

A Murder of Crows

Why is a group of crows called a “murder”? Some say it was because in medieval times people believed that crows would meet to pass judgement on one of their kind who had done wrong. If found guilty, they would be killed by the group.

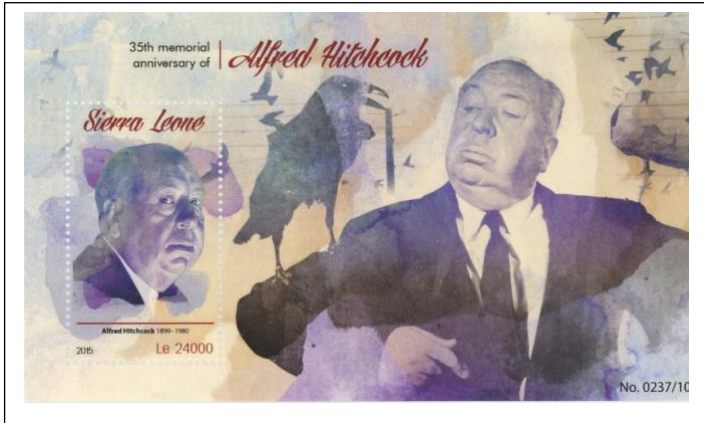
Others say it is because crows are associated with death. They scavenge dead animals and gather in the aftermath of battle. In many cultures they are harbingers of death. In Alfred Hitchcock’s 1963 horror-thriller, *The Birds*, they even kill.



Murder of Crows
 Magic: The Gathering
 playing card
 Creature: Bird
 #70 Uncommon



Crow of Dark Tidings
 Magic: The Gathering
 playing card
 Creature: Zombie Bird
 #105 Common



Sierra Leone 2015 minisheet Alfred Hitchcock movie director
 Scott 3525 Hitchcock and crow



Sierra Leone 2015 minisheet Alfred Hitchcock movie director
 l-r Scott 3526a Hitchcock holding clapboard; 3526b actors Janet Leigh and James Stewart; 3526c actor Tippi Hedren; 3526d Hitchcock and crows



Greenland 2019 Oct 21
 Plastics destroying the environment 25k stamp
 crows and garbage

Crows scavenge corpses as well as garbage. They can be aggressive and threatening, as in Alfred Hitchcock’s 1963 horror-thriller, *The Birds*. For centuries they have been seen (like their raven relatives) as omens of death. And so they have been depicted in philately.

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Russia 1990 corvid corax (raven) on 20k + 10 stamp
 issued to raise funds for zoos