From: http://www.randomcollection.info

Eleanor White's

CROW CHRONICLES

May 29, 2016

http://www.randomcollection.info/crowchron.pdf

This booklet is an informal collection of my (Eleanor White's) notes, made as I interact with the local crow community. As time passes, I'm increasingly aware of the personalities of these intelligent birds, and this booklet is to make my observations available to others who may not number crows among their friends.

In 2008, having been retired for a few years, I decided to move from my city address to a small wilderness village. At my previous address, I fell in love with one of nature's most delightful creatures, the common squirrel. Notes on my experiences with the squirrel community are found in another booklet, at this link:

http://www.randomcollection.info/sqfriends.pdf

When I arrived at my new village, I moved into an apartment building, necessitated by weak health. It was distressing to find out that although squirrels are plentiful in the bush, unless you have a private back yard, you won't see them.

I found some chipmunks were available for interaction, but also that people allow their cats to roam free and it wasn't long before the few chipmunks were killed off.

Thanks be to God, though, this wilderness area is host to a fairly substantial population of crows and ravens. And they were already aware that some people have treats for them, making it easy for a newcomer to interact.

I find that crows outnumber the ravens by something like 8-10 crows for every raven.

Distinguishing Crows From Ravens

Articles on distinguishing crows from ravens mention differences in the shape of tail feathers, the aft end, while in flight. However, I've found that among the large blackbirds here, tail feather shapes aren't as distinct as articles on identification describe. Fortunately, the blackbirds' voices are highly distinct, the crow having a steady high-pitched "caw," while the ravens calls have some resemblance to a sort of "croak," and a noticeably lower pitch.

Ravens, at least at this location, can be 50% larger than crows. However, there are crows significantly larger than average, so size isn't quite as dependable as their calls for identifying the species.

While some ravens do occasionally drop down for treats, it's almost always the crows who queue up for a snack!

What Do They Eat?

This is a key question, because the only way to interact with wildlife is to offer food.

Articles about crows and ravens will tell you they are omnivorous. However, if a person wants to become known as a friend to the local crow community, it may help to know that peanuts, out of the shell, and crushed with a spatula on a plate to separate each peanut into its two halves, seem to be their top choice.

In fact, I have found that peanuts are a universally appreciated food by all forms of wildlife. If in doubt, toss 'em some peanuts.

Articles about wildlife consistently advise un-salted food. Because unsalted peanuts (or other types of nut) aren't always available, I will sometimes use salted nuts during cooler weather, when either snow is plentiful, or rainfall is fairly frequent. Today's salted nuts, at least in quality brands, tend to have much less salt than a couple of decades back.

Note: If you have a problem where local crows snatch peanuts or other food set out for small songbirds or other wildlife, some form of closed-in feeder can be a useful solution.

A clear, removable top, clear plastic food storage box can serve this need, with a door carefully cut out to perhaps a 1-1/4" diameter, with 1/8" water drain holes in the floor, and secured to a tree trunk or post with a single screw, and a large diameter "body and fender washer," cushioned with "crack seal" or other putty. The crows can't enter, but songbirds can. (Cutting often cracks plastic. Melting a hole open with the narrow tip of a soldering iron can avoid cracking.)

A metal ring fastened around the door can protect against squirrels chewing the opening wide enough to enter. (Some folks make external food available for squirrels too, which I endorse, as interacting with these storybook-cute creatures is a lot of fun.)

There are commercial protected songbird feeders with wide-opening steel mesh cages around the food available, which will work but may be more inclined to fill up with snow. The mesh would have something like 1-1/4 inch openings for the songbirds. A wooden or plastic roof, larger than the mesh, would reduce clogging with snow.

Many people put out bread for wildlife. I've found over the years that bread or crackers work OK in winter, when there is plenty of snow available for "drinking," or, when normal rainfall keeps various puddles available for wildlife.

