

Crow or Raven?

Do you have a look-a-like, face-double, or doppelganger? Some birds look so much like other birds that it's really hard to tell them apart. Crow and Ravens are two such birds. Both are common in British Columbia and both live in rural and urban areas. So, how DO you tell them apart?

Remember, when watching birds, important characteristics to notice are: colour, size, shape, behaviour. Colour is the easiest identifier of most birds, but not in this case—both are solid black! That means you need to look closer at their other features. Have a look at the photos and chart below, then head outside to see if you can correctly identify the mystery black bird in your neighbourhood!



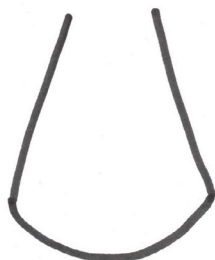
Crow



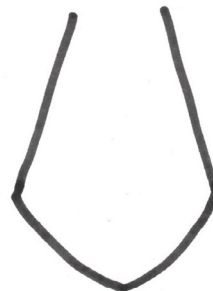
Raven

	Crows	Ravens
Size	Smaller, 44 cm long	Bigger, 60 cm long
Beak	Thinner beak	Thicker beak, sometimes looks like a bump on top
Song	“Caw”	“Croak”
In Flight	Tail is fan shaped	Tail is wedge or triangular shaped
	Flaps wings more	Soar more
	Travel in groups	Travel in pairs

Tail shape



Crow



Raven



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Did You Know?

1. Crows and Ravens are the only completely black birds in North America.
2. Crows, Ravens, Magpies, and Jays are all cousins and belong to the corvidae family (often called corvids).
3. Corvids are some of the smartest birds on Earth.
4. Crows make tools and play games!
5. Ravens are both celebrated and detested in different countries around the world.
6. Do you know the word for Crow or Raven in your local Indigenous People's language?
(#1-5 from <https://www.birdnote.org/show/ravens-and-crows-whos-who>)

Extensions

Listen to this song, Raven and Crow by the Wildebeats to help answer the question "Raven or Crow?". Follow along with the **lyrics here**.



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