

Proposal for Emoji: CROW; RAVEN
 Submitter: Jenny Stinehour | jennystinehour@gmail.com
 Date: May 6, 2019

Abstract: This proposal requests a CROW emoji to be added into the Unicode Emoji Standard. Considering the identical physical resemblance of between the CROW and a RAVEN, the author proposes that the CROW emoji to be representative of both; for this reason, the term “CROW” will be representative of both “CROW” and “RAVEN” for the remainder of this proposal unless otherwise stated.

1. Identification

- A. CLDR short name: crow
- B. CLDR keywords: bird | crow | raven | black bird

2. Images (Fig. 1-3 [1]; Fig. 4-6 [2])

- A. License: Free for Commercial Uses (applicable for all images).



Figure 1. 180x (colored)



Figure 2. 72x (colored)



Figure 3. 18x (colored)



Figure 4. 72x (black and white)



Figure 5. 18x (black and white)



Figure 6. 18x (black and white)

3. Sort Location

- A. Category: animal-bird
- B. It is proposed that the CROW emoji should come after EAGLE emoji, as it is the location for a bird with flying abilities but typically do not swim.

4. Reference Emoji

- A. The reference emoji used in this proposal is the PENGUIN emoji (as suggested by Unicode).

5. Selection factor - Inclusion

A. Expected Usage Level

1. Frequency

Google Trends (Web Search)

As mentioned previously, the CROW emoji will be capable of representing CROW and RAVEN due to their identical appearances. Fig. 7 demonstrates the expected usage level by comparing CROW with PENGUIN, which acts as a median. It is apparent that the CROW emoji is expected to have a high usage among users from worldwide. In addition, even individual data trends for CROW and RAVEN are equivalent with the PENGUIN's.

