

CURIOS OF THE SKIES

LEGENDS HAUNT the darker corners of the Miskatonic Valley, its towns are rife with mythology and folklore. In such spirit, we include this page for the curious. There are creatures half-seen and half-felt at the hallucinatory border between the dreamlands and humble, yet glorious nature.



Whether the SPECTRAL RAVEN can truly be disambiguated from the species' feisty and gregarious omnipresence is likely a matter of personal whimsy. However, they can have a sinister aspect to their calls, and they are startling when up-close, unexpected and in large number.



Large birds do roam New England's skies (see p.7-8), but stories of the MISKATONIC VULTURE, a massive half-bird, half-lizard abomination terrorizing farmers are surely more commonly to be found in Kingsport during the annual St. Erasmus's yarn-spinning contests than over our heads.

Produced for educational purposes by the Arkham Historical Society.

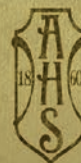
A SHADOW ABOVE

ARKHAM HISTORICAL SOCIETY GUIDEBOOKS

VOL. 11—ORNITHOLOGY OF THE MISKATONIC RIVER VALLEY



A graphical guide, with full-color photography, to inform bird-watchers on the various tours and walks organised by the Arkham Historical Society.



Contact the Arkham Historical Society in Southside for the current range of educational tours and historical records available to the public.

COMMON SIGHTINGS

THE MISKATONIC VALLEY is home to a stunning array of avian wildlife, blessed with both indigneous species, migratory visitors, and occasional rare sightings of unusual specimens—a true delight for any ornithologist. This guide will help you identify intriguing birds by location within the valley.



The **CORVID** family are well represented here, offering crows, jays, and magpies to be discerned by keen eyes. They add a cocky strut to our streets and a noisy chatter to our woodlands. They are bold, intelligent birds, with keen senses, distinctive calls and glossy black plumage.



GULLS are an inevitable part of coastal life, with numerous ports and fishing businesses. Innsmouth has a remarkable display of varied gulls easily spied upon from Falcon Point. Kingsport's South Shore is a fine spot for bird-watching, and Warbletooth Island attracts several rare species.

FANCIES OF COLD SPRING GLEN

DUNWICH might appear to be a rather grim and ramshackle place, but for ornithologists its Cold Spring Glen is a rustic delight. Migrating species gather here, creating remarkable murmurations comprising vast clouds of birds which almost block out what little sun can bring itself to shine on Dunwich.

WHIPPOORWILLS belong to the nightjar or "goat sucker" family and are renowned for their mournful song, after which they are named. Folk legend casts them as monsters lying in wait for the souls of the dying! Luckily, the vast flocks of whippoorwills mostly feast upon soulless insects.



The **COMMON NIGHTHAWK** is closely related to the swarming Whippoorwills. In flight at dusk, their long, pointed wings with white patches make them readily identifiable. Their bat-like swooping and the alarming booming sound of courting males earns them the nickname "bulbats."