

ARE YOU

BEING WATCHED?

A glimpse into the world of the crow family (corvids) and their amazing ability to recognize human faces. Are crows and ravens actually able to recognize human faces? If so, how do they do it and why do they?

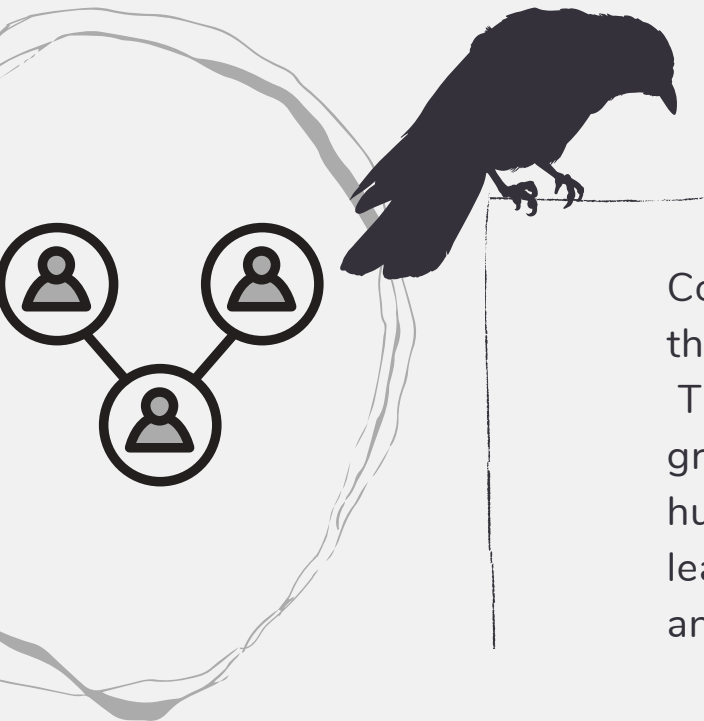
### CORVID LEARNING AND RECOGNITION

Corvids are able to learn through– direct individual experience, observation, learning from their peers, and learning from their parents.<sup>3</sup> They are especially quick to learn about dangers/threats and remember them.<sup>1,5</sup> This allows corvids to be especially adept at discerning potential threats.<sup>1,3,4,5</sup>



### SOCIAL LIFE AND INFORMATION SHARING

Corvids spend their lives with their parents then peers and eventually their mates.<sup>2</sup> Through each life stage, corvids live in groups which are essential communication hubs.<sup>2,3</sup> These groups are important for learning and sharing about food sources and perceived dangers and threats.<sup>2,3</sup>



### WHY DO CORVIDS BOTHER?

Recognition of an individual is an expensive resource to invest in– even more so for an individual that is not of the same species.<sup>3</sup> The evolutionary advantage of being able to recognize 'dangerous' humans is the main reason for corvids to behave in such manner.<sup>3,4</sup> Ability to anticipate potential dangers and threats can increase a corvid's chance of survival.<sup>3,4</sup>



Short answer?  
Yes, you probably are!  
If you are around crows, ravens, or other birds from the same family, chances are, the way you interact with them is being closely watched!

Next time you are around crows, ravens, or birds of the same family make sure you treat them right!

#### SOURCES

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