

AMERICAN CROW

Corvus brachyrhynchos

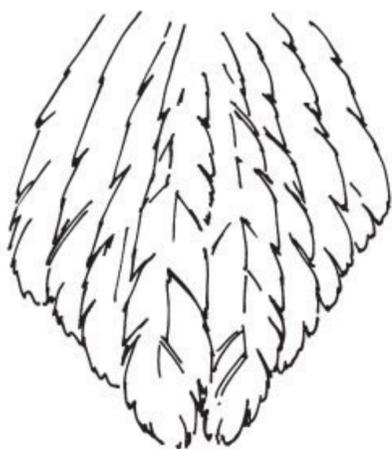


Crows belong in the Corvidae family and are considered one of the most intelligent and adaptable birds. They are coal black in colour, have highly social behavior and are one of the most commonly seen birds in PEI.

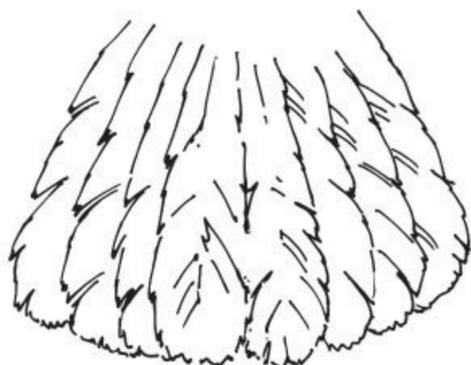


In Eastern Canada the American crow is most similar to Ravens. Ravens can be differentiated by their larger size, larger beak and long, triangular shaped tail.

Raven



Crow



HABITAT

Crows will inhabit any woodland, farmland or residential neighborhood, as long as it has shelter and enough trees for nesting.

Crows prefer moist places, near streams and creeks with lower elevations.

DIET

Crows are omnivorous and eat whatever is locally available - meaning if they cannot find insects, eggs, fruits, vegetables or nuts, they will eat garbage or dead animals.

Crows are known to strategically place nuts in the road so cars run them over and crack them open.

Crows are also known to strategically drop mussels or other types of shellfish on rocks to crack them open to expose the inside.



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BREEDING & FAMILY STRUCTURE

The male and female crow start building their nest over a period of 8 to 14 days.

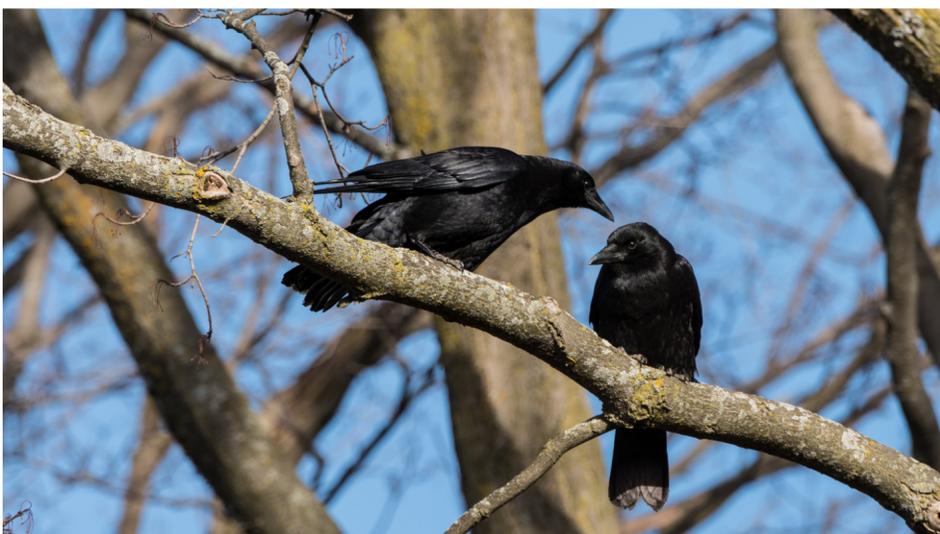
The building starts in the early spring months of mid-March or even in mid July.

Incubation period of crows' eggs is 18 days. The most common number of eggs laid is four to five.

Once the chicks have grown and left the nest, which is usually four weeks after hatching, they leave their parent or stay in the flock.

After the crows have matured, the family gathers to roost during the night.

Crows usually return to the same nest area year after year.



For more information visit:
www.charlottetown.ca

INTERESTING FACTS

Adult crows have very few predators. The main predators being: eagles, owls, hawks and humans.

Crows have predictable behaviour and return to the same roosting area every night. They fly the same flight line and hunt the same area every day.

The normal crow call is a loud caw or awk. They make different calls depending on the situation they are in.

Crows can memorize the sound from audio scare devices. They learn the sounds are not real and get used to them.

References

Link, R. (2005) Living with Wildlife. Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, DC. Retrieved September 30, 2020. https://www.charlottetown.ca/UserFiles/Servers/Server_10500298/File/Leisure%20and%20Recreation/Parks%20and%20Recreation/Greenspaces%20and%20Playgrounds/WashingtonFishandWildlife_LivingwithWildlife_Crows.pdf