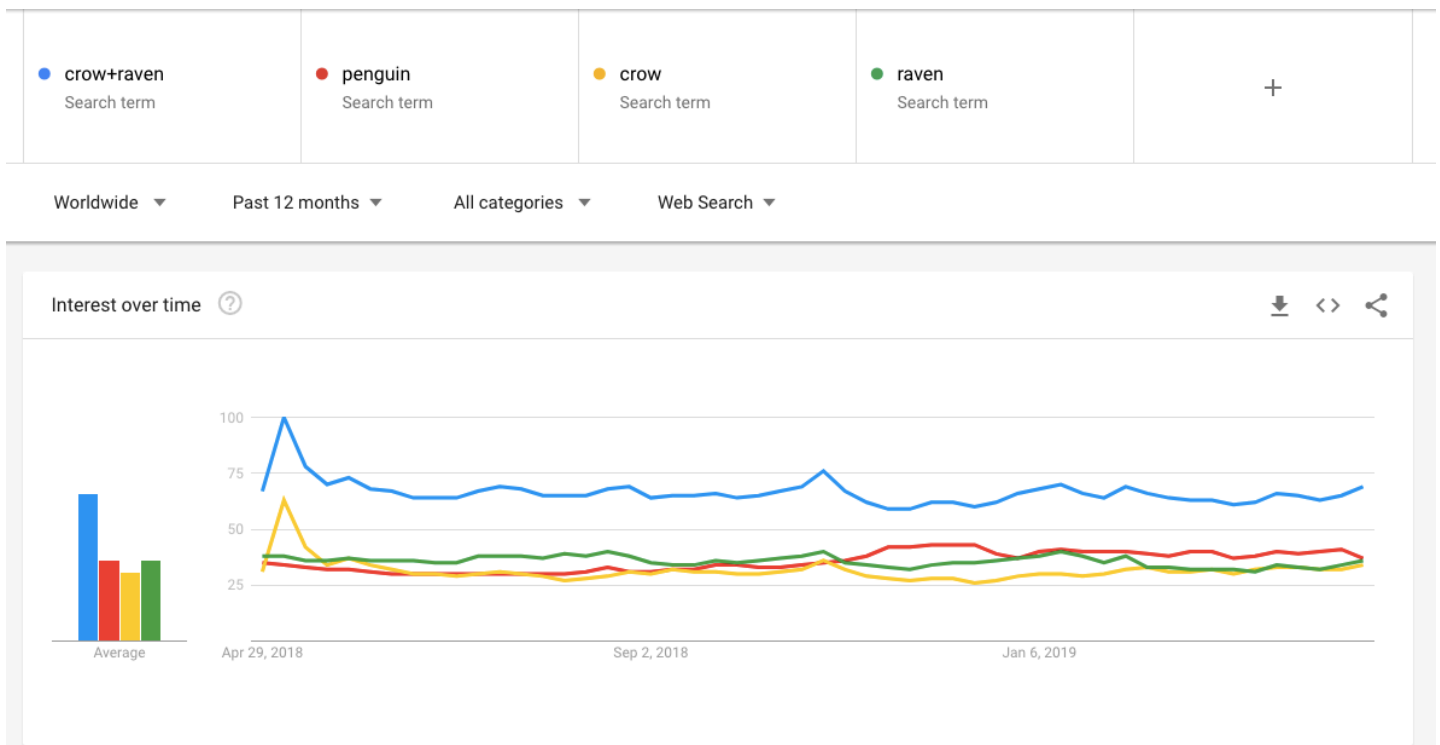


Figure 7. Google Trends screenshot taken on Apr.26, 2019 [3]

Google Trends (Image Search)

The Image Search yields a similar result as the Web Search; however, the gap of differences between trends (for “CROW”, “PENGUIN”, and “RAVEN”) is greater compared to Fig. 7. Nonetheless, the essential principle that the CROW emoji is expected to have a higher level of usage than the median emoji remains true (Fig. 8).

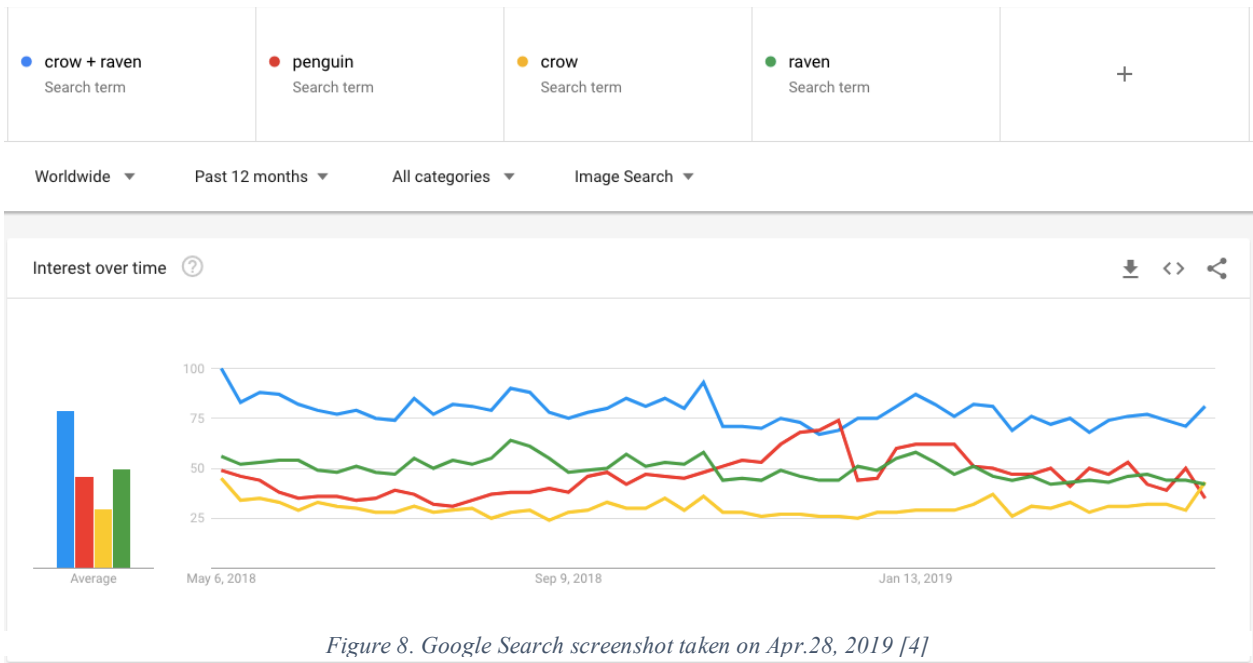


Figure 8. Google Search screenshot taken on Apr.28, 2019 [4]

