

*Groundwork Lawrence
Green Team Presents:*



2020 Crow Celebration & Showcase

Welcome & Introductions:



Program Coordinator
Yvette Garcia



Green Team
Christian, Griselys, Kristy,
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Craig Gibson
Bird & Conservation
Photographer, Crow
Patrol

The Cornell Lab of Ornithology: Anything but Common- The Hidden Life of the American Crow

Get to know the Crow:

- American Crow aka *Corvus brachyrhynchos*
- American crows - fly over to south canada during breeding season

Families, Flocks, and Creativity:

- known as “cooperative breeders”
- Foraging flock sizes are larger in the winter months

The Secret life of the American Crow:

- Average age of first breeding was 3.3 years for females and 4.9 for males.
- American Crow nest success averaged 60%



<https://academy.allaboutbirds.org/courses/anything-but-common-the-hidden-life-of-the-american-crow/>

American Crow- Life History

- **Habitat:**

- open place
- a few trees to perch in
- a reliable source of food

- **Food:**

- nest predator that eats the eggs of sparrows, robins, jays, terns, loons, and eiders.
- also eat carrion and garbage

- **Nesting:**

- hide their nests in a crotch near the trunk of a tree or branch
- both members of a breeding pair help build the nest
- clutch Size: 3-9 eggs, number of Broods: 1-2 broods

- **Behavior:**

- social birds seen in groups
- often stay together in year-round family groups
- work together and devise solutions to problems to drive off predators

- **Conservation:**

- global breeding population at 27 million
- 88% spending part of the year in the U.S., and 37% in Canada
- susceptible to West Nile virus

Fish VS American Crow: What's the difference?

Fish Crow



- Heavy, curved bills
- Longer, thinner wings
- Square tails that are longer than that of the American crow
- Nasal sounding "cow" notes

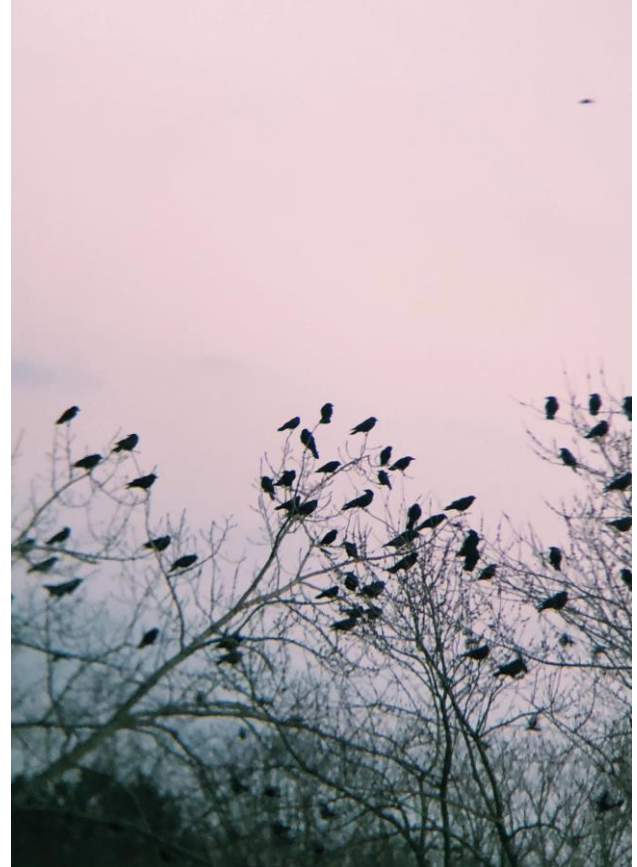
American Crow



- Slight gloss to the plumage
- Long bill
- Shorter wings, but thicker wingtips
- Slightly bigger
- Full-throated calling call "caw"

Crow Observations & Notes

- Around 2,000-10,000 crows observed per day.
- Crows arrived at different sites until it was time for staging
- Incinerator Rd. Sanitation Center in North Andover. Railroad St- North Andover
- In our presence they were alert
- Made “Caw Caw” sounds
- Change in population number and roosting/staging time
- We tried different tactics every night to make observations



Research Findings: Our discoveries & theories

- Lawrence: urban area- Food & Waste Present- Cities like Lawrence provide protection from predators.
- Crows roost near sources of water and on high trees- things largely present along the Merrimack River.
- Crows roost in large numbers between 5:00-6:30 PM.
- Roosts occur later as it gets colder, the closer crows roost, the warmer they will be. Also acts a way of protection from predation.



