



Oregon Sea Grant Extension  
Sustainable Tourism &  
Outdoor Recreation Program

# Interpretative Fact Sheet American Crow (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*)



The following short article is from the [Oregon Coast 101 Species](#) collection used by the Guide and Outfitter Recognized Professional (GORP) training program. These articles are intended to provide interesting facts you can share with your clientele and add value to your services.

An Interpretive Fact Sheet has been written about each species. We are currently uploading these blogs and creating the links.

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# American crow (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*)

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 [tourism.oregonstate.edu/american-crow-corvus-brachyrhynchos/](https://tourism.oregonstate.edu/american-crow-corvus-brachyrhynchos/)

By  
flatherc

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The American crow, the more you know about them the more interesting they are. Crows are a large, intelligent, all-black bird with a hoarse, cawing voice that is familiar over much the continent.

They are common sights in treetops, fields, and roadsides, and in habitats ranging from open woods and empty beaches to town centers. These birds are inquisitive, somewhat mischievous, and good learners and problem-solvers.

They usually feed on the ground and eat almost anything, including earthworms, insects and other small animals, seeds, and fruit as well as garbage and chicks they rob from nests.



American crow (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*)

## Communal Roosting

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American crows are very social, sometimes forming flocks in the thousands. In the winter, American crows congregate in larger numbers to sleep in communal roosts.

Roosts can consist of a few hundred up to two million crows. Some roosts have been forming in the same general area for well over 100 years.

## Mobbing

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American crows will work together as a group to harass or drive off predators, a behavior known as mobbing. [This interesting video features a crow solving 8 puzzles in a row in order to reach food.](#)

The crow has also been the subject of Native American legends, including this one: <http://nativeamericans.mrdonn.org/stories/raven.html>