

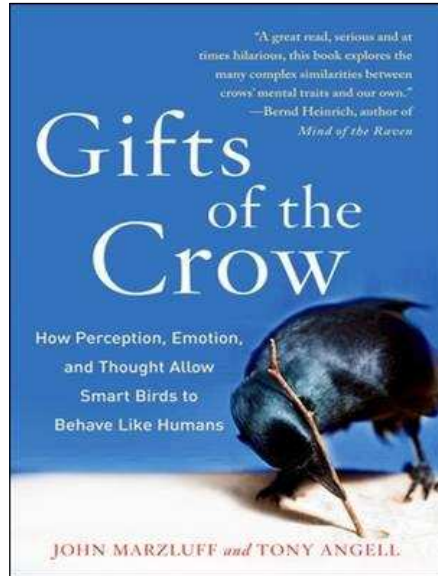
Mid-Manhattan Library
welcomes

John Marzluff

presenting an illustrated talk on his book

Gifts of the Crow

How Perception, Emotion
and Thought Allow
Smart Birds to
Behave Like Humans



"A great read, this book is a tribute to the little-known and underappreciated minds of the birds of the amazing corvid family. Serious and at times hilarious, it pulled me in with its telling anecdotes and scientific context. Most importantly, it acknowledges and explores the many complex similarities between crows' mental traits and our own."

--Bernd Heinrich, author of *Mind of the Raven*

Tuesday, April 2nd, 2013
6:30 p.m. on the 6th floor



New York
Public
Library

Mid-Manhattan Library
40th Street and 5th Avenue
New York, NY 10016
212-340-0837



With its abundance of funny, awe-inspiring, and poignant stories, scientist **John Marzluff** portrays creatures who are nothing short of amazing. A testament to years of painstaking research and careful observation, this riveting illustrated presentation is a thrilling look at one of nature's most wondrous creatures. Crows are mischievous, playful, social, and passionate. They have brains that are huge for their body size and exhibit an avian kind of eloquence. They mate for life and associate with relatives and neighbors for years. Because they often live near people—in our gardens, parks, and cities—they are also keenly aware of our peculiarities, staying away from and even scolding anyone who threatens or harms them and quickly learning to recognize and approach those who care for and feed them, even giving them numerous, oddly touching gifts in return.

With his extraordinary research on the intelligence and startling abilities of corvids—crows, ravens, and jays—he teamed up with artist-naturalist Tony Angell to tell amazing stories of these brilliant birds and offers an in-depth look at these complex creatures and our shared behaviors. The ongoing connection between humans and crows—a cultural coevolution—has shaped both species for millions of years. The characteristics of crows that allow this symbiotic relationship are language, delinquency, frolic, passion, wrath, risk-taking, and awareness—seven traits that humans find strangely familiar. Crows gather around their dead, warn of impending doom, recognize people, commit murder of other crows, lure fish and birds to their death, swill coffee, drink beer, turn on lights to stay warm, design and use tools, use cars as nutcrackers, windsurf and sled to play, and work in tandem to spray soft cheese out of a can. Their marvelous brains allow them to think, plan, and reconsider their actions.

About the presenter:

John Marzluff, Ph.D. is a professor of wildlife science at the University of Washington. His books include *In the Company of Crows and Ravens*, coauthored with Tony Angell, which won the Washington State Book Award for general nonfiction, and *Dog Days, Raven Nights*, coauthored with his wife, Colleen.

He has led studies on the effects of military training on falcons and eagles in southwestern Idaho, the effects of timber harvest, recreation, and forest fragmentation on goshawks and marbled murrelets in western Washington and Oregon, conservation strategies for Pacific Island crows, and the effects of urbanization on songbirds in the Seattle area. He has authored over 120 scientific papers on various aspects of bird behavior and wildlife management. He is currently leader of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Recovery Team for the critically endangered Mariana Crow, a member of the Washington Biodiversity Council, and a fellow of the American Ornithologist's Union.



Elevators access the 6th floor after 6 p.m.
All programs are FREE and subject to last-minute change or cancellation.