

Black-billed Magpie

Urban Wildlife Relationships



Did you know?

Magpies are extremely intelligent birds with strong mimicry and building skills. Magpies have been shown to recognize human faces. Even dressing people in identical outfits isn't enough to fool these birds.

Did you know?

Magpies are year-round residents throughout Alberta and rarely travel farther than a few kilometres from where they're born. Spotting one in your yard is common in any season.



Did you know?

Magpies mate for life- building strong lifelong bonds and caring for young as a team. Small conflicts can sometimes occur within pairs.

AIWC Blogs

[The intelligence of Magpies](#)
[No Migration No Problem](#)

Safety Tips

During breeding season, magpies will become defensive of their nests and young. This season only lasts a few months. If a magpie swoops you or your pets, there may be a nest in the area

1. Maintain a safe distance from young magpies.
2. Walk calmly so adults do not feel threatened.
3. Avoid potential nests during breeding season.
4. if you see a young magpie alone and jumping rather than flying away, it may still be learning how to fly and is not in need of rescue. Always call a wildlife hospital before intervening

ID characteristics

A medium-sized corvid (crows, ravens, and blue jays also belong to this group), magpies are easily recognizable by their contrasting black and white colouring along with their iridescent blue-green feathers, and long tail.



Ecological Niche

Magpies are opportunistic omnivores living in many habitats, from farmlands to city parks. In the summer months their diet includes ground dwelling insects, fruits, and seeds. In the winter months they rely heavily on scavenging food or roadkill.

Magpies have a symbiotic relationship with large ungulates like deer and moose picking ticks and other parasites off hard to reach places.

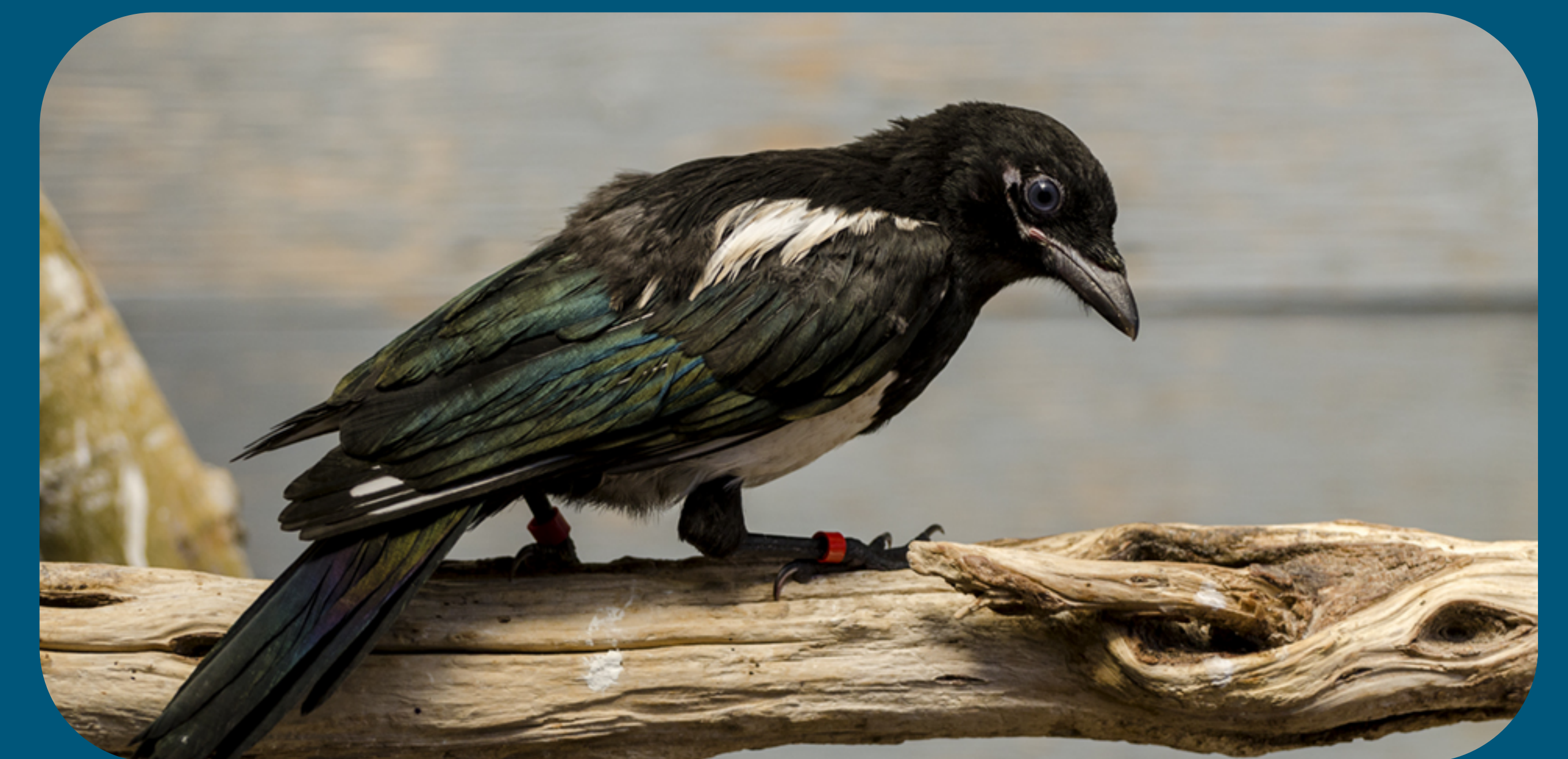
Myth Busting

Myth: Magpies prey on and kill other birds in the garden.

Fact: As omnivores, magpies may occasionally eat other birds eggs or fledglings, but they do not threaten song bird populations

Myth: Magpies steal shiny things like jewelry for their nests.

Fact: Studies have busted this myth showing magpies do not prefer shiny objects. Most magpies avoid new objects.



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