



CORVIDS – CROWS, RAVENS, AND JAYS

KEY FACTS

Corvids are known for their incredible intellect. They can solve difficult problems with unusual solutions, use tools, and have great memory skills. The common raven is considered the most intelligent bird.

Common Ravens and American Crows look very similar. Ravens are much larger and have bigger, curvier beaks.

Corvids are susceptible to West Nile virus. It is transmitted through mosquitos or by eating infected dead birds. Adult birds found looking ill may have WNV. This is almost always fatal for these birds. It is no longer necessary to report dead birds to the MA DFW and dead birds can be disposed of by double bagging and placing in the regular trash.

Always wear gloves.

Corvids are mostly monogamous. Male and female corvids will build the nests, mostly in trees and ledges, and males will feed the female while she sits on the eggs.

- The number of eggs ranges from 4-7. And are usually light green with brown spots. They incubate for around 18 days.
- The young remain in the nest from 4-6 weeks and parents will feed them until they are around 2 months old.
- Corvids are cooperative breeders- they help raise young in their area and help defend the nests.



Wildlife Rehabilitators' Association of Massachusetts

IF YOU FIND A BABY BIRD ON THE GROUND

It is common for baby birds to leave the nest before they can fly. They can spend several days on the ground with parents nearby.

- If a nest has fallen to the ground and the parents are still nearby, make a nest out of a basket, a plastic bin, tissue box, or other container and place the babies inside. Hang it somewhere near its original site, on a tree or a pole where the parents can see it and continue to feed their young.
- The parents should return about every 20 minutes, and babies should be left there as long as it is not dark or cold. Babies should not be left overnight if the parents do not come back.

If No Parents are around, call a wildlife rehabilitator

Place the baby in a small container with a towel and a heat source. Do not feed or give water.

<https://www.mass.gov/service-details/find-a-wildlife-rehabilitator>



Raven



American Crow



Blue Jay