# Avoidance-Attraction Ratios in R.

Avoidance-Attraction Ratios were first developed by Parsons et al. 2016 to investigate the effects of humans and their favorite companion, dogs, on wildlife. Since then Avoidance-Attraction Ratios have grown in popularity due to their ability to gain insights into species interactions at a fine temporal scale.

This guide will implement the functions in the AvoidAttract package and perform an analysis of species interactions using Avoidance-Attraction Ratios having bobcat (*Lynx rufus*), coyotes (*Canis latrans*), and swift fox (*Vulpes velox*) as the predator species. The data that we will use is integrated in the package and is from a camera trapping project in western Kansas, source: Palomo-Munoz et al. 2023.

Lets get started.

#### Package Install

```
# Install the package
# If needed install.package("devtools")
devtools::install_github("dpearcetamu/AvoidAttract", quiet = TRUE)

# Load the package
library(AvoidAttract)
#>
#> Attaching package: 'AvoidAttract'
#> The following object is masked _by_ '.GlobalEnv':
#>
#> KScams_dat
```

Now that the package is installed and loaded, let's take a look at the data.

## Exploring the Data

```
# If you want to take a closer look use this code to read the dataset documentation, # ?KScams_dat
```

Okay, now that we've seen the details of the camera trapping data, lets load it into the environment and take a closer look.

```
# Reading in the data
data("KScams_dat")

# Let's take a look
head(KScams_dat)

#> General_project Class Order Family Genus Species Binomial
#> 1 Wkansas_2019 Mammalia Carnivora Mustelidae Taxidea taxus
```

```
Wkansas_2019 Mammalia Artiodactyla Bovidae Bison
                                                            bison Bison bison
#> 3
       Wkansas_2019 Mammalia Artiodactyla Bovidae Bison
                                                            bison Bison bison
       Wkansas_2019 Mammalia Artiodactyla
#> 4
                                          Bovidae Bison
                                                            bison Bison bison
#> 5
       Wkansas 2019 Mammalia Artiodactyla Bovidae Bison
                                                            bison Bison bison
#> 6
       Wkansas 2019 Mammalia Artiodactyla Bovidae Bison
                                                            bison Bison bison
#>
       Common_name Year Site
                                    DateTime
                                                Date
                                                        Time
                                                                   Timezone Latitude
#> 1 American badger 2019 0 9/1/2019 5:30:38 9/1/2019 5:30:38 America/Chicago 37.24655
#> 2 American bison 2019 0 9/3/2019 2:20:50 9/3/2019 2:20:50 America/Chicago 37.24655
#> 3 American bison 2019 0 9/3/2019 2:21:32 9/3/2019 2:21:32 America/Chicago 37.24655
#> 4 American bison 2019
                          0 9/3/2019 2:22:09 9/3/2019 2:22:09 America/Chicago 37.24655
#> 5 American bison 2019 0 9/3/2019 2:25:44 9/3/2019 2:25:44 America/Chicago 37.24655
#> 6 American bison 2019
                           0 9/3/2019 2:26:45 9/3/2019 2:26:45 America/Chicago 37.24655
#> Longitude SetVisitDate
#> 1 -99.98253
                 8/7/2019
#> 2 -99.98253
                 8/7/2019
#> 3 -99.98253
                 8/7/2019
#> 4 -99.98253
                 8/7/2019
#> 5 -99.98253
                 8/7/2019
#> 6 -99.98253
                 8/7/2019
```

