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A SAGACIOUS CROW.

By ASA A. GALLUP.

Every student of nature has observed in animal life acts that showed wonderful sagacity ; but this faculty is more often noticed in mammals than birds, probably owing to the number of domesticated animals about us, and in birds it may be considered a rarer quality. It must have appeared, however, to anyone who has watched crows congregating and heard the many noises they make that the strange calls and harsh sounds were crow language, and that they had a large vocabulary. The actions of the common American Crow which I relate here were observed this year, and, at least, show remarkable sagacity.

In the latter part of April two crows began housekeeping on Parliament Hill, and built their home about twenty feet from the ground in a cedar tree half way between the brow of the hill and the river. By the third week in May five little crows occupied the home, and at any part of the day five red-lined mouths could be seen wide open to receive whatever food the parents might bring. The mother was always on guard, and at the slightest noise would sit on the nest and cover the young ; but the father apparently spent most of his time during the day away from home. On one of these occasions I happened to be standing on the walk, which runs around the side of the hill, a short distance from the nest, observing some warblers, when I saw the crow alight on a large rock about twenty yards below me. He seemed to have his eyes fixed on some object on the ground farther down the hill, for notwithstanding the repeated attacks of two grackles he held his position. On the departure of his tormentors he shuffled down off the rock and over to the object he had been watching, which was lying among the stones, and began pecking it. After several hard