But I've also lived through brutally dry conditions in recent years (since "geo-

engineering," the often-denied spraying of chemicals, dramatically changed the Canadian weather, most noticeably from 1998 onwards.) Anyone interested in some information on this program is invited to visit this short document:

http://www.randomcollection.info/chemplane.pdf

In one year, 2007, the entire 6 months of summer was so dry that some trees in the park had the soil literally blown away from their roots. The trees stood above the soil level, on radial stalks, no longer as a single trunk emerging from the soil.

Geo-engineering robbed, and continues to rob in some areas, wildlife of the critically important source of water in the form of morning dew. Because sprayed chemicals tend to prevent the normal puffy cumulus clouds from forming, or forming to the extent of local rainshowers, rainfall in 2007 in my location ceased entirely for 6 months.

Snowfall decreased as well, and on one November day, with the ground bare, I counted 40 squirrels accessing a water dish in just ten minutes.

This emphasis on water for wildlife is to point out that one should take care, when putting out bread or crackers, that wildlife eating such things should have ready access to water, otherwise, such foods may put them into serious discomfort by thirst.

(Crows and ravens have a favourite water source - they love eavestroughs where the trough has a low spot to hold liquid water after rainstorms.)

Well, crows are often seen carrying slices of bread, probably found in garbage, so I tried giving them bread. I try to give wildlife food in a condition which is easiest for them to eat, and I give them food in sufficiently fresh condition that it could also serve as food for humans. I took scissors, and cut fresh multi-grain bread into little cubes, as are served for communion in some churches.

Early in my setting out treats for crows, I would lay out a little bit, maybe a soup-spoonful of fresh bread cubes, and a soup-spoonful of out-of-shell peanuts for the crows. It wasn't long before I realized that the crows would finish the peanuts, but leave the bread untouched!

That was a surprise to me, and it confirms that peanuts are usually the universally appreciated treat. Probably because peanuts give wildlife plenty of calories and nutrients in a relatively small volume.

We humans know that when eating peanut butter, we need liquid with it. I don't find I need immediate liquid with peanuts. Articles about wildlife metabolism mention that wildlife can metabolize some of their water needs from solid food, and when you think

of it, wildlife would have to be able to do that or they wouldn't survive even moderate dry spells.

I have tried a little peanut butter with birds and squirrels, and while they may pick at it, it's clear it's not been a favourite, at least in my experience.

** One surprising experience: I find that even tiny songbirds, like chickadees and house sparrows, also favour peanuts, when out of the shell and split into halves!

They will pick up a half-peanut, fly away with it to a branch or roof, hold it down with one of their feet, and peck or nip little pieces off the sharp edge with their beaks.

Roasted unsalted sunflower seeds are also enjoyed by the small songbirds.

How Do You Get Crows' Attention?

Once you decide you want to become part of your local crow circle of friends, you need to know how to get friendly attention from these rather standoffish birds. They are very intelligent, and they know that not every human being likes them around. And they keep the possibility that treats are bait foremost in their minds. Even after they have had a chance to see that you don't make any aggressive moves toward them.

This is unfortunate for those who don't have back yards. There have been cases where crows and ravens have been just a friendly as domestic pets, but these take place in fenced in yards, and very likely, after years of familiarization. In one California back yard, a raven will walk across a picnic table to the owner, press up against the owner, and enjoy the owner stroking the bird as one would stroke a cat.

For those of us who can only interact on the public street right of way, we must be satisfied with less intimate, but still rewarding, interaction.

The way to "break the ice" and begin the process of building the confidence of any wildlife is to respect their need for distance. By that I mean, at all times, let the animal decide how close to get, and when.

Another important rule, especially important with crows, is do not stare at them. If you want to watch, do so sideways, in your peripheral vision. They interpret staring as a sign you want to assault and probably capture and eat them.

Gentle talk helps with most wildlife. In a gentle, not too deeply pitched voice, you can say things like "Hi Honey" or "Hello sweetheart" or especially "It's OK honey." Crows don't respond at all to "Come here" or "Here, honey," even though squirrels and

chipmunks who have come to know you will respond. But I've seen some signs that crows can be put at ease with soft talk.