Google Search

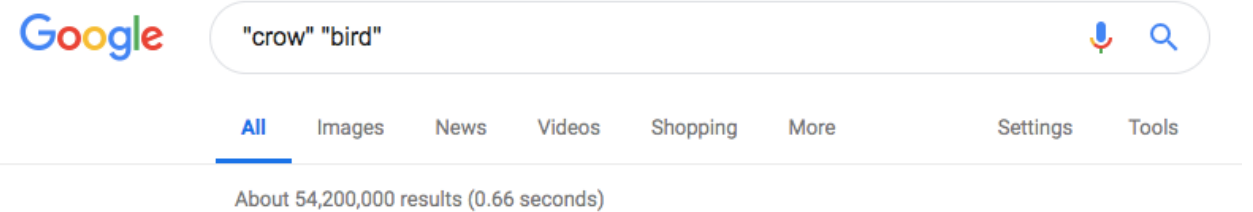


Figure 9. Google Search screenshot taken on Apr.28, 2019 [5]

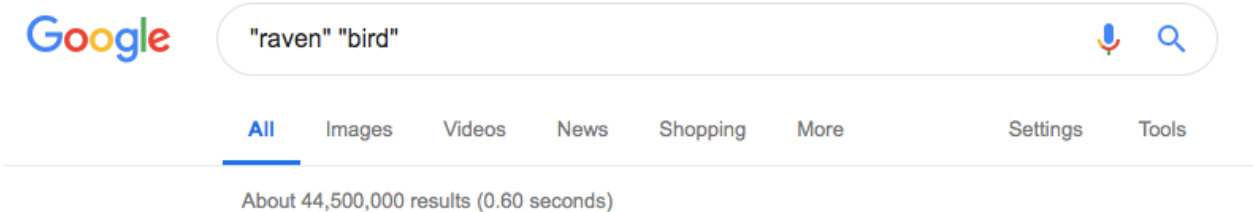


Figure 10. Google Search screenshot taken on Apr.28, 2019 [6]

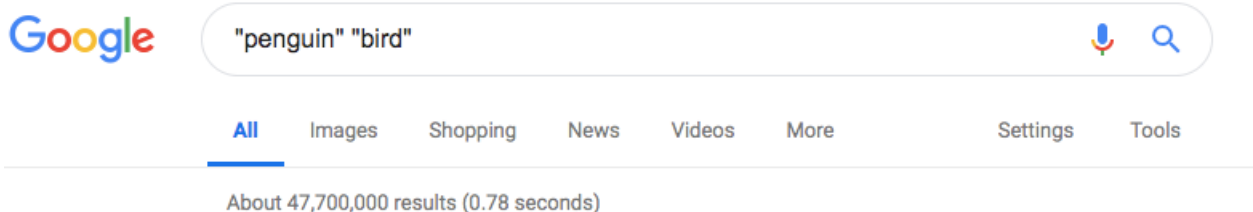


Figure 11. Google Search screenshot taken on Apr.28, 2019 [7]

Fig. 9-11 compare the amount of Google search results between CROW, RAVEN, and PENGUIN (the median) as birds. It is clear that CROW yields the most results (approximately 6 million more than the median);

therefore, CROW is the most popular between the three species of birds (according to Google Search). Furthermore, the amount of results that RAVEN produces (Fig. 10) is comparable to that of PENGUIN's (Fig. 11). If the author is to combine CROW and RAVEN's results, then the final number is approximately the double of the PENGUIN's. Google Search reaffirms the expected high usage level for the CROW emoji.

Bing Search

In contrast to Google Search, the gap between the median and the RAVEN is even greater in Bing Search (Fig. 12-4), suggesting an even higher usage level for the CROW emoji.

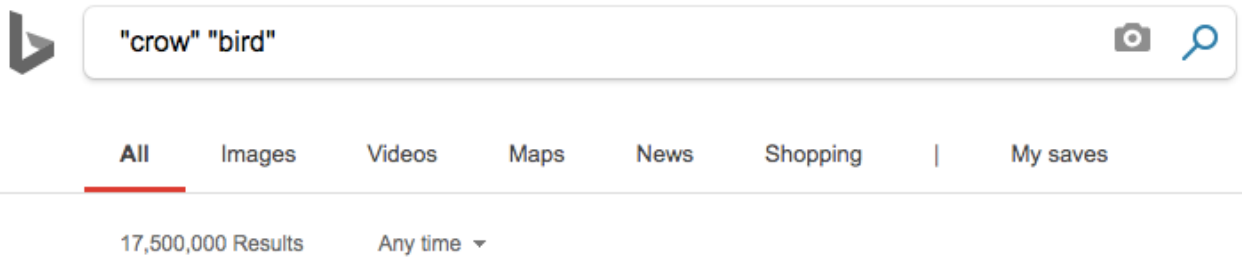


Figure 12. Bing Search screenshot taken on May 1, 2019 [8]

