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## The Crow

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## THE CROW.

FRED BERNINGHAUSEN.

The crow is the most harmful bird. He feeds on carrion and also carries hog cholera by feeding on the dead hogs. He commences feeding at the ear and there takes his fill, then flies from one farm to another and so carries the disease. Loss from hog cholera three years ago was ninety-nine thousand and nine hundred and ninety hogs; two years ago it amounted to one hundred forty-seven thousand six hundred and seventy. The crow will carry the foot and mouth disease in the same way and also destroys the newborn sheep in the pasture by picking out their eyes.

Three years ago the loss to the United States on account of weeds was one hundred forty million dollars, now the report is two hundred million dollars a year. Iowa is an agricultural state and we lose a large part of this money. We have three kinds of ground sparrows and they destroy in Iowa one hundred seventy-five tons of weed seed every year. These birds begin nesting in the month of March and raise young ones until August. The crow flies over the ground where the farmer puts in his oats and destroys the nests of the ground sparrows which are between the corn stalks on the ground. When the ground was new the crow fed on grub worms but now as there are but few grub worms he feeds on the young ground sparrows.

He is also a destroyer of the wild canary bird which nests about ten to twenty rods from a farm building in the tassel of the corn. This leads people to think the crow goes after the corn, but if he was going to eat corn he would feed at the far edge of the field, as the farmer is no friend of the crow.

He is also a destroyer of the prairie chicken which eats eighty per cent of butter print or ragweed in this state. The farmer will leave a rod or so in the hay field where there is a prairie chicken's nest; but the crow will soon spy the nest and destroy the eggs of the young ones.

The crow destroys the quail's nest too. He will fly up and down till he finds the nest, runs the parents from the nest and destroys the eggs of the young ones. The quail feeds on morning glory seeds, potato bugs and foptail.

It has been stated that the crow eats grasshoppers but this is not always true as the grasshoppers are to be found at about the time the corn is in the milk stage and the crow feeds on the corn rather than on the grasshopper. If you dissect the crow you will find his stomach contains corn instead of grasshoppers. Further than this how many eggs and chickens does he destroy in Iowa? He is also a destroyer of many helpful birds in the forest-growing country. The birds that are seed destroyers are as follows: first, the ground sparrow; second, the mourning dove; third, the wild canary; fourth, the quail. These birds are of great value to the farmers of the state. But the crow is a destroyer of these birds. Therefore there should be a bounty on the crow in every county.

ELDORA.