Crows, unlike squirrels, rarely seem to look at you, even when they know who you are and that you have treats. My estimate of this is that they are always scanning the general area, possibly for other birds, and possibly for signs you are setting up some sort of trap. Crows' eyes are also about halfway around toward the side of their skulls, so they can watch what you are doing without pointing their beak directly at you.

As you give treats to crows, you'll notice that often, they will not fly directly down to the treat itself. Often they will fly to a spot a few feet away, and seemingly look around for either other birds or signs the treats are a trap, and sometimes until they are satisfied you are far enough away that they don't have to worry about your coming back to grab them while they are distracted eating.

If they are really hungry, they will sometimes dispense with the extreme caution, but I have never had a crow approach the treats if I am closer than about 15 feet.

So how do you begin the process of breaking the ice?

As I walked along when new to the community, I noticed crows would fly up and either land on a wire just above me, or even on a lawn or fence or sign nearby. This happened often enough that I judged other people had fed them, and they were testing me to see if I were also a "feeder."

So I began to toss peanuts. If I tossed them directly to the bird, the bird would fly off as if I were a threat.

So I learned to leave peanuts within, say, 30-50 feet, plainly in view of the bird, and then, importantly, walk on, as opposed to standing there and watching to see if the bird came over. (They won't.)

Avoid tossing treats directly toward the bird(s), as they see this as a hostile act until they become committed friends.

It wasn't long before the birds began to realize I was a "food lady." At times, families of three, four, or even five adult and teenage crows would circle around and land nearby, looking for their daily treat.

Baby Steps Put Wildlife at Ease

One thing I've learned in hanging out with wildlife is that apparently, a human walking at normal human speed is seen as a significant threat by wildlife who have not yet decided you are a confirmed friend.

The baby step technique is that when you approach wildlife, at some distance away, maybe somewhere between 30 and 100 feet, you start taking literal two-inch steps. With a number of species, doing this has obviously and significantly put the wildlife at ease. It may also help to visibly hold food the animals like in a hand while doing this.

On successive days, you will see whether baby steps are having the effect you hope to achieve.

It is simple, but can help when making new animal friends, crows and ravens included.

Don't Overfeed

It is extremely important to <u>not overfeed</u> wildlife, for two reasons.

First, in wilderness areas, if you feed so much that food is left around, or, even if there is no food remaining but wildlife over-reproduce and become numerous, you will attract <u>predators</u>. The most commonly thought-of predator are the bears, but there are others, such as lynxes which are at least as dangerous to human life and pets.

The lesson here is to restrict the amount of wildlife feeding so that wildlife cannot survive solely on what you leave for them. Plan your quantities as <u>snacks</u>, not sustenance.

The formula I use for crows is: One soup-spoonful per crow (or raven) per day, in winter. I reduce that to one teaspoonful per bird per day in warm weather.

If your only chance to interact with crows is on public streets, I urge you to respect private property and <u>not</u> leave treats there. I try to always place the crow treats <u>in the storm gutters</u>. Sometimes crows which seem to be interested in treats fly away, leaving the treat un-eaten. Normally, another bird will get the treat before the day is out but not always.

By placing the treats in the storm gutters, particularly just above a catch basin, any left-behind food will be washed away with the next rain.

Crow Dining Etiquette

** Try, if possible, to offer your treats as far from homes as possible. While I do leave treats in areas where homes are dense, even there, I try to choose a different location on successive days, so you aren't attracting crows to any single location. Not everyone loves these birds.

Crow families have definite foraging areas and are reluctant to cross into the forage area of another family. This may limit how far you can walk and still connect with a given crow individual or couple.

If leaving treats for crows during snow season, tramp down an area maybe 18 inches wide, so the peanut pieces won't disappear into the snow.

