

# SHUBENACADIE CANAL'S ANIMAL OF THE WEEK

## American Crow

*Corvus brachyrhynchos*

North America is home to the common species of bird, the American Crow.

These birds are completely black from their beak to their toes. Their feathers do have an iridescence giving them a bit of colour in the sun. They're often confused with

the Common Raven to tell the difference is from the smaller size of the crow. Their wingspan measure 85 to 100cm and males



and typically larger than females. Another easily distinguishing trait is their call which is a series of loud *caaw-caaw-caaws*. Crows are capable of making other sounds too and are even quite good at mimicking the calls or other birds and animals. The diet of the American crow is a mixture of everything. Depending on the seasons they eat what's easiest to find, being nuts, berries, insects or mice. They are one of the few bird species that have been observed using tools to get food. Crows have actually been studied for their intelligence for many years and with scientists discovering that they can learn from one another, play together, use deception and even hold a type of "funeral" for their dead. This funeral-like behaviour may have been part of the folklore that gave the name "murder" to a large group of crows.



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