

American Crow

Corvus brachyrhynchos

Description

The American crow is about 17 inches long with glossy black feathers, a stout, pointed bill, and strong black legs. Males and females look alike and are similar to fish crows, distinguishable mainly by their calls.

As omnivores, American crows eat seeds, fruits, nuts, insects, small animals, and even garbage. They crack open shells and nuts on hard surfaces and sometimes raid other birds' nests. They build nests of twigs lined with pine needles, grass, and animal hair in trees, where females lay 3-8 eggs that hatch in 18 days. Living in family groups, crows help build nests and care for chicks. They start breeding around two years old, often waiting until four years. Pairs may stay together for many years.

The American crow breeds and lives throughout North America.

FUN FACTS

- American crows have been recorded to make and use tools. For example, using a small thin twig to pick at holes in trees in search for insects.
- The American crow is known for its high intelligence, quick learning abilities, and adept problem-solving skills.
- A group of crows is called a murder of crows.
- American crows can recognize faces and will hold grudges against those unkind to them.

If you find an injured or orphaned wild animal, please contact the Calgary Wildlife Rehabilitation Society hotline at 403-214-1312, for tips, instructions and advice.