Great! We can see that the data has detection's of species at certain sites with a specific date and time for that observation. Let's see how many different species were found.

```
# Let's see what the column names are
names(KScams_dat)
   [1] "General_project" "Class"
                                             "Order"
                                                               "Family"
   [5] "Genus"
                                                               "Common_name"
                          "Species"
                                             "Binomial"
#> [9] "Year"
                                                               "Date"
                          "Site"
                                             "DateTime"
#> [13] "Time"
                          "Timezone"
                                             "Latitude"
                                                               "Longitude"
#> [17] "SetVisitDate"
# What were the unique species using the "Common_name" column
unique(KScams_dat$Common_name)
#> [1] "American badger"
                                          "American bison"
#>
   [3] "Black-tailed jackrabbit"
                                          "Coyote"
  [5] "Raccoon"
                                          "Norway rat"
#> [7] "Striped Skunk"
                                          "White-Tailed Deer"
#> [9] "Bobcat"
                                          "Cat"
#> [11] "Eastern cottontail rabbit"
                                          "Mouse"
#> [13] "Virginia opossum"
                                          "Ord's kangaroo rat"
#> [15] "Mule Deer"
                                          "Dog"
#> [17] "Swift Fox"
                                          "Pronghorn"
#> [19] "Long-tailed weasel"
                                          "Thirteen-lined ground squirrel"
#> [21] "Black-tailed Prarie Dog"
#> [23] "Nine-banded armadillo"
                                          "North American porcupine"
```

Looking to see how many observations of each species there are in the data set using the spp\_sum function from the package.

```
# spp_sum requires the data input and a name column and provides a frequency table of observations
spp_sum(KScams_dat, name_col = "Common_name")

Name Observations
#> 1

American badger

1674
```

```
#> 2
                      American bison
                                               45
#> 3
             Black-tailed jackrabbit
                                              3423
#> 4
             Black-tailed Prarie Dog
                                               881
                              Bobcat
                                              113
#> 5
#> 6
                                 Cat
                                               54
#> 7
                              Coyote
                                              3624
#> 8
                                 Dog
                                                85
#> 9
                                              3635
           Eastern cottontail rabbit
#> 10
                                                2
#> 11
                                                5
                  Long-tailed weasel
#> 12
                               Mouse
                                               706
#> 13
                           Mule Deer
                                              2440
#> 14
               Nine-banded\ armadillo
                                               18
         North American porcupine
#> 15
                                               32
                                               659
#> 16
                          Norway rat
#> 17
                  Ord's kangaroo rat
                                               788
#> 18
                           Pronghorn
                                               130
#> 19
                             Raccoon
                                              3965
#> 20
                       Striped Skunk
                                              2455
#> 21
                           Swift Fox
                                               341
#> 22 Thirteen-lined ground squirrel
                                               63
#> 23
                    Virginia opossum
                                               204
                   White-Tailed Deer
#> 24
                                              5884
```

That's a lot of observations! Let's take a look at a few of the species that had a lot of observations and their interactions with coyotes using the AAR function.

