

Magpies and Crows



Those who capture animals accept the responsibility of ensuring that the animals survive and that stress and trauma are kept to a minimum. In any procedure, always take into account animal safety and welfare.

HUMANE HINTS: In some cases, you don't need to remove Magpies/Crows at all - just leave them alone! You may trim out the trees until the cover they provide is too thin for the crow or magpie to roost in comfortably. Unfortunately, there are no registered Magpie/Crow repellents but predator urine has shown success.

Summary of Step-By-Step Instructions:

- 1) Purchase bird feeders that are too small for Magpies/Crows to access.
- 2) Most likely the birds are in your yard because they are able to find food there. Keep garbage in a secure container with a lid, ensure your compost is covered, feed your pets indoors and store the pet food inside.
- 3) Plant marigolds. Magpies/Crows are averse to strong odours.
- 4) If you want the birds to permanently leave your property you will need to remove the source of food or shelter that they are finding there. Removing individual crows or magpies from your property will only leave a vacancy for another one to fill.
- 5) Frightening devices, such as scarecrows, eye-balloons and hawk kites, can be effective for a short time. To make them more effective, they will need to be moved frequently.
- 6) Instructions on how to construct a humane Magpie/Crow trap can be found on the [Government of Alberta's website](#).

In winter, magpies do not normally migrate. Their presence tends to be more obvious in the spring and summer when the young are noisy and when we spend more time outdoors. Crows migrate in the fall. These birds are smart and learn quickly.

Things to consider when relocating a wild animal:

- Trapping can create orphaned babies that are left behind.
- Baiting traps will attract more animals.
- Traps don't discriminate what species they capture.
- It causes high levels of stress for the trapped animal.
- Relocating may cause territorial disputes, difficulty locating food, water and shelter, and increase the spread of disease.
- Removing an animal without eliminating what is attracting the animal will open up space for a new inhabitant.

IF YOU HAVE FOUND INJURED, ORPHANED, OR CONTAMINATED WILDLIFE PLEASE CALL WILDNORTH AT 780-914-4118