



Spotter's Guide to Corvids

We would love to know what birds you see in your burial ground!

Visit our webpage to find out how to send us your wildlife records:

www.bit.ly/cfgarecords



ROOKS (Corvus frugilegus)

Sociable birds and rarely seen alone, they nest together in Rookeries building nests of twigs high in large trees with a great deal of bustle and chatter. Look for a domed forehead and greyish-white face and bill base. Rooks can look a bit scruffy with baggy 'trousers'.

A group of rooks is called a 'parliament' and many rookeries may be centuries old. They start to breed in February, nest building from January onwards.



CROWS (Corvus corone)

Often seen singly or in pairs but can be found in flocks too. Completely black and sleek with a thick black bill. Crows nest alone with a pair choosing a tall, solidary tree from which they can spot incoming danger. Crows have a loud Carr, Carr, Carr call, often repeated three times.

If you see a rook on its own it's a crow, if you see a crowd of crows, they're rooks

this saying is generally true, rooks are more sociable and more likely to be in a flock but it's not a golden rule, take a closer look!



RAVENS (Corvus corax)

Rare a few decades ago but now on the increase so you may be lucky enough to see one flying over your local burial ground, particularly in rural areas.

Ravens are far larger than rooks or crows with a wingspan of almost 5 foot. They have shaggy throat feathers or hackles and a thick black bill. Listen for a deep ringing Cronk and look for a long, diamond-shaped tail.



JACKDAW (Corvus monedula)

Jackdaw means 'little crow' but a jackdaw also says its name, calling Jack, Jack repeatedly. Much smaller than rooks or crows a jackdaw has a silvery sheen on its neck feathers except its head which appears like a black cap in contrast. If close, you will see striking light-blue eyes.

Jackdaws nest in holes in trees, in chimneys, church towers and on cliffs.

Jackdaws and rooks often fly together in the evening, circling and calling before going to roost.

Did you know...

Magpies and Jays are also members of the Corvid family, all of which are noted for their intelligence.

If you need help in identifying the calls of Corvids or any other type of bird then use iNaturalist to record the sound and it will suggest likely matches as well as making a biological record. Why not give it a try? iNaturalist is a free app for your phone that helps you identify what you have seen. We have set up our own project on this app called 'Beautiful Burial Grounds' : if you give it a go we look forward to seeing what you find! For more information on submitting records please visit www.bit.ly/cfgarecords