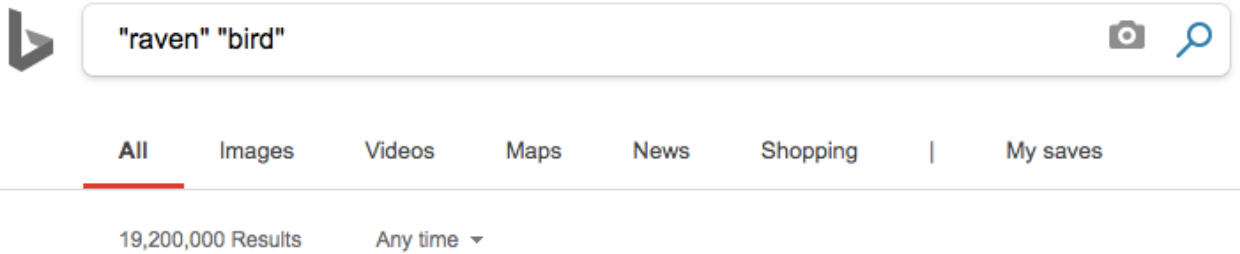


Figure 13. Bing Search screenshot taken on May 1, 2019 [9]

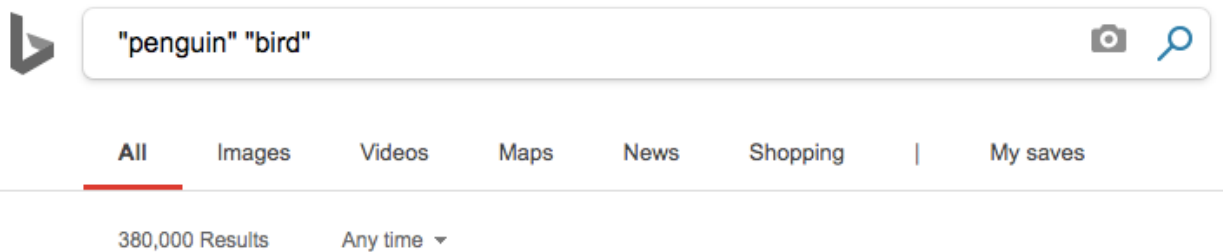


Figure 14. Bing Search screenshot taken on May 1, 2019 [10]

Ngram Viewer

Google Books Ngram Viewer

Graph these comma-separated phrases: case-insensitive
between and from the corpus with smoothing of

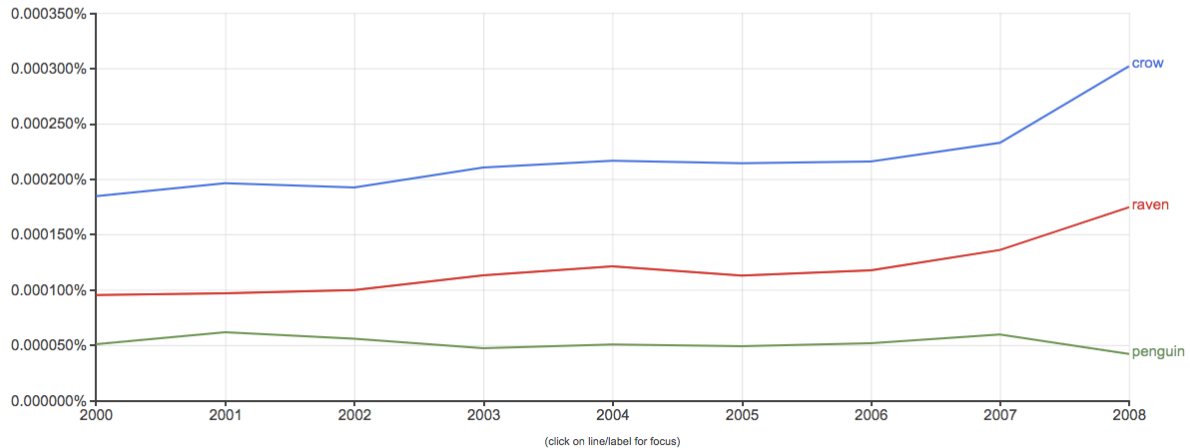


Figure 15. Ngram Viewer screenshot taken on Apr.29, 2019 [11]

By observing Fig. 15, the viewer can see that the popularity of the term “CROW” is approximately 40 times higher than “PENGUIN”. Fig. 15 indicates a high potential usage of CROW emoji among the communities of book-writers and readers.

