range from 0 to a maximum determined ultimately by the lifespan of one or the other of the animals. Given that prior communication has given mutual awareness of the locations and movement patterns, the animals can adjust the distance between them, the time between them, or both. In so doing they can increase or decrease

the opportunities for further communication and can increase or decrease the efficiency of signalling by one or more means. These adjustments require changes in the movement pattern of one or both individuals and will be reflected by changes in one or both home range spaces. The degree of mutual adjustment in movement patterns that the two animals can make to change the level of dyadic communication will be limited by factors extraneous to dyadic communication, such as communication and social relations with other individuals and dispersion of life requirements in the respective home ranges of the dyad members.

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