

AmpliSeq it!

Start now &gt;

iontorrent  
by Thermo Fisher Scientific

nature

International weekly journal of science

Search

Go

Advanced search

Home | News &amp; Comment | Research | Careers &amp; Jobs | Current Issue | Archive | Audio &amp; Video | For Authors

Archive | Volume 521 | Issue 7553 | Research Highlights | Article

Take part in Nature Publishing Group's annual reader survey here for the chance to win a Macbook Air.

Find out more ▾ ×

NATURE | RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

ANIMAL BEHAVIOUR

## Crafty crows keep their tools handy

Nature 521, 397 (28 May 2015) | doi:10.1038/521397b

Published online 27 May 2015

PDF | Citation | Reprints | Rights &amp; permissions | Article metrics

Subject terms: Animal behaviour

A crow species renowned for its use of tools has a time-saving trick — stashing the same tool for future use.



James St. Clair/CC BY 4.0

New Caledonian crows (*Corvus moneduloides*) invest much time and energy turning sticks into hooks to extract food from small cavities. To see what happened to the tools when they were not in use, Barbara Klump and Christian Rutz at the University of St Andrews, UK, and their colleagues offered crows food hidden in holes in a block of wood. They found that, while they ate, the crows usually pinned their tool underfoot (pictured) or stashed it in a hole between uses. Crows foraging up high — where a fallen tool would be harder to retrieve — were more apt to store tools in holes than were birds lower down.

Such safekeeping probably mitigates the cost of tool-making, allowing this complex behaviour to evolve, the authors say.

Proc. R. Soc. B 282, 20150278 (2015)

## Comments

2015-05-27 03:01 AM

**Jean SmilingCoyote said:** Since humans also evolved this same complex behavior, I don't think the word "probably" has to precede "mitigates the cost of tool-making."

Subscribe to comments

## More Research Highlights

MARINE ECOLOGY

Ocean survey finds huge diversity

NEUROSCIENCE

Signals activate dormant stem cells

PALAEOCLIMATOLOGY

A breath of ancient air

CANCER BIOLOGY

Cancer-cell transfer filmed

CLIMATE SCIENCE

Less sea ice, more Siberian snow

CANCER GENETICS

Skin riddled with cancer mutations

METABOLISM

Potential obesity drug from vine

MATERIALS

Printed spider webs get tough

Potential flaws in genomics paper scrutinized on Twitter

a nature conference  
Adaptive Biotechnologies, Nature Immunology, Nature Medicine, Nature Biotechnology and Nature Genetics Present:

### Immune Profiling in Health and Disease

September 9-11, 2015  
Seattle, WA

**Register today!**

## Editors' pick



Image credit: Zackary Canevari/NYT/Redux/eyevine

**When DARPA meets biology: the US defence agency is tackling biomedical research but scientists wonder if its high-risk approach can work.** >

Science jobs

Science events

naturejobs.com

Quality Assurance Manager  
NonStop Pharma RecruitmentFaculty Positions Available in Southwest University  
SOUTHWEST UNIVERSITYMICHIGAN / Gastroenterology Opportunity near Ann Arbor  
Allegiance Health

Post a job &gt; | More science jobs &gt;

## Most read

Structural and functional features of central nervous system lymphatic vessels  
Nature | 01 June 2015Let's have a talk  
Nature | 03 June 2015Human body epigenome maps reveal noncanonical DNA methylation variation  
Nature | 01 June 2015nature.com  
open innovation pavilion

Markers of Transduction and Gene Expression Compatible with Ocular Gene Therapy

Deadline: Jun 20 2015  
Reward: \$45,000 USD

The concept of gene therapy arose decades ago, when researchers postulated that human diseases could be treated by using a t...

Powered by: INNOCENTIVE

View all &gt;

a nature conference  
Nature Genetics and the Wellcome Trust present:

### The Genomics of Common Diseases 2015

September 2-5, 2015  
Hinxton, Cambridge, UK

**Register today!**

Nature ISSN 0028-0836 EISSN 1476-4687

About NPG  
Contact NPG  
Accessibility statement  
HelpPrivacy policy  
Use of cookies  
Legal notice  
TermsNaturejobs  
Nature Asia  
Nature Education  
RSS web feedsAbout Nature  
Contact Nature  
About the Editors  
Nature awardsSearch:  go

npg nature publishing group

© 2015 Macmillan Publishers Limited. All Rights Reserved.  
partner of AGORA, HINARI, OARE, INASP, ORCID, CrossRef and COUNTER