

WHAT'S THAT CROW SAYING?



How To Make Sense Of Crow
Sounds And Behavior

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What's That Crow Saying?

Have you ever wondered what crows are saying?

Why are they so loud?

What are they up to?

Why do they gather and fly around in those big groups?

Welcome to the exciting world of crow language!

I created this book to provide a simple answer to one of the most common questions I get from fellow nature enthusiasts...

“What is that crow saying?!”

I want to give you a super simple crow trick that applies to all crows and help you start solving the mystery by thinking critically about why crows do what they do.

Plus... you're going to discover why crow sounds are truly one of the best sources of advanced information about what's happening in the natural landscape whenever you step outside.

When we're finished... you'll know how to apply the meaning of different types of crow language to make all kinds of amazing predictions about nature.

The Messages Of Crow Language

What if I told you that every time you step outside... the local crows are broadcasting subtle information about other wild animals like hawks, wild cats, owls, eagles, ospreys, ravens, and more!

The crows are truly like your own personal scouts who keep you informed of things happening at a distance.

IF you know how to listen and interpret their sounds and behavior!

Every day I witness crow battles over food & territory...

Crows mobbing owls and alarming at eagles...

Crows raising families and keeping tabs on the landscape...

Yet almost nobody even realizes this is happening!

I was recently standing with a group of people in a field where 6 crows were cawing and alarming loudly at a barred owl roosting not 50 feet away in the trees.

It was obvious to me that there was an animal hidden in the trees yet nobody even noticed that the crows were acting strange!

Can you believe that?

It's kind of a sad reflection on our overall level of awareness as a human species.

But with a bit of practice... you can master the art of crow language and apply these same insights too.

In fact, if you apply the simple principles of crow language I share in this book... it will give you a window into a world of magic and wonder that completely changes the way you relate with all birds and nature in general.

Here's What Crows Are Saying...

The basics of crow language are actually very simple.

There are two fundamental types of crow vocalizations that give you a big picture view into their lives... Every sound made by a crow will fit into one of these two types of crow vocalizations.

1. Structured Crow Vocalizations
2. Unstructured Crow Vocalizations

The pages of this book will guide you through the process of tuning your ears to the two types of crow vocalizations so you can know what that crow is saying!

Have a read through and click the links to hear the audio examples.

Then I invite you to get outside and find some of your own examples of crow language in action!

Try it out and I'd love to hear what you discover :-)

Just send an email to brian@nature-mentor.com and I'll help you figure out what the crows are saying in your own backyard!

Enjoy!
Brian Mertins

The Master Key of Crow Language

Let's take a look at a simple key for identifying two basic patterns of crow communication.

More than 90% of all sounds made by crows can be described as a loud raucous "Caw" sound.

The "Caw" is truly the most important thing to help you find real meaning in the sounds and behaviours made by crows... so that's where we'll focus our attention first.

It's also important to realize that crows (and all animals in general) communicate with a much more primitive language than something like english or german.

A common mistake is if you try to map crow language onto human language as a one-to-one relationship.

You might hear a sound and think the crow is trying to communicate human words like, "Hi, how are you today? I'm doing well. The weather is nice, isn't it?"

But the truth is that animal languages don't really map onto human languages in terms of words, verbs, nouns, adjectives, etc.

Crows are not philosophers. They don't worry about the past or the future. They don't get into arguments about abstract concepts like love or friendship, or happiness and sadness.

The sentiment might still be there at a more primitive level... but they don't analyze concepts in the same way that human beings do.

This means that crows are ALWAYS and ONLY ever talking about tangible things that directly relate to their survival as a species.

This is actually good news because it means you don't actually have to learn a new language in order to find meaning in what the crows are saying.

So What Exactly Are Crows Talking About?

Here's a short list of tangible things that are directly related to the daily survival activities of a crow.

- Food
- Sex
- Family
- Predators
- Territory
- Staying Safe

Notice that it's really not a very long list!

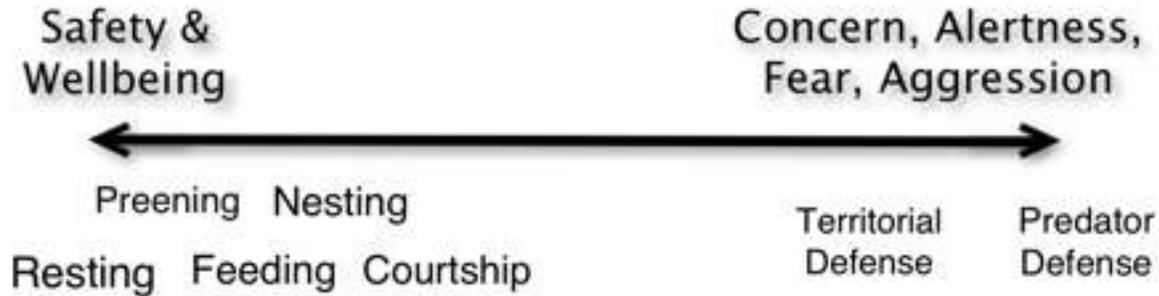
There's only ever a handful of things that crows can possibly be doing or communicating.

This makes your job so much easier and more simple because now all you have to do is determine which one of those activities crows are talking about.