#### **Avoidance-Attraction Ratios**

```
# First we have to format the DateTime column from a character string to a date time
# This is an important step since the function won't know how to read the date and time
# Make sure to modify the format if you are using a different dataset!!!
KScams_dat$DateTime <- as.POSIXct(KScams_dat$DateTime )</pre>
                                   tryFormats = "%m/%d/%Y %H:%M:%OS")
# Let's look at some of these species!
#
#
       Bobcats as predators
# Starting with the Black-tailed jackrabbit
jrabbit_bobcat <- AAR(data = KScams_dat,</pre>
                   speciesA = "Black-tailed jackrabbit", speciesB = "Bobcat",
                   species_col = "Common_name", datetime_col = "DateTime",
                   site_col ="Site", unitTime = "hours")
# The AAR function outputs several results. Let's take a look at just the total summary.
print(jrabbit_bobcat$total_summary)
           T1
                      T2
                                  T3
                                             T4
                                                     T2/T1
                                                                T4/T3
```

```
#> 90.1629630 29.0488889 21.3262520 69.7442593 0.3221821 3.2703477
# Okay we can see that this outputs the mean values
# for all interaction events and the interaction ratios
# The AAR function also returns a list of how many times those interactions occurred.
print(jrabbit_bobcat$event_count)
#> T1 T2 T3
                   T4
#> 12
           6 3139
# That's quite a few counts for each interaction.
# Lets save just the ratios to use later on.
# Saving only the T2/T1 and T4/T3 ratios
jrabbit_bobcat_ratios <- jrabbit_bobcat$total_summary[c(5,6)]</pre>
# Now the other species
# Black-tailed Prarie Dog
pdog_bobcat <- AAR(data = KScams_dat,</pre>
                speciesA = "Black-tailed Prarie Dog", speciesB = "Bobcat",
                species_col = "Common_name", datetime_col = "DateTime",
                site_col ="Site", unitTime = "hours")
#> Warning in AAR(data = KScams_dat, speciesA = "Black-tailed Prarie Dog", : No T2
#> interaction events occurred. Cannot calculate a mean for this event.
#> Warning in AAR(data = KScams_dat, speciesA = "Black-tailed Prarie Dog", : No T4
#> interaction events occurred. Cannot calculate a mean for this event.
\#> Warning in AAR(data = KScams_dat, speciesA = "Black-tailed Prarie Dog", : Unable to
#> calculate site summary Avoidance-Attraction Ratios due to lack of event occurances.
#> Warning in AAR(data = KScams_dat, speciesA = "Black-tailed Prarie Dog", : Unable to
#> calculate total summary Avoidance-Attraction Ratios due to lack of event occurances.
# Okay there weren't enough time events to calculate ratios.
# Let's take a closer look.
print(pdog_bobcat$event_count)
#> T1 T2 T3 T4
#> 1 0 869 0
# There were no T2 or T4 events and only one T1 event for the prarie dog
# and bobcat interaction. Since we are trying to compare differences between
# predator species we won't look into prairie dog's interactions with
# coyote and swift fox.
# Eastern cottontail rabbit
crabbit_bobcat <- AAR(data = KScams_dat,</pre>
                  speciesA = "Eastern cottontail rabbit", speciesB = "Bobcat",
                  species_col = "Common_name", datetime_col = "DateTime",
                  site_col ="Site", unitTime = "hours")
crabbit_bobcat_ratios <- crabbit_bobcat$total_summary[c(5,6)]</pre>
# White-tailed Deer
```

```
wtd_bobcat <- AAR(data = KScams_dat,</pre>
               speciesA = "White-Tailed Deer", speciesB = "Bobcat",
               species_col = "Common_name", datetime_col = "DateTime",
               site_col ="Site", unitTime = "hours")
wtd_bobcat_ratios <- wtd_bobcat$total_summary[c(5,6)]</pre>
#
#
     Coyote as predators
# Starting with the Black-tailed jackrabbit
jrabbit_coyote <- AAR(data = KScams_dat,</pre>
                   speciesA = "Black-tailed jackrabbit", speciesB = "Coyote",
                   species_col = "Common_name", datetime_col = "DateTime",
                   site_col ="Site", unitTime = "hours")
# Saving only the T2/T1 and T4/T3 ratios
jrabbit_coyote_ratios <- jrabbit_coyote$total_summary[c(5,6)]</pre>
# Eastern cottontail rabbit
crabbit_coyote <- AAR(data = KScams_dat,</pre>
                  speciesA = "Eastern cottontail rabbit", speciesB = "Coyote",
                  species_col = "Common_name", datetime_col = "DateTime",
                  site_col ="Site", unitTime = "hours")
crabbit_coyote_ratios <- crabbit_coyote$total_summary[c(5,6)]</pre>
# White-tailed Deer
wtd_coyote <- AAR(data = KScams_dat,</pre>
               speciesA = "White-Tailed Deer", speciesB = "Coyote",
               species_col = "Common_name", datetime_col = "DateTime",
               site_col ="Site", unitTime = "hours")
wtd_coyote_ratios <- wtd_coyote$total_summary[c(5,6)]</pre>
#
      Swift fox as predators
# Starting with the Black-tailed jackrabbit
jrabbit_fox <- AAR(data = KScams_dat,</pre>
                   speciesA = "Black-tailed jackrabbit", speciesB = "Swift Fox",
                   species_col = "Common_name", datetime_col = "DateTime",
```

