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Common Raven, *Corvus corax*, Robs American Crow, *Corvus brachyrhynchos*, in Aerial Chase

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Kilham, Lawrence. 1985. Common Raven, *Corvus corax*, robs American Crow, *Corvus brachyrhynchos*, in aerial chase. Canadian Field-Naturalist 99(3): 372.

A Common Raven, *Corvus corax*, pursued, but did not overtake, an American Crow, *Corvus brachyrhynchos*, carrying a piece of carrion. The crow dropped the carrion, the raven retrieved it in the air following a steep dive.

Key Words: Common Raven, *Corvus corax*, American Crow, *Corvus brachyrhynchos*, kleptoparasitism.

In the fall of 1980 both American Crows and Common Ravens were coming to feed on the carcass of a cow in a pine wood in Lyme, New Hampshire. On 10 October I saw a crow fly above the treetops with what I supposed was a piece of carrion 2-3 cm in diameter. A raven pursued it, the distance between the two birds remaining about 8 m as though neither bird could gain on the other. The crow dropped the carrion at an altitude of possibly 70 m. The raven closed its wings immediately and retrieved the item in a spectacular dive.

In their extensive summary of kleptoparasitism in birds, Brockman and Barnard (1979) gave no reference to ravens robbing crows, nor to American Crows being robbed by any other bird. I have, however, (Kilham 1982), observed Red-shouldered Hawks (*Buteo lineatus*) robbing crows. Jollie (1976) stated that ravens seldom attack crows which can outclimb

and outmanoeuvre the larger bird, a finding not supported in present observations. The agility of ravens in the air is brought out by Bent (1946). Much needs to be learned about the interrelations of crows and ravens.

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