If pedestrians are approaching a crow treat location, wait until the coast is clear to leave the treats. A crow which is present and knows you have treats will be patient and wait. If you don't wait, the crow will be frightened when other pedestrians pass the treat location and may fly away.

Dogs and even noisy vehicles are worth waiting out, until the area is quiet.

Most crows are married, and even if you don't see the spouse, about 90% of the time, the spouse is nearby. So I almost always leave <u>two helpings</u>, even if all I see is a single crow doing the asking. I place the separate helpings about a foot apart.

In the event I see an entire family gathering, which doesn't happen too often, I will lay out a number of helpings to match the number of gathered birds.

One thing which astonishes me is that crows usually <u>respect individual helpings</u>.

By that I mean, if a crow is alone, with their spouse off doing his/her own thing somewhere, the crow will drop down and completely finish <u>one</u> of the two helpings, but will leave the other helping entirely untouched! I have seen untouched helpings a 24-hour day later. This is <u>amazing</u> among wildlife. (In the squirrel world, <u>nothing</u> is left untouched, and that is very likely because squirrels' prime motivation is to get that food safely cached somewhere, buried, or perhaps in a tree nook. I haven't seen signs that crows do much caching.)

Another "etiquette" observation is that male crows are much friendlier, much more likely to get close to their "treat people," and are also the first to swoop down and go for the freshly laid-out treats. The female, (noticeably smaller,) will hang back on a branch or wire, and wait until the "treat person" is at least a hundred feet away.

Another thing that seems amazing to me is that often, when a male crow gets to know a treat person well, after filling their beak, they will fly a hundred feet or more to catch up with the treat person, and zoom past the treat person at shoulder level and very close by. This happens so often that I think it may indicate the crow's way of saying "thank you."

(Squirrels in a park, who are used to being fed by people, I have noticed, will take the treat, walk a few steps away, then turn and look directly into the face of the treat person for a few seconds, before turning and continuing off to enjoy their treat. This, too, looks for all the world like a "thank you.")

As to how crows actually eat the treats, they spend a minute filling their beak, then they fly off to a "safer place," which can just be another patch of grass, but is often a nearby rooftop. They then drop the peanuts and start pecking them apart so they can nibble smaller pieces. Squirrels do likewise. Just as people do in a cafeteria - pick up their food then move off to a quiet spot to enjoy the food.

Crows and Gulls

Those who enjoy getting close with local crows will be distressed when local gulls show up. The gulls will race into an area where crows are feeding, and aggressively scoop up the crows' food before the crows have a chance to blink.

While gulls aren't the intelligent, circumspect birds the crows are, I've found that there are ways to get around their aggressive robbery of crows' food, and even enjoy their company.

First rule I go by is: If there is more than one gull present, I'm "outta there." It is pointless to try to host a civil feeding session when more than one gull is present.

The crows shy away from conflict with gulls, and always lose out on treats.

Fortunately, even though there are many gulls in the area I live in, there are enough days where only one gull shows up at a crow treatfest, that the day can be salvaged and even enjoyed.

Interestingly, one year when I met an extremely friendly young crow, who would walk right up to me and ask for treats, at that same time, I met a friendly young gull who would do the same thing. Amazingly, one day, both the young crow and young gull walked right up to my feet together.

This set me on to the task of finding out how to relate to gulls as well as crows.

There are times when only one gull is present, looking for treats. I take that time to befriend any single gulls. To start with, I stand in one spot, and toss individual broken peanut fragments, often half of an individual peanut separated into halves, about ten feet from me. I click my mouth and in a soft voice, encourage the gull to come and get it. Most will.

This befriending assures the gull that I will give her treats. That's the first step in keeping the gull from robbing the crows.

Then, when I have tossed some treats to one or more crows, the gull will fly in, but now knowing I am a source of treats, the gull isn't quite as aggressive. This enables me to step (non-threateningly) in front of the gull, and begin tossing peanut fragments to the gull, in a direction to lead her away from the crows. The gulls almost always oblige.

