Dear Editor, *AFA Watchbird*,

In the March/April issue of the Watchbird, I was pleased to see an article about some Common Ravens. At the end of the article are some italicized statements where it is stated that ravens can be aggressive, unpredictable, and destructive, and “therefore do not make good pets. Keeping or breeding ravens is illegal.”

While I understand why these statements were made, I have some observations I would like to share with you and your readers...

Certainly we are all well aware that many psittacines, legal-to-keep softbills, and legal-to-keep native raptors are also aggressive, unpredictable, and destructive. I submit to your readers that ravens make no worse “pets” than any other independent highly intelligent bird that is zero to three generations removed from the “wild.”

There are many different types of non-native corvids (crow family birds) available for us aviculture, whether as importable birds which can serve as breeding pairs, or as the captive bred offspring of pairs already here.

The African Pied Crow, *Corvus albus*, for example, is very similar to our own native crows and ravens. There are many other types.

I submit to you and your readers that there are highly intriguing crows, ravens, magpies, and jays legally available for US aviculture – birds very similar to native-to-the-US corvids.

I strongly and independently urge all softbill and corvid breeders and keepers to consider writing articles and letters to the Watchbird, so as to further educate the avicultural community about softbill and corvid aviculture.

Sincerely,

Jonathan Higbee
AFA Life Member

My own pages:
http://www.geocities.com/Athens/Atrium/1424/

The Softbills.com web site:
http://www.softbills.com/

A site that profiles some native corvids, to give you an idea of what the non-native ones would be like for you:
http://www.shades-of-night.com/aviary/

I am very much a “newbie” to corvid aviculture myself. I am currently working on being able to breed some non-native ones, and I would like to become a licensed rehabilitator of the native ones. I don’t claim to be an expert, but I do have a strong impression that many aviculturists don’t realize there are highly intriguing crows, ravens, magpies, and jays legally available for US aviculture – birds vary similar to native-to-the-US corvids.

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A softbills discussion group (with a purview which includes corvids):
http://www.onelist.com/subscribe.cgi/SOFTBILLLED_BIRDS

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