

About a month after the nest was abandoned, a local electric company retrieved the nest intact and gave it to Tanglewood for public display. Mysteriously, there were no eggs or traces of eggs found. The nest was made largely of sticks, probably from cottonwoods. On top of the nest rim was a layer of grass, covered in turn with a layer of skunk and deer hair. This layer covered the inner layer as well, and appeared ample enough for the birds to be able to cover the eggs or young while the adults were away from the nest. The floor of the nest was covered with earth. Other interesting materials in the layer of fur were a clump of moss, a disintegrating portion of a green rug and a Great Horned Owl pellet.

Ravens have been seen on occasion in our area the last few years, especially on the wooded hills just a short distance "as the crow flies" from Dunn Field. Prior to this year, raven nestings outside the Adirondack-Catskill area have been confirmed only once. We are hoping they will nest here again, but not in the same spot!

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A Common Raven nesting in Oneida County, New York: A Common Raven was first seen on the north shore of Oneida Lake near Cleveland, New York, in mid December 1990. One or two birds were seen throughout the winter and spring 1991. They concentrated their activities in a mature Red Pine and larch plantation. While I was walking in a part of this plantation in mid April, a raven flew as close as 100 yards from me and began to scold vigorously. After a short search, I found their nest about 45-50 feet up in a tall larch, surrounded by Red Pine. I notified Dorothy W. Crumb, who along with several others, observed the birds during late April and May. Young birds were evident in the nest in May and fledged a week before Memorial Day. I heard ravens in the area a week later, but have not seen or heard them since. This appears to have been the first Common Raven nesting in Region 5 away from the Adirondacks, and in Oneida County, since at least the early 19th Century.

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