

A PET CROW

ONE of the easiest, if not the easiest wild bird to raise, is the common crow. This black fellow is found almost everywhere, throughout the country, and if taken young will make the most interesting of pets. But the owner of a pet Crow must be on his or her toes, since a baby Crow believes in early breakfasts, and will caw continually on waking until he is fed. And then when older the young Crow, and for that matter the adult Crow, will want to collect all sorts of bright objects for its treasure trove. And more than one pet Crow has made off with jewelry.

It is best to get a Crow as young as possible; preferably one that is just feathering out, or one that has not yet left the nest. A Crow can be fed almost anything that a human can eat. A baby Crow can be fed the following foods: bread and milk, small pieces of raw meat (mice or E. Sparrows), fruit, cooked vegetables, and almost any kind of insects.

A young Crow usually does not have to be force fed and will open its mouth when hungry and caw; it will also open it whenever you pass by. An adult Crow can be fed almost anything, eating all sorts of table scraps; its diet should also include the above mentioned foods. If a Crow is kept in a cage it must be a large one, for plenty of exercise is necessary for good health. The best way to keep one is to clip its wings and to allow it to run around the yard to look for insects and small bits of food. Often when taken young, a Crow will learn to say a few words but this requires an intelligent Crow and a patient master. I hope that I do not need to mention that cutting or splitting a Crow's tongue is cruel and inhumane and ranks with burning witches. If anything, cutting a Crow's tongue will hinder it in talking, if it ever learns to talk. A tame Crow in the household means lots of enjoyment and excitement. If anyone wishes more information on Pet Crows please feel free to write me, I have plenty of stamps.—*Donald H. De Meules.*