2. Multiple Usages

The CROW emoji will be interchangeably used for CROW and RAVEN due to their identical appearances. Despite their physical similarities, CROW and RAVEN have unique symbolisms and cultural usages.

CROW specific:

According to Reference.com [12], CROW is associated as the messenger between the worlds of living and dead in Hinduism. Similarly, “away the Crow Road”, an Old Scottish saying, connotes the dead [13]. The symbolisms of CROW vastly vary in different cultural contexts. For example, CROW symbolizes omens of good luck in the Native American culture [12], while it symbolizes loyalties in Egyptian culture [12].

RAVEN specific:

RAVEN is perceived as the transformer and the spy in Celtic mythology [14]. In addition, it is the representative for the Norse god Odin [14]. Aside from various cultural meanings, RAVEN often reminds people of “The Raven”, Edgar Allen Poe’s renowned poem.

3. Breaking new ground

CROW and RAVEN's unique cultural connotations and physical appearances cannot be represented by any existent emoji.

C. Image Distinctiveness

Being thoroughly covered in black feathers, CROW is unique and extremely easy to identify.

D. Completeness (*CROW specific*)

Although some recent emoji have been added to the emoji set of zodiac signs to complete the list, most zodiac signs included are targeted toward Asians and Europeans. The list of zodiac signs is incomplete and lacks representations from other cultures. For example, CROW is one of the Native American zodiac signs [15] that does not have a representation in emoji.

There are only about six existent emoji that represent various bird species; CROW emoji will contribute to the completeness of the bird-emoji set.

E. Frequently Requested

According to Emoji Sub-committee [16], CROW ranked the 5th out of the 15 bird-emoji that Cornell's Lab of Ornithology desired.

CROW has been mentioned in the Unicode mailing list:

- “A large bunch of the original animal emojis was meant for the Eastern (Chinese/Asian) and Western (European/Mediterranean) zodiac signs. There are several other astrological traditions that involve animals which have not yet been covered. ...- Crow” [17]

Many twitter users have posted/commented in request of CROW emoji (Fig. 16-18):



Figure 16. Twitter screenshot taken on Apr.29, 2019 [18]



Figure 17. Twitter screenshot taken on Apr.29, 2019 [19]



Figure 18. Twitter screenshot taken on Apr.29, 2019 [20]

6. Selection factor - Exclusion

A. Overly Specific

The CROW emoji is not overly-specific as it is representative for two species of birds – CROW and RAVEN. Most bird emoji currently in the emoji set only represent one species of bird.

B. Open Ended

The CROW emoji literally represents two species of birds; however, the CROW emoji is not one of the many as it has unique definitions of its own other than representing species of birds. There numerous connotations and implications of the CROW emoji that differ depending on the messages and the users.

C. Already Representable

Although there are multiple emoji for various bird species, CROW is visually distinct and unique than the others. In addition, as mentioned in the Frequency section, the CROW emoji has very peculiar cultural interpretations that cannot possibly be represented by any existing emoji.

D. Logos, brands, UI icons, signage, specific people, specific buildings, deities

The CROW emoji is not directly associated with any logos, brands, UI icons, signage, specific people, specific buildings, or deities.

E. Transient

Based on the history of the symbolisms of CROW and RAVEN, the usage for the CROW emoji is unlikely to decline or stop. CROW also represents a part of the natural world that differentiates itself from faddish or transient symbols.

F. Faulty Comparison

This proposal for the CROW emoji is not dependent on the compatibility factor; rather, the CROW emoji stands for a distinct but vital representation that is not currently recognized by emoji sets in any way.

G. Exact images

The CROW emoji does not require an exact image of CROW or RAVEN; their physical appearances are easily recognized.

