
*Bird Notes.**"As the Crow Flies."*

The Oxford Dictionary gives the meaning as "in a direct line, without any of the *detours* caused by following the road." The quotations are:—

1800. Southey. Lett. (1856) 1. 110.—"About fifteen miles, the crow's road."

1810. Sporting Magazine, XXXV. 152.—"The distance . . . is upwards of twenty-five miles as the crow flies."

1838. Dickens' Oliver Twist, XXV.—"We cut over the fields . . . straight as the crow flies."

1873. F. Hall, in Scribner's Monthly, VI. 468/2.—"It was full eight miles, measured by the crow, to the spot."

Possibly the Crow elsewhere than South Australia flies in a straight line, but I have watched our species in the field over a number of years, and its usual course is anything but straight from point to point, either vertically or horizontally. The term Crow is commonly used here to cover the three species—Raven (*Corvus coronoides*), Crow (*C. ceciliae*), and Little or Bennett's Crow (*C. bennetti*), and the one I have generally seen is probably the Raven.