Crows are very nervous when I look at them, but gulls are not. I can actually walk toward the gull slowly without the gull taking off. I can't do that with crows. This allows me to control the gull's location, while still enjoying the gull's company.

So I can more or less keep my back to the crows, tossing them an occasional batch of peanut fragments, while facing the gull, and tossing the gull peanut fragments too. I keep crows and the gull separated this way, and it works very well, and all the birds appear well-satisfied at the end of the treat session.

Gulls are kind of fun to toss individual peanut fragments to - if the fragment lands anywhere near them, they will catch the fragment in mid air. I've had gulls come close to catching close to 20 fragments in mid air, with nothing missed or dropped.

A gull who feels short-changed will screech and squawk loudly. However, in spite of their aggressive pursuit of treats, I find that they are really polite and reasonable, and it doesn't take all your peanuts to satisfy them, once they know you.

My feeling about gulls is that they must have a terrible time surviving winters here in the north, and I'm happy to share my treat budget with them. They can't, apparently, grasp tree branches, and this puts things like bark and buds, which some birds and other animals feed on in winter, out of reach for them. They are certainly deserving of whatever I can do for them, as much as the crows or other animals.

Interesting Crow/Raven Behaviour

Giving treats to crows and ravens offers the treat person glimpses of how crows act other than their eating habits.

**** Ravens saying "hi."** One interesting observation specific to ravens is that once they know you, they will, once in a great while, drop down, and either do a single circle overhead, or even fly above the treat person, do an "aileron roll" (roll upside down,) utter two loud clicks, then roll upright and fly away. This has been seen a few times and does not appear to be a one-time-only occurrence.

**** Alternate crow dialect.** Another observation, mentioned in crow articles, is that crows (and ravens) have a near-the-nest dialect that is for intimate communications which does not give away their location to would-be nestling predators. This is "click messaging."

They literally talk with not terribly loud strings of clicks, a little reminiscent of whale click messaging.

Quite a few times crows wanting treats have flown up behind me, landed on a pole or street light bracket which I'd already passed (and couldn't see) and given me a short click message to let me know they were there.

**** Crow scammers.** One laughable observation is that at times, crows will attempt to <u>scam</u> their treat person. This works by their flying up in a normal way, and landing in front of the approaching treat person. The treat person leaves the expected treats, and continues their walk.

The scammer crow will <u>not</u> touch the treats just left, but instead will <u>wait</u> a minute until the treat person is a couple of hundred feet further on, then fly ahead and drop down again, asking again for treats. When I was a new crow treat giver, and was not well familiar with the various crow families along my route, this worked and I would assume the crow was <u>another</u>, not the one I had just fed.

I began to kind of suspect this scam, and watched discreetly over my shoulder, and discovered what was going on. One day early in my crow-treating career, I was scammed for four separate treat locations!

The scammer crow would only begin to eat the treats when I had passed out of his/her foraging area!

I'm no longer taken in, and I do watch for this scam. I do have a crow treat budget and can't really afford to just indulge the clever birds!

**** Crow husbands at mating ritual time?** I've noticed that in mid- to late-winter, there comes a time when crows perform very noisy group aerobatics everywhere. During this time, they are less inclined to be interested in treats, and I'm guessing this is some sort of mating ritual.

Groups of three, four, five or even six crows are seen squawking loudly and chasing one another. Sometimes they form a roughly spherical performance area and chase like fighter aircraft dogfighting.

I find during these periods that often, only one crow will actually drop down and go for treats. I always leave two helpings, because I have no way to know if one or both spouses will show up.

(When only one bird partakes of the treats, they honour the separate helpings and only touch one of the helpings.)

Very interestingly, during these seemingly mating-related periods, I will see a husband and wife crow I have come to know in the same area, but <u>they will not be near one another</u>. (It is fairly easy to ID these couples due to their strictly observed foraging boundaries.)

At first, I felt sad seeing this, as it looked as if the couple had split up. They both "dined" on the treats, but only at separate times.

