

THE MONTCLAIR BIRD CLUB

QUIZ 200

August 6, 2023

Why is a raven like a writing-desk?



Link to ponder: Birds keep hitting windows—now scientists are learning something from their [last poop](#).

THE ANSWER IS NOT ON THE NEXT PAGE

From *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*

Alice thought over all she could remember about ravens and writing-desks, which wasn't much

....

"Have you guessed the riddle yet?" the Hatter said turning to Alice again.

"No, I give it up," Alice replied: "what's the answer?"

"I haven't the slightest idea" said the Hatter.

"Nor I" said the March Hare.

Alice sighed wearily. "I think you might do something better with the time," she said, "than waste it in asking riddles that have no answers."



In a later edition of the book, Carroll did answer the riddle. But you will have to look that up yourself.

Sandy guessed that the answer was that neither one writes and they both just stand there on their legs.

Rick thought that there must be an important clue in the Mad Hatter's asking "why" rather than "how," and that Lewis Carroll, a mathematician and logician, was making a sly joke about the fallacy of *petitio principii*.

Both agreed that Alice's concluding remonstrance was reason enough to let the Montclair Bird Club Quiz rest for a while.

Ornithological Quiz Master: Rick Wright
Assistant & Photographer: Sandy Sorkin



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