

Crows (and all corvids) are very smart birds and can recognize faces and solve puzzles.



Fish Crow

***Corvus ossifragus* (Scientific name)**

Common Names: Crow, Fish crow

Size: 1-1 ¼ feet with a 3 foot wingspan

Lifespan: 15-20 years

Habitat: Found mostly near water in swamps, forests, tidewater, farmland, and rivers. Fish crow love to perch on the Elizabeth River Project's Learning Barge between field trips!

Range: Found all along the Atlantic and Gulf coasts from Massachusetts to Louisiana.

Diet: Despite their names, fish crows do not hunt for fish. They are omnivores and will eat almost anything they can find, from carrion (decaying animals) and trash to bird and turtle eggs, crabs, and berries.

Appearance: Fish crows are all black birds but their feathers are very glossy. They have strong beaks and feet. They are very similar in both appearance and shape to the American crow, but fish crows are slightly smaller and have a more curved beak.

Predators: The eggs and young are most at risk for predation from hawks, gulls, raccoons, and owls.

Voice: The best way to tell the difference between the American and fish crow is their call. Both will make a harsh *caw* sound, but the fish crow is more nasally. They sound more like a squeaky dog toy.

What can you do? Pick up and properly dispose of any trash. Putting up bird feeders and bird baths can draw birds to your yard so you can watch them closely without having to disturb them.

On-Line Resources

https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Fish_Crow/id

<https://www.audubon.org/field-guide/bird/fish-crow>

<https://www.nationalgeographic.com/animals/birds/f/fish-crow/>



www.elizabethriver.org