What I noticed, though, was that when this time of noisy encounters had run its course, the couples re-united.

<u>During</u> these times of noisy encounters, my impression is the husbands actually have "permission" to temporarily go off and participate in mating rituals! That is my personal guess, of course, but over time, it begins to look as if that is the case.

** Crow couple estrangement

I have had the privilege of making good friends with a young female crow. Typically, in each litter of wildlife, there is one baby who is much more inclined to be friendly to humans than the average, and this young gal was it. She would, as a teenager, walk right up to my feet and stand there, patiently waiting for her treats.

Over her first winter, she flew off with her large family to the town dump, which in the cold northern Ontario climate, offers much more in the way of survival rations than the woods. When she returned in the Spring, she had a new husband in tow.

Like all crow couples, they would drop down or perch near me, while I put two helpings of crushed peanuts, topped with small chunks of suet, about 18 inches apart. Each would pick one of the helpings and peacefully finish, respecting the other's helping.

In mid-May, all of a sudden, this couple behaved as if something came up to estrange them. They would arrive where I wait in a local park, as I placed their two helpings. But as soon as the male got to the helpings, the female would back away, then actually walk over and stand in front of me, begging for another helping just for her. If the male flew off, she might go over and see if there was anything left.

There was also quite a bit of flapping of wings and squawking, and even flying around in "dogfight" fashion. Sometimes other crows nearby were involved in these "dogfights" - possibly from another nearby family.

At time of writing, this is still going on so I don't have an outcome to report.

UPDATE:

I think I've misinterpreted this observed "estrangement." I've observed the female joining the male at times since writing the above.

As I've noted with squirrels, wildlife has a curious tendency, when a human puts out treats for them in person, to stick very close to the human, and to ignore food left at some distance from the dispensing human. This tendency can be very strong at times, even to the point of forgetting to go back later and eat up the treats left at a distance.

This female crow walks away from the two helpings of treats I've left for her and her husband, maybe 50 feet from the park bench I sit on to watch them. She then walks over close to me, and clearly "asks" by way of body language for her own helping. I give her this helping and she is satisfied, while her husband gobbles up the original two helpings.

A raven feeding her baby totally abandoned two generous helpings while continuing to follow me asking for more, recently.

Squirrels do the same sometimes. I'll leave a few peanuts, then walk slowly away. They will ignore the peanuts I left behind, and keep following me, eating only when I stop long enough for them to eat what I give them.

** "Crowfests"

We have quite a few crows scattered about my heavily wooded village. Most of the time, they go through their usual cycle of foraging, then resting, then foraging again.

Except on some days, they will all gather high above a specific neighbourhood, and put on an incredible display of noisy and spectacular group aerobatics, for hours. This happens, I'd estimate, once a month.
I call this their "crow convention" or "crowfest," and there is no foraging during this event. My guess is they are simply celebrating the "blessed state of being a crow!"

** Crow family "death watch."

While frequenting the park at my previous address, early one morning I came across a crow lying down in the middle of a grassy area. This was not remotely normal behaviour. I suspected the crow was ill, and either very reluctant or unable to fly, so I didn't approach him closely.

Later in the day, I saw him hanging out next to the evergreen shrubbery, abundant in that park. For the next several days, it became clear he was ill and not getting better. I noticed that other crows, probably family members, would roost right above this seriously ill crow. They were obviously keeping watch over their relative.

I tried tossing him peanuts, but although he noticed them, and weakly pecked at one or two of them, he wasn't up to eating.

Finally, I watched as the seriously ill crow entered deep into the evergreen thicket. It was touching to see that the family members had landed on the ground, and actually gathered around this dying family member as he decided it was time to exit this world.

Crows clearly have feelings which parallel ours!

** A Caring Raven Husband

A male raven, who lives permanently in an area I walk through daily, was in the habit of dropping down beside me and in this way, asked for treats.