### **Data Wrangling**

Okay, we need to organize the ratios for each prey species into one dataframe for analysis.

```
# Load libraries
# If needed install.packages("tidyverse")
options(tidyverse.quiet = TRUE)
library(tidyverse)
# Combining jack rabbit ratio data
jrabbit_ratios <- t(data.frame(</pre>
                     # T2/T1 ratios
                    bobcat_T2_T1 = jrabbit_bobcat_ratios["T2/T1"],
                    coyote_T2_T1 = jrabbit_coyote_ratios["T2/T1"],
                    fox_T2_T1 = jrabbit_fox_ratios["T2/T1"],
                    # T4/T3 ratios
                    bobcat_T4_T3 = jrabbit_bobcat_ratios["T4/T3"],
                    coyote_T4_T3 = jrabbit_coyote_ratios["T4/T3"],
                    fox_T4_T3 = jrabbit_fox_ratios["T4/T3"]))
# Convert the matrix to a data frame
jrabbit_ratios <- as.data.frame(jrabbit_ratios)</pre>
# Change row names to a new column
jrabbit_ratios <- tibble::rownames_to_column(jrabbit_ratios, var = "RowName")</pre>
# We have to rename the columns to match the values correctly
colnames(jrabbit_ratios) <- c("Interaction", "Value")</pre>
```

```
# Adding a ratio column
jrabbit_ratios$Ratio <- c("T2/T1", "T2/T1", "T2/T1",</pre>
                          "T4/T3", "T4/T3", "T4/T3")
# Checking to make sure the Ratios are named correctly with current interaction
print(jrabbit_ratios)
     Interaction
                     Value Ratio
#> 1 bobcat T2 T1 0.3221821 T2/T1
#> 2 coyote_T2_T1 0.7009002 T2/T1
       fox_T2_T1 0.8736247 T2/T1
#> 4 bobcat_T4_T3 3.2703477 T4/T3
#> 5 coyote_T4_T3 3.8752311 T4/T3
       fox_T4_T3 3.1943420 T4/T3
# Naming interactions by predator
jrabbit_ratios$Interaction <- c("Bobcat", "Coyote", "Swift Fox",</pre>
                                "Bobcat", "Coyote", "Swift Fox")
# Checking to see if it looks correct
print(jrabbit ratios)
#> Interaction
                    Value Ratio
#> 1 Bobcat 0.3221821 T2/T1
#> 2
        Coyote 0.7009002 T2/T1
#> 3 Swift Fox 0.8736247 T2/T1
#> 4 Bobcat 3.2703477 T4/T3
#> 5
        Coyote 3.8752311 T4/T3
#> 6 Swift Fox 3.1943420 T4/T3
# It does, let's do the other prey species.
# Reshape data to long format ################
jrabbit_ratios_long <- tidyr::gather(jrabbit_ratios, key = "Interaction", value = "Value")</pre>
# Combining cottontail rabbit
crabbit ratios <- t(data.frame(</pre>
                  # T2/T1 ratios
                  bobcate_T2_T1 = crabbit_bobcat_ratios["T2/T1"],
                  coyote_T2_T1 = crabbit_coyote_ratios["T2/T1"],
                  fox_T2_T1 = crabbit_fox_ratios["T2/T1"],
                  # Column for T4/T3 ratios
                  bobcate_T4_T3 = crabbit_bobcat_ratios["T4/T3"],
                  coyote_T4_T3 = crabbit_coyote_ratios["T4/T3"],
                  fox_T4_T3 = crabbit_fox_ratios["T4/T3"]))
# Convert the matrix to a data frame
crabbit_ratios <- as.data.frame(crabbit_ratios)</pre>
# Change row names to a new column
```

```
crabbit_ratios <- tibble::rownames_to_column(crabbit_ratios, var = "RowName")</pre>
# We have to rename the columns to match the values correctly
colnames(crabbit_ratios) <- c("Interaction", "Value")</pre>
# Adding a ratio column
crabbit_ratios$Ratio <- c("T2/T1", "T2/T1", "T2/T1",</pre>
                          "T4/T3", "T4/T3", "T4/T3")
# Naming interactions by predator
crabbit_ratios$Interaction <- c("Bobcat", "Coyote", "Swift Fox",</pre>
                                 "Bobcat", "Coyote", "Swift Fox")
# Combining cottontail rabbit
wtd_ratios <- t(data.frame(</pre>
                 # T2/T1 ratios
                bobcate_T2_T1 = wtd_bobcat_ratios ["T2/T1"],
                coyote_T2_T1 = wtd_coyote_ratios["T2/T1"],
                fox_T2_T1 = wtd_fox_ratios["T2/T1"],
                # Column for T4/T3 ratios
                bobcate_T4_T3 = wtd_bobcat_ratios ["T4/T3"],
                coyote_T4_T3 = wtd_coyote_ratios["T4/T3"],
                fox_T4_T3 = wtd_fox_ratios["T4/T3"]))
# Convert the matrix to a data frame
wtd_ratios <- as.data.frame(wtd_ratios)</pre>
# Change row names to a new column
wtd_ratios <- tibble::rownames_to_column(wtd_ratios, var = "RowName")</pre>
# We have to rename the columns to match the values correctly
colnames(wtd_ratios) <- c("Interaction", "Value")</pre>
# Adding a ratio column
wtd_ratios$Ratio <- c("T2/T1", "T2/T1", "T2/T1",
                       "T4/T3", "T4/T3", "T4/T3")
# Naming interactions by predator
wtd_ratios$Interaction <- c("Bobcat", "Coyote", "Swift Fox",</pre>
                             "Bobcat", "Coyote", "Swift Fox")
```