References

1. OpenClipart-Vectors, "Blackbird Raven Crow." Pixabay, pixabay.com/vectors/blackbird-raven-crow-animal-bird-154654/. Accessed May 1, 2019.
2. OpenClipart-Vectors, "Blackbird Raven Crow." Pixabay, pixabay.com/vectors/animal-bird-raven-crow-160804/. Accessed May 1, 2019.
3. "Crow Raven vs. Penguin vs. Crow vs. Raven Web Search Comparison." *Google Trends*, Google, trends.google.com/trends/explore?q=crow+raven,penguin,crow,raven. Accessed April 26, 2019.
4. "Crow Raven vs. Penguin vs. Crow vs. Raven Web Search Comparison." *Google Trends*, Google, trends.google.com/trends/explore?gprop=images&q=crow%20%2B%20raven,penguin,crow,raven. Accessed April 28, 2019.
5. "Crow (Bird)." *Google Search*, Google, www.google.com/search?q=crow+bird. Accessed April 28, 2019.
6. "Raven (Bird)." *Google Search*, Google, www.google.com/search?q=raven+bird. Accessed April 28, 2019.
7. "Penguin (Bird)." *Google Search*, Google, www.google.com/search?q=penguin+bird. Accessed April 28, 2019.
8. "Crow (Bird)." *Bing Search*, Bing, www.bing.com/search?q=crow+bird. Accessed May 1, 2019.
9. "Raven (Bird)." *Bing Search*, Bing, www.bing.com/search?q=raven+bird. Accessed May 1, 2019.
10. "Raven (Bird)." *Bing Search*, Bing, www.bing.com/search?q=penguin+bird. Accessed May 1, 2019.
11. "Crow vs. Raven vs. Penguin." *Google Ngram Viewer*, Google, books.google.com/ngrams/graph?content=crow%2Craven%2Cpenguin&year_start=2000&year_end=2008&corpus=15&smoothing=0&share=&direct_url=t1%3B%2Ccrow%3B%2Cc0%3B.t1%3B%2Craven%3B%2Cc0%3B.t1%3B%2Cpenguin%3B%2Cc0#t1%3B%2Ccrow%3B%2Cc0%3B.t1%3B%2Craven%3B%2Cc0%3B.t1%3B%2Cpenguin%3B%2Cc0. Accessed April 29, 2019.
12. "What Do Crows Symbolize?" *Reference*, IAC Publishing, www.reference.com/world-view/crows-symbolize-1577fe04b2ec123e. Accessed May 1, 2019
13. "Away the Crow Road." *Urban Dictionary*, [www.urbandictionary.com/define.php?term=away the Crow Road](https://www.urbandictionary.com/define.php?term=away+the+Crow+Road). Accessed May 1, 2019.
14. "What Does a Raven Symbolize?" *Reference*, IAC Publishing, www.reference.com/article/raven-symbolize-9556695e0dd49915?aq=raven&qo=cdpArticles. Accessed May 1, 2019.
15. Beech, Lynn Atchison. "Crow (Zodiac)." *Symbols*, Stands4, [www.symbols.com/symbol/crow-\(zodiac\)](https://www.symbols.com/symbol/crow-(zodiac)). Accessed May 1, 2019.
16. Emoji Sub-committee. "Emoji Additions: Animals, Compatibility, and More Popular Requests (Revision 4)." *Unicode*, unicode.org/L2/L2015/15054r2-emoji-tranche5.pdf. Accessed May 1, 2019.

17. Päper, Christoph. “Turtle Graphics Emoji.” Received by Shriramana Sharma, *Turtle Graphics Emoji*, 29 July 2017, unicode.org/pipermail/unicode/2017-July/005683.html. Accessed May 1, 2019.
18. @corvidresearch. “Why is there still no crow emoji 🤔😞.” *Twitter*, Dec. 28, 2018, 10:37 a.m., twitter.com/corvidresearch/status/1078721680946524161. Accessed May 1, 2019.
19. @crowlees. “@ apple why is there no crow emoji (crowmoji, if u will).” *Twitter*, Oct. 5, 2016, 11:31 p.m., twitter.com/crowlees/status/783917517790064641. Accessed May 1, 2019.
20. @DrummerBoy2112. “@Thanks Sarah. Definitely need a crow emoji. 👍.” *Twitter*, Jun. 12, 2018, 2:19 a.m., <https://twitter.com/DrummerBoy2112/status/1006466074743885826>. Accessed May 1, 2019.