



### Raven Fledgling

*Nestled between Big Moose Mountain and Little Moose Mountain in Moosehead Junction Township is a lovely, pond-filled valley. Along the southern shores of the ponds are large cliffs; the source of echoes from a calling raven. Could there be a raven's nest on what seems to be a perfect place - these cliffs?*

*The wildlife observations are abundant throughout the day, beginning with the hooting from a great horned owl at 4:00 a.m. Ravens, a white-tail deer, and several grouse families, with babies that appear only a few hours old, provide welcome company in this fresh, clean and invigorating forest.*

*Arriving at Trout Pond coyotes must be nearby, as evident from their fresh tracks in the mud. Several families of ring-neck ducks and hooded mergansers swim freely in the pond. A recently fledged raven sits on a dead tree trunk, posing for a photograph and expressing no fear whatsoever. Could I be the first human being this young and naïve bird has ever seen? It is refreshing to encounter wildlife, such as this raven, that has no fear of humans.....yet, and therefore can rest peacefully. A national park would provide all creatures the opportunity to live serenely, like this young bird, with no fear of man.*

*Thomas Mark Szelog*