### Statistical Analysis

Let's follow the analysis laid out by Parsons (2016) using a Wilcoxon test for each of our prey species and their interactions with the predator species and our prey species.

```
# Jack rabbit
# Separate the data into two data frames for T2/T1 and T4/T3
jrabbit_t2t1 <- subset(jrabbit_ratios, Ratio == "T2/T1")
jrabbit_t4t3 <- subset(jrabbit_ratios, Ratio == "T4/T3")
# Run Wilcoxon pairwise tests for T2/T1</pre>
```

```
jrabbit_wilcox_t2t1 <- pairwise.wilcox.test(jrabbit_t2t1$Value,</pre>
                                             jrabbit_t2t1$Interaction,
                                             p.adjust.method = "bonferroni")
# Run Wilcoxon pairwise tests for T4/T3
jrabbit_wilcox_t4t3 <- pairwise.wilcox.test(jrabbit_t4t3$Value,</pre>
                                             jrabbit_t4t3$Interaction,
                                             p.adjust.method = "bonferroni")
# Print the results
print("Jack rabbit Wilcoxon Pairwise Test Results for T2/T1:")
#> [1] "Jack rabbit Wilcoxon Pairwise Test Results for T2/T1:"
print(jrabbit_wilcox_t2t1)
#>
#> Pairwise comparisons using Wilcoxon rank sum exact test
#> data: jrabbit_t2t1$Value and jrabbit_t2t1$Interaction
             Bobcat Coyote
#> Coyote
            1
#> Swift Fox 1
#>
#> P value adjustment method: bonferroni
print("Jack rabbit Wilcoxon Pairwise Test Results for T4/T3:")
#> [1] "Jack rabbit Wilcoxon Pairwise Test Results for T4/T3:"
print(jrabbit_wilcox_t4t3)
#>
#> Pairwise comparisons using Wilcoxon rank sum exact test
#> data: jrabbit_t4t3$Value and jrabbit_t4t3$Interaction
             Bobcat Coyote
#> Coyote
#> Swift Fox 1
#> P value adjustment method: bonferroni
# Cottontail rabbit
# Separate the data into two data frames for T2/T1 and T4/T3
crabbit_t2t1 <- subset(crabbit_ratios, Ratio == "T2/T1")</pre>
crabbit_t4t3 <- subset(crabbit_ratios, Ratio == "T4/T3")</pre>
# Run Wilcoxon pairwise tests for T2/T1
crabbit_wilcox_t2t1 <- pairwise.wilcox.test(crabbit_t2t1$Value,</pre>
                                     crabbit_t2t1$Interaction,
                                     p.adjust.method = "bonferroni")
# Run Wilcoxon pairwise tests for T4/T3
crabbit_wilcox_t4t3 <- pairwise.wilcox.test(crabbit_t4t3$Value,</pre>
                                     crabbit_t4t3$Interaction,
                                     p.adjust.method = "bonferroni")
```

```
# Print the results
print("Cottontail rabbit Wilcoxon Pairwise Test Results for T2/T1:")
#> [1] "Cottontail rabbit Wilcoxon Pairwise Test Results for T2/T1:"
print(crabbit_wilcox_t2t1)
#>
#> Pairwise comparisons using Wilcoxon rank sum exact test
#> data: crabbit t2t1$Value and crabbit t2t1$Interaction
           Bobcat Coyote
#> Coyote
           1
#> Swift Fox 1
#> P value adjustment method: bonferroni
print("Cottontail rabbit Wilcoxon Pairwise Test Results for T4/T3:")
#> [1] "Cottontail rabbit Wilcoxon Pairwise Test Results for T4/T3:"
print(crabbit_wilcox_t4t3)
#>
#> Pairwise comparisons using Wilcoxon rank sum exact test
#> data: crabbit_t4t3$Value and crabbit_t4t3$Interaction
#>
            Bobcat Coyote
#> Coyote
            1
#> Swift Fox 1
\#> P value adjustment method: bonferroni
# White-tailed Deer
# Separate the data into two data frames for T2/T1 and T4/T3
wtd_t2t1 <- subset(wtd_ratios, Ratio == "T2/T1")</pre>
wtd_t4t3 <- subset(wtd_ratios, Ratio == "T4/T3")</pre>
# Run Wilcoxon pairwise tests for T2/T1
wilcox_t2t1 <- pairwise.wilcox.test(wtd_t2t1$Value,</pre>
                                    wtd t2t1$Interaction,
                                    p.adjust.method = "bonferroni")
# Run Wilcoxon pairwise tests for T4/T3
wilcox_t4t3 <- pairwise.wilcox.test(wtd_t4t3$Value,</pre>
                                    wtd_t4t3$Interaction,
                                    p.adjust.method = "bonferroni")
# Print the results
print("White-tailed Deer Wilcoxon Pairwise Test Results for T2/T1:")
#> [1] "White-tailed Deer Wilcoxon Pairwise Test Results for T2/T1:"
print(wilcox_t2t1)
#> Pairwise comparisons using Wilcoxon rank sum exact test
#>
#> data: wtd_t2t1$Value and wtd_t2t1$Interaction
```

