

is no end to the cawing and croaking at that time. Very soon this brood of crows gets on the wing and finds another brood, and by the early fall in some localities they congregate by hundreds in a favouring grove where they pass the nights.

Our crow is an all-round bird, he can walk in elegant fashion, he can run well, and hop in fine style. These three modes of locomotion are seldom found in the same species. If we could get onto the line of evolution that produced the crow, we would find that it took distinctive departure from others by reason of a grain more of gumption than his fellows. The separate strain began with an individual of superior wits at a period in their history when they did not look much like crows. This gleam of higher intelligence was valuable in the way of maintaining an existence in a world of continuous struggle, and was therefore passed along to descendants by laws of heredity, and thus the crow family got set off as a separate branch, or if brains are the true measure of birds as well as men, then they are the tip of the main stem, and our common American crow merits highest rank in the family to which he belongs, wherein there are several species. He is not equipped with hooked claws and beak like birds of prey, nor has he any very special feature in his structure. In scientific terms he is not specialized, with long legs like the waders with webbed feet like the swimmers, with sharp, long bills like the woodpeckers, or wide stretching wings like the hawks and gulls. He is a generalized bird with structure suited fairly well to many purposes. He can fly straight ahead in a respectable fashion, but he is not calculated for any giddy gymnastics on the wing like swallows and gulls and goatsuckers. He has length of leg enough to answer all his purposes,