

A friend who was pleased to identify very easily the April bird photo said to me, "My first thought was Wedge-tailed Eagle (an Australian bird), but I was pretty certain that Blair Nikula (the photographer) has not been to Australia, so I decided this must be an American bird with a wedge-shaped tail, and that must be the raven. Right?" Yes, she is right. When "At A Glance" began, we agreed to use only photos of birds that had occurred in Massachusetts. So our readers who remembered this (and were not confused by a knowledge of Australian birds) probably had little difficulty in recognizing the silhouette in Blair's fine photo as a Common Raven. We felt it worthwhile to offer this picture, because it demonstrates precisely what the tail of the raven is like.

In the current issue (June), we offer a second photo-silhouette, a picture taken by Cape Cod photographer-birder, Roger Everett. This bird, too, has a wedge-shaped tail. This is not an effort to confuse our readers but rather to draw attention to the "single field mark syndrome" so well elucidated in Kimball Garrett's article on page 129.

Birders often complain of the need for a "longer" look, and that is the great thing about photographs - they do not fly away. They capture a fractional second of time and remain for everyone to view at leisure, to compare with past experience, with field guides and references, and, perhaps, to learn more about field identification.

So here is a modest challenge. Identify the second wedge-tailed bird, send the editor your I.D. and rationale, and *Bird Observer* will be happy to print the best response(s) we receive.

D.R.A.



Common Raven
May 2, 1983
Chatham, MA

Photo by Blair Nikula

At a Glance . . .

Photo by Roger Everett



Can you identify this bird? Identification will be discussed in next issue's *At a Glance*.



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