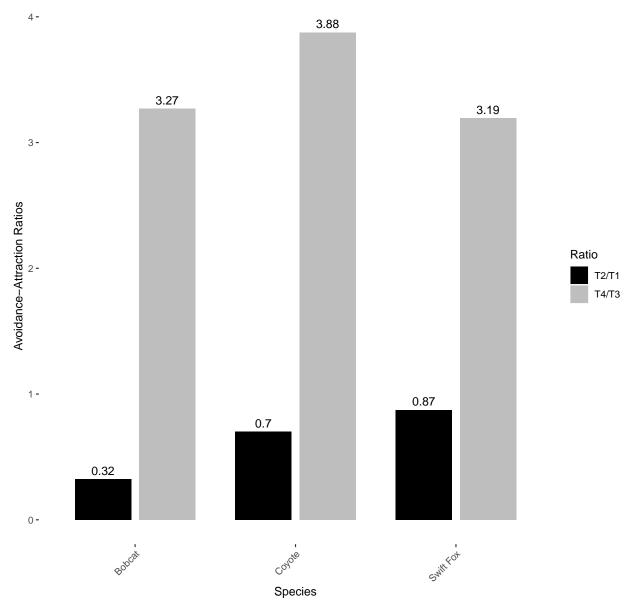
```
#>
#>
             Bobcat Coyote
#> Coyote
#> Swift Fox 1
                    1
#>
#> P value adjustment method: bonferroni
print("White-tailed Deer Wilcoxon Pairwise Test Results for T4/T3:")
#> [1] "White-tailed Deer Wilcoxon Pairwise Test Results for T4/T3:"
print(wilcox_t4t3)
#>
#> Pairwise comparisons using Wilcoxon rank sum exact test
#>
#> data: wtd_t4t3$Value and wtd_t4t3$Interaction
#>
#>
            Bobcat Coyote
#> Coyote
#> Swift Fox 1
#>
#> P value adjustment method: bonferroni
```