One day he dropped down and asked for treats, as I stood in a parking lot talking with a friend. I walked a few paces away from the friend (as he is a little nervous with more than one human present) and obliged him with two helpings of treats.

I always leave two helpings because very frequently, there is a mate nearby.

In this case, the raven's wife didn't fly over. However, as I walked back towards my friend, I noticed the raven's wife flying a couple of hundred feet away, just over a line of trees. She could not see the treats.

Her husband apparently noticed, as instead of continuing to munch on the treats, he took off in the direction where his wife disappeared to. In a little while he came back but did not land. Instead, he made another wide circle, again in the direction his wife disappeared in.

The second time, his wife came with him. I find it very touching that the raven husband would go to considerable physical effort - twice - to be sure his wife was able to share the goodies!

** Raven Dad Teaching Baby

The raven dad mentioned above has been in the habit of dropping down to the pavement right beside me to ask for treats for years.

One day, I saw this raven couple quite close by on a power pole, dad, mom, and loudly squawking baby. I waved to them and clicked loudly, clicking being a good way to signal to wildlife who know you. Yet, not one of them, not even the friendly dad, paid any attention to me.

As I walked along, at two different places, daddy raven would swoop down, passing close to me, but then fly back up to a branch, obviously asking for treats but treating me as someone who isn't trustworthy. As I continued walking, only when I was maybe a hundred feet beyond the treats did daddy raven drop down to nibble.

The second time, the baby caught on and dropped down and joined dad at the treats. The baby had his fill, and flew off, satisfied, no longer squawking.

A little further up the road, to my surprise, both daddy and mommy raven dropped down on the pavement right beside me, their way of asking for treats. It suddenly hit me - daddy raven wasn't giving me the cold shoulder at all - he was carefully showing baby to keep a safe distance from humans - even humans with treats!

Later, when the babies were more mature, the raven dad showed them accepting human treats was OK.

I'm continually amazed at the sophistication of these intelligent animals, and the way they really care for one another!

** Raven Checking Out My Gear

My experience with wildlife, until May 2016, was pretty much that unless I had food for them, they went on their way.

Well in May 2016, I was doing some minor repairs to a squirrel feeder. A raven sauntered up the walkway towards me. But instead of stopping in front of me for treats, he passed me by.

He then started walking slowly around my backpack and some tools on the ground a few feet away, inspecting them closely! He would stop and look up at the squirrel feeder, then go back to inspecting my gear.

It took me a couple of minutes before I finally got him to come over and have a snack.

This was mind-boggling to me - to find a wild animal with a detailed interest in human objects and human activity!!

Conclusion

This collection of crow and raven observations are based on my years of developing friendships with these birds here in a wilderness community. As new observations are made, I will update this document, posted at the Internet link on the cover page above.

Anyone concerned with water for wildlife in dry times, where dew is less than normal or absent entirely, may want to print out the next page for use as a flyer.

Other Wildlife Articles

http://www.randomcollection.info/sqfriends.pdf

http://www.randomcollection.info/geese.pdf

http://www.randomcollection.info/snail-story.pdf

http://www.randomcollection.info/ewrescue.pdf

REMEMBER ...

AS YOU DRINK THAT WATER, OUR BEAUTIFUL WILDLIFE COMPANIONS NEED IT TOO! AND IN CITIES, IT IS VERY HARD FOR THEM TO FIND!

WEATHER HAS BECOME INCREASINGLY DRY SINCE THE LATE 1990s. **DEW HAS ALMOST DISAPPEARED. PLEASE CONSIDER SETTING OUT WATER DISHES TO PREVENT THE SUFFERING AND DEATH OF OUR BEAUTIFUL WILDLIFE.**

PLEASE CONSIDER DOING THIS IN COOL BUT DRY WEATHER AS WELL ... WINTER CAN BE MERCILESSLY DRY, AND THERE ARE NO LAWN SPRINKLERS! WILDLIFE WILL EAT ICE GLADLY!

THEY WILL APPRECIATE IT!