

American crow

Also called the common crow

Latin name: *Corvus brachyrhynchos*

Did you know?

... Crows that are diving at a bird in flight or **diving** into the treetops and cawing loudly are probably “**mobbing**” an owl or a hawk. This mobbing behavior is their way of **protecting each other**. The **alarm calls** attract other crows to the “scene of the crime” and diving at the predator helps to drive it away.

... Crows collect in a **staging area** before they go to their roost for the night. Like us, they **stop to chat and catch up on news** after a long day of work (foraging for food) and before going to bed. This is the time that they are the noisiest.

... Crows usually move to a new area, other than their staging area, to **roost**. As they move off to “**bed**” they are quiet so they don’t attract night time predators like owls and humans. They stay **very quiet** once they are in their roost site for the same reasons.

...Crows display **communal roosting** behaviors in the **late fall, winter and early spring**. At this time of year, their parental duties are done. The “**kids**” are grown up and have “flown the coop” so they are free to join a large group, like the roost that gathers in the Victoria Park area.

They like to gather in large groups in the City because:

- large groups lets them **chat and socialize**
- the **city lights** help to protect **them from predators**
- generally, there are **fewer predators** in cities
- the city is several degrees **warmer** than rural areas
- they can find **lots of food** from litter, in garbage’s and composting areas

... In the spring, these **social groups/roosts disband** and most of the crows move into the rural areas to breed. They stay in the rural areas all summer to take care of their families.