The results of the Wilcoxon test show that none of the ratios were statistically significant. But that doesn't mean that there isn't a response in attraction or avoidance, only that it wasn't statistically significant. We know that values >1 suggest nonrandom movement between the two species which suggests that there is an interaction. We also know that attraction of species B to species A would result in high T2/T1 ratios, but lower T4/T3 ratios. Avoidance of species A from species B would result in higher ratios of T4/T3.

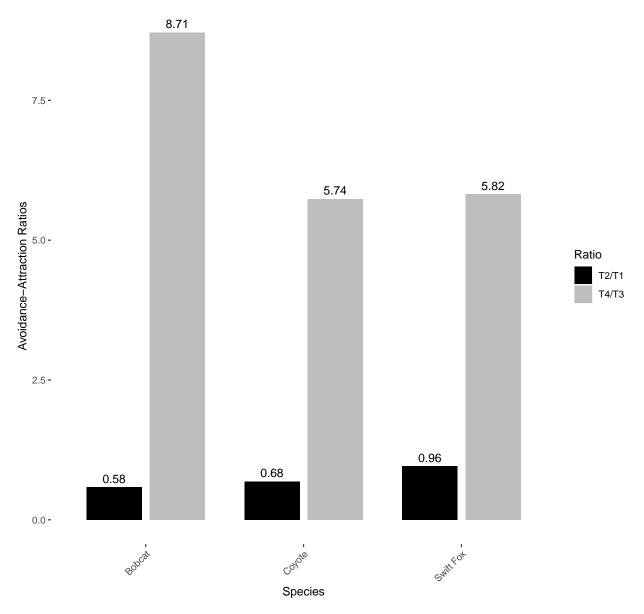
## **Plotting**

Let's plot both of the ratios and take a look.

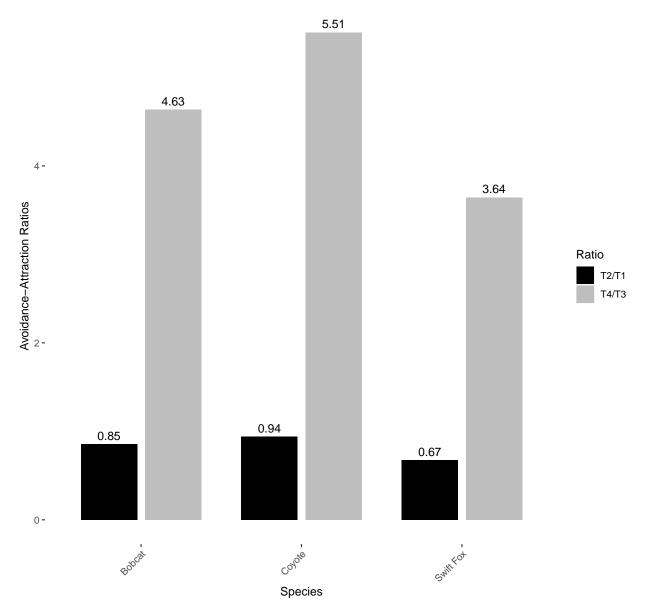
## Jack Rabbit Avoidance and Predator Attraction



# Cottontail Rabbit Avoidance and Predator Attraction



# White-tailed Deer Avoidance and Predator Attraction



We can see from the plots that none of the T2/T1 values are >1. This suggests that none of the predator species are actively seeking out the prey species. But all of the T4/T3 values were >1 which suggests that the prey are avoiding the predator.

## References:

Parsons, A. W., C. Bland, T. Forrester, M. C. Baker-Whatton, S. G. Schuttler, W. J. McShea, R. Costello, and R. Kays. 2016. The ecological impact of humans and dogs on wildlife in protected areas in eastern North America. Biological Conservation 203:75–88. URL: https://doi.org/10.1016/j.biocon.2016.09.001