Crows are motivated by a feeling of safety and survival... much in the same way that people are.

For the sake of simplicity... everything that crows say can be mapped onto a spectrum of emotional intensity as demonstrated in this chart:

The Crow Emotional Spectrum



On the lower end of the spectrum is when crows are expressing safety and wellbeing.

Then on the upper end of the spectrum we have crows expressing concern, lack of safety and aggression.

Here are the only 2 questions you need to answer in order to interpret 90% of the communication made by crows.

1. What is the level of emotional intensity?
2. What is causing that emotion?

You can answer both of these questions by observing specific patterns of vocalization and behaviour that are associated with different types of emotional states in crows.

To answer these questions let's take a closer look at the 2 types of "caws".

The Two Types Of Caws

Crow language can at the most simple level be broken down into two major categories that you'll hear whenever you're out in the field.

I believe that not knowing how to listen for these two types of "caws" accounts for most of the confusion that beginners have when they want to know what crows are saying.

This is because a huge percentage of the crow calls that you'll hear outside are not actually linked to any specific context like predators or enemy crows invading the territory.

The primary function of these caws is simply to keep track of other members of their flock at a distance.

And here's what to look for...

Structured Crow Vocalizations

First, the crow will make a short burst of 1-9 or so "caws". These caws will all be similar in sound, volume, and intensity.

Then you'll notice a short pause of silence anywhere between 15 - 60 seconds.

Finally, after a short pause the crow will give off another burst of caws followed by another period of silence.

This burst & silence pattern can go on for quite a number of repetitions before the crow quiets down or flies away.

To hear an example of this type of calling [visit this webpage](#).

This vocal pattern is called "Structured Crow Vocalization" because there is a consistently organized structure.

The pattern always includes a short series of caws, followed by silence and then another short series of similar caws.

It's VERY common... and it simply means that the crow is in contact with other friendly crows at a distance.

These Caws are NOT linked to any specific context, event or behaviour in the life of crows. It indicates an overall emotional state of safety, relaxation and well-being.

This typically accounts for at least 50-75% of all the crow vocalizations you will ever hear outside.

This one pattern alone can completely transform your ability to interpret crow language because it instantly brings meaning to the most common crow vocalizations.

Unstructured Crow Vocalizations

The other common type of crow call is noticeably different and is ALWAYS linked to one or two very specific events happening locally on the landscape.

This most often means one of three things:

1. The presence of a predator
2. A rival gang of crows invading territory
3. An attempt to steal food from an eagle, osprey, raven, etc.

Crow sounds associated with alarm & territorial exchanges are also known as *unstructured calls* because they ignore the structured pattern of bursting caws followed by silence.

Instead, these “unstructured vocalizations” are much more variable in terms of sound.

In general... as the situation intensity increases you will also notice an increasing number and intensity of crow vocalizations:

- The number of crows making noise will increase.
- The volume, pitch, and frequency will become more dynamic and variable.
- The overall volume, pitch, and frequency of calls will increase intensity.

Unstructured crow caws fluctuate in volume, pitch, frequency and overall intensity as the event gets more intense.

Continuous “cawing” from multiple individuals can go on without stopping for a very long time as the crows mob the source of their excitement.

If you hear these sounds coming from a group of crows, you might see other crows flying towards them at rapid speed to rally and mob an eagle or an owl.

You might also hear a sudden burst of intensity pick up as a hawk flies to a new perch.

It's important to note that this pattern of calling isn't always alarm.

Crows will be very loud and unstructured when defending their territories from other crows or ravens... And sometimes crows will simply be fighting over food or trying to steal fish from an osprey.

[This link](#) contains good examples of a low intensity alarm situation throughout, mostly in the background but also at 13mins there's a short clip that comes through more in the foreground.

[And this link](#) contains an example on the more extreme end of the alarm spectrum such as when crows are rallying to mob an owl.

A Complete Recipe For What Crows Are Saying

Now that we've covered the two most common types of crow language... Here are the steps you can follow to really get good at knowing what the crows are saying:

First, learn to identify structured crow vocalizations and unstructured crow vocalizations. You might need to review the 2 types of crow calls and listen to the examples several times.

Next, when you hear crows making structured vocalizations... look around for signs of "maintenance" behaviour (resting, preening, feeding, nesting, courtship)

When you hear crows making unstructured vocalizations... try to get closer and see if you can identify what's causing the emotional intensity.

- What observations can you make of that crow while it vocalizes?
- What else is happening in your surroundings?
- How many crows are present on the landscape?

Get out there and try it!

These two simple styles of crow calling are so simple that I'm sure as soon as you put in a bit of practice listening you'll be able to tell the difference.

You'll be amazed by what you discover following this simple recipe... Hawks, eagles, owls, cats, territorial battles, food scuffles will all start popping out on the landscape.

And suddenly you'll have a very rare and unique window into what the crows are saying about your landscape.

I genuinely hope you try this out and I'd look forward to hearing what you discover :-)

Here's what to do next...

To continue your crow language journey: here are two ways you can take your discovery to the next level.

- 1.** [Watch this video](#) of some Crows alarming at a Barred owl.
- 2.** Join the complete Crow Language Home Study Course where you'll get the step-by-step formula for knowing what the crows are saying.

Get started now at

[What's That Crow Saying? \(Advanced\)](#)