

Habits of Crows & Blue Jays – Melissa Wiggins

- a) Corvids
 - i) Jays
 - ii) Crows
 - iii) Rooks
 - iv) Magpies
 - v) Jackdaws
 - vi) Ravens
 - vii) Blackbirds or various types
- b) World-wide ~218 species
- c) US ~20 species
- d) Local crows species – similar behavior
 - i) American
 - ii) Fish
- e) Amplify WNV with high mortality
- f) Behaviors
 - i) Mimic
 - ii) Highly intelligent
 - iii) Engage in play
 - iv) Forest alarm systems
 - v) Jays cache food
 - vi) Omnivorous
 - vii) Females tend to disperse
 - viii) Nest predators – eggs and young
 - ix) Cooperative breeding – American crows
 - (1) Rare among animals
 - (2) Very clan-like
 - (3) Use older offspring to help raise young-of-year
- g) Movement into cities
 - i) Trees cut down in forested areas
 - ii) Green spaces in cities
- h) Winter roosts can hold huge numbers of corvids