

**American Crow and Victoria Park**  
Historical Information and Data

**Bain F., (1891). *Birds of Prince Edward Island: Their habits and characteristics*, pp. 45-46, Charlottetown: Haszard & Moore.**

- American crow is very common on PEI.
- Winter foraging - pilfering stacks.
- Summer foraging - good meal of grasshoppers, locust and June bugs in pastures; nutting excursions in woodlands; abundant food in fields; digging clams, fishing smelts along shorelines.
- Winter and summer - refuse in yards and along roadsides.
- Our crows gather in great rookeries in the autumn. Until recently a grove in Charlottetown Park was a trysting place for Central Queen's County. I have seen **3000 crows** going at sundown, on a calm autumn evening in one long black silent stream of quivering pinions to this favorite resting place.

**MacSwain, J., (1901 April). *Our Feathered Friends, Prince Edward Island Magazine*, 3(2), pp. 64-69.**

Is the crow a farmer's friend or enemy? In early spring he destroys the young of beetles, grasshoppers and other noxious insects found in pasture, lea and amongst the stubble. So he is to this extent a direct benefit to the farmer.

**Hurst B., (1947). *Birds of Prince Edward Island, Charlottetown: The Patriot Job Press.***

- C. B. Bagster wrote "Progress and Prospects of Prince Edward Island" in 1861 and included 46 birds for PEI. After deforesting of large areas, and the "readjustment of agriculture" changes were made to the bird list of Prince Edward Island resulting in the following bulletin.
  - Mr. John MacSwain, Prince of Wales, involved amending the Birds of Prince Edward Island list –issued as a bulletin in 1916
  - entry in Birds of Prince Edward Island
- 488 American crow. R., common. – 1916.  
Increasing of lage. – B. H. (B.B., p 35)  
(R. – resident, B.H. – lister, B. B. – Blue Book of Birds of America)

**(1950 May 15). *Island Crow Value Determined, The Guardian*, p.5.**

Canadian Wildlife Service of the Department of Resource and Development and cooperation of the Provincial Authority.

Study to determine relation of crows to water fowl and other information determining economic status on Prince Edward Island. Nest sites were studied and crows and nestlings were gathered to analyze stomach contents.

A crow shooting contest was recently announced.

**MacQuarrie, I., (1989). *The Bonshaw Hills*, pp. 17-20, Charlottetown: Institute of Island Studies.**

- There was a 10 cent bounty on crows when the author was young.
- When tide, wind and time of day were right, the crows would come up from the marsh flats and slide along the edge of the woods on their way to roost in the hills.
- Crows use the same nest for years.

**Mallet, M., (1990 May - June). *Crows on Ice, Island Naturalist, 110*, pp. 3-4.**

April 5, 1990, just before sunset I drove around Victoria Park, Fort Edward....

Across the ice, on a point of ice extending out from the Queen Charlotte Armories, there at least 100 crows. A little later, on the ice between Fort Edward and Beaconsfield, the number of crows grew to another hundred.....

It was nearly dark when they started to depart in small groups.....

Not seen a raven here at his time.

**Armstrong, N., (1992 January 16). *Governor gets new neighbors, The Guardian, p.13.***

Governors new neighbors, they're noisy and love to carouse. Branches of tall trees surrounding the Government House....

The tenants are crows – hundreds of them, thousands of them. Windy days they fly low over the water....

They feed during the day in the Eastern part of Queens County. Recent bird count totaled over 1000 crows. They Flock to Victoria Park in the evening....

Alan Godfrey, biologist in PEI Department of Environment says that crow numbers across the province are stable. The Victoria Park flock has been around for many years and is growing simply because word among crows is getting around that its' a good place.