

Discover the Fauna of Our Campus

Hooded Crow -*Corvus cornix*

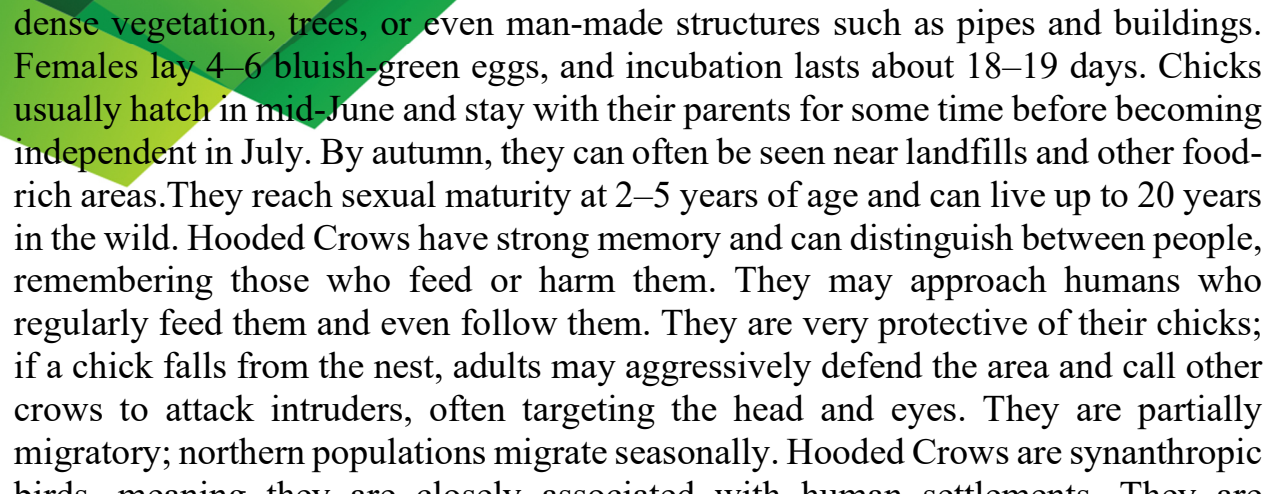
Kingdom: Animals
Phylum: Chordates
Class: Birds
Order: Passeriformes
Family: Crows
Genus: *Corvus*
Species: Hooded Crow

The Hooded Crow is a bird belonging to the crow genus within the order Passeriformes. It is characterized by a black head, wings, and tail, while the body is grey. Adults typically measure around 50 cm in length, weigh between 460–735 grams, and have a wingspan of about 1 meter. In flight, they can be distinguished not only by their coloration but also by their broad wings and slightly curved beak. Juveniles may have bluish eyes and a pinkish mouth interior. Their vocalizations



consist of various forms of harsh cawing sounds. On the ground, they move with long strides and can run quickly when alarmed. Hooded Crows are omnivorous and highly opportunistic feeders. Their diet includes insects, small vertebrates (such as frogs and chicks), eggs, fish, plant material and seeds, as well as food waste and carrion. Because they consume carrion and organic waste,

they play an important sanitary role in ecosystems. They are highly intelligent birds capable of using objects from their environment. For example, urban crows may drop nuts onto roads so that cars crack them open, after which they safely retrieve the food. During the breeding season, pairs perform aerial displays. They usually build a new nest each year. Nest construction materials include dry branches, grass, feathers, cotton, wool, and even synthetic materials. Nests are often placed in parks,



dense vegetation, trees, or even man-made structures such as pipes and buildings. Females lay 4–6 bluish-green eggs, and incubation lasts about 18–19 days. Chicks usually hatch in mid-June and stay with their parents for some time before becoming independent in July. By autumn, they can often be seen near landfills and other food-rich areas. They reach sexual maturity at 2–5 years of age and can live up to 20 years in the wild. Hooded Crows have strong memory and can distinguish between people, remembering those who feed or harm them. They may approach humans who regularly feed them and even follow them. They are very protective of their chicks; if a chick falls from the nest, adults may aggressively defend the area and call other crows to attack intruders, often targeting the head and eyes. They are partially migratory; northern populations migrate seasonally. Hooded Crows are synanthropic birds, meaning they are closely associated with human settlements. They are common in cities, villages, forests, and rural areas, often moving to urban regions during winter. Although widely distributed, their numbers have declined in some large cities in recent decades, possibly due to hunting pressure, reduced food availability, and competition with other species.