Photo Credit: Craig Gibson

www.wintercrowroost.com

Virtual Speaker Series: Ornithologists share their wisdom.



Wayne Peterson: Director of Mass Audubon's Important Bird Areas (IBA) program.



Andrea Townsend: Assistant Professor of Biology at Hamilton College.

A

Andrea Townsend is presenting

MP GreenTeam
and 7 more

13



... Andrea Townsend



MR Greenteam



Virtual Speaker Series: Ornithologists share their wisdom.



Anne B. Clark: Associate Professor of Biological Sciences at Binghamton University.



Connor O'Loomis: Ph.D Candidate & assistant professor at Binghamton University.

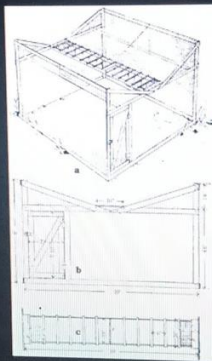


Banding Research Methods

- ◆ Adult Crows

- ◆ Australian Crow Trap

- ◆ Band and tag adult birds
 - ◆ Blood samples
 - ◆ Morphometrics



... Private caller



MacBook Air

American Crows: Family & Community bonds

- Basic social unit for American Crow is the family.
- American Crows Practice “allopreening” .
- Younger crows stay with their parents for up to five years or even longer.
- Young crows help their parents raise the young. They help feed the incubating female and nestlings.
- Defend the territory/stand guard over other family members while they hunt for food.
- Resident family groups spend at least part of every day on their home territories, but spend time with the big flocks and roosts, too.
- Include extended family members such as nephews, brothers, and half-brothers of the mom and dad.
- Crows “adopt” the kids of unrelated neighbors.

American Crows: Fun Facts



- Crows have this uncanny ability to tell one human from another.
- Crows are crafty foragers...
- Gather in large numbers in the winter to sleep in shared roosts.
- Roosts can be from a few hundred up to 2 million crows.
- The oldest recorded wild American Crow: 16 years 4 months old.
- Oldest Captive Crow in New York: 59 years old.
- Crows sometimes make and use tools.



Caw VS Croak- Inside the calls of Crows & Ravens





Who Am I: Interactive Activity



Crow Vs Raven



Although Crows and raven look fairly similar, There are a few key features of the bird that can help you distinguish which bird is which.

The picture on the left is a American Crow.

Crow Vs Raven



This is a American Crow. They are all black with a moderate bill. Their tails are rounded off while in flight.

Crow Vs Raven



This is a Raven. They are all black with a blue-ish tint and have a long stout bill. Their tails are diamond shape while in flight. They have very pronounced nasal feathers and saggy throats.

Crow Vs Raven



Which one is the American Crow?

The American crow is the one on the right.
Notice how the Raven on the left has bigger,
pointed beak.

Crow Vs Raven



Which one is the American Crow?

The American crow is on the left. Notice the rounded off tail feathers on the crow.

Spoken Word: Kristy Martes



Wary Crows --- poem by Kristy

Oh, weary bird, you of dark feathers and glary eyes,
so under-appreciated, these maverick people,
who in you, flaws always find;

Your bizarre nightly ritual,
rowing through the skies of dark blue and gleaming stars,
conquering the space with your vicious black;

Your riveted eyes, watchful for jewels and shine,
to give your most cherished lover an offering of enshrine;

Yours calls alert the flock, as strange figures arise.
You embark in your flight,
Not because of fear, but pride.

Your brilliance is unvalued, You remain wary,
born for survival.
You subside to show your competence,
Your magnificence is not for everyone to regard.

You who are called down,
seemed as less than,
treated unfairly,
seen as a dark sinful figure,
You... you still look up and in congruence you force fight.



Now for our feature Crowsentation!





Crow-Sources: Stay Connected!

<https://www.massaudubon.org/>

<https://www.birds.cornell.edu/home/>

<https://academy.allaboutbirds.org>

<https://ebird.org/home>

<http://www.wintercrowroost.com/>





Thank you for Joining us!

