

American Crow (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*)

Field Marks:

- Length:12-14in / Wingspan:33-39in / Weight: 316-575g
- Entirely black from beak to toe to tail
- Studies show that the Crow is intelligent: they are able to count, solve puzzles, learn symbols and retain information
- Gathers in huge flocks when not breeding; may number as many as 200,000 birds



Breeding Range:

The American Crow breeds throughout North America.

Wintering Range:

The range of the Crow changes little throughout the year. Birds that breed in the northern part of the range will move southward during the winter months.

Habitat Preferences:

Crows prefer open forests or forest edges with oak and riparian trees. They also live in grasslands with scattered trees, which include farmland, citrus groves and orchards. They will live in other open landscapes, such as grasslands, tundra, savanna, coastal ponds, prairie potholes, marshes, wetlands or upland streams. Well planted urban areas are also suitable.

Nesting:

The American Crow is a monogamous, solitary nester, although they have been known to nest cooperatively with other crows. The clutch has 3-7 eggs that hatch in 18 day. Young crows fledge in 28-35 days.

Feeding:

Crows are omnivorous, eating insects, small invertebrates, small amphibians & reptiles, small mammals, eggs and other young birds, grains, fruits, field crops, garbage and carrion. They have been seen mobbing avian predators, harassing a soaring hawk by repeatedly diving on it from above. They break mollusk shells by dropping them on rocks. Crows will cache food items, tucking them under debris or dragging larger items such as dried cow dung to cover them.

Flight:

The Crow has a slow steady, deliberate flight with deep wing beats. A “rowing” motion of the wings distinguishes from raptors while in flight.

Conservation Status:

The American Crow has been widely persecuted in the past by farmers and hunters. It is still legal to hunt them for sport in many states. This crow still lives among us by its intelligence and adaptability, and is common throughout its range.