



# Preventing Raven Conflicts

While ravens are native birds to the area, their population around urban areas has increased so much that they can create a variety of issues for people. These smart birds are very good at taking advantage of the food, water, and shelter that people provide. Although ravens do not pose a significant threat to human safety, they can cause quite a mess.

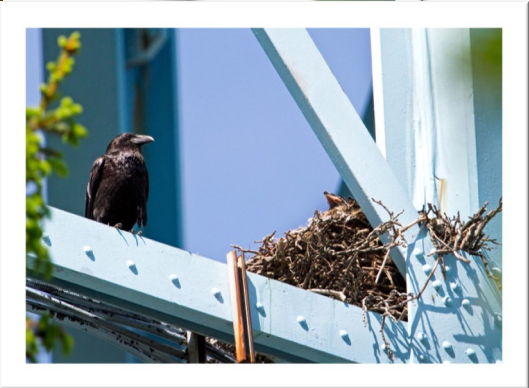
First, let's understand these animals and their ecological role. The raven is a highly intelligent bird that can work in groups and learn to adapt and problem solve. Ravens are both scavengers and hunters, eating plants, small mammals, insects, roadkill, and even trash. They can prey on threatened and endangered species like desert tortoises or burrowing owls. Ravens live in a variety of habitats including forests, sagebrush, deserts, and developed areas. Ravens are native to California, but their numbers are dramatically increasing with the support of unknowing people.

Ravens can become a problem if trash is left out for them, since they will eat what they can and scatter the rest. In winter months, ravens can roost on artificial surfaces for the heat that can be provided. This can impede operations when it includes buildings and machinery. Raven feces can be a human health hazard.

Ravens are classified as a migratory bird species and are protected by federal laws. Exclusion, dispersal, and non-lethal management should be all be considered to prevent damage from ravens. Prevention is key to keep animals wild and to protect public safety by making our public spaces less hospitable to wildlife.

*Resources: The Living Desert—<https://www.livingdesert.org/learn/in-the-community/healthy-desert-education-project/ravenous-ravens/>  
USDA APHIS— Wildlife Damage Management Technical Series—[https://www.aphis.usda.gov/wildlife\\_damage/reports/Wildlife%20Damage%20Management%20Technical%20Series/Common%20Ravens\\_WDM%20Technical%20Series\\_February%202020.pdf](https://www.aphis.usda.gov/wildlife_damage/reports/Wildlife%20Damage%20Management%20Technical%20Series/Common%20Ravens_WDM%20Technical%20Series_February%202020.pdf)*

## PREVENTING CONFLICTS



- REMOVE all potential food and water sources.
  - Keep pet food and water indoors.
  - Secure your trash, making sure lids are completely closed, and cover any compost piles.
  - Remove bird feeders from problem areas.
  - Covering gardens with bird nets will reduce the amount of food they can get.
  - Make sure there is not unnecessary water runoff in the area.
- AVOID letting nests become established.
  - Put bird deterrents like dura-spikes on roofing to make it harder for them to nest and roost.
  - Place realistic models of dead ravens (effigies) and reflective moving surfaces (like metallic streamers or spinning aluminum) to deter ravens.
  - Remove or secure any abandoned or little-used structures, like sheds.
  - If you spot ravens building a nest, take it down before